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Where is the Turning Point?
The winter of 1917-18 doubtless will go down in history as the lowest ebb in the fortunes of the allies since war was declared.

Since the battle of the Marne, Germany has been on the defensive. She has made aggressive efforts to regain the initiative, as at Verdun and in the present drive against Italy, but only with partial success.

It is apparent now that she will soon take the offensive that her purely military power is stronger than it has been at any time since her first repulse at the gates of Paris.

At this bleak time, they gaze across the Atlantic and find the United States engrossed in its first washing-of-dirty-linen period and with its whole military and shipping program thrown into doubt.

Really serious doubt may be entertained as to whether 1918, or even 1919, will see the end of the war. Certainly the thought of a "German peace," or of a stalemate, is as far away from the minds of the allied nations as ever.

Slowly the question is beginning to shape itself in the minds of the American people: When will the United States be ready to give that accession of new strength to the allied nations that will constitute the turning point—the real turning point—of the war?

It may sound pessimistic to say it, but that day seems to be further off than ever—seems to be speeding away in the distance. Many observers assert that it will be impossible for the United States to have any real army in France by the summer or fall of the coming year.

Not all the frenzy of Congressional investigations is going to change that prospect. The best it can do is to clean house in the government, to bring the nation face to face with a realization of its responsibility.

"The Opportunity to Be Useless."
Many people in this Capital of the nation are on a frenzied search for "the opportunity to be useless"—as Mr. Brisbane so aptly puts it.

"The opportunity to be useless" is a great phrase and it is a great fit in many—too many cases. Every day we are hearing of "soft snaps" at \$1,200 a year for "\$8-a-week clerks."

War does play queer pranks, and not the least queer is in how it has placed the business derelict on a pedestal—and pays him for looking like a human being.

a law passed in 1854, and, except for a temporary increase varying from 5 to 10 per cent put into effect for the present year ending June 30, 1918, this schedule has never been changed.

The average salary of a government worker today is \$948, and over half of them receive less than that. Of those receiving more than the average, not 3 per cent get more than \$1,200.

The Keating bill now pending in Congress provides for increases of pay which would in some measure ease the situation.

It applies to postal employees, letter carriers and other government employes throughout the country, as well as Washington clerks. It would raise all salaries below \$900 by 30 per cent.

The Keating bill has the support of the American Federation of Labor, the National Federation of Federal Employees, the National Federation of Postal Employees and other organizations.

"Imperialism has shown itself in all its naked ugliness, and mankind, aghast at the revelation, has determined to destroy it."

Thus Mr. Moorfield Storey at the meeting of the Anti-Imperialist League in Boston. "We are met at the gravest crisis in the history of the world," he says.

The world would hate to believe that British imperialism—or American imperialism—differs from German imperialism only in degree and not in kind.

War charities are becoming very profitable business propositions. Bet there are plenty of converts to early Christmas shopping about this time.

Our newsboy came across with another conservation suggestion: "Why not a soapless day?"

New camouflage note: "The money which I have usually spent for your Christmas present, I am sending this year to the Red Cross."

Treasury officials are discouraging the custom of giving old coins as Christmas gifts. The butchers and grocers are also discouraging it.

Reference at a dinner was made to the love of some people for holding fast to the shekels, when this story was fittingly related by Representative John N. Gardner, of Texas.

Thoughts of Other Men.
Collect the thoughts of other men,
And to them add a bit.
Subtract from thoughts of other men,
The thoughts that do not fit.



A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR.
By John Kendrick Bangs.
MY GIFT.
On little children everywhere,
On men and women in despair,
On those whose days are shadowed o'er,

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY.
BY G. O. BENTLEY.
New York, Dec. 20.—The meeting of the Adventurers' Club in Gotham is just like a stay in the trenches—except more so.

Designation of "essentials" and "nonessentials" in war time is necessary and will doubtless prevail in this country to an unbelievable extent later on.

But unless the greatest care is used in the process great harm will be done. Men can use it as a club to put competitors out of the way.

One of these days the Senate inquiry committee will turn its eyes in the direction of our aircraft program.

While at the restaurant where the meeting was held employees were sweeping up ex-mirrors and chairs which are now exempt for future meetings.

Just now activities are going on which indicate that the early steps of the process are being taken with safety.

It will then be learned just what has retarded the production of aeroplanes for military use. It will be known just what factors have contributed to the delay.

More than 2,000,000 Liberty loan securities have been shipped from the Treasury since the beginning of distribution.

Congress intends to keep a sharp eye on the process. Several members have various matters under their observation at this time.

It is not to be expected that many of these things will be covered one of these days, and the committee members will be given an opportunity to sum up the reasons for the failure of America to have 3,000 machines ready for delivery to the other side at this moment.

Secretary McAdoo Announces Vast Treasury Activity.
More than 2,000,000 Liberty loan securities have been shipped from the Treasury since the beginning of distribution.

Commercial economy—that is the nomenclature applied to the board which has the matter in charge—is a hard term. The members of the board of government securities are confident that their work will bring about a beneficial curtailment of useless industries and of various lines of other industries.

It was President Wilson who originated the term "pittiless publicity," was it not? It is possible that some of his Cabinet officers thought the people would forget it.

It was one of these fast motorboats, according to reports today, which recently passed the barriers of the Venetian Gulf, cruised over across the Adriatic, slipped through the mine field at the Gulf of Trieste, entered the harbor, blew up the Austrian battleship Weim—and got safely away.

Pittiless publicity is necessary in most lines—but doubly so in this line. Congress intends to keep the light turned on, at all times, so that it may be turned onto the dark places at a moment's notice.

Co-operation between the schools of the nation and the army is being provided for in conferences between educators of the country and several of the army heads.

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The plan is to train high school boys and men of draft age in industries which are necessary to the prosecution of the war. It is claimed by Dr. A. Thomas, head of the Maine schools, that there are four scores or possibly more lines in which men of proper mechanical and trades training can be of assistance to the government.

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I have, alas! no stomach for a rousing cheer, Nor feel inspired by some noisy throng To shake the welkin, when the Stars and Stripes appear.

OPHELIA'S SLATE.
A BLOND HAIR DO NOT PUT IN GRAY BY THE BYE-BYE.

SHOOT HIS TOES OFF.
Harrisburg, Dec. 20.—Harry S. Koons, of near Linglestown, who is understood to have been called to report at Camp Meade, was practicing with his gun last night, and shot off three toes one by one.

Sky Shots at the Solons.
Senator J. Ham Lewis remarked that "it was a very smooth matter."

The city council cry of "too much snow where snow ought not to be" was heard in the Senate when Senator Poindeexter dwelt upon the condition of Washington walks.

As a result of Monday's debate in the House, hundreds of thousands of pamphlets will be sent out from the Government Printing Office to the Congressional districts of the land.

Caleb Powers, of Kentucky, cares not whom he may offend in his statements about the patriotism of Republicans during our national crisis.

And the strange thing is that war, which W. J. Bryan was willing to oppose even to the extent of forfeiting our national honor, is the very thing that has brought on prohibition years ahead of its coming under other circumstances.

Vice President Marshall has a very efficient secretary, Mr. Marcus Thistlewhite, who used to be a newspaper man and who understands the work which he has in this official capacity.

The resignation of Representative Johnson, of South Dakota, to become a private in the army is proof to all the country that soldiers cannot be made through political influence.

If the fight is successful on rum, the mammoth burg may that there's no use of continuing the wet regime as long as Garfield has shut down on the lights. No fun drinking in the dark.

Senator Martin, majority leader, insisted, at the close of the hearing, that investigation of expenditures would have to follow the enactment of so many bills appropriating large sums of money for the war.

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MOTORBOATS USED TO DEFEND VENICE.
With the French Armies in Italy, Dec. 20, Italy's defense of Venice has proved the fighting qualities of the motorboat.

WHAT THEY SAY AT THE WASHINGTON HERALD.
Remember the Time---

The first gasoline-driven automobile came out. Everybody that saw it remarked that it wouldn't run, and that it was "playing with death" to ride in one.

And that one is THE HERALD.
The Audit Bureau of Circulations—that internationally famous audit company for newspaper circulation—issued the statement that THE HERALD has the largest percentage of home circulation in the Capital.

Army and Navy News.
Whether the resignations of Col. Robert M. Thompson and six of the principal officers of the Navy League at a meeting of the league to be held January 4, will change Secretary Daniels' decision to cut all connections possible between the Navy Department and the league is a question that has not yet been answered.

It is probable that the election of new officers will change this situation. Those who resign will be selected in place of those resigning. Because of charges against the Navy Department in connection with an explosion on the Pacific Coast, Secretary Daniels declared all positions between the league and department severed.

Second lieutenants in the Marine Corps, following those officers of the same rank in the army, will wear a single gold bar as the insignia of their rank.

No Christmas "liberty" will be granted midshipmen studying at Annapolis this year, Secretary Daniels left the matter in the hands of Capt. E. W. Eberle, U. S. N., who has declared that the intensive course, requiring the best moment of the student officers' time.

Capt. Rufus M. O. Beamanfield, Engineer's Reserve Corps, who has been on duty at the American University Camp at American University here, and attached to the Twenty-seventh Engineers at Camp Meade, Admiral, Md.

Capt. Edwin S. Berry, Engineer's Reserve Corps, has been relieved from duty at the Engineers' Training Camp at American University here, and attached to the Twenty-seventh Engineers at Camp Meade, Admiral, Md.

Several officers have been ordered from Fort Leavenworth, and assigned to temporary duty with the 8th Engineers. This regiment is stationed at Camp Meade, Admiral, Md.

Prison for I. W. W. in Iowa.
Codar Rapids, Iowa, Dec. 20.—Joseph Seiler, I. W. W. organizer, was today sentenced to one year in jail, and to pay a fine of \$1,000, the extreme penalty for addition under Iowa laws.

Khaki Military Toilet Case, \$5.00.
Contains Shaving Soap, Tooth Paste, Comb, Hair, Shaving and Tooth Brushes, Soap Box, Trench Mirror, Wash Rag and extra pockets; also Razor, Needles and Thimble.

THE RALEIGH HABERDASHER, 1109-11 Penna. Ave.

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Investigate our rates and learn how much more circulation you receive for your money in THE HERALD than in any other Washington newspaper. Call Main 3300 and our representative will call.