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Mexico.

That the joint commission dealing with the Mexican question is moving very leisurely, even slowly as some complain, is no cause for worry. Rather should we all rejoice. There is a good deal to be done, and it is of a character which advises against haste. Indeed, the scope of the task has grown since the commission first assembled. What to the public then appeared as a problem for safeguarding the border against forays by Mexican bandits into American territory has now broadened into a problem relating to Mexican finances and American willingness to help put Mexico on Easy street again. And joined to this later and larger problem is the question of Carranza's real strength in Mexico as a dominating governmental factor. What is his full power today, and how long may he be expected to hold and exercise it?

What better step could be taken than a suspension practically of the negotiations until after November 7? Regret it as all of us may, the fact remains that the shadow of politics covers all the doings of the joint commission. The republicans charge a political purpose, and are expecting a result of some kind this month shaped in the interests of the President as a candidate.

The charge grows out of the fact that Mr. Carranza wants Mr. Wilson re-elected, and Mr. Wilson wants the first chief to become the next president of Mexico. The Mexican members of the commission are Carranza men, and the American members are Wilson men. It is a rather persuasive expectation, therefore, that, as Mr. Wilson's case comes first to the test, some decision of value to him may be reached and announced before election day.

Let us hope that nothing of the kind may take place. It would be a mistake, and it might complicate a situation already discouragingly complicated. We need no Mexican aid in the settlement of our domestic affairs, and a presidential race is our main domestic affair. The issues between the two leading parties are under discussion, and voters are taking sides. All that the President has done is of record, and he is standing on, and will be tried by, the record. No feature of the record is plainer than that relating to Mexico, and it requires no touches by the joint commission.

Election day is only a month away, and there is a great deal for the commissioners to talk about. Why not devote the time to talk and musings by the sounding sea?

The ovation to Woodrow Wilson in Nebraska was given under circumstances calculated to arouse approval rather than envy of some other eminent gentlemen who have enjoyed the distinction of being that state's favorite son.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers will no doubt protest promptly if it finds the commission investigating on practically the same lines that a board of arbitration would have pursued.

Possibly the republicans are putting forward those confident claims of carrying Indiana merely for the purpose of irritating Mr. Marshall.

Russia seems to be about the only country that sees practical prospects of social uplift and economic improvement in the present war.

Mr. Hughes' Second Journey.

On his second stumping tour—which begins tomorrow—Mr. Hughes will "make" three towns, as the commercial travelers say, which should prove of unusual interest to him. These are Louisville, Ky.; Lincoln, Neb., and Youngstown, Ohio.

The republicans seem to have hopes of carrying Kentucky. This will be Mr. Hughes' second visit to the state. On the first he spoke only at Lexington, but had a great meeting. A number of speeches are scheduled for this visit, and the candidate will wind up at Louisville, which, as all the world knows, is the home of Henry Watterson. Mr. Watterson is giving Mr. Wilson what he himself has described as "a qualified support." He wants him re-elected and expects that result, but can hardly enthuse over a candidate whose Mexican policy he has denounced, or over a platform which recklessly and with malice aforethought knocked the word "only" out of the tariff shibboleth the Kentucky editor had been brandishing for half a century. What a meeting that would be after the regular meeting if Mr. Hughes and Mr. Watterson could foregather and talk over Mexico! They agree perfectly as to the President's failure in dealing with our southern neighbor.

Pushing westward, Mr. Hughes will visit Nebraska, and speak in Mr. Bryan's home town. That is, if a man who stays at home so little can be said to have a home town. Mr. Bryan is in such constant request, Lincoln sees him but seldom. As he is on the stump now against the republican candidate, it is not likely that he will arrange his dates so as to enable him to greet Mr. Hughes in person and bestow upon him the freedom of the community. But the Lincolnians will probably do that in the absence of their distinguished fellow citizen.

On the way back home Mr. Hughes will stop and speak at Youngstown. That appointment was happily made, and when the candidate arrives he will be on ground he made famous eight years ago. It was there he opened the campaign for Mr. Taft in the latter's first race for the presidency, and sounded a keynote which stirred the country, winning the admiration of the party and the gratitude of the man for whom he had spoken. Now, if, inspired by the memories of that deliverance and the greetings of the populace which greeted him then, he can do for himself what he then did for another, the Buckeye campaign should show very much in his favor.

Louisville, Lincoln and Youngstown—these three; but the greatest of these for Mr. Hughes will be Youngstown.

The Gasoline Supply.

Director Manning of the bureau of mines has stated to the local committee investigating the gasoline problem that there is in sight petroleum resources in this country sufficient to last only thirty years. This means that in three decades at the most gasoline, as now obtained from natural products, will cease to be available. In view of the tremendous use of this petroleum product, in motoring, in power making—in fact, in every line of industry—this prospect is assuredly disquieting, even though it may not affect, save in gradual price increases, the present generation. It is, however, possible that there are as yet undiscovered sources of petroleum supply in the United States or sufficiently near to assure a continuance beyond thirty years. Of course, there is a positive limit to the amount of crude oil available for extraction from the earth. As far as known, nature is not remaking petroleum at anything like as rapid a rate as it is being drawn off for use. But it is known that there are oil possibilities in many quarters, both in this country and in neighboring lands, and upon these reliance must be placed for a continuation of the supply unless some substitute is found meanwhile which will yield as much power and will be as cheap. The discovery of more oil deposits or this substitute contitutes one of the most important tasks of science and industry during the next few years. It is inconceivable that the fuel of combustion propulsion should utterly fail. Without gasoline or something as efficient motoring and small engine driving is impossible. The most obvious substitute for gasoline is alcohol in some form, produced from a plant product of the soil such as grain or potatoes. Little has been done with alcohol owing to the cheapness of gasoline, which until a few months ago was such as to discourage all efforts at replacing it. But now the prospect of a gasoline failure is virtually certain to promote alcohol researches that ultimately will yield that which the world today needs, a reliable, safe and efficient fluid fuel for combustion propulsion, derived from a plant source.

The Public and the New Car Rules.

It is explained on behalf of the public utilities commission that immediate and marked improvement of the street car service during rush hours must not be expected from the new service standard recently adopted, which is to go into effect November 1. Time will be required to determine whether the companies are able to maintain this standard with their present equipment and trackage. There will probably be cases of overcrowding, technically in violation of the seven-square-feet rule for standing passengers, which must be considered by the commission on the basis of averages rather than singly. The allowance of seven square feet is to be assured each standing passenger on the average during a period of one hour, so that there may be a lack of room in several cars and more than enough room in others on the same line without actually infringing the rule.

In all likelihood there will always be heavy crowding on street cars during the hours of greatest travel, morning and evening. It is impossible, especially in a city like Washington, where almost all of the workers go to and from their tasks within short periods, to run the cars on a seat-for-each-passenger basis. Close headway, that is to say many cars, must always mean congestion at junctions and crossings, with a consequent slowing of the traffic. One solution lies in a division of the traffic on additional trunk lines. And yet with each new trunk line come more crossing points, with their delay-producing possibilities. Thus it is not an easy question to solve and public patience is always required.

The purchasing power of current coin is no longer a matter which invites the interest of W. J. Bryan as closely as did the theory of 16 to 1.

Invitations that pour in on President Wilson represent one instance of a demand for oratory more than equal to the supply.

Possible Poliomyelitis Cure.

The researches of medical men into the mystery of anterior poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, are being actively continued in the hope of discovering means of prevention and cure during the winter as a safeguard against the recurrence of the disease next summer. At a recent meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine an encouraging report was made by a western physician who has conducted extensive laboratory work along this line, and who expressed the hope that he had found one of the elements of causation or perhaps of cure. He stated that he had noticed an abnormal condition in the adenoids and tonsils of patients, and upon removing them the sufferers had shown a prompt improvement. Believing that there was possibly some relation between these glands and the disease, he had extracted from those removed from patients a serum which he had injected into small animals, which subsequently developed symptoms of poliomyelitis. His researches, he stated, had not yet gone so far as to warrant any conclusion, but the possibility was obvious that a connection existed between the throat glands and the disease. Just how these glands play a part in the cause and communication of the disease is, of course, still a mystery, if it be assumed that they have any part at all. In view of the extreme gravity of the danger which the past summer's outbreak presents, every possible indication of cause and suggestion of cure is to be welcomed. With so many thousands of cases in the United States within a short time there is abundant basis for investigation, and it would seem incredible that the secret should long evade the scientists who in the past have traced other diseases to their sources and found their means of cure.

Republican managers are no doubt willing to let the Roosevelt-Taft handshake go as a sign of readiness for political co-operation in the future, and not insist on it as a manifestation of undying personal affection.

Carranza's proposition to accept a loan from the United States does not provide as alluring a prospectus as that customarily accompanying invitations to invest in Mexico.

Although an expert in such matters, Gen. Goethals does not offer any opinion as to the possibility of a landslide this fall.

Nations that some time ago declared that the war was over continue to be remiss about submitting the proofs.

The prudent housewife is now compelled to peruse the price list as attentively as the cook book.

The campaign is rapidly approaching the stage traditionally referred to as a whirlwind finish.

Villa, while escaping funerals of his own, continues to make them for other people.

Old "General Apathy" went on the retired list some time ago.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

An Innovation Approved.

"I understand that owing to possible paper shortage the use of the slate and pencil is to be revived."

"Good idea!" said the statesman. "It will make it easier to express myself without creating a record that may involve future embarrassment."

Proof.

"Do you think flattery pays?"

"Of course," replied Miss Cayenne. "Every once in a while I pay a fortune teller real money to assure me that I have a lovely disposition and will make a splendid marriage."

Peaceful Prospects.

When all is over, we'll rejoice
As our great country finds
Each candidate can rest his voice
And we can rest our minds.

When Eggs Were High in Egypt.

"Will you have another pearl dissolved in your beverage?" asked the attendant.

"Certainly not," replied Cleopatra. "A pearl represents no great pecuniary recklessness. This time you may make it a poached egg."

Modest Attitude.

"I assume," said the slightly cynical person, "that you think it's up to you to save the country."

"No, sir," replied Senator Sorghum; "I take it for granted that this strong and resourceful nation will always save itself. All I ask is to continue flourishing around among my constituents and taking the credit."

Above Suspicions.

"Do you consider it wrong to bet on a presidential election?"

"I'm not sure about it. But it's a great temptation. It is one form of contest in which no contender is ever suspected of throwing the game."

Lonesomeville.

In Lonesomeville the hours go by
As silent as the clouds on high;
The little lake reflects no more
The foliage green about the shore,
But colors rich, where leaves that die
Would gayly bid a brave good-bye.
The stream that through the rocks is tossed
All shivering now awaits the frost.
And yet the quiet of the scene
Shows nature in a mood serene,
Afar from human hate and fear,
From friendship false and subtle sneer;
Far from the tumult fierce or gay,
Where night seems brighter than the day.
There simple toil must do its share
As warmth and shelter men prepare;
Remote, mysterious and still—
Yet life seems good at Lonesomeville.

War Names for Flowers.

From the New York World.

"Anzac," "Tipperary," "Warneford," "Edith Cavell"—not references to war news this time, but the names of some of the popular new dahlias in a London flower show.

Cotton Up.

From the Savannah News.

Anybody who wants to "buy-a-bale" this year will have to dig deep in his jeans.

The Cruel Tanks.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

If the Germans had a stronger sense of humor they would not complain that the use of "tanks" is contrary to the rules of civilized warfare.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

Officials of the bureau of animal industry, Department of Agriculture, are convinced that self-fed pigs are better than hand-fed pigs. The conclusion has been reached after elaborate experiments were made at the department's farm at Beltsville, Md., just outside of Washington.

Self-Fed Pigs Are Better.

The value of this self-feeder method of fattening pigs was demonstrated beyond a question of a doubt, according to those who had charge of the experimental work. The object was to determine the value of this system as compared with the ordinary hand method of feeding.

The pigs used in the experiment were grade Berkshires, averaging ninety-three pounds per head when the experiment started. They were fairly uniform in size and age, but were not the best pigs in the farrow. The hand-fed lot were fed three times daily, the amount being governed by the appetites. The ration given the hand-fed hogs was composed of five parts corn meal, four parts middlings and one part tankage. The corn meal and supplements were mixed dry. Just before feeding the amount to be fed was weighed and then mixed into a thick slop, enough water being used to make it pour out of the bucket without sticking. The feeding was done at 7 and 11:30 o'clock in the forenoon and 4:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

Corn meal, middlings and tankage in separate compartments of a self-feeder, on the other hand, could be obtained at all times by the self-fed lot of pigs. Close watch was kept on the feeder, and a supply of each feed maintained. Both lots of pigs were kept in dry lots a quarter of an acre in size. The pigs were given ample room for exercise and sufficient shelter.

All the pigs in the self-feeder lot maintained keen appetites during the seventy days of feeding, according to the experts who kept close watch over the experiment. The hand-fed pigs averaged ninety-four pounds per head and the self-fed averaged ninety-two pounds per head at the beginning of the test. At the end of the seventy days the hand-fed pigs averaged 167.5 pounds per head and the self-fed pigs averaged 205 pounds, 37.5 pounds more than the hand-fed pigs.

It was also noted that the self-fed pigs consumed a greater quantity of feed per head during the test than the hand-fed pigs, but it took only 405 pounds of feed to produce 100 pounds gain in the case of the self-fed pigs, at a cost of $5.67, while the hand-fed pigs produced 100 pounds gain at a cost of $6.24. As a final result the experts found that the self-fed pigs made a better showing, surpassing the hand-fed lot in both rate and economy gains. The officials contend that the results of the experiment show clearly that for quick fattening the self-feeder is very practicable.

* * *

Experts of the public health service have, the past year and a half, during the course of investigations of school hygiene, made mental examinations of more than 18,000 school children in four states. The majority of these lived in rural districts and not in the city.

Backward Children.

The officials say that the problems of mental hygiene observed, while closely related to those existing in urban communities, present distinct characteristics. The most outstanding of these problems, they say, are those connected with the large number of mentally retarded children observed.

While all of the collected data bearing on mental retardation have not been compiled, the studies being still in progress, compilations have been made in the case of the rural school population of one entire county. The average attendance in the rural schools of this county was 2,512. The number of children who were examined mentally was 2,185, and the results of these examinations, therefore, should be representative of the district in question.

Of these 2,185 children, 8.7 per cent were retarded, it is said, as follows: children of 6 and 7 years of age, retarded two years; 8 and 9 years of age, two and three years; 10 and 11 years of age, three and four years; 14 and 15 years of age, five years; and 16 and 17 years of age, retarded six years mentally.

These children were not feeble minded. A clear distinction must be made between these two conditions for a proper appreciation of the role of retardation in mental deficiency. The rate, the experts say, of intellectual development varies at different age periods. In very young children it has been found that the rate is relatively rapid—in fact, it can be easily observed without special methods. As the child grows older, however, the progress of intellectual development from year to year is less easily detected, so that between the ages of twelve and thirteen it cannot be recognized. In the case of older children, therefore, the correlation of retardation and permanent mental deficiency is relatively easy. Rural children are exposed, the experts think, to influences causing retardation that are quite distinct from those affecting children in urban communities. Broadly speaking, these influences may be considered from the standpoint of, first, sanitation, and, second, education.

During the course of these examinations the officials have come to the conclusion that the home environment and the mental attitude of parents who are themselves retarded are potent factors in the mental retardation of their children. Furthermore, the presence of a number of retarded children in a class exerts a hampering effect on the mental advancement of the class as a whole. This condition, they say, is very common in rural schools, due to the absence of facilities for the formation of special classes for the training of children in need of individualized instruction.

* * *

How many people have any idea of what the general land office has to do, or how extensive its field of operations is? This office is especially important to the people of the western states that still contain lands which are open to homestead entry, for these people come into personal contact with at least one division of the general land office through the local land offices in their immediate localities.

Work of the Land Office.

During the last couple of years, according to officials of the land office, they have reduced the delay in acting upon the homestead final proof by 50 per cent. They have eliminated six months' delay in acting upon applications for surveys. It is also said that employes of the land office have surveyed more than 17,000,000 acres of public lands during the past two years at a cost of less than 4 cents per acre for field work, the lowest record of cost for such work ever made. The office has issued 73,999 patents, covering 14,391,071 acres of land, as compared with 63,496 patents, covering 12,678,076 acres in 1913.

During the year 1915 the general land office sold 889 tracts of land surveyed as villa sites, the first sale of the kind made in the distribution of public lands, at Flathead Lake, Mont. During the same year they disposed of long settled controversies which involved 400,000 acres of land, they restored to settlement and entry, after special investigation, 7,805 acres in the Imperial valley, Cal.; they surveyed and opened to entry 27,416 acres of Arkansas lands, they approved and accepted original surveys covering 11,988,387 acres, they patented and certified under railroad and wagon road grants 1,624,142 acres, and they allowed entries of public and Indian lands for 16,861,214 acres.

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Some of the most interesting experimental work which is carried on by Uncle Sam's government is accomplished at the forest products laboratory maintained by the United States forest service in co-operation with the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, Wis. The results obtained have a direct interest for the various industries which depend upon wood in some form for their material, and also a general interest for every one.

Forest Products Laboratory.

To benefit both these industries and the consumers of their products by bringing about a better and more economical use of wood in all its forms is the object of the laboratory's experiments.

Although wood seems to furnish an excellent material for street paving, the consumption for this purpose has fallen off 30 per cent since 1911. One of the chief reasons for this is the tendency of oil to exude from the treated blocks and of the blocks themselves to swell. Tests carried on by the laboratory to remove these defects have been very successful, and the methods of treatment evolved have been adopted by the committee on paving of the American Society of Municipal Improvements and by several cities in the United States. Briefly, the method is to apply both a preliminary and a final vacuum in the course of preservative treatment.

Another interesting experiment recently carried out by the laboratory included the construction of an experimental firehouse, in which it is possible to duplicate conditions existing in modern offices. Several test fires were built in this house, and the results promise to yield valuable information regarding the extent to which wood constitutes a fire hazard in modern buildings. Fire tests were made of eighteen commercial paints designed for exterior use, of which only five proved to have fire-retarding properties. Unpainted test pieces used for comparison resisted ignition forty-three seconds, while the five pieces just referred to resisted for periods varying from one minute and three seconds to two minutes and ten seconds. Four interior paints tested gave good results in comparison with untreated wood. Patents were applied for, to be dedicated to the public, on a new fireproofing compound developed by the laboratory.

Officials of the laboratory say that tests carried on for the past few years by the laboratory and a number of textile schools have finally demonstrated the value of osage orange factory waste as a source of dyestuff. Commercial tests in dyeing leather and woolens with colors obtained from osage orange gave highly satisfactory results. Osage orange grown in the north is relatively lacking in dyestuff, and only material grown in Texas and Oklahoma is suitable for commercial use. The yellow dye which osage orange is capable of providing is now largely obtained from fustic, an imported wood, according to experts of the laboratory.

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Some 32,000,000 pounds of paper and 65,000 pounds of ink are used annually by Uncle Sam's big printery, the government printing office, and the total expense of the office is something like $6,000,000 a year. Employes work eight hours a day, receive a compensation comparing favorably with union wages throughout the country, and are allowed thirty days' vacation with pay each year. Some divisions of the office run night forces all year and others only during the sessions of Congress. Employes working at night receive a 20 per cent advance over day rates of pay.

Government Printing.

It was not until 1852 that the office of public printer was created, with an annual salary fixed at $2,500, prior to which printing was done by contract and by special acts of Congress which appointed various printers to do the congressional work for certain specific amounts, all of which were found wanting in practicability. It was not, however, until 1861 that a printing plant was established. At that time there were some 300 employes, and the building and equipment cost about $135,000. At the present time there are more than 4,000 employes, and the building and equipment are valued at several millions. There are now sixteen elevators in operation in the offices, besides several lifts for handling forms of type from the pressrooms or foundry; there are also eight automobile trucks in service, with special capacity, ranging from 1,000 to 8,000 pounds each, for delivering work done at the office. The pressrooms are equipped with overhead carriers for handling roll stock, and pneumatic tubes furnish rapid communications between the various divisions.

One section of the office which has proved to be of unusual interest to the general public is the division of public documents. This division is a central distributing agency for government publictaions, and receives by law copies of all public documents printed in the government printing office. A specified number of these documents are distributed to certain designated depositories throughout the country, and other copies are sold at cost to the public, no more than one copy to any one person. The interest shown by the public is evidenced by the fact that about 230,000 letters making inquiries about documents are received by this division a year. More than 42,000,000 documents were sent out by the superintendent of documents last year, and the work along that line is increasing each year. The current stock of documents on hand is about 13,000,000. Properly to handle this work requires the services of some 200 employes and an almost perfect system for keeping the work current. To facilitate mailing, a thirty-inch belt conveyor, operating through a tunnel seven feet high, eight feet wide and 455 feet long, connects the government printing office with the mailing tables of the city post office.

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

Dueling was going out of vogue fifty years ago, but appeals to the code were occasionally reported, though not always with success. In The Star of October 4, 1866, is the following report of an affair at Norfolk which ended in a way that would have been impossible a decade or so previous:

Norfolk Duel Averted.

"John R. Hathaway of the Norfolk Day Book, having had a difficulty with Mr. W. E. Gaines and others connected with the Norfolk Times, a correspondence ensued in which they demanded correction of a statement which appeared in his paper, and, his answer failing to satisfy them, Mr. Gaines closed his last communication with the familiar chivalric flourish: 'If you will not answer Capt. Small is requested to ask you to, announce a friend, and it will be settled in a gentlemanly manner.'

"Mr. Hathaway failed to see the 'gentlemanly' part of the proposed proceeding and promptly referred the matter to a magisterial friend, who issued warrants for the challenger and his second, Capt. Small, and they were arrested. For this 'unchivalric' course Mr. Hathaway was, as might have been expected, held up to ridicule among certain upholders of 'the code' and feels obliged to defend himself by stating in his paper:

"'I took that course, not through fear, but because I have a very large family dependent upon me for support; and, in addition, I do not recognize dueling as a fit or fair means of settling a question of fact. Mr. Gaines has no incumbrances that I am aware of, and in declining to meet him on the so-called field of honor I have the approval of my own conscience and common sense.'

"This position every right-thinking man will heartily indorse, and we are glad to see that one southern journalist has the moral courage to decline to take part in the barbarous custom, which is fast disappearing in civilized communities."

* * *

Little satisfaction appears to have been gained by the holders of tickets to the gift concert held fifty years ago, which was noted in this column last Sunday, and the suspicion continued to grow that the enterprise was more or less of a fake, and that the drawing was not on the square. The Star printed a number of letters on the subject, the writer of one of which challenged the promoters of the enterprise to adduce proof that they were the owners of the brick houses which had been proclaimed as among the prizes. Another letter appears in The Star of October 6, 1866, with reference to a second gift concert announced to be held a few days later, as follows:

Gift Concert Inquiries.

"We desire to say, through the columns of your excellent paper, that, from what we hear, the public would be much better satisfied if it could have some guarantee from the proprietors of the gift concert to be held here on the 11th instant that all the numbers of such tickets, and not merely the numbers of tickets remaining unsold, will be placed in the wheel. Grave doubts exist in the community whether the majority of the numbers of those tickets sold by Vincent, Butterfield & Co. ever found their way into the wheel; doubts which are very much strengthened by the fact that, so far as heard from, the large prizes remain unclaimed.

"Why will not Messrs. Hall, Morse & Co. invite the officers of the several departments to depute one reliable gentleman each from their numbers to preside on the occasion of depositing the numbers in the wheel and give that committee (composed, as suggested, of one gentleman from each office) the custody of said wheel until after the drawing? This course would doubtless be satisfactory to the public. What avails it to say that 3,000 persons can witness the drawing, if the numbers in the wheel do not correspond exactly with the number of tickets sold? And what a farce and an imposition to have the drawing witnessed at all?"

* * *

Cable news from Europe was of exceptional interest at this time fifty years ago, as Bismarck was engaged in the first move of his great campaign for the consolidation of the Germanic states into the German empire. One of the moves in this game was the absorption of the kingdom of Hanover, the announcement of which was followed by a publication, in The Star of October 8, 1866, as follows:

European Affairs.

"By the Atlantic cable we have intelligence that the patent taking possession of the recent kingdom of Hanover was promulgated by the government of Prussia on Saturday, and that the loyalty of the people is demanded in all cases; also that by the treaty between Italy and Austria the former acquires the territory of Venetia as it existed while under the dominion of Austria; and that the debt of Venetia, amounting to 35,000,000 florins, is assumed by the Italian government.

"These are some of the results of the late German war, and from their importance they demand attention. It has been the fashion for many American journals to exult in the success of Prussia, and to say that Napoleon, who had 'great expectations,' has not only been disappointed but humiliated by the result of the contest. Now, we cannot see how any friend of republican institutions can approve of the obliteration of the last vestiges of liberty in Germany by a power which is consolidating the free cities of the fatherland (the refuges of morality, art and science from feudal times down to the present, into a nationality which is essentially despotic and already, it will be seen, exacts the loyalty of its new subjects in all cases. The states annexed to the Prussian empire not only lose a mild and liberal government, but have to furnish for military purposes double the number of men and twice the amount of money heretofore required of them, while the amount granted by Prussia for the maintenance of the poor and for educational purposes is much less than the average appropriations of the states for the same purposes. Prussia gains; they lose.

"As for the position of Napoleon, it is not quite so bad as represented. With a divided Germany, an eternal war between Austria and Prussia and his protectorate of Baden, Wurtemburg and Bavaria, Napoleon is still master of the situation; and his combination with Austria and other European powers may undo at any time all that Bismarck has accomplished."

SERBIA, FAITHFUL AND VALIANT

In Serbia there centers in this moment the interest of the world, which watches with wonder the process of her re-creation and re-establishment as a nation, which its enemies too quickly concluded had been wiped off the slate of states.

A Nation's Re-Creation.

There is something intensely spectacular in the part being played by Serbia in the military operations on the Saloniki front, whence proceeds a movement having, with other objectives, the recapture of Serbia's capital. At this critical hour a brief resume of Serbian history will be timely.

Prior to these last two terrible years of incessant war, the children of Serbia, even the very young, all knew that Serbia had been conquered by the Turk at Kossovo in 1389, but all these children were taught that the future belongs to those who are brave, and that the future will restore to them, one day, the territory and the nation lost at Kossovo.

M. Paul Labbe, writing of the Serbians, says:

"These proud mountaineers, besieged on all sides by the peoples of the plains, have struggled during centuries to save Europe from invaders. They have made of the massive chains of mountains where they reside the rampart of Christianity against the Turks. They barred also the route against the invasion of the Germans seeking a route to the far east. They owe their grand qualities, bravery, tenacity and fidelity to their past spirit of sacrifice, love of liberty, disdain of death, to the hardships endured during centuries with great valor; also to the geographical situation of their country."

June 28 is the Serb national anniversary, not only celebrated in Serbia, but in all countries where Serbs live. It is the "Vidovan," day of augury, of inextinguishable hope, of just revenge. Misfortune purifies and strengthens great peoples, great souls—surprising theory, beautiful also, for that which the Serbs glorify since centuries is glorified in Bosnia, in Montenegro, in Croatia, in the Banat and in Macedonia, the anniversary of the great defeat in 1389—the anniversary of defeat!

* * *

The defeat of Kossovo, although cruel, did not blight hope in the Serbian. Honor remained and it was for future generations to render homage each year to those who preferred death to the loss of liberty. Women and men said to their children that they must avenge their fathers. Priests in monasteries, savants and literary men so taught until patriotism and religion were blended in one.

Defeat of Kossovo.

The Serb of all the Slavs is the most poetical. They march to combat led by bands who sing and play their war songs. Old men recite to children heroic songs in praise of the brave. All know the verses of the Poet Iovanovitch, who causes the tombs of the ancestors to speak to the living today.

There where I have stopped, thou wilt continue;
That which I could not, thou canst;
Where I could not go, thou canst;
That which I have commenced, thou wilt finish;
That which I owe, thou wilt pay.

In these lines are found the ideals of Serbian inspiration; never do the Serbs speak of duty, because the word is engraved in the Serbian soul.

The Serbs worked in silence until 1908. Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were manifestations in the streets of Belgrade, and from Kragouievats to the capital there arose a spirit of revolt—a resolution to conquer or die. The treaty of Berlin was violated by Austria, and Serbia appealed to Europe. There was fear of a general war, and Russia yielded to her love of peace.

To the astonishment of the diplomats of nearly all the countries of Europe, the coalition of Serbs, Bulgars, Montenegrins and Greeks against the Turks succeeded. In the Balkanic war Serbia was expected to furnish 150,000 men. She furnished 300,000. It was due to the modern field pieces of Serbia that Adrianople fell into the power of the Bulgars. This same cannon Ferdinand hesitated to give back a few months later.

It is conceded that Austria hated Serbia for all the evil she proposed to do her and for the fear that Serbia might prove an obstacle to her ambition to reach the sea. Ferdinand, the unfaithful friend, meditated treason to the Balkanic bloc—treason to Russia, treason which Petrograd did not or would not believe.

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Bulgaria was vanquished by Serbia in the second Balkanic war. Gen. Putnik and the Serbian government had crushed Bulgaria completely had they wished, but they yielded to a generous movement, hoping for future conciliation.

Bulgaria's Defeat.

The effect of the Slav victory at Kumanovo was considerable. Kumanovo was, in a manner, a revenge for Kossovo, and it was proposed to organize a great pilgrimage to the battlefield of Kossovo where all friends of Serbia would be convoked.

King Peter of Serbia, it is recalled, was decorated by the government of the French republic with the Legion d'Honneur for bravery on the battlefields of the war, 1870-71. In October, 1913, the king said to a distinguished writer: "You will see one day what Serb soldiers may do the day when Germany makes war on us. I can place Serbians at the service of France."

It was Austria, in 1914, who made war on Serbia. Albania was the bone of contention. Austria found a pretext in the assassination at Sarajevo. Count Berchtold rendered the Serb government responsible and announced publicly that on that question he would admit no discussion. There was insolent and premeditated rupture. Serbia had her victories, but Belgrade was bombarded during four months before the Austrians forced the gates of the Serbian capital.

The ministry of M. Pachitch went to the limit of all possible concessions to conciliate Austria. Finally Serbia took up the gauntlet. All knew the task would be rude. Montenegro would join Serbia, but Bulgaria was hostile. Venizelos was friendly for Greece, but King Constantine was regarded with suspicion. That which had been foreseen happened—the conflagration became general.

After the defeats of Tser, Jadar and Chabats the Austrian troops overran the country and the Serbs retired. Austrian journals were jubilant; Serbia must succumb! Only those who knew the fidelity of the people preserved their faith. The Serbian retreat was the execution of a plan decided long ago to retreat until he could choose his own position whence he could spring upon his adversary.

* * *

The old king, although ill and having ceded the regency to his son, went from the hospital to the front, where, flag in hand, he said: "Soldiers of Serbia, it is your old king who comes to die with you; if there is among you any one who may have fear let him go away."

King Peter Commands.

No one went away. It was the Austrians who were afraid and the Serbs gave battle without mercy. The enemy was defeated and in his flight abandoned wounded, munitions, cannons, flags. The army of Gen. Putnik secured a magnificent booty.

The 15th of December, after the Serbs had driven the Austrians across the Save, the king entered Belgrade, his white city, now red with blood, and proceeding to the cathedral gave thanks to God for the victory. The Serb army had captured 64,000 prisoners, the most of whom were sent to Italy, the others died of wounds.

Chabats, the "little Serb Paris," as it was called, was in ruins; Loznitsa, beautiful with its graceful church, existed no longer; Kovilatche, the verdant watering place on the Drina, was in ashes; Valievo, in the neighborhood, a beautiful spot, had been sacked, also the village of Chitar, Novo Selo, etc.

The crimes committed were worse than those of savages. Prof. Reiss of Lausanne has made a well authenticated account; they are too horrible for relation. Because of these atrocities stories are now told of like crimes committed by the Rumanians as a "stand-off" for the day of reckoning.

Serbia was delivered; hope sprang up anew, but the dread typhus came, with other diseases—cholera, diphtheria and the rest. These maladies were more dreadful than the Austrians.

Then the Germans arrived on their way to Constantinople, on the Save, the Danube, the Drina. The Serbs hoped for succor from the overwhelming numbers. Their friends, the French, would they come? Finally the French arrived at Saloniki, but the initial force was feeble, and the Serbs were far away.

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Serbia had signed at Bucharest a treaty which provided that in case of an attack by Bulgaria, Greece would go to the rescue. Greece, it should be recalled, would never have acquired Saloniki without the aid of Serbia. Greece simply betrayed Serbia. Rumania, too, continued to practice the policy of indecision.

Old Allies Falter.

The siege of Serbia commenced, and Serbia was left to struggle alone. Serbia, weakened by epidemics, lack of numbers, and without the lines of communication, was overwhelmed. The world was astonished at the resistance which was hopeless. The Serbs, would they not be exterminated? Finally, what was left of the indomitable Serbian army, starving, abandoned the field, abandoned their families, wives, children, old men, soil; they would not surrender, they must live to fight again.

The army retired before the enemy along three routes, all difficult—impassable to all except the Serbians—across the mountains to Albania. The route followed by the prince passed by Jounkoula, the second, taken by the king, by Dibra, Elbassa, Durazzo; the third, taken by the ministers, passed by Diakova, Ipek, Podgoritza.

The prince regent arrived the first on the Adriatic coast. The first to organize the refugees, he was the last to embark for Corfu. As for the old king, he conquered death itself. The army suffered from hunger while cutting its way through snow or climbing the steep heights. What gave the army the strength to support such hardships? The voices of the dead at Kossovo, at Koumanovo, Tser, Roudnik, Belgrade, and they sang along those dreadful marches the words of the poet:

That which I could not do, thou canst do;
Where I have not gone, thou canst go;
That which I have begun, thou canst finish.

Happily for Serbia and the Serbian army France was on guard and it was France who heard the cry. Those who are interested in the history of this failure to succor opportunely Serbia would do well to read M. Seaton-Watson in the English magazine, who does not hesitate to charge the entire responsibility to Sir Edward Grey. But, to return to the subject, it was France who transported the Serbian refugee army to Bizute, to Corfu, where it was reassembled, and reconstituted the broken regiments and succored the women, children and old men.

* * *

These refugees were heroes, as were their forefathers. A boat having on board a number of Serb children was stopped and the children, although belonging to the Red Cross, were taken to Cattaro. There they were offered nourishment and presents by the Austrian authorities. The oldest, a boy of fourteen years, constituted himself a council board which would decide whether the food and presents should be accepted or refused. The youngsters voted unanimously their refusal, "nothing should be accepted from the enemy." These little ones who will one day establish a great Serbia have sucked courage with the milk of their mothers.

Resolute Children.

These Serbian children, besides, have learned of the noble examples given by the women of France during the course of the war which is being fought for Serbia for her re-establishment. The women of France—what an inspiring lesson for young Serbia! She has not ceased to knit for the soldiers in the trenches; she sits as an infirmiere by the bedside of the wounded; the peasant woman, replacing her husband in the fields, digs the furrows necessary for the next harvests.

A beautiful custom prevails, has always existed in the Serb countries. When two friends have become intimate and devoted, they swear solemnly before the priest and on the holy evangels, fraternal friendship, and exchange a drop of blood; they become brothers by election; in the future they partake the heritages, and one cannot marry the sister of the other. Since two years it is France and Serbia who have given each other a kiss and who have exchanged blood. "Pobratimstva!" is the word of salutation. It is curious, the coincidence, but in central Africa the custom of blood exchange as a bond of fraternity prevails, but whether it carries with it the certain privileges and prohibitions the writer cannot assert with certainty.

The attachment of Serbia to France is a well known sentiment, strengthened by time; it is strengthened anew by the insistence with which France renews her assurances that Serbia shall not be destroyed as a nation, and because of Serbia's fidelity and Serbia's valor.

CH. CHAILLE-LONG.

THE GREAT HANDSHAKING.

From the Boston Globe.

The two shocks recorded on the Washington seismograph occurred before ex-President Roosevelt met ex-President Taft at the Union League Club in New York last night.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

When Colonel greets Professor then Harmony comes into its own.

From the Columbus Ohio State Journal.

There is such a thing as strong antagonism without hate. In fact, hate disturbs a man's sincerity when it takes a prominent place in personal differences. Politics with hate is selfishness and corruption. So it is well that Taft and Roosevelt have thrown it aside and come out as two great Americans. Their example should be followed by lesser lights.

From the Chicago News.

"How do you do?" said Mr. Taft to Mr. Roosevelt. "How do you do?" said Mr. Roosevelt to Mr. Taft. Not that they especially cared.

From the Baltimore Star.

Mr. Hughes is the hyphen that connects Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

As Elihu Root might have remarked, Mr. Taft and Col. Roosevelt shook their fists first and hands afterward.

From the Detroit Free Press.

Col. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft have shaken hands, thus concluding another "peace with honor."

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

It does not seem to have been difficult to pry Theodore and William apart.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

No grip in the Taft-Roosevelt handshake; merely what the poets would call "a touch of finger tips."

From the Charleston News and Courier.

We desire to felicitate Mr. Taft upon escaping with his life.

GOING SOME.

[The Belgian relief fund received $15 from three little boys in Pennsylvania who saved this amount by doing without luncheon desserts.—News item.]

Three little boys, without dessert,
Sat side by side, my! how it hurt
To forswear cookies, pies and cakes
And luxury of stomach aches!
Said one: "I guess it's going some
To give up sweets for Belgium."
"You bet it is," said number two,
"It's harder than I thought to do."
"I never guessed," said number three,
"That ice cream meant so much to me."
Three little boys, my! how it hurt,
Sat side by side without dessert.

Three little boys in distant land,
Sat cold and hungry, hand in hand,
And wondered how a hearty meal,
A home, and clothes, and warmth would feel.
The pallid snow lay on the ground,
The blight of war stretched all around,
Three pairs of brimming, hopeless eyes
Were raised in prayer to leaden skies.
Like answer straight, in heaven's name,
Food, warmth and clothing swiftly came.
Dessertless lunches, going some,
Had saved three lives in Belgium.

—New York Sun.

THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Greater than any strategic advantage for Serbia is the fact that her soldiers are fighting homeward.

From the Springfield Union.

At any rate, in going to war Greece will have only a short distance to go.

From the Omaha Bee.

The problem in Greece simmers down to this: Fight or give up the gun.

From the Savannah News.

Rumania appears to have learned that it pays to make haste slowly. The central powers may be beaten, but their enemies cannot expect to win by playing the war game like infants. The only way to win over Germany and her allies is to "overlook no bets."

From the Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

Of the Rumanian army it has been said it has many wings. It does seem it knows how to fly.

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

King Constantine of Greece doesn't seem able to make up his mind whether he had better trump or follow suit. If this continues, he may have to lay down his hand.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Armies in the Dobrudja are getting in behind each other, like the man and the bear who chased each other around a tree.

From the Columbia State.

If Rumania were as bad as the Germans call her, Berlin need not have been so anxious to keep her out of bad company.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star.

Another Greek cabinet has fallen. The event is about as thrilling as the news that a tall-end base ball team has lost a game.