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The Note to Berlin.

The attitude of the administration toward Germany's efforts to dodge responsibility for the great war and to default on the payments toward reparation to which she is pledged, has never been in doubt in this country. We change our administrations, not our consciences. The joy of M. Viviani over the recent note to Berlin lies not so much in the assurance thereby given to France, for France could never have seriously doubted but that we are in full accord with her in her just demands to Germany, but in the rendering of those assurances into the written word for Germany to read. For France, with the rest of the world, recognizes the extraordinary faculty of Germany for misjudging the state of mind in other nations, and has been exceedingly anxious that the United States might effectively disabuse the fond misapprehension of Berlin that we would stand by her in her resistance to the allied demand that she honor the pledge made at Versailles. The Hughes note will accomplish that end, so M. Viviani and the nation rejoice.

The stupidity of those charged with the delicate task of estimating the trend of foreign opinion for Germany has been perhaps more responsible than any other single factor for the pass in which that nation finds itself today. It brought her into a war into which she would never have entered had the attitude of England been accurately gauged in 1914. It insured her absolute defeat when her agents blundered in their advice as to the American sentiment early in 1917. And recently, in 1921, it has been threatening to persuade her to a policy which, if adopted and pursued, cannot but bring down upon her the contempt and distrust of the civilized world for decades to come.

The government at Berlin is face to face with the question as to whether the game it has been seeking to play is worth the candle. Instead of meeting its just obligations, fulfilling its plighted word and setting forth upon the task of regaining the confidence and good will of the world, sacrificed to gratify the criminal ambitions of William Hohenzollern, it has since the armistice, which signalized the triumph of right over wrong, sought to beat the game. The fact that the game cannot be beaten must now be dawning upon her. The Hughes note must serve to remove the last preposterous premise upon which her hope that that end might be accomplished was based. For a government charged with responsibility for the future of the people of Germany to do aught but admit its duplicity and accept the inevitable would be fatuity even beyond German governments as we know them.

Anna Louise Cary.

It has been nearly forty years since Anna Louise Cary's glorious voice was heard by the American public. She had been singing only little more than ten years in opera and in concert when she retired, upon her marriage. Since 1882 she has been living a domestic life, almost all of that time in Norwalk, Conn. Yesterday she died, at the age of seventy-nine, and her death revives memories of old times on the stage. Her name was associated with those of the two Pattis, Adelina and Carlotta; Nilsson, Gerster, Kellogg, Campanini and others famous a generation ago. Her voice was a remarkable contralto, of exceptional purity and range. She was gifted with great beauty and her presence on the stage was magnetic. There was genuine grief when she retired at the age of forty, her voice undiminished in its rare qualities. Perhaps she was wise to stop then in the full glory of her talent and fame. Many other singers have continued, some of them beyond the point of discretion, and the public has been kindly patient for the sake of memories. Anna Louise Cary's voice still sounds in the mental ears of those who were favored to hear it, with the same purity and depth and sweetness that were its special qualities when she sang her last song on the stage.

The discovery of an explosive more terrific than TNT should be supplemented by some device to keep it out of the hands of people whose motto is "Unsafety first."

The Greeks in Trouble.

Disaster has overtaken the Greek forces in Asia Minor. Pushing forward from the line of their initial successes in the advance toward Angora, the Turkish nationalist capital, they attacked the Turks at Eskisher, an important junction point about 130 miles west of Angora. At first they were successful, but the Turks, reinforced, regained the town and at latest reports had caused the Greeks to retreat in the direction of Brusa. Evidently the Greeks were deceived by the eastward movements of the Turks into thinking that the nationalists were planning to offer no serious resistance or were unable to hold their lines.

This campaign in Asia Minor was undertaken by the Greeks with perhaps inadequate preparation. It was a heavy enterprise. Now the government at Athens is rushing reinforcements and a dispatch from Constantinople states that it is expected that a Greek army of 200,000 men will be put in the field.

The Turkish nationalist leader, Mustapha Kemal Pasha, has issued a manifesto saying, "This is the last war for the preservation of the empire. Every Turk must enroll or be executed as a traitor." Obviously every possible resource will be employed to prevent the Greeks from gaining further ground in Asia Minor. The Turkish nationalists are in a difficult position. To the south of them are the French and British areas. To the east of them are the Caucasian bolsheviks, in whose friendship they have lately trusted, but who may at any time turn upon them. If the Greeks can only hold a firm line from the Black sea southward the nationalists will be compelled to strike a bargain with the Caucasus reds, for they must have an outlet. Meanwhile the situation of the Armenians is desperate. They are being ground between the nationalists and the reds. France and England are not disposed to lend any aid in the Greek campaign.

Up to the present the Greek enterprise has not succeeded. The Turks could well afford to yield ground in the west. A mere demonstration of force on that front is of no political value. King Constantine, pledged to a vigorous warfare against the Turks, may find himself greatly embarrassed and possibly his royal position jeopardized.

John Burroughs Clubs.

The writer of a letter to The Star, a long-time friend of the late John Burroughs, proposes the organization of Burroughs clubs for the preservation of wild growths. John Burroughs hated to see wild flowers torn up by the roots and flowering shrubs broken for the sake of their wilting blossoms. The Star's correspondent said that much as he loved Washington he always refused to walk along a certain street in this city because there he saw evidences of such vandalism, in the form of goods displayed for sale. He might have seen them on all the roads leading into Washington at this time of year, with the highways filled with motors bearing branches of the dogwood and others of our beautiful shrubs.

The purpose of these proposed Burroughs clubs is to teach the lesson of preservation of beauty. The children should make effective missionaries in this work. Mrs. Patten's suggestion is well worthy of execution. Much has been done here already in the way of practical conservation. In the public schools a great advance has been made by organizing the children into garden groups and nature study classes. Under the guidance of Mrs. Susan Sipe Alburtis thousands of the young Washingtonians have been taught to respect plants and flowers in other people's yards. Not long ago an exhibit in practical conservation was held at the Wilson Normal School, that has attracted nation-wide attention.

Washington is a good field for the beginning of this work. John Burroughs was well known here. As stated, he loved the city, and especially in the spring, when its wonderful foilage was just developing in its first full freshness. He loved its trees and its parks and the hills all around the city, with which he was intimately familiar.

Let Washington erect a memorial to John Burroughs by starting this work, perhaps not confined to the children, for adults are even worse offenders in the matter of shrub and tree vandalism than the youngsters. It would be a most effective tribute to the memory of the dear man who has gone and who did so much for this country by teaching it communion with nature.

The Order of the Elephant, composed of newspaper men who accompanied Mr. Harding on his campaign, can have an exceedingly large associate membership if it cares to invite all the landsliders who last fall adopted the elephant as their political emblem.

The fruit crop failure calls regretful attention to the fact that food prices cannot be expected to go down as rapidly as the mercury did.

World-recognized proficiency in film production may enable Germany to develop a new source of revenue that will ease the burdens of indemnity.

Few of the callers desiring to pay their respects to President Harding can hope to equal M. Viviani in conversational interest.

Enforcement of blue laws often means overwork on Sunday for the police.

Foreign Trade and Traders.

This is from Cleveland:

"Arrangements are rapidly going forward here for the reception of foreign trade leaders of the country in the eighth national foreign trade convention, May 4 to 7. More than 3,000 merchants, manufacturers, bankers, railroad and steamship men will meet here to further endeavor to coordinate foreign trade activities of the nation, according to H. F. Seymour, general chairman of the local arrangements committee."

The foreign trade leaders of the country are among its most important leaders today. Three thousand is a goodly number, but six thousand would not be too many. Teamwork is the thing, and the larger and stronger the team the better.

We are staking much on the movement to enlarge our foreign trade. It is the time of times for taking the world into account. As the result of the war, the world is being rearranged—made over, as it were—in a trade way and every other way. New boundaries are being run. New industries are springing up. New tariffs are being fashioned and will soon be functioning.

America wants to be, needs to be, "in on this." We are ready to take a hand. Our raw materials are abundant. Our finishing plants are numerous, and all with up-to-date equipments. Our manufacturers are widely advertised, and, wherever known, of good report. There are American bottoms now for all American products.

The whole question lies in intelligent organization. Let us hope, then, that the men qualified for organization work—such men as are described in the Cleveland dispatch—may take it up in good spirit and prosecute it to a successful conclusion.

A Penalty for Bolting.

A Richmond dispatch says:

"Assistant Attorney General Hank, in an opinion made public today, holds that a citizen voting for Harding in the last general election is not eligible to stand for a seat in the next house of delegates of Virginia, subject to the democratic primary in August."

This is calculated to discourage bolting. A voter must remain regular if he is to enjoy all the privileges of citizenship in the Old Dominion.

Presumably, however, there will be no objection to the exercise of the voting privilege by those who supported Harding last November as a protest against Wilsonism, and yet are democrats all right in home affairs and ready to support democratic candidates for nominations or for offices now.

After his first defeat for the presidency Mr. Bryan showed a disposition to carry this matter to the extreme. He announced that no democrat who had bolted his nomination should return to the party except in sackcloth and ashes.

But this proved to be the deliverance of an angry man. Four years later he had cooled off, and was glad to accept support without conditions. Still, easy as he made the approaches to the polls, he again did not receive enough support to win.

And now, singularly enough, after a quarter century, Mr. Bryan is under the ban himself. He voted for Gov. Cox last year, but the weight of his name was cast against the ticket in the campaign. He refused to speak for it. So the Coxites have tagged him as in effect a bolter, and announced that the must present himself in sackcloth and ashes if he hopes to affiliate further with the democratic party. There is no likelihood, however, that Mr. Bryan will order any such penitential toggery of his tailor.

Peonage.

While about it, the national government should make its investigation of peonage broad and thorough. It should not circumscribe its activities in so serious a matter, but extend them to wherever there is complaint, or good reason to believe that the evil exists.

Evil it is; and now is a dangerous time for it to exist. Labor of all kinds; organized and unorganized; skilled and unskilled; literate and illiterate, is discontented and in some sections in a state of grave unrest.

Peonage applies to labor in the latter's lowliest and most helpless form. On that account the authorities should be especially vigilant. They should see that the humblest man, living outside of organization influences and beyond the reach therefore of organization aid, is protected in his natural rights against injustice or oppression from any source.

The representative of the Department of Justice in charge of the investigation now in progress in Georgia makes the gratifying statement that in that state "peonage is not widespread in the sense of being statewide." At the same time he confesses that "the bulk of our work now is on peonage complaints, and there are more of these than all other cases combined."

We may easily believe that the representative planters of the south are opposed to peonage. Putting the matter on the lowest plane, it is against their interests. They are large employers of negro labor, and cannot afford to mistreat their help or remain indifferent when scandal attaches to labor conditions around them. For this reason they will probably lend their aid and influence to the effort to stamp out peonage wherever it exists.

The Greeks and the Turks are determined to carry on their old fighting instead of holding a conference to consider the advantages of disarmament.

The former Emperor Charles may yet wish he had been content to chop wood like the former Emperor Wilhelm.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Steadfast Purpose.

Through the field the south winds blow,
Coaxing out the clover,
As they whisper, "Don't you know
That the fighting's over?"

Through the sky the storm clouds float
And their threats redouble,
Saying, "People, please take note;
We'll have further trouble."

Mortals on this earthly soil
Still must work together—
Singing as they play or toil,
"Never mind the weather."

Jud Tunkins says it's all right for a farmer to let well enough alone if it's an oil well.

Thrills.

"Why don't you make one of those old-fashioned ringing speeches that thrill the hearts of the multitude?"

"Because," replied Senator Sorghum, "people who want thrills no longer depend on orations. They go to the pictures."

Same Old Criticism.

The stage, 'tis whispered through the land,
Is going to the bad.
The tragedy is funny, and
The comedy is sad.

But comment ever has been thus.
They said such things as these
Concerning poor old Æschylus
And Aristophanes.

Modern Transactions.

"Every man should own a home?"

"True," replied Mr. Chuggins. "I'm thinking of putting a mortgage on the automobile to make a payment on a house."

Crude Hilarity.

"Wine is a mocker."

"So 'tis," agreed Uncle Bill Bottletop. "And moonshine licker is one of our roughest practical jokers."

Editorial Digest

Truce in Packing Industry.

The peaceful settlement of the dispute between the packers and the unions, even though it has been described by one of the labor men as only a "truce," is considered by most newspapers as a "triumph" for the Harding administration and particularly for the Secretary of Labor, who presided over the hearing. The fact that the employes yielded to the packers' demand for a reduction in wages is looked upon with satisfaction by a number of writers as a sign of the times, indicating that labor has come to recognize that wages must go down if prosperity is to return. Although the disputants are only bound by their agreement until September 1, when the war ruling concerning the eight-hour day will no longer be effective, the majority of editors feel that both sides have shown that the tendency from now on will be away from the use of force and toward arbitration.

The New York Evening Post (independent), hardly an enthusiastic supporter of the republican regime, considers the settlement "a notable triumph for President Harding's administration," for "to postpone a strike for six months is equivalent to averting it." The Scranton Times (democratic) calls the work of "Secretary of Labor Davis, Secretary of Commerce Hoover and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace" a "first-class job," and the Harrisburg Telegraph (republican), while it admits that "the caliber of Mr. Davis as Secretary of Labor is not demonstrated by this one instance," grants him "a good start." The Milwaukee Leader (independent) says the "six-month truce" is "a bright feather in his cap and the administration's."

Justification of the choice of Mr. Davis as a cabinet official is seen in his successful role of mediator by the Sioux City Journal (republican), which regards the decision as "significant," in that it shows that labor has a "disposition to accept lower wages in the adjustment of costs which affect living conditions." Adopting this course, the Kansas City Star (independent) believes, will strengthen the labor organization with the public. Whether there is full basis for the hope that labor will generally accept lower wages is not a settled question to the Sioux City Tribune (independent), however, for even the packers' agreement may not be permanent if prices do not keep pace with wage cuts.

It was rather a question, in the opinion of the Indianapolis Star (independent republican) of establishing the fact that "the readjustment program is not aimed at reducing their strength as well as their wages" that troubled the workers, who "are evidently disposed to be reasonable" as to the cut in pay. They "evidently realize," the Wheeling Register (democratic) believes, "that a strike was useless, that more was to be lost by a long fight against reductions than accepting them," and the "course they followed is a tribute" to their "common sense." To this the Chicago Tribune (independent republican) agrees: "The workers' representatives displayed rare good judgment in submitting to the wage cut fixed by the packers in exchange for concessions on the eight-hour day and continued arbitration arrangements."

The attitude of the workers in agreeing to the cut was bound to come, declares the Mitchell (S. D.) Gazette (republican), "with the decline in prices and the general return to normal conditions, and will undoubtedly set a precedent for other groups and for wage and salary workers generally." To the Savannah News (democratic) it is an indication that: "The wild days when wages were anything the employe wished to ask, and when prices were anything the seller wished to ask, are over."

The Boston Transcript (independent republican), though it admits something has been accomplished, quotes the words of the employes' representative to the effect that they merely establish "a truce for us to prepare for war."

To this the New York Globe (independent) feels there is a satisfactory answer in "the fact that a treaty, or as one of the spokesmen of the unions viewed it, a truce, has been obtained, is in itself encouraging." This optimistic standpoint is maintained by the Chicago News (independent), which urges that the doubters should "bear in mind that the packers have announced their definite intention of establishing other machinery for the prevention or settlement of labor disputes and of giving their employes a voice in the determination of certain questions relative to wages, hours, safety and other working conditions."

Uncle Sam's Almanac.

The day of the farmer who planted his crops by the almanac which hung on its hook near the clock between the pantry and the door leading to the back kitchen has passed.

The newspapers and bulletins from agricultural colleges keep today's farmer up-to-date, or perhaps he has a son who is a graduate of one of the colleges which have done so much to make the farm pleasant and profitable. He may have taken a short course himself and have a knowledge of soil analysis and fertilizers that his grandfather would have given his best pair of cowhide boots to possess.

But whether of the new or of the old vintage the sentiments in the Agricultural Almanac for 1921 issued by the United States Department of Agriculture will tickle his risibilities. This publication does not contain some of the useful information the oldtimers did, such as "About this time look out for squalls," nor the entry so dear to the boy with the copper-toed boots and a new pair of skates which read "Heigho for skating" opposite a certain date in February. The following is one of the best sentiments the new almanac can boast of and it ought to be pasted over the hearth of every farmer and stock raiser in the Union. "The owner of a scrub bull should have a leather medal—made from the bull's hide."

The new editor of Uncle Sam's almanac says: "Beware of false prophets. Don't plant by the moon; get the best seed and prepare the seed bed, then plant when soil and moisture conditions are right." That sort of advice should fill every granary and smokehouse in the United States.—New York Herald (independent).

The onion is the scenter of population.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

Credit Hungary with one vigorous anti-shimmytic protest.—Boston Herald.

The allies owe us a debt of gratitude, too. But we'll probably collect that.—Syracuse Herald.

Holding German cities will give the allies excellent practice for their ultimate task of holding the bag.—Baltimore Sun.

The difference between a monarchy and a republic seems to be more a matter of quantity than quality in government.—Columbia (S. C.) Record.

The old-fashioned man who used to go home and smash up the furniture now stays at home and wears it all out sitting on it.—Minneapolis Journal.

So far as our future naval policy is concerned, it seems to be that in regard to new battleships we don't know where they're going, but they're on the ways.—Dayton News.

The movement for restriction of naval armament was progressing more promisingly than usual. Then along came the pacifists and indorsed it.—Cleveland News.

One reason why they lived to be a few hundred years old in primitive times was because they were a long, long way from a corner drug store.—Baltimore Sun.

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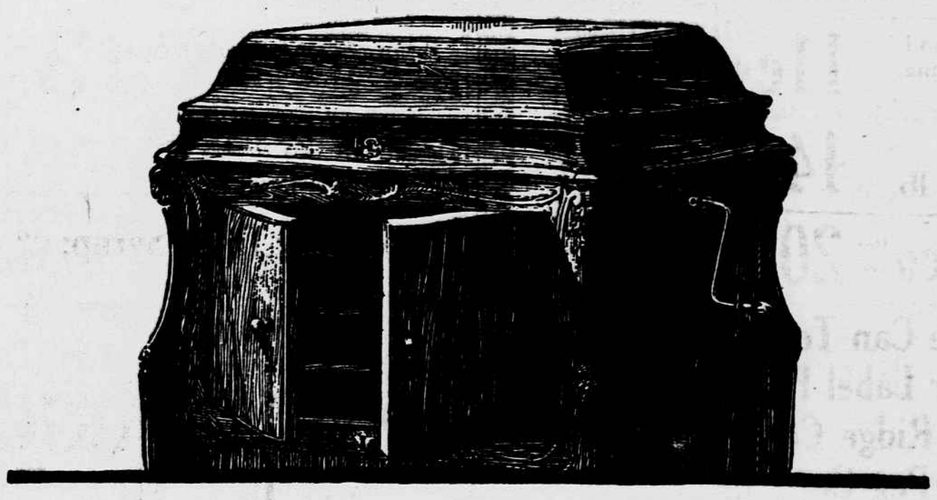
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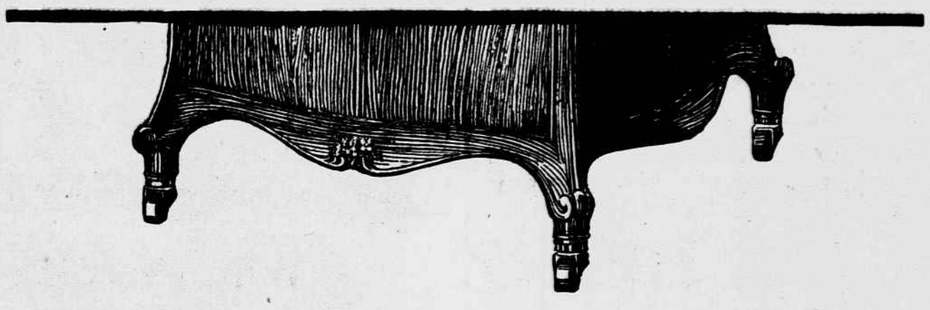
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