

Business is not as usual in the French republic, struggling for its life. Factories stopped, stores closed, enterprises abandoned, business, profits and all else forgotten, while workers and proprietors, lawyers and tradesmen marched away to fight or to work for France.

It is really a wonderful thing to see and know and think about. If you have accepted as true and typical the oft-pictured Frenchman of the boulevards you will have difficulty in believing me, and yet I declare to you I do not exaggerate.

The whole French nation lives in an atmosphere not to be described otherwise than as one of solemn exaltation. Sacrifice and suffering have lifted these people to astonishing heights. Under the superficial gayety there must always have been strong, sterling metal, or the peril of the beloved republic has remade them.

Take the matter of drink. It has been a sore subject in some other countries at war, but not here. At the outset the government decreed as a war measure the temporary suppression of absinthe making or selling. The national assembly, acting upon the thought of the country, made the prohibition permanent. Absinthe is banished forever from France.

Now the commanders enforce strict prohibition of all alcohol in the military zones. There is talk of more drastic liquor legislation.

It will hardly be needed. The people are enforcing temperance upon themselves. The sobriety of their thoughts is reflected in their habits and the drinking of alcoholic beverages has fallen off amazingly.

For the time being the typical citizen was not thinking of profits or business but of France and the common lot. This has always been an individualistic country, almost as individualistic as our own. It became now in a way a country given over to the spirit of co-operation, the in-

dividual lost sight of before the obvious needs of the community.

The government had no practical needs of acts enabling it to take over railroads, factories and property; all persons expected their government to take what was wanted. No one appealed to the workmen to be patriotic and do their best in the munition factories; they would do that anyway—for France.

What is still more remarkable, nobody seemed to have any thought of glory or reputation. The newspapers never make mention of any act of service; acts of service are expected of all. The most distinguished men in France are doing humble labor every day and nobody notes it. Emil Loubet, formerly president of the republic, almost 80 years old, is serving as a member of an obscure committee that does not end of hard work without recognition. So is Armand Fallieres, his successor in the presidential office.

Service in the army is universal, but I doubt if it can truly be called compulsory. Judge for yourself. You might say that the soldiers serve without pay; the compensation is merely nominal; two cents a day. Yet, think!—not a word of complaint is raised on that score.

Because her soldiers fight gratuitously is one reason why France has been able to manage in the war on so moderate an expense.

Then, too, separation allowance for soldiers' dependants are very small. The wife gets but 25 cents a day and 10 cents a day for each child, as against \$3.62 a week for the wife and \$1.25 to 50 cents a week for each child in Great Britain.

But the French government commandeers the houses in which the dependants live and they pay no rent. Incredible as it may seem, I do not hear that landlords make much complaint. It is for France.

You get no rolls with your breakfast now in Paris. Guess why not—it is a fine reason. Well, here it is,