

The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUNSEY, President. R. H. TITHERINGTON, Secretary. T. H. POPE, Treasurer.

THE LITTLE PEOPLES.

Sir Edward Grey, speaking of Serbia, brought the commons to its feet with cheers, by declaring emphatically that the time was past when the world would stand by unconcerned while the small nations were remorselessly crushed by overweening power.

The despised little Balkan states taught Turkey the lesson. The Boers shot it into the armies of Britain. Japan astounded the world by the effectiveness with which she impressed it on Russia.

Serbia, by all accounts, is right now giving a highly creditable account of herself as against the might of Austria.

Belgium—well, a local wit and philosopher observed the other day that "probably Germany was powerful enough to defeat Russia, France, and Britain combined; but what was the use, so long as Belgium wouldn't let her!"

The little countries are doing right well. There will probably be more, rather than fewer of them, when the settlement is made at the end of this war.

OPENING THE CANAL

The Panama railway steamship Ancon will traverse the Panama canal today, bearing the officials of the railway, the canal commission, the Panama government, and representatives of the press.

The ceremonial opening will take place next March, when a great international maritime display has been planned; a display likely to be sadly deficient because of more serious business on the hands of the great powers.

Beginning today, the canal will pass vessels up to thirty-foot draft, including ships of war. Vessels of the powers now at war will be admitted, and it is not improbable that some of these will appear soon with applications for passage.

A number of these are in the Pacific; some, at least, engaged right diligently in keeping out of the way of the willing gunners of their enemies.

BRITAIN'S WAR BOGIES.

One of the favorite forms of fiction to which British writers have been addicted in recent years is that born of the "big navy" spirit in England and a pretended fear of Germany. The favorite plot of novels in this manner is the invasion of England by Germany, the steady march of the troops from the coast across the eastern counties toward London, where the seizure of that capital is made all the more easy by a general uprising of the Germans resident in London, the omnipresent waiters serving as the backbone of this rebellious army of foreigners.

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guineas in their pockets and yet cannot get any one to serve them a meal.

The war of the nations already has shattered many international bogey men. It will produce a new crop.

ADVENT OF JAPAN.

Japan is determined to get into the European war mix-up. There is no reason why she should not, if she has interests that are affected; and she has. Time was when she might have regarded Britain as her dangerous antagonist in the east; but the close alliance and understanding with Britain have ended danger of clash in that quarter.

There is left Germany and the danger that, successful in the present war, she would attempt a program of expansion in the east that would be sure to threaten Japan. From the German occupation of Kiao Chau bay down to this day, Germany's attitude in the Far East has been calculated to worry the Japanese, exactly as Germany's attitude in Europe has been calculated to keep that continent on the qui vive.

A triumphant and regnant Germany would turn eye to the Orient, where the next century will see the greatest of all opportunities for commercial expansion.

Therefore, Japan feels that she, too, has obligation to help curb the danger of German Napoleonism. Germany is pitifully unfortunate, in this crisis of her imperial career, in her inability to command friendships among the nations.

Count Okuma, the Japanese premier, issues a most reassuring statement, touching on the bearing which Japanese participation in the war will have on the United States. He declared unqualifiedly that Japan's sole object is the maintenance of peace in the Orient, adding: "Japan has no territorial ambitions."

Let there be no fears of effects injurious to the United States. At the end of this war, there will be no nation comparable in resources, wealth, or latent power to the United States. We will have conserved what the others will have spent. No peace will be made that will look toward injury of this nation. The others will want our good will, our material aid, in rebuilding the shattered fabric of their prosperity.

HELPING THE FARMER HELP US.

The District government recently erected a big steel shelter shed, two city squares in length, in B street, between Tenth and Twelfth streets northwest, to accommodate truck-dealing farmers and enable a real farmers' market to be inaugurated in such manner as to insure its permanency.

There could be no more encouraging sign of a new spirit of domestic economy among the people, than the big patronage that has gone to this new establishment. Day after day, the 144 stalls that are provided are all taken, while increasing numbers of people come with baskets and buggies and automobiles to get their supplies.

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The new structure will be put up as soon as possible. It is no longer a dubious business proposition for the District, for the small daily rentals are producing returns at the rate of \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year, which will more than pay interest on the investment.

Only bona fide farm producers are admitted to this establishment. It is the city's invitation to the farmer who wants to do business with the people of the city. No brokers or middlemen are admitted.

Despite that the market has been so eminently successful, there are yet many thousands of people in Washington who do not patronize and do not know and realize the opportunities it affords. They need to know; to go and see; to buy, and thus to learn the advantages offered to them.

This is a practical, effective beginning in the effort to make the cost of living less. It used to be said that the people of Washington, like the people of most cities, had become too modernized to bother about patronizing such instrumentalities for regulating the cost of existence.

A unique statement has been issued by the French minister of war, in which he undertakes to prepare the public mind for impending great events on the battlefield. The frankness and directness of the document deserve high approval.

It is explained that the great battle is impending, in which the whole French and the whole German army will attempt to reach conclusions. The line of conflict, from the Swiss to the Dutch frontier, is stated as 266 miles long; the immensity of which is further impressed by recalling that the line at Mukden was 120 miles long, and that Mukden utterly dwarfed all other great battles in its immensity.

We will have an advantage at one or several points; the Germans will have an advantage at other points, and the line of battle will continue to be modified until one of the adversaries succumbs by co-ordination of movements and mass of effort in gaining some point, the superiority of which will disorganize the adverse front and mark the end of the first battle.

"The end of the first battle," let it be noted once more! Even the war office does not deem it necessary to lead its public into believing that this struggle will end the war; only "the first battle." There is, of course, the possibility of a conclusion in this one vast encounter; but it is unlikely, and the minister does not, in such a solemn time as this, indulge any theatricals. He makes no lurid promises of victory, doesn't wave the tricolor, indulges no rhetoric; in short, he doesn't act a bit like most people would rather expect a Frenchman to act in such circumstances. He talks like a perfectly unimaginative bulletin from a scientific laboratory.

This announcement may be the preliminary to ringing down the curtain on the battle stage for a period of several days. Lord Kitchener has been in Paris, conferring with the war office. This bulletin sounds more British than French. It suggests that the allies have adopted a program of utter suppression, so far as they can effect it, until the great clash is over.

But, of course, absolute suppression is impossible. France, Holland, Denmark, are not far away. Prisoners of war will talk; civilians will learn and get outside the battle area with some details; wounded soldiers will not always be circumspect. The world will not be in utter darkness.

Two weeks ago today, almost any informed person would have said that, if Germany were able to mobilize her whole army along the French frontier, against the whole French army, the advantage would be all with the Germans. Today that is accomplished, yet settlement has widely swerved. The preliminary encounters have brought in an utterly new factor, the Belgian army, which to date has monopolized the visible glory. The British expedition, probably at least 100,000 men, very likely 250,000 of them, has landed on Belgian soil. Russia has had time to mobilize an immense army. Serbia has utterly declined to be crushed and tugged aside by Austria. The

quality of German and French artillery and troops has been tested far enough, at least, to convince most people that the Germans are meeting a very different France and a very different French army than they met in 1870.

THE DAVIS CUP.

The Davis Cup, emblematic of tennis supremacy, returns to Australia. None will begrudge the sturdy challengers their victory. The sturdy side won. The steady teamwork of Wilding and Brookes in the doubles was too much for the erratic brilliancy of the defenders. In the singles, the same calm steadiness marked the play of the antipodeans. From the start the visitors seemed the better team, and their victory in the doubles made the American defense almost a forlorn hope.

As to the cup holders, nobody will find a word of blame for their failure to retain the trophy. Playing with a dash and daring which frequently staggered their opponents, the Americans had to yield to a teamwork which brooked no opposition, however brilliant.

Williams' erratic playing and his loss of both matches in which he was engaged proved the disappointing feature of the American play. McLaughlin's efforts were those of a champion, but his cannon-ball serves and comet-like dashes could not overcome the steadiness of Wilding and Brookes in the doubles. Bundy's work was a pleasing surprise. Rated by many experts as below cup ability, he wielded the racket with an effectiveness which outdid even McLaughlin's playing.

The cup is gone to a worthy foe. It was well won by the Australians. And in losing it, the Americans fought a valiant struggle which makes the cup's departure no disgrace.

WAR TAX PROBLEM DEMOCRATIC BOGEY

Leaders in Congress Fear Revenue Necessities May Offset Other Benefits.

Democratic leaders are convinced that the effect of the war in Europe is going to be helpful to their party in the coming campaign, but they are not beyond worry on the score of politics, nevertheless. The necessity of imposing war taxes is giving them anxiety.

Nobody knows how long the war will last, or how long it will be useful to impose war taxes. Even after actual fighting in Europe is suspended, it is impossible to forecast how long it will take the stricken countries in which the war rages most savagely, and which will be enormously impoverished by the war, to recover and begin to send their exports to America in anything like normal volume.

However, the Democratic leaders perceive that it will not do to let the Treasury run behind for several months. And while some of the Democratic politicians are urging that war taxes be held back until after election, it seems probable this course will be taken. The economic un wisdom of it is apparent and the political wisdom of it is apparent.

Various forms of taxation are under discussion. Once any bill is brought to the floor, especially in the Senate, it is likely to be much modified. Increase of taxes on liquor and tobacco meets with strong favor in both houses.

On the other hand, there is strenuous objection to imposing increased taxes on food products. The proposal to tax tea and coffee has already been adopted, considering the widespread complaint over the increasing cost of living.

The plan of changing the income tax law so as to secure more revenue from that source meets with considerable support in Congress. It is suggested that the revenue from income tax be increased by reducing the minimum income which is liable to taxation to \$2,000 or \$1,500. This would add largely to the revenue. Politically, there is objection to it. To lower the exemption limit would mean that a great number of people who have not been paying would have to pay, and paying taxes never is popular. In this connection, it is proposed to increase the percentage of tax on income which is already liable.

In the end, the leaders on the Democratic side will try to figure out methods of raising revenue which will be objectionable to as few people as possible.

Queen and Crescent and Southern Give Contracts

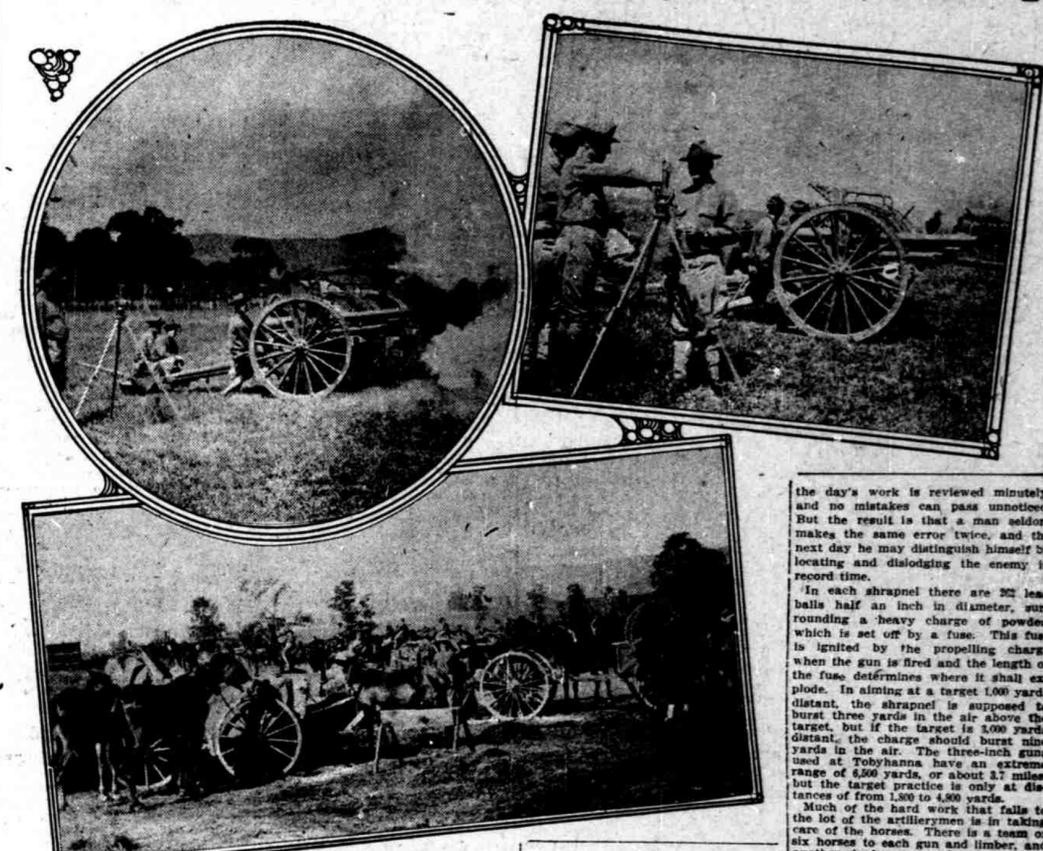
ATLANTA, Aug. 15.—Contract has just been awarded by the Southern railway to W. W. Boxley & Co., of Roanoke, Va., for the construction of seven miles of second track on the Washington division, between Charlottesville and Aroonhead, Va.

The work involves a slight revision of grade, being in connection with other contracts which have been let for double track on the line between Washington and Atlanta. A contract has also been awarded to Dunn & McCarthy of Chicago for construction of second track on the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railway, 8 1/2 miles between New River, Tenn., and just north of Sundrigh, Tenn.

Youthful Critic.

Little Wendell Holmes Emerson, of Boston, was resting sedately with his feet on the sofa shortly after a picnic dinner. He had eaten too much. He knew perfectly well he had eaten too much and he sat there, surprised and shocked at himself. He prayed fervently that no one would notice his condition.

Artillerymen of District Militia Face Hard Work at Tobyhanna Camp



In the circle is a three-inch gun just after hurling a shrapnel at a target two and a half miles away; to the left is Capt. John W. Kilbreth, Sixth U. S. Field Artillery, instructing Lieut. E. S. Moorhead in the use of the range finder; below are the horses and mules, the first care of the true artilleryman.

Boys of the First Battery, N. G. D. C., Don't Count Injuries Short of Total Disablement.

Under Eyes of Regulars.

By LEONARD ORMEROD.

One hundred and twenty men, the sun tan on their faces forming a foundation for a superstructure of grit and powder smoke, that resists even soap and water, are today stretched out under their brown tents on the hills near Tobyhanna, Pa., for their only real rest they will have in twelve strenuous days.

The "D. C." on their collars marks them as members of the National Guard of the District of Columbia, while the red cord around their hats proves them members of the first battery of field artillery.

The young man who is afraid of hard work makes a mistake when he enlists in that branch of the service marked by the red cord, for it stands for hard work crowded into fourteen hours of each day that the average man will get in a week. The gavel militiamen who take a cruise aboard a battleship each year and the infantry signal corps and hospital corps who go into camp annually may have a few blisters when they get back home, but the boys in the first battery don't count injuries short of total disablement.

They Would Not Trade.

For all that the boys in the artillery would not, for love nor money, trade their coveted insignia of two crossed cannons for the crossed rifles of the "dough boys," the crossed flags of the signal corps, or the "Mercury" staff of the hospital corps. There is something about the deep-throated roar of guns of artillery, the deadly blossoming of the shrapnel, the rattle of harness and wheel that makes the artilleryman smile indulgently when the other branches of the service are mentioned.

So each year the First Battery F. A., N. G. D. C., goes to Tobyhanna under the guiding eye of officers from Fort Myer to spend long hours in practice that almost parallels real warfare. The officers are Capt. Louis C. Vogt, Lieut. George W. Wilson, Lieut. George A. Bonnet, Lieut. Harry E. Schilling and Quartermaster Sergeant Edward L. May. With them also goes Willis S. Bryant, armorer in charge of the battery headquarters and its only permanent employe.

He served two enlistments with the regulars in the Philippine, retiring as a non-commissioned officer, and from muzzle cap to tail piece there is no part of a field gun he is not familiar with.

WAR QUESTION BOX

Tell something of the British Empire. The British Empire is the greatest in the world, embracing a total population of 442,886,600. It embraces a territory of 12,512 square miles in Europe, 2,187,550 in Asia, 2,618,245 in North America, 8,900 in Central America, 12,300 in the West Indies, 97,900 in South America, Africa 1,978,488, and 3,214,682 in Australasia. King George V is the nominal head of the British government, although the real power rests in parliament, especially the house of commons, and in the cabinet. The present cabinet is of the liberal political faith. The Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry Asquith is secretary for foreign affairs. David Lloyd George, chancellor of the exchequer, Col. J. E. B. See, secretary for war, and Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the Admiralty. These constitute the most important

tenant can see them and perhaps not. At any rate he scans the ground with his glass, figures out the range, elevation, and the various angles and transmits the knowledge to the gunners in charge of the field pieces.

Suddenly there is a roar and the scream of a flying shell. The big gun recoils from twelve to fourteen inches against a spring and then shoots forward into an oil cushion, before coming to rest. Hardly does it stop before "No. 1" has the breech open and the empty case ejected. "No. 2" shoots another load carefully taken down and micrographed as soon as the day's practice is over. After the evening mess the officer watches for the bursting shrapnel. He notes whether it is too high, too low or too much to the side, and signals a correction to the gunner.

Thus the practice goes on. If the lieutenant has miscalculated he is shortly told that he has been seriously wounded and that another officer will attempt to drive out the enemy. Every order that is given during the day is carefully taken down and micrographed as soon as the day's practice is over. After the evening mess the officer watches for the bursting shrapnel. He notes whether it is too high, too low or too much to the side, and signals a correction to the gunner.

While most of the scientific part of fighting is done by the officers it is vital that the men also have a working knowledge of the instruments, for the superiority of the American soldier is largely due to the fact that he has initiative and can put up a stiff fight even after his officers are shot down. The instruments which a first class artilleryman must know how to use are a panoramic sight, a range quadrant and a fuse setter.

The panoramic sight is the most complicated and it enables a man to shoot over a hill and hit a target that he cannot see. For example if there was a gun at the White House and the runner wished to hit the Capitol dome but could not see it, his panoramic sight used in conjunction with the officer's telescope and range quadrant would enable him to hit the Capitol by sighting at the Washington monument. It is only necessary that the officer be at some vantage point where he can figure out the respective angles and telephone or wig-wag them to the gunner.

In target practice of this sort there are five things to be computed; the angle of the gun and the target, the angle of the shell, and the range. To fall on any one of these points means to score a miss. The first shot does not usually strike the target, but it comes somewhere near it and the officer watching through his telescope corrects it the second or third time.

Maneuvers in Morning.

In the camp at Tobyhanna the men put in the morning at maneuvers, learning how to handle the gun, how to get into position and how to turn it at a walk, trot or gallop. Target practice comes in the afternoon.

The afternoon's work begins when a lieutenant receives a pseudo telegram from his superior officer saying the enemy has been sighted near a certain cross roads or clump of trees and must be dislocated. Some place near the designated spot are a group of canvas targets, representing guns, mounted men or kneeling men. Perhaps the lieutenant can see them and perhaps not. At any rate he scans the ground with his glass, figures out the range, elevation, and the various angles and transmits the knowledge to the gunners in charge of the field pieces.

Some "Fire Sky."

Now and then a man enlists who has all the requirements of an artilleryman except that he is "fire shy." Such a man belonged to the local battery not long ago. He would do his part and more until it came time for the big gun to roar, and then he would put his fingers in his ears and start for the rear as fast as he could go. Most of the men get over this the first day, but a "fire shy" man should not be judged too harshly, for there is something terrifying in the crashing roar of several pounds of powder behind a fifteen-pound projectile.

the day's work is reviewed minutely, and no mistakes can pass unnoticed. But the result is that a man seldom makes the same error twice, and the next day he may distinguish himself by locating and dislodging the enemy in record time.

In each shrapnel there are 20 lead balls half an inch in diameter, surrounding a heavy charge of powder, which is set off by a fuse. This fuse is ignited by the propelling charge when the gun is fired and the length of the fuse determines where it shall explode. In aiming at a target 1,000 yards distant, the shrapnel is supposed to burst three yards in the air above the target, but if the target is 3,000 yards distant, the charge should burst nine yards in the air. The three-inch guns used at Tobyhanna have an extreme range of 6,500 yards, or about 17 miles, but the target practice is only at distances from 1,500 to 4,500 yards.

Much of the hard work that falls to the lot of the artillerymen is in taking care of the horses. There is a team of six horses to each gun and limber, and another six for every caisson, or twelve horses to a gun. The horses always have first consideration. No man thinks of himself until his horses have been cared for, because a field piece without its horses is useless. The man in an emergency can take care of themselves, but the horses are dependent on the soldiers who have them in charge.

Every battery of artillery also carries a complete blacksmith shop, carpenter shop and saddler's chest, and is prepared to shoe horses and make a complete set of harness in the field. It also carries spare parts for the guns, and can replace a broken piece at short notice.

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Evening Services in the Churches

- A YOUNG WOMAN MADE HIM HUFFY—The Rev. E. Her Swen, Centennial Baptist Church, Eighth and I streets northeast, 8 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. Howard J. Bell, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Thirtieth and Fairmont streets northwest, 7:30 p. m. ADDRESS—The Rev. Donald C. MacLeod, Eckington Presbyterian Church, North Capitol street and Florida avenue, 8 p. m. THE MARKS OF THE MASTER—The Rev. G. B. Thomas, Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church, Ninth and P streets northwest, 8 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. W. H. Baylor, Inman Baptist Church, Sixteenth and Columbia road northwest, 8 p. m. THE FIRST DRUNKARD—The Rev. Howard F. Downs, Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, Fifth and F streets northwest, 8 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. W. A. Masker, jr., Bethlehem Chapel, Washington Cathedral, Mt. St. Alban, D. C., 4 p. m. THE FLAG OF PEACE, OR OUR COUNTRY'S MISSION—Judge W. F. Norris, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Thirtieth and Fairmont streets northwest, 7:30 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. H. S. France, Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, Fifth and Pennsylvania avenue southeast, 7 p. m. THE CRASH OF THE EMPIRES—The Rev. R. E. Hart, Seventh Day Adventist Tent, First street and Randolph place northwest, 7:30 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. L. Morgan Chambers, McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church, Massachusetts avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets northwest, 8 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. Weston Bruner, Fifth Baptist Church, E and Seventh streets southwest, 7:45 p. m. DECISIVE WARS OF THE WORLD—The Rev. S. Townsend Weaver, Foundry Methodist Church, Sixteenth and Church streets northwest, 7:30 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. H. T. Cousins, Anacostia Baptist Church, Thirteenth and W streets southeast, 7:30 p. m. ADDRESS—Prof. F. B. Wright, Ingram Memorial Congregational Church, Tenth and Massachusetts avenue northeast, 7:45 p. m. GUIDE-POSTS ON THE HIGHWAY OF HEAVEN—The Rev. Howard Hanford, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant Tent, Fourteenth street and Meridian place northwest, 8 p. m. ADDRESS—The Rev. D. H. Martin, Dumbarton Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, 3131 Dumbarton avenue northwest, 8 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. James L. McLain, Wilson Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, Eleventh and G streets southeast, 7 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. G. Freeland Peter, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, G street between Thirtieth and Fourteenth streets northwest, 3 p. m. A MODERN MONSTROSITY—The Rev. F. M. McCoy, Waugh Methodist Episcopal Church, Third and A streets northeast, 7:30 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. F. V. Atkinson, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Sixth and A streets southeast, 7:45 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. T. C. Skinner, Calvary Baptist Church, Eighth and H streets northwest, 8 p. m. WHY DOES IT SEEM TO BE GERMANY AGAINST ALL EUROPE?—The Rev. John MacMurry, Union Methodist Episcopal Church, Twentieth street near Pennsylvania avenue northwest, 7:30 p. m. SERMON—The Rev. George Pitt Ieas, Second Baptist Church, Fourth street and Virginia avenue southeast, 8 p. m. THE EUROPEAN WAR: ITS CAUSES AND ITS PROBABLE RESULTS—The Rev. Donald C. MacLeod, the Eckington Presbyterian Church, 3 p. m.