

The Washington Times

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THESE YOUNG OLDSTERS

The town is full of men who fifty years ago were old enough to be discharged as the veterans of one of history's greatest wars. They are everywhere; in streets, cars, carriages, public places; and the wonder to anybody who will observe them a bit is that they are the youngest looking lot of men that could possibly be found with such ample testimonials that they are no longer young.

HISTORICAL DOUBTS

From the time Niebuhr rose to fame by dragging down cherished Roman legends literal minded delvers in chronicles have shattered our faith in ancient story and tradition. They allow neither the absolute perfection of our national heroes nor unmitigated villainy in a Nero or a Borgias. William Tell and Andreas Hofer vanish in the mists of legend or shrink to the size of heroes such as these latter days are revealing in countless crises.

JAPAN'S OPPORTUNITY

No single indication of the progress of Japan is more significant than the large part which the eastern empire is playing in one of the most vital industries of today—the manufacture of munitions of war. When Commodore Perry delivered in 1853 President Fillmore's demand to the Shogun for the right to enter into commercial relations with Japan, the retainers of the Japanese ruler were armed only with the fantastic broadsword which constituted the Japanese conception of efficiency in weapons.

supplying the funds for the training of a great Japanese army of ordnance experts, mechanical engineers, and electrical inventors.

When the war is over the Japanese will have a complete industrial equipment, ready manned and in running order. It is inconceivable that so alert and adaptable a nation—a nation which can readily copy and perfect any manner of modern device, from a toothbrush to an electric motor—will fail to apply to the industrial conquests of peace the technical training which it is now acquiring for the conquests of war.

THE AVIATION SERVICE

More important than any other of the distinctly new instruments of war is the aviation arm. In the first place it has provided eyes in the sky, with which each side observes the movements of the enemy. This means that surprise movements of great bodies of soldiers are impossible. The strategy of Napoleon, which was based on the plan of dividing the enemy and then conquering in detail, would be utterly impossible in present day conditions.

UNION STATION PLAZA

The first glimpse that incoming visitors have of Washington these days is not attractive. The Plaza in front of the Union Station ought long before this to have been rescued from its wretched condition. There was for years the excuse that the land was largely filled in, and must have time to settle. But that excuse is no longer very convincing. There has been plenty of time.

IS IT THE BIG SHOVE?

There remain about two months of ideal campaigning weather, in the north of France region where the greatest assault of all history is now being made by French, British, and Belgians against the German lines. October and November are perhaps the best months in the year, all things considered, for such a campaign. It will be cool enough to mitigate the physical sufferings of the men, as compared to what they might be either in the cold of midwinter or the sweltering heat of summer at its high noon.

say nothing of the stores that have been piled up, and that are described as huge beyond the imagination of anybody not familiar with the detailed truth. That truth is one of the secrets of the Anglo-French general staffs.

Political necessities may have dictated the beginning of the advance at this time. For three months past there has been an uncomfortable feeling among even the best friends of the allied cause, that some aggressive performance would be heartening and would brace up confidence. The failure to rehabilitate the Balkan alliance, the disaffection in sections of Switzerland, the mutterings in Sweden, and the persistent inquiry even in America for explanation of the inaction on the western front, may well have moved the allies to undertake a fall campaign when on the whole they would have preferred to make the grand effort in the spring of 1916.

But the truth about all this cannot be known; not now, perhaps never. A combination of circumstances dictated that the drive should begin now; perhaps tentatively, with some feelers; perhaps with the serious expectation of recovering the ground lost when Germany sprung the surprise in the early weeks of war. The accomplishments of the first two days have been enough to clear away misgivings about the ability of the allied troops to gain ground. The deadlock in the west was not hopeless. Germany's troops are no longer where they can be hurried back by the hundreds of thousands to resist the new onslaught. They are scattered along a fighting front of hundreds of miles, much of it now a long way into the interior of Russia. Railroad facilities cannot have been perfected as they were in old Germany. The business is in a new phase, and the time could hardly be better for the western smash, provided only that the allies are really prepared to the last gaiter button. If they are, they have started the big performance, and they intend to win. A few days of such victorious advance as was won in the beginning will put end to misgivings in neutral quarters. There will be no plunge of Bulgaria, surrounded by enemies, into a German alliance of offensive and defensive. There will be renewal of the war fever in Greece and revival of confidence in Russia. Whether the purpose of the present aggressive movement was primarily military or political, its political effects will be of the first importance.

POLIS

Particularly pleasing and entertaining is the presentation of David Belasco's "The Grand Army Man" by the Pol players this week. It is one of those whole-soul plays, in which are mingled pathos and humor in Mr. Belasco's inimitable style, in which the large and the small are blended, and shows the real worth of one's faith in the good of humanity against all odds.

GAYETY

The old favorites in Golden Crook Extravaganza Company with Billy Arlington, the former comedian, were welcomed at the Gayety yesterday by two capacity audiences. Under the direction of Jacobs and Jermon, the company has been completely reorganized and is probably offering its most entertaining personnel.

ONE YEAR AGO TODAY IN THE WAR

Another of her colonial possessions was lost to Germany a year ago today, when an Anglo-French force compelled the Germans occupying Duala, the capital of the Kamerun, and Bonaberi to surrender unconditionally. This was the African West Coast colony that Germany enlarged as a result of the Agadir incident.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS AT THE THEATERS

and much good singing. It deals with the romance of a young man who enlists in the navy, his sweetheart, the colonel's daughter, Harry Fern, and Company offer a comedy-drama, entitled "Veterans," which is built around a plot of soldiers' homes. The sketch is filled with intermittent smiles and tears.

BRITAIN TREATING U. S. WITH UTMOST FAIRNESS IN SPITE OF PROTESTS

Neither Department of Commerce nor English Envoys Take Much Stock in Allegations of Harm Done to Commerce Here As Incident To Blockade.

Without violating any confidences, it can be said on the best authority that neither the Department of Commerce nor the representatives of the British government in this country take much stock in allegations that American commercial interests have been suffering by reason of unreasonable restrictions imposed on our commerce by the British as an incident to the blockade of northern Europe.

At the beginning of the present year the London government sent Sir Richard Crawford here, as a sort of sublimated commercial attache to the embassy. He is an expert in commercial and financial affairs, especially in the international field, and, in addition, is a tactful and diplomatic gentleman. Clothed with ample discretion, he has sought to make the exasperating conditions of commerce in war times as easy as possible for American commerce; and he has at least earned the confidence of the commercial instrumentalities of the American Government.

UNITED STATES GIVEN BENEFIT OF DOUBT

It has been his effort to grant every possible modification of the strict letter of the allied nations' prohibitions against commerce, consistent with maintaining the assurance that America will not be made a supply base for the central enemy. It has been necessary at times to make changes and commonly American manufacturers and exporters have been given the benefit of reasonable doubts.

NATIONAL

A triumvirate of introductions took place at the New National Theater last night. The first was the premiere of "The Two Virtues," by Alfred Butro, with E. H. Southern in the role of Jeffrey Panton. Perhaps because of a slight feeling of unfamiliarity with such a character as Jeffrey, the audience did not take warmly to the first act, but it was a feeling of strangeness quite normal. For Jeffrey was and was meant to be a quaint, absorbed, sincere person intent on being himself and of merely going through the material moves of convention for the sake of peace.

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EXPORTS INCREASE

American exports of wool and wool products have increased during the period, while British exports of these have fallen off, according to the trade statistics of the two countries. On such a showing, it is hard to calculate how the British blockade has affected the American wool industry.

G. W. UNIVERSITY TO OPEN TOMORROW

George Washington University will begin its college year tomorrow without a formal opening ceremony. The school of Graduate Studies, the Teachers' College, the College of Engineering, the Law School, the Medical School, the Dental School, the Pharmaceutical School, and the Veterinary School.

CLASSES WILL BE DETAINED ONLY LONG ENOUGH FOR ASSIGNMENT OF TEXT BOOKS.

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WHAT'S ON PROGRAM IN CAPITAL TODAY

- Concert, Engineer Band, Smithsonian Grounds, 7:30 p. m. Convention, Sons of Veterans, Shoreham, 10 a. m. Meeting, North Capitol and Eckington Citizens Association, Eckington, 7:30 p. m.

AMUSEMENTS

- National—"The Two Virtues," 8:15 p. m. Belmont—"The Grand Army Man," 8:15 and 8:15 p. m. Keith's—Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m. Gayety—Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

SEPARATE SESSIONS OF ORGANIZATIONS ARE BEGUN AT THE NEW WILLARD.

The first official deliberations of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Daughters of Veterans opened separately this morning at their respective headquarters at the New Willard. The Daughters of Veterans, represented by a delegation from every State in the Union, about 250 delegates being present, opened their convention in the blue room. Mrs. Lulu Carlin, of Chicago, president, made the address of welcome.