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LET'S KNOW THE TRUTH

It is more than gossiped that the reason that the President wants blanket powers conferred and Congress adjourned is because he feels certain that any move toward war made by him would be unsupported at the Capitol.

We cannot believe that this is true. We cannot believe that Congress in its majority is made up of cowards and poltroons. But if this is true, if the alleged suspicions of the President are correct, the sooner we know about it the better.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND THE ACTION OF CONGRESS

Even a re-reading of the President's speech of yesterday does not subtract from the difficulties of understanding the object of his visit. He appeals to a Congress about to die for powers which by his own confession he already possesses.

WANTED—A MAN

We must disagree strongly with those Republicans who believe that in spite of his pacific and pro-German activities, Mr. James R. Mann would be of great value as Speaker, because of his skill as a parliamentarian.

JUSTICE LONG DEFERRED

The long-deferred measure of justice to the department clerks has been won by the action of the Senate in agreeing to the House plan of increase in the salaries of Government employees.

THE PACIFIST CREED

An American pacifist creed is shaping rapidly. Oscar Callaway, a Congressman from Texas, added his share to this new constellation of opinions when he told the Boston pacifists that American soldiers were virtually a set of bloodthirsty indiscriminate slaughterers.

THE BRITISH LOAN

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ing the same, the cost of living rising by leaps and bounds, and the rewards of private employment increasing in the same proportion, the Government has played a niggardly role.

The House policy takes notice of the needs of those receiving between \$1,200 and \$1,800 a year. The addition of from \$60 to \$90 a year to such incomes will be as welcome as the greater proportionate income of those receiving less.

SENATORIAL MORTALITY

In the debate on the increase of salaries for Government clerks, Senator La Follette put into the Record a roll call of the Senate of January 23, 1907, ten years ago.

IN THE CANAL ZONE

From the Panama Canal Record we glean some interesting data concerning the traffic passing through that waterway.

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Don Marquis' Column

Linotype Larry wants to know how many of those present have ever read the legend printed upon a subway ticket. "I realized by own ignorance," he says, "in looking at a man carefully perusing his ticket on a train the other day. It is my idea of next to nothing to read. True, he may have been looking for the penalty for not dropping the ticket in the box, as he looked like one of the species who put down two nickels and sweetly chirp, 'Two!' And how often do people lay down a nickel and chant 'One!'"

French Without a Struggle. Said a chap on the banks of the Meuse, "Twixt the two it's not easy to choose— There were far fewer snipers At the battle of Ypres. But more of them blamed Mitrail-leuse." —A. N.

The dog show—one of the beasts brought \$6,000 the other day, we hear—has not been affected by the price of onions and potatoes. Though, of course, none of these dogs is so plebeian as to eat onions or potatoes. But imagine the sensations of a common ordinary sea, starved out of New York's East Side, wandering into the show—and getting a bite of a \$6,000 dog!

Invocation. Come in the glory of Thine excellence Rise the wild glom with lightning of Thy sword, Beat down the helmets of these war-riors Who slay Thy people with a fender's intent. Lo there, lo there, the heaps of dead No denes They pave the very roads and choke the air So thick they lie the raven no more accords His obscene clamor to the banquet-seats.

Yet smile us not, O Lord, who walk at ease, Thy faithless servants of the fatal path, Who dare not stand the hazard of the quest; But woe us hear Thy dead cry in the seas That writhe about our shores in helpless woe— Or rouse us with some shattering trumpet blast! —Perley A. Child.

Who They Are. Sir: I am the lean, lank, jaundiced, hollow-jawed, hawk-eyed individual who sits next you in the train, trolley or subway and reads all the news in your paper over your shoulder. By so doing I save my own until I get home, and thereby get a variety of reading matter at comparatively low cost. And when you discover my glued attention, and you turn over the pages abruptly before I have a chance to read anything, I customarily mutter under my alcoholic breath and curse you silently and softly. I am then forced to flich the news from somebody else's paper. —Tyler.

Poems. Poems are of every sort, Some are sad and some are tearful, Some are long and some are short, Others cheerful. Poems are there bright and gay, One will have a pleasing chorus, While another poem may Only bore us.

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Commercial Problems As Result of European War

A Non-Technical Explanation of the Big Questions Confronting Business Men At This Time of World's Upheaval.

By SAMUEL WANT.

Whatever else may be true in connection with the status of neutrals during war between other countries, the present war has at least settled the proposition that neutrality is no longer a guarantee of freedom of intercourse in international commercial relations not directly concerned in the war.

The Declaration of Paris, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and the International Naval Conference of 1909, are only some of the outstanding declarations of international purpose indicating a world recognition of the right of neutral commerce to untrammelled freedom of action except as it would tend directly to assist the military or naval forces of one of the belligerents.

While these various international conventions have not been formally acceded to by all the powers of the world, there has been a general acceptance of their fundamental principles; but throughout the present war the declarations from belligerents on both sides of the conflict have constituted a series of repudiations and rejections of all accepted safeguards in favor of neutral commerce.

A point has been reached in international affairs where the business interests of neutral countries are beginning to assert themselves. A great force in this direction has been created by business men and statesmen of this country, supported by the declarations of a number of the prominent statesmen of the nations of the world, including those now engaged in the European conflict.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Interesting Events of Importance Scheduled Today. Meeting, Southeast Washington Citizens' Association, 217 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, 8 p. m. Election of officers, National Military College, Home Club, 7 p. m.

METHODISTS HIT PACIFISTS

Meeting at New York Resolves Against Resort to Armaments. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—The Rev. E. W. Evans, of New York, an agent of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist organization that would not resist the Kaiser if he attempted to invade the United States, was informed yesterday by more than 100 Methodist ministers attending the weekly conference here that "peace at any price" and the policy of "surrender without a fight" have nothing in common with Methodism.

MARINE BAND SCORES

Symphony Program at Marine Barracks Artistic Success. The all symphony program given by the United States Marine Band Orchestra under William H. Santelmann at its regular concert at the Marine Barracks yesterday afternoon, was an artistic success, proving that the organization, to make it plain that Philadelphia Methodists have no sympathy with the propaganda of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, passed a resolution reaffirming its resolutions of several weeks ago, in which President Wilson was upheld in severing diplomatic relations with Germany.

OFFER PRIZES FOR POSTERS

Mississippi Centennial Asks All Art Students to Compete. GULFPORT, Miss., Feb. 27.—Art students of every school in the United States will be eligible in a poster prize contest inaugurated by the Mississippi Centennial Exposition, to be given at once, and close on May 1, the conditions of which have just been announced. The centennial exposition management offers three prizes, the first of \$25,000, the second of \$15,000, and third of \$10,000.

WILL NAME THREE FAITHS

Priest, Preacher, and Rabbi to Guard Big Estate. HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa., Feb. 27.—The will of Randolph McMullen, a wealthy farmer of Tyrone township, probated here, directs that his estate be divided under the supervision of three trustees to be appointed by the court, consisting of a Protestant clergyman, a Catholic priest and a Hebrew rabbi.

DROWNS REJOICING

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Feb. 27.—Hastening to tell his brother that he had just become the father of a boy, Joseph Wislotecky, of Northampton, slipped on the bank of the Lehigh Canal, fell in, and was drowned before help could reach him.

CLERGY AND LAYMEN PRAISE EVANGELIST

Gypsy Smith Credited With Having Aroused Spirit of Religion in Capital.

HOMELY SERMONS GRIPPED

Recapitulation of List Shows That 826 Men and Women Were Converted.

Throughout Washington church circles today the praises of Gypsy Smith, Jr., proponent of the old-time religion and savior of souls, were sung by ministers and laymen alike.

The swarthy-skinned, indefatigable evangelist, who closed a four-week revival here last night, was given credit for bringing about a resurrection of religious thought in the National Capital and inspiring and stimulating local ministers and church workers to greater things.

WANTS TO OBSERVE SABBATH

"I want to warn you," Gypsy Smith, Jr., said last night. "Observe the Sabbath day. Have never been in any city in the United States, except New York, where the people had less regard for the Sabbath day."

He then took up the thread of the story of his life, as well as that of his race and ancestors. "We believe that we are one of the lost tribes of Israel," he said. "There are two reasons for this belief. There are 400,000 gypsies in England, and 85 per cent of them live to be of Bible age. All of the families have names chosen from the characters in the Bible. There is where we get that belief, for the gypsies have no Bible and the names have been handed down from our forefathers. When a gypsy is sick he is given a knife and a spoon to eat with, after which they are buried. When he dies the bedding is taken out and burned. These two customs were practiced by the Orthodox Jews in Palestine."

HAS NO RELIGION

"The gypsy has no religion. He believes the first cause controls everything, and says that this first cause is God. He has no commandments to tell him what to do. The only law he has is his conscience and the law of the country through which he is traveling."

"I wish that the people of this country had as much respect for the marriage laws as gypsies had as far back as sixty years ago. A man cannot marry until he is twenty-one, and his property belongs to his father until he becomes of age. With them the parents raise the children. In some of you American homes the children raise the parents."

MUST HEIGHTEN MORALITY

"We must raise a higher morality in this country than we have had in the past twenty years. Our children are going wrong. Many girls take the wrong step before they have graduated from high school. The gypsy can swear as though he had been to the University of Hell, taken a post-graduate course, and had the devil for an instructor. Those of the gypsies who are not habitual drinkers are moderate drinkers. They are not thieves. They do not burglarize banks and they do not break into houses. They are superstitious, believing that there is a difference—they will steal from your yard, but not from your barn."

"Many of you pay a gypsy woman to tell your fortune. She is not telling your fortune, she tells you what you tell her or what she has been keen enough to learn from you. They travel on their wits, and when you manage to get ahead of a gypsy girl you may chalk it up."

"The evangelist then told of his roving the seas for years, leading any thing but a righteous life, and of his conversion and joining the staff of an evangelist in New York. He alluded to the fact that he was still in his swaddling clothes as an evangelist and that Washington was the biggest city in which he had ever conducted a revival."