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THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 17

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—Wordsworth

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT

HERE and there partisan efforts are being made to discredit Republican newspapers that happen to differ with officials in matters affecting the conduct of national affairs. It will be a sad day in the United States when the loyal press of the country shall be forced to approve by its silence the inefficiency or partisanship of men who happen to be in public places. Of course, no loyal newspaper will give aid or comfort to the enemy through publication of matters which are manifestly improper, but the efforts of certain zealous supporters of President Wilson to place in his hands a club to compel newspaper subservience to the wishes of the administration in all matters important to the nation are not only unwise but also unwarranted. It is not the duty of the press to support the administration in all matters, but to support it in matters of national importance and to oppose it in matters of national danger. The press is the conscience of the nation and it is its duty to speak the truth, no matter how unpopular it may be.

OUR WHOLE DUTY

BUSINESS activity and industrial prosperity for a period of years are confidently predicted by many leaders in the business world. They agree that the prosecution of the war will have no serious effect upon the going forward of industrial and commercial activities. The point is made clear in a recent interview by J. Ogden Armour. Discussing the economic conditions and the future of the nation's defense, he declared yesterday that the prompt adoption by the American people of the "business as usual" idea would enable the nation to prosecute the war without experiencing the temporary depression which was felt in England and France. He said further:

"As patriots it is our duty to stop the wastage of food, as patriots it is equally important that we do not stop the ordinary purchasing power which the business and the industry of the country are founded upon. Hysterical economy is as much a menace to the nation as is prodigal waste. The pursuance of our normal business along usual lines is of paramount importance at this time in order that our nation may maintain itself on a sound economic and industrial basis from which to prosecute the military phase of the struggle for the freedom of mankind. Faith in the great need of the people of to-day, faith in Providence to lead us to our right, faith in nature to respond bountifully to the wonderful efforts of our agriculturists to increase the food supply, to provide a surplus for our allies and our own Government, which has taken hold of the problems before it in a way that is masterly and that it is deserving of our faith. All over the country business men are beginning to realize that there is no occasion for hysteria or for any radical change in their usual activities. As a result, business is going ahead with increasing impetus from day to day and once our national policies shall have been agreed upon and the defense measures fully put into effect there will be a gradual disappearance of uncertainty and a nation-wide co-operation in everything which will give confidence throughout the business world. If President Wilson is really sincere about preventing a food shortage, why doesn't he act his foot down hard on putting 17,000,000 bushels of grain into alcoholic beverages each year. Somehow, the threat that we may have to substitute corn pone for wheat bread, next winter, doesn't seem to worry us much."

"DAYLIGHT SAVING"

DAYLIGHT SAVING" now has the endorsement not only of the Legislature, but of the Chamber of Commerce of Pennsylvania and all over the State. The Legislature recommends the passage of a national law by Congress to that end for the reason that the movement must be countrywide to be effective. A state law would be so confusing as to be disastrous, if not impossible of operation. In these days of interstate railroads and national solidarity in many other respects state laws that might have worked admirably a century ago are impossible. So the Legislature of necessity has put the matter up to Congress.

We are told that turning the clock back one hour from April to September would save a million tons of coal a year that now go into the manufacture of gas and the generation of electricity. This item alone, especially at a time of fuel shortage, would make adoption of the plan well worth while. But, will Congress take that view of it? Or will it prefer to chatter unendingly about the necessity of conserving the nation's resources, while by its own neglect it continues to conspire for their wastage? The people will watch with interest the progress of the "daylight saving" bill.

THE GIDEONS

THE mass meeting announced by the Gideons, the Christian Commercial Travelers' Association, the chief work of which is the furnishing of Bibles for hotel guests, to be held in Fahn-

Politics in Pennsylvania
By the Ex-Committeeman

Although leaders of the State Senate have not yet indicated in any way what they plan to do in regard to the closing up of the business of the Legislature of 1917 there were a good many rumors heard about the subject in Harrisburg. One of the reasons the recess idea had become considerably stronger and that it would be seriously considered when the Senate meets next week is the gubernatorial appointments and the possibilities of some switching in the event that adjournment comes sine die. It is also a question of the change of front. Meanwhile the Senate will continue to keep busy and to get the bills over from the House.

"WE CAN START AT ONCE"

AMONG the sayings of famous seamen that adorn the history of the United States navy, none is more characteristic than the reply of Admiral Sims, commander of the flotilla of destroyers on his arrival in British waters to the question of the English commander as to how soon the Americans would be ready for service. "We can start at once," said Sims, and to prove it in an hour after the long voyage across the Atlantic the whole American contingent had steamed to sea in active search of German U-boats.

Unless history fails to repeat itself, as it has done in every war since John Paul Jones first made the Stars and Stripes a terror on the seas, the American navy will give good account of itself in this conflict. Some of these days we shall open our newspaper to discover that Hobson has been out-Hobsoned and that we have in the navy a new Dewey or a new Schley. Accomplishing the impossible always has been the favorite diversion of the United States navy, and it will be surprising, indeed, if the dash and enterprise that have carried it through a thousand deadly perils and snatched victory time and again from almost certain defeat do not accomplish new marvels in the present war.

American naval commanders are men of imagination, and imagination is as necessary to naval success as courage and expert gunnery. We have been much impressed recently with the importance of superiority of armament and cannon as prime requisites of naval success, but there still remain those great factors, the "man behind the gun," and the officer behind the "man behind the gun." In these the United States navy acknowledges no superior and few peers. "We can start at once," is as ever the slogan of the men who keep the American flag aloft at sea.

The Russian bear appears to be a little wobbly in his hind legs just now, but wait until Mr. Root arrives with his barrel of American money.

Democracy is not a boon to be won cheaply, it is a guarantee of peace and made secure by a peace of expediency or a peace of unrighteousness. When Russian democracy is proclaimed it is not because it had only made a start toward the goal it must attain if it is to deliver the Russian people from their enemies. Another guarantee of peace is that the Romanoffs, must be overthrown before the Russian people are free and that autocracy still confronts them. The Russian soldiers and workmen, who have everything to gain by a peace that the democracies of America, England and France are striving to bring to them, and which will be one in which all democracies can find safety, should not make that task harder by trying to buy freedom at a bargain. Nothing but payment of the full price—which is continued war until German military autocracy is crushed—can bring to them the peace which is safe for the future.—Kansas City Star.

Possibilities of Bad Verse

No one has yet written any adequate appreciation of the possibilities of bad verse. The verse, I mean, that is composed at the crisis of life, on the mountain tops of exultation and in the joyous valleys, by the poet, the soldier, and the ordinary man. The verse that is hidden away in vases and bureau drawers, never to be shown, an always forgotten, is not the verse of the poet. Only the true poet could write a just appreciation of bad verse; and from his pen the words would come to us as a breath of fresh air, a portion of irony. The quality of bad verse is not strained. It is written to suit no magazine's policy. It is written to be read, to be checked, it is a denying of reality; a prayer that is its own answer. It is, to use Maeterlinck's phrase, a making or invoking of wings by creatures that creep on their bellies.

Favorite Hymns

Favorite hymns of famous men make an interesting catalogue. Gladstone's choice was "Prayer to the Holiest in the Height," which was sung at his funeral. Tennyson's favorite was "Holy, Holy, Holy." One of Ruskin's preferences was "Jesus, from Sin Deliver," upon which he preached a little sermon to some three hundred school children, his guests one afternoon at Brantwood. Mark Twain's choice was "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (Wat's masterpiece), the third verse of which M. A. W. overheard and recited to himself only an hour before his quite unexpected fatal seizure. And Henry Ward Beecher declared would rather read the written words, "Love of My Soul" than have his fame of all the kings that ever sat on the earth.—From the London Chronicle.

Hamilton Descendant to Wed

The Baroness de Graffenried has announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Gertrude Ray Hamilton, to Paul McCulloch, son of James W. McCulloch of this city and the late Jane Leavenworth McCulloch. Alexander Hamilton was the bride-elect's great-grandfather. The wedding will take place in the spring.—From the New York World.

The Days of Real Sport

Russia has collapsed and the United States must take Russia's place in the struggle against German autocracy, but there is little appreciation of the significance of the fact in the House and Senate. French and British soldiers are dying by tens of thousands in the battles along the western front, but Congress keeps the United States marking time.—New York World.

Some men call themselves "Conscientious Objectors" and so hope to escape conscription. The country calls them by a shorter and uglier word.—Kansas City Star.

Price Russia Must Pay

No country is more interested in a peace that shall be a guaranty of the safety of democracy in the world than is Russia. But the soldiers and workmen, who are fighting for a peace conference, should reflect that no peace that would leave the fundamental issue of the war unsettled would be a peace that would destroy democracy, least of all to Russia. They may feel very sure, too, that if their peace overtures find any favor in the eyes of the German government with their aims, German militarism has its own aims, and even though those aims may contemplate peace at this moment, the motive behind that program is not one that promises any security to a peace that would meet the aspirations of the Russian people for the free development of their institutions. Russia's democracy was war born and it must be secured in a separate peace that leaves autocracy undisturbed as its neighbor, but in a world peace that leaves that autocracy intact, the Russian people are again plunging into the horrors it is now passing through.

Loan For Every Farmer

The sum of \$200 will be available at the nearest bank for every Ontario farmer who desires to increase his acreage and needs money to buy seed. No farmer in Ontario need go without seed this year. Loans will be repayable with interest at 6 per cent the first of November after the farmer has sold his crop. If the crop fails and the farmer is unable to repay the money, the Ontario government will make it good. These are the main features of the arrangement made by T. W. McGarry, provincial treasurer, through the organization of resources committee, with the Bankers' Association, for loans to Ontario farmers who need seed and have no money with which to buy it.

The Future of Business

The uncertainty which has existed ever since the war began as to the conditions that would prevail after the war is clearing away, and confidence is becoming established that there will be plenty of business not only while the war lasts but for a term of years thereafter. The amount of work which is piling up for the principal industries, and particularly the iron and steel industry, gives assurance of this. There is a great volume of business booked into 1918 and bookings into 1919 are not infrequent. The shipbuilding industry is certainly good for five years of activity, and steel men believe that railroad equipment and construction, and other important demands will be satisfied in much less time. The lumber industry looks forward for several years of assumed activity, and if we are alert to our investments opportunities abroad we can create a large outlet for many lines of goods. Our developing relations with Russia, China and South America are very favorable to trade expansion if we are prepared to give the financial assistance they will need and are worthy of.—Bulletin of the National City Bank.

Increased Capacity

The steel industry has been greatly stimulated by the war. On December 31, 1914, the total capacity of the country for making steel billets and castings was 40,915,325 tons, and on December 31, 1915, according to the preliminary estimate of the American Iron and Steel Institute, it was 48,770,000, with 5,235,500 additional tons capacity building. The increase already in service on January 1 last was therefore 20 per cent and when present construction is completed the increase will be 35 per cent over the capacity of 1914.—Bulletin of the National City Bank.

Quite a Nice Young Man

The bridegroom was not forgotten in the Hope Dispatch's recent writing-up of a wedding. In fact, the Dispatch said he was "among the finest young men in Dickinson, robust, manly and prosperous and yet gentle, high-minded and exemplary in his life."

The Days of Real Sport



EDITORIAL COMMENT

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AN HOUR MORE TO PLAY

That's One Thing the Daylight Saving Plan Means, Says Henry M. Hyde in the Chicago Tribune

Y OU wake. The room is already flooded with sunlight. You look at your watch. It is only 5 o'clock. Two hours remain before it is time to get up. You try to doze off again. The dazzling sunlight makes it hard to get back to sleep.

OUR DAILY LAUGH



OUR DAILY LAUGH

These are the days when the rhubarb has the call. People who attended the market of the city yesterday morning appear to be much impressed with the food properties of the great spring tonic vegetable, or fruit as some term it, and there were few who did not have a bundle of the long stems showing. Rhubarb is systematically abused and very much used. A great many people are accustomed to have their youth pretend to pass it up, but it is to be noted that almost everyone eats it when it is served and that rhubarb pie is as popular as ever. Rhubarb homes as it was ten years ago.

A GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

"Well son, I see you're changed considerably since you left home for college—'spos you've made wonderful improvement."

CRUEL WOMAN.

Mr. Cheapstick: I think I shall buy myself an auto coat. His wife: Why don't you buy a jitney coat—it would be nearer your speed?

HER RIVAL.

"How was it you didn't have a nice time out yosting?" "It was so very stormy that George had his hands full with the sails all the time and could do nothing but hug the shore."

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg cigars are sold all over the country?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG

Thad Stephens used to try cases in court here and often made speeches in Harrisburg.

Children Give Up Movies

[From the St. Paul Pioneer-Press] "Even the children of Winnipeg are 'giving their bit' in war service. Boy and girl pupils of King George School have foregone chewing gum, candy and the movies until the summer vacation. Their spending money is being contributed to Red Cross funds."

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PREVAILING FUMES.

"Do you practice deep breathing, as I told you?" "Can't do it, doctor, without getting your lungs full of gasoline."