HANDY DIRECTORY
—OF THE—
MASONIC TEMPLE

Masonic Meetings.

STATED COMMUNICATION Marshall Lodge, No. 108 A. F. & A. M., Friday, Jan. 8, 7:30. Work on first degree. John W. Wells, secretary; I. T. Forbes, W. M.

STATED CONVOCATION, Signet Chapter No. 38, R. A. M., Monday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p. m. Regular business John W. Wells, secretary; L. S. Kilborn, E. H. P.

STATED ASSEMBLY, King Solomon Council No. 20, R. & S. M. Monday after the third Sunday. I. T. Forbes, recorder; George Gregory, T. I. M.

REGULAR CONCLAVE St. Aldemar Commandery No. 30 K. T. Tuesday, Jan. 19, 7:30. Regular business and installation. F. M. Wilbur, E. C., M. S. McFarland, Rec.

REGULAR MEETING Central Chapter No. 67, O. E. S., Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p. m. Installation of officers. Anna Downing, secretary; Mary Black Collins, W. M.

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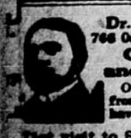

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Will visit to Stoddart Hotel, Marshalltown, Saturday, Jan. 9, 1915.

Live Longer on Peninsulas.

It is stated that the residents of islands and small peninsulas live longer than persons who dwell on the mainland.

Times-Republican.

Published Daily By The TIMES-REPUBLICAN PRINTING CO

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Sacrifice and Reward.

[From Henrik Ibsen's dramatic poem "Brand," translated by Ole O. Lien, Marshalltown, Iowa.]

How long will duty's struggle last?
It must go on till life is ending,
And your career on earth is past;
Till all your sacrifice is brought,
When you are free in deed and thought
And have attained a will unbending;
Till weak and sickly doubts must fall
At the demand to give your all.
What must be lost?—Your modern god,
Your sham, deceit and Sunday show,
The golden chains that drag you low,
And keep you bending o'er the sod.
And the reward? New thoughts of purity,
Determined will, the soul's security;
A sacrifice like one who gave
Himself to torture, death and grave—
A crown of thorns you may attain.
It is your sole reward and gain.

THE FLAG IN BELGIUM.

A report from Liege says that whenever the American flag is seen in the streets of that city the people take off their hats.

The flag stands for something besides power in Belgium. Probably seven-tenths of those who thus do homage to the flag know little or nothing of the history of the flag and the nation it represents. They do not know that it is the flag of a country that covers a continent; that counts 100,000,000 people and is perhaps the mightiest nation on the face of the earth in point of force and possibilities of military power were it to seek such pre-eminence. To them the American flag is not a war flag but the symbol of that brotherliness and charity which heard the cry of the starving across the waste of waters and sent rescue and relief. Belgium has seen war flags, battle banners, the guidons of power and conquest. Her people take off their hats to those only in fear. But the salute to the American flag comes freely from grateful hearts and is the signal of confidence and gratitude.

It is a good hearing. That is what the flag should stand for, peace, charity, brotherhood. That it does stand thus does not cheapen it as the symbol of strength and courage. Men have died about it as bravely as men ever died under any flag that ever floated and shall again if just occasion requires. From Bunker Hill to El Caney its war record is clear. But it stands for something even greater than any victory of war when Belgium salutes it as the flag of a just nation, a charitable and kindly people, representative of the new citizenship and the greater democracy.

See it against the blue. Take pride in it. It stands for more than the flag of any other nation that lives or has lived since the world began.

NO SUCH ANIMAL.

Following a list of farm sales which run from $140 to $210 per acre a land company handling northwestern lands has the nerve to insert the assertion that just as good farms as these may be bought of this company in a northwest state for $50 to $60 an acre. The ad follows the list of farm sales in a northwest Iowa newspaper.

It is a shrewd appeal to human nature. We are naturally bargain hunters. Somebody tells us the story of how Iowa farmlands sold for $10 an acre and supplements it with the suggestion that other lands offered today at low prices are as good. And desiring to believe it we take hold.

But it isn't so. Grant that the lands advertised are worth $50 to $60 an acre—it is poor land nowadays that is worth less—the fact stands that nobody can buy anywhere on earth as good land as Iowa farmland at $50 to $60 an acre. Further there are no farmlands anywhere that equal those of Iowa. That's the reason Iowa farms are selling from the $150 mark on up towards $500 an acre.

Judge Emil McClain went to the coast. He had become convinced that it was the place for him to pass his days. But Judge McClain came back. He was able to get back. Some of those who went haven't got back yet. Some of them desire to stay. Some of them are able to buy climate with Iowa money and are entirely satisfied. It's a good and pleasant country. But it isn't Iowa and lacks Iowa's opportunities and Iowa's crops and a lot of material benefits bestowed by Iowa upon those who here inhabit. McClain came back and told his reasons for coming. And they are good and sufficient reasons for a man who is still young and seeking a young man's opportunity.

These lands in the northwest are not lacking in opportunity. Men go to them and succeed. But they are not Iowa lands. The Iowa farm is in the center of the rainfall that makes corn and oats. They raise more to the acre and they touch the big markets at the right distance. "There aint no sich animile" as a farming country equal to Iowa.

Don't believe it. Give the northwest lands their due but when any one tells you he can sell you land as good as Iowa lands for one-fifth of theprice of an Iowa farm just remember that other advertisement which offers to sell a gold watch worth $30 for $2.92.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION.

While the situation in general is invested with post-holiday aspects, it is evident that buyers are inquiring for supplies, and some salesmen who were in for the Christmas holidays have again started out, but travelers will not generally take up visiting until next week. It is conceded that they will find light stocks on the shelves of final distributers, recent cold or wet weather having helped to move heavyweight goods, barring, of course, at the south, where it is probable that burdensome stocks are being carried. Demand for army supplies for use in Europe continues good, and export cotton is moving in relatively large volume, but in small relative value because prices are low, and holding of supplies by southern growers is conspicuous. Exports of cereals show a temporary slump from previous heavy levels, hampered materially as they are by prohibitive rates for ocean freights, scarcity of vessel room being acute. In purely industrial lines the tendency is to work slowly until after the first of the year, when resumptions will be in order, but the rate of first may be quite moderate. Of course plants working on army supplies are being rushed to capacity. Higher prices for plates, shapes and bars, better specifications on low-priced contracts that expired in December, with general expectations of a loosening up on the part of the railways during the current month, encourages the steel industry. Machinery markets reflect good export business, some improvement in domestic demand and enlarged inquiries, to which most faith is pinned for better development in the near future. Coal is in good request for domestic use, but the customary shortage experienced as this season of the year is conspicuous by its absence, probably because the railways have found it easy to move supplies. Trade in steam coal is rather quiet, and demand for lumber is dull, but inquiries are more numerous. Wool, particularly the foreign product, is scarce, and the wants of those manufacturers who have large army contracts to fill for England and France have created a boom in scoured and pulled wools, prices for which have advanced 12 cents a pound to 60 cents, and talk of $1 a pound for the latter is heard. Collections from many of the interior coreal-growing districts have improved, but as a general proposition payments are slow, remittances from the south being very poor. In fact, some wholesale interests are paying much attention to the virtual forcing of payments, in consequence of which business mortalities, particularly of small traders, are far more numerous than at this time in any previous year. At the same time, the number engaged in business has greatly increased, and on the basis of relatives the failure record is not so unfavorable as surface indications suggest. Money is easier, but demand is slight. Stock market operations present holiday aspects, with reactionary tendencies uppermost.

Topics of the Times

The general belief seems to be that were Des Moines to go dry legislative pages would have to wear boots.

• • •

The Iowa City Daily Press, entering upon its seventy-fourth year, says: "When the Capital Reporter, from which the Press took its rise, first saw the light, John Tyler was president of the United States, Iowa was a territory and Iowa City was a straggling frontier village." The Republican is one year older.

• • •

Theodore Roosevelt has cut out drinking coffee. Ahem! Does Teddy still doctor his milk?

• • •

If Sunday's meetings result in the abolition of the Des Moines saloons that little matter of a $12,000 free will offering will look like a 100 to 1 shot loping home in front.

• • •

And while making things clear to our English friends it might be well to have a few words with shippers who forge manifests. Greedy and law evading shippers might easily kindle a blaze that would result in a disastrous conflagration. This country is simply looking for its right, not seeking trouble.

• • •

The biggest fool of all is the fellow who imagines he can counterfeit United States money and get away with it.

• • •

The proposition to spend $50,000,000 buying and chartering ships is likely to meet rough weather. And propositions like that are not built to resist storms.

• • •

President Wilson is to come to Iowa according to announcement made by Committeeman Wade. Iowa will be glad to see him and show him around. Another term? Sorry but Iowa has made other arrangements.

• • •

Mr. Connolly should have stayed out of the cloak room and voted on the Hobson amendment. It was a lame way of ducking. Vollmer's foolishness about Lincoln as a "bartender" whatever else may be said of it has a suggestion of sand that the Connolly hedging lacks.

• • •

Copper for cartridge making is neither food nor clothing. We can afford to keep the fighting material if we may have an open market for corn, cotton and meat.

• • •

IOWA OPINION AND NOTES.

"Trewin is a politician and not an educator and his appointment was a mistake in the first instance. Nevertheless, Trewin is not all bad. He has given the state good service in some directions," says the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

As to Senator Cummins' availability as the republican nominee for president in 1916, the Odebolt Chronicle says the senator "has licked the daylights out of every democrat who has dared to run against him in Iowa during the past fifteen years, and could do the same thing nationally in 1916."

"If times get good, nothing can defeat Woodrow Wilson, except death, and if times do not get good, nothing can elect him, and there you are," says the Washington Democrat.

"One who reads many newspapers," says the Paullina Times, "can't help but notice that the ones which defend the saloons are nearly always democratic. Why is it that so large a portion of the democratic party feels under obligations to the booze?"

"It is safe to predict," says the Jefferson Bee, "that the coming legislature will be very tight on money matters. The members have had charge of extravagance dinned into their ears sufficiently to make a profound impression."

"The railroads of the east believe in gettin' while the gettin's good. Having been granted, after a refusal, a 5 per cent increase in freight rates, they are now asking another increase ranging from 10 to 40 per cent," says the Waterloo Courier. "Why blame them? They may not have as good a chance to howl calamity in another thirty years."

"And this year," says the Burlington Hawkeye, "ought to record a great advance in the efficiency of the national guard. It is generally conceded the state militia of nearly all, if not all, the states comes far short of either the ideal or a practical military defense in time of war. It is a subject deserving the very earnest consideration of congress.

"Five years ago flying the British channel was regarded as a death defying feat. In the light of recent events flying now appears to be about the only safe means of travel in that vicinity," remarks the Sioux City Journal.

Speed in the War Game.

The war-service record has been set up by a Lancashire man, who left England for the front on a Thursday, was wounded on the firing line on the following Monday, and was back in England in a hospital on the succeeding Thursday—the eighth day after he left England.

Looker-On In Iowa

Steamboat Rock, Jan. 5.—The new minister was in his pulpit to preach his first sermon, not here but in Nextown. A big crowd filled the church. No shorthand reporter was present, but one of the congregation with a good memory tells of some things he said. "My new friends," he said, "I can say a few words on this occasion which later would possibly be misunderstood, now you will receive them in the spirit they are uttered. In the first place let me remind you, you have hired me as your pastor, but you have not secured the services of my wife, excepting insofar as a member of this church. She will do her full duty as she understands it. It will be her first duty to attend to home affairs and afterwards work for the church the same as any other woman member of this church. There's another matter I wish to speak about now. Maybe I am unduly sensitive but this is the way I feel about it. For instance, when I walk into a clothing store and ask to look at a hat and the clerk or proprietor showing the goods, remarks our price on that hat is $4 but for a preacher will throw off a dollar and sell it to you for $3, I shall not buy that hat, and also will trade in the future in other places. I am not an object of charity. Not that I wish to be over charged but simply to be treated as any other man, with cash to pay for what he buys. And once more I want to say this now for it possibly will save future trouble. This church has agreed to pay me a stated sum for my services. I shall never ask for this money. I shall expect your church treasurer to send me every Monday morning by mail a check for the amount due me. Other laborers are paid in this way so I ask nothing unreasonable. It may be your treasurer will some times find is collections coming in so slowly that has bank account would be overdrawn if he sent the usual check. In that case as a business man he would borrow of the bank to pay off his help. I am aware this blunt speaking is a matter of surprise to you, but my motive in this plain talk is for mutual benefit. Money matters between preachers and congregations have caused more trouble than any one thing." And the narrator "of these few words" went on to say the scheme worked well. The preacher stayed eight years with that church. The preacher did not ask for his salary but got it promptly. The treasurer once in a while had to overdraw at the bank, but when the church treasurer said to the slow "brethren" he had overdrawn at the bank in the slang of the day "they came across." No sir, this sermon was not preached in Steamboat Rock, but it was preached in an Iowa town and many readers of this paper heard it.

• • •

Edmund M. Vittum's corn letter in last week's daily, attracts considerable attention not only among farmers but town people. Now if Mr. Vittum will send the T.-R. or get the by farmer of Georgia, Luther Alfred, to give the cost of the fertilizers used it may start something. There's a universal belief it will not pay to use fertilizers on Iowa corn fields. We have any number of farmers that can and do figure interest on land investment, labor, seed and harvesting on all crops. Now give such farmers the cost of fertilizers necessary to raise 227 bushels of corn per acre, and some of them will try it. And some of our Ames graduates are able to tell us what kind of fertilizers should be used on Iowa soil. Some of our Iowa Ames graduates can tell us that some fertilizers can be used profitably on some farms but not on others. The Iowa farmer today uses more manure spreaders than any state in the union. Convince him that it will pay to use guano and he'll buy it by the carload. The Iowa farmer would really enjoy raising 227 bushels of corn to the acre.

• • •

Has everybody stopped to think that our almost universal system of cement sidewalks has raised the cost of living. It's true. Twice as many shoe cobblers in Iowa than were here ten years ago. Some of them are making big wages. They will tell you town people wear out shoes much faster than farmers and their families. Again shoes now average in cost nearly a dollar a pair more than twenty years ago. It pays to have them half soled. So the cement walk is a blessing in more than one way to the shoe cobbler.

A. R. Thompson

Iowa Newspapers

BUT A PLEASING LONESOME.
[Sioux City Journal.]

It also is going to seem mighty lonesome for a lot of folks in Iowa without any Jim Trewin on whom to blame almost any old thing that happens to come up in state educational circles.

CONCEIVE IF YOU CAN.
[Sioux City Tribune.]

Suppose—just suppose—Great Brittin would tell this nation to take a long jump for itself, that the British admiralty office would continue to do as she pleases with international commerce. What would this country do with its crippled navy?

There is no danger of such a thing, but if there were we would cut the most piteous spectacle of all the ages. Imagine our battle fleet—with eighty units of it now in the dry docks—sailing out to give battle, loaded to the guards with grape juice and Josephus Daniels standing on the bridge leading the marines in singing "Nellie Grey" or "The Old Oaken Bucket."

ABLE TO HAVE THEM.
[Burlington Hawkeye.]

Keystone has just dedicated one of the finest school buildings to be found anywhere in the land in a town of her size or perhaps double her size. And there is reason for this. Keystone is the richest township in Benton county. In addition to this beautiful school house, it has two banks, with deposits of almost a half million dollars. There's a reason for that fine school house. Iowans have always been proud of their school houses. When log houses were the rule, the school was housed as well as most of the people. When the little red school house came into vogue, the people were justly proud of that. It was the best that they could afford. Since the price of all agricultural products has gone up and the price of land has neared or passed the $200 mark, Iowans can afford better school houses than they ever had in the past, and they get such school houses, just as they got autos, when they found that they had ample means for getting them.

LIMIT OF ABSURDITY.
[Des Moines Tribune.]

Relying, evidently, on the precedent established in the Kelley case in Des Moines, a judge in Malden, Mass., has just discharged a man who while drunk assaulted and seriously injured a policeman. He exonerated the offender with the obiter dictum that a policeman should expect a certain amount of risk in the line of duty, and that a drunken man should not be considered to have a malicious intent in his acts.

This leads the Philadelphia Public Ledger, apparently with the Kelley case in mind, to say:

In the new vocabulary of kindness to the criminal is the excessive use of ancoholic beverages to blot out the very name of crime? Is this the "twilight state" which has just secured a verdict of not guilty for a man who killed another in a fit of drunken rage? Ours is indeed a tender-hearted generation.

The conclusion is altogether erroneous. If the generation were tender-hearted there would be some thought for the victims of the murderers who fit themselves for commission of their crimes by getting drunk. The victims, as in the Kelley case, are completely forgetten, as a rule, and sympathy only appears to be felt for the murderer who should be held accountable for the crimes that he knew perfectly well liquor was likely to cause him to commit. The influence of liquor should add to, not excuse, the heinousness of a crime.

FAMILY OFFICERS.
[Chamberlain in Sioux City Journal.]

Nowadays one frequently enters a public office where the occupant is found surrounded by several members of his family or other relatives, acting as deputies or clerks. This is quite forehanded on the part of the official, and shows a keen disposition to extend the soothing shade of the family tree. Sometimes one finds a gentle wife filling a clerkship under her spouse, oftener it is a son or a daughter, and in a few cases the writer has known of a sweetheart serving in such capacity. What is to be said about it? Is it all right, this placing of relations in one's public office, or is it all wrong? Well, in the first place, good service is the leading issue. A man who is smart enough to get an office was quite likely bright enough to get a good wife, one who would fill with satisfaction to the public a deputyship or clerkship in her husband's office. The same thought would apply to a son or daughter, and with a grain of allowance, to a betrothed. The practice does not always look like good politics, as it pays no political debts or promises, but it is thrifty, intensely thrifty. The case of Mr. McAdoo in his father-in-law's cabinet comes to mind. It may be remembered that in this case Mr. McAdoo was given his portfolio many months before Mr. Wilson's daughter became his blushing bride.

It is doubtful whether the general mind is perfectly serene as to this family office practice. Perhaps a little newspaper sifting of the matter would reveal the fact that the public conscience is against it. It has been stated that it shows thrift, it likewise discloses a rather hard and narrow brand of selfishness, not in harmony with the best citizenship.

WILL THE SALOONS GO?
[Iowa Unionist.]

The work of Billy Sunday is being felt by the liquor interests probably more than in any other direction, in Des Moines. It has the anti-saloon sentiment pretty thoroughly aroused and the liquor forces are on the defensive. It is commonly predicted that action will be begun immediately after the first of the year to oust the saloons from Des Moines. It is the belief of the instigators of this movement that the time is ripe for such action, and that their efforts will be sustained by public sentiment. The Unionist is taking no part in the agitation. We concede the justness of the indictment against the saloon. We are also aware that liquor will be sold whether the saloons are closed or not. If the closing of the saloons will close the rich man's bar—the club bar, we would have no criticism for the movement, but it is notoriously true that prohibition only prohibits as the officials of the existing administration see fit to enforce it.

On the other hand, the saloons do not stand as well in the city of Des Moines today as they did even a year ago. They are in a more precarious position so far as public sentiment is concerned. This is particularly true in the labor movement. It would probably surprise the most sanguine anti-saloon worker were he to know the number of laboring men who are today declaring that they have signed their last petition of consent. Should the anti-saloon element start the campaign as early as predicted they will profit by this sentiment. We would not, however, venture the opinion that this sentiment will continue. Many who are opposing the liquor traffic in the labor movement today are doing it under the spur of indignation. It will be remembered that the liquor interests obtained control of the Labor League during the last city campaign. They "worked" the labor movement beautifully. When election day came, however, the workers for the saloons promptly became the workers for candidates whom labor was opposing, and knifed the labor candidates. These facts are incontrovertible. As a consequence the liquor interests must and probably do expect retalatory measures, especially while this "double cross" is fresh in the minds of the voters.

The Unionist does not mean to say that labor will universally turn down the saloon, but we do believe that the liquor interests fouled their own nests last spring, and must expect to pay the bill therefor. If action is delayed on the question, this effect will wear off with time, but such time has not yet arrived.

The daily press is making much over the alleged sentiment in the city council against the liquor question, and are lining up the different members of the council in combinations which would seem to mean that saloon licenses will not be renewed for 1915. This impression is also shared in a measure by the saloon men themselves. If one forms opinions from the atmosphere of today, it will be conceded that the saloons of Des Moines will probably close during the early part of the year. This would mean that a decision of the court will probably be hurried in their interests. If that decision is adverse to the liquor interests it will probably sound the knell of the saloon in Des Moines for years to come, because a new petition of consent will be exceedingly hard to obtain in the near future.

THE GOVERNORS OF IOWA.
[Sioux City Journal.]

Every man who has been mentioned for governor in 1916 either now holds or has held office—Harding, Cosson, Thorne, the two Allens, Stillman, Kendall and Prouty among others—and if Iowa chooses one of them it will only be carrying out a time honored custom of selecting its governors from among men who are experienced in public office.

Lowe, Drake and Shaw attained the governorship without having previously held public office of consequence. Boies had never held office in Iowa, but he had served in the legislature of New York. Every one of Iowa's other governors had seen service in the legislature of Iowa with the exception of Stone, Sherman and Jackson, and they had held office of some other sort. Larrabee had served twenty years in the state senate, making a record for continuous legislative service, which never has been equaled in Iowa.

If history may be counted on to repeat itself, Stillman would seem to have a little advantage over the other candidates for 1916, as he is the only one of them who has served as speaker of the house, and Iowa in the past has elected as governor two speakers, Gear and Clarke—a distinction which Harding and W. S. Allen may be grieved to learn it has according to only one lieutenant governor, Clarke, and to only one secretary of state, Jackson, and —still worse news for Cosson and Thorne—to not one attorney general and not one railroad commissioner. (Carpenter and Larrabee became railroad commissioners after they had served as governors.) Two auditors of state, Sherman and Carroll, became governor. It is a bit hard on Kendall and Prouty, too, but no man ever became governor of Iowa after having served in congress. (Carpenter and Gear went to congress after having been governor, to say nothing of Grimes, Kirkwood and Cummins, who became United States senator.) Incidentally, two governors rounded out their careers by serving in presidential cabinets, Kirkwood as Garfield's secretary of the interior and Shaw as Roosevelt's secretary of the treasury, while Gear was assistant secretary of the treasury under Harrison.

Carpenter seems to have been the prize office holder. Before becoming governor he was county surveyor of Webster county, a member of the legislature and register of the state land office, and after leaving the governor's chair he served as second controller of the United States treasury, railroad commissioner, congressman, member of the legislature and postmaster at Fort Dodge.

Only three—Lowe, Jackson and Drake—of the eighteen men who have been elected governor of Iowa served less than one term. Kirkwood and Cummins were the only ones to be elected to third terms. Cummins served the longest time of all the governors—nearly seven years; Garst the shortest, thirty-six days. Newbold and Garst were the only lieutenant governors to become governor by right of succession, the former taking Kirkwood's place and the latter Cummins' upon their going to the United States senate.

Stone, at 36, was the youngest governor; Drake, at 65, the oldest. The former took office in 1864; the latter in 1896. The average age of Iowa's first ten governors was 44; of its last ten governors, 54.

Lawyers and Legislation.

Levy Mayer declared in his recent address before the Irish Fellowship Club that there are too many lawyers in congress. Of the 531 members of both houses, 302, or nearly 60 per cent, are lawyers. His comment was: "This proportion is too large. The 150,000 lawyers of the United States are not entitled to such disproportionate representation."

Only about one-sixth of 1 per cent of the population are lawyers. Sixty per cent of our national legislators are lawyers.

Theoretically, the ideal congress would be for all vocations to be adequately represented. This is impossible for obvious reasons. It is also easily understood why there should be a greater proportion of lawyers than of any other calling.

Lawyers gravitate naturally toward politics; they represent, in the aggregate, perhaps the most generally well-informed of the professions, and good lawyers are desirable in any lawmaking body.

Even if the lawyers there were all of the first rank, Mr. Mayer's objection would hold. "Too many cooks spoil the broth," and too many lawyers are likely to spoil laws.

Besides, this preponderance of lawyer prevents congress from having at hand much practical knowledge which it should have in order to formulate wise legislation.

We should have manufacturers, merchants, physicians, ministers, wage-workers, contractors, all branches of industry in which our people are engaged, adequately represented in congress. That would mean more practical legislation.

Under the most favorable circumstances, there will be relatively more lawyers in our congress and legislatures than members of any other calling. Yet we might effect a distinct improvement by sending better lawyers and men more representative of the constituencies which elect them.—Chicago Herald.

Tobacco.

There's going to be a big debate one of the days on the subject of tobacco. Tobacco is having what may be called an inning just now, especially on account of the war, but we may expect some protest later.

The cigaret has figured as prominently in the accounts from the trenches, tho a very little thing, as the 42-centimeter siege gun. In a statement of supplies of good things sent forward to the troops in camp tobacco is seldom omitted. Battle pictures show soldiers smoking while they shoot and with shells bursting over their heads. Nurses are depicted handing out cigarets and cigars to the wounded and the convalescent. Tobacco is a never neglected item in the commissary and in the Red Cross supplies.

The German crown prince in telling the folks back home to hurry forward needful things, has as often and as earnestly begged for cigars as for socks, and he has just followed the example of his grandfather, the crown prince of 1870, by sending a pipe with his photograph to every soldier in his army. It is not always easy to get matches in the trenches, and it is not always easy to keep them when secured, especially when the trenches are wet. To get over this difficulty the Germans have invented a self-lighting cigar.

The war has been hard on absinthe and vodka. They have been banished as a nuisance and a mischief in camp and on the battlefield but it seems to have been conceded on all hands that tobacco helps a soldier to fight. Perhaps a great many people felt that if this were not actually true, still the soldier ought not to be deprived of anything that affords him satisfaction or comfort, and certainly the world has not been so neutral in any respect as in the complacence with which it has watched the tobacco go forward to all fronts.

But tobacco has secured a more important standing than that of a luxury. A Swiss commission has made an investigation of the effect of tobacco on the army. The Swiss troops have had to do no fighting, but they have had some rather grevious mobilization, camp and maneuver experience. The commission's verdict is that the Swiss soldier who smokes displays a much greater endurance than the non-smoker. He is more cheerful and bears hardship with more equanimity.

There is a claim, dating back to our civil war, that tobacco is a prophylactic, that it protects against disease. The present war may furnish further data on this point. The latest testimony is that offered by a New Jersey man who was 102 years old last Tuesday, and he attributes his immunity to disease to the use of tobacco from the time he was a boy.

The enemies of tobacco will surely have a word after the war is over. They are so good natured that they would not want to take up the tobacco question now with the soldier when he has so many other troubles. They are considerate enough to wait until the troops get out of the trenches. But "little Robert Reed" is a full grown man now. He has abided by the resolution he made while a boy and he will speak up after a while.—Omaha World-Herald.

Tactics.

If you feel too strong to work,
If you want to loaf and shirk,
Use the universal quirk,
Blame it on the war.

If it rains instead of shines,
If the tide to wait declines,
Act instanter on these lines,
Blame it on the war.

If a pony did you dirt,
If a kitty cost your shirt,
Tax the goat with all the hurt,
Blame it on the war.

If perhaps you think this verse
Is so bad it can't be worse,
Do not stop to fume and curse,
Blame it on the war
—McLandburgh Nelson in New York Sun.

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