

DEFENCELESSNESS FATAL POLICY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS

PRIOR to president Wilson's departure for Europe to attend the peace conference it became known that he goes determined against militarism in any form.

Truly the president is against that kind of militarism which Germany had. It has been shattered. Its intent was acquisitive, as to Germany, and destructive as to the rest of the world.

But the dispatch above quoted says president Wilson is not against "militarism in any form." If that is true, he must favor universal disarmament, a dream of visionaries which the world is not yet ready to put into practice.

True enough, the president is known to have given sanction of a kind to the principle of universal military training, which would result in the maintenance of a large standing army in the United States.

Let it be hoped the president has not yielded himself to any illusions. Further let it be hoped that he is not going to Europe with the idea that he is to save mankind and solve the world's greatest problems.

Whatever idealistic policies the president may be taking to Europe—and the world idealistic is used respectfully—be shortly will find himself surrounded by very practical statesmen, schooled in European politics, and very much inclined to settle things to the world's advantage.

England would consider giving up her mighty navy, the greatest in the world? Or that France would think of abandoning the universal military service system which enabled her, in 1914, to assemble an army of millions in a few days and prevent Germany from overrunning Europe?

As a matter of fact militarism, benevolent militarism as contrasted to the Prussian kind, is essential to the stability of a league of nations.

It must have armed strength on land and sea in order to enforce the decisions the world court would render in respect to any nation.

The United States must be a leading member of the league of nations and far seeing citizens of this republic are not ready to endorse any disarmament proposal.

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He accuses the general staff of underestimating the strength of the allies and particularly of undervaluing American aid. He blames German atrocities upon other personages and denies sympathy with any such policy.

In fact, he tries to pass off all responsibility to other shoulders. To read his statement one would think he was a common soldier in the ranks rather than hair apparent to the throne of the most absolute despotism in the world.

Either the crown prince is cravenly "passing the buck" or he was an even greater nonentity in his own country than outsiders believed him to be.

Better be sound than clever; better be kind than smart.

Russia fought hard to keep Germany from taking 1,500,000 Russians prisoner but now refuses to take them back. Isn't that just like Russia?

If a league of nations were in existence now it would have a fine chance to exercise its powers in settling the Chile-Peru row that threatens to develop a war.

Passing The Buck

THE crown prince of Germany—he denies having renounced the throne, though that is a mere formality now—has made public a remarkable interview in which he says he considered Germany-beaten in 1914 and at that time favored a move by Germany to make peace, even if it meant giving up Alsace-Lorraine.

He says Germany was beaten at the first battle of the Marne. He ascribes failure of that tremendous dash toward Paris to a bad case of nerves in the German general staff.

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Now To Fix The Ship



Little Interviews

Texas Rangers Best Known Guards In World, Says Captain People of El Paso Should Consider Smoke Nuisance Soon

IT has often been said that the Bowery of New York is the most universally known place in the world, but I think the Texas rangers are about the most universally known people in the world.

The smoke nuisance here in El Paso should come up for consideration by the people and the city authorities just as soon as practicable.

"One-half of the tax received by the collector's office on automobiles is used for the maintenance and improvement of the county roads outside of El Paso city," said Asa R. Webb, county treasurer.

"I want it distinctly understood that Alta Vista teachers have not made any objection whatever to doing war work in the class room," said Mrs. Eunice Payne, the principal.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 5.—All restrictions regarding news print paper were withdrawn today by the war industry board, effective December 15.

NOVEMBER WEATHER REPORT. The weather report for El Paso for November showed that there were 15 clear and 15 cloudy days and that the month was the wettest with very few exceptions for 59 years.

Fish and Mermaids Get 'Treat' While Beer Flows. Seattle, Wash., Dec. 5.—Fish and mermaids were treated when sheriff John Stringer, of this city, dumped 400 cases of perfectly well brewed beer into the waters of Elliott Bay here recently.

Uncle Wall's Denatured Poem. Poor Me. SOON I shall hear the soldiers tell of mighty deeds they've done; how they have dared the shot and shell, and how before them Prussians fall—and I have bagged not one.

Married Life. JOHN, A GENTLEMAN PHONED YOU TODAY. I DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME BUT I BEGAN WITH AN M OR A B.

Strange Woman in Auto Charges Purchases To Accounts Of Ministers. Rev. H. Smith, Abney Methodist church, Rev. F. R. Knickerbocker, Trinity Methodist church, and the local detectives are puzzled as to the identity of a strange woman who is riding about in an automobile, made about 1919 of purchases at two local stores and calmly charged them to the two ministers.

WASHINGTON FORMALLY JOINS 'BONE DRY' RANKS. Olympia, Wash., Dec. 5.—Washington formally became a "bone dry" state at midnight, with the issuance of a proclamation Wednesday by Gov. Ernest Lister, announcing the passage of the November election of the prohibition referendum.

SONGS THE DOUGHBOYS SING. JUST LIKE WASHINGTON CROSSED THE DELAWARE. Just like Washington crossed the Delaware. So will Pershing cross the Rhine: As they followed after George at dear old Valley Forge.

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The Hun and His Trail of Crimes; When a Father Has a Son In France

DEAR K. C. B.—You remind me of what Peggy O'Neill used to say in "Peg o' My Heart"—"I'll tell you something! My father knew more about mother love than any woman in England." Of course it can't be that you are Peggy's father, but it must be that you are some kin to him.

Some time ago you published an article about a boy standing and facing the west at 6 o'clock, and saluting while he counted 10—and over here his father stood and faced the east at 12 o'clock and saluted while he counted 10. I sent that article to my son, Harry Cantwell, who has been in France over a year, and he wrote back: "Dad, at 6 o'clock every night, since I received K. C. B.'s article, I have stood at salute and counted 10, and when you receive this letter I want you to do the same every day in Chicago at 12 o'clock."

IF that damned old kaiser would only read some of your stuff I believe, even devil that he is, it would influence him for good.

FOR MORE than a month. IT'S BEEN on my desk. AND AN hour ago. I FELT ambitious. AND WENT to work. AT CLEANING UP.

AND THE letter was there. AND I read it again. AND NOW I'm through. WITH THE cleaning up. AND THE letter's still here. AND MY papers. HAVE ALL been read. AND IT'S raining outside. AND COULD inside.

FOR I work at home. IN A steamheated flat. AND MY wife is out. AND I'M all alone. EXCEPT FOR Barry. WHO STANDS at salute. AT 6 o'clock. ON EVERY day. AND FACES west. AND HERE'S here now. WITH HIS right hand raised. AND STANDING straight. AND DOWN at his feet. WHERE I eat them acids. ARE HIS headlines. THAT SPEAK of peace. AND HE glances down. AND I see a sneer.

AND I ask him why. AND HE points my way. TO THE ruined towns. THAT ARE burning. IN THE trail of the Hun. AND HE shows me a Hun. WITH HIS hands upraised. WHO CHIES "Kamerad!" AND I boy I know. APPROACHES THE Hun. AND IS struck to death. BY A hand grenade. FROM THE Hun's own hand. AND I look down. WHERE THE headlines are. AND THERE'S one that tells. OF THE struggle at home. WITH THE war tax. AND I cover it up. AND RAISE my eyes. AND HARRY has gone. ON THE trail of the Hun. WHO CHIES "Kamerad!" I THANK you.

Yours truly, R. E. CANTWELL.

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Times Change—Today Is Different From Yesterday

Times change, we are reminded of it constantly. One of the most effective reminders is to know some other person, who insists in saying, "They didn't do that when I was young."

In fact, we hear it so often we wonder if the people weren't dormant and ambitious a few years back.

Young people didn't complain constantly about trifles; for instance, you wouldn't have made a dramatic uproar because the heat was off, you wouldn't have insisted that accommodations were rotten, service unheard of if you had been young when they were young.

Times change, we all must admit it. It is a blessing they don't change according to reports from survivors of the use-to-be-days.

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TRAVELETTE

SALEM is nationally known as the Witchcraft Town of history, a title which it has been trying to live down for over 100 years.

Invariably the visitor comes to Salem with the idea of witches fixed firmly in his mind, but the only evidence of their existence that he can find is a tiepin bearing a tiny witch astride a broomstick.

Over by the cemetery the tombstones of the witch accusers gleam ghostly in the moonlight. It seems plausible that any of those venerable judges of 1693 might glide suddenly into view and stroll with dignity down the street, or that Mistress Sarah Good or Elizabeth How should appear as evidence of friends' dealings with the devil.

Out on Gallows Hill, too, there is "witchcraft" undiluted. Here 13 unfortunate convicts of witchcraft met their fate before Puritan common-sense overcame Puritan fanaticism.

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THE last session of the 48th congress was called to order today and had an auspicious opening, marked by gas across in the national capital. The secretary of treasury submitted his estimate for the appropriations necessary for the requirements of the government for the next fiscal year, which shows a requirement of about \$4,000,000 more last year, the navy estimate showing an increase of \$11,000,000. The total appropriation is \$415,469,352.

Russians are all becoming independent, lawyers refusing to be dictated to and roundly denouncing the attorney general of the empire.

The Colorado supreme court convicted four Denver men for alleged allowing of illegal voting at the last election. Frank Kratsky, considered the most guilty, was sentenced to one year in jail and a fine of \$1000. Two others draw 1800 fines and six months in jail, and the remainder 22 fines and three months in jail.

Southern cotton growers have decided to withdraw the petition to Gov. Vardaman, of Mississippi, to preside at their convention to be held at Natchez, La., this month, as a rebuke to him for his slur at president Roosevelt recently.

El Paso received a little of New England's weather, last night, sleet and snow falling for several hours, wrapping everything in a mantle of white, being driven by a stiff northerly gale.

One hundred and twenty-eight Mexican children of El Paso, who have been in the city since the outbreak of the war, will be returned to their homes here on the grounds that they do not possess one-fourth Indian blood.

The former postmaster general Turner, who served under Grant, died this morning in Washington.

The German bank of Buffalo, N. Y., closed its doors today, claiming not to have sufficient funds on hand to meet the continuous run made upon it.

George E. Heaton, an inventor and designer of an airplane, made a successful flight today at Alameda, Cal., and demonstrated that the machine could be steered in any direction at will.

Annual memorial services of the local Elks lodge are held in the Christian church and are very impressive. James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical, is in the city today.

Twelve Mexicans jumped on another Mexican at Seventh and Santa Fe streets in broad daylight and plundered from him \$21.

Gold coins have been struck at Alamogordo and claims are being staked out in all directions.

Bitres is quoted as saying: copper 14 1/2c, lead, 22 1/2c, Mexican pesos, 49 1/2c.

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