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There was no rosy hue to the Hughes report.

What a readjustment in the world map now being made!

Like a pest, Germany is rather completely isolated now.

The allied war council in Versailles has not been hurried in its work. Therefore, the job ought to be done right.

It seems to be a question into how many parts Austria-Hungary can separate and still have something left.

Naturally enough, Italy is anxious to clear the invader wholly out of her territory before an armistice is put into effect.

King Boris of Bulgaria reigned for three weeks; but the experience was probably long enough for him in the face of the march of democracy all over Europe.

The American people can give thanks that the elections for 1918 will be over next Tuesday, no matter which side wins. An election during war times can be made a very damaging agency.

The American people can make up for the \$24,000,000 alleged to have been frittered away in the experiments on aircraft production, but they will know where the next \$24,000,000 is going.

Politically, Vermont has been ignored by the national campaigners this year, although Vermont has two representatives in Congress to elect. However, there has been a feeling of relief that we have not had several spellbinders from outside inflicted on us.

Now seems to be the accepted time for the kaiser to make good his story that the German people shall be the freest people in the whole world. The first move toward that desideratum would be for the kaiser to step down and bring down the house of Hohenzollern with him.

Now let the school children redouble their efforts to make up for the five weeks of valuable time which was lost by reason of the influenza epidemic. In order to make a well-rounded year's work in the schools it will be necessary for the scholars to apply themselves with extraordinary diligence.

"Get ready to refer to Governor Clement,"—Barre Times.

A curious typographical error. Of course, the contemporary meant "defer."—Rutland News.

We were waiting to see which paper in Vermont would make a quip out of that word refer, and we almost knew that it would be the Rutland News.

The terrible catastrophe in the tunnel of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company last night in which approximately 100 lives were sacrificed calls for a most searching investigation and the punishment of those responsible, whether they be persons of low estate or high prominence. The stories in connection with the wreck are still so complex as to leave in doubt the location of the responsibility, but it would seem that there was more than the mere element of chance to account for the accident, that there was someone criminally responsible for the wrecking of the fast train.

At least three monarchical governments in Europe are approaching the stage in which Russia lapsed into a reign of terror. There will need to be some steady heads among the representatives of the people in order to prevent a repetition of some of the terrible scenes enacted in Russia during the past year. The change from absolute monarchy to democracy is very violent in and of itself, and the temporary effect on the irresponsible elements is calculated to let loose most of the worst side of humanity. To keep that side in check during the transition is an imperative need in those countries which are now violently shaken. Strong, cool heads must be found.

THE HUGHES REPORT.

The Hughes report on the investigation into the airplane production program of the United States should be treated and considered in a non-political sense. The matter is far too important to be permitted to become a football of politics. It involved a situation in which a great nation, engaged in a titanic struggle for the maintenance of its honor and even its own freedom of action, was striving in the various branches to fit itself for fighting against the greatest military machine of modern times, probably of all times, and in which every move made was of vital consequence to victory. Whether any of the activities for preparation for war fell short of the aim or nullified the expectations was not a partisan affair; it was an American affair. Therefore, my investigation of the alleged shortcomings of those activities should be treated in a wholly non-partisan manner.

In such a manner, we believe, Charles E. Hughes prepared and submitted his

report to President Wilson. Hughes is too big an American to fashion a political cudgel out of the potential weapon which was placed in his hands by a man of the opposite political faith. Indeed, his report, which appears to bear the stamp of a judicial consideration, is not a wild ranting but rather a calm consideration of some undoubted evils that crept into the airplane production phase of America's war activities. Chief of those evils seems to have been the waste of time in getting a standard machine and a standard motor, a waste which, under the exigencies, was most sinful and almost criminal. There was a crying need for airplanes, the eyes of the army and of the navy; Pershing was making insistent requests for machines with which to begin his operations in France; our allies were looking eagerly for the shipment of machines which would give the allies superiority in the air. But there were no machines forthcoming until long after they might have been expected with the money and the facilities at the disposal of the persons in charge of the production. Thereby not only our American participation in the war was delayed but the efficiency of the efforts of our allies was in part nullified. Allied triumph was postponed weeks, perhaps months; and thousands of lives were probably sacrificed in the interim. That, therefore, constitutes the chief criticism which might be brought against the airplane production program of the United States. Secondary to that was the inexcusable waste of the money which the people of the United States were pouring out for the purpose of prosecuting the war; yet that in itself was of no slight consequence. To spend a hundred millions of dollars where 10 to 50 per cent less would have accomplished the same end is not excusable in private business and, hence, it is not excusable in public business as carried on by the United States government. There are other things like the permission of very large profits to the manufacturing concerns engaged in government contracts, but in that Mr. Hughes found nothing which could be interpreted as graft. In fact, there seems to be an absence of conclusions that there was a manifestation of real grafting; but notwithstanding that finding, there was plenty in the report submitted by Mr. Hughes to make the people of the United States feel a sense of grave dissatisfaction. The recommendations to Mr. Hughes as to prosecutions of certain parties should be carried out at some suitable time to get at more of the real inwardness of the manipulation of the United States air program.

CURRENT COMMENT

Women's Work in Vermont.

That women are the sustaining factor in the industries with so many men in service, is shown by the figures in Vermont. There are twice as many female factory-workers in this state to-day as there were a year ago—they constituting about one-fifth of the total number of employes. It is as gratifying as it is surprising to note the statement of I. W. Simonds of St. Johnsbury, the state federal labor administrator, that by reason of the advent of women in the industries there has been "no appreciable loss of labor." This would intimate, also, that the women are doing the work efficiently and satisfactorily. And it is perfectly clear that a large proportion of the women industrial workers created by the exigencies of the war will remain in industrial workers after the war is over. Well, there will probably be plenty of work to do, for all able-bodied persons of both sexes.—Rutland News.

The German Retreat Successful.

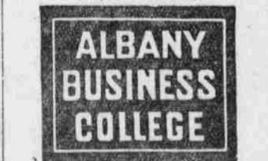
Some corroboration may be found in the military map for the statement of the Berlin Tageblatt that "since Hindenburg and Ludendorff asked for an armistice their opinion has changed because the retreat in the west succeeded without too great sacrifice." Certainly the expectations of the more sanguine have not been fulfilled. The Germans had an extremely difficult and dangerous task, but they have been steadily extricating their armies while holding off the allies at critical points. The number of prisoners their opinion has changed because the retreat in the west succeeded without too great sacrifice. Certainly the expectations of the more sanguine have not been fulfilled. The Germans had an extremely difficult and dangerous task, but they have been steadily extricating their armies while holding off the allies at critical points. The number of prisoners

Ludendorff's Resignation.

The resignation of Gen. Ludendorff, officially announced Saturday in Berlin, is not necessarily to be ascribed to the political reforms in Germany, though it fits well enough with the report from Copenhagen that the Reichstag by a great majority has adopted a bill placing the military command under control of the civil government. But in any case his downfall was the natural sequel of defeat.

It was no ordinary defeat. On success Ludendorff was staking everything, including his own fortunes. While the circumstances are still obscure, there is nothing improbable in the rumors that his chief, the veteran, Hindenburg, was shelved because he believed that an of-

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There is evidence that those things are present to-day and will be increasingly so after the war, the final stages of which we are undoubtedly entering. It behooves us to get ready, for the prospects are reassuring.
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