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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published therein.

The German superman myth has exploded for all time, it is believed.

William Howard Taft declines to be baseball dictator. There's something bigger for a man of his calibre, no doubt.

The peace conference and the Vermont legislature are going to assemble almost simultaneously, by which we mean no reflection on the peace conference.

In lieu of staying with the government, President Wilson is calling the government over to him in France. Congress may yet find itself the whole works in Washington.

Herr Hohenzollern is reported to be writing an autobiography. "My desire is that mine adversary had written a book." Behold, we have the desire fulfilled.

Without a doubt the Germans are banking on the "freedom of the seas" to split the allies. Are we going to permit shipwreck of allied success on that one phase?

It seems that by this time the world should have received some definite information concerning internal conditions of Germany; yet nothing is forthcoming. Germany is still pretty much of a closed book.

In the words of the street, they have "got nothing" on Hearst in the investigations being conducted at Washington. Nevertheless, Hearst may not appreciate the company in which his name is frequently mentioned.

There is not a dull moment on the rolling deep for the presidential party, what with impromptu battles staged and other forms of entertainment. Then, if other means of amusement fail, they can listen to what the wild waves are saying.

One of the most precious cargoes that ever came across the Atlantic is that made up of 8,500,000 letters from soldier boys to their loved ones in the United States. The letters ought to be here in ample time to make fitting Christmas presents.

When all Germany learns that British, French, American and Belgian armies are really occupying the richest industrial part of Germany it will be hard for them to believe that the German army remains unbroken, as they are reported to believe at present.

The United States government and the people of this country were apparently spared a real insult through the intervention of the revolution in Germany, for a Berlin newspaper of Nov. 7 (prior to the revolution, of course) reports that Count Von Bernstorff, former ambassador to Washington, was counted on as sure of appointment as one of the delegates from Germany to the expected peace conference. It would have been nothing short of a serious affront to the United States if this representative of reptilian diplomacy had been permitted to sit at the same conference table with the representatives of the country which he had tried so hard to damage. Indeed, there is grave doubt whether the entente allies would have accepted such an unworthy person. But the revolution intervened and prevented the completion of the purpose of imperial Germany. For that intervention, as well as for other reasons, the United States has reason for feeling satisfaction over the development of the revolution in Germany.

Testimony before the Senate committee investigating brewers' and German connivance in American affairs points out that a total of \$7,500,000 was spent in the United States on pro-German propaganda from the beginning of the war until the time when the enforced removal of the chief agents of the propaganda movement caused a nearly complete suspension of the activity. The size of the slush fund indicates how much importance the German imperial masters placed upon keeping the United States as a neutral nation and upon preventing the shipment of munitions and war equipment to the allied nations. The seed thus sown found some fertile soil, sad to relate, but it ran against such an overwhelmingly strong public sentiment that the movement was suffocated and then turned back on itself. The Germans then found their \$7,500,000 spent without effective result and their own nation completely discredited in the United States, where they had hoped to curry favor. It was a sorry showing indeed.

Acting Secretary of State Polk reflected the sentiment of the American people completely when he addressed communications to Berlin and Vienna, setting forth that further notes from the governments at those two capitals will not be acceptable unless the notes are addressed to all the allied nations, as well as the United States. These exclusive notes to the United States government, to individual officials of the United States and to relatives by marriage of officials at Washington were undoubtedly

a part of a studied effort on the part of the central powers to start a kindly feeling among the people of the United States toward Germany and Austria, in the hope that the movement would have a tendency to get better terms for those two countries in the final reckoning at the peace conference. The notes have become so persistent and so familiar that they became nauseating to the American public, as they must also have become to the officials in Washington. Therefore, there will be quite general satisfaction that Acting Secretary of State Polk has taken steps to halt the flow of the communications.

EMPLOYMENT FOR THE MEN MUSTERED OUT.

Manufacturers in Vermont, and in fact, all persons who employ labor and are desirous of securing labor will be doing a patriotic work as well as aiding themselves if they immediately communicate their labor needs to the state director of the U. S. public service reserve, Robert W. Simonds, at Montpelier, who, through his organization, will get into touch with the authorities whose business it is to distribute the men in employment as fast as they are mustered out of the United States service. This system of placing men in employment as soon as possible after the expiration of their service for the government has wonderful possibilities toward bringing about a prompt readjustment from wartime conditions to peace conditions, only it requires the cordial co-operation of all those who have to do with employment of labor and especially those who are in need of labor at the present time or in the near future. To be sure, a large number of the men, as they are mustered out of service, will return to their former places of employment and will slip into their former positions readily, thus aiding in the normal resumption of industry. On the other hand, there will be thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, who will find their old places filled or the business so curtailed that there is no chance for them; and others will prefer to start in some new occupation and are, like the ones just mentioned, somewhat at the mercy of conditions. To aid them is the purpose of the U. S. public service reserve, which is now calling upon the manufacturers and other employers of labor to communicate their wants just as soon as possible. Let Vermont do its share in this reconstruction work. We shall need to be active in this endeavor if we are to make good the great losses in man-power which the state has suffered during the past four and one-half years through departure of labor for munitions centers and through enlistments in the various branches of governmental service. Vermont needs labor. Vermonters ought, therefore, to let State Director Robert W. Simonds know what they need.

CURRENT COMMENT

Great Injustice Done.

A very grave injustice has been done to such men as Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard university by the publication of a list of "pro-Germans" found in the diary of an obscure and irresponsible German subject in the employment of the German embassy at Washington before the United States entered the war. The Senate committee investigating pro-German propaganda is open to severe criticism for spreading abroad suspicions of the character. While some, if not most, of the names in the list are readily recognized as men who took the German view of the war in the period of our neutrality, other names were placed in the list under a gross misunderstanding of the facts. Prof. Hart merited inclusion in such a company about as much as did his close friend, Theodore Roosevelt. People who have read the many articles on the war by Prof. Hart must know that he was never pro-German. He would be justified in suing for damages on account of slander if the publication of the testimony before the Senate committee were not privileged.—Springfield Republican.

A Work of Conciliation.

President Wilson has chosen a wise way to approach a settlement of the disturbed conditions between Chile and Peru. It was a happy thought to invite the co-operation of the Argentine republic with the United States in an endeavor to reconcile those two "far-flung" peoples that share more than six-sevenths of the Pacific coast of South America. With both Argentina and Chile it is desirable that we should strengthen friendly relations. This has not been the tendency of the war. While Peru followed our lead as far as the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and afterward made a favorable arrangement with respect to interned German ships, the Chilean government showed itself at least indifferent and the Argentine president appeared to lean toward the German side. This is understood to be the reason why Ambassador Naon resigned his post at Washington and returned to Buenos Aires.

We do not need to bring Chile and Argentina together. They are excellent friends, firmly united for peace after the settlement of their boundary disputes by arbitration. Probably no mediation other than that of the Argentine government would be entirely acceptable to Chile. Therefore, it is pleasing to see President Irigoyen's departure from the attitude of aloofness toward the United States and his prompt acceptance of the invitation to join hands with President Wilson for adjustment of the difficulties that disturb Chile and Peru. Joint action in the good cause should promote mutual respect and confidence. Peru may be expected to agree at once to the proposed intervention, and Chile to follow after conversation with Argentina, though the first words of President Sanfuentes commit him to nothing. The Tacna-Arica question resembles the Alsace-Lorraine question, smouldering on for many years with a heat that threatens to rise into the flames of another war for the provinces.—Boston Herald.

Eccentric Folk.

"Everybody knows about it. Some people take her part and some take her husband's part." "And I presume there are a few eccentric individuals who mind their own business."—Boston Transcript.

HAS INTERESTING WORK.

Charles T. Pierce, Goddard Graduate, Writes of His "Y" Experiences.

Charles T. Pierce, field secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who went across last August, is a graduate of Goddard seminary and has many friends in Barre, who will read with interest the following letter from him, written Nov. 1 to his wife, Mrs. Maude Pierce, of Hardwick:

"Well, since writing you last, we have made another move. Our regiment, which I am permitted to tell you is the 31st, has been making a move about once a week or ten days. Yesterday I was told to have my supplies ready in two hours, as we were to move again. I managed to get ready and went on foot with the men. I have been on previous hikes, but this was the limit as we marched 32 kilometers (about 20 miles). In all you that a soldier with 75 pounds on his back is a pretty tired boy at the end of such a hike. I carried about 25 pounds besides my helmet and I think I can have some idea. The first half I marched with the first lieutenant at the rear of the company, but on the last half went into the lines, since many of the men began to drop out and needed encouragement. The last three miles was uphill and we all needed encouragement. I stood it quite well, but had cramp in my legs and am pretty stiff this morning.

"We didn't get in till late in the night and this morning I came into town on foot (10 kilometers) to make reports and get supplies. They will carry me out by auto. I am in better quarters now. The major kindly offered me a cot in his room. Two other beds are occupied by the major and myself. I have a cot and a blanket. They are all the officers of this outfit. The major is a West Point man, about 40. The adjutant is about 30. Many lieutenants are very young.

"The last camp was very damp and although I was in the officers' barracks it was cold and disagreeable. No fire, and I tell you to crawl out at 5:30 in that damp cold is no fun. I have a slight cold but am coming along with it quite well now. I don't see why we don't have snow; it certainly is cold enough.

"We are now in a large house, which is the best building I have been quartered in at all. The men fare well. I enjoy my meals and get all I want. My 'Y' in the last place was in the end of a supply room barracks, no floor, no stove, windows covered with cloth like my henhouse, so left the door open for light. I had two home-made tables to sell goods over, a box stand with reading matter, a home-made cupboard to hold stock of merchandise, pictures and maps on the wall. (Doesn't it sound homelike?)

"One of the big jobs of a field secretary is sending remittances for the boys. We take the money and send it home without cost to them. The money is paid to the secretary. He gives receipt and mails the application to Paris, where a draft is made out and mailed to the address in the United States. One day I sent in over 3,000 francs.

"The boys in my regiment are mainly farmer boys from the West and of a saving nature. The war work, with my canten hours, visiting the sick, carrying supplies to outside men who can't get into the canteen, takes my entire time days and as candles do not make a decent light to see by I find it hard to get my bookkeeping done, to say nothing of letter writing.

"Last week I handled over 13,000 francs (\$2,300), so you see I have some business. It is hard work, but it is what I want, as it takes up my mind. Well, I must close and get into bed, as I have a warm room to-night and shall take off my clothes in full for the first time in ten days. I have not yet received any mail."

LEAGUE OF NATIONS NOT FLEET SUBSTITUTE

British Minister of Munitions Declares That Great Britain's Life Depends on Her Navy.

London, Dec. 10 (via Montreal).—Great Britain will use all her influence to make the league of nations a powerful reality, but she cannot regard it as a substitute for her own navy in any measurable period of time, Winston Spencer Churchill, the minister of munitions, declares in an article contributed to the Glasgow Sunday Post. In his article, which treats of British naval supremacy in amplification of his recent address on the subject, Mr. Churchill speaks of Great Britain's unique position among the nations of the world.

"Our safety from invasion, our daily bread, every means whereby we maintain our existence as an independent people; our unity as an empire or federation of commonwealths and dependencies—all these float from hour to hour upon our naval defense," Mr. Churchill writes. "If that defense is neglected, weakened or fettered," he continues, "we all shall be in continual danger of subjugation or starvation. We shall be forced to live in continued anxiety. If that naval defense were overpowered or outmatched by any other navy or probably by a combination of navies we should hold, not merely our possessions, but our lives and liberties only on sufferance.

"Where else in the whole world can such conditions be paralleled? We have the right to demand from all other nations, friends and foes alike, full recognition of these facts. We also are entitled to point out that this naval strength that we require and which we are determined to preserve has never been used in modern history in a selfish and aggressive manner and that it has on four separate



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occasions in four separate centuries, against Philip II. of Spain, Louis XIV., Napoleon and the kaiser, successfully defended civilization from military tyranny, and particularly preserved the independence of the low countries. "In this greatest of all wars the British navy shielded mighty America from all menace of serious danger, and when she resolved to act it was the British navy that transported and escorted the greater portion of her armies to the rear and delivered France. Our record in a hundred years of unquestioned naval sway since Trafalgar proves the sobriety of our policy and the righteousness of our intentions. Almost the whole of the world open freely to the commerce of all nations were those of our islands. Its possessions and our coal-mining stations were used freely and fully by the ships of all nations. "We suppressed the slave trade. We put down piracy. We put it down again the other day. Even our coastwise traffic so jealously guarded by every power in the world, was thrown open to all comers on even terms by that people in whose keeping the world has been wisely ready to entrust the freedom of the seas. "We are sincere advocates of a league of nations. Every influence Britain can bring to bear will be used to make such a league a powerful reality. This fine conception of President Wilson has been warmly welcomed by British democracies all over the world. We shall strive faithfully and loyally carry it into being and keep it in active benefit and existence. But we must state quite frankly that a league of nations cannot be for us a substitute for the British navy in any period that we can foresee."

Hair Removed DeMiracle Mackensen's Loot. This is a good story which a Bavarian newspaper, the Zeitung of Augsburg, tells of Field Marshal Von Mackensen and his baggage. He had not been heard of for some time after leaving Rumania, and marching his troops into Hungary on the way home. That was after Germany had obtained the armistice, and there-

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