THE ARGUS.

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Monday, May 22, 1916.

Rock Island—From River to River.

Harper's Weekly has been merged with the Independent. Harper's ceased to be a national force when Colonel Harvey severed his connection with it.

The Mexicans who say that Carranza won't do as president are confronted by the fact that he has been president for quite a while and is still alive.

One hundred dead flies admits the boys of Bentonville, Ark., to a certain movie house, and they say that never in the history of the town have the flies been so rigorously pursued.

Reports from Washington that the senate judiciary committee will try to sidestep the Brandeis appointment by reporting without recommendation and that the nomination will be indefinitely held up by a filibuster in the senate are not a reflection upon Mr. Brandeis or the man who appointed him. They are a testimony to the hold reaction still has upon the "highest deliberative body in the world"—and incidentally an ominous reminder that property is still paramount to people in the upper house.

There is apparently no reason to doubt the semi-official news from Petrograd that one of the Russian armies descending from Armenia has reached the Tigris and Athwart, the main route connecting Bagdad with Constantinople. This would mean that the Turkish forces operating in Asia have been cut in two, and that the Mesopotamian army facing the British on the lower Tigris is menaced in the rear. Such a situation should, it is claimed, portend early and great events in relation to Turkey's part in the war.

WOMEN AND PRESIDENCY.

There will be a new factor in the next presidential election that has begun to engage the serious attention of practical politicians, who as a class always hesitate to make serious use of the imaginative faculty of their minds. It is hard for men of this type to realize the full significance of the fact that several million women in the so-called unenfranchise states will vote for presidential electors in November, complicated as this fact is by the avowed purpose of the women in these states to place their loyalty to suffrage above all personal party predictions. The intimation has been spread abroad through influential sources that the enfranchised women in the west will use the ballot next fall in the way that seems best to them for the furtherance of the "votes for women" cause in theso-called unenfranchised states.

This means that each presidential candidate in the coming campaign will be judged by several million voters from one angle only, and his qualifications for president estimated solely by his avowed attitude toward the question of women suffrage. The enfranchised women of the country are divided among themselves upon such issues as preparedness, the tariff, Mexican intervention, the rights of neutrals, etc., but they are united in their belief that woman suffrage is at this moment the most important question before the nation, embracing and overshadowing all others, and that their highest duty as voters is to their sex rather than to any party or political platform.

It is conceivable that in a close election the solidarity of the enfranchised women's vote might be the decisive factor.

GUARDING BORDER.

America has talked of "guarding the Mexican frontier" as though the problem was as simple as a live stock quarantine across a state line and has fulminated against the "slackness" of our military which permitted, first of all, the raid on Columbus, New Mexico, and, later, the raids on Boquillas and Glenn Springs, Texas, not to mention numerous minor depredations all along the line from San Diego to Brownsville. But America, in the mass, has talked this way because it is totally ignorant of the problem facing our military.

The Mexican frontier, which General Funston has been set to guard with a paltry 40,000 men, is 1,833 miles long and, from end to end, extends through some of the wildest country on the continent. Beginning at San Diego it forms the southern boundary of California and cuts off from the United States the long peninsula of Lower California. From the Colorado river it stretches along the southern edges of Arizona and New Mexico to the Rio Grande, following the river to Brownsville near the mouth.

From San Diego to Brownsville is farther along the border line, than it is from St. Petersburg to Madrid. From Boston to Havana is 40 miles less than the length of this frontier, while an air line from New York to Phoenix, Arizona, would be but a few miles longer. Compared to our Mexican frontier the line of the western battle front in Europe is but a paltry day's journey, a mere 400 miles, and yet there are a hundred soldiers engaged there to every one we have "guarding the Mexican border."

Funston's 40,000 men, if stretched out in a single line along our southern frontier, would provide but 21 men to every mile. Each man would be 250 feet from his neighbor, nearly a city block, and it would be a paltry crew of raiders that could not break through at any point and accomplish destruction similar to that at Columbus before sufficient forces could be gathered to drive them out. Even with our whole regular army and all our national guard gathered along the Mexican border we would have but 120 men to the mile and each man would be 44 feet from his neighbor.

General Funston is doing as much as any man can do with the troops available, as a consideration of the above facts must convince.

Republican Presidential Possibilities

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

FIGHTING WEEDS.

In Kansas the state board of health is urging every town and city in the state to wage a campaign against weeks. The chairman of the board has issued the following statement: "Hay fever can be avoided if weeds are cut down. The disease is due to pollen from the weeds getting inside the nose and causing an irritation. I want every city and town in the state to pass an ordinance ordering all weeds cut, and then enforce it. If they do, hay fever will be driven from Kansas." The Indianapolis News says that it is worth remarking that if Kansas or any other state gets rid of its weeds, hay fever sufferers will not be the only persons who will benefit. Weed eradication will mean an annual saving to the state financially that would be difficult to estimate. It would probably amount to millions. It would mean increased crops, valuable labor diverted to more productive work, more sanitary conditions generally, fewer insect and disease pests to attack crops and assail human beings, and better health on the part of the public as a whole. The News calls attention to the fact that in many states there are anti-weed laws on the statute books, but nowhere is the law enforced as it should be. Kansas will make a real contribution for the good of humanity if it can discover some means of enforcing the law. The News suggests a national week eradication week, during which everybody, everywhere, would do his share in driving out the nuisance.

CHINESE SOCIAL REFORM.

That the Chinese republic has not been a flash in the pan is proved by the remarkable social reforms which have taken place in the New China, reforms that have apparently come to stay. Ex-President Eliot of Harvard said a year ago that the Peking prison was the most interesting thing he saw in his whole trip through China. It is in fact almost a model prison, in certain respects more advanced than anything the prison reformers in our country have been able to achieve. At the Peking prison they teach every prisoner a trade; they have an employment bureau that connects a man with a job; they segregate first offenders from old offenders; the parole system has been introduced and the governor has decided to stick to it; while physical drill, an innovation in any class of Chinese society, is held daily—the result being that for more than four years there has not been a single attempt to escape. This astonishing prison is only one of the products of the Far Eastern revolutionary spirit discussed in the June Century, in an article entitled "Social Reform in China," by Gardner L. Harding, others being the "Gate of Hope" for women, the Peking industrial home, and the poorhouse. Mr. Harding, who spent a year in China investigating social conditions, reached the interesting conclusion that the remarkable spirit of reform in the Chinese is entirely spontaneous and owes almost nothing to foreign influence and example.

Tavenner's Capital Letter

THE CONVENTION OF THE NAVY LEAGUE.

(By Congressman Clyde H. Tavenner. From Congressional Record of May 3, 1916.)

Mr. Tavenner. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of historians of the future I desire to report, for preservation in the archives of congress, that the Navy League of the United States, the parent of the militaristic propaganda in this country, has held its annual convention for year of our Lord 1916, convening in the national capital on Monday, April 10, and adjourning Thursday, April 13.

All of the sessions were well attended. It was observed, however, that the usual quota of secretaries of the navy and chairmen of naval affairs committees, as well as senators, representatives, and other public officials who must depend upon the votes of the people for their retention in office, were conspicuous by their absence. To account for this phenomena, deponent sayeth not. Nevertheless he has his own idea.

It may be said that the convention was one of the most remarkable in the history of this now famous organization, not, however, because of anything it did, but because of what it did not do. One of the most striking features of the convention was its failure to take action on a number of matters of wide interest, the Navy League's attitude toward which has been much debated.

Extreme patriotism was the keynote of the convention. Tumultuous applause greeted every expression of patriotism and willingness of the people to die for their country. Larger naval appropriations were advocated. The smallness of the army was deplored. The general feeling among the delegates seemed to be that the nation was in very grave and immediate danger from invasion by a foreign foe. As the sessions and banquets proceeded from day to day the patriotism of the delegates grew apace, becoming more and more intense, until it appeared possible that the convention might adjourn, form a procession, march to the nearest recruiting office, and enlist in a body.

Owing possibly to the fact that no one of the delegates thought to offer such a motion, however, the convention finally adjourned, and the delegates returned to their several homes without enlisting, either collectively or individually. Nor, so far as can be learned, did any of the sons of the Navy League officials appear at the recruiting offices.

In view of the fact that the Navy League officials are looked upon by some as models in citizenship, bravery and patriotism, and that, so far as is known, they themselves do not deny these virtues, their action in failing to enlist was deplored by many citizens, and especially because on the very days the convention was in session the newspapers reported that American troops were far into Mexico, and that their lives were in actual peril because of the lack of sufficient enlistments.

Mr. Speaker, the United States army is still in need of recruits, and the officers and directors of the Navy League, or their sons, still, therefore, have a golden opportunity to set examples in practical patriotism to the farmers and wage earners of the nation by enlisting and taking their place in the ranks at the front. If there are any who desire to enlist, I stand ready to cooperate. If any of the officers or directors of the Navy League will communicate with me, giving their addresses, I will be glad to make enlistment as convenient as possible for them by requesting the recruiting officers of their respective communities to call on them. I trust they will not all speak at once.

Here are other things the convention took particular care not to do:

(1) The convention did not indorse the government armor-plate bill.

(2) The convention did not pass resolutions placing itself on record in favor of taking private profit and private graft out of war and preparation for war through the government construction and manufacture of battleships, submarines, aeroplanes, munitions, etc., so that money appropriated for preparedness in the future will go into preparedness instead of principally into the pockets of men identified with the Navy League, which is where a large part of the taxpayers' money appropriated for preparedness in the past has gone.

(3) The convention did not deny that J. P. Morgan, for so many years a director of the Navy League, is the officially accredited munition agent of the British government and one of the largest individual beneficiaries of war and preparations for war in the entire world.

(4) The convention did not deny that the president of the Navy League is also president of the New York Metal Exchange and chairman of the board of directors of the International Nickel company (the nickel trust), and that because of the great quantities of nickel used in battleships and munitions this concern would profit probably more than any other single concern from the $500,000,000 bond issue for battleships which the president of the Navy League has been advocating.

(5) The convention did not deny that representatives of every armor-plate concern in the United States are included in the list of the 19 men published on page 32 of the February, 1904, issue of the Navy League Journal, the league's official organ, as being the "founders" of the Navy League.

(6) Last but not least, the convention did not indorse house joint resolution 112, which requires war trafficking firms to divulge the names and addresses of their stock and bond holders, so that the public may know to what extent the men who are crying out to heaven for preparation for war will profit financially in the event that their agitation is successful.

Here are some of the things the convention did:

Called to order by the chairman of the board of directors of the International Nickel company.

Opened with prayer.

Hissed the secretary of the navy, who is in favor of the government manufacture of munitions of war.

Heard papers and addresses advocating larger appropriations by congress for the army and navy.

Hissed the secretary of the navy some more.

Banqueted at the expense of the chairman of the board of directors of the International Nickel company.

Passed resolutions indorsing a naval program which will require vastly increased appropriations, and which will also mean increased taxes, increased cost of living, and increased profits to the war traffickers.

Reelected the chairman of the board of directors of the International Nickel company president for another term.

Adjourned.

Why Methuselah Sighed.

"If I had seen these suggestions on diet 60 years earlier they would have prolonged my life 200 years," Mr. Methuselah remarked with a bitter sigh as he threw aside the morning paper.—Judge.

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

THOSE LITTLE BROTHERS.

Here's to the little brothers
  Always in the way,
Regarded as such bothers
  Throughout the live long day.

In morn they're apt to shout about
  And make a lot of noise,
So those who want their beauty sleep
  Just long to kill those boys.

If they are feeling extra good
  When they arrive at school
Teacher no doubt will take them out
  And use the golden rule.

After school, if they are playing
  A little game of ball,
And the ball goes through a window
  They're mauled again, that's all.

If at the evening repast
  Their face and hands aren't clean,
They're ordered from the table—
  Now, tell me, ain't that mean?

And should they wander afterward
  In where sis and her beau are at,
They're quickly ousted with the words,
  "Get out of here, you brat."

What can those little fellers do
  When all they do is wrong?—
Why anything,—cause they don't care
  Ooinell dances to their song!

O. D. K.

FACTS NOT WORTH KNOWING.

One way to prevent heels being blistered by news oxfords is to wear rubber boots.

A 25-foot snake was discovered in West Virginia, a state that recently went bankrupt when voted dry.

If troubled with insomnia write to your congressman for a package of seeds and the Congressional Record.

Exhaustive tests by sociologists show that most children lose several years around the half-fare age.

Hatboys have no pockets in their clothes, but that doesn't annoy 'em so long as other folks have.

Earnest efforts are being made by the New York authorities to prevent taxicab chauffeurs from picking up passengers when the passengers aren't looking.

A man has reached his second childhood when he refers to a six-inch wide bald spot on his head as a part.

ARTHUR BAER.

Life's Little Fabricators.

Fancy groceries.
No trouble to show goods.
Money cheerfully refunded.

New.

New York Evening Telegram: Got a new one. Prospective juror said he was a retired expresman, a gentleman of leisure and a "headline reader." Still going through life by express, even though a gentleman of leisure apparently.

Test of War Spirit.

Emporia, Kan., Gazette: Should the United States be compelled to raise a volunteer army, there will be plenty of men who will volunteer, providing they can go as colonels. Lieutenant colonels may be found without difficulty, and there will be many receptive if not active candidates for jobs as majors, captains and lieutenants. A few humble citizens will go as sergeants, company clerks and as corporals. The great task will be to find a few bright men to take the privates' jobs. To be a private requires that a man must take orders, including plenty of fool ones; must do night guard duty while the officers sleep; must fight with the flies for a tin plate full of "slum" and a can of black coffee, while the officers eat regular food in a screened field dining room, and must flunky more or less for officers, many of whom were his social and business inferiors at home. A volunteer army, in the nature of things, is more or less democratic, and conditions only after a protracted war can be made similar to those of the regular army. There will be plenty of volunteers for volunteer officers' jobs, for an officer may resign when he gets tired of it, but the response to the call for plain, everyday privates will be the real test of the war spirit.

Q. E. D.

New York Evening World: Adam gave one rib and got a wife. Robert Kirton, Pittsburgh, back from the front, lost seven ribs and then married his Red Cross nurse. This shows the increased cost of living.

A Sure System of Discovery.

Boston Transcript: Why not turn over the problem of finding some reliable vegetable dyes to the young summer man who invariably attends a picnic in a pair of white duck trousers?

New Substitute for Gasoline.

"I have just returned from Detroit," reports Ignatz. "While there I buzzed Hen Ford, and indirectly he let me in on his latest scheme to make his flivver more attractive to the buyer, the gasoline question being at present the most worrisome to the owner of a car. Hen, if I gathered accurately from his conversation, has discovered that his car will respond to a joke, if it's a good one. The idea is to spill a pun into the engine that will bring a chuckle and send the car on its way. The test, I understand, has been made, and the joke has proved an acceptable substitute for gas. Of course the average joke is nothing but gas, anyway, and the wonder to me is that it hasn't been tried before now. The plan at the Ford factory is said to be to assemble all of the jokes that have been criginated at the expense of the little car, put them into a book, and make a gift of a copy of the book to each purchaser of a machine. Each joke is to be guaranteed to draw a giggle from the car. How far it will carry the machine, of course, depends upon the mood of the mechanism when the pun is dropped into the flivver's ear."

The Selfish Editor.

Waterville, Neb., Times: Bartin Blake became the daddy of a boy yesterday and it tickled him so much that he came in and paid half what he owed on subscription. We wish it had been twins.

J. M. C.

The Daily Story

An Escape—By F. A. Mitchel.

A country place in England. The season is spring, when the leaves are beginning to bud. The time of day is soon after dawn. Nothing could be more quiet than this scene just emerging from darkness, the old Queen Anne mansion and its surroundings. A door opens slowly, and a woman slips out, closing it cautiously behind her. She flits down the walk to the gate, opens it, passes through, closes it behind her with the same care as she had closed the door, takes one glance at the somber mansion and walks away with a quick step, which soon increases to a run.

The morning light broadens, a red spark appears on the eastern sky line, the spark developing into disk. Smoke begins to curl lazily from a chimney here and there. A man emerges from a rear door of a house and goes back toward a barn. The escaped woman calls to him. He stops, turns and goes back to the fence on the other side of which she is standing.

"Are you married?" she asks.

"Married? Why, no." Naturally the question surprises him.

"If you will marry me I'll give you any price you ask."

"Price?" Why a lady—a girl—comely, should pay a common farmer to marry her was unintelligible.

"Yes. But I wouldn't want you to live with me. I'd want to leave you as soon as the ceremony was performed. Will you?"

The matter having become a commercial transaction, the man's mind fell upon the possible gain to him. He asked how he would be benefited. She asked him to name a price. He named £100. She doubled it.

"Where can we find a clergyman?" she asked.

He pointed to a spire standing above the tree tops.

"Come," she said, "make haste."

Climbing the fence, he walked beside her toward the spire till they came to a little church nestling under the trees and knocked at the door of the rectory beside it. A man, twenty-eight or thirty years old, in canonicals, came to the door.

"Marry us, quick!" said the girl.

"Come in," said the clergyman, astonished to see a lady and a farmhand asking to be wedded. They were shown into a living room, and the clergyman said:

"I cannot marry you without some information concerning such a singular case."

The girl gave it hurriedly. She was an orphan and an heiress. Her guardian, a man of fifty and a rascal, was trying to force her to marry him before she came of age, which would be in a few months. He had represented that she was not of sound mind, and he was keeping her under guard. She had escaped despite his watching, but would doubtless be overtaken and carried back, the law being on her guardian's side. As a married woman, through her husband, she could claim her freedom. The rector listened to her explanation, pondered a few minutes, then said:

"I fancy I can get you out of your trouble without this marriage, which will bring complications difficult to unravel. Suppose I hide you?"

"Can you? Will you?"

"I can."

The girl told the man she had come with that if he would stand by her and not reveal her whereabouts she would give him the money she had promised him to marry her. He was an honest chap and said that he would stand by her without being paid to do so.

As soon as he had gone the clergyman took the girl into the church and placed her behind a curtain in the chancel. Then he went back to the rectory, where he found breakfast waiting for him. It was not long before a groom, mounted, rode up to the rectory and, throwing himself from his horse, knocked at the door. The rector answered the summons and questions as to whether he had seen the escaped girl. Lying not being in keeping with his sacred office, he excited suspicion. The groom rode away leaving the rector convinced that he would report his suspicions, and the church and rectory would be searched. Going into the church, he informed the girl of her danger. She was beside herself with terror.

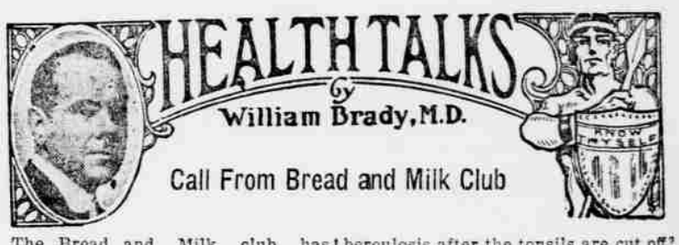
"I will take the place," he said, "of the man who agreed to marry you, but without price, and will consent to an annulment at such time as you may desire."

The girl was only too glad to avail herself of his offer. A servant was sent post haste for a Methodist minister who lived a short distance from them. He came, the servants were called as witnesses, and the two were legally married.

The ceremony had scarcely been finished when a gentleman was driven up to the rectory and demanded in the name of the law to search the premises for his ward. The rector led her forth and presented her as his wife.

When shown the marriage certificate, the guardian acknowledged himself beaten, and that was the end of the persecution.

Some months later, when the lady had become of age, the rector offered to arrange for an annulment of the marriage. The annulment, however, was never applied for, and the marriage was accepted by both the parties. But that constitutes a love story in itself.



Call From Bread and Milk Club

The Bread and Milk club has throw open the doors and will be glad to consider applicants for membership. We want only preferred risks. No downright sick people with one f. in the g. need apply. The charter prohibits the acceptance of such applicants. The club was originally organized for the near-invalid, the overfed, autotoxemic, bilious, sedentary, liver-pill-consuming, too stout, plethoric individual who thinks he or she isn't in need of medical attention. We can accommodate a number of new members, and we extend a special invition to business men, office men, clerks, professional people, housewives who hire all the work done, and all other persons who take life too easy after the age of 30. Applicants under thirty must show cause why they should be considered at all.

Under no circumstances can the rules and regulations be varied or suspended to meet the convenience or whims of members. Anyone who wishes to retain his standing in the club must confine himself rigidly to his bread and milk all day Monday every week. No half way compromise will do. Be a hero, or else keep out. One of the prime motives in the institution of the Bread and Milk club was to teach the public that it is not fatal to skip a few meals now and then, for the sake of the liver, lights and other organs that have more than they can do disposing of the excesses ordinarily poured in upon them.

It is very simple. The initiate opens his eyes on blue Monday and calmly pours his bowl of certified milk, and drinks it slowly and deliberately, munching a cracker or two or crunching on a small slice of home-made bread to encourage the startled hormones. Then, regularly, by the clock, he repeats the process at intervals of two, three or four hours all all day long, as he prefers. If very stout and bilious and very susceptible to autointoxication, once in four hours is often enough.

Were it not for the limitations of space and our great regard for the interests of the profession we would print some testimonials from members of the club—testimonials that would induce a riot among the near-invalids who would desire to join.

Of course there is no secret grip, and no dues to pay in the Bread and Milk club. Anybody is welcome to employ our ritual and degree work. But we only recommend it for the too well nourished victim of nervous prosperity who is 30 years old or over. No younglings are admitted, and no sick folks are wanted in the club. It is for people who loathe to think themselves anything but healthy, people who feed themselves to death by inches and never can see the use of that annual physical examination the economy experts are advocating for all high-class machines whose efficiency is worth guarding.

Tonsillotomy and Tuberculosis.

Is a person more apt to contract tuberculosis after the tonsils are cut off? Does removal of the tonsils injure the singing voice? Can the operation be done under a local anesthetic?

Answer—1. Ne. 2. Removal of enlarged or diseased tonsils usually improves the singing voice. 3. In adults, yes; in children, no.

Dinner at Six O'Clock.

Is it better for children to have lunch at noon and dinner at six? They are seven and five, and retire at seven and eight o'clock.

Answer—Six o'clock dinner is preferable for everybody.

Chronic Endocarditis.

Is chronic endocarditis incurable? What treatment is best for it?

Answer—It is as incurable as wrinkled skin or gray hair, but the heart trouble resulting from it may be relieved by rest, good hygiene, graduated exercise and such general care as heart insufficiency always requires.

High Prices Hit Washerwomen.

Berlin.—The heavy hand of increased prices probably has fallen nowhere with greater weight than upon the hundreds of washerwomen of Greater Berlin, who do about 90 per cent of the laundry work of the capital. Soap prices have risen by about 850 per cent, starch by more than 400 per cent, and borax by almost 900 per cent. Yet despite these startling increases, the laundry prices have remained about at their old figure, and cannot be jacked up appreciably, the washerwomen claim. Even today they are in nearly respects ridiculously low, judged by the American standard, certainly lower than one would expect to find them after studying the cost of materials necessary for running a laundry.

Asked why they do not increase their prices somewhat at least, the majority of the washerwomen shake their heads and declare that their clients will not stand for the increase. Most of them express the belief that the time is not far ahead when there will have to be a radical change in fashions, whereby people will wear darker colored clothes so that so much washing will not have to be done.

Daily History Class—May 22.

1611—The first baronets created in England. They paid $1,000 each for their patents. King James I. instituted the order of baronets to raise a sum of money for the reduction of the province of Ulster.

1885—Victor Hugo, French poet, dramatist and novelist, died; born 1802.

1915—Italy proclaimed war on Austria-Hungary, to begin May 24. Lord Kitchener's methods in the British war office were attacked by the London Times and Mail.