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Make This the Final Shot At the Demon Rum.

The General Assembly has foregathered in extraordinary session to take a farewell twitch at the tail of the dying Demon Rum. There are those who regard this ceremony as wasteful if not ridiculous excess. They point to the fact that all prohibition States soon will become bone-dry under a federal law and they add that, aside from this, whatever changes were needful in the Georgia law might well have been left to the regular Legislative session which is only a few months away. But people who think in this bluntly logical manner do not appreciate the fine working of the political mind. While a simple prohibitionist is satisfied with getting whisky out, a political prohibitionist is chiefly concerned with keeping himself in. He is never so delighted as when the Rum Demon roars, nor so doleful as when it seems about to expire.

If the Legislature, now that it has the opportunity, will pass a bill that will take prohibition out of politics, or take politics out of prohibition, the cost of the extra session will be justified, even in the lean and low condition of the State's treasury. Let it be as drastic a law as Draco or Lycurgus ever conceived, if only it will put an end to continual agitation, and personal exploitation. Less than a year and a half ago there was a special session of the Legislature to deal with the prohibition question. The law then existing was altered and supplemented precisely according to the wishes of those who claimed to know what the State needed and who were supposed to know what they themselves wanted. Yet hardly had the new measure become fairly operative when those who had been most clamorous for its passage began clamoring for its repeal. So it has been continually for a decade or more of Legislative sessions, and so it will be as long as prohibition remains a free horse for politicians to ride.

There are other questions of essential concern to the Commonwealth besides prohibition, important though that it is; questions which touch the people's broadest well-being and which ought to have the earnest attention of the electorate and the Legislature. But there is no chance for free discussion much less for free action on these matters as long as a politically raised prohibition issue is kept shaking its gory locks at every election and every Legislative session. For the sake of good government, for the sake of those broad economic and social interests of the State which demand but do not receive attention, for the sake of common honesty and common sense, let the General Assembly which convenes today pass a bill which, if it does not achieve the seemingly impossible end of satisfying the political prohibitionist, at least will satisfy the normal conscience and the disinterested judgment and give the State a long needed rest.

Congress and the Crisis.

Circumstances fully warrant and public opinion thoroughly approves the President's calling a special session of Congress to deal with the situation brought about by Germany's acts of war against the United States. "Armed neutrality" no longer has efficacy or meaning. U-boats are sinking our ships and slaying our citizens. Germany is waging war upon us as plainly if not as aggressively as upon the Allies. National interest and honor alike demand that we recognize the state of war which exists, and act accordingly.

The President has gone as far as his power under the Constitution permits in asserting and protecting American rights. He has armed the merchant ships for defense and has set in motion all the machinery now at his command to make the country ready for eventualities. But Congress alone has the power to declare war and to grant the full measure of authority and funds which the Executive needs, and needs urgently at this juncture. It is proper, moreover, that Congress be in session at a time so burdened with national responsibility. Questions are pending, and will continue to arise, to which the Legislative department alone can give conclusive answers. While delicate problems of diplomacy are being worked out, the President needs and should have a free hand. But when a crisis reaches the stage at which our relations with Germany have arrived, the President must turn to Congress.

The extraordinary session has been called for April the second, a fortnight earlier than the date first set. That is as soon, it seems, as all the members of the new Congress could well arrange their affairs and reach Washington. In the meantime, however, preparations by the navy and the war departments will go vigorously forward, so that when Congress assembles conditions will be ripe for action. That speedy and aggressive action will be authorized, or ordered, by Congress is not to be doubted. Every indication is that it will declare the existence of a state of war between Germany and the United States, and empower the President to proceed accordingly. Nothing less would be consistent with American interest and honor.

Without labelling it as such, Russia has something of a recall law.

These bone-dry food regulations in Europe are causing the internal complications.

Defeat the Submarine And Defeat Germany.

If the United States can thwart the U-boat campaign it will crush Germany's last hope of escaping defeat. "We stake all," said Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg upon the adoption of unrestricted submarine warfare, "and we shall be victorious." The Germans at last realize that nothing likely to occur on land can save them from their deepening predicament as long as England is unshaken at sea. They may hold the enemy at bay for a year or two years, and perhaps win striking successes here and there; but while the British navy keeps its grip Germany will continue to weaken and eventually will collapse. Hence the desperate determination with which U-boat ruthlessness was launched.

"And we shall be victorious," says the Imperial Chancellor. It is this faith in the U-boat's potency, this rooted hope that England can be starved into submission that sustains the German spirit amid hardships and discouragements which otherwise would be insufferable. If, then, the United States can keep England, together with France, well provisioned in spite of the submarine menace, if it can add ships to its own and the Allies' merchant marine faster than Germany can destroy them, this will be a decisive influence toward ending the war and toward ending Prussian militarism.

England herself, of course, is combatting the submarine campaign vigorously and as yet there are no indications that the attempted blockade will succeed. It is by no means inconceivable, however, if the U-boat toll of Allied and neutral shipping continued for two or three years at its average for February or March, that England might be reduced to serious or even desperate straits and that the war would end most unfortunately for the future interests of America and the world. Our nation, therefore, has urgent reason—even aside from the state of virtual war now existing between it and Germany—to do everything in its power to break down the U-boat campaign.

To this end, divers instrumentalities and methods doubtless will be employed. The first step is the arming of our merchant ships, which already is well under way. The U-boat seldom if ever attacks war vessels, and it is exceedingly careful in attacking armed merchantmen. The Government will not rest content, however, with this defensive measure. In due time, aggressive tactics against the U-boat will be adopted. Substantial results are expected from the light, swift "submarine chasers" now under construction; and it is not improbable that the navy has secret devices or plans that will prove highly effective.

Unless, however, the war ends sooner than now is expected, the broadest service the United States can render in the effort to defeat the U-boat will be to keep plenty of cargo ships plying between our ports and those of England and France. This calls for ship-building on a larger scale and by swifter methods than we ever have known. It calls for the building of a new type of ocean freighter, one which will have a great deal less bulk but a great deal more speed than the present type and which can be turned out with something of the prodigious energy and swiftness that marks our automobile industries.

Just such a type of vessel was proposed at a recent joint session of the Aero, Motor Boat and Automobile clubs of America. This plan contemplates a large fleet of comparatively small boats, equipped with motors powerful enough to drive them across the Atlantic and requiring little in the way of a crew, boats which would make up in numbers what they lacked individually in cargo room, which would baffle the U-boat both by their speed and their inconspicuousness and which could be replaced more rapidly than the greatest of submarine fleets could destroy them. Whatever the model or plan employed, the production of freighters for transatlantic service by scores and hundreds will be one of the most effective means by which we can fight the U-boat campaign.

This, of course, is but one of many lines of action on which the United States will proceed in the war which Germany has thrust upon us. It is hardly to be doubted that all the units of the navy which can be spared from home defense will soon be in action against the Hohenzollern pirates. All the economic resources which can be made to count against the Prussian monarchy and for the Allied democracies will be mustered into use; and should the war be longer than now seems likely, a great American military expedition doubtless would be sent to Europe. Having been forced into the conflict by Germany's ruthlessness and barbarism, we should strike with every effective weapon and with every sinew of the nation's strength. But it must be remembered that Germany's most vulnerable spot, as far as the United States is concerned, is her U-boat campaign. By defeating the purpose of that campaign, we shall wrest from Germany her hope of undermining British sea power, her last hope of escaping the full penalty of her outrages upon civilization.

The Strike Settlement.

It is a matter of deep relief to the public mind and of incalculable good to the country's interests that the threatened railway strike has been averted. The great service of the committee from the Council of National Defense which conducted the finally successful negotiations between the companies and the trainmen brotherhoods is none the less notable because the settlement which it brought about was followed a few hours later by the announcement of the Supreme Court decision sustaining the Adamson law. Nor is the spirit of patriotism shown by the railroads in acceding to the eight-hour policy, rather than imperil the nation's welfare, the less admirable because of the subsequent announcement of the Court's decision. Whatever the ruling on the validity of the Adamson law had been the attitude of the roads in the national crisis would have been commendable, and the service of the committee from the Council of National Defense, composed of Franklin K. Lane, W. B. Wilson, Daniel Willard and Samuel Gompers, would have been invaluable.

The decision of the Supreme Court is significant not only in that it affirms the right of Congress to establish such measures of regulation as those embodied in the Adamson law but also for the reason that it pointedly indicates the right and duty of Congress to go further and pass complementary legislation to protect the country against strikes in times of national emergency. The Adamson law is only part of the program of constructive legislation which the President proposed on this matter. The remainder, designed to prevent strikes or lockouts without due resort to arbitration should be put into effect at the earliest feasible time.

TRAVELETTE—By Nikshah

Cochin

Cochin is one of the cities of southern India that come nearest the visitor's idea of what an Indian city ought to be. In central India the prospect is reminiscent of Spain; certain parts of the northwest might have been lifted bodily from Arizona. It is only in the far south that you find the palms, the inland waterways, the damp, sticky heat that are associated with the name of India.

Cochin lies on the shore of a tropic lagoon, bordered by thick groves of cocoanuts. It was here that Vasco da Gama, that world-wandering Portuguese, first landed on Indian soil and started the long story that was to end in complete European domination. You may still see the house where Vasco da Gama lived. There is little changed since his day, for Cochin is off the main traveled roads. All sorts of primitive customs survive. For instance, it is here regarded as dishonorable for man or woman to wear any clothing higher than the waist—a prejudice which the missionaries have been fighting with indifferent success for two centuries.

By a curious coincidence, in and near Cochin two of the great religions of the world are preserved in their purest and most primitive form. Of course the prevailing religion is that of the Hindus; but in Cochin there is a colony of Jews, and in nearby Kottayam an ancient colony of Christians, both of which are perhaps the most unusual representatives of their creeds in the world.

The White Jews of Cochin are known by repute all over India. They are pure-blooded Hebrew, holding themselves aloof from marriage with the natives, and they have kept their type absolutely pure. How many centuries they have lived and intermarried in Cochin they do not know themselves, though their records go back 800 years. They are called the White Jews to distinguish them from the Black Jews of Cochin, who are of mixed blood, and not admitted to the same synagogue.

The Christians of Kottayam are a colony no less ancient and curious. Their church is supposed by some to have been founded by St. Thomas himself, though others say they did not originate until about the year 400. At any rate, they have been there at least fifteen centuries, and their ritual is the nearest duplicate of the ritual of the early Christian church that can be found on earth today.

The German Retreat.

In their first and rather belated reference to the big events on the western front the Berlin newspapers explain the retreat as a piece of masterful strategy that will upset the Allied plans for an offensive and give the German lines a vantage ground whence they can strike a truly decisive blow. Much is made of the fact that this "systematic retirement" is being directed by Von Hindenburg himself, the same von Hindenburg who fell back in Transylvania only to sweep victoriously forward and who "in 1914 evacuated a conquered strip of Poland to strike the Russians like a bolt of lightning." The situation, according to these sanguine observers in Berlin, is one to inspire the Katherland with confidence and cheer.

It would be interesting to know just how the German people respond to this whistling up of their courage in the face of events which of themselves are not likely to bestir popular enthusiasm, however favorably they may impress the military experts of journals like the Vossische Zeitung. Undoubtedly, the retreat has a strategic end in view. That it will necessitate many readjustments in the plans of the French and British offensive is altogether probable. That it will shorten the German front and to that extent strengthen the German position is obvious; and it is easily supposable that the troops thus drawn in will be used for a counter offensive against some point of the Allied front in France. But all this does not change the fact that the Germans have yielded more than a thousand square miles, abandoning in a few days many times as much territory as they gained in seven months of stupendous sacrifice at Verdun. That is a fact which hardly can fail to tell upon the morale of the German people if not the German army, however ingeniously it may be explained.

The Berlin experts argue rather lamely in likening the present retreat on the western front to von Hindenburg's evacuation of a strip of conquered Poland in 1914. At that stage of the war Germany was in the lusty morn of her strength. Her resources in food as well as in munitions and men were ample for the great adventure as she had planned it. Her people as well as the General Staff were confident that Prussian efficiency, backed by forty years of preparation for the very task then in hand, would win a victory at once speedy and conclusive. The Allies, on the contrary, were fearfully unprepared both in a military and economic sense. Resources they had in abundance, but they were almost wholly lacking the organization necessary to use them. It was a year and half before the Entente Powers were able to produce shells and guns in anything like the quantities required, and equally as long before they developed a concerted plan of action. But now the order is reversed. Germany is in the gray of evening, her ambitious plans all splintered, her illusions faded, her resources of every kind approaching exhaustion. Hence it is that a German retreat at this juncture, strategic though it may be, is the strategy of one who has despaired of victory and is seeking escape from downright defeat.

It is hardly to be hoped that the falling back of the German lines means a decisive Allied success on that front in the near future. It is possible, indeed, that von Hindenburg may launch a counter offensive that will be of far-reaching effect. It is probable, in the opinion of most competent observers, that long months yet will be required to thrust the Germans out of France and Belgium, however well the Allies strike. But the retreat is none the less significant as evidence of the German decline and the ascendant fortunes of the Entente.

Recognition for New Russia.

The country welcomes the forecast from Washington that the Government set up by the revolution in Russia will receive early recognition by the United States. It is needful, of course, that enough time elapse to show whether the revolution is permanent in its effect or is to be supplanted by a counter movement. It is hardly a week since the world heard the news of the dramatic and well-nigh incredible event. Every day, however, seems to have strengthened the new order. Petrograd has resumed its wonted business in peace and security. Throughout the empire the people are reported as accepting the revolution joyously. Most important of all, the army appears to be in thorough sympathy with the forces of the Duma. In these circumstances the United States will do well to extend recognition and fraternal greeting to the new republic.

Whatever else congress does, it is not possible that it will filibuster.

Europeans don't agree with some Americans that we are hopelessly unprepared.

UNCLE SAM IN THE CARIBBEAN. II.—Why We Bought Them

By Frederic J. Haskin.

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, March 8.—The night that the cable brought word of a break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany was a busy one in the offices of the Hamburg-American Steamship company here. Lights burned in the German establishment until 2 o'clock, and a large force was at work. The next morning the offices did not open, and it became known in St. Thomas that all the holdings of the Hamburg-American Steamship company in the island had been sold to a Danish resident for the sum of \$175,000. It was said that the property is really worth much more, and that the man who "bought" it could not raise \$50,000. He departed from St. Thomas shortly after the transfer.

This transaction seems to have been merely a ruse to save the German property from confiscation in case of war. It is a ruse that has been tried before and has not always worked. But the so-called sale of the Hamburg-American property to a St. Thomian, who supposedly is about to become a citizen of the United States, taken in conjunction with a number of other things, is rather significant.

The case may be stated broadly by saying that, although there are very few Germans in St. Thomas, it is a pro-German island. There are a few entente sympathizers here, and a good many who do not say anything about the war, but a surprising number of the native Creoles are openly and vigorously pro-German. The Hamburg-American establishment has been, in effect, a diplomatic outpost as well as a shipping office.

There is no doubt but that Germany wanted St. Thomas, and it is probable that she could have induced Denmark to cede it to her. The only thing that stood in the way was the Monroe doctrine. Although she was not prepared to defy that famous policy, it seems pretty certain that Germany was making friends in St. Thomas, acquiring a certain vicarious influence there. The strong pro-German sentiment that exists in this island, and the transfer of the property, are about the only facts that can be brought forward as proof of this, but there is also much rumor. It is said, for example, that a few years ago concealed stores and arms were found on the island. It is also said that the real mission of two United States gunboats which have been cruising among our new islands for several weeks was to search for a German submarine base. Taking into account the sympathies of the St. Thomians and the character of the Danish government, it seems probable that Germany would have encountered little opposition if she had cared to establish such a base or a secret wireless station somewhere in this maze of islands.

It is this state of affairs which most amply justifies our purchase of the Danish West Indies. St. Thomas is a strategically valuable island situated directly upon many steamship routes leading to our Panama canal. We do not need it badly as a naval base ourselves, nor is it ideal for that purpose; but to have it owned and fortified by a hostile power would be most undesirable, while to have the same power conducting secret negotiations to gain control over it might be even more dangerous. Hence it is probably well that the United States owns St. Thomas. Although the price is high, it is less than the price of one battleship.

For the purposes of a naval base and of fortification both the harbor and the island are not all that could be desired. It is true that the harbor has been described repeatedly as "splendid," as "absolutely safe," and it has even been asserted that it would accommodate the "navies of the world."

As a matter of fact, the harbor is very small, and would not accommodate a large battle fleet. One man of wide experience states that it will not serve for anything more than a submarine base, and there seems to be general agreement that the harbor is too small for

an all-round naval base. Then, too, we are negotiating for a naval base on Fonseca bay with Nicaragua, while it has just been learned unofficially that both of the principal parties in Santo Domingo are now willing to concede the United States the right to establish a naval base on one of the excellent harbors of that island.

The bay at St. Thomas is not safe, either. True, its mouth is only 300 feet wide, but that mouth is open to every hurricane that blows. The one that struck St. Thomas a few months ago planted a steamship high and dry in what ought to be the safest corner of the harbor. It also blew to pieces the new coaling plant of the West India company, and tore up the whole waterfront of the town. The bare back of the harbor are almost bare. They look about like the hills of Arizona, while the other side of the island is heavily overgrown. It should also be remembered that a United States gunboat which visited St. Thomas some years ago was deposited by a hurricane on the main street of the town. Even a layman ventures to express the opinion that such a harbor cannot be considered "absolutely safe."

Adjoining the St. Thomas harbor is another one of about the same size, having a maximum depth of about forty feet and an average of nineteen. It is connected with the main harbor by a narrow, mud-choked passage. It is said that Sir Francis Drake had this passage blocked because when he chased Spanish galleons into St. Thomas harbor they always escaped by this channel between Water Island and St. Thomas. At any rate, the channel could easily be made passable again.

On the north and east sides of St. Thomas are several other harbors that appear to be excellent, and are sheltered from hurricanes, but nothing definite could be learned about their depths. Coral bay, on the island of St. John, is said to be a much better harbor than St. Thomas, and protected from hurricanes. It is absolutely unimproved, and used only by a few fishing boats.

Estimates as to the value of the island for fortification also vary. Some men who ought to know describe it as a Gibraltar, while others say it is too large to be ideal for defense. At any rate, there is one point near the center of the island from which large guns could reach the sea in all directions. It seems probable that the island could be made thoroughly safe, though probably at much greater expense than a smaller and more compact land mass.

Once again, most of the descriptions are wrong in saying that St. Thomas had modern coaling facilities. For many years all the coaling at St. Thomas was done with baskets carried on the heads of negroes, and this hand-coaling is all that has supported its population. Then the West India company installed a modern coaling plant. Forthwith a hurricane came along and ripped it all to pieces—a catastrophe which was greeted in St. Thomas as a gift of Providence. They have been coaling with baskets ever since.

The other harbor equipment consists of a marine slip owned by the East Asiatic company and capable of taking vessels up to 400 tons, a floating dock owned by the St. Thomas Dock company, and three warehouses, a marine slip, a cistern and an office building which formerly belonged to the Hamburg-American company. The use of all of these facilities is apparently restricted to the companies that own them, and they are not doing much now. To all present appearances, St. Thomas is a primitive port which coils with baskets and lands freight in lighters propelled by negro oarsmen.

St. Thomas, then, as it appears to the inquiring layman, is neither an American Gibraltar nor an especially good naval base. It can doubtless be made a serviceable unit in our system of defenses, but its chief value to us is that nobody else has it.

GENIUS STAYS YOUNG—By H. Addington Bruce

HAS it ever occurred to you that one of the really distinguishing marks of a man of genius is his ability to retain the spirit of youth?

I was reminded of this by a conversation overheard the other day. Two men were discussing a third man of their acquaintance. Said one of them, opening the discussion:

"Smith is a brilliant thinker, isn't he? I attended a lecture by him last night. It was really a remarkable performance."

"Yes," assented the other, "he is brilliant. There isn't any doubt about that. But he's so queer."

"Queer? What do you mean? I haven't noticed anything queer about him."

"Why, he is just like a child in some ways. He will talk about the simplest things as if they were most extraordinary."

"I've noticed, too, that when he plays golf, he plays it with almost ridiculous enthusiasm. Get him on the links and he is like a boy out of school."

"In fact, granting his power of intellect, which is indeed remarkable, I must say that I always think of him as a man who has never quite grown up."

Does genius ever quite grow up? This is a question, I believe, that will have to be answered in the negative.

I myself have known several men of genius of the first order, I have read many biographies of men of genius, and always I have been struck by the persistence in men of genius of qualities which most of us rather pride ourselves on outgrowing.

EASTER TRUTH—By Dr. Frank Crane

There is an eternity in all goodness. All beauty, whether of spirit or of matter, is immortal.

About every great and power-charger personality gather legends of his coming again. Mankind feels that there is something in greatness that cannot die.

So Arthur, "Rexquoniam Rexque futurus," abides in Avillon to be healed of his wound, and "men say that he shall come again and he shall win the holy cross," says Edward McCurdy; and so Charlemagne; and Barbarossa, sleeping in his mountain fastness, they will awaken, legends say, in the hour of need.

Among the Aztecs the belief persisted through centuries that the Fair God would come again. The Romans dreamed of the return of Romulus. And in the early church the belief was strong that the crucified One was soon to appear again and establish His earthly kingdom.

On all these faiths is a core of truth. For beauty is indestructible. If it perish it shall rise again.

The marvellous work of the Greeks was destroyed, yet its broken fragments became in France the seed of the Renaissance. A sarcophagus, pillaged from some Greek colony, was brought to the conquering city of Pisa. Upon it was carved in simplicity and grace the story of Phaedra and Hippolytus. In Pisa it served as the tomb of Beatrice of Lorraine, mother of the Countess Matilda of Tuscany, that Matilda belike whom Dante saw beyond the stream of Lethe walking in a meadow singing and gathering flowers.

Nicola Pisano was working in Pisa, a young apprentice. He saw in the Greek reliefs upon this tomb "a precision of touch, a feeling of dignity and beauty which surpassed anything that his Byzantine masters had attained in their works."

The spark from the Greeks grew to a flame in him. He became the founder of a new school of sculpture. The carved pulpits he made for Pisa and Siena remain now, after 600 years, among the most beautiful things in Italy.

So afterward, in the golden age of the Renaissance, Michael Angelo received his inspiration from the same Greek source, as he studied the Laocoon, the Apollo Belvidere, and the Dying Gladiator. Even the beauty in the works of Botticelli is the renaissance Greek spirit, "the roses of Paestum

come back again, the manner of their second flowering.

One of the strongest instincts of mankind is the persuasion that beauty is inexhaustible, goodness has an immortal quality, that of whatever is good and true it may be said, "though it die, yet shall it live again."

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Editorial Echoes.

A Pennsylvanian offers fourteen sons and seven daughters to his country. He's the best prepared man for war we know of. —Houston Post.

Bunk sent from Berlin to America that the "Irish are not forgotten in these serious times," can be taken for what it is worth. Irishmen are not sailing in the war zone, so the assertion cannot be proved. —Portland Oregonian.

QUIPS AND QUIDDITIES

The stout party had been in the boot shop over an hour, and the patient shop assistant had had half the stock down for her inspection. She found fault with them all until his patience became exhausted.

"These would suit you," he said, taking another pair down as a last resource. Still the lady was not satisfied. "I don't like this sort," she said. "They have a tendency to get wider when they are a bit old."

"Well, madam," retorted the exasperated assistant politely, "didn't you?"

The orator was getting excited. Patriotism oozed from every pore.

"Brother," he shouted, pointing to a dark, little foreigner in the crowd, "didn't you come to this glorious country to escape from tyranny and oppression? Didn't you flee to these happy shores to live in freedom, to enjoy the liberties which it guarantees to all? Didn't you, brother?"

He paused, and the little foreigner replied: "No, I was come to this country to sell cheap ready-made clothing."