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THE "FLU" MASK

That influenza is again on the wane is another demonstration of the efficiency of the "flu mask." This is the second time that its value has been demonstrated in Logan. Provo, Utah County and other places have had the same experience and notwithstanding all adverse criticism it would appear that it is a real preventative. But there is one thing sure that if the best results are to be obtained it must be worn and properly cleansed and sterilized. Incident to the demobilization there is too much laxity in the wearing of the mask. It is not an uncommon thing to see many people at times without a mask, and it would appear that if the mask is to be worn it should be worn by all. It is hard to have a rule that does not apply to all and make it effective. It is therefore to be hoped that the mask will be made strictly compulsory.

POLITICAL LESSONS WANTED

The ease with which Mr. Lloyd George or M. Clemenceau can get a vote of confidence at any time would naturally strike a visiting President as extraordinary.—The Cleveland News.

A PERTINENT QUERY

Now that the war is over, there are many persons in this country who would like to hear the reasons of President Wilson for humiliating General Leonard Wood.—El Paso Times.

THE TIGER SPEAKS

The French call their Prime Minister, Georges Clemenceau, "The Tiger," and they are right. He is like a tiger defending France. He thus defined the nation's position the other day in the Chamber of Deputies: "France was the country nearest Germany; . . . she suffered and fought. Our men were mown down. Our towns and villages were destroyed." He thus described foreign assistance: "America was far away and took her time to come to the war. England came at once." **Took her time!** How that cuts! The tiger can crack a stinging whip even while expressing gratitude for our eleventh-hour aid. Yet what is the implication? Is America's voice in the Peace Conference to be measured by the length of time she has been in the war? Let this be considered by those who fancy that our voice will be preponderant.

The Tiger is an old fashioned radical. He looks askance at theory versus practice. Now, there has been an old system of alliances called the "balance of power." As Clemenceau admitted: "It seems to be condemned nowadays. But if such a balance had preceded the war, if England the United States, France and Italy had agreed that whoever attacked one of them attacked the whole world, the war would not have occurred. This system of alliances which I do not renounce will be my guiding thought at the Peace Conference if your confidence stands me there."

The Chamber's confidence was vetoed 380 to 134. This victory puts Clemenceau, the chief representative of France, in the same commanding position with regard to his country at the Peace Conference as that held by Lloyd George since his recent electoral victory made him England's chief representative. President Wilson does not enjoy this advantage.

The French Premier may seem to con-

flict with President Wilson's convictions. This, as expressed at Rome, is that "there cannot be another balance of power. That has been tried and found wanting. . . . It does not stay balanced." Again at Manchester, Mr. Wilson proclaimed that "we will join no combinations of power which is not a combination of us all."

But a beginning of constructing a League of Nations must be made somewhere. Is it not possible to unite the apparent divergence between Clemenceau and Wilson by using the present Franco Anglo Italo American alliance (of which the significance is increasingly apparent) as the beginning of a union "of all moral forces that make for right and justice and liberty"?

It is not important to recall that as a young man Clemenceau lived in the United States for some time and married an American woman. He was a teacher in a school at Stamford, Connecticut. He, therefore, is not unfamiliar with American habits of thought.—The Outlook.

THE PROBLEM OF RUSSIA

The Russian problem presses for solution. In the midst of the tumult and the shouting over the President's visit to foreign shores and the preparations for the Peace Conference, it looms upon the horizon, perplexing and ominous. Its existence cannot be denied; its urgency cannot be ignored. Every day makes it more complicated and more difficult of solution, yet every day makes it the more imperative that it shall be solved. For the Peace Conference is approaching, and if the Russian problem is not solved before it meets, there will be perplexity and trouble unspeakable.

To put the matter plainly, the whole vast region formerly embraced in the Russian Empire, from the Pacific to the Baltic, is in a state verging upon anarchy. Nowhere is there any organization that can be properly regarded as a legitimate representative and efficient government. Nowhere is there a body which could worthily be represented in the Peace Conference as an equal and authoritative power. At various places there are various organizations claiming governmental authority and exercising it to a limited degree over limited areas; but not one of them can be regarded as entitled to speak or to act for all Russia.

Nor are we quite sure whether there is now any "all Russia" in the sense of a political entity. Granted that Finland and Poland are set off as independent states, as they should be; what of the remainder? The Ukraine, under German manipulation, set up independence. So did Lithuania, and the Baltic Provinces. Do we recognize those acts as valid? We have repudiated the bastard treaty of Brest Litovsk, but do we insist upon the undoing of all its results; or of all the conditions which it recognized? We are committed to maintenance of the right of self determination. But do we consider that right to have been legitimately exercised by these various provinces which Germany inveigled into secession?

These are questions of urgent gravity, because at the Peace Conference Russia either will or will not be represented. If the former, who are to represent her, and how much of her will they represent, and who will sign their credentials? If the latter, how will the conference adjust the relations between Russia and the rest of the world, in the absence of Russian representatives? It is quite obvious that the Powers cannot, for their own selfish sake as well as for the sake of humanity, afford to ignore Russia and to let her remain in her present state of anarchy. That might suit Germany's book, giving her the opportunity of exploiting Russia which she has long been seeking; but it would be stultifying and disastrous to the civilized powers.

It is so desirable as to be practically imperative that before the assembling of the Peace Conference there shall be an authoritative solution of the Russian problem; at least to the extent of determining Russia's status in or toward that body. There must be a definite agreement among the powers as to what territory is to be regarded as still composing Russia, and as to what persons or body is to be recognized as its responsible government. If any such agreement has been reached, the fact is still hidden in secret diplomacy. Yet the date for the assembling

of the Conference is near at hand.

It will not do, either to overlook the anomalous position of the Czecho Slovaks and the grave injustice which is being imposed upon them. It must be recognized that in so far as Russia has been saved from utter dissolution, and in so far as there is now an orderly nucleus around which forces of order may rally, credit is given to that alien army which practically created itself and achieved one of the most romantic and most splendid conquests in the history of the world. The service which the Czecho Slovaks thus rendered to the Allies as well as to Russia is simply inestimable.

We speak of it as a service which they are still rendering; for the brutal fact is that while we have profited from their heroism, we have not supported them nor relieved them. We have left them, we are still leaving them, to bear the burden alone. They are no obligation to remain indefinitely in Russia, holding at least a remnant of that country from ruin. They ought to be at once replaced with troops of the Allies. But they are not. They are not even supplied by the Allies with the munitions and food that they need. They are abandoned to their own devices, and yet are expected to stand their ground and save Russia for us. They beg for help, and we answer them with fine words which butter no parsnips; and nothing more. We do not know of an act in history more shabby and ungrateful.

It was the United States that delayed Allied intervention in Russia in response to the earnest request of the best elements of the Russian people. The United States has also recognized the belligerency and sovereignty of the Czecho Slovaks. These facts should indicate with unmistakable directness and force the moral duty of the United States now to take prompt and efficient lead in settling the Russian problem at least so far as the Czecho Slovaks are concerned.—N. A. Review's Weekly.

OUR WASTEFUL HOUSEKEEPING

Our municipal housekeeping is getting sadly out of tune. The chimney, the walks are covered with ice, and the children are dirty. It begins to appear as if the lady of the house has developed a cranky disposition, the maid has quit in a huff, the garbage man is peevish, the janitor is dissatisfied, and the whole institution is jangled. The front room is dusty, the windows are smeared, and the minister hurries past without looking up. What, to employ a barbarism, is eating Chicago?

There is dissatisfaction about the street car service and on frosty mornings the citizen no longer inhales the frosted, whitened breath of winter, but puffs forth the coal smoke he inhaled on the day before. If the good wife throws up a window for fresh air sleeping she awakes under a blanket of cinders. In some eager haste because of the zero snap the husband troops barefoot to the warm bathroom leaving his tracks printed distinctly in the coal dust that has sifted in during the night—he spends a half hour extra in the tub scrubbing off the ebony sandals he has thus acquired.

How much of Chicago's fuel goes out of the tops of chimneys to blacken the skies that history tells us were wont to hover over us, then to settle down upon the nousestops and the streets, down the backs of the civilian necks, smudging the civilian linen and arousing the civilian ire does any manufacturer or other large user of coal deem it worth while to investigate the possibilities of fuel saving, heat conservation, and smoke prevention.

We hear, also that idle street cars by the hundreds stand in the barns, while the population, smoke ridden and half as phyciated, tears off buttons, loses hats and parcels, and gets altogether out of patience trying to be the one more passenger for whom there always is room on a packed trolley car. Does anyone know if idle street cars are standing around while the people suffer by reason of ghastly absurdities?

Chicago's rush hours have not improved in comfort to the people, but instead have grown steadily worse. Surface cars and elevated trains are jammed to overflowing long before the last loop stations are passed; wherefore many belated home going citizens must stand in dejected groups at the corners or on elevated platforms only to gaze mournfully at cars so

full that the gates cannot be opened save at the peril of limb or life.

There is a lamentable lack of concert. The city seems to have divided into numberless and stubborn agencies each demanding readjustments but none willing to sacrifice some inconsequential quibble as an approach to unity. Everyone is agreed that we must have better service and everyone seems to be insistent that his way is the only way.

If the council acts is inspired by cupidity; if a proposition is accepted by the traction interests it must be iniquitous per se; no one is honest except the objector. There is little faith in the city government and no one has proposed anything better. Isn't it possible that Chicago needs a leader in whom some faith can be placed.—Chicago Tribune.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE IN THE PEACE TREATY

In the peace conference the United States probably in spite of the best efforts of the senate to protect it will pledge itself in subscription to many agreements intended to preserve the European equilibrium. Some of them may be wise agreements. Some of them may be unwise. We hope to avoid the unwise but what ever happens one thing is certain. We have our entanglements.

Probably we cannot avoid all of them. If an assassination in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in the Balkans, at a time when not even British statesmen could see the interest of the British empire in an issue of eastern European politics, can result in the sending of 2,000,000 American troops abroad, in an American army of occupation on the bank of the Rhine, an American force in Siberia and one in northern Russia, then we are entangled, really entangled.

If we have to be projected into Europe it does not follow that Europe has to be projected as valid an American doctrine now as it ever was.

We can ask the peace conference to include in the peace treaty a formal recognition of the Monroe doctrine pledging the powers of Europe to keep themselves and each other out of the North and South Americas.

It is valid declaration because it is equitable declaration. The world can only suffer if the western hemisphere is forced into contact with European politics. That is the inheritance of Europe. It is not the inheritance of this hemisphere here. The United States in barring from North and South America the play of European intrigue ambition policy, and nationalistic aspiration is serving the best interests not only of North and South America but of the world.

The United States is not a masterful overlord. It is a rational protector of the best interests of humanity in the two Americas and the assertion of its protectorate serves these interests.

This protection, as expressed in the Monroe doctrine, which was also the doctrine of the English statesman Channing ought to be recognized by the agreements to which the United States is asked to subscribe.

We have asked little of Europe except for our own sake, to help solve her troubles in the fashion that would be safest for us. We can ask now that our own problems be solved in the fashion which will be safest for us.

Inasmuch as the United States contemplates no arbitrary aggression against the peace of the two Americas—treats even the provocative Mexico with an amiability which causes more provocation—it can be known and is known that we do not seek through the Monroe doctrine to obliterate other nationalities. We seek, in our own interests to protect them and to keep them isolated from foreign influences which would make trouble. We insist that this hemisphere should have its chance to remain at peace and we insist that Europe by declaration recognize our right to keep it at peace.

An assertion of the Monroe doctrine ought to be in the peace treaty. It will be there if American commissioners give as much thought to their own nation as they are prepared to give to the Dalmatian coast. Czecho Slovak, Poland, Syria, etc.—Chicago Tribune.