

New York sneezes when the bankers take snuff, the people are guided by the press and go to bed every night dreaming that before morning the whole Atlantic coast will be bombarded by the fleets that for eighteen months have been afraid to put to sea lest a submarine may sink them. More, that all the belligerents who are cutting each others' throats beyond the sea, will suddenly become brothers and though utterly exhausted, will arouse themselves to overwhelm the United States. Did ever a party in desperation start such a flimsy vaudeville scare before?

Overdoing The Business

LONG ago, before there was any possible war-cloud in the sky, we pointed out that this country should be better prepared for possible war; that she should look to her coast defenses, the guns and ammunition and have the men to handle the guns on hand; that depots, foundries and ammunition factories should be established with railroad connections, so that any point on the coast could be swiftly reached; that the states should have their militia organized and trained in the rudiments of military education, and that military training should be included in the curriculum of our high schools. This latter was to make more manly and efficient men in civil life, and abate a vast amount of egotism and snobbery that is now graduated from the high schools, as well as to make efficient soldiers in the event of a war and to provide the needed men to drill great armies in the preliminary duties of soldiers, should a war come.

When Japan made her war bluff because the school directors of California, in response to a call from the parents of that state, which in these words was, "fix it so that Japanese hoodlums of 18 and 20 years of age shall not occupy seats in our public schools beside our little girls," caused a law to be passed assigning separate schools to the Japanese, we pointed out that the Japs could land in any one of a dozen points on the west coast and take the coast cities from the rear, and urged that west coast states should train an efficient militia for defense.

But the present hue and cry of the president, and his close advisers for the immediate expenditure of some hundreds and thousands of millions of dollars on preparedness, looks like a conglomeration of hysteria, politics, graft and a desire to scare the people into making fools of themselves.

For example, look at the argument submitted by his experts as to the defenses needed for Boston. It was that the British fleet could in thirty days destroy our fleet and at seventeen miles out at sea bombard Boston and the surrounding points.

But when is Great Britain going to send her entire fleet to bombard our coasts? She would not dare send her fleet, or half her fleet, or a quarter of her fleet three thousand, or three hundred miles away from her own coasts.

Then, were it different, Great Britain would, were she ever so angry, hesitate a good while before she would attempt to do anything on this side of the Atlantic which would cost her the possession of Canada, for that would be what a war with the United States would cost her.

When the war is over in Europe none of the present belligerents will be in a condition to invoke a war with the United States for at least a decade.

That war will result in a drawn battle through utter exhaustion all around and with such a debt that those countries will be in such a condition as is a fever patient when his physician says: "The crisis has passed; all he needs now is careful nursing." And the patient lies helpless through weakness for weeks.

This is so manifest that it is not necessary to make a campaign cry for next summer out of the imminent need of a rush for preparedness.

The increase of the navy along natural lines should go on, the coast defenses should be supplied with the most perfect guns and ammunition; ammunition factories should be established, the best talent in mechanics, invention and chemistry should be employed, the state militia should be better trained, the high school and University students should be given a preliminary military education. What is needed more than all is a peace preparedness by enacting sensible tariff legislation and establishing a merchant marine.

Joseph Geoghegan

A STRONG, honest, enterprising, public-spirited man was Joseph Geoghegan.

An irrepressible worker, a most loving husband and father, a Christian gentleman.

His death is a great loss to the community, a heart-breaking sorrow to his family.

His life here for thirty-five years, through its late morning and noontime, was an open book to everyone, and there is not a stain on one of its pages.

He loved to accumulate money for his loved ones and for the honorable uses he could make of it, but he did not want it at any other man's injury, rather, while himself prospering, he wanted every other man around him to prosper.

No matter how tested he always rang true. He made this so plain that he drew almost unlimited confidence to himself. He exulted in the progress of this city and state; he was ready at all times to further it with his money and his clear judgment.

He was foreign-born, but he was at heart from early youth an American.

If his head rested on the flag of Erin, he was at the same time wrapped around with the stars and stripes.

His brain was as big as it was level. He could foresee the effects that certain causes when set to work would bring hence in business he made few mistakes. He had a clear intellect and an energy as tireless as the onward sweep of a planet on its axis. The success he made would have been immensely magnified could he have been given ten years more of effort.

But his highest trait was the devotion he lavished upon his wife and children. His home was a temple dedicated to duty and consecrated to love. The desolation in that home now is pitiable to see. The only consolation there is the fixed belief that the husband and father has gone upon a journey a little longer than he was want to take before, but that it waits a certain reunion where all will be sunshine and flowers and where the soft air will be filled with that celestial music in which there is never a discord.

May the stricken family draw a little comfort from the knowledge that at least in a little way thousands are sharing their sorrow and may the love given him who is gone be converted into a couch soft as down under his tired form.

Justice Brandeis' Picture

IT looks as though he might be a sharp lawyer, a wonderful advocate on one side of a cause, but as though it would be difficult for him to fill the chair Jay, Marshal, Rutledge, Grier, Tanner and the others once occupied.

It is hard to look upon his picture and at the same time not to think that from the beginning he has always been looking out for the main chance.

At the same time it is hard to believe that he could have any gratitude for favors rendered. To explain, the picture looks exactly as though, should Mr. Wilson be renominated next summer, it would be perfectly natural for him to whisper to—say, his wife: "Look at that now! Woodrow broke his platform pledge to obtain that and it

was to keep me from getting it that he named me chief justice."

Again, the look is that his disposition would be apt to rule like a nisi prius judge, without giving a case exhaustive study.

Again, the picture indicates abundant self-esteem, as though he could take the seat and without the slightest abashment look over such justices as Hughes and Holmes and the others, supported by the thought, "I am here because, among these others, this is my rightful place;" and as though he might consciously repeat what Webster once unconsciously said, when reminded that the view he was taking of a principle of law was contrary to a decision rendered by Lord Mansfield, Webster stopped his argument, paid a glowing tribute to Lord Mansfield's legal acumen, but added: "But, if it please your honor, I differ with Lord Mansfield. It is said the gentleman is deeply interested in the movement to rehabilitate the Holy Land and re-establish, with Jerusalem as their capital, the Hebrews as an independent nation. This is most laudable, but if it can be done in his day, to judge by his picture, it will be found that he has the prior right to a block of ground in the heart of the city, a large tract of land, where the land is most fertile on the shore of lake Tiberius, and a valuable waterpower on the Jordan."

That is, the picture is keen and bright, indicating a brain that could make a rattling speech on the hustings; that before a court could make "the worse appear the better cause," but it does not indicate a judicial mind that would be sure, through patient investigation, what the right was and then maintain it though the heavens might fall.

But, then, maybe the picture does not do him justice.

The Gloomy Foreign Outlook

THAT the tension on the belligerents in Europe is very great has been apparent for several weeks. This was emphasized by the interview with Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg published on Monday last. He admitted that Germany was ready for an honorable peace. That Austria has desired a peace convention for a long time past has been apparent.

France that has suffered more than any of the other great powers, while still with thoroughbred pluck sings songs at home and holds her place gallantly at the front, would eagerly welcome peace, for family ties are very strong in France, and, moreover, she is a thrifty nation and would save what she has left and begin to accumulate more.

Russia while cold and proud and does not care much when her peasantry are killed, has clearly had enough of war for the present. These facts make significant the statement of von Hollweg that England is the obstacle to prevent peace.

We suspect that is true. For years Great Britain has depended upon her fleet to protect her coasts, so when peace is broached her thought is: "How can we consider terms of peace while the German navy is still practically intact?"

It seems clear to outsiders that the great obstacle in the way of concluding a peace is the impossibility of agreeing upon the terms.

Were a peace convention called, think what the demands would be:

Germany would insist that she should have guaranteed to her all the ground she has occupied in France, together with Alsace-Lorraine. All Belgium, all Poland that she has occupied, her lost possessions in East Africa and China and guarantees for her shipping.

France would demand the repossession with title guaranteed of all the soil she possessed prior to the Franco-Prussian war and a money indemnity. Austria would demand that her rule be ex-