

but one step further and assert the right to murder wounded men and prisoners.

The neutral powers should be in force at The Hague and should, in the light of the past eighteen months, be formulating new sections for the international code. They might reach a point that the belligerents would be willing to consider. In this, our great republic, should lead; we think it is failing in duty that it does not.

#### About Dams

**A** GREAT calamity has come upon the people and city of San Diego and the valley above because of the breaking of a dam. The dam was evidently constructed directly across the channel of the ravine. It broke and in damage that followed the valley itself was, judging by the description, destroyed, so that not only the cost of the dam was lost, but the means through which several hundred people have made a living was taken away.

Are there no side ravines? Could not one of them have been dammed and the water piped into it, so that when the freshet came, the water in the ravine could have had an unobstructed way to the sea?

We ask the question because there are a few dams in Utah and others are in contemplation. For these last are there not side ravines that can be utilized and the main channels left open?

#### Panama Canal Defenses

**T**HE decision of the army experts that the Panama canal should be made safe against attack is certainly a wise one. Our original belief was that it would be better to neutralize it by a signed agreement among all maritime powers, but the events of the war now raging in the old world, make the fact reasonably clear that some nations are like some men—their most solemn covenants count for nothing when they stand in the way of anything they desire to do.

By the way the only nation that we have nearly clashed with in late years is Japan. Defenses on a large scale on the isthmus would not count against the Japs. In a war with her, the only safety for the canal would be an armed patrol of men day and night, the whole length of the canal.

#### The Status Of The Appam

**W**HEN a ship of a country which is at war with another country, through stress of weather, or lack of coal or other reason enters a neutral

port, she must leave within a brief time or be interned until the war closes. Several German ships are so interned in our eastern ports. The Appam was captured on the wide ocean and brought into Chesapeake bay. She was so far as known a legitimate prize and so soon as captured, belonged to her capturers. Why should not the same rule apply as though she had been built by the men who brought her in? We see no difference so far as our government is concerned. The wires told us that Secretary Lansing would be governed by the terms of our treaty with Germany.

That may make a distinction.

Unless the treaty provides special instruction to fit such a case, it seems to us the ship ought to have the same treatment as would a German-built vessel.

#### Finally Consummated

**T**HE fact that the professor finally accepted the presidency of the university is a real comfort. Some people are depraved enough to believe that he accepted it in futuro several years ago, and that Professor Kerr was driven out of the Agricultural college to supply him with a stepping stone, but then there are always suspicious people.

When a young man becomes a defaulter, or some crime is committed that cannot be accounted for on any reasonable hypothesis, people are prone to ask: "What was the woman's name?"

In trying to account for the muddle that has about destroyed the usefulness of the Utah university for the past year and a half, who knows but that the same question might be pertinent? And how those in the secret must be quietly chuckling at the success of their sneak! And with what a relish they must be repeating, "What fools these mortals be!"

#### A Hint To The Street Department

**A**FTER a snow storm the street department runs scrapers up and down the sidewalks. This is a great convenience to pedestrians, but why not continue this at the corners out to the car tracks? It is no comfort to, say a lady, to have a path made for her to the street corner and then to be drowned in trying to swim from the corner out to the car.

Such an innovation would serve a double purpose. It would be a mighty convenience to pedestrians and it would make a way for the water from the melting snow to find an outlet rather

than to remain coagulated in the snow and make the street a swimming pool and a place for ladies to practice lessons in profanity.

**W**HEN President Wilson finishes his western tour, he had better slip down to Brazil, studying Portuguese on the voyage, and make a few speeches on the need of preparedness there, for the greatest danger of war that threatens our country today is that we may be called upon to maintain our Monroe doctrine pledges five thousand miles from our coasts.

**T**HERE are calamities worse than a war with a foreign power or a combination of foreign powers. A foreign war draws the hearts of a people together and makes each one a unit in the country's defense, but if there are some millions of people in a country who want work and a reasonable reward for their work and can get neither, then there is not only danger, but a perpetual menace to peace and to love of country.

Are we not half as well prepared against that menace as we should be?

**T**HAT expert who testified in Washington what the navies of Europe could do to our eastern coast, forgot something.

He might have added that should the sun load the moon with dynamite and drop it upon our planet, under our present state of unpreparedness, there would certainly follow a large explosion. One proposition would be just as sensible as the other.

**T**HE last Democratic proposition is to pass a bill providing for the building or lease of ships enough to begin to rehabilitate a merchant marine, but the ships not to be sailed by the government unless private capitalists refuse to engage in the business.

This is not different except in wording from President Wilson's proposition eighteen months ago, for no private capitalist would invest in what the merest amateur would know would be a losing business from the first and with no hope of ever being any better. The pretended desire of the Democracy for an American merchant marine is about the most transparent fraud ever put out.

**O**F course it would be a mean partisan suspicion to imagine that possibly the naming of Justice Brandies for chief justice would secure

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