

concentrated their efforts in front of the British army.

Was that military calculation going to succeed? [Cries of "No! No!"] There were many reasons why it should not. Perhaps the most important was because the German higher command was determined that this land struggle should come to an end before the United States could bring its forces to bear upon the western front. The newspapers in Germany and Austria-Hungary and the propaganda in Italy and neutral countries were unwearied in their contempt for anything that America could do. They had spread the fable broadcast, but did not believe in it themselves. What they did believe and hope was, not that America's weight in the war was neg-

ligible, but that that weight could only be brought to bear after Germany had struck a decisive blow. That was their calculation.

**"GRACIOUSLY CONDESCENDING"**

Frederick William IV, predecessor of the present king of Prussia, sued one of his absconding subjects, in the courts of Missouri, U. S. A., this suit reaching the circuit court for decision in 1856.

Here's the opening of his petition: "The plaintiff states that he is absolute monarch of the kingdom of Prussia, and as king thereof is sole governor of that country, that he is unrestrained by any constitution or law, and that his will, expressed in due form, is the only law of that country and is the only legal power there known to exist as law."

In Prussia a new king is on the throne, but to all effect his will is still "the only law of that country."

William II is not the only one whose subjects are as the dust beneath his chariot wheel. Frederick, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, Prince of Wenden, Schwerin and Ratzburg, Lord of Rostock, recently succeeded to the grand-ducal throne of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, in Germany.

Here's his manifesto, issued in March, 1917:

"In graciously condescending to notify the population of this important procedure, we command all those who dwell in the grand-duchy, officials, vassals, servitors and persons of all rank, station and position, to show us unquestioning, silent obedience in whatever it may please us graciously to condescend to undertake or to order, and to conduct themselves at all times and in all circumstances as beseems faithful subjects and servitors in their attitude toward their lord and master who will brook no opposition to his gracious and condescending rule and authority."

That's what progress human rights have made in Germany. That's the sort of authority Prussia hopes to impose on the nations of the world, including Holland and the United States.—Dallas, Texas, Dispatch.

**SOARING SILVER**

In ancient Greece from ten to thirteen ounces of silver equaled the value of an ounce of gold. By the time Caesar was testing the valor of the Gauls, silver was more scarce and seven ounces would balance an ounce of gold. Charlemagne fixed the ratio at seven and a half to one. From that time on silver cheapened. Just after William Jennings Bryan finished his crusade for 16 to 1, the actual ratio was 35.2 to 1.

A little while after the beginning of the great war men interested in the silver market noted a renewed respect for the metal. It was climbing back. Gradually it has recovered ground until the other day the ratio was reported to be 24 to 1, and coming better.

Two things explain it. India has a passion for silver. Once silver coin reaches that land it never comes out again. It goes into holes in the ground, into institutions more storage rooms than banks, into ornaments for women. Always hungry for silver, India never rests contented. It would take all there is in the world and pray for more. The movement of silver has been pronouncedly toward the east for months.

The war has locked gold away. Yet currency is needed, and paper will not wholly suffice. So in the countries of the belligerents abroad, and to a slight extent in America, there is demand for silver coinage. The mints

must enter the market and the more they enter the more they help to raise the price and to send silver back toward Bryan's beloved ratio of sixteen to one.

Will that come? There are men who think it will. It depends upon how long the war will last. Two more years would see gold more elusive, silver coins more necessary and less mining of the precious metals because men would be needed elsewhere.—Detroit Journal.

**DRY NOW; NO USE FOR JAIL**

In the outskirts of Birmingham, Alabama, on a prominent highway, stands a handsome structure three stories high of reinforced concrete. Although it is modern in every respect and able to accommodate four or five hundred people, there is no one at home. Before Birmingham went dry, this building was one of the liveliest institutions in the city, but since the advent of prohibition the number of arrests in Birmingham has been negligible and the number of prisoners to be handled by the city was so small that it was found necessary to close this jail. The

ridiculously small number of prisoners are cared for in the calaboose adjoining the city jail. This left the city commissioners of Birmingham with a plant costing \$160,000, constructed to house prisoners and not easily adjusted for any other purpose, so it was a problem what use to make of the building.

Blanks Everett, general manager of the Chamber of Commerce, solved the problem by asking the city to allow him to offer it to the government to be used as a reconstruction hospital. This idea was immediately indorsed unanimously by the city commissioners, and Mr. Everett was sent to Washington with proper credentials to offer the surgeon general, William C. Gorgas, the free use of Birmingham's vacant building. General Gorgas sent representatives to Birmingham to inspect the building, and by reason of the large number of manufacturing establishments and the industrial developments which would offer employment to reconstructed soldiers, it is likely that Birmingham will be selected as a site for one of these hospitals and training schools.—The Continent.

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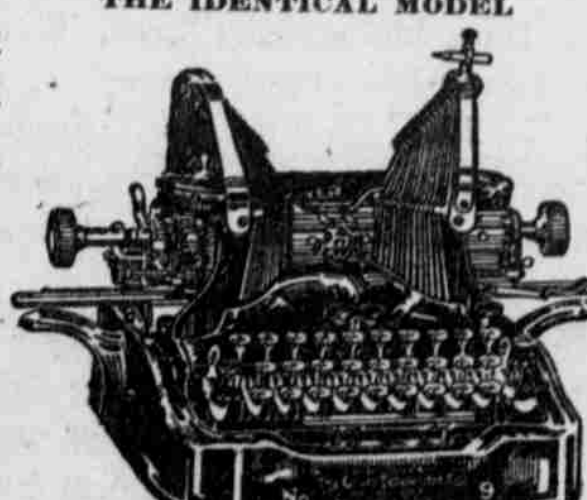
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