

THE ALLIANCE HERALD

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JUST AMERICAN

Just today we chanced to meet —
Down upon the crowded street;
And I wondered whence he came,
What was once his nation's name.

So I asked him, "Tell me true,
Are you Pole or Russian Jew,
English, Scotch, Italian, Russian,
Belgian, Spanish, Swiss, Moravian,
Dutch or Greek or Scandinavian."

Then he raised his head on high,
As he gave me this reply:
"What I was is naught to me,
In this land of Liberty,
In my soul as man to man,
I am just American."

—Author Unknown.

CURRENT COMMENT

"The Republican Publicity association, which is collecting \$1,500,000 from manufacturers to take congress away from the president," says the Providence News, "has begun its campaign of vilification in a statement sent broadcast, accusing the president and the Democratic party of using the war as a mask to find jobs in the labor department for men who cannot find work elsewhere. The Republican attack is published with the title, 'Under the Robe of War,' and insinuates that the administration is blackjacking congress into voting money for alleged war purposes, when the real intent is to find jobs for the faithful. No Republican senator would dare stand sponsor for this scurrilous attack upon the president and the labor department, but the publicity association is used to make it over the signature of Jonathan Bourne, Jr. The real trouble is that this money will be expended by bureaus in every state to provide labor for factories. Big employers will have to take men sent by the several state bureaus instead of men hired by strike-breaking agencies. The effort of the government to bring labor and employer together without the assistance of outside agencies is denounced as a political steal. Under the new method no man need leave his state to find a job. It will be found for him by the government during the term of the war. This is what is called graft by the Republican gentlemen, who, under the lead of Will Hays, of Indiana, have started out to get control of congress.

"This is only the first attack in many planned on the patient man in the White House and his associates, who are working out the problems of the war. The stupid people behind the scheme will hear from the American people in November."

Elon R. Brown, Republican leader in the senate, has announced that he will not be a candidate this fall. He gives as his reason "the breakdown of party government at Albany, with a consequent loss of efficiency in the conduct of the affairs of the state." Senator Brown is man who has been in a position to know what he speaks about and is an anti-Whitman man, as can be plainly seen.—Waterloo (N. Y.) Observer.

Secretary McAdoo has called upon all local draft boards to acquaint drafted men with the provisions of the soldier insurance law and to urge every drafted man to take out this insurance. The boards have been furnished with literature to aid them in this educational work.

The law affording insurance to our fighting forces has well been called the most just and humane provision ever made by a nation for its soldiers and sailors. The government and the American people recognize the justice of affording this protection to the men who risk their lives for their country, and to their families and dependents at home. It is only just to themselves and to their families and dependents that our fighting men avail themselves of this opportunity.—Greensboro (N. C.) Patriot.

The present war is merely a contest of initiative and as a consequent

result is bringing new men and leaders to the fore, men whose latent genius and abilities was heretofore not recognized, observes the Ashland (O.) Press. Promotions were never so rapid, either in the business or military life as during the past two years. The demand of the world is for the man who thinks for himself, who stands above the crowd of followers, the man who knows what he is doing and goes about it with determination. One of the greatest barriers of human progress is precedent. A man must have courage and initiative if he is to act contrary to precedent, which is so dear to the crowd. But this is merely the qualities of a good leader, a leader who can see the benefits to be derived by repudiating some set custom, and supplanting in its stead one that more fittingly meets the demand of the occasion. No better illustration can be found than in the case of Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy. Many of the antiquated systems he eliminated or discarded, as the promotion by seniority and the formal letter writing between heads of departments. Former prejudices and red-tape were eliminated. The result is known to every American.

We are all in agreement that there shall be as little "politics" in this campaign as may be, but it seems essential to the welfare of the country that a Democratic congress be returned next November.—Ironton Register.

The Hudson (N. Y.) Gazette is not impressed with the "keynote speeches" by Republican leaders at the recent state convention of the Republicans of the Empire State.

Win the war, is the keynote to the Republican state convention speeches," says The Gazette. "That is, of course, what all Americans want, irrespective of parties, but the Republicans would have the American people believe that if they were in charge they would do it in a jiffy—they would perhaps use some 'magic incantations on the Huns. Meanwhile, the best answer to all their assertions is the splendid manner in which the Americans are fighting now on the present front, and the great movement of troops across the water. The great victory in which the Americans have taken part was due, because they were ready; it was no Bull Run affair of unpreparedness.

"Of course, the Republicans want to control congress, but when looking back on the shortcomings and corruptions connected with the Spanish-American war the American people will doubtless feel that things are going well, and that a change would be for the worst."

That the present is an era of ships and that launchings are matters of almost daily occurrence, is made the occasion for an editorial by the Butte (Mont.) Independent, which says:

"For at least 25 years the politicians have been pounding hot air at the question of an American merchant marine, and a year ago the stars and stripes were uncommon upon the ships on the Atlantic ocean. But how changed it has become. All of a sudden the launchings of new

American ships is so common as tonnage by the millions is being produced. The German submarine, victorious for two or three years, has been already vanquished, and it is only a question of a short time before this German method of killing may become a good deal of a lost art. "Meanwhile more than a million Americans have crossed to Europe. And another million will make the voyage before the present year is ended. Now, no one goes to Europe without gathering the impression that it's really a short journey—not so far as I expected. World democracy is certain to make ocean travel cheap, and within ten years from the close of the war, it is safe to predict, that nearly half the entire American population will 'see Europe.' The ships are now being provided and the price of a liberty bond will eventually be enough for the journey."

The platform adopted by the Republicans of New York at the recent Saratoga convention contains a thrust at Gen. Pershing, Gen. March and all the other conscientious soldiers who have been identified with the regular army, says the Steuben county (N. Y.) Farmers Advocate. In the course of an editorial commenting on the platform the Farmers Advocate says:

"Whoever wrote the plank on universal military training in the Saratoga platform, certainly went out of his way to slap the face of General Pershing, General March and all of the other conscientious soldiers who have been identified with the regular army.

"That plank, it will be recalled, read as follows: 'We call upon the United States government to establish, without delay, a well-ordered system of universal military training for national service.' A free nation must be defended and represented by a trained army of freemen. For a democracy to hire mercenaries to fight its battles is as grotesque as it would be to hire mercenaries to cast its votes."

"The idea that General Pershing, General Scott, General March and all the other devoted West Pointers who have built up our volunteer regular army are to be set down as 'mercenaries' is certainly pretty startling doctrine, even for a party as hard up for campaign issues as the New York state Republicans seem to be! It is reported that Nicholas Murray Butler drafted the planks of the Saratoga platform dealing with 'national issues'; presumably then, Dr. Butler drafted this plank. If so, he has handed the Republicans more than a little to explain with his—to put it mildly—infelicitous phrasing.

"When this war is over, and we know what sort of a world we face, we shall have to choose, as Secretary Baker has said, which system we shall adopt. But, for the New York state Republicans, pressing zealously today for the adoption of the Prussian system as our permanent system, for the Republicans to denounce our regular army as made of 'mercenaries' is to fling the most gratuitous insult to a long line of devoted and distinguished fighters."

"Our Republican friends are losing a good deal of sleep because President Wilson refuses to turn the government over to them," says the Washington (Iowa) Democrat. "The Webster City Freeman-Tribune is the latest to have spasms because Wilson did not suggest that the governor of South Carolina appoint a Republican successor to Senator Tillman, which is a good joke, but illogical. In conclusion, The Democrat says:

"We honestly think that Woodrow Wilson is more concerned about winning the war just now than he is about any other thing under the sun. He is going to win the war during his term, and whatever benefit history will give him, is his, and what blame for having done things wrong, will accrue to him likewise. The best thing just now, is to make it a finish fight and be done with it."

"There has been no playing of politics or boosting or favoring under the present control of the war department," says the Woodland (Cal.) Democrat. "General Pershing was selected for his high command absolutely on his merits. The same principle has guided the selection and promotion of all other officers. Political considerations have been entirely ignored. What a wonderful departure: this has been from all past practice can be appreciated only by studying the histories of our previous wars."

"The reply of Secretary Baker to the request of the committee on military affairs of the house for a summary of our accomplishment since the declaration of war is most encouraging," says The Scientific American. "The delay at the start was more apparent than real. Had we aimed at making a quick showing on a smaller scale, the thing could have been done; but we think the secretary scores a strong point when he says that, because the war department understood the magnitude of the task, it realized that the time consumed in the preparations for a vast army of many millions, would, prove, in the long run, to be time saved. That the policy adopted was right, is shown by the fact that today we have in Europe an army of over one million men, and that we are now sending our troops across the water at the rate of nearly 300,000 men per month."

"The most distinctive characteristic of our present national administration is its sympathy with the masses of our people," comments the Frederick (Md.) Citizen.

John Shriner, Ivan Acheson and Leo Snyder returned home Monday morning after spending a week in the Black Hills.

Through Fire

By John Elkins

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"I ought to have known better than to marry an Englishman! His ways are not my ways. I'm a thoroughbred Yankee of the New England stock, and we don't pull together."

Helen Birch had grown confidential with her old friend, Grace Mead. She seldom spoke of these things to anyone, but she knew her friend had noticed that the domestic machinery was not running very smoothly, and that relations between husband and wife were not entirely harmonious. It really was a relief to unburden to a real friend the pent up misery of many months.

"Well of course," temporized Grace. "I can see that your early training and views of life are different from his, and vice versa. But it seems to me that might be overcome."

"Life's too short for me to begin on the job," said Helen with an air of finality.

"Oh," put in Grace. "I wouldn't say that!"

"You would if you were his wife," retorted Helen.

"But you love John, don't you?" "Yes I did—but it seems to be all killed out now. I can't stand the way he treats me. To begin with he thinks a woman of secondary consideration to the great god man. She's all right to



The Poor Fellow Was Lying Very Quietly.

amuse him when he has nothing of importance to do, or to put ice on his forehead when he has a headache. He never enters into a serious discussion of any matter with her because she hasn't brains enough to make it worth while."

"If I were you," said Grace, "I'd wake him up to the fact that it was 'worth while.'"

"Do you know how that works? Get the better of him in an argument, and he smiles in a superior, toplofty way, and says: 'I never argue with a woman.' He considers the discussion closed, and that you are reduced to a proper realization of your inferiority. You see he doesn't play fair when it's a woman."

"That isn't exclusively an English trait," smiled Grace.

"No, but you can't deny that it's bred in the bone with them. Besides they'll see a woman in the absence of a servant slave herself to death in the kitchen before they'd demean themselves by picking up a broom, or taking a hand with the dishes."

"Oh," protested Grace, "my father was English, and he wasn't like that!"

"Well John is. I've been without a maid here sometimes, and just ready to drop, and he's never offered to do a thing. Once when he'd brought a man up to dine, and I'd had to get the dinner, and do it all, I went out in the kitchen after the company was gone, and started to clear away the debris, and wash that pile of dishes. I was so tired, I took a sudden resolve, and went to the door, and called him, and told him I wanted him to help. He stood in the doorway and looked helpless. 'My dear,' he said, 'I never washed a dish in my life. I'd be a first class bull in a china shop. There wouldn't be a plate left. Just leave them, and get someone in tomorrow to wash up.' 'You know I can't do that,' I said. He walked away, and left me to do it alone."

"Afterwards I said to him: 'If ever I have a son, he'll be taught just like a girl to help his mother out in a case of emergency. He'll know how to wash dishes without breaking them, and sweep the kitchen if he has to. He's not going to sit and kick his heels while he watches his mother or sister do all the work.' John looked at me with that frozen dignity that always rouses my wrath, and said: 'My mother never allowed me or my brother in the kitchen. She said that was not a man's place. I remember once when the servants had left, and she was working very hard, I asked if I might help. I also remember the reprimand I received for suggesting such a thing

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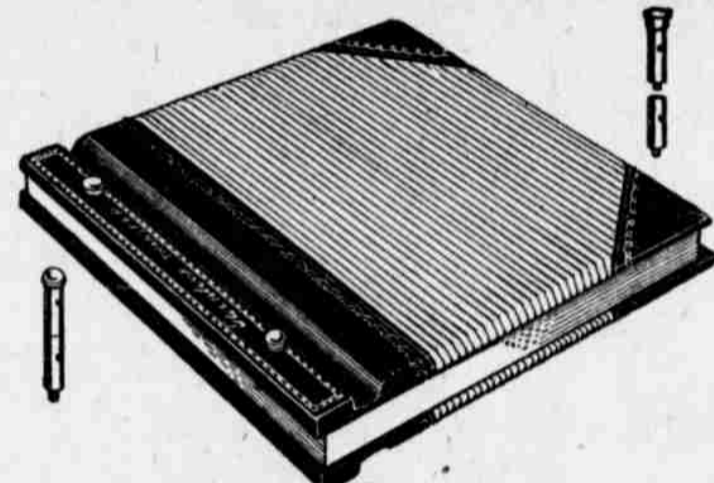
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