

NOT RIGHT KIND OF FOWL.

Magician in Hard Luck When He Meant to Put Finishing Touch on Entertainment.

"Now, ladies and gentlemen," said the conjurer, trying to make his husky voice impressive, "I will conclude my entertainment with truly a wonderful trick. It is a feat which must be seen to be believed."

After a lot of difficulty he borrowed a shabby silk hat from his village audience. Turning it upside down to prove there was nothing inside, he next placed it brim uppermost on his little table and proceeded to produce 12 eggs from its depths.

The audience watched with goggling eyes, and then burst into wild applause.

"And now," the magician went on, bowing his thanks, "I will show you that, although the hat is empty, there is inside it the hen that laid those eggs."

Putting his hand into the hat he withdrew a fluttering, squawking fowl, which he placed on the table, and turned to face the applause.

Instead there was a wild yell of laughter. He turned in amazement, which changed to horror when the fowl shrieked:

"Cock-a-doodle-do-o!"—Philadelphia Record.

Shakespeare "Called Down."

"To think a fine lot of Shakespeare?"

"I do, sir," was the reply.

"An' ye think he was mair clever than Rabbe Burns?"

"Why, there's no comparison between them."

"Maybe, no; but ye tell us it was Shakespeare who wrote, 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.' Now Rabbe would never hae written sic nonsense as that."

"Nonsense, sir!" thundered the other.

"Aye, just nonsense. Rabbe would hae kent fine that a king or queen either disma gang to bed wi' the crown on their head. He'd hae kent they hang it over the back o' a chair."

She's Agin It.

"Oh, Mrs. Lawn, we want to get your vote for the Village Improvement society's plans. We met Mr. Lawn on the way to the station, and he—"

"Yes? How did he vote?"

"Why, he's for it with enthusiasm, so we'll book you—"

"You'll book me as against it with enthusiasm. In all the thirty years of our married life my husband and I have never agreed on anything and it's too late to begin now."

Where Kindness Killed.

"Henry," she murmured, fondly gazing at her slender lord and master, "you are quite the style; your narrow, sloping shoulders are the correct thing."

Then she added dreamily, "I wonder, Henry dear, if bow-legs will ever come in."—Judge.

No Saving.

"The women ought to be able to save money on dress this year, wearing their skirts too short?"

"Yes, but they have to spend so much more on shoes and stockings."

Many a good reputation has been stabbed by a pointed tongue.

Soldiers Want No Children.

I asked Zeni Peshkoff, socialist, what his sensations were when he went out to kill. "It didn't seem real, it doesn't now. Before my last charge the lieutenant and I were filled with the beauty of the night. We sat gazing at the stars. Then the command came and we rushed forward. It did not seem possible I was killing human beings." It is the unreality that sustains men. Germans are not human beings—only the enemy. For the wounded French soldier will tell you he loathes war and longs for peace. He fights for one object, permanent peace. He fights to save his children from fighting.

"Have you any children?" I asked one soldier. "No, thank God," is the reply. "But why?" "Because," comes the fierce answer, "if I had a son I would rather he deserted than see what I have seen." The man is not unusual. The soldiers—not the women—are beginning to say: "We will have no more children unless there is no more war."—The New Republic.

ECZEMAS AND RASHES

Itching and Burning Soothed by Cuticura. Trial Free.

The Soap to cleanse and purify, the Ointment to soothe and heal. Relief, rest and sleep follow the use of these supercreamy emollients and indicate speedy and complete healment in most cases of young and old, even when the usual remedies have utterly failed.

Sample each free by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. XY, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Got Out of the Difficulty.

Some time ago a local corps was reviewed by Sir Ian Hamilton, and there is a story told that one of the officers was mounted on a horse that had previously distinguished itself in a bakery business.

A wag in the crowd is supposed to have recognized the horse, for he shouted out, "Baker!" The horse promptly stopped dead, and nothing could urge it on. The situation was getting painful, when the officer was struck with a brilliant idea, and remarked, within hearing of his steed: "Not today, thank you."

The procession then moved on without further delay.—London Mail.

Big Success.

Mabel—Was your bazaar a success? Gladys—Yes, indeed; the minister will have cause to be grateful.

Mabel—How much were the profits? Gladys—Nothing. The expenses were more than the receipts. But ten of us got engaged, and the minister is in for a good thing in wedding fees.

Below the Average.

"Wouldn't you classify Berton as an average man?"

"I certainly would not. Why, I can doubly discount him at Kelly pool. He isn't up to the average by thirty points."

No Occasion for Roasting.

"I hear Mamie trowed you down." "Aw, she needn't brag. I been trowed down by better girls dan Marie."—Life.

Popular Style With Men.

Mrs. Blank—How had I better have my new dress made? Blank—Small in the bill.

PADDY READY WITH EXCUSE

Caught in the Act, He Had His Answer as If It Had Been Rehearsed.

A merchant who suspected an Irishman in his employ of tampering with the private stock of whisky allowed the demijohn to become empty, and, instead of filling it again, put the liquor in bottles in a cupboard, and labeled them "Poison."

One night, as he came home from the theater, he caught the fellow in the act. Seizing the bottle in mock terror, the employer exclaimed:

"Great heavens! Do you know what you are doing? Don't you see that what that bottle contains is marked 'Poison'?"

Paddy held it off and looked at it. Then he smelt it with a look of melancholy, replied:

"Tain't poison, sir! It's meself that's foiled agin."

"How dare you tamper with it whether you knew it was poison or not?"

"It's like this, sir. From the way yer honor omitted that demijohn in the cellar I thought you had your suspicions of me, an' it made me melancholy, so I thought, yer honor, I'd commit suicide."

For a really fine coffee at a moderate price, drink Denison's Seminole Brand, 35c the lb., in sealed cans.

Only one merchant in each town sells Seminole. If your grocer isn't the one, write the Denison Coffee Co., Chicago, for a souvenir and the name of your Seminole dealer.

Buy the 3 lb. Canister Can for \$1.00.—Adv.

Are You One?

"When they take photographs of a banquet why do they always set the camera up as far as possible from the speaker's table?"

"That's easy. The speaker and the prominent guests who sit near them never buy the photographs. It's the books out on the edge of the crowd who fall for that stuff."

This Is Awful.

"Ham and eggs," remarked the cheerful idiot at the breakfast table, "are fraternal relations."

"What's the answer?" queried the fluffy-haired blonde who writes type between meals.

"They usually belong to the same order," explained the c. i. with a chuckle.

Ungrateful Wretch.

"I'm writing a letter to Aunt Sarah," said wife, "thanking her for the visit she paid us. Do you wish to add anything to it?"

"You might thank her on my behalf," replied hubby, "for not staying any longer than she did."

Undoubtedly.

"Miss Day claims she's just twenty-four years old."

"Miss Day? I knew her father well. He died thirty years ago."

"Then she's thirty if she's a day, isn't she?"

One Thing Sure.

Binks—Yes, sir; the horse is nearly obsolete. Jinks—I notice yours is.

You can't hurt some men unless you hit them on the pocketbook.

RUSH OF RECRUITING OVERTAXES OFFICERS

Last Day For Enrollment of British Volunteers Results In Crash.

London, Dec. 13.—There was an unprecedented rush this morning at the recruiting stations. Physicians and clerks nearly exhausted by the work of the last three days, were confronted on arrival at their posts this morning with long lines of men—in many cases several hundred—waiting for the opening of the doors.

To handle the crowds the staffs at the recruiting stations have been increased. Enrollment under the Earl of Derby's plan ends at midnight.

In the rush medical examination has become as perfunctory as the signing of the recruit's name and it is expected many of those who have come forward will be rejected when called for active service.

The crowds became so great that it was manifestly a physical impossibility to examine all the applicants before the authorities therefore decided to permit attestation under the Derby plan until midnight of Sunday. If the rush still continues, recruiting officers will make lists of applicants and these men will be permitted to present themselves for attestation up to midnight of Wednesday.

CONSPIRACY QUIZ IS UP TO SENATE

Resolutions For Congressional Inquiry Into Foreign Interference With Trade, Plots, Etc., Submitted.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Further action on a state resolution demanding congressional investigation of British interference with American trade, with an amendment to extend the inquiry to cover bomb plots and loss of American lives, in submarine attacks on vessels on the high seas, rested today with the foreign relations committee.

The resolution, proposed yesterday, by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, who in a sharp speech denounced the British order in council, drew the amendment from Senator Lodge.

"The body of an innocent child, floating dead on the water, the victim of destruction of an unarmed vessel is to me a more poignant and a more tragic spectacle than an unsold bale of cotton declared the Massachusetts senator."

Senator Smith's resolution for an investigation of trade interferences, Senator Lodge who is the ranking minority member of the foreign relations committee offered an amendment for investigation of the law and the facts in the submarine attacks on the Lusitania, Palaba, Hesperian, Arabic, Gulfight and Ancona, and of the plots and conspiracies against the neutrality of the United States to which President Wilson referred in unmeasured terms in his address to congress Tuesday.

Both resolutions were referred to the foreign relations committee upon which further action will depend. Their introduction, however, had served to bring out the first debate of the session of a subject to which all minds had turned.

Senators on both sides of the chamber were drawn into the discussion which was precipitated by a vigorous speech by Senator Smith in support of his resolution.

"I wish to extend the scope of the resolution by my amendment," said Senator Lodge, as the Georgia senator concluded, "because if we are to take up this question of the violation of our rights, I want to put it not on the lowest ground alone, but on the highest ground as well. I think it is of great importance that we should vindicate our rights as a neutral in trade if those rights have been violated, but I think it is far more important that we should extend protection and assure security to American citizens wherever they rightfully are, for I do not believe that any government can long retain the respect of its own people if it does not give them the protection to which they are entitled."

"I think Americans should be protected in their lives and in their liberty everywhere. I do not think they ought to be murdered by retail and obscenity in Mexico, or openly by wholesale on the high seas."

Lives Above Dollars. "Although I am as anxious as anyone can be to care for our rights in trade if they are violated, to me American lives are more important than American dollars. If this investigation is to go on and especially if congress is to take action, I want to take up all the violations of all our rights that may have occurred. The most important is the violation which has affected American lives or the security of an American citizen, men, women or children. And the next most important are those pointed out by the president of the United States in his message the other day when he referred to the destruction of property accompanied by destruction of life in the United States and stated that conspiracies in alien interests are going on within our borders."

"If this that if we are to investigate and inquire with a view to action, such deeds as these should not be omitted. I am not willing to get in a passion over an infringement of our trade and then allow American citizens to lose their lives and have it go by in frigid silence," declared the United States stands for something higher in the world than mere trade and mere dollars. I do not want to see our citizens wronged in their properties, but I think we should also stand and above all for morality and humanity in the dealings of nations with each other."

Senator Works, of California, asked Senator Lodge if his amendment was comprehensive enough to include investigation of parts played by citizens of the United States in sending ammunition on ships which had been attacked or destroyed. He was assured that it was meant to include inquiry into all angles of the general subject of belligerent interference with ships.

BRYCE IS HONORED.

London, Dec. 11.—Viscount Bryce, former British ambassador, has been unanimously elected president of the Pilgrims of Great Britain, in succession to the late Field Marshal Earl Roberts.

GIANT MOBILE GUNS FOR COAST DEFENSE

War Department Experimenting With New Type of Portable Cannon.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Gigantic guns, mounted on motor trucks or railway cars, probably will be added to the country's coast defense system, as a result of experiments now being made by army ordnance experts. It was learned today that a scheme is being worked out contemplating the establishment of mobile batteries to protect stretches of coast line not commanded by the permanent fortifications built or to be recommended. Part of the \$80,000,000 expenditure for coast defenses included in the administration program may be devoted to this work.

The European war has demonstrated that high power guns can be used as mobile weapons, such guns as the Germans use having revolutionized land warfare by the easy reduction of forts believed impregnable. It is proposed to adapt this lesson to American coast defense by linking permanent works with well ballasted wagon roads or railways, paralleling the coast line, so that the heavy guns could be rushed to any threatened points not protected by the present harbor defenses.

The experiments in progress are being made to determine how big a gun can be effectively transported and transferred from its carriage to a concrete foundation. Consideration is being given to 12-inch, 14-inch, 16-inch, and even larger weapons.

NOT ALL HARMONY IN PEACE COUNCIL

Quarrel Said to Have Led to Exposure of Von Rintelen's Activities—Baron Zweidinek Involved.

New York, Dec. 13.—A quarrel which rent Labor's National Peace council into two antagonistic factions was stated today by federal officials to have been largely responsible for the uncovering of an alleged conspiracy involving Franz Von Rintelen to instigate strikes in munition factories.

According to this statement, a number of the members of the council joined the organization, believing it was a body formed to work impartially in the interests of peace. Later they discovered, it is said, that an inner ring of German sympathizers and agents of Von Rintelen was in control and intended to use the council as a means to further the strike propaganda.

When the government started an investigation into the activities of Von Rintelen, several men who had been officials of the peace council and had resigned went to the federal authorities and placed at their disposal a mass of information regarding the inner workings of the council.

L. P. Straube, secretary of the council, is said to have been one of these men. He is being questioned by United States Attorney Marshall. He is also expected to be one of the principal witnesses for the grand jury when that body reconvenes next week.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will be another witness. It was reported that the federal building today that the call for reconvening the grand jury is being held up pending definite information as to when Mr. Gompers can get here.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The state department has received a photographic copy of a letter said to have been written by Baron Erich Zweidinek von Sudenhorst, August 26, 1914, to the Austrian consul general at New York, stating that nine Austrian reservists in San Francisco desired to come to New York and proceed thence to Austria and suggesting that it might be possible to "procure suitable passports of neutral countries at comparatively slight expense." The Austrian consul at San Francisco, the letter said, had been instructed to send the men to New York.

Baron Zweidinek is at present charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy, the highest diplomatic representative of his country in the United States.

At the time of writing the letter he was counselor to the embassy. State department officials, while admitting that they had received a copy of the letter and other letters alleged to have been written by Baron Zweidinek, declined to comment on them or to state what disposition would be made of them.

Baron Erich Zweidinek, charge of the Austro-Hungarian embassy, today called upon Secretary Lansing to explain a letter he wrote in August, 1914, in which he suggested that passports be bought for Austrian reservists. The state department has a photographic copy of the letter.

The charge is understood to have informed Secretary Lansing that at the time the letter was written he was a subordinate in the embassy. Dr. Constantin Dumba, the ambassador who has been recalled, was then in charge, and it was said that Baron Zweidinek contended that he was acting not upon his own initiative, but under the instructions of the ambassador.

BRYAN IGNORES COURT; HE MUST SHOW CAUSE

New York, Dec. 11.—William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, in an order signed by Supreme Court Justice Whitaker today, was declared in default for failure to answer a summons to appear as a witness in the suit for alleged libel brought by Petros T. Tatanis against D. J. Vlasto and S. J. Vlasto.

The court also issued an order requiring Mr. Bryan to show cause why he should not be adjudged in contempt of court. This was made returnable December 23.

BIG MILL BURNS.

Kingston, Ont., Dec. 11.—The local plant of the Maple Leaf Milling company, whose plant at St. Catharines was burned a few days ago, was destroyed by fire today. The stock, valued at \$50,000, and the plant is said by the company to be a total loss. The cause of today's fire is unknown, but circumstances surrounding both fires led to the assertion that spies were responsible.

The horn of the rhinoceros is not joined to the bone of the head, but grows on the skin.

REPORTED GREEKS MAY DEMOBILIZE; ALLIES FALL BACK

Decree Authorizing Demobilization Expected to Be Issued Shortly By King of Hellenic Nation.

ALLIES ARE HARD PRESSED

Small Force of Defenders Not Equal to Enormous Battalions of Teutons and Bulgarians.

Athens, Dec. 11. (via Paris), Dec. 13.—The Greek government has made all arrangements for demobilization of the army. It is expected a decree to this effect will be issued shortly.

The French minister had his conference of this week with King Constantine this morning. Subsequently the minister of the entente powers called on Premier Skoufoulis. It is learned on good authority that energetic representations were made for the purpose of inducing Greece to hasten action regarding the facilities demanded for the allied troops at Saloniki. A decisive move on the part of the Greek government is expected momentarily.

The interview given by King Constantine to the Associated Press has been republished here and has created a sensation.

ANGLO-FRENCH PROPOSE TO HOLD THEIR SALONIKI BASE

Paris, Dec. 11.—France and Great Britain decided today to continue the campaign in the Balkans and agreed on military measures designed to assure the security of the expeditionary forces which landed at Saloniki.

A semi special announcement issued this afternoon indicates that the French and British troops are being withdrawn from Serbia.

The agreement which has reference to concerted military action in other zones as well as in the Balkans, was reached by Premier Briand and War Minister Gallieni, the French representative, and Foreign Secretary Grey and War Secretary Kitchener, acting for Great Britain, who have been in conference in Paris during the last two days.

The announcement, issued after today's conference, says the principle of maintenance of French and British troops at Saloniki, was approved by all the participants, and that military measures were taken to assure the security of the expeditionary corps, which is retreating methodically towards its base.

ANGLO-FRENCH NOT EQUAL TO POWERFUL OPPONENTS

London, Dec. 11.—The latest news from the Balkans indicates that the allies are still falling back, but without suffering the losses endured on the first days of the retreat, when the pursuing Bulgarians attacked the guards repeatedly. Paris reports that in these actions the French inflicted heavy losses on the pursuers by their artillery fire.

The British public received a shock in the form of a Saloniki dispatch stating that Cievelli had been occupied by two divisions of German troops. Later reports, however, state that this important position is not yet within the range of the invader's guns. Cievelli is on the Greek frontier, near the Vardar river, and commands the railroad north from Saloniki. The town first came into prominence during the present war as headquarters of the typhus hospital of Dr. James F. Doherty of New York, who died in Nish in February.

It is generally conceded the present forces of the allies are inadequate to cope with Bulgaria and the central powers, whose armies, according to a statement credited to Premier Radostavoff, Bulgaria, now number 1,000,000 men.

RETIRING ALLIED ARMIES FIGHTING AT EVERY STEP

Berlin, Dec. 10. (via London, Dec. 11).—The retreat of the British and French expedition in Serbia is being conducted with great difficulty. Their main force has been unable to disengage itself and retreat unhampered, leaving only rearguards behind to delay their pursuers. Instead of retreating them to do this the Bulgars and Teuton troops are maintaining the closest touch with their retiring foe, who is, therefore, forced to retire fighting at every step.

This, it is reported here, explains the loss of six British guns south of Strumitsa.

RUSSIANS AND AUSTRIANS CONCENTRATING ARMIES

Berlin, (by wireless to Sayville), Dec. 11.—Advices received here today indicate that the Russians are hurriedly concentrating troops along the Rumanian border. The Austrian forces in Bukovina also are being reinforced heavily.

A Bucharest dispatch, forwarded by way of Budapest, says that the harbor at Roni, the Russian Danube port at which troops have been concentrated for some time, has been closed to passenger and freight traffic since Monday, because of the forthcoming arrival of additional transport ships.

SAYS ALLIES ARE RETIRING TO GREECE IN GOOD ORDER

London, Dec. 11.—A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram from Saloniki, dated Friday, says: "Complete calm prevailed yesterday and throughout the night on the front of the entente forces. The retirement of the entente allies is progressing in good order."

"The political situation engrosses the public."

FRENCH SHIP ESCAPES.

Marseilles, France, Dec. 11.—The officers of the French steamer Harmonie which has arrived here state that the vessel was attacked recently by an Austrian submarine. The submersible fired two torpedoes which were without effect and then withdrew. The next day the Harmonie was attacked by an aeroplane that flew overhead for a quarter of an hour and dropped six bombs, all of which fell into the sea.

VIENNA LACKS COAL.

Zurich, Switzerland, Dec. 11.—(via London).—Reports reaching here from Austria indicate that the supply of coal in Vienna is so small that the supply of lighting is being curtailed.

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A Suggestion—In stuffing your chicken, turkey, duck or goose for the Christmas dinner, try using one quarter Grape-Nuts and three quarters bread crumbs, instead of all bread crumbs. You will be delighted with the crisp, nutty flavour imparted by this wholesome ingredient.

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