

When a man is broke it may have resulted from his falling on hard times.

The term grass widow will soon be superseded by the newer "Klondike sweetheart."

As usual the Chinese have no friends. There is only one way the powers are taking their part.

Safe is to escape punishment in France, but the United States can't escape so readily; he is coming over here to lecture.

Wrappers of gum are out on a strike at Salem. If the chowers of gum would go out on a sympathetic strike all will be forgiven.

The inventor of the telescope is Mr. Scampanik. The whole of his name is enough to give almost anyone the last five letters of it.

In practically inviting Uncle Sam to knock a chip off its shoulder, Spain may be unaware of the proximity of the shoulder to the neck.

Around this season eggs are in such demand enthusiastic farmers wouldn't mind seeing the hen made the national bird and egg-plants the national flower.

Originally the curfew meant the putting out of lights. Nowadays when it catches its victim on the streets at a forbidden hour it signifies: Light out!

A bill pending in the Ohio Legislature forbids the marriage of "insane persons or persons of unsound judgment." Does the Buckeye State intend to prohibit marriage altogether?

Twenty Boston spinsters are en route to the Klondike. Of course, they have nothing to fear from the climate, since nothing that is colder than a Boston spinster ever has been discovered.

A man who had been refused three times by his best girl in anger slapped her face. She immediately collapsed and accepted him. It seems that men sometimes waste lots of good time.

It is said that Brooklyn bridge is now losing about \$1,500 per day. It is difficult to understand how this can be so. Greater New York should see to it that the great enterprise is made self-sustaining, at least.

"Her march is o'er the mountain waves, her home is on the deep." John Bull sings the same old song, and then cheerfully dips into his pocket for \$100,000,000 to keep up the "march" and the "home" for another year.

Japan seems likely to drive the Swedes out of the match trade, and her exportation, which was 9,000 gross of boxes in 1914, rose to 9,000,000 gross in 1915 and 18,000,000 gross in 1916. The Japs are getting to be a match for almost anything.

Every advance in war engines is a swift advance toward universal peace. As soon as the mastery of mind over force and matter becomes so complete that annihilation can be speedily and surely visited upon hostile armies or fleets the human race will be under an unbreakable bond to keep the peace.

A verdict of guilty without punishment is in the nature of an indorsement by the government of the general belief that the trial of Zola was a judicial farce. It will simply deepen and widen the conviction that Captain Dreyfus was the victim of a conspiracy, and that his disgrace and imprisonment on Devil's Island is a great crime, for the commission of which, sooner or later, France will suffer.

Minnesota has a law to encourage tree planting. A bounty of \$2.50 an acre is offered, and at least one acre must be planted, while no person can collect for more than ten acres in a year or for more than six years. Any tree but the black locust may be planted. Last year bounties were paid to twenty-five counties for planting 9,354 acres. The law has been in operation sixteen years. In that time more than 100,000 acres have been planted in trees.

The treaty for the annexation of Hawaii has been virtually abandoned in the United States Senate. In its place a joint resolution has been introduced which is intended to effect the same result. The treaty required for ratification the support of two-thirds of the Senators; but the joint resolution may become law by the vote of a majority of both houses of Congress. There is a precedent for this proceeding, as it was by joint resolution that Texas was annexed in 1845, after the treaty negotiated by Mr. Calhoun had been summarily rejected by the Senate.

In the current year 1917 the production of anthracite coal was 13,978,400 tons; the production of bituminous coal was 55,283,150 tons. Ten years later the figures were 25,572,150 tons and 110,000,000 tons respectively. The annual statistical report of the American Iron and Steel Association gives a table of production of anthracite and bituminous coal for each calendar year from 1881 to 1916 inclusive. The production of anthracite increased to 31,000,000 tons in 1916, and bituminous coal increased to 110,000,000 tons. The increase in both is a most striking illustration of the growth of our country.

Averaging man believes that if he should go to war, and be shot in the back, he would receive a back pension

while that of anthracite has declined. Bradstreet's states that the total anthracite marketed in 1886 amounted to 43,177,485 tons, and in 1897 to 41,637,864 tons. From this it would appear that anthracite coal, while, perhaps, not exactly disappearing, is nevertheless going short in quantity. One reason for this may be found in the fact that practically all of the anthracite mines in the country are now owned or controlled by a single monetary interest or combination and as completely as though they were all operated under one name.

One of the curious problems that has attracted specialists is to ascertain in what quarter of the globe men attain the greatest age. The censuses of the various nations give, with much exactness, the average of human life among the people, but unfortunately all nations do not make enumerations of their population and so there remains some doubt where men reach the greatest age. The attempt has been made to find where the largest number of men have passed the century mark and generally it has been ascertained that mild climates are more conducive to longevity than those which have extremes of either high or low temperatures. The last census of Germany showed that in a population of 55,000,000 seventy-eight persons in that country were more than 100 years of age. France, with a population of 40,000,000, had 213 centenarians; England, with a population of 27,499,000, had 146 centenarians; Ireland had 578 among 4,706,000 people; but Scotland had only 56, with a population a little less than that of Ireland. Sweden had only 10 among a people nominally like those of Ireland and Scotland, while Spain, with a population of 17,550,000, had 401 persons over a century old. The oldest person in the world is an African residing in Rio de Janeiro, who is 150 years old, and next to him is a Russian coachman living in Moscow, who is 140 years of age.

A study of the statistics of our foreign trade for the past year shows that while the United Kingdom is our largest customer it does not take so large a proportion of our exports as formerly. Ten years ago the total value of our exports to the United Kingdom was \$359,734,531, or over 50 per cent of our total exports; whereas in 1917 the proportion had fallen to about 41 per cent. Though it has decreased relatively, it still reaches the great value of \$482,894,024, an increase of over \$120,000,000 in the nine years under consideration. The total increase in our exports to all countries during the same period has been 59 per cent. Our exports to Germany have risen from about 8 per cent of the total to about 12 per cent; our exports to France have remained stationary at about 6 per cent, while those to the Netherlands have risen from 2 to 5.3 per cent. The large increase in our exports, amounting to \$94,000,000 over the previous year, was, of course, chiefly due to the increased demand for our wheat and corn, the increased export of all cereals amounting in value to some \$70,000,000. The increase in exports of iron and steel was \$14,000,000; in bicycles it was \$3,000,000; in copper, \$3,000,000; and in lumber and manufactured articles in wood, \$5,500,000. The excess of our exports over our imports amounts to \$1,281,741,351 for the past five years; and there is special significance in the figures when we bear in mind that the period has been marked by depression and various influences which have tended to disturb business confidence.

In a recent address in New York Dr. David James Burrell very fittingly characterized the Spanish people and pointed out the difference between them and ourselves. "The effect," he said, "of indolence upon a nation finds an apt illustration in Spain. No country on earth has a richer soil. They say, 'if you tickle it with a hoe it will laugh with a harvest.' But unfortunately for the Castilian race they have a prejudice against the hoe. They are given to bull fighting and fan flirting and love making. Once there were 12,000 villages along the Guadalquivir; now there are but 800. The land has fallen into innocuous desuetude. The people are a race of beggars more or less respectable. There is no greatness in Spain. If the kingdom were to perish from the earth it would leave no laws, no literature, nothing as a legacy to posterity. The pride of the Spaniards is vast and ludicrous. Their strength has been bluster for centuries. Little Holland, with less than 3,000,000 of people, fought Spain, one generation taking up the fight where the last had left it, until Philip III. begged for an armistice. They are unable even to subdue Cuba. Poor, famished Cuba! What a pathetic farce is this, that the grandees of Spain, with their armies, should be successfully resisted by a few brave islanders whose ranks are decimated by slaughter, famine and plague! We, on the contrary, have been derided as 'a nation of shopkeepers and artists.' Our glory is in the truth of that imputation. Alas! for us, when we consent to look on labor with Spanish eyes! Let us rejoice that a call for volunteers would be answered as it was when Lincoln made his historic appeal for a hundred thousand men; not by volunteers from the street corners and the drawing-rooms, but from the fields and the workshops. Here is the source of our greatness; here is the hope of our perpetuity. The war is American; neither the similitude for the gentleman of leisure."

Strength of the Spider. Naturalists say that, in proportion of their size, spiders are seven times as strong as men.

An Athlete who believes that if he should go to war, and be shot in the back, he would receive a back pension

BONDS NOT REQUIRED

WAR FUNDS CAN BE OBTAINED IN OTHER WAYS.

Actual Workings of the Villainous War Bond System Exposed - Why Not Pay in Greenbacks the Expenses Incurred in Carrying on the Conflict.

Bonds and Bondage. Secretary Gage has been in Wall street begging the bankocracy to accept a 3 per cent. mortgage upon the industries of this and future generations to the extent of a \$500,000,000 war loan, with more to follow when the contractors have eaten up that vast sum. And of course the bankers of Wall street are willing to buy the bonds, since under their manipulation of the finance the three dollars which they will receive as annual interest upon each hundred dollar bond will buy more labor and labor products than ten dollars did thirty years ago. The people must try to establish a blockade against the scheme, and they can succeed if they will show enough energy in upholding the allied free silver senators and representatives who are fighting it, and retiring those who have connived at it. As long as the war lasts this bond proposition will come up again and again, and organization in opposition to it should be kept up by the Populists and their free silver allies.

The alternative proposition, an income tax, the free coinage of silver, and the issuance of greenbacks, will certainly rally a majority at the polls next November. "We propose," says Mr. Bailey, "to tax the rich men now rather than mortgage the energies of poor men for future generations." That is very well put. "Interest bearing bonds," said Thomas Jefferson, "are a robbery of posterity." They rob the present generation, also, to the extent that interest payments fall due, and as the war can easily be conducted without the payment of a dollar in interest it is a crime to saddle an interest burden upon the people.

The Cleveland Recorder says: "The proper way for the government of the United States to raise money is to issue greenbacks. There has never been a better plan than that which was invented by Secretary Chase in the last war. It is a crime for the United States government to pay interest on its loans from the people. It is little less than criminal for citizens to accept interest from the government in times of its necessity. The trouble with the whole money problem in these latter days comes from the bond business in the time of the slaveholders' war. The bonds were bought at 40 cents on the dollar and were bought with greenbacks. Now it is insisted that they shall be paid at par and with gold. Silver is not good enough for your shark. He must buy with the poorest money and must have his Shylock's pound of flesh back in the best money. If the government needs money, let the printing presses be started. Let the expenses be paid in greenbacks."

Following are some reflections by "Holt" on the workings of the war bond system:

"The debts of nations are about thirty-five billion dollars. They are all payable in gold alone. Their interest also is payable in gold alone. The gold stock of the world is about four billion dollars. Notwithstanding the increased product of gold it is unlikely the stock will ever increase very much above five billions, if so much, as it is a perishable metal, easily wasted in the handling and has to be carefully hoarded to prevent this waste. Yearly the arts demand more of the product in wasteful ways. The debts of the world, especially national debts, are increasing as never before, and without some fearful revolution, under present methods of administration, they must continue to increase. If banks or individuals had their own obligations only in the same proportion, all payable in gold only, and it was known that they had but one-ninth of their promised gold, and that it would be impossible to procure enough gold to pay them, what would that condition be called? Bankruptcy, total and irremediable.

"But here is something worse. Certainly some of these national bonds must be good for their entire principal in the very nature of things. Some of them, like mortgages, are older than others. Some are even older than are several of the most hopelessly indebted governments. When the first bonds were issued, the gold was delivered for them, and that gold has all been returned as interest. The owners of some of these oldest bonds hold all the gold stock of the world. They have the bonds, and time has delivered back to them, through usury, the gold also. They have taken care that the gold shall never be found in the possession of those who own the thirty billions or so of later bonds. Suppose all impossibility. Suppose that the old bonds of the British government should be redeemed. Then by a natural process the next best secured bonds would take their place and fall into the hands of this one house of Rothschilds. What an absurd system is this which really bankrupts all the bonds but those held as first lien on all the gold, and which compels the financial systems of all nations to revolve around that British national debt as the golden sun of the whole, and virtually compels the labor, and toil, and genius of the world to pay infinite tribute to that one house! It is the outcome of the golden basis system by which all the real money of the nations, the paper and silver, is declared so money and gold is made the sole legal tender—gold that never does any work as money, but effects it through its so-called representatives—all of which are in reality

made bankrupt and worthless by that law of legal tender. Positively, if people would study this subject in the light of common sense, the system could not exist one day longer. It is robbery, piracy, fraud and the sum of all the villainies enthroned by law and compelling the admiration, wonder, worship and tribute of the whole world at the beck of a few supernaturally avaricious men."

Levy an Income Tax. Congressman Benton McMillin, of Tennessee, in advocating an income tax as a means of raising revenue, said, we are resorting to that method of tax which is extensively adopted by most of the leading nations of the world.

England has an income tax of 7 pence in the pound. The exemption is a hundred and fifty pounds. She has had an income tax all the time for fifty years, and most of the time for a hundred years. There is no power in the British Empire to break down this tax.

Most of the states constituting the German empire have an income tax. The exemption in Prussia is 300 marks. The income tax is 1 per cent. on all incomes between 900 and 1,200 marks; 2 per cent. on incomes over 1,200 and under 3,000 marks; 3 per cent. on all incomes from 3,000 to 10,000 marks, and on incomes above 10,000 marks, 4 per cent.

Bavaria imposes an income tax of 1 per cent., and collected, in 1892, therefrom 2,110,000 marks.

Baden has an income tax of 2 per cent.

Bremen has an income tax of 4 per cent.

Austria has a graduated income tax ranging from 8 1/2 to 20 per cent., and collects a large part of her taxes from this source.

Italy imposes an income tax of from 13 to 20 per cent., and collects therefrom \$45,000,000.

Switzerland imposes an income tax also.

In all of the countries imposing an income tax, so far as I know, permanent resident foreigners have to pay the tax; and it is said that in England not even permanent residence of citizens of other countries is required to lay the foundation for the tax, but sojourners, after a certain stay, are assessed on their incomes.

It is sometimes urged that it will not be wise to impose an income tax, because some American citizens would leave their country and settle abroad to escape it, carrying their wealth with them, and we would thereby lose. This is not probable, because they would most likely subject themselves to similar or heavier impositions in the country of their adoption. But even if they did, those citizens who would give up the free institutions of their own country and deliberately become the subjects of monarchy rather than contribute their fair share to support the government whose freedom and fertility have enabled them to accumulate their fortunes would not be an irreparable loss to any country.

Right and Wrong Methods. When you want to convert a neighbor to Populism, don't go to him and shake your fist under his nose and call him a lopper-eared, gimlet-eyed, whooper-jawed son of sin.

The average of all parties is a honest man. He believes that he is right and that you are wrong. The best way to convince a Republican is to place Populist literature in his hands, and ask of him as a personal favor to yourself that he should open your eyes to the truth or falsity of your political principles, and when he comes to you after reading, and enters a protest do not then try to argue with him; let him have his say, but just keep leading him up with the truth as you see it, and if he is not too narrow between the eyes you may expect results inside of a year. Your victim cannot get up a wordy war with a Populist paper; he may at first curse the infernal rag as an anarchist publication, but right down in his gizzard he will be digesting the solid truths of Populism, against which he can bring no logical argument to prove their falsity. Just handle the convert gently, and he will soon become (according to his temperament) a holy white-eyed terror to his former party associates.—Exchange.

Results of Class Legislation. Is it not strange that a free country like the United States has more tenant farmers than England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales? Texas alone has 80,245, while the remainder of the States combined have 6,929,755. Class legislation and the rule of the money power have produced these results in the past 100 years. How long will it be till the people will all be slaves?—Southern Mercury.

Herein Lies the Difference. Bimetallists believe that in a war emergency the government should have every dollar possible and use paper money. The goldites believe that war is their field for plunder, and are doing all in their power to burden the country with \$400,000,000 of bonds, upon which they can feast while the common people fight the enemy.

Dishonesty is Evident. It shows that this administration is dishonest when it uses all its influence to get authority to issue interest-bearing bonds and put the nation in debt when United States treasury notes would answer all purposes and cost nothing.—Silver Knight-Watcher.

Printed for Wick Loafers. The metropolitan dailies have become so voluminous, so stuffed and inflated with wind and worthlessness, that none but professional loafers have time to wade through them.—Bodie Miner-Index.

Bonds Are Still with Us. Bonds are past, bonds present and future.—San Francisco Star



The Empty Sleeve.

The empty sleeve of a veteran old Little Bright Eyes was peeping in, Seeking in vain through its every fold, And wondering over the void within.

Most strange coincidence, far away The thoughts of the veteran sadly hung, Over events of a memoried day, When heads bent low and hearts were wrung.

Once again he feels the patriot fire Which a Lincoln stirred and a Grant upbore, To throttle the power of rebellious ire Bred from a "cause" which is cause no more.

Only he and his comrades know (Like a never-to-be-forgotten dirge) Of the horrors of war and the seed they sow— Of the prison pen and its lasting scourge.

Once again in danger, his native land, Oppression braves and its baneful harm— Now crippled and old, yet he'd raise his hand And for liberty's sake give the other arm!

—Cleveland Leader.

Capit in War Times.

I SUPPOSE this generation thinks that war was grim-visaged all of the time. Not so.

More love letters were exchanged during those four years, it is safe to say, than during any previous four years of the country's history.

At least three-fourths of both armies—blue and gray—were composed of unmarried men. Probably nine-tenths of them had best girls up North and down South; maybe some of them had more than one. Showers of love letters were scattered from the armies every week while the men were in camp. Thousands of matches were concluded by these going and coming messages of love from brave boys and hopeful, happy girls.

A handsome young fellow in a little Mississippi town was devoting Sunday evenings to an equally handsome young lady. Their joyful hours were interrupted by the call for troops. The young man wanted to volunteer, and the young lady said volunteer the day the message reached their town.

A week later he was in a camp of instruction. His regiment went to Virginia and became a part of Beauregard's force at Manassas. It played a prominent part in the first great battle of the war. (It was called great then, but was only a skirmish compared with many that followed.) The Mississippian was slightly wounded, but in getting the scar had shown such bravery that he was promoted to lieutenant. At the end of the Peninsula campaign, in 1862, at Malvern Hill, he was in command of his company, a captain. At Antietam he was again wounded, and this time fell into the hands of the Federals, remaining a prisoner until he was well enough to return to duty. One night, when the nurses and guards were not very watchful, he slipped away from the hospital at Frederick City, Md., found his way to the Potomac River, broke the lock of a boat and rowed to the Virginia side, and two days later was with his regiment.

After Chancellorsville and Gettysburg he was called home to accept a commission as lieutenant colonel of another regiment and given a five-day leave of absence.

I suppose that the young folks who read this story will be disappointed because I do not go into details in describing the meeting between these two Mississippi lovers. I can imagine about how matters went with them and might tell a pretty story, but that is not allowable in a strictly matter-of-fact—a true—story. It can be said that the three or four days were all too few of hours to suit these young people, and that of over two years before. Then, in September, 1863, they and the civilized world knew that a war between Americans was no play-spell; knew that it meant better fighting than had ever before been seen on battlefields; knew the chances of life were few. With this knowledge staring them in the face the young lady realized that her soldier lover might be parting with her for the last time, and he felt that he might be looking into her lustrious brown eyes as he would never do again.

But they parted, she waving her handkerchief and smiling through tears; he looking the love he felt and the dauntless soldier that he was.

"If God spares my life until St. Valentine's day I shall be with you and we will be married," wrote the young colonel the week that Gen. Hood's army started back from Atlanta and Sherman started for the sea.

The Mississippian's command was in the actions from Atlanta to Nashville. At Franklin one of the most remarkable battles of the whole war, where thirteen Confederate generals were killed or wounded (six of them killed), including that intrepid soldier and leader, Gen. Cleburne, the colonel was placed in command of a brigade, and a few days later commanded it at the battle of Nashville. In the memorable

retreat from Nashville he was again slightly wounded and made a prisoner. A few days before his capture he had received a commission as brigadier general.

The General, with other prisoners, was taken to Nashville. Gen. John G. Parkhurst, who had commanded the Ninth Michigan and won promotion by getting close enough to the Confederates to see and feel their fighting qualities, was provost marshal at that time, and consequently had charge of the prisoners. Some of the Confederate officers who were taken before him he had met in battle. He desired to make it as pleasant for them as possible; did not want to confine them between the walls. The second day the prisoners were there Gen. Parkhurst informed the general and field officers that he would parole them—give them an opportunity to enjoy themselves within the city limits. All he wanted in return was that they report to him every evening. Each evening after that Gen. Parkhurst's headquarters were visited by a choice collection of Southern gentlemen in uniform. When the provost marshal was not too busy there would be an early day blue and gray campfire. On more than one occasion a number of Federal officers were invited in, and the men who had often tried to demolish each other in battle sat at card tables and enjoyed themselves in perfect peace and safety. Such was war—sometimes.

After a pleasant game of cards one night a young fellow wearing the uniform of a Confederate brigadier general lingered after the others had gone. Gen. Parkhurst saw that something was on his mind—that he was in trouble, and asked: "What's the matter, General? Is there anything I can do for you?"

Then the Confederate told Gen. Parkhurst the story I have told you. "This is the beginning of February," General said the Southerner. "St. Valentine's day is not far away. That little woman at my home is fondly looking forward to that day. So am I, and wondering, all of the time, how I can avoid disappointing her. Up to the present I have not solved the problem. Can you and will you help me out?"

"Well, well, really I would delight to do so, but can't just now see how it can be done without transgressing the rules and regulations. General, we will both sleep over it to-night. Call here tomorrow afternoon. In the meantime I will hunt for a chance to prevent that little woman and a certain Confederate general from a sorrowful disappointment."

The next afternoon the two generals had another meeting. "I believe I can trust you implicitly, General," said Parkhurst.

"You can, sir." Then he handed the Confederate two passes. One read: "Pass Gen. Blank through the Union lines." The other read: "Permit Gen. Blank and wife to pass the Union lines."

There was a quiet wedding at the young lady's home on St. Valentine's day, and a week later the Confederate and his bride came through the lines a few miles from Nashville. Gen. Parkhurst gave the young couple a reception. As Gen. Blank and wife entered the room the groom exclaimed:

"Here we are, Gen. Parkhurst, on time according to promise."

"I congratulate both of you with all my heart."

"And I thank you, Gen. Parkhurst, with all my heart," said the bride, and then made the Michigan soldier a prisoner long enough to plump a kiss on his lips.

Gen. Blank has served his district in Congress several times.—J. A. Watrous, in Chicago Times-Herald.

Trouble Is His Specialty. "I think I will enlist, even if I am too old," said a Missouri man who was in a crowd that was waiting for the Cuban news. "I never could keep out of trouble. As my wife used to say, it's my specialty. When the civil war broke out I was a Constitutional Union man, until we came to the conclusion that the Constitution wasn't worth a cent. Then I sided over to the Confederate side, put up some money for the boys, and helped them to the front. About a year after, when we heard the South was calling for men, my wife said she reckoned I ought to go, and I got a squad of Federals arrested me and I was taken to the guardhouse and kept there a week. I was finally paroled, but in order to get my liberty I had to furnish bonds and to take the oath of allegiance, as well as the Drake-Rodman oath, which no man could take without perjury."

"I tried to attend to business, but somehow I devoted more time reading Pomeroy's Democrat and Pat Donnan's Caucasian than I did to my own affairs."

"Along toward the close of the war the Government ordered a draft, and nearly every man in the town suddenly became nervous or had some incapacitating ailment. One day I received notification to call at the Captain's office, and there I was informed that I had been drafted and was required to report for examination. Out of six men in my end of the town I was the only one that pleased the examining surgeon. He said I was the finest specimen of physical manhood he ever beheld. For the first time in my life I evaded cross-eyed men and hunchbacks. I explained that I was not sufficiently loyal to make a good Union soldier. But I was informed that I could find a substitute who would be. It was a time when substitutes were active and in demand. And when I at last found one who was acceptable it cost me \$500."

"Aside from wanting to fight, anyway, I shall enlist, if they will take me, for if I don't they'll get me later, if not on one side, on the other."

If a man has horse sense he should know when to say nah.