

The Commoner

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THE SOB IN THE HEART OF A CHILD

(By a Tenderheart.)

(A little tot, who had just lost a nickel, which she intended to squander on a "movie," stood crying on an Omaha street corner one day recently. Many persons laughed at her outward grief, but finally one big-hearted fellow inquired the cause and brought back the smile with a dime. It was a little act, but it quieted the sob in the heart of a child.)

I've heard the low moan of the man on the field who was shattered and torn by the ball;
I've heard the keen anguish that came with the groan of the boy in his tottering fall.
When the swift bullets sang in the thick undergrowth of a Philippine island morass;
I've listened to pleadings through lips that were thick, where the wounded sank down in the grass.

Of the sound of all pains, whether human or strange; maybe uttered in voice that is wild,
The one that strikes me as the pain of all pains is the sob in the heart of a child.

We none of us know, and never can know the little tot's burden of woe;
It may be a wail or the lips may be dumb, there may be but little to show.

When the heart still is young and untutored and crude in the ways of the unfeeling throng.
We're apt to forget the young of the race, un-noticed the hush of their song.

But their burden of grief is as heavy as yours, though the big things of life have beguiled;
And we're apt to forget that the saddest of grief is the sob in the heart of a child.

—Omaha Nebraskan.

A day will come when the only battlefield will be the market open to commerce and the mind opening to new ideas. A day will come when bullets and bombshells will be replaced by votes, by the universal suffrage of nation, by the venerable arbitration of a great Sovereign Senate, which will be to Europe what the Parliament is to England, what the Diet is to Germany, what the Legislative Assembly is to France. A day will come when a cannon will be exhibited in public museums, just as an instrument of torture is now, and people will be astonished how such a thing could have been. A day will come when these two immense groups, the United States of America and the United States of Europe, shall be seen placed in presence of each other, extending the hand of fellowship across the ocean.—Victor Hugo.

Western railroads announce their intention of increasing their passenger rates to the old level, on the plea that they need the money to make a proper interest return. Might it not be a proper as well as a wise precaution, before doing so, to ask permission of some body authorized to allow changes? Nebraska has a two cent law that evidence in the courts has justified as not being excessive or confiscatory. In fact, under its operations, taken in connection with the prohibition of passes, the railroads receive more per mile than they did before in cash returns. It would be interesting to know on what theory of right or justice they would justify a three cent fare.

Burdens Borne by Neutral Nations

On another page will be found Ambassador Naon's views on the burden borne by neutral nations. Ambassador Naon is the representative of Argentine, recently raised to the rank of Ambassador.

He offered a resolution which was adopted by unanimous vote and the address given was delivered by him in support of his resolution. The resolution reads:

"The governing board of the Pan-American Union declares;

"That the magnitude of the present European war presents new problems of international law, the solution of which is of equal interest to the entire world.

"That the form in which the operations of the belligerents are developing they redound to the injury of the neutrals.

"That the principal cause for this result is that the respective rights of the belligerents and of the neutrals are not clearly defined, notwithstanding that such definition is demanded both by general convenience as by the spirit of justice which doubtlessly animates the belligerents with respect to the interests of the neutrals.

"That considerations of every character call for a definition of such rights as promptly as possible upon the principle that liberty of commerce should not be restricted beyond the point indispensable for military operations.

"On these grounds the governing board of the pan-American Union resolves:

"A special commission of the same is hereby appointed, to consist of nine members, of which the secretary of state of the United States shall form part, acting as chairman thereof, ex officio.

"This commission shall study the problems presented by the present European war, and shall submit to the governing board the suggestions it may deem of common interest. In the study of questions of a technical character this commission will be able to consult the board of jurists.

"Each government may submit to this committee such plans or suggested resolutions as may be deemed convenient, on the different subjects that circumstances suggest."

In accordance with the resolution the committee appointed is as follows:

- The Secretary of State, chairman, ex-officio.
- The Ambassador from Brazil, Senor Da Gama
- The Ambassador from Argentine, Senor Naon
- The Ambassador from Chile, Senor Saurez
- The Minister from Peru, Senor Pezet
- The Minister from Uruguay, Senor de Pena
- The Minister from Ecuador, Senor Cordova
- The Minister from Honduras, Senor Memreno
- The Minister from Cuba, Senor Dr. de Cespedes.

It will be the duty of the committee, as set forth in the resolution, to examine and study the suggestions made with a view to relieving neutrals as far as possible from the burdens thrown upon them by war between other nations. The action taken shows the drawing together of American countries in a common interest. Having committed themselves to a peace program among themselves, they are seeking to secure changes in international regulations as will assure to the nations at peace the undisturbed enjoyment of their commerce and the uninterrupted advance of their progress and prosperity.

W. J. BRYAN.

SPLENDID WORK

Editor Commoner:

Months ago I signed one of your pledge cards for 25 of your congressional campaign club cards. Just at this time I experienced a crisis in my affliction (locomotor ataxia) that put me in my bed and incapacitated me for performing, practically, service of any character. Recently I regained enough strength and vigor to justify me in making an effort, through my desk phone at my bedside, to complete the work I had been compelled to so long defer.

The several days in which I was engaged in securing the club, I frequently found it necessary, after relaxation, to indulge in some hours rest before resuming, but I was so pleased with the generous response and the almost unani-

liability of your monthly Commoner, that I was encouraged to proceed, alternately resting and phoning, until I herewith have the profound pleasure of presenting to you a list of 57 subscribers and remittance to cover the same.

You will observe the women in the list of subscribers cover nearly one-third of the total number. These women are some of the most active, energetic, wide-awake, up-and-doing leaders in women's club work, officially and otherwise, particularly the furtherance of the cause of securing the full privileges of the ballot, and complete citizenship;—this long deferred justice seems at hand as soon as the present session of the legislature grants a vote for a constitutional amendment, which will, inevitably give them a voice that will elevate the morals of our citizenship, purify and keep clean our statutes and materially assist in the execution of the penalties provided for the violation of just laws, without fear or favor to the offender.

In presenting the club proposition to a number, I found that they agreed with me that the Commoner stood, today, the highest class, most reliable, eloquently crisp, condensed and cultured periodical printed in the English language, whose columns are devoted to the moral, social, economic and political questions of the day.

I can not deny that I agree with many who insist that its editor is, today, the world's greatest statesman, diplomat, and publicist, with no superior, and very few equals.

With a little more nerve and vitality I could proceed and procure many more subscribers, but my vigilant wife and nurse protest against my further effort at this time, and well, you know, a "good soldier obeys orders."

My compensation for the work I have done is the unalloyed pleasure of knowing that I have rendered a service to the individual, and indirectly, in a public way. I believe the most complete satisfaction and joy that can be reaped from life's experiences comes from a knowledge of service rendered. No investment in life pays larger dividends.

J. T. DUKE,

Oct. 14, 1914.

Galesburg, Illinois.

ANOTHER BOOZE ARGUMENT ANSWERED

John Barleycorn has been routed again. It is increasingly difficult for one who drinks to find employment in any responsible position. The railroads can not afford to entrust a train or a track to a befuddled brain; the steamship companies dare not put a tippler in charge of a vessel; and the factories and stores must have clear-headed men for managers. In the arts of peace total abstinence has become more and more the order of the day; and now we find that alcohol is losing its grip on the soldier. If intoxicating liquor does not help a fighter to whom, pray, can it be useful? It is the fruitful cause of rows and assaults, as the police record will prove; even animals have been cited to prove that it inspires physical courage. Have we not been told of whiskey that will make a jackrabbit spit in a bulldog's face, and of champagne that will encourage a mouse to challenge a cat? But, behold, the war departments of the world are turning against intoxicants. The use of liquor being forbidden in the army and the governments are so pleased with the results that the movement is spreading. Let the good work go on.

QUESTION?

Do you know of any man who is conspiring against the welfare of society who favors woman's suffrage? If he is making money by his attacks upon the home and upon society, and is afraid to allow women to vote, why should the friends of the home and of society join him in his assault upon woman's suffrage? If he can advance his business—the business of debauching and destroying the youth of the land—by preventing woman's suffrage, how can well-meaning and country-loving people join him in using the ballot to withhold suffrage from women?

W. J. BRYAN.

Mme De Witte Schlumberger, the leader of the suffragist cause in France, declares that the movement is receiving the support of the most enlightened and cultured people of that country. It will be but a few years until in America the test of real enlightenment and culture in America will be whether a man believes that women are entitled to the ballot.