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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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Secretary Baker seems to be about the only "stand-patter" left.

Von Hindenburg says he will be in Paris by April 1, and we all know what day that is.

Omaha policemen can find much better occupation than that of calling one another names.

Von Tirpitz is now accused of starting the strikes in Germany, and thus has another failure scored against him.

What the secretary of war appears to need most just now is a good parachute and a safe place to alight.

The busy bolshevik has abolished about everything but the cold weather, but give him time and he may get around to that.

Another unflinching sign of approaching election—city councilmen are throwing out scattering accusations of graft and talk of libel suits.

Our official position is now defined as being that of a "co-belligerent." All right, just so long as emphasis is placed on the belligerent.

The German artist who allowed his sense of humor to find expression on the kaiser's money will reflect in prison on how sad it is to have an overlord who can not take a joke.

Kultur is pursuing its natural bent by dropping bombs on Venetian palaces and Paduan churches. Nothing so disturbs the superman as the thought of an undisturbed work of art within reach of his weapons.

The captain and pilot of the French munitions ship, Mont Blanc, which blew up in Halifax harbor after colliding with the Belgian relief ship, Imo, are blamed for the disaster by the board that made the inquiry. The only service of this is that the responsibility has been fixed.

Corrected accounts of Count Cernin's speech give good reasons for the dismay it occasioned in Berlin. Austria is not prepared to go the limit of German ambitions in the matter of territorial acquisitions, a fact that naturally disturbs the junkers. If the dual monarchy is able to retain what it had before the war commenced, it will be well pleased, but its statesmen have given up the notion of grabbing anything from neighbors.

Bolshevik and the Greek Church.

The progress of bolshevism in Russia is running true to the course laid out by the French revolution, and bids fair to come to the same end. As Kerensky was the Mirabeau, so Lenin and Trotsky appear to be the Robespierre and Danton of the drama. They have spread the terror far and wide throughout the former empire, and have been ruthless in their dealing with victims. Now they have made what seems to be the crowning blunder of their career, in attacking the church. If the moujik has one predominant trait, it is his simple devotion to religion. In no other Christian country has religion played so great a part in the life of the masses as in "Holy" Russia. Church and state have been one for centuries. The revolution that destroyed the state is now directed against the church, which it is likely to find more firmly entrenched. The moujik can understand the benefit he gets from gift of land and gear in this world, but he will not respond so readily to a move that proposes to take from him his hope of happiness in another. This may be decked with the exterior dressing of promise of greater indulgence here, but it contains nothing substantial for the hereafter. Attempt to disestablish the church as a state supported institution may succeed, but any effort to lead the Russian multitude along a way darkened by extinction of promises of paradise is foredoomed to failure.

Problem of Allied Shipping.

From the very beginning of the war its most important single factor has been that of ocean transportation. The sudden and violent change in the character and conditions of international commerce thrust a strain on the ocean-carriers that has not been well supported. When the United States entered the great conflict this situation became even more acute, because available ships were insufficient to fill the need for their services. Part of this stringency has been caused by the withdrawal of neutral-owned vessels from trade, leaving the Entente Allies to depend on their own resources, which are admittedly inadequate. Recent acts by our government have been in the direction of remedying this.

Economic pressure on Holland has brought eight-two ships sailing under the Dutch flag into the service of the Allies, these to be employed in safe waters. They will release as many vessels hitherto engaged in carrying on that trade for service in the trans-Atlantic work. Other neutral shipping may be similarly impressed, and some relief obtained through these measures. One of the outstanding features of the situation is that with the utmost strain on the food supply of the northern hemisphere there is a large surplus in the south, yet to be brought into requisition. Dutch ships will be used in part at least to fetch grain from Argentina and perhaps sugar from Java. But Australian and New Zealand wheat is still out of reach. Here we come to one of the singular aspects of the problem. Japan has been a party to the war from the very beginning, and Japan has a large merchant navy, engaged in the safe and lucrative trans-Pacific trade. The wonder is that more Japanese vessels are not employed in the important work of bringing wheat from Australia to the United States, from whence it can be forwarded to Europe. Surface indications are that Japan could be of much more service to its allies than it has yet given.

Here and There

Last year 1,200 publications in the United States and Canada ceased to exist.

An ordinary aeroplane, exclusive of the engine, has over 200 separate pieces, besides over 4,000 nuts, 3,000 screws, 1,000 steel stampings and 2,000 forgings.

The house in Joppa, Palestine, where St. Peter stayed with Simon the Tanner is to be secured by the Church army as a center for the care of British troops fighting in Palestine.

A National Women's Prayer Battalion has been organized to get every woman with a son or relative in the army or navy to sign a covenant to join in a prayer meeting at least once every two weeks.

The British government is constructing mills for the manufacture of oleomargarine to reduce the cost of living, while in this country it is subject to a heavy special tax to decrease its manufacture.

After every battle abroad salvage lorries go over the battlefields and bring back everything they can get. At Calais, 25,000 pairs of shoes are remade every week, after they have been brought in from battlefields.

Long years ago a "crank" made England laugh by going to the patent office with a plan for the conservation of energy. He said he could store enough energy in a box to move the Bank of England. He couldn't. But today this idea is a commonplace which is put into operation every day. It is nothing more nor less than hydraulics.

The new Berlin—St. Louis train will be running in a few days.

1812—Charles Dickens, the novelist, born at Portsmouth, England. Died at Gad's Hill, June 9, 1870.

1868—United States marines landed at Montevideo for the protection of foreign residents.

1871—Members of Bonaparte family declared ineligible for election to public office in France.

1878—Pope Pius IX, during whose pontificate the temporal kingdom of the papacy was united to Italy, died at Rome. Born May 13, 1792.

Truth About the War.

Secretary Baker's apparent frankness in his statement before the senate committee, which seemingly so impressed the country when it was made last week, crumpled sadly under the cross-examination to which he subjected himself. Most important of all his disclosures was that about the number of fighting men now in France, his statement being so worded as to give rise to the belief that we now have half a million soldiers over there. This belief, of course, was not warranted by the secretary's statement, and under cross-questioning he admitted that Pershing's actual force is considerably less than that number. Other statements made by the secretary were explained away, until he admitted that on certain important points he lacked knowledge, and must defer reply until he could post himself. The spectacle is not one to increase confidence in his administration of the War department. The American people do not ask that any military secrets be disclosed, but they do want to know that they are being told the truth, and not being misled when given a statement from a cabinet officer. The public can forgive blunders, but not deception.

Are Railroad Managers Traitors?

People will be slow to believe that any foundation exists for the astonishing allegations made by the brotherhood chiefs, that the big men of American railroads are acting treacherously towards the government. Such assertions should be made only when backed by indisputable proof, therefore it should be required that Messrs. Garretson and Lee produce their proof without delay. If the transportation difficulties had developed only since the government took operative control of the railroad systems of the United States, some reason might exist for accusing the managers of practicing sabotage. It is known that for several years the transportation systems of the country have been driven to top speed to care for the business set for them, with a continually growing congestion on the eastern seaboard, where ocean transport has been steadily declining.

This condition, burdensome enough at best, has been aggravated by regulations thrust upon the railroads, restricting their free operation and hindering any effort to relieve the jam. Many of these obstacles have been removed by the government operating for itself, but none of the so-called "reforms" introduced under Mr. McAdoo have gone beyond what the railroads had asked permission to do long ago. Mr. McAdoo took hold in the very height of the most severe winter weather experienced in many years, when to keep any trains moving was a problem for the most courageous and efficient of operating directors. That his control did not act like magic to clear the railroad yards is not to be wondered at.

The public generally is aware of all the factors that enter into the problem. It appreciates the fact that the five big brotherhoods, but lately recipients of a considerable increase in wages, are again applying for further advance in pay. It knows that the railroad managers have applied again and again for permission to advance rates that the income may be brought up to a point that will meet expenses, and it knows that any increase in tariff for any purpose must be at public expense. Charges of willful disregard of duty on part of the management will not change any of these facts.

Problem of Allied Shipping. From the very beginning of the war its most important single factor has been that of ocean transportation. The sudden and violent change in the character and conditions of international commerce thrust a strain on the ocean-carriers that has not been well supported. When the United States entered the great conflict this situation became even more acute, because available ships were insufficient to fill the need for their services. Part of this stringency has been caused by the withdrawal of neutral-owned vessels from trade, leaving the Entente Allies to depend on their own resources, which are admittedly inadequate. Recent acts by our government have been in the direction of remedying this.

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Foreign Enemies Here More Dangerous Than U-Boats

From the Massachusetts Forestry Association.

If it were announced that 500 food-laden ships valued at \$1,000,000 each had been sunk by submarines, the people would be appalled. Especially would that be true at this time of food shortage. But, the officials of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us that conservatively estimated \$500,000,000 is the loss caused yearly to our farm, orchard and forest crops by imported insects, yet we continue to import plants on which these pests come into the country. This loss of \$500,000,000 annually is mostly foodstuffs, which would keep an army of nearly 4,000,000 men continually supplied with provisions. These losses are so stupendous and so vital at this time that further importation of ornamental plants should cease at once, as a war measure, if for no other reason.

According to a recent report of the Federal Horticultural board of the United States Department of Agriculture, 193 insects and 116 plant diseases were detected in that year on imported plant materials by federal and state inspectors. These inspectors admit that it is impossible to detect all of these insects and diseases, and this accounts for the discovery every year of several new pests established here. The value of these imported plants seldom exceeds \$3,500,000 in any one year, yet we are told by certain importers that it would be a great hardship on the country if this importation were to be stopped. The facts show that to continue such importation is a hardship many times greater, and all out of proportion to the gain. Based on the growth and value of our nursery and floricultural establishments as recorded by the census of 1910 these establishments are worth today, nearly \$90,000,000. It would seem that these nurseries could grow this comparatively small amount of material that we import. Our leading horticulturists, agriculturists and nurserymen agree that we can propagate any plant in

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Reference to the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture 1916, and reports of the Federal Horticultural board.

Book Production in 1917

Marked Shrinkage In Output at Home and Abroad

Fewer books were published last year than the year before, in both England and the United States. The 10,445 new books and new editions printed or imported here in 1916 fell to 10,060. Great Britain's loss was heavier, being from 9,149 to 8,131. The larger part of our loss is due to a shrinkage in importations, which began with the war, but even books by American authors numbered 61 less than in the preceding twelve-month. As our loss is lighter, our lead over England in the number of new books is larger than it has ever been. In only two years since 1908 have we failed to issue more new books than England. These years were 1913 and, strangely enough, 1915. With the nation rallying to Kitchener's cry, Great Britain nevertheless produced in 1915 within 1,000 books of what she had produced in 1914. Our production, on the contrary, fell sharply from 12,000 to 9,700. But in 1916 we recovered a third of the loss, while England's issues continued to decline, and the same process went on in the two countries last year. Book-production in England, indeed, began to fall off the very first year of the war, and is now less than two-thirds of what it was in 1913. Ours is five-sixths of the 1913 production.

In both countries fiction continues to lead the list, but that is true of us only if new editions as well as new titles are counted. Subtract from our 922 new issues of fiction as given in the annual summary number of the Publishers' Weekly the 245 that are new editions only, and this supposed monarch of literature yields his throne to sociology and economics, and further retires behind religion and theology, and history, having to be content with a place as low as fourth in the hierarchy of letters. This condition does not prevail in the traditionally sober-minded, less superficial section of the English speaking world. In Great Britain the new fiction outnumbers even the new books on religion, while history, although it includes books dealing generally with the war, is third, and poetry and drama not a very good fourth. Sociology, which bulks so large with us, including economics, government, socialism, and the like, ranks sixth in English publications of 1917, and even with new editions counted, only fourth, having yielded third place to history, which climbed up from sixth place in 1916. It may be argued that new editions are as good an index of popular taste as new titles. On this basis there is no disputing the hold of fiction on first place. Yet while nearly half of the new issues of fiction in England were new editions only, the fraction in this country was nearer a fourth. But unless the size of editions was taken into consideration, inferences from this difference would be precarious.

A general survey of books published in the United States since the war broke out shows that fiction was closely pressed by books on sociology and books on religion in 1914 and again by sociology in 1917. Religious books have not fallen below third place, and reached second in 1915 while in 1916 poetry ranked next to the novel. Yet it would be easy to misjudge this interest in religious works. The fact is that before the war these books held a high place in our esteem. Only fiction outnumbered books on religion in 1912, and only fiction and sociology in 1913. In Great Britain, too, religious books are among the most numerous, being second to fiction in both 1916 and 1917, with sociology well up in both years and history conspicuous in the latter. In neither year has poetry and drama held such a place as it has held with us almost every year since 1914. In 1916, new titles in this department actually outnumbered those of fiction, which retained its lead only by mustering more new editions than its accustomed rival. Last year it fell below not only

Crucial Days for Cryptic Prophets

February will put the acid test to those interpreters of the Scripture who see in the kaiser the figure of the "beast" in the Book of Revelation. For in February, according to the favored interpretation, the war must come to a close. The vision of the Revelator has it that "power was given unto him to continue 40 and two months." The war was under way about the first of August, 1914. Forty-two months carries us up to February, 1918.

When it comes to securing the kaiser's number, the interpreters have their work cut out. But much may be done with figures, if one uses them freely. The number that has been assigned the kaiser is, of course, 666.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man; and his number is 663 score and six."

To fasten this number to the German emperor, the cryptogrammatists take the word "kaiser" and find the numbers in the alphabet of the letters that form it. For example "k" is eleven, "a" is one, "i" is nine, and so on. Place these in line to be added. Now comes the strong arm work, reminding one of Ignatius Donnelly's work on his Baconian cipher. The figure six is added at the end of each number so that the numbers read 116, 16, 96 in so on. Now when they are all added, they form 666, the required number of the kaiser. But the Book of Revelation was originally written in Greek. How does the word "kaiser" figure out in the Greek alphabet?

It is also triumphantly noted that when the kaiser started the war, he was 35 years and six months old, that is, he was 666 months old. Can anyone doubt longer? Certainly no Baconian.

But the test of all this is at hand. The cryptogrammatists must stop the war at once to make good with themselves and with the more generous of the public who would be willing to accept even Mr. Donnelly's Baconian cryptogram if it would stop the war, with the kaiser and friends on the toboggan.—Minneapolis Journal.

Peppery Points

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Agree with people who like to argue. It saves a lot of noise.

Minneapolis Journal: The kaiser has six sons, but we have not heard of any of them being killed in the war. They seem to have a divine right to live where it is safe.

Baltimore American: American ingenuity has perfected another deadly weapon for U-boats. Their status under the new inventions for their destruction is changing from the hunters to the hunted.

Minneapolis Tribune: George Creel says about half the matter written about the war should be thrown into the wastebaskets. All right, let's make a start with Secretary Baker's weekly word output that is neither new nor informative.

Brooklyn Eagle: The London Daily Telegraph's cry about a prospective loan to Ireland of \$100,000,000 by the United States in case a home rule compromise is arranged may not be wholly without basis. Irish-Americans here would be pleased by such a course. And what have we to them? An element in our citizenship needs no argumentative explanation.

Brooklyn Eagle: The president is offended that his cabinet members should be called away from important posts to answer questions in England responsible ministers appear daily in person in the House of Commons and answer a number of questions printed on the program for the day. It is the excellent feature of the ministerial system. Why should we not know what is going on in this country?

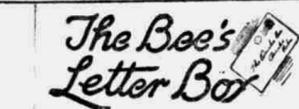
Nebraska Comment

Hastings Tribune: The fact that Nebraska leads all the states in the number of automobiles per capita shows that this state is going some.

Beatrice Express: High prices has created an unusual "back to the farm" movement this year, especially among those who have the desire to farm in the cow and a pig and a garden patch class.

Norfolk Press: The city purchased a pest house for smallpox patients at a cost of \$1,300 and now one of the doctors wants another pest house for scarlet fever patients. It would be nice to have a little village devoted to pest houses with a separate house for every disease from smallpox down to ingrowing toenails.

Bridgeport News-Blade: The News-Blade family has been eating the so-called "victory bread," or "war bread," that is being baked under the new food regulations. The fact is that it is nothing but good stuff. If it was served under a high sounding name at a high priced cafe, people would clamor for it and think they were getting something good beyond the ordinary.



Cherry Chaff.

"Well, look at that man across the street faking off his hat to the woman he's parting from."

"Why shouldn't he, if he's a gentleman?"

"But she's his wife."—Baltimore American.

"He says she is the apple of his eye."

"Well?"

"To me that expression seems far-fetched."

"Not at all, she's a pippin."—Kansas City Journal.

Sociologist—Since you have become rich I suppose you are out of touch with your old friends."

"Dude—Hardly that. Some of 'em touch me nearly every day."—Chicago News.

Mrs. Bacon—Don't you think Emily sings with a good deal of feeling?"

Mr. Bacon—Yes, but his father got so fed as had as it sounds.—Yonkers Statesman.

H—What became of Percival?"

She—Oh—I refused him.

H—Then the engagement is broken off?"

She—Yes, he only wanted to marry me for my money.

H—The wretch—and how much would this scandal have gotten?—Florida Times.

Church—I understand that boy was born with a silver spoon in his mouth."

Mr. Church—He was, but his father got to playing the stock market and knocked it out.—Yonkers Statesman.

"That rich old fellow hasn't the slightest suspicion his young wife deserts him."

"How do you know he doesn't?"

"Because I've seen him eat her mince pie."—Baltimore American.

Employer—The position requires a great amount of mechanical experience.

Applicant—I have owned a second-hand automobile for two months.

Employer—Accepted.—Life.

NEPTUNE'S WIRELESS.

I stood by the sea.

When the tide came in.

Where breaks on the shore.

Did cast their foam.

And above the crash

Of the spray I heard

From "Neptune's Wireless"

Voices from home.

I stood by the sea.

When the tide went out.

From a foreign land

My thoughts did roam.

And I tried to send

To the ones I love

By "Neptune's Wireless"

My message home.

BELLVIEW.

MOTHERS, LISTEN!

When work exhausts your strength, when your nerves are irritable and restless, when ambition lags and you feel rundown, you need and need quickly the rich, creamy, nourishing food in

SCOTT'S EMULSION

to check your wasting powers, even your blood and build up your nerve force. Scott's is helping thousands and will give you the strength you need.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

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