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A BENEFACTOR RETIRES

Upon reaching the age limit of sixty-four years next Saturday, Col. L. Mervin Maus, surgeon general of the Eastern Department of the army on Governor's Island, will retire, after a notable career in the service.

Colonel Maus was selected by Governor General Taft to clean up Manila and remove the menace of bubonic plague from the Philippines.

His task was accomplished, and in addition he drove smallpox from the Filipino capital by means of compulsory vaccination, and established the leper colony on Culion Island.

As first American head of the public health department in the islands Colonel Maus won enviable distinction, and is largely to be credited with making the archipelago a fit place for the white man. But his greatest service was to the natives themselves, for the improved health conditions were the very foundation for the civilization of the people.

Colonel Maus has long been famous in army circles besides for his hostility to intoxicating liquors. Only a few weeks before the outbreak of the European war he declared "One reform that is needed in all armies is greater restrictions concerning alcohol in time of war," and added it as his opinion that "any officer of the army or navy who renders himself incompetent or stupid through drink in actual warfare might just as well enter into treasonable relations with the enemy and sell his country."

His opinion has been vindicated by the great belligerents at war today, as well as by the Secretary of the American navy. His indictment of alcohol is one of the most sweeping ever made. He says:

Practically all of the crime committed in the army, directly or indirectly, may be traced to the results of alcohol. Murders, robberies, desertions, court-martial, and dismissals of officers, enlisted men, fights, brawls, broken friendships, misery, wretchedness, and moral degeneracy should generally be ascribed to the use of intoxicants.

Colonel Maus has given the country forty-one years of his labor, and has been a benefactor to a degree that cannot be estimated. He will carry into retirement with him the best wishes of the nation.

DR. DERNBURG QUIBBLES

Dr. Dernburg, the Kaiser's free lance extraordinary to the American people, declared in Philadelphia that "Germany never and at no time has disputed the right of the United States to ship arms to England," and that "Germany admits the right of the United States to ship munitions of war to whomsoever she cares."

In February Ambassador von Bernstorff delivered to the State Department a note from Berlin which said "The German government feels itself obliged to point out with the greatest emphasis that a traffic in arms, estimated at many hundreds of millions, is being carried on between American firms and Germany's enemies." In respect of this traffic, the note added that "Germany would fain hope that the United States after further consideration will come to a conclusion corresponding to a spirit of real neutrality."

It would be an insult to American intelligence for Germany to attempt to do directly what she is endeavoring to accomplish by indirect methods.

Her calling of the neutrality of the United States into question was based upon her allegation, expressed diplomatically, but a charge nevertheless, that this country is willfully aiding the allies while denying to the Germans such commerce as international law permits in wartime. "If it is a formal right of neutrals," the Berlin note says, "to take no steps to protect their legitimate trade with Germany and even to allow themselves to be influenced in the direction of the conscious and willful restriction of their trade, on the other hand, they have the perfect right, which unfortunately they do not exercise, to cease contraband trade, especially in arms, with Germany's enemies."

If that does not mean that Germany protests against the shipment of arms from the United States to the allied nations, then words have lost their meaning, and the major part of the German negotiations during the past two months has been purposeless. It was Germany's persistence in urging this very matter that called forth a sharp rebuke from the State Department, which asserted that the subject was "hardly appropriate for discussion between the Government of the United States and the government of Germany."

In her contention regarding traffic in contraband, Germany has not a leg to stand on, and Germany knows

that better than anybody else because she has had more trade of that kind than any other nation.

NEARING THE POINT OF WAR

The United States has fought two wars, neither of them popular with the people of this country, both forced upon us by the actions of other countries that contemptuously declined to respect our flag on the high seas. One was with France, the other the war of 1812 with Britain. In neither of those cases was there more grave provocation than the most recent acts of German submarines. Indeed, it may be said that there was in neither case so flagrant a violation of our rights as the attack on the Gulf of Guadalupe, off the Scilly Islands, if the accounts of that incident, coming from London, are accurate.

If these statements are correct, the American vessel was attacked absolutely without notice and torpedoed. It was only by the greatest good fortune that she was not sunk. As it was her captain and two men were killed, and only with great difficulty was the vessel towed to a near by beach and run aground.

It is not to be urged that this attack was the result of an unfortunate mistake. The German embassy in Washington last week advertised that Americans sailing into British waters would be risking their lives. There have been very direct intimations that the Germans intended to "get" the Lusitania on her present voyage. She is carrying over 1,300 people, largely Americans; under the British flag, it is true. But the responsibility which Germany is willing to assume for such a loss of American life was acknowledged when last week's advertisement was put out. The Washington Government nearly three months ago solemnly warned Germany that she would be held to strict accountability for any untoward effect on American shipping if the laws of war were violated.

Under the laws of war, a German cruiser or submarine was entitled to stop and search the Lusitania. She was carrying contraband; therefore she was entitled to be taken into a German port and before a prize court.

But that is altogether different from driving a torpedo at her and sending her to the bottom with all hands; which was exactly what the German submarine intended to do and but for bad aim would have done. There is nothing left for the Washington Government to do but to make good its insistence on "full accountability" of Germany. Piracy in the older days of walking the plank was no different from this performance. It is not war; it is deliberate murder.

Under the laws of many States it is specified that murder by the use of poison must be found to be murder in the first degree. It is on the theory that the employment of poison implies premeditation. There can be no doubt of it; the deed cannot be done, with poison, in a fit of passion; it is cold-blooded and absolutely intentional.

Between this and the deliberate advertisement of purpose to murder Americans on the high seas there is no observable difference. It is hard to see how the German insult to American sovereignty—unless it shall be immediately disavowed—could be more deliberate.

WHAT MAKES OUR BALANCES

The international trade clock these days is reset very frequently. In recent years we have not had until 1914 a big surplus of wheat to offer foreign consumers; for what we had were not keen to pay high prices. Last season we had a surplus of some 300,000,000 bushels. For a great part of it belligerent countries have been eager to bid nearly twice as much a bushel as in years of peace. Their demand continues, while our supply approaches a point of exhaustion of last year's crops, but comes in sight of this year's.

Spring shipments of wheat abroad in excess of 3,000,000 bushels a week are unusual. But just as we were shipping out 10,000,000 bushels a week in the early part of January, as against a normal 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 bushels for that time of year, we are still sending such exports across the seas at the same relative increase over previous years, even higher.

In January we were shipping some 9,000,000 bushels a week, as against some 5,000,000 in the previous year. But that was no more of a gain than we have been making since—the big export season usually has closed.

In the last week of March we shipped more than 10,000,000 bushels, against 2,650,000 in the previous year. In the first week of April we shipped 7,300,000, against 2,480,000 in 1914; in the second week, 7,100,000, against 2,800,000; in the third week, 9,700,000, against 2,700,000, and in the fourth week, 7,900,000, against 2,160,000.

And 8,000,000 bushels of exported wheat this spring have been worth nearly \$13,000,000. A year ago

2,000,000 bushels of wheat would have seemed of big value at \$2,000,000.

Cotton tells the same story of greater quantities sold abroad, though not of higher export price a pound. Ordinarily the export season for large quantities ends with March, even February. This year, in spite of the blockade by the allies of Germany and Austria, where there is urgent need of cotton, our exports are putting those of previous years to the blush.

In the week ending April 3 we sent out 136,000 more bales than the year before; April 10, 60,000 more; April 17, 72,000 more; April 24, 40,000 more, and last week 83,000 more.

How long we can continue to sell from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000 of wheat a week the Lord only knows; but American sellers seem to be digging it up right along at the high price.

We can ship cotton in many and heavy cargoes till the next crop comes in. If from 140,000 to 200,000 bales a week, representing from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000, seem to be doing the lion's share of holding up our prodigious foreign balance, there is no reason, so far as concerns the surplus supply, why we will, closer to \$60 a bale than to \$55, will bring from cotton another \$300,000,000.

Arms and ammunition are the export sensations in the spotlight; but wheat and cotton, not to mention corn and other agricultural products, continue and will continue to roll up towering credits for us all over the world, to pay for American securities sold here in bulk by foreign holders, and to draw out repeated loans for governments and individuals abroad, north of us, south of us and beyond the seas.

POLITICS IN ENGLAND

No other country will be so quick as the United States to discount the notion that, because the British people are having some political jangles, they are weakening their belligerent force or losing their determination to stick by their part in the great war. Politics in Anglo-Saxon countries is something that people of other races, living under other institutions, have never been able to understand. The Germans did not understand British politics when they assumed that civil war was impending in the United Kingdom, and that Ireland would not be loyal to England. They had been reading the English press and the extreme observations of some English and Irish publicists, and had taken them too seriously. Likewise during the early stages of our civil war foreign observers set quite too much store by the superficial evidences that the Northern people were divided in counsel and sentiment.

The British people will quarrel among themselves with great enthusiasm; but they will not be found letting that pleasant privilege interfere with fighting their war. Nobody on earth manages to carry on so many different sorts of controversies at the same time as an Anglo-Saxon community; small wonder if outsiders misunderstand what it all means. But underlying the rowing about Mr. Lloyd-George's taxation measures or Mr. Bryan's foreign policy in detail; underlying quarrels about whether Mr. Winston Churchill or Mr. Josephus Daniels is fit to boss a navy; underlying discussions of votes for women or drinks for everybody, will be found, on this side and on the other side of the Atlantic, among people who use the English language, a persistence and determination in loyalty to the big essentials of national policy, that is not exceeded in any country.

German newspapers, we read, are reproducing with huge glee the attacks that certain elements of the yellow press are aiming against the Asquith government. These may cheer the German people; but they constitute a poor basis indeed from which to project any confident assurances that Britain is weakening.

Napoleon learned that it was part of his business to teach the French particularly to hate England, because England was everlastingly sticking at the main business of setting up combinations and alliances against him. So Germany today finds it worth while to keep her people especially vengeful against "perfidious Albion"—because Albion is recognized as a stayer in the big game. It is hardly to be assumed that the real directors of imperial policy in Germany are misled by the fulminations of any section of British politicians against the ministry in power. They know too well the history and the traditions that all point the certainty of British persistence to the end.

Aid Doctors in Belgium.

NEW YORK, May 3.—Dr. Franklin New Martin, of Chicago, chairman of the committee of American physicians for the aid of the Belgian physicians, reported today that the committee had raised a sum of \$6,325,50 to buy drugs, instruments, and medicines for the needy members of their profession in Belgium, as well as to aid the families of physicians who are in need.

Dr. Martin reported further that supplies of materials have been made, all of which, with the exception of 715 boxes, have been shipped by the commission for relief in Belgium.

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TO LAUNCH MELTING POT CAMPAIGN HERE

Woman Suffrage Council Will Prepare Plans at Meeting to Be Held Tonight.

Another "melting pot" campaign will be launched by the Washington suffragettes tonight at a meeting of the Washington Woman Suffrage Council at the studio of Mrs. Glenn Smith Tinnin, 1121 Vermont avenue, it was announced today by Mrs. G. A. Mosshart, president.

The revival of the melting pot plan is to be held at the summer campaign in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, all of which will vote on the suffrage question next fall.

These are three of the most important States in the country, the Washington Woman Suffrage Association, of which Washington Woman Suffrage Council is a branch, is concentrating its efforts in this field.

We want the women of Washington to get the low wages, while the skilled and efficiently organized are the ones who get the high wages.

Statistics on the subject of wages have been kept by the Interstate Commerce Commission, and these show in a striking way the advantage that lies on the side of the powerful organizations, such as the engineers, firemen, switchmen, machinists, and the like.

Not only do these, whose numbers are enormous, receive absolutely the largest wages, but they enjoy the greatest, absolute and also the greatest proportionate increases.

Taking, for instance, the period from 1912 to 1913, inclusive, it is found that the average wage advanced in railroads touch every section, almost every community, in the country. Their conditions of operation are as nearly uniform in different sections as those of any other industry.

They employ great bodies of very necessary, highly skilled, and powerfully organized labor.

On the other hand, they also employ still greater numbers of unskilled and unorganized workers, whose places could be filled with comparative ease.

Get Low Wages.

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Requires Little Skill.

Against their bunch of prize money gained, may be set off the showing for switch tenders, crossing tenders, and watchmen, who suffered an actual reduction of 34 per cent in the same period. They have no organizations to fight their wage battles, and their work requires little special skill.

Yet there are shown to have been almost 300,000 of this class who suffered a reduction of 34 per cent in wages, while 6,000 firemen were getting an advance of 40 per cent.

How do the firemen manage to lead the procession thus impressively? Students of the railway wage situation there are a good many of them nowadays—say that there are two answers.

First, the fireman is a highly skilled worker, who, in 1903, was averaging \$2.28 a day and shoveling the fuel into the engine. Second, he could save a great sum in fuel costs. The roads have been disposed to pay him better as a premium for better work, fireman, fuel economies.

Second, the fireman is an undergraduate engineer; he is on the way to a promotion that will make him a member of the guild that includes the men of the railroad workers. In recent years the engineers and the firemen have co-operated pretty closely in their wage efforts, giving the firemen a more or less break in many cases, their seniors, the engineers. These two causes are commonly cited in explanation of the remarkable advance of firemen's wages.

Have Done Well.

But the engineers have done right well. In 1903 they were getting an average daily wage of \$4.01; it was

Labor Organization Means Increased Wage

Award to Enginemen and Firemen Shows Facility With Which Skilled Work Has Secured Larger Compensation—Great Army of Trainmen Efficient.

By JUDSON C. WELLIVER.

The award of a wage increase to engineers, firemen, and engine hoistmen on the railroads of the West by the board of arbitration sitting in Chicago, has served to attract attention to the facility with which skilled and highly organized labor in recent years has secured increases of its compensation, while unorganized or unskilled employees have enjoyed comparatively much smaller advances.

Other trainmen are classified together for the statistical purposes. There were, in 1912, 15,000 of them, 137,000 of them, or rather more than 100,000, who are organized together. They are strongly organized, and in repeated labor difficulties, which usually happen instead of being compromised with the grant of pretty regular increases of wages to the strong organizations, showed their power. So it is to be inferred that the wage increase of 34 per cent in 1912, which was given to the firemen, was the result of the strong organizations, which were made up of the Anti-Saloon League or the decisions of the Excise Board are correct.

The report of the Senate committee which investigated the conduct of the Excise Board questioned, in a measure, the discretion of the board, and the result of the Police Court cases will either confirm the judgment of the Senate committee or uphold the actions of the board.

Whether the Senate committee was actuated by prejudices has been hinted in several quarters, but such a reflection surely cannot be made of the authorized court, so the finding of the cases to be heard, or the officers will be free from criticism from open-minded citizens. The hearings should be welcomed indeed.

LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN.

Takes Issue With Pastor Russell.

To the Editor of THE TIMES:

The prosecutions in the Police Court of Washington saloon men to determine whether they are violating the law is a proposition that should be welcomed by both the accuser and the accused.

The suits, doubtless, will establish beyond any doubt whether the allegations of the Anti-Saloon League or the decisions of the Excise Board are correct.

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