

Our National Capital

Events of Interest from the Seat of Government by the News Special Correspondent, J. E. Jones

War or Peace

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24.—When diplomatic relations were broken off with Germany, the small element of politicians in Washington who have advocated war for the past year or two felt that the time had come for them to get ready to send the "other fellow" across the ocean to engage in the European struggle. Colonel Roosevelt and a few of his type were the exception inasmuch as they made it clear that they would be willing to engage personally in the great struggle which they said would be inevitable.

For more than a year there has been such an activity among preparedness advocates, centered about the National Capitol, that the pacifists have virtually stampeded. As a result, a great deal of ridicule has been heaped upon earnest men and women who were struggling to keep their country out of war; and many of them were accused of standing for "peace at any price." As a matter of fact, none of the peace advocates urged such a doctrine any more than the militarists stand for "war at any cost." The expressions represent nothing more than healthy competition in the coming of terms and phrases, and are not to be taken seriously by sober-minded people.

It has, however, been thoroughly demonstrated in the past two weeks that pacifists are as clever fighters as ever were born. Immediately on top of the breaking off of relations with Germany, there was organized the Emergency Peace Federation. The general offices of the committee are in New York and Mrs. Henry Villard is the president, and Miss Lella Secor, is secretary. Among the many active spirits in the movement are Mrs. J. Sergeant Cram and Mrs. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana. There are all signs of activity pressing Washington originating from the general office. The activities of the Washington Legislative Committee, spurred by Miss Rebecca Shelly who is in charge, is crystallizing an expression of opinion from all parts of the country, that has been decidedly informative to members of the administration and Congress. It is very clear that the country is giving its approval to President Wilson's policy, because it is the popular belief that Mr. Wilson stands for peace. While "peace with honor" is a popular way of putting the issue, still a great deal of emphasis has been laid upon the fact that the more radical advocates of war tolerate peace only "with a chip on the shoulder."

Patriotic societies of all kinds have been going on record, and they are deluging Washington, having no doubt been principally inspired by the Emergency Peace Federation, which is succeeding in its efforts to let Washington know how the country at large feels upon this question. Capitol Hill has undoubtedly been somewhat surprised by the positive manner in which the American people have declared that they do not wish to be drawn into the European massacre.

The situation has clarified to a very large extent and as this correspondence leaves Washington the chances are greatly in favor of peace.

What's the Matter With the Publishers?

With all the great power boasted in behalf of the press of the country, it is passing strange that a handful of paper manufacturers should tie up the industry of publishing "in a tight little knot."

More papers have actually suspended with the past six months than during the previous ten years, and many more of them

are hanging on by their teeth. In addition to all this is the constant fight of the Post Office Department, in favor of higher rates of postage on second-class mail matter. Up to date, only the magazine publisher's have been hit; but there is a constant agitation to raise the rate on newspapers and periodicals from one to one and a half cents a pound; and to gradually advance it to two cents a pound. The press of the country may have plenty of organizations and associations, but when it comes down to a real practical plan of operation that has preparedness in its own business, the newspaper publishers of the country present about as poor a front as any class of business men in the country.

Leak Investigation

The congressional investigation of the alleged leak, upon which Wall Street benefitted from advance information regarding the President's foreign policy, appears to be another case of "much ado about nothing." Doubtless the courses of information developed by the Wall Street brokers have been abused, thereby betraying the confidence of Washington officials. The disclosures that have come to light through the investigation will likely safeguard high officials in the future. Beyond that, the investigation was of very small value, and the great sensation promised by Thomas W. Lawson failed to materialize.

Stamped Envelopes Advanced

Uncle Sam has become a victim of the increased cost of paper, which his Federal Trade Commission is trying very hard to regulate.

The increase in the cost of envelopes per thousand will average forty-three cents, and postmasters throughout the country have been notified that they must raise the price in order to relieve the Government of any burden from this source.

The Heathen Chinese

It has been discovered that the Oriental laundryman is rapidly becoming a middleman, and that the practice now prevails by which he accumulates laundry into a heterogeneous pile of soiled clothes, which are sent to the big steam laundries. The picturesque oral fountain by which the Yellow Peril formerly dampened linen for ironing is still in operation, as the steam laundries return the clothes wet, and John Chinaman spends his time in drying and ironing out the laundry.

The pathogenic germs of the Chinese Laundry still thrive in the wash.

Romantic Values

A rich property owner of Washington has some century-old oak trees on his property, and a new road cutting through the place calls for the space occupied by some of these horticultural antiquities. The owner of the property declares that he would not part with the trees for \$5,000 apiece, and the District Councilor objected that such a price was entirely romantic.

It is the same with art treasures, and rare, old paintings that have a value fixed on them of hundreds of thousands of dollars they do not, as a matter of fact, represent much from the viewpoint of intrinsic value. Keepsakes that have come down through generations are invaluable, like the old trees mentioned at the opening of this paragraph, when it comes to compensating one for their destruction, then who is to determine what the price shall be?

If your store is better now than it ever was before, your advertising should be, too.

USE "BULLET-PROOF" ROOMS

"Safety First" for Hotel Guests Advised Feature of Nogales, Tex., Hosteleries.

Bullet-proof rooms are an advertised feature of certain hotels in Nogales, Tex., according to A. Emerson Jones of Minneapolis, a Raleigh guest, the Washington Post states. "The El Paso and Southwestern railroad," he said, "runs through the city, just as the New York Central runs through Syracuse, dividing the city into two sections. But on the southern side lies Mexico, and during the many days of distress the zip of bullets was a familiar sound to Nogales people and to strangers within their gates. Enterprising hotel folk conceived the idea of making their guests safe by shielding their southern exposure rooms with sheet iron, and were not slow to advertise this 'safety first' thought. Consequently the hosteleries not so enterprising were speedily depopulated.

SIZE OF DANISH WEST INDIES

Doubt as to the Exact Area of the Three Principal Islands.

Authorities have disagreed as to the area of the Danish West Indies. Even as to the three main islands—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix—there is no agreement on the question of area, the National Geographic Magazine states. In order to get a definite statement as to their size, planimeter measurements of them were made on hydrographic charts in the offices of the National Geographic society in Washington, and they show that St. Thomas is 28.25 square miles and St. John 19.97 miles in area, making a total of 132.47 square miles for the three islands. Some authorities give the area as 138 and some others as 142 square miles.

GERMS THAT COMBAT DISEASE.

By a coincidence the death of Sir Victor Horsley occurred the day following that of Metchnikoff, whose momentous discovery that the white corpuscles had the power to destroy certain disease-producing microbes, profoundly influenced the great surgeon-neurologist's views on total abstinence. Experiments carried out after Metchnikoff's discovery convinced Sir Victor that the consumption of alcohol "even in tiny quantities," lowered the body's resistance to disease. The "good phagocytes, whose duty it is to play the sentinel and destroy noxious bacilli, became temporarily paralyzed under the influence of a very small amount of alcohol, and this, in the opinion of Sir Victor Horsley, sufficiently explained much chronic ill health and infectious diseases.—London Chronicle.

NYASSA.

With Nyassa we have sentimental as well as political links, for its discovery was made by Livingstone, and it was British power that put an end to the Arab slave trading on its shores. Our rule began with the African Lake corporation 38 years ago, afterward merged into a British protectorate. In 1895 the protectorate was split into two—one becoming the province of Northeastern Rhodesia and the other Nyassaland. Everybody agrees that the possibilities of this region, with its lofty heights and tropical luxuriance, make it a country as desirable as the world can show for the pioneering spirit.—London Chronicle.

BLIND ENERGETIC READERS.

Blind readers of the Braille and Moon type in all parts of the country are keeping pace with the war, reading editorials, studying maps and familiarizing themselves with the situation through the instrumentality of the department for the blind of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Two magazines, printed in embossed type, are being distributed by the library free of charge.

Suffrage Department

CONDUCTED BY Mrs. Anna Cadogan Etz Update Woman Suffrage Press

To the man who used to scoff at suffrage street meetings, and ask, "What would you do in time of war?" the speaker in the light of subsequent events might well have answered, "What couldn't I do?" A recent dispatch tells of a lot of women carpenters being sent from England into France for war reserve.

If the Congressional Record, which is supposed to be an accurate report of the happenings in Congress is in fact, as The Searchlight on Congress says fifty per cent false. If it is true that fully half of it consists of speeches never read or spoken in the House, and in the final edition the reader cannot tell the true from the false, then it is not for men to lecture on the inherent dishonesty of women who may well retort, "Set us a good example, Brother, and we may improve."

Gone into the limbo of forgotten things in Europe is the pre-bellum doctrine that a woman's place is in the home. If the decrees of statesmen are to be heeded, woman's place is in the factory where she will find nurseries to care for her children, restaurants to supply her family with food, and even beds in which she may sleep. According to the report in Jus Suffragii, woman may now live and die in the factory quite as their paternal ancestors lived and died in the home. But surely to women cannot be charged this ruin of domestic life.

The women of Colorado have formulated eighteen bills for women and children that they wish to get through the Legislature. They want the children out of the best fields; they want an illegitimate child to have a father as well as a mother. They want a minimum wage commission and a lot of other things.

The vote is no magic lantern that brings results without working for them if it were Colorado would have had many of these laws long ago. But experience has shown that an easy way to the ear of the lawmaker is the ability to vote for or against him on election day.

Suffragists note with pleasure any new departure made by a suffrage state along the road of social progress. This time it is the fact that the State of Wyoming is the first state, as far as the writer in The Survey knows, that has given a prisoner a psychological examination before judge and jury. It proved that a murderer's mental age was that of a child between six and seven and resulted in a verdict of insanity on the first ballot. If this system had been followed in New York State great sums of money due to delays and repeated trials of feeble minded law breakers might have been saved.

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Mrs. F. L. PARNELL, 103 Forest Ave., Jamestown, N. Y., says: "I have used 'Favorite Prescription' off and on ever since I was a girl. I heard of it through a relative who had used it. I have used it eighteen years. At first it was taken to correct a run-down condition and weakness. It helped me so much that I learned to depend on it, and when not feeling well I take it to strengthen me and tone up my system. It has never disappointed me and I think more of it now than ever."

Many New York women, both young and old, have experienced much misery and suffering and have been cured. Middle aged women about to experience those dreaded changes of life, should profit by the experience of thousands of noble women who have gone through the same period with little or no pain, misery or discomfort.

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Dr. Pierce's Pellets clear the complexion.

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