

THE AGE-HERALD

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The devil understands Welsh; and 'tis no marvel he's so humorous.

—Henry IV.

BEGINNING THE DAY—My God, I can do so little; I have so little strength and so little time and so little wisdom and so little grace. Help me, then, to put my little exactly where it belongs, to do just the thing which Thou hast for me. Guide me every day, and give me a closer ear for Thy faintest whisper. In Christ's name. Amen.—H. M. E.

Building Activities This Year

During the present year there will be much activity in the building trades here. Many large mercantile structures are planned, and hundreds of residences are in prospect. Work on some of the projected buildings will not be started until the latter part of the year; but now is the very best time to build.

Material is cheaper today than it will be six months hence and labor is more plentiful. Any building to cost approximately \$5000 can be erected for at least 20 per cent less now than it can be when everything in the building line is rushed.

According to all expectations, the year 1915 will be one of exceptional prosperity, and just as soon as the various branches of industrial enterprise show a marked improvement the house building record here will rise to the highest notch.

The prudent man who has money to pay for a home or to invest in tenement property will not hesitate long in awarding a building contract. By getting ahead of those who postpone building operations he will save enough money to furnish his house handsomely. A word to the wise should be sufficient.

An Army Reserve

Secretary of War Garrison is earnestly endeavoring to increase the efficiency of the army, and next to strengthening the coast artillery his desire is to create a reservist force of 25,000 men available for mobilization. In presenting his views to the military committee of the Senate he has made a strong impression, and since he explains that a reservist branch of the army—a body of trained soldiers made up of men who had served terms of enlistment as regulars, would involve no annual expenditure, his plan will doubtless be adopted. The reservist would only be paid when he was called out for field duty.

This reservist force would not minimize the value or the standing of the national guard. The guard numbers now about 110,000 men. It is smaller numerically than it was several years ago but in discipline and efficiency it is on a much higher level and is more closely related to the regular army than ever before. With the coast artillery increased by several thousand men, with a reservist force of 25,000 and the continued efficiency of the national guard the military preparedness of the United States in the event of threatened invasion would be greatly advanced.

The Chamberlain bill now before the Senate embodies Secretary Garrison's ideas. It should be enacted into law with little delay.

The Newspaper Man

In a recent address before Yale students Irvin S. Cobb, the humorist and war correspondent, said that there is no such thing as a born writer. "I don't believe any literary rooster was ever hatched that could crow the day he pipped the shell," continued Mr. Cobb. "I do think there are some who are born not to be writers. Writing is a trade to be learned—like bricklaying, for instance. As in any other trade, some learn it faster and some learn it better than others."

Not being a college graduate himself, Mr. Cobb is a good example of the successful newspaper man who learned the "trade" by experience, although no one who has ever read his

best work will doubt but that he had gifts to start with which he has since developed.

Mr. Cobb does not think a college education necessary to the making of a good newspaper writer, although he regrets missing the training and the experiences it would have given him at an impressionistic age. Neither does he scorn the school of journalism, as a great many old fashioned newspaper men do. He thinks that a young man prepared for the "newspaper game" in a school of journalism "would stand a better chance eventually of becoming a finished newspaper man than one of 'equal ability who had not taken such a course.'"

"One of the best features of a course in journalism," declares Mr. Cobb, "is that it is good as an antidote for too much study of English. The tendency of many courses in literature is to give the idea that the English language is an end and not a means. Furthermore, he thinks that good reporters are scarce and the good reporter's best asset is a good memory."

These facts have been brought out before but are interesting as coming from a man who has just won fresh laurels as a war correspondent after having established himself as a humorist and writer of some of the best short stories produced in this country in a decade.

Diversification and Farm Settlers

Few immigrants have settled in the south in recent years but many northern families have sought homes in this section. The Illinois Central railroad alone has done a good work in inducing homeseekers to buy farms in Alabama and Mississippi.

The cheapness of lands in this state, compared with the price of lands in the north, together with the fertility of the soil and our favorable climatic conditions should make it easy to bring farm settlers here.

The work of filling up the waste places will be greatly advanced when crop diversification is fully developed. Several large tracts of land in Alabama have been purchased recently and divided into 40-acre farms. A thrifty northern farmer who understands intensive agriculture can make a 40-acre tract well improved pay for itself in three or four years, and in 10 years he will be known as a rich man in his community.

Truck farming and poultry farming in Alabama are still in their infancy. The few who have given much attention to poultry have found it exceptionally profitable. The crop diversification campaign now in progress will be pushed, and the result will be a great increase of wealth in Alabama. And in connection with that campaign the state's immigration department and the state's agricultural department should co-operate with the railroads and with the farm committee of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in an effort to make Alabama one of the greatest agricultural states in the union.

Effect of Sentiment on Business

The word psychology has been overworked in these recent years. Psychology as a science will always be studied in the class room, but its common use as applied to every phase of life and to every crisis in the world's affairs often makes one smile.

No one, however, will gainsay the fact that sentiment or psychology or attitude of mind plays a helpful part in business recovery after a period of depression. But for the optimistic sentiment manifested by many industrial and financial leaders, the business depression of last fall would have been more serious than it was. The hopeful views expressed from time to time and the optimistic forecasts of industrial revival, have had practical results.

Business is improving steadily, and the more sentiment there is on the side of continued recovery the more rapid will be the approach of a new era of prosperity.

Two months ago it was quite usual to hear prophets of prosperity say that in the near future all the wheels of industry in important manufacturing centers would be humming. Since the holidays concrete facts have been in evidence from day to day showing that the business situation has actually improved.

Those who have been predicting that prosperity would be in full swing in all parts of the country before the end of the first half of the year will see their prediction fulfilled.

An Ohio legislator would like to see the railroads compelled to clean the upholstery in their cars. The people who scatter billboards over the landscape should be interested in legislation to make railroads clean their car windows so passengers can look out.

Herr Ridder says German-American citizens should organize. Herr Ridder seems to forget that this war won't last forever, and when it is ended German-American citizens who have lost their heads will be at a serious disadvantage in this country.

Professor Taft continues to wear the smile that won't come off, but a certain distinguished citizen of Oyster Bay is still frowning.

It is reported that immense herds of caribou, such as once roamed the forests of Maine, may again be found in that state after a few years. Hunting guides and game wardens in the northern part of Maine and along the Canadian border state that evidences of caribou in increasing numbers have been found. Such stories have been current for the past two years. Herbert Spencer, a warden who is located near the St. John waters, says he observed a herd of about 30 caribou in a certain section on the Maine side of the St. Lawrence river. They belonged to the woodland variety which do not wander as much as the Newfoundland caribou. Mr. Spencer thinks this herd has increased from a smaller herd of six or seven animals which he saw six years ago. Game officials are in doubt as to whether the herd has survived from the caribou that were at one time plentiful in Maine, or whether they have encroached on the Maine border from New Brunswick.

The West Hartlepool citizen who died of shock following the bombardment by German cruisers was arguing with his wife that such a thing couldn't possibly happen when a shell passed through his house. No wonder he gave up the ghost!

Bleese disbanded the militia of South Carolina one week before going out of office. He seems determined to free everybody in the state whose personal liberty is in any way restricted.

President Poincare says he can see the end of the war within a year, which goes to show that Poincare is either the most far-sighted man of his time or that the French have invented a 42 centimeter telescope.

Turpentine is dangerous to handle, and that is one of the reasons why it isn't being used more in the war. The man behind the gun should be protected as much as possible.

Some advertiser overlooked a bet when he failed to get the brand of cigarette the captain of the formidable was smoking as his ship went down.

A fancier has succeeded in producing a chicken with legs so short it seems to be sitting. A chicken like that isn't apt to wander far from home.

The airmen are getting busy in Europe again, and John Bull is beginning to quake once more at the prospect of a Zeppelin invasion.

The creole drama of Argentina is being rapidly developed, but it is not the sort of entertainment that appeals to the tired business man.

The Nobel peace prize is going begging this year. Why not give it to Secretary Daniels for his efforts to perfect a lady-like navy?

With Mexico, Haiti, and San Domingo in form the old world is making considerably more than 365 revolutions a year.

A Michigan legislator wants the United States to buy Mexico from General Villa. And we call a man like that a "solon."

The suffragettes would no doubt like to make their tireless adversary, J. Thomas Hefflin, the stepson of his country.

It's an ill wind that blows no good; even high wheat prices may help to develop corn fed girls.

Sing Sing, according to the latest reports, is nothing less than a prison full of plety.

THE MATES OF WARRIORS

From "The Sword of Youth," by James Lane Allen, in the Century Magazine.

For are not the most beautiful generations of the women of any race produced during its long heroic wars? Is it not what women think of distant fighting men that alone carries their natures to certain loftiest ranges of human expression? Not such beauty as comes to other women from thoughts of God—women whose brows, dedicated to heaven, have the pitifulness of blanched flowers; whose eyes are ever turned toward the dust as though the bold, burning sun were too human a light, and these could be opened wide and unafraid only in dark places before the unsundered radiance of silver lamps. But beauty which answers with frank and full understanding to all there is in the eyes of men, when these come home to them, as their saviors and lovers, from battle plains where blood ran reddest and fiercest near the very vine presses of death and the young vineyards of life. Is it nature's compensation to women for their passionate willingness to carry on war that they can yet win its victories as the mates of warriors, who after the lapse of a hundred centuries are still to them the foremost and the fullest of men?

IF ITALY SHOULD FIGHT

Frank Simonds in the New Republic.

If Italy should enter the war there would be an instant moral effect which might bring peace. If this failed, Germany would be forced to surrender her offensive on both fronts and probably to evacuate not alone Poland and Belgium, but East Prussia and her trans-Rhenane territories. Prolongation of the war would probably destroy the Austrian empire, but Germany might endure all and continue to the end, confident that the dissolution of Austria must be the first step in a still more complete unification of the Germans of Europe.

For Italy this last consideration might well make her continued neutrality, for if Austria vanished, she would have to face a greater Germany determined to retake Trieste and obtain a window on the Adriatic, and at the same time a southern Slav nation, eager to win back Dalmatia, ready to challenge Italy's title to Albania.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

From the Chicago News.

Some women act as if they had a monopoly on goodness.

The hard part about an easy job is getting there.

Satan never offers to go into partnership with a busy man.

Men love women less than they love to have women love them.

Lazy people usually work overtime when it comes to giving advice.

But the income of every married man is already taxed to the limit.

IN HOTEL LOBBIES

Diversified Farming in DeKalb

"The farmers of my county are already giving attention to diversified crops," said S. B. Loyd, merchant and farmer of Dawson, DeKalb county. "What we need is better markets for our surplus."

"On the fertile heights of the Sand mountain country, we grow corn, oats, peas and soybeans, and make good cotton crops. Our county has a large surplus crop this year of corn. Now, I am only offered on Morris avenue, 71 cents per bushel for corn delivered. It will cost me 11 cents for sacking and freight thus showing only 60 cents net for it. That is entirely too low with the markets for grain as high as they are quoted in the west."

"We are raising some stock but not many cattle. My brother has 11 Berkshire brood sows and he gets 55 apiece for his pigs."

"Cotton seed is bringing \$21 per ton; cotton 7 1/2 cents. Sorghum has a local market of 40 cents, but it is limited."

The Local Orchestra Movement

"I was glad to read in The Age-Herald that the local musician's union, officially known as the Birmingham Musical association, had taken steps to organize a large concert orchestra," said an old music lover. "There is to be an adjourned meeting next Sunday afternoon, at which officers of the orchestra association will be elected. One good feature of the plan is an invitation to amateur performers, as well as union musicians to join the orchestra."

"I was a member of the Orchestral association about 14 years ago with Mr. Guckenberger as director, Mr. Lesser as president, and Prof. Grambs as vice president. The players were selected from the best material available, and if I remember aright there were just 20. We had exactly 20 rehearsals and then gave one concert in the O'Brien opera house. The programme was quite attractive, and included a Haydn symphony. But the performance was poorly attended and the orchestra never attempted to give another."

"The situation has greatly improved since then. Birmingham has more than quadrupled and the orchestral talent has increased steadily. We should be able now to start with a fairly good orchestra of 35 or 40. We may be lacking in violas and French horns, and two or three other instruments, but after the orchestra is formed the needed instruments will possibly be found before a great while."

"We should be able to have a few Sunday afternoon concerts by the orchestra in the early spring. Sunday is the only day that professional musicians in large numbers can be assembled together."

Growth of Fraternal Orders

"As seen from the statistics of fraternal organizations published in the New York World Almanac for 1915, there has been growth in membership in all of them," said a well known fraternity man. "For a long time the Masons in the United States and Canada numbered the Odd Fellows, but a year or two ago the Odd Fellows got in the lead. In the new table of statistics, however, the Masons have first place again. The membership of the Masonic lodges of the United States and Canada totaled, according to the last official reports of grand lodges, 1,871,427. The Odd Fellows in the United States and Canada had a total membership of 1,609,096."

"The Modern Woodmen of America came next with 968,159 members. Next came the Knights of Pythias with 725,009."

"The World Almanac foots up the membership of all the orders and gives a total of 15,674,220. Many belong to two or more orders. I once belonged to five. But America is pre-eminently the country of fraternal societies."

Picture Shows Hold Public

"Picture shows still hold with the public," said E. N. Colley, "because of the high class of entertainment at a minimum cost to see. When the first pictures were shown 'twas claimed that the flickering lights injured children's eyes. All this has been removed."

"Another strong feature in a city such as Birmingham is many visitors wish to rest and to be entertained for an hour. Then many business men need the relaxation at the noon hour. When we stop to consider the comfort of a well appointed picture show its shelter and warmth on cold or rainy days, we then see the reason that the picture shows still hold their own."

Prosperity in the West

"Cities in the west felt little of the business depression prevailing last fall, and for the past seven or eight weeks most of them have been enjoying a solid boom," said H. P. Ainsworth of Philadelphia.

"I was in San Francisco in December and found prosperity greatly in evidence there, and Seattle where I stopped for a day seemed to be thriving as never before."

"In Chicago I found business 'spotty.' Some lines of trade and manufacturing enterprise were up to normal, but others were still dull. Everybody in Chicago, however, talked as if a great rush of business was expected in the spring after the lakes were open for navigation."

"There is more business activity in St. Louis than there is in Chicago. In fact, St. Louis seems not to have been much affected by the general depression. I have been in business for 22 years, and in taking a survey at this time I feel I make no mistake in predicting genuine prosperity in every section in the very near future."

An Early Spring

"We have had as much winter during the past eight weeks as we usually have in an entire season, but I believe we will have an early spring," said an old citizen who claims to be weatherwise. "I predict that we will have one hard freeze in the last week of January, and one and only one in February. Ground hog day will be cloudy, or rather that is my forecast. If it is raw and gloomy the ground hog will stay out of his hole, and that will indicate the winter is almost gone."

CHINA'S MIGHTY POPULATION

From "Civilization in China," by H. A. Giles.

The population of China has never been exactly ascertained. The latest census, taken in 1922, is said to yield a total of 410,000,000. Perhaps 300,000,000 would be a more nearly correct estimate; even that would absorb no less than one-fifth of the human race. From this total it is easy to estimate that if the Chinese people were to march past a given point in single file the procession would never end; long before the last of the 300,000,000 had passed by a new generation would have sprung up to continue the endless line.

WAR ECHOES

Philadelphia Evening Ledger: An American steel company has refused an order for 100,000 aeroplane darts for the use of the French. The Evening Ledger published a picture of this new instrument of warfare recently. It is about eight inches long, so grooved that it falls point down, and would, it is said, if it hit a man square on the top of the head, go straight through him lengthwise. The order was rejected "for reasons of neutrality." It might just as well have been rejected for reasons of humanity. The whole world shuddered when bombs were dropped on Antwerp. Since then men have become accustomed to such outrages, which apparently have been perpetrated by Germans and allies alike. We can conceive of no emergency which justify the use of aeroplane darts, resistless and death-dealing. They can serve no military purpose. As well poison the water supply. As the war progresses cruelty becomes more and more the vogue, although the world has been so shocked by outrages that they are accepted as a matter of course.

Pittsburg Dispatch: While there may be a certain lack of subjects on which to praise the course of the Austro-Hungarian military reporters was a decided distinction by giving the truth and telling the true reason for what was done. The Vienna report of the movements in the Carpathians struck an unwelcome degree of frankness by declaring that "regard for the safety of our advance troops obliged us to fall back on the principal mountain passes."

This is a violation of military precedent that the neutral world can heartily applaud. Regard for the welfare of the common soldiers has not characterized this war as a rule. But to assign it as a cause for retreating exhibits a novel combination of tender-heartedness and veracity. It is alleged that the Russian reporters of war news have not informed that empire of Hindenburg's victory at Tannenberg. French and German reports have adopted high-sounding paraphrases to cover up the confession of a retreat. When Austria says that they fell back out of regard for the safety of the troops she indulges in a frankness that is not less laudable by reason of its infrequency. Yet why should the military empires not tell the truth? Experience shows that the neutral countries may retard it in reaching their own people. But when the latter finally do get the facts, the longer the delay, the more complete the destruction of confidence in the official news.

ALABAMA PRESS

Talladega Home: Greenville merchants are practicing what the entire south has been preaching. They are insisting that farmers to whom they make advances cut the cotton acreage and plant increased food crops. This plan adopted in every southern town will put cotton up after it is planted and it is demonstrated that the acreage is cut.

Mobile Register: The latest suggestion is a railroad be built from Birmingham to the Warrior, a distance of 30 miles, cutting the route to tidewater in half. The investments would be \$1,000,000, but is believed would pay directly and indirectly better than any other million dollars in any industry in the mineral region. Looks good to us.

Decatur Daily: The federated women's clubs of the state will probably secure the child reform legislation they are asking for, if it becomes necessary to use a hairpin to get it.

Huntsville Mercury-Banner: Mr. Henderson is correct when he says his election was an expression of the will of the people of the state. He stood firmly on a local option platform and defeated his opponents—Seed, a pronounced prohibitionist, and Comer, who wobbled between the two—by a large majority.

A REAL WOMAN SOLDIER

From the New York World.

No Memorial Day parade will again see the familiar figure of Kady Brownell marching in the ranks of the civil war veterans. It is almost 53 years since as a bride of 18 she insisted upon going to the front as a member of her husband's regiment, the First Rhode Island volunteers. It is only a few months less than that since she was wounded in the field and later won national fame by her gallant conduct under fire at the battle of Newbern, in North Carolina.

Kady Brownell was not the traditional Amazon, the fierce fighting female who disguises herself in a man's costume and makes a male of herself. She wore her own woman's uniform of blue flannel blouse, full short skirt and boots. She went armed and was a crack shot. It stands to her record that she was the only woman member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The test testimony to the bravery of this girl soldier is General Burnside's letter, in which he says: "Mrs. Brownell was with my command during the campaign in North Carolina, and by her services on the battlefield of Newbern and in the hospital located there saved many officers and soldiers from death." No woman was ever less heroic in appearance or more feminine in manner, but Kady Brownell stood the test that the army required of its men in years of hard campaigning.

TRAINING WOMEN FOR WAR

Frances Frear in Leslie's.

English women do not intend to go to the front, but it is planned to so organize them that they may take the place and do the work of men who can then be sent to the front. At a meeting held at the Mansion house in London, the Women's Volunteer reserve was organized, the object of which is, according to the lord mayor, to provide a trained and highly efficient body of women whose services can be offered to the state if required. Among the things which women may be trained to do as effectively as men, are signaling, dispatch riding, telegraphing, motoring, and camp cooking, thus releasing an equal number of men for service on the firing line. In case of a German invasion of England, which is not beyond the range of possibility, it is probable that these women will be armed for the defence of their homes. No experience could be harder for women than to sit at home with folded hands while their loved ones have gone to the front to suffer or to die. Woman has always done her part in time of war, in nursing the wounded and carrying on the work at home, but the organization of the women of England into a volunteer reserve force to serve in case their country is invaded, brings home the awful realities of war as nothing else has done.

ADRIFT WITH THE TIMES

A SAD STORY OF LIFE.

A member of the chorus
Who visited a seer
Was told that in six months she would
Be married to a peer.

Such talk should be discounted.
It leads young girls astray.
This maiden bought a lot of things
For which she could not pay.

And when she'd hoped to marry
Her luck was very poor.
For she was doing one-night stands
She'd never done before.

And no one said, "My lady,
His lordship waits below."
Instead she warbled ragtime songs
And critics panned the show.

SOMETIMES.

"There are exceptions to all rules."
"For instance?"

"Sometimes the best dressed woman in town has a husband who is the best dressed man."

ONE BLESSING.

"Poor Mopson! All his political dreams have come to naught."
"Well, a man can't have everything he wants in this world. Mopson has had the same cook for 10 years."

ORNITHOLOGICAL PREFERENCES.

A sparrow I would like to be
For I could eat my fill,
And loaf around in some big tree
And never pay a bill.

—Detroit Journal.

A robin I would like to be,
To come forth ere I burst
With food, and hear one claim that he
Alone has seen me first!

—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

An eagle I would like to be,
I rise to wildly holler,
So people would be glad to see
My likeness on a dollar.

—Youngstown Telegram.

But there's one bird I'd hate to be
And that's the dove of peace,
Because, as far as I can see,
Its troubles never cease.

SIMILAR EXPERIENCES.

"Why are you so anxious to meet
The man who has been to France?"

"Why are you so anxious to meet
The man who has been to France?"

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The man who has been to France?"

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