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THE LUSITANIA HORROR.

A British coronor's jury has found that the sinking by a German submarine of the Cunarder, Lusitania, last Friday with its more than twelve hundred human lives, was an appalling crime...

This does not over-state the case. It was the appalling crime of the century, thus far. The great majority of lives lost were of non-combatants, men, women and children.

Their slaughter was without effort at rescue, and was contrary to international law—in times of peace.

But these are times of war, and international law and the conventions do not seem to play a very conspicuous part in this war. In fact international law seems to have been more honored in the breach than in the observance...

On the 7th of February Germany gave notice to the civilized nations of the world that on the 18th of that month it would draw a war zone around the British Isles, and that it would, with sub-marines, attempt to destroy British commerce.

Since that day German sub-marines have destroyed twenty-nine vessels engaged in carrying contraband of war.

The Lusitania was loaded with war munitions and other contraband freight. It is presumed that Germany had information concerning the nature of its cargo.

But the great body of passengers felt secure in spite of German warnings. They reasoned that this great ship with its water-tight compartments was bomb-proof.

Some three weeks ago an English gentleman who had passed the winter in Putnam county, started for New York, intending to sail about the middle of May for England. Asked if he didn't think he was taking a big risk, he replied: "No more than in starting on a trip from here to Jacksonville."

Nothing more was said. To engage in an argument with a man holding such opinions is worse than useless.

Perhaps he has changed his mind by this time. Sub-marines and bomb-dropping airships and some of the other devices used in this European conflict are new in modern warfare, but all the nations have them—and they are all using them.

That the United States will do more than to denounce Germany for its inhuman slaughter of non-combatants, is not likely. Germany served this government due notice of its purpose to crush British trade in contraband war materials. It served notice to all nations whose people would take pleasure trips under the British flag. It warned them against such trips.

In spite of this warning a great many Americans have gone to their death. They did not realize the full meaning of war.

ITALY READY FOR THE WAR.

The present combatants entered the man-slaughter, their motives well-qualified with cloaks of hypocrisy and their moral sense padded with the lies of their red books, yellow papers, white books, and blue papers.

There will be no cheap relation of Teutonic aggression, no sniveling claims of self-defense, no parade of self-righteous necessity. Italy believing her neighbor, Austria, to be prostrate, will, if she enters the war, simply pick the pockets of the slain on yesterday's battlefield.

It is true that Trieste and the Adriatic littoral were long since wrested from her by force. Two wrongs do not make a right; but two wrongs will ensure a third wrong. The crime that Britain committed against the French on the Plains of Abraham, and in the Arcadian Valley of Nova Scotia cannot now be righted.

The crime that the United States committed against Mexico in Texas cannot be corrected by another outrage.

New generations cannot by self-

immolation on the altar of war revive the carcasses of past slain generations.

The great Austrian population of Trieste and the neighboring provinces cannot by their enforced slavery now atone for the wrongs Austria inflicted on past Italian peoples.

The neutrality of Italy does her credit. Having escaped so far from participation in the horrible plague, she would be hard pressed to discover an excuse for "coming in at the death," or what she conceived to be the death, the better to part the garments of the crucified victim.

That Italy should be armed and ready for self-defense in her present juxtaposition to the raging conflict is only prudent. But that her wise statesmen and the apostle of peace in the Vatican should have difficulty in restraining her brutal, revengeful, self-seeking, cowardly jingoisms (every nation has them), attests anew the horror of war's contagion.

The dispatches picture to us whole populations of this neutral country, safely at peace, frothing at the mouth to kill, kill, kill! To slay and to plunder, bah! what a beast man is when he is a beast!

BURTON CRITICISES EXCHANGE METHODS.

At a meeting held on Saturday, May 1st, the citrus fruit growers in and about Leesburg formally withdrew from the Florida Citrus Exchange and organized the Leesburg Citrus Growers' Association, which is to affiliate with the Lake County Growers' Association, and is to take over the property of the Florida Citrus Exchange and continue handling the fruit of that section, or county, and in a manner which it is hoped will bring better prices.

In an interview with the Leesburg Commercial of the 7th inst. Mr. Burton says:

"For six years a large part of the fruit in Lake County has been marketed through the Florida Citrus Exchange, heretofore the only growers marketing organization in the State. For five years the work of that excellent organization was constructive. In Lake County alone splendid association packing houses have been erected and equipped at Tavares, Eustis, Umatilla, and Leesburg.

"This practise converted these magnificent packing houses into a liability instead of an asset, hence we have been in this county with unwarranted, unprecedented condition, viz: that of seeing speculators and other operators paying from the opening to the closing of the season more money per box for fruit out of the organization than the associated growers could net under the new policy practised by the Exchange.

"This new policy of the Exchange which has proven so disastrous and caused widespread dissatisfaction throughout the State is due to a change in the management of the Exchange which has placed its destiny in the hands of inexperienced men whose purposes are good but who really do not know marketing Florida citrus fruits.

"The world is war-mad. If it can honorably do so the United States should stay out of this maelstrom. If self-respect demands war, let us fight. The press of Florida as a unit will uphold you in your trying position."

"A contract under which they are organizing gives assurances of a com-

petent selling agency, reserving to the grower the fullest individual action in handling his own affairs."

THE DIVINITY OF KINGS.

As a nation, from our president down, we are trying desperately to remain neutral, and in this condition of would-be neutrality, it is interesting to read the comments of a neutral princess, the Infanta Eulalia of Spain, on the kaiser and the German court life.

I had known him years before as Prince Wilhelm, simple, unaffected, joyous. Then he became crown prince, and I noted a change. His manner became more imperious, less spontaneous. I felt that he was schooling himself, holding himself in check, aware of the burden of coming responsibilities, fearing, yet longing for, the golden irksomeness of the imperial crown.

The New Smyrna Breeze has just celebrated its twenty-ninth birthday, eighteen of which have been passed under the able editorial management of J. J. Birch. A fine, breezy newspaper and a credit to any town.

Says Viscount Haldane: "A great democratic advance and a great moral advance will result from the war." This may be, my lord; but what we can't get through our heads, is why the delay in bringing on so admirable and so profitable a war?

A bill has passed the House of Representatives which, if it becomes law, will prohibit negroes from practicing law in Florida. It is said that in the case of a similar law in Virginia, which was contested before the United States court on the ground of being unconstitutional, that the court held the law valid on the ground that the right to practice law was not inherent.

Gilbert D. Leach, for a long time associated with the editorial department of the Tampa Tribune, has taken over the editorial management of the Leesburg Commercial, and that paper of the 7th inst. makes its appearance under the new order, greatly improved in appearance and matter. In fact it is a new paper under an old name.

Editor Chris. O. Coddington of the DeLand News, as president of the Florida Press Association, sent a long telegram to President Wilson on Monday, assuring him of the support of the association, whether it be peace or war. The following is the telegram: "The world is war-mad."

Gov. Trammell has vetoed a bill giving Duval county additional judges and creating an additional circuit composed of Putnam, St. Johns and Clay counties. The bill was opposed by a large majority of the Putnam county bar for precisely the same reasons given by Gov. Trammell in his veto—the additional expense of \$8,000 to the State and lack of need.

Two or three of the big fertilizer companies who do business in the State and who tried to put one over Capt. R. E. Rose, Florida's efficient State Chemist, by trying to get a bill through the legislature abolishing the elective feature of that office, have evidently given it up as a bad job.

"Mr. Wall is a highly educated business man who has not only been very successful in building his own business, but has also always found ample time to aid in hundreds of ways the upbuilding of his native state and especially the section in which he lives."

cumbent, in which event he will probably succeed in landing it. McRae is a politician of the machine order, and the people are fast getting on to his curves.

The Davis package bill is about the most discussed piece of legislation that has passed this session, and the views concerning it are varying. But the liquor men themselves have the most correct view of the probable effects of the measure.

Our two representatives at Tallahassee, Hon. Newton and Griffin placed themselves squarely on record on the Davis bill, as they did on the submission act as favorable to both. Our Senator Donegan supported the act to submit a prohibition amendment to the people, but was one of the eleven to vote against the Davis restrictive act.

On the other hand, Senator Donegan voted for the bill to let the people decide, but voted against the bill to have the legislature decide. Senator Davis evidently believes in "local government," and would not permit the people of the State to say how the State should be governed.

Senator Johnson, said to be the son of a Methodist preacher, eating of the bread of the body that is against the saloon and stands for prohibition, sends out a loud scree explaining and defending his vote against submitting to the people.

Senator Zim, disciple of the laboring man, doesn't want the laboring man's morals protected by the legislature, but does want every other sort of protection.

Mill Supplies, a monthly journal "of quality" devoted to the interests of jobbers and manufacturers of mill, steam, mine and machinery supplies, published in Chicago, has in its number for the current month an able article under the above heading by Elmer Crawford, which we give in full below:

"We are credibly informed that the Honorable Perry G. Wall, of Tampa, Florida, has been prevailed upon by his hosts of friends to enter the race for the United States Senate. We hope the report is true.

"The writer has often said that the business men of this nation should arouse themselves from the lethargic attitude they have assumed throughout the political history of this country and help to place solid business men in Congress.

"A large part of the woes complained of by the people of this country may be traced to the iniquitous legislation, or lack of proper laws, emanating from Washington. It is high time for the acrobatic buffoons, who have swarmed for decades about the halls of Congress, to retire and give the people a chance.

"The people of this nation should run the government through representatives, in stead of misrepresentatives, as they have often learned when it was too late to remedy the mistake. They never will get a square deal until the lawyers and special interests grafters are cleaned out of Congress.

"This is a business country and we need business men at Washington to represent the commercial interests of this great nation. We are the commercially supreme nation of the world and it behooves the people of this country to place business men at the head of the affairs of this nation so that we may forge ahead and grasp even greater opportunities than now seem possible to this fortunate placed land.

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SAYS FLORIDA IS BUILDING BAD ROADS Engineering Authority Censures Brick Highways on Sand Foundations as "Least Economical and Logical" for the State.

A regular publicity propaganda is maintained by the brick interests in the various sections of Florida where good roads sentiment is strongest. Inspired newspaper articles stating the advantages of brick for roads are so worded and carry such an impression that in some instances county commissioners have been obliged to declare themselves in favor of brick to save bond issues from defeat.

Brick roads, however, are about the least economical and the least logical that counties and road districts in Florida can put down. While from 50 to 75 per cent of the brick block will last for years, the original cost is high, and the numerous relays make the upkeep very expensive.

When properly constructed these roads last for two or three years without much expense for repair or maintenance. During that time, however, the periodical torrential rains of the region beating down on the brick, force quantities of water through the sand filler into the subgrade, gradually disintegrating and weakening it in spots, so that the surface becomes wavy. Traffic intensifies this condition, until, if the road is to be kept in good condition, it becomes necessary to take up the brick, prepare a new subgrade, and relay the surface, all at an expense approximating 50 to 75 per cent of the entire original cost of the road.

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Business Men For U. S. Senate.

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