

THE NEW YOUNG-OLD MAN AND HIS COUNTRY

By EMERSON HOUGH.

He stepped so silently into the room, advanced so silently to his place at the table that for the moment not all turned to look at him. He had not been invited, was not now announced. But he seemed assured of welcome.

He seemed fit for welcome here. He was tall, hardy in figure and in face, with deep lines showing effort of body and of mind. His hair was not gray, but there was steel in it even now, though he yet was young.

His attitude was easy, simple, not assuming, carrying not the least trace of braggadocio, as he stood before this company where he had not been asked, and took that place which to himself seemed fit for him.

His figure was that of a young man. His skin, smooth and hard-drawn was that of a young man. But his eyes, clear, deep, and bright, bespoke the man who had thought and who held himself competent to think.

His face, astonishingly high bred and lofty, attracted the attention of everyone at the great table. Men turned one to another, whispering:

"He looks like my grandfather!" exclaimed one.
"I was about to say the same of my own," was the reply. They both had ceased to laugh and jest.

It seemed to others that the eyes of the young man himself turned now and again to the pictures that hung upon the wall—pictures of men of another generation. But his own eyes passed on and beyond the wall, as though he looked into another day.

"Who is he?" asked one man of another, now. That question went all about the board. He seemed not arrogant, save as youth and ability always are arrogant. But what did he here?

Strangely men began to look into the great mirrors at each side of the banquet table. Yet more strangely the eyes of the young man also turned to them, somberly, questioningly, as though he saw himself.

He did not speak at first, had not been asked to speak. None the less it seemed that when finally he raised his hand to command attention all were waiting for his voice. He raised his glass, empty. But, as though it had been full of some strong wine, something was giving his voice carry and clearness, his brain directness and composure.

"I have come from another country," said he, simply. "Once I lived at ease as you do. I played with life. I valued not the great things of life. I amused myself. I cared for the small things about me.

"I sought riches because some men called 'supermen' by their fellows had attained riches and were praised for them. I was concerned with the things material of life, the things perishable, that is to say, things having to do with luxury and ease. This made my horizon. I knew no better.

"Now, I come from a far country, my brothers, while yet it is very near. I am a new man, but I am old. I am a stranger but I am your brother. It is as though I were your son, yet also your father and your grandfather, though I am young. Do you read this riddle?

"I come to take you into a new country. I shall speak to you so that in time you shall be as I am now, and I shall be as you ought to be and are not now.

"I am the new man in the world. I came to your table—and I came from your table. I come to your family—and I came of your family. What was my country was yours or is yours now. As my vision is, so yours must be. As my history has been so must yours be—you must put away the little things, you must see the truth and meet it as I have, done.

"You ask, What is my country? You ask, Where is the country to which I summon you?—Look about you.—That country is America!—I myself am born out of it—I am the new man—the American!"

They looked—and he was gone.
Does what he said remain?

POULTRY MAN GIVES ADVICE

The incubator should be ordered six or eight weeks before it is expected to start the lamp going, said a successful poultryman. Many delay ordering until a week or two before the machine is wanted, and are usually disappointed because it does not arrive at the expected time. During the rush season, incubator manufacturers sometimes have more than they can promptly attend to, and some delay in filling orders is unavoidable. The safe way is to order in advance of the breeding season. Another advantage in ordering is that one can take plenty of time to adjust and regulate the machine, and to study the directions for its proper operation.

The kind or type of incubator to buy will often puzzle the beginner. Two systems of heating are employed in the manufacture of incubators—the hot-air system and the hot-water system. In general, it may be stated that either system of heating is satisfactory. I have three hot-water machines and one hot-air machine, and find that one system of heating is not superior to the other. Each system has its advantages, and it may also be stated that each has its disadvantages.

In case the lamp, for any reason, goes out a hot-water machine would hold its heat much longer than would a hot-air machine, but with proper attention the lamp will not go out. I have had a fairly good hatch in a hot-water machine after the lamp was out for ten hours. The hot water in the pipes cools slowly and the heat is retained in the machine. In a hot-air machine, the eggs would likely chill were the machine kept without heat for a few hours. The disadvantage of a hot-water machine is that there is always the danger of the tank or pipes springing a leak and thus ruining the eggs in the machine. The danger from this source is not great, however, if the boiler is kept full of water, and the machine leveled before starting.

In purchasing incubators, many of those who have had no experience in artificial incubation, make the mistake of purchasing machines of small capacity. It is very little more trouble to operate a machine of two-hundred-egg capacity than it is to operate one of fifty-egg capacity, and the cost of fuel in operating the larger machine is very little more. Where one has several large machines a small machine comes in handy in that it enables one to run the large machines at full capacity. I have three machines of 240-egg capacity, and one 50-egg machine. My small machine never hatches an egg. It doesn't get a chance. During the hatching season I fill one of the large machines and the

little machine at the same time. In a week, the eggs in the machines are tested, and usually sufficient infertile eggs, and eggs with dead germs are tested out of the big machine that it can receive all the good eggs from the little one. When this testing is completed, another big machine and the little machine are started simultaneously and the operation repeated. The little machine enables me to run my big machines at full capacity.

We Applaud the Under Dog Because of Our Experience

Our sympathies naturally travel the line of likes; that is, the things we feel in ourselves, we feel in others. We applaud the under dog, because we so often have been the under dog. We like to lift the other fellow up when he is down because we also have been down. Sympathy starts at home—or else it isn't sympathy. Your peevish moods of failure and disappointments are your Under Dogs, in the opinion of George Matthew Adams, a writer for Good Housekeeping.

So instead of walking past these Under Dogs of yours and casting no sympathy their way, pause to give them, your heart and your hope, and soon the picture and fact will be your Over-Dogs—your victories and your genuine achievements.

Courageously cheer the Under Dogs of your experience and stay proudly by them until their fight becomes a factor of your kingship.

Drop Word "German."

For business as well as patriotic reasons, many national banks bearing the word "German" in their titles have recently applied to the controller of the currency for permission to change their names. Their requests will be granted. Most of the institutions known as the "German National Bank of —," want their new name to be the "American National Bank of —."

Worth Knowing.

In a new electric photograph printing machine an automatic switch shuts off the light at a set time, insuring even prints.

Carbonic acid gas is used in a machine of European invention to spray mortar or plaster on a wall and hasten its setting.

A new attachment for fountain pens holds them up at an angle and prevents them spilling ink when laid on horizontal surfaces.

So that a smoker can see what is occurring behind him an English inventor has patented a pipe with small mirrors on the bowl.

\$50,000,000 IN FIRES BY SPIES

All Industries Aiding Country Have Suffered.

BLAZE LOSSES MAKE RECORD

Reach \$267,000,000 in 1917 Against \$225,000,000 in Last Peace Year—Investigations Show That the Enemy Has Been Busy in Every State in the Union—Loss of \$6,000,000 Worth of Grain Laid to Enemy Torch.

Since the United States entered the world war on the side of the allies, the value of the munition factories, grain elevators, stock yards, oil properties, cotton, marine properties, tanneries, and other industries vital to the war efficiency of the nation, which have been destroyed as a result of known incendiary or suspicious origin, is more than \$50,000,000, and of this amount over \$43,000,000 represents fires in which the damage done amounted to \$100,000 or more in each specific instance.

A table has been prepared by the national board of fire underwriters, which gives by months the statistical story of the damage wrought in the United States by enemy incendiaries since April 1, last.

This table shows that the enemy has been busy in every part of the country. In eleven instances the damage done equaled or exceeded \$1,000,000, the most disastrous of the conflagrations being that which in October last destroyed piers and war supplies in Baltimore valued at \$5,500,000.

Only \$100,000 or More.

The grain destroyed by the enemy torch has totaled since we went to war more than \$6,000,000; that of piers and other marine properties over \$5,000,000; the oil and oil products loss has amounted to more than \$6,000,000, while the loss due to incendiaryism on timber lands and in lumber yards reaches a total of over \$6,400,000. All these totals refer only to fires in which the loss was \$100,000 or more.

The total fire losses in 1917 were the greatest of any year in the history of the United States, except 1906, when the great fire which followed the San Francisco earthquake swelled the total for that year to \$450,710,000. The 1917 record exceeds that of 1916 by about \$37,000,000, and that of 1915 by more than \$84,000,000.

The total fire losses in America during 1918, the last peace year, amounted, according to the Journal of Commerce, to about \$225,000,000; in 1914, the first year of the war, to \$230,000,000; in 1915 to \$183,000,000, and in 1916 to \$231,000,000, while in 1917 the losses due to fire, with the figure for December estimated at \$25,000,000 was about \$270,000,000. The difference between the figures for 1918, the last peace year, and 1917 is about \$42,000,000.

Monthly Losses Shown.

The following table shows the monthly losses of the nine war months of 1917, compared with those for the corresponding months in 1916:

Month	1916	1917
April	\$13,681,000	\$15,597,220
May	15,573,500	31,968,500
June	12,247,500	15,513,370
July	23,013,800	14,148,000
August	10,745,000	11,751,100
September	12,244,425	14,100,900
October	17,771,375	20,334,400
November	19,538,450	20,145,000
December	22,063,325	25,000,000
Totals	\$146,568,425	\$182,657,910

There is not a great industry, the continuance of which is essential to the war efficiency of the United States and their allies, which has not suffered as a result of the activities of the enemy agent or his hireling. Included in the long list are tanneries, flour mills, leather factories, coal pockets, car and machine shops, iron mills, navy yard structures, chemical works of all kinds, automobile manufacturing plants, gasolene tanks, food warehouses, woolen mills, stock yards, sugar mills, gun cotton plants, railroad equipment, arsenals, munition plants, tobacco warehouses, cotton gins, cotton warehouses, drydocks, ocean-going shipping, steel mills, army storage warehouses, stables, horses, coke ovens and mine properties.

Cover Whole Country.

The national board of fire underwriters was, at the outbreak of war, asked by the government to co-operate in the effort that the government is making to combat the fire menace. The result has been that the national board has devoted the entire work of a majority of its officials and fire experts to the government service, and its inspectors cover every part of the country, investigating all fires, regardless of whether the properties, damaged or destroyed, are insured or not. These investigations, made in every instance by men expert in fire investigation, show that the loss due to fires of incendiary or suspicious origin which have involved the loss of \$100,000 or more in war munitions or equipment has totaled, since April 1, \$43,566,000.

In April, the first month of the war, the destruction or damage, due to fires involving a loss of \$100,000 or more, amounted to \$5,555,000. In that month, there were 24 great fires in the country, and these fires occurred in 14 different states. The fire which entailed the heaviest loss was when grain elevators in Chicago, valued at \$700,000, were destroyed. The value of the grain elevators destroyed in that one month totaled \$1,700,000. The oil loss due to

incendiaryism amounted, to \$770,000; foundries, machine shops and car shops worth \$500,000 went up in flames, while the loss to the coal and coke industry totaled \$400,000.

In May the total loss as shown in the table showed a falling off of nearly \$2,000,000, the audited figures for that month giving a total of \$3,693,000, and of this amount \$1,200,000 represented the grain and grain elevator loss, or \$2,900,000 for the first eight weeks of the war. It was in May that the lumber incendiary first got to work, and the report for the month shows that the damage he accomplished totaled \$1,100,000. May also introduced the chemical incendiary, and the total loss to the chemical industry in the second month of the war was \$300,000.

Heavy Loss in Montana.

The loss in June was \$3,800,000, and of this amount \$1,000,000 represented mine property losses in Montana. The lumber loss in June was \$600,000, the grain total was \$300,000, gasoline to the total value of \$350,000 was burned up, and the chemical industry's loss was increased by another \$200,000. The automobile figures for the first time in the June report when an automobile factory in Reading, Pa., valued at \$250,000 was destroyed.

In July the figures began to climb, and the total loss due to incendiaryism or suspicious causes was \$4,140,000. The July losses include oil properties valued at \$700,000, a \$400,000 cotton compress plant, a woolen mill worth \$500,000, elevators and warehouses valued at \$900,000, a \$250,000 sugar mill, and shell and shipbuilding properties of a total value of \$520,000, and dye works worth \$150,000 and \$250,000 in tanneries.

August was one of the enemy incendiary's best months, his total destruction that month entailing a loss of \$5,101,000, \$2,550,000 of which was suffered by the oil industry. The enemy also destroyed his first gun cotton plant in August, when a factory valued at \$100,000 at Gary, Ind., was destroyed. There also occurred in August a fire which destroyed ships and piers in Brooklyn worth \$1,000,000.

ITALY HAS COUNCIL TO SPEED UP WAR

Premier Is Determined to Follow Energetic Policy in Pushing the War.

Now that the Italian cabinet has a working majority sufficiently numerous and powerful to combat antiwar intrigue both inside and outside parliament Premier Orlando is determined to follow an energetic war policy. In fact a war council has been formed in Italy composed of the premier, the ministers of foreign affairs, war, navy, arms and munitions, treasury and another member of the cabinet chosen by the premier, besides the two chiefs of staff of the army and navy.

Executive measures connected with the war and having an urgent character will be decided in future by the war council instead of the cabinet, and considerable loss of time will thus be saved with great advantage to the success of military operations heretofore delayed, as their approval depended on long discussions in cabinet councils.

Premier Orlando recently confirmed in the senate his declaration in the house that no compromise was possible with those who opposed the war, as any attempt to weaken the resistance of the country amounted to treason, and antiwar activity exclusively benefited the enemy.

An energetic war policy would be impossible in a country like Italy unless the government were backed by the people. So long as the provisioning of the country is assured and the encouraging announcement made in the senate by the minister of food, Signor Crespi, who said that special agreements had been concluded with the United States and the Argentine Republic whereby they placed at the allies disposal a considerable portion of their wheat crops, affords the best proof that the question of food shortage has been satisfactorily solved, there is no danger of Italy's elimination from among the allies. The recent insidious Austro-German peace proposals have not deceived Italians, who realize that their acceptance would be worse than defeat.

BEAR MEAT ON MARKET

Some Find It Helps to Cut the High Cost of Living.

Citizens of Harrisonburg and other towns in Rockingham county, Pennsylvania, who find beef, veal and pork too high-priced, can make ends meet better now by eating bear meat, large quantities of which have been placed on the market at more reasonable prices than those demanded for choice steaks and chops.

The mountains of the county are said to be infested by bears, and in the past few days a number of the animals have been bagged by hunters. One party of sportsmen brought in two, one weighing 300 pounds and the other 250 pounds. The hides, worth about \$35 apiece, will be tanned and made into overcoats.

New Crime in London.

A new form of crime has developed in London. The police describe it as "air raid robbery," for bands of thieves take advantage of the excitement caused by German air raids to loot homes while the families are elsewhere seeking safety.

MR. SIMPKINS PAYS HIS INCOME TAX

By ROBERT McBLAIR.

Mr. Simpkins gazed at the portrait on the wall till his eyes filled with tears. It was a portrait of his father Colonel Simpkins, who had four times been promoted for valor during the Civil War and had died bravely on the field of action. Mr. Simpkins' throat ached now for two reasons: First, he revered and adored the memory of his father; secondly, his age and his eyes and his game leg wouldn't let him go to war himself. And as he observed the martial bearing and uncompromising gaze of Colonel Simpkins he saw, in imagination, the khaki-clad folds of the new generation marching forth and crossing three thousand miles of sea to fight, maybe die, for liberty.

Mr. Simpkins peered around to make sure that neither Bess nor John (who were at the teasing ages of sixteen and seventeen) were where they could see him, then he straightened and threw his right arm up for a salute. But his gouty shoulder twinged, and he groaned. He couldn't even salute.

"Damn!" said Mr. Simpkins, and with his other hand fiercely twisted his white mustachios.

He turned and limped into the library and sat down creakily before the mahogany desk on which were lying the blanks for his income tax statement, blanks which he had rather grumpily got from the Internal Revenue officer only that day after luncheon on his way home from the club.

Mr. Simpkins' income for 1917 had amounted to just about \$15,000, and he had been rather snappy on the subject of taxes ever since he had discovered that the more income a man has the greater the percentage of it he pays in taxes. He could think of several men who, like himself, were married and had two children, and yet, although their incomes were nearly half of his, they would pay only a small fraction of the amount he paid. He gloomily drew the blank nearer and began filling in the information that it asked for.

As Mr. Simpkins' income was \$15,000 he had to figure out the amounts payable on each of the successive smaller classes of incomes in order to arrive at the total due from himself. He passed over the first class who must pay taxes, that is, single men making over 1,000. His calculation for married men then showed up as follows:

First, they pay 2 per cent. (under the 1916 law) on all income over \$4,000, deducting \$200 for each of their children under eighteen years. In Mr. Simpkins' case this was \$212, which he put down in the "payable" column.

He saw next that, under the 1917 law, married men pay an additional 2 per cent. on all over \$2,000—with the same allowance for children. This added \$252 to his "payable" column.

He then observed that for every \$2,500 jump in his income over \$5,000 he had to pay a Surtax, the percentage growing larger with each jump. This was \$250 more added to his burden. And on top of all this came an "Excess Profits" tax of 8 per cent. on all "occupation" income over \$6,000, making \$720 more.

The total, then, he must pay was fourteen hundred and thirty-four dollars.

"Whew!" exclaimed Mr. Simpkins angrily. "There's young Henry Wilkins, who married Jake Johnson's girl, he makes \$2,000 and he doesn't pay a cent of taxes. I guess this is his war as well as mine!"

Thinking of young Henry Wilkins, he remembered that Mrs. Wilkins went every afternoon to make bandages for the Red Cross and that Henry, who was a lawyer, was aiding the Local Draft Board with its questionnaires.

"Well," he admitted to himself, "that makes a difference."

He thought next of Judge Willoughby, whose income was about \$3,000.

"He only pays \$20," commented Mr. Simpkins, not quite so angrily this time, and then a thought struck him and he sat up rigidly in his chair.

Judge Willoughby's son had been drowned on the Tuscania when it was submerged with the loss of two hundred soldiers.

"Judge Willoughby gave his son to America," muttered Mr. Simpkins.

He leaned forward suddenly and put his face in his hands.

For a long time Mr. Simpkins sat very still in that position. There was no sound in the library except the ticking of the tall clock and an occasional trill of laughter from the children skylarking upstairs. The square of light on the carpet gradually withdrew itself through the window, and first twilight and then darkness settled in about the quiet, white haired, sometimes irascible old man.

Mr. Simpkins was thinking things which he would never afterward speak of. He was thinking things that were too sacred ever to be put into words. But some inkling of his thoughts may be found in his rejoinder to Mrs. Simpkins when that placid lady came in and turned on the lights, and asked him whether he was ready for dinner.

"Judge Willoughby's only son was worth as much as fourteen hundred and thirty-four dollars, wasn't he?" Mr. Simpkins demanded of her.

As his wife, who was not unused to his superficial irritations, watched him in mild astonishment, Mr. Simpkins limped out to the hall and took his old felt hat and silver-headed cane from the hat rack. Letting himself out into the foggy evening, he tapped his way down to the corner, and mailed his income tax statement and check with his own hands.

"Now, God be thanked," said Mr. Simpkins as the lid clanked shut over his message, "I can do this much for my country, anyhow."

SCRAPS OF HUMOR



The Market.

"I'll give you five cents for the 'E'," said Uncle Rasbury.

"No, sub," replied Mr. Erasmus Flankley.

"I'll give you ten cents."

"No, sub."

"Put another bit it an' I'll give you two bits."

"No, sub. An' I ain't got no med time to stan' here-an' talk. If you gine up dat fast, I's ginefer put dissum one in cold storage."

Woke Up Trembling.

"I had a terrible nightmare last night," said Mr. Dohwalte.

"Tell me about it."

"I dreamed my wife wanted me to go with her and hear a long-haired poet read from his own works."

"Well, well!"

"And something seemed to paralyze my tongue so I couldn't say no."

Time Tables.

"Is this train on time?" asked the local passenger.

"I don't know just what to say," answered the conductor. "We'll get into the station at four o'clock."

"Why—that's when she's due, to minutes."

"Yes. But she's exactly 24 hours behindhand."

Unmistakable Emphases.

"Did Mrs. Jims place stress on the particular part of her argument when her husband?"

"That she did."

"Where did she put it?"

"On his head with the beamstick."

WHEN CUPID DEALS.



"Dinks doesn't play cards these days."

"No; Dinks is in love."

"Well! Well! And he has stopped holding those pretty hands in the card room?"

"Yes; he is too busy holding a pair of pretty hands in the parlor."

High and Dry.

Poor Pudge, he cannot take a bath.

For when he gets into the tub, the water splashes out.

Real Temptation.

"I must not forget to lock up my diamonds," said the cautious woman.

"Never mind about them," replied her husband. "No sensible burglar bothers about diamonds. You see that the refrigerator is locked. That has pork chops and a steaks in it."

Proof of the Matter.

Glady's—The idea! And your daughter says that yawning will remove that annoying buzzing in one's ears.

Frances—That's true. The other night, after young Mr. Wilson had been talking steadily to me for three hours, I yawned twice and he went home.

Very Particular.

Mrs. Swift—I hear Mrs. Prime is proposed to all sorts of society functions and entertaining.

Mrs. Smith—She is. She is that narrow-minded that she wouldn't even entertain an idea.

Alarmed.

"Ze bootiful beuties scared me to death when she asked if I had anything to hide from me world."

"Monsther was alarmed?"

"Terribly! I thought she had seen me rolled shirt beneath ze big washboard."

The Kitchen Cook.

"I see the army is advertising for cooks, with a proviso that they need not snarl for any stipulated time."

"Shows they understand the nature of cooks, all right enough."

Quid Pro Quo.

"My son wants to marry your daughter. Can she cook a dinner?"

"Yes, if your son can give her something to cook it with."