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Friday, August 2, 1918.

## Features of War.

While war is regrettable, we are in war and there are features and problems of war which may be discussed.

First—The Germans professed that American soldiers could not be trained quick enough to be of avail in the present war. At first, the English and French had much the same idea, apparently. Events go far to prove that the German soldiers have been over-trained. Every citizen of Germany is a putative soldier; he is so trained from birth. He is welded into a part of a great machine which neither thinks nor questions. Officers command, privates obey blindly in the German army. Our American boys grew up to manhood, minus servility and their thinking faculties were developed, not repressed. Many of them enlisted voluntarily, all were picked men. Hence it was possible, inside of six months, to train them into splendid soldiers, disciplined to obey orders of their officers, but also trained to think and act for themselves when officers were killed or where unforeseen exigencies demanded immediate decision and action.

Second—Our boys know they are fighting a just cause, hence they are not afraid to fight the enemy hand to hand in the open, not by long distance bombardment with poison gas, bombs and hand grenades. The American soldiers are thinking men, hence they are imbued with personal and individual courage, as distinguished from the massed drives of the Germans.

Third—Our colored brothers are fighting side by side with their white brothers in the American lines and they are returning their gratitude to the immortal Lincoln who made their fathers free. Moreover, the colored troops exhibit the same quality of bravery as do the white soldiers.

## None Thought So.

Under all the circumstances, did anybody seriously believe that Theodore Roosevelt would consent to engage in a primary contest for the gubernatorial nomination in New York State?

Mr. Roosevelt would not hesitate to do the unusual thing if occasion demanded or that a grave crisis needed to be met with extraordinary remedies, as witness the way he handled the Panama incident.

But is there any extraordinary exigency confronting New York State? Has the present State administration fallen down on the part New York was expected to play in the war? Is the state's treasury bankrupt? Are there grave scandals involving the state administration?

"No" must be returned to all these questions.

Then why is an ex-president called upon to enter into the tur-

moil of New York State politics?

There are or were political leaders and politicians within Mr. Roosevelt's party who either do not like or have not been recognized by the present Governor of New York State. The Governor is a candidate for a third term. Success in this ambition undoubtedly will mean aspirations to the presidential nomination in 1920. These politicians and political leaders were not sure that they bound our commonwealth together, possess sufficient political strength to defeat the Governor's one renomination in the party primaries.

Under a recent judicial decision you can recover if injured by a cake of ice falling on you—all but the Governor and his friends.

Colonel Roosevelt did not rise to the proffered bait. That's all there is to that episode.

## How and Why?

There is an apparent consensus of opinion that the Representatives in Congress to be elected this fall must be men who will support the American war programme.

This sounds good. But how is the test to be made? There are plenty of demagogues who will give all sorts of promises to support the war but who, elected to Congress, will split hairs about what constitutes hearty support of the war. They are mighty long on lip-service but are apt to be short on performance. Politicians and political machines will put forward the men they want to elect and these will be instructed to make any sort of a war pledge that their constituents see fit to exact. Democrats will insist that the war can only be prosecuted successfully by a Democratic Congress. Republicans will make precisely the same claim.

Under our New York system of direct primaries, every man who wishes and can secure the necessary number of signatures to his nominating petition may contest for the nomination in the primaries. Because the public is prone to accept the best and noisiest self-advertiser, many well-equipped men will not consent to run for public office when they have to run the gauntlet of the primary and election day as well.

It is unfortunate that, for the period of the war at least, we cannot return to the old convention plan of choosing candidates for public office. Recent gatherings at Saratoga demonstrate what a farce these "unofficial conventions" really are in practice.

## "E-Pluribus Unum"

Under the above caption, the New York "Sun" recently printed a thoughtful editorial on the fact that the casualty lists printed daily from France demonstrates conclusively that our foreign-born, at least those of foreign extraction, are fighting as hard for the cause of human liberty and are upholding the Stars and stripes as bravely as any long-lineaged American.

The "Sun" proceeds: "We are a nation truly, perhaps more truly than we know. But ours is not like most others, a nationality inherited through race, language and religion, through immemorial tradition of an old and common dwelling place. We have our traditions indeed, although most of them are too young for us to know them by that name: our tradition of pluck, our tradition of inventiveness and initiative, our tradition of humorous, unsentimental courage. We have land and language, although they are for many of us not yet a mother country nor a mother tongue. We are that strange thing in the world, a nation conscious of the spirit made one, by one idea and entered into as a voluntary society by such as are of riper years and able to answer for themselves; a nation founded upon its scriptures, like a religion."

"The wise men who set down in written words the thought which made us build otherwise and better than they knew. For they went about to build a nation out of the federated States; but they achieved unawares a Pentecost of patriotism, a union in one spirit, out of every race and every sense of one faith, one system, one purpose that they have bound our commonwealth together, and made us, out of many, one."

Under a recent judicial decision you can recover if injured by a cake of ice falling on you—all but the Governor and his friends.

It may be a felony to possess a maxim silencer but if one did own one and attached it to the coal man's delivery chute, we think any court would vote him a Carnegie medal.

The courts have decided that even if your uncle said in the presence of a hundred witnesses that he intended to make you his heir, that does not count after death unless your uncle had his fountain pen and legal paper handy.

After the politicians left Saratoga the race track men came. And there were some who stayed through both events.

Parents of sixteen year old girls should know where they are even if your uncle said in the careful there'd be fewer scandals to report and fewer girls would not take auto rides with strangers—often with dire results.

Some persons hold that we should not discuss what the returned soldiers will or shall do or any other post-war problems until the war is over. In other words be unprepared like we were when the coal shortage struck us last year.

Oh, for a Herbert Hoover as fuel administrator!

With the thermometer at 90 in the shade, that prospective coal famine does not appear so terrible now.

General Eoch appears a living exemplar of the success of watchful waiting.

There are indications that our own I. W. W. has transferred its base of operations to England.

"Mr. Murphy is perfectly capable of making up his mind at the right time and of making his will the will of the convention," wrote a staff reporter to the New York Sun from Saratoga. Reads like a warmed over despatch from Rochester during the convention of 1910.

## Council 23, C.R.&B.A., Resolutions

At the last regular meeting of Council 23, C. R. & B. A., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas—It has pleased Almighty God in His Infinite Wisdom to call from our midst our beloved brother, Michael Maloney, who has been a valued member of our Council for a number of years, be it

Resolved—That this Council extend its sincere sympathy to the relatives of our deceased brother in their hour of affliction and commend them to the Divine Power above for consolation.

Resolved—That our charter be draped for a period of thirty days, and that these resolutions be spread on the minutes and a copy be sent to the relatives and published in the Catholic Journal.

Edward McMenomy  
Mrs. M. F. Brennan  
Miss Edith M. Sharp  
Committee.

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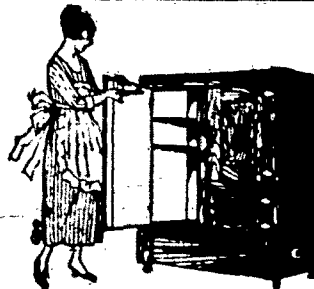
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