

American Good Nature.

One of the most attractive things about the American people is their unflinching good nature. The cost of living is simply terrible, as the phrase is. Everybody except the rich feels it severely. Wages and, in a less degree, salaries are higher, but they have not gone up nearly as fast or as far as the prices of commodities. Living is no joke, says Ohio State Journal. And yet almost all of us make a joke of it. The groceries and the meat shops, for instance, are full of good-natured banter among customers and proprietors as to a dime's worth for 25 cents and kindred simple pleasantries. The husband, father and provider and the housekeeper have their moments of depression over the question of how much longer they can keep out of the poorhouse at this rate, and yet most of us do contrive to keep out and laugh about our alleged proximity to it. And somehow or other we manage to scrape up enough to give a little something to every worthy cause that comes along, and how they do come! Usually we can't afford it by any accepted standard of thrift, but we give anyway, at least, if the solicitor catches us, and laugh about that, too.

Somebody has been reminded by the first transatlantic flight that there is another ocean, just across the American continent, which nobody seems to have thought of in connection with aeroplanes. The Pacific, however, is used to playing second fiddle—if an ocean can be imagined fiddling. It might be even said that Japan is valuable to the eastern half of the United States as an occasional reminder that there is such a thing as the Pacific ocean, says Christian Science Monitor. It would be a wider space to cross, but it has many more islands than the Atlantic, and a course could perhaps be charted without much difficulty which the airmen could follow from California to Japan. Or again, if he started far enough north, the airmen, theoretically at least, could cross the Pacific without stopping anywhere in about 15 minutes.

It cannot be doubted that the course of human progress and development for all the future will be affected in important respects by the mingling of races along that awful battle line from the North sea to Switzerland, in Alpine Italy, on the eastern side of the Adriatic, in Macedonia and Mesopotamia, in Eastern Asia and South Africa and the arctic regions of Russia and Siberia, says Philadelphia Record. It must be that among the benefits of the great war will be a sense of human solidarity which occasional poets have dreamed of, but which has hitherto seemed to be beyond the limits of possibility.

The figures of the Red Cross show that 8,000,000 women volunteers made garments and surgical dressings worth over \$81,000,000. It was something of a "bit" the women of the country accomplished, exclusive of the nurses and war workers in various military and naval departments.

For 2,716 airplanes sold back to the makers, the government got 4 per cent of what it paid; for 4,605 motors it gets 10 per cent. At such rates, if those were offered to the people, hundreds of thousands would be able to afford a flying machine.

Some French actuary is now estimating that in another half century Paris will have 6,000,000. There is as much Paris right now as France needs. France needs more communities that will behave better and work harder than Paris.

Better roads in the country and better housing facilities in the city will give needed employment on necessary improvements, discourage bolshevism and generally help make the world safe for democracy.

The prince of Denmark visiting here, likes Americans. And the Americans he has met like the prince of Denmark, so here is one nation with whom we have successfully established reciprocity.

English hatmakers are rejecting orders from Germany. That nation may find that as good will is an important business asset, so are general hate and distrust a distinct check to prosperous trade.

The girl who told us last winter that she was not half as warm as her clothing made her look is now telling us that she is not half as cool as her clothing makes her look.

A leading journalist of Brazil says Uncle Sam has designs on that country. It's not true; all that Uncle Sam wants from Brazil is a lower price on coffee.

As most of us understand it the Russian baths were not named after the bolsheviks.

Safety first is not enough. It must be safety first, last and all the time.

RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS.

Even in ordinary conditions, without the reconstruction problems facing us, we find it difficult to be content to plod along at what we may consider insignificant, monotonous work. We long to try our wings in the high places above us; we watch others rise to heights that seem far beyond us and we note their success with feelings of envy and sometimes of bitterness. But because we have always labored in vain, or so we believe, for those things that others find so easy to attain we do not make the effort to make the most out of what we have in hand. It occurs to few persons, as a rule, that a man who cannot succeed in small things has a poor chance to succeed in big things. It is necessary that he understand the smaller affairs of life before he can hope to master its larger questions. A great deal depends upon the foundations upon which we work; if they are unstable we shall not be able to build very high; if they are solid they will carry a proportionately greater weight, says Charleston News and Courier. Given a solid base upon which to rear our lifework, and the ability to carry it forward steadily, and it will not be long before it will reach far into the heights above us. So, too, in the present conditions, life is only a repetition of what has gone before; we do the same things over and over, perhaps in different conditions and with different ideas, but in the end it is always true that we work toward a goal that at the time seems most desirable.

Never was the land so musical as it has been made by community singing, by the custom of performing national airs in all places of public assembly, by the teaching of song in the camps. The public taste is far more discriminating than it was formerly. The music that used to suit its not good enough except for the lowest of the low-brows. Examine the programs of park band concerts and it is astonishing to note the place the "classics" now hold along with the lighter order of music which, however frothy and ephemeral in its nature, often betrays a scholar's knowledge of orchestration and discloses many a felicitous effect in its harmonies.

One hundred years ago the average annual production of wheat in France was 129,290,000 bushels. Steady advance was made to 327,748,000 bushels per year in the period 1900-1910, followed by decline to 314,683,000 bushels in 1911-1914. During the war period the production fell to 222,770,000 bushels in 1915 and to 144,140,000 bushels in 1917.

Following Lloyd George's declaration that the ex-kaiser would soon be put on trial in London, Belgian municipalities have been asked for documentary evidence of atrocities in Belgium to be used in the trial of German officers. This looks like business.

The queen of Holland has appended to the ex-crown prince's honor not to embarrass her country by breaching his parole. The queen could not have followed the Hun course during the war with much attention to put confidence in the result of such an appeal.

The New York Tribune, enumerating the losses of the war, has this item: "Killed, 70,000,000." It couldn't mean men, since there were not more than 7,500,000 killed; and it couldn't mean the cooties, because there were 70,000,000,000,000 of them.

It doesn't require a doctors' convention at Atlantic City to warn Americans against the danger lurking in peanuts. All native-born Americans are instinctively on guard against the misbehavior of peanuts and rabbits.

Almost any father of four or five boys could have told the American army officers what would happen when they ordered the American soldiers in the army of occupation not to speak to the German girls.

If you happen to be a young man striving to make a start in the world, acquire the lot first, the bungalow next, the wife next and seven children. Then you will have something to ride in the car with.

American-made motortrucks are to compete with camels in southern Asia. And the trucks have even more liquid storage capacity than the camels, which ought to be an item in the bidding.

Some gentlemen indicted under the espionage act cannot complain of undue haste by the government in pushing them to trial before they die of old age.

There's one good thing about the spring fever—they don't quarantine you for it.

"Russia," exclaims a nationally known writer, "must be saved. And saved."

DISCIPLINED NATION.

America is the best disciplined nation in the world. The proof is overwhelming. For instance, there was conscription. Who would have thought that the people would consent to it without a referendum? Canadian would not; nor would the English or the Australians. They held that conscription, except on referendum, was repugnant to democratic institutions. But it was accepted in America. Now comes prohibition. Its acceptance forces on a large part of the population—the majority, for all anyone knows—a radical departure from their accustomed way of life. If anyone had suggested five years ago that July 1 would see America dry—without approval or referendum—he would have been derided. Yet here it is, and come a word of vigorous protest; only a little grumbling here and there. It is discipline; it is discipline raised to a point never dreamed of in a democracy.

Over the same air routes where once allied planes went to battle with the Germans, aeroplanes are now carrying food and clothing to the devastated villages of northern France, says World Outlook. No other means of transportation to many of these villages is open, for not only are the railroads destroyed, but for miles the roads have been so cut to pieces that motors cannot pass over them. The aerial relief service began Jan. 25, 1919, when seven planes, loaded with condensed milk for the children, flew from Bourges to Valenciennes. The next day more than two tons of food and clothing were carried through the air to the devastated villages. More planes, including two boche escadrilles, have been added, which every day carry tons of provisions to villages in need.

When the bureau of markets reports that the cold-storage holdings of all kinds of meat and meat products, including lard, amount to hundreds of millions of pounds, perhaps considerably over a billion pounds, the opinion is formed that there is much hoarding. Stocks in cold storage were large at the time of the report for January 1, 1919, and their total was 1,206,000,000 pounds of meat and meat products. At the average rate of consumption for the United States in 1918 this quantity of meat food, enormous though it may seem, was after all sufficient to last the United States for only 23 days if no other meat were eaten.

A British general says the R-34 is practically obsolete, and that one twice or five times her size will be a possibility in a year or so. These times are certainly breaking the speed limit. Scarcely is an invention completed and proved than its successor in wonderful achievement is tagging at its heels.

What became of all the dremmy looking young men with large, plunging Adam's apples, who wore sport shirts a few summers ago? One suspects that they have put the shackles of the bourgeois white collar upon their anatomical handicap and have now become leading citizens.

When some people cannot think of anything else, in an argument or a controversy, their idea seems to be that the way to clinch all doubt is to announce that their opponents are prompted by pro-German motives.

The chief trouble with the average man is ignorance. Lemonade with a sprig of mint and a cherry in it has as highball, but the ignorant gumps don't know it.

Spain has started a monument to the Spanish sailors killed at Santiago and other places during the Spanish-American war. She has evidently been giving the matter thoughtful consideration.

There may be some question as to the advisability of barring foreigners from the United States for two years, but there is no argument against sending back home some that are already here.

Ancient and modern history came into sharp contrast in London when officers in medieval costume proclaimed peace with an airplane hovering over them.

It now costs \$250 a day to live in Petrograd, and one of the great mysteries of modern times is why anybody considers life in Petrograd worth that sum.

One way to live long is to be a rich uncle for whose death all relatives are waiting.

This summer's motorist may proceed without any fear of gasolineless Sundays.

China balks but nobody cares. It hasn't a look in; it hasn't even a peek.

WALLABY QUICKLY WIPED OUT

Australian Pest Didn't Last Long When Its Pelt Became of Value in the Market.

Before the advent of the rabbit and the fox in Australia the rock-wallaby made its home among the cliffs bordering the Snowy river, where it passes through southern Monaro (N. S. W.), literally in thousands. The little red-brown quadruped was then becoming a grass pest, and as his skin was then worth only 4 cents the pelt hunter didn't bother much about him. But an interested mutton merchant some years ago put a premium on the skins, and the writer and a mate started out one winter morning, with about two inches of frost on the ground and every tree powdered with hoar-frost, for the wallaby ground. The artillery consisted of two guns, one a single muzzle-loader. (The breech-loader was then a rarity on Monaro.) By noon the hunters had downed over sixty wallabies. The beasts were so numerous in some quarters that two wallabies occasionally fell to a single shot. Soon after that the pelt trader scented profit, and the work of demotion began. Now these cliffs are silent and deserted, save for Reynard and the eternal rabbit, which crops the wallaby pastures close and from this rough country will never be exterminated.

DULL AND CHRONIC HEADACHE

Affliction, Physician Asserts, May Invariably Be Traced to the Presence of Rheumatism.

Rheumatic headache may be acute, but in most cases it is dull and chronic, lasting for weeks, months or years. It is slightly more common in women than in men, and it occurs very rarely below the age of 20, and most commonly above 40 years of age. The pain is real and may be constant, or fairly steady with intermissions, writes Dr. Hugh T. Patrick in the Journal of American Medical Association. It does not occur in instantaneous shoots or brief excruciating paroxysms, nausea and vomiting are not present with it. There are good days, bad days, but with more or less pain or soreness always present. The headache is worse after exposure to cold or dampness.

This form of headache is really a rheumatic affection, and evidences of past rheumatism are almost always found. Its exact nature is obscure; bacterial infection of the tissues of the aching region is probable. Treatment consists of prolonged, repeated application of heat and the employment of persistent massage of the area of pain, which is most usually at the back of the head on both sides, and may extend down to neck, shoulders and back. It is tender to deep pressure, but not to surface pressure.

Vastness of Mexico. It cannot be reiterated too often that Mexico is a vast country.

Mexico extends in length over two thousand miles, or is as long as from Iceland to Africa. It measures a thousand miles across the widest area. It is vast, it contains every climate from tropical to northern; it has huge mountains, some of the greatest volcanoes in the world; and some of the largest rivers are to be found in the south, although water is lacking in the north. The north is flat and hideous, the south beautiful and mountainous. Mexico produces every class of ore and every form of agriculture and some of the most picturesque and beautiful old Spanish towns in the world remain from the days when they were built by Cortes in 1519.

One cannot help being struck with the contrast between the two coasts. On the Pacific shore everything is dry; on the Gulf (Atlantic) everything is wet. A depth of eight or ten feet of soil is common.—From "Mexico," by Mrs. Alec-Tweedle.

Arabian Table Customs.

"Whenever I visit San Francisco I dine with an Arab—a business acquaintance—and the members of his family," said Thomas Hartwell of Mexico City, in an interview at New York. "In their eating they still attempt to follow the customs of their country. At their table I tasted for the first time the most popular Arab dish, which is called plaf. It is made of olive oil and a few nut kernels mixed with rice. My host's wife makes her own bread, which is baked in fat cakes an inch thick and compares very well with the baker's bread which the Americans use. The Arab is a dry eater and does not take his coffee and his family sip their coffee in small cups and regard it as a luxury. They still hold to the belief, in spite of the fact that they have lived in this country for several years, that those who do not make a noise with their lips in drinking coffee are illbred."

Portugal's Many Holidays.

Christmas day is not so generally observed as New Year's day. It has, moreover, only three different dates. The only country whose holidays reveal little of its political, racial or religious origin is Portugal. This is its calendar: January 1, dedicated to universal brotherhood; January 31, dedicated to the memory of all those who fought and died to establish the republic of Portugal; May 3, in memory of the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese; June 19, municipal holiday at Oporto; October 5, the date of the establishment of the Portuguese republic; December 1, Flag day, to commemorate the independence of the country; December 25, Family day.

REGION RICH IN BITUMEN

Quantities of Material Valuable for Road Building, Found in Vicinity of the Dead Sea.

Ample quantities of bitumen occur in the Dead sea region. It can easily be gathered and prepared for use in road making, and there is the advantage that it will be obtainable at much cheaper rates than those which now obtain in the near East and in Europe. The material can best be applied by means of the usual tar-spraying machine.

Dead sea bitumen was undoubtedly used in ancient times. It is evident that the walls of the temples and palaces of Babylon and Nineveh were joined with bituminous cements, and there are bitumen-lined cisterns in Syria of great antiquity which are still water-tight and fit for use. A road surface treated with this asphalt according to modern methods may prove a most satisfactory solution of a very troublesome problem in the near East, where, because of climatic conditions and the narrow wheels of vehicles, the macadam road is often a source of trouble owing to the dust that rises from it.

NOW, THEN



"What are you fishing for, my boy?" "Boss, I won't deceive yo'. I'm fishin' fo' fish."

YANKS EMPTIED HIS CISTERN

With Plenty of Wine at Hand, Frenchman Couldn't Understand Why Americans Preferred Water.

The A. E. F., take it from everybody who knows anything about it, is remarkable for its temperance. But temperance has its drawbacks sometimes. Witness the plight of a Frenchman of middle age, who has a home and the things that go with it, up in the Maine country. "Ah, m'sieur," he will tell you, "I like the Americans very much! Only—they drink too much of the water! Wine in plenty—beaucoup de vin—was there about my place, but not one drop would the young Americans touch. Instead, they emptied of water my cistern—and now it is as dry as a bone!" "But I—I do not care! There will be rain again soon. Besides, to repay me, have they not taught me the English?"—From Stars and Stripes, France.

DANGEROUS FOOD.

Out in a western state a band of Poles formed a farming community. The younger members of this community like to mingle with the young people of the surrounding farms, trying to imitate all American ways, and especially trying to add to their vocabulary all big words they hear. During the summer a large crowd had gathered one night at the consolidated school building for a Red Cross sale. At these sales each person was expected to bring some article to be sold, the proceeds to go for the local Red Cross work. One of the Polish girls had brought a large cake, and, growing anxious for it to be sold, she remarked, very audibly: "I don't see why my cake don't sale! It's good American cake. I make it with your paralyzed sugar, and I flavor it with villainy."

THE BRIGHTER SIDE.

"You must be prepared to make sacrifices." "I'm ready for that," answered the patient patriot. "Good!" "In fact, every time any grocer tells me that butter has gone up again I say, 'Praised be the Lord! A man with my income couldn't even buy a fair substitute in Berlin.'"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

SELF-GOVERNMENT IN RUSSIA

People Have Had It, in a Sense of Less Effective Form, for Many Hundreds of Years.

Russia had self-government many hundred years ago, writes Count Ilya Tolstoy, in Collier's Weekly. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries two of the largest northern provinces, Novgorod and Pskoff, were governed by a parliamentary body called "veche," consisting of the oldest citizens, elected by the people. At the present time all of the peasantry are united in communities, called "mir," that elect their own representatives. Russia also has the "zemstvo," a representative body for each district, who elect commissioners to superintend the administration of public affairs, such as schools, hospitals, roads, etc. Under the czar's government these "zemstvos" were not truly democratic, because the classes were not justly represented, the law giving the landowners and nobles a majority. After the abdication of the czar this iniquity was properly corrected. Not only the country but also the towns had self-government. Under the rule of Kerensky all of these town held elections of new local dumas, by universal suffrage. And so the soviets in Russia are absolutely unnecessary. Consequently the power the soviets now hold is at the expense and destruction of true democracy, says Count Tolstoy.

CHINA WILL HAVE TO WAIT

Many Reasons Why Development of Great Natural Resources Cannot Be Undertaken Just Now.

The Herald of Asia of Tokyo argues that under the principle of international democracy China's undeveloped resources alone entitled her to a respectable place among the great powers of the world and her rights should be held as sacred by those of any other nation. The editor says: "Such a general view regarding our continental neighbor is now universally accepted among us Japanese, its acceptance being one of the blessings of the accursed world war which is uniting mankind in a common cause. As to our practical application of that principle to Chinese affairs, the Tokyo Asahi has suggested the wisdom of Japan's assistance in the Chinese effort to recover the autonomy over Outer Mongolia. By a triple agreement between the Peking, Petrograd and Kulan governments, it may be remembered, Outer Mongolia became semi-independent under the Russian protection. Owing to political troubles, however, the promised funds were not forthcoming from Russia, while the depreciation in the price of rubles has been involving the Kulan government in financial difficulties."

NO CHANGE.

The upholder of Spallanzani was lauding its merits.

"Why not take a course in efficiency training?" said he. "I can show you how to earn more money than you are getting." "I do that now!" said the Doubting Thomas.—London Answers.

WORTH MORE.

"Maria, is this coffee, or are you feeding me a cure of some kind?" "If I could find a cure for complaining," snapped his wife, "I feed it to you, all right."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

HOPEFUL.

"I understand the new president of Germany is a harness maker." "Good idea. Maybe he can devise an arrangement to keep Prussian politics from kicking over the traces."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WORTH MORE.

"Four dollars? But you only wanted two dollars for this antique last week." "Then it was about Julius Caesar. Now, as you notice, it is about General Foch."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

GRAND OPERA.

"How was the new grand opera prima donna?" "Immense." "I know that. They all are. But how was her voice?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

FOR THANKSGIVING.

"I see the British have captured 18,000 Turks." "Fine. It's getting on to Thanksgiving and we can use that front Free Press."