

SHRINE OF A FALLEN IDOL.

It is comparatively easy to kill men; but their foolish ideas die hard. There are still Germans who believe in that absurdity called the divine right of kings. The important question, for the future of the German people, is how many of them still subscribe to that discredited myth. The Preussische Zeitung of Berlin editorializes to the effect that "the old conception of the monarchy which places the king above the judgment of men still holds good." The strong men of Germany would like to keep this faith alive in the people, because then the people would continue to be their willing tools. Wilhelm, as a man or as a king, is now thoroughly discredited, says Binghamton Press. But it is still possible to make a martyr of him. Convicted by an international tribunal, and put out of the way in some quiet corner of the world, the former kaiser may be a more potent influence with his besotted people than he was in the days of his power.

No country in the world has such a defective system of communication as that of China, says Hein Shen Pao (Chinese). Commercial and press telegrams which are of great importance are delayed every day while the so-called first-class telegrams, which are really of no importance at all, tax the lines to their utmost capacity. Volumes of them are dispatched every day on every line. Carriages are piled sky high at many railway stations waiting for transportation. Cars are said to be unavailable; yet high officials ride back and forth comfortably in special cars without paying a cent. Hundreds of cars are available for transporting military supplies from place to place. Very heavy losses have the merchants suffered from these two causes alone.

Admiral Von Tirpitz says the German republic must be a failure. Any attempt at free government will be a failure as long as the authors of frightfulness are permitted to have a say in it. The German problem now is to get real patriots to take care of the country and the government will take care of itself.

By order of the South African Cape Provincial council, elephants in the Addo bush are to be exterminated as a nuisance. They will not work, neither shall they eat. But elephants are intelligent, and an amalgamated association with trumpeting walking delegates might make the politicians hide themselves.

If the ex-kaiser's heart bled at the sad necessity of cutting throats in Belgium, how that sympathetic organ must palpitate at the prospect of his own fate as outlined in the plans of the allies for consigning him not to a short throat-cutting, but to a living death on some remote island.

Professor Pupin of Columbia, himself a Serbian, advises his fellow countrymen to hire Americans, no matter what it costs, to superintend the country's restoration. The Yugoslavs will think it over. They are a thrifty people, and salaries to foreigners go against the grain.

There are quite a number of men who think that if they had been conducting the operations of the creation they would have fixed it so that a woman 5 feet 3 inches high would not weigh 234 pounds, but they haven't all the facts which go to make up the case.

Member when the mercury was 24 degrees below zero, the coal nearly gone, the water pipes frozen, your fingers nipped and a heavy snow on the ground, you said never again would you utter an unkind remark about the heat of summer?

A trade commission from Bulgaria is in America to sell hides. Since it is profitable to everyone concerned except the consumer to prolong the scarcity, the commission may expect a cold reception.

Times change. The government mule that was once supposed to be a symbol of unadulterated gall is now functioning better as a symbol of modesty, so bold and nerry have folks become.

It is about time for the elegant phraseology of diplomacy to be abandoned in communicating with Holland and the main idea conveyed in plain English.

Little do the innocent green apples of the orchard realize that each day is bringing them nearer to a life of crime in the form of hard cider.

As we understand it, our soldier boys like the French, all right, but objected to sleeping with goats and greyhounds during the flea season.

There are some people who would eat mule meat if they thought it could impart the suggestion of a kick.

If a woman is naturally feeble she doesn't mind walking in the new tight skirts.

NO EXCUSE FOR 'AIN'T.'

"Ain't" is an improper abbreviation of "are not." British writers spell it "a'n't," which properly indicates its derivation. Americans make it an inclusive offense, using it for "am not" and "is not," as well as for "are not." It is unquestionably the worst instance of slovenliness in the common speech of today. Yet it is by no means universal or even common. It will slip occasionally from refined lips, always with a jar to the enunciator, as well as to the hearer. But the habitual user of "ain't" is the careless of refinement, says Cleveland Plain Dealer. He may be an excellent citizen who never beats his wife nor kicks the cat. But there is likely to be something slipshod about him somewhere. For "ain't" is needless, as well as cacophonous. It fills no void and supplies no need. English conversers complain superciliously of the laxness of American speech. American observers who have listened to the marvels of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Devonshire and other shire dialects are inclined to resent any assumption of British superiority. But it is none the less desirable to eliminate our own linguistic sins, and of these "ain't" is the most deplorable.

That Germany must have a government of force is the expressed wish of nearly every class. I have talked with every grade of human being and all of them had the desire for a strong government which would return order. They dislike the present government not only on the ground that it does not use enough force in putting down disorder, says a writer in World's Work. Since Noake began to shoot rioters the government is immensely more popular than before.

It seems incredible that only seventy-nine years has elapsed since the inventor of the sewing machine took out his first patent, yet this fact is brought to our notice by the observance of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Elias Howe. And the marvels that the twentieth century has developed, it is fitting that the world's inestimable debt to this benefactor should not be overlooked.

If it is true there are immense amounts of food stored to keep up prices, the government ought to have something definite to say about it. For government is instituted for the preservation of life primarily, and food shortage is a matter of life and death. Under conditions of necessity artificial famines become crimes.

At the farmer's breakfast table in 1913 he drank coffee that cost him 16 per cent more than in 1914, and he had sugar that cost 59 per cent more, bread made from flour that cost 92 per cent more, and, whatever use was made of lard, it cost him 133 per cent more than in 1914.

The navy department has the proud record of not having one naval execution during the war. That is testimony of which the nation, too, should be proud, of both the department and the men. It shows the average high grade of discipline and personnel.

For the rehabilitation and education of disabled soldiers, sailors and marines \$25,000,000 will be needed this year, congressmen are told by a federal official. That form of extending help is far better than the old demoralizing pension system.

At the rate at which the 10-cent piece is supplanting the nickel as a basis of human transactions, it is possible that somebody will soon move that our primal, elemental five senses be increased to twice the number.

Now that the American government has planned to resume trading with Germany, it will soon be in order once more for those who care for them to tell the grocer to send up some pretzels and sauerkraut.

The foreigners who are leaving this country with an average of \$3,000 each in their pockets have an even greater asset in the industrial efficiency they acquired while here. Europe needs it.

A waterspout of red herring in Argyllshire confuses the trail of profiteers in Scotland. Free herring from on high would be a relief, even in this Land of the Free.

"Berlin Scorns Rumors," says a head line. Having conducted a rumor factory for four years, Berlin knows the stuff of which they are made.

The cat mascot that made a trip across the Atlantic in a blimp rather had it on the feline that merely went to London to see the queen.

If you are not crazy for speed, \$12 worth of shoe leather will get you a considerable distance through this vale of tears.

Where would the price of meat go if the public were to quit eating it steadily?

FACING A LUMBER FAMINE.

The seriousness of the lumber situation is beginning to attract the attention it deserves. The chief of the United States forestry service announced the other day that original supplies of pine in the South would be exhausted in ten years at the normal rate of consumption, and that 3,000 mills would be out of existence within five years. The depletion of America's timber resources, he declared, is becoming a world-wide menace. Commenting on these warnings, the Houston Post thinks that "what the country needs is a strong movement to induce the planting of trees, similar to the movements that have resulted in such increased production of food for war purposes." There are evidences, the Post says, that such movement is taking shape in several states, and it adds that the lumbermen will be contributing to the future welfare of their own business and performing a public duty by promoting this movement to the best of their ability. There is considerable force in this suggestion and it is worth considering carefully.

Is the doughnut to be the enduring symbol of the great war? That may well happen. Symbollism is often accidental and unconscious. A comparatively trivial episode may crystallize the imagination and provide the enduring record, says Philadelphia Inquirer. Why should not the doughnut have this honorable office as well as any other implement? By all accounts it played a high part at the front. The figure of the Salvation Army girl frying doughnuts might well stand in the most conspicuous niche of the new temple of fame.

Profiteers and manipulators of corners in the necessities of life have no philanthropy. They will sell abroad if selling abroad is more profitable than the domestic markets, says Baltimore American. But the time is at hand when Americans are entitled to consideration in return for the unselfishness and sacrifice which they practiced during the war. Otherwise conditions will become intolerable.

In English law, the deceased wife's sister can be married, but not the deceased husband's brother. If the latter is confronted with the long and hard legal battle which the former had to carry on for her matrimonial rights, he will probably quit the contest in disgust and rest satisfied with marrying out of the family.

One of the heroes of the famous Lost Battalion, who crawled for 13 hours on his stomach to obtain relief for his entrapped comrades, is reported to be now unsuccessfully seeking a job. He has fame, but not support. Are republicans as ungrateful as they are said to be?

London hatmakers, inspired by the conclusion of the great war, have created "the peace hat" which, it is said, departs from any of the conventional styles of masculine headgear. We are for it if we can be assured that it hasn't a little feather in the back of it.

A New York society man has called with \$1,000,000 worth of machinery for Dutch Guinea, to dig for gold in a field he discovered 18 years ago. He has waited just 18 years longer than a lot of us would feel we could afford to.

We are living in a time when unless milk is watered, coffee adulterated with pecan shells, and ice cream with almost any sort of mess that can escape the knowledge of the consumer, the vendor isn't regarded as bright.

The American shoe manufacturers say that shoes will be \$3 to \$4 a pair higher next year than this. It is a long time until next year. The shoe-makers would be wise not to be too hasty in their opinions.

Bolshevism is so rapidly on the decline that the Industrial Workers of the World members may as well reconcile themselves to the prospect of their becoming actual workers.

Patriotism without common sense amounts to nothing. So it is well enough for Uncle Sam to be always on guard against the fools who love him well but not wisely.

Judging from the casualties reported among enthusiastic scientists who are seeking to evolve their own intoxicants the price of stomach pumps is due for a horizontal increase.

Ten thousand Yanks have taken French girls as brides. Will our American girls please restrain themselves from making fatty remarks?

Clemenceau may retire from the sight of men but the memory of him and his work will be forever green.

Before taking an airplane ride, better take a liberal dose of "safety first."

"Hop-on" is now a legitimate noun in the English language.

COURTESY IN DEALING.

If you are in a store selling goods, try to please every customer who comes along. Do it for your own sake if not for the customer's. Being kind, courteous, upright makes one better in character and demeanor than if he were irritable, suspicious and stubborn. The only happiness lies in the finer traits of one's nature. We almost hate to say there is business in it, too. One likes to patronize another who has some soul in his life. If we were the head of a big store we would see that the clerks were pleasant and polite or they would go, says Ohio State Journal. Insisting upon this requirement would be a favor to the employee. And the head of the house should set the example. He should be as courteous and pleasant as he expects his clerks to be. He should not go about with a grouchy face, looking as if he thought his employees were poor white trash, doing the worst they could. A great store is an educational establishment, teaching all concerned, employees, customer and proprietor, that the surest way to be noble is in doing noble things.

A new batch of letters of Robert Louis Stevenson, hitherto not published, have lately appeared in England. For some reason they have been withheld until now. And so they are gathering together the very last of all the words that R. L. S. wrote, as crumbs are gathered from the table after a feast. It seems that the hunger of the world for everything Stevenson can never be satisfied. And it is astonishing how much he wrote, poor Robert Louis, propped up in bed most of the time. God be with him on the starry trails.

Don't buy coal now. It's too cheap. Besides it is too hot. Next winter when the cold weather comes and there is a fuel shortage and a car shortage, you can become hysterical and offer fabulous prices for something not to be had. Don't miss an opportunity to play the fool. Let your coal wait until you can't get it and you are freezing, says Houston Post. Be a nutt.

The big dirigible seems to have made the air voyage fitted up with many, if not all, the comforts of home. The airships of the future will probably have their promenades and dancing decks with band concerts every evening, and perhaps miniature theaters to while away the hours in the air.

Fifty years ago a smart girl dressed in a gingham frock and helped mother with the housework at every stage of the game. Nowadays, a smart girl is one who dresses in diaphanes and high heels, never works a lick, and lives a life about as valuable as that of a seven-year locust.

When the big airship air lines become established, doubtless parachutes will be provided for all passengers for local, nonstop stations, so that they can jump overboard whenever they get in sight of their own chimney tops.

Zurich and some other cantons of the Swiss republic now prohibit motoring on Sunday. Broader ideas must prevail if the League of Nations is to have its seat at Geneva. International statesmen must have their recreations seven days a week.

This is the season when those who are fond of water sports should be extra careful. Water is a treacherous element, and the number of annual summer drownings could be greatly reduced by the exercise of a little thought and prudence.

Lieutenant Shotter, engineer of the R-34, says there is more excitement in driving a taxicab than in managing the giant airship. And, of course, there is the added thrill of trying to collect an extra fare.

Such is human nature that one set of army officers is kicking because of the congestion on transports and others are kicking because they cannot all crowd aboard and come home on the first ship.

The fact that chewing gum was part of the ration served to the crew of the R-34 shows that the war has established at least one American custom in Britain.

Since the announcement of a dirigible line to Europe that will carry freight, also, one senses a stimulated interest in the progress of overhead navigation.

The department of agriculture announces that buttermilk is the finest drink in the world. Queer that literature isn't full of poetry about it.

It is getting so nowadays that a girl can hardly blush at all until she has patronized the drug store.

However, flying upside down in a fog will hardly appeal to the average transatlantic passenger.

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