

Nature's Benison

By GEORGE ELMER COBB

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It was the merest accident that Marcus Blake became acquainted with Nellie Powers, she preceded him in leaving a street car and he followed her. A startled cry from her lips caused him to notice the fairest face he had ever gazed upon.

PITY THE POOR SCHOLAR.

Mention is being made with increasing frequency of the sorry wage which is paid to men of extensive culture and intensive schooling. To those inclined to doubt this, the announcement of figures made public by Harvard university in opening a \$10,000,000 endowment fund campaign should furnish evidence enough to satisfy.

Scarcely twenty years ago a youth who announced that he intended to study the automobile as a means of livelihood was looked upon as "crazy," and his friends sympathized with him.

The appeal of Von Hindenburg to General Foch shows the queer ideas the Huns possess of the honor which they boast. After cynically repudiating all their international obligations, conducting the war against all unvictimized means of warfare, acting like barbarians to the helpless prisoners, women and children, they are not ashamed to come to their conquerors whining for the mercy which they had practically declared they would not show themselves in the event of their victory.

An effort is being made to justify the German authorities in the execution of Edith Cavell, which more, perhaps, than any other single act during the war, except the sinking of the Lusitania, aroused the feeling of the allied world against Germany.

Sir Robert Hadfield, an English thinker, is absolutely right in holding that in scientific research and invention lies the best hope of increased production in every line.

What Controller Barnes finds that American consumption of flour has fallen from 235 pounds per capita, per annum, to 171 pounds. He offers no acceptable explanation.

If strikes of one kind and another are to go on interfering with all our public means of transportation, the flivver that was formerly deemed a luxury will become something in the nature of a real necessity.

Ambassador Francis predicts that if the soviet rule lasts in Russia, civilization will come to an end. Well, and what of that? Isn't a return to barbarism the bolshevik ideal?

President Lee of the trainmen says the only real way in these days to raise wages is to lower the cost of what you buy with them.

It daily grows more apparent that we have a number of problems ripe for settlement at home before we take over the management of the world.

The life of a bolshevik orator consists partly in denouncing the law and partly in invoking the aid of the law he denounces.

It has been almost cool enough several times this summer to permit the girls to lay aside their furs.

It is not difficult for most people to be square, but it's a job for almost any of us to be sensible.

It is a mistake, however, to say that R-34 is the first gas bag to cross the ocean.

BAD WEATHER PHILOSOPHY.

We need a bad-weather philosophy. Anybody can be happy in good weather, but it takes real effort to rise above the other kind. The one essential is to resolve that a depressing atmosphere shall not spoil the day for us. Even a showery holiday can be put to some use.

A man who can fly 1012 miles in 46 1/2 minutes, an average speed of 131 miles an hour, is not the less interesting because, though an army lieutenant, he is a theological student on leave of absence and expects to devote his life to preaching the gospel.

God will do more to make or break the peace of Europe than any set of resolutions drawn by any group of statesmen. Every country, every factory, every household needs fuel, and so long as the supply is inadequate Europe will be restless or something worse.

A Berlin financier said to an interviewer lately that it was indubitably France had longed for this war, had carried it on with barbarity and imposed an inhuman peace on her conquered enemies.

The United States has not profited out of the war. All the dollar juggling that men may do cannot make it otherwise. And the nation will sooner or later write off its mythical gains and know that all the dollars in the world cannot change the essential and intrinsic character or potentiality of an egg, an acre or a pound of prunes.

Mme. Catherine Broshkovskaya has started back to Russia. A fair conjecture is that the Lenin government will not persecute her, despite her frank antagonism. The revolution's little grandmother has a unique standing among her own people and will keep it while she lives.

Great Britain, according to Loyds, has 16,345,000 tons of merchant shipping today and the United States has 9,773,000 tons. England's advantage in the race for the markets of the world is reasonably apparent.

Announcements that prices of men's clothes are going to hop off into unknown altitude inspire in us a mild curiosity as to how those paper suits which the Germans affected a year or so ago are made.

China has been slow about building railroads, possibly with a view to perfecting a system of running them before they become an indispensable economic adjunct.

German prisoners of war interned in Switzerland, objecting to being sent home, want to remain where they are. Think of the poor Swiss.

"If wishes were horses, beggars might ride." Yes, and just think, if street car suggestions were solutions!

In view of the promised reductions it may again be possible to telegraph for money to get home.

There seems to be an overplus of wind instruments in the world peace bandwagon.

Uncle Sam finds no profit in manufacturing of pennies. Neither do counterfeiters.

AGE OF THE SOFT SNAP.

In "As You Like It," Shakespeare, speaking through Jacques, tells of the "seven ages of man." Of course, the category is complete and truthful, but we think that more modern times have suggested an eighth age, that might be inserted between the whining schoolboy and the soldier, bearded like a pard, and that is the "Age of the Soft Snap," when the whole end of life is to get as much as possible for nothing. A boy generally reaches that stage when he is just out of school, with a smattering of Latin and algebra and imagines that the world owes him a living and all he has to do is to pick it off when the world swings around his way.

The bolshevist general whose successes have so seriously threatened the Koldak government is said to be a man named Kamenoff, who was a colonel in the old army of the czar. If the Russian revolution repeats the history of the French it should not be very long before a military dictator will appear to follow the example of Napoleon to the extent, at least, of seizing power, restoring order and building up a new aristocracy from his family and friends.

The observance of Lafayette's birthday lays emphasis on the closer union into which the war has brought France and the United States. The memory of the heroic young Frenchman whose love for liberty urged him to the aid of the young nation across the sea struggling to be free, put him into the return voyage of American troops overseas to fight in France for human liberty, and now the names of Lafayette and Washington are interchangeable terms of affection between the two nations.

The triumph of Cardinal Mercier in Belgium over the enemy in the days of German occupation accentuates one issue of the day, for it was the triumph of moral influence over brutal force. He had nothing to oppose to arms, power and despotism but moral courage, and by its use he cowled all the others. In this, he emphasized the ruling spirit of the age.

German experts declare the country will be ruined if the entente takes its boy of coal. Germany still holds to the belief that no matter who else is ruined by the war she precipitated upon the world, she should not be, and that it is cruel and unjust to make her suffer the consequences of her own act.

It is reported that one of the reasons for the downfall of Bela Kun's government was a paper shortage, which prevented him from advertising the merits of his rule. Why didn't he use his last run of paper to print money to buy more paper?

Every city reports big new office buildings, but we see few accounts of new farms being opened. If agriculture is the foundation of everything it seems to us that civilization would be wise to look to its foundations occasionally.

In Norway divorces are cheaper and easier than in this country, but not such a large proportion of married couples get divorced there as here. Perhaps divorce is popular in America because it's such a luxury.

Cablegrams that take 12 days to come from Shanghai here deserve the attention of humorists. "Don't telegraph, travel," is the suggested reflection.

It is very difficult to inspire the people with a lofty and bounding idealism when bacon costs 70 cents a pound and eggs four bits a dozen.

The nearest the thirsty man can come to something with a stick in it is an ice cream soda with a straw in it.

About 278 kings and near-kings were forced off their jobs by the war. The mailed fist overplayed its hand.

Who remembers when the doctors used to advise against alcoholic drinks in hot weather?

Thus far no one has suggested that food is really unnecessary to successful living.

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