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MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1918.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

There are two very encouraging factors in home business affairs, says the banking house of Henry Clews in a review of business conditions; the outlook for a big cotton crop and also for a large wheat crop, both of which at this period promise to be record breakers. These are two of the most important crops raised in the United States, and their promise of abundance is encouraging to our allies as to ourselves. In other respects the crop situation is favorable, and if present expectation are realized they will tend to check high price and profiteering; for while the food administration has accomplished wonders in the latter direction, the law of supply and demand cannot be ignored, and the task of regulating prices will be much easier under abundance than under scarcity. In all industries pertaining to the war there is intense activity, and effort is being steadily shifted from the unnecessary to the necessary products. One source of uncertainty has been removed, and that is labor which is displaying a high source of patriotism and steadily increasing its output; thus offsetting to some extent the losses through drafting into the army. British labor has doubled its output since the war began by means of intense effort and better methods. Such an increase of product here, however, is hardly to be expected, for the reason that American labor has long been regarded as more efficient than British and less inclined to unfair restrictions. Our industries are still moving in the direction of more absolute government control. The steel industry will probably be entirely regulated at Washington within a very short time; and now the textile manufacturers are looking in the same direction, preferring the uniformity of government control to the confusion and uncertainties of part government and part private control, with at the same time widely fluctuating margins of profit and labor problems to contend against. In all industrial affairs the prospects are for stricter government direction of both production and distribution during the war. Such efforts were at first restricted to the supplies of raw materials, but are now being directed to not a few semi-manufactured products. Whether government intervention will extend into retail distribution cannot be foretold.

More attention is now being paid to railroad shares as the importance of government backing becomes more generally recognized. Their profits on the basis of the last three years are assured for a considerable period; rates are to be liberally advanced in order to meet increased wages and other expenses; the government will provide funds for necessary improvements and rehabilitation; labor troubles under government control will be at a minimum, while simpler operation, reduction of expenses and cessation of state interference will add to the general relief of American railroads. Our industrial face a somewhat more complex situation, as illustrated by reduction in several copper dividends. The outlook for necessary industries is still encouraging, especially steel production, which for obvious reasons is liberally treated by the government. Thus far the diversion from the unnecessary to the necessary has caused relatively little hardship because of the urgency of

the demand for essentials. Some industrialists will feel the coming increase in taxes, which it is already intimated will be double the present rate. As these burdens will be based chiefly upon excess profits and large incomes, the government will be obliged to act discreetly in formulating any new taxes, lest it destroy the profits and the enterprises out of which these taxes must be extracted. The administration is certainly likely to be wise enough to avoid drying up the sources of such a mass of easily secured revenue. This whole question of taxation is one that requires expert knowledge, also a strong sense of justice; else self injury and inadequate revenue will result. No doubt Secretary McAdoo's suggestion that one-third of the necessary revenue be raised by taxation and two-thirds by bonds will receive general approval. It is estimated that the war will cost next year nearly 30 billions, and that to raise more than two-thirds of this by bonds would mean hurtful inflation, and increased interest rates. Apparently there is no better plan than increasing taxes, simplifying them and distributing them as equitably as possible. The burden is an unwelcome one, but we are quite equal to it, and the call will be cheerfully met.

The recent strength of the stock market reflects general soundness of the financial situation, as well as universal confidence in the future; the latter being largely inspired by unshaken belief in ultimate victory. Prices fluctuated sharply at times, owing to profit taking and conflicting reports from the front, but the prevailing trend seems to be optimistic. The break in coppers also checked the advancing tendency. A notable change for the better was the increasing supply of time money and slightly easier rates, due presumably to the war loan being out of the way and to taxes being practically provided for. Until preparations for the next loan are in order, the money market should have fairly plain sailing. At no time since our entrance into the war has the outlook been more reassuring or less confusing. The process of mobilizing the economic machinery of the country on a war basis and placing it under government direction has been almost completed; while business is becoming more and more accustomed to the new conditions, and is running with increasing smoothness under the new regime.

LANSING'S REPLY

Secretary Lansing gave the German government the right kind of a reply to the threat to make reprisals against Americans unless the United States released Capt. Franz Rintelen, a German spy serving a sentence in this country. The secretary told the German government in effect that the business of making reprisals was against the ethics of warfare, but if the Germans wanted to violate that, as they had all other agreements and laws, and invite reciprocal reprisals, they might go as far as they liked, but should keep in mind that while there were a few hundred Americans in Germany, there are several thousand German prisoners in America. He did not say that America would take vengeance on the prisoners in her power, but he let the Hun know we could do it if we should by any reason be forced to retaliate.

Rintelen was involved in passport frauds, attempts to destroy property and other pro-German activities in this country, and is said to have high connections in Germany, and these are moving heaven and earth to have him released. Germany offers to, in turn, release a fellow by the name of London who is held prisoner in Russia. London is said to be a naturalized American citizen, but the state department in Washington gives out the information that these claims are not fully established.

There is one danger about the German threat, however. The Berlin government has the power to inflict greater punishment on America by carrying out its threats of reprisals than America can inflict upon it. The Hun cares little what punishment is meted out to its prisoners over here, as they are dead so far as that government is concerned. Any reciprocal reprisals that the United States might adopt would only punish the individuals upon whom it is visited; it would cause no sympathetic feeling in Berlin for the unfortunate.

On the other hand, anything done to the Americans in German prisons will hit the whole American people. In this respect, the Hun has a crucial advantage of the United States.

Press dispatches indicate that General Foch wants to take the offensive, he declaring that it is only this kind of fighting that wins. It is possible that the French command is to be held back by politics as was the case with several of his predecessors?

The government has taken over control of Washington city's ice. Wonder if it will fix it so a ten pound block will weigh more than five when it reaches the householder?

A GOOD LAW

According to reports received by the state insurance department, North Carolina's fire loss due to matches was less last year than the general average for the states of the union. This is ascribed to the safety match law in effect in the state.

The latest country-wide figures on fire losses in comparison with losses within states gives North Carolina a loss of \$56,444 due to matches, one of the greatest of all the causes of fires in this country, and shows that North Carolina losses, had the state lost her general average compared with other States, would have been \$92,770. The losses in the United States from fires caused by matches aggregated \$7,136,181. North Carolina's safety match law, and the increasingly effective enforcement of it, along with increased carelessness among the people in the care and handling of matches in the homes, accounts for this state's showing only the \$56,444 match losses instead of the \$92,770 that the state could have had and still been on a general average basis with her sister states of the union.

Observance of the safety match law and special care in the handling and use of matches of all kinds are special features of safety first and fire prevention effort pressed home to the people of the state through the North Carolina safety leagues among the school children and the other safety first and fire prevention propaganda being carried into all parts of the state by the state insurance department.

We recall that when the safety match law was first proposed that it met with strong opposition, and it was only by keeping eternally after it that the insurance commissioner finally succeeded in getting it on the statute books. It is reasonable to believe that the law saved the state at least \$32,000 last year, and possibly more. The act has already showed its worth and it will show it more as soon as there is better observance, which can be had by conducting a campaign of education, which the insurance department is now waging.

It is now believed the submariners are out on the trans-Atlantic routes looking for bigger prey. The only difference we can see in the change of scene of operations is that the U-boat will have deeper water in which to find its last resting place.

An Oklahoma candidate for congress on the socialist ticket has just been sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of twenty years. Had he waited until he was elected, he could have gone almost as far as he liked without danger of facing the court.

Senator Lodge says the U-boat visit is due to too much bragging by Americans. We can't quite catch the senator's logic unless it be that the Hun is afraid he would lose bragging honors.

Senator Smoot sees eight billions more than needed—McAdoo would like to borrow the senator's eyes for awhile.

Sunburns and blisters are insignia of patriotism this summer, provided you get them at some useful work.

Lansing tells Germany if she wants to start any of this reprisal business she had better count the cost first.

In the News

Samuel Gompers, who will preside over the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which opens at St. Paul today, has been released a fellow by the name of London who is held prisoner in Russia. London is said to be a naturalized American citizen, but the state department in Washington gives out the information that these claims are not fully established.

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Ain't It a Grand and Glorious Feelin'?

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How the Navy Plays

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Washington, D. C., June 10.—So much has been written and said about keeping the fighting man amused the impression is apt to get abroad that he is incapable of amusing himself. Of the navy especially, this would be untrue. For while the tars are keenly appreciative of all the shows and lectures and magazines and concerts and movies which have been provided for them by a generous government, and a still more generous public, they are by habit to a great extent independent of these things. This neat and commendable movement for keeping the recruit amused is comparatively new, but the navy has long since solved the problem of how to have a good time, no matter where it is.

For while the sailor's day of leisure may be spent in London or Paris or Hongkong, they as often occur where the ship is at anchor off some coaling station among a population of natives, or in a port that is quarantined. Hence the navy has formed the habit of depending upon its own resources for diversion. And the new recruits have quickly caught the idea.

An old tar, looking over a roomful of naval reserves, remarked: "Throw a bucketful of salt water into that room, and the whole blooming lot will be seasick in a jiffy."

And he may have been right at the time. But these men not only used to the ways of the sea waves, but also to those of the jolly men that sail them. For the navy has a tradition of cheerfulness. The happy grin is its insignia. The navy has been decorated with a smile for learning how to have fun under trying conditions.

The fundamental principle of the navy's method of amusing itself is that a shipload of men will include, by the law of averages, many different kinds of talent. This talent is sought out with systematic care, developed, and used for all it is worth. A belligerent Irish recruit, when asked what he could contribute toward the general joy fund, replied: "I can't dance and I can't sing, but I can lick any d—d man in the crowd."

He soon had a number of chances to prove his assertion, for boxing is one of the navy's standard sports, and it has developed some men who would show to good advantage in the professional ring if they chose to enter it.

Baseball is another game that stands high in the estimation of the sailor man. At a training station near Washington, there are a dozen baseball diamonds laid out side by side, and all of them are kept busy most of the time. Here the naval recruit with an aptitude for the national game gets into trim to uphold the honor of his ship against the teams from other vessels. His athletic instruction is as systematic and thorough as that in his profession, for the navy is abundantly supplied with athletic directors. The Jack always knows what is going on at home in the world of sport, too; for the wireless summary of news that goes out from Washington every day to ships and naval stations in all parts of the world includes the baseball scores.

Rowing is a naval sport which is more in line with the professional duties of the participants, but which is nevertheless entered upon in a sporting spirit. When races between the rival crews of the big warships are pulled off, there is wild enthusiasm and strong betting.

Among less strenuous amusements, singing holds first place in the navy. Upon every man-of-war there are a number of men who can sing, some who can play instruments, and few who do not attempt one or the other. And music is an aid to work as well as a means of passing spare time. When a ship is being coaled the band usually plays, and the fuel goes over-

side in a jiffy to the rhythm and swing of some tune that every man can sing.

Quartettes are as common in the navy as cornet players in a country town. Wherever 25 sailors get together, and new recruits often form these important organizations before they get to the training stations. Not long ago a group of naval officers of high rank were being entertained, and a quartette from one of the vessels formed a part of the program. The skill of these singers was surprising. After they had finished a gentleman went to the leader, explained that he had been in the show business, and wanted to know where these men had acquired such unusual attainments.

"We were in vaudeville for three years," the sailor admitted. "We enlisted in a body."

"Isn't that fine?" exclaimed the old showman.

"Maybe so," said the minstrel-sailor, "but we never worked so hard before in our lives. Once the crew found out what our business was, they started us singing, and we've been singing ever since."

John Phillip Sousa has been especially successful in finding and developing musical talent among the sailors. At the Great Lakes training station he organized a band of three hundred pieces that is praised by the knowing, and he now has over a thousand organized into bands.

The Great Lakes recruits further distinguished themselves by staging a sailor-written and sailor-played musical comedy, which achieved a genuine success in the Chicago theatre, and even won words of praise from the professional critics. A similar show was put on at the Century theatre in New York by the men from the Pelham Bay station. It went over with a big-bang—which was the name of the play.

The navy seems to be rich in Jazz band talent, and, strangely enough, Boston, the highbrow city, is especially prolific of jazzers, for it recently sent out as a recruiting station stunt a naval jazz band that literally made the whole country yell with delight. It played four weeks in vaudeville during the last Liberty loan, and wherever it appeared the money simply poured over the footlights. Its last appearance was at Keith's, in Washington, D. C., during the final week of the drive, and it caused such excitement and enthusiasm that this house was able to set the world high water mark for Liberty loan subscriptions received in a theater.

The value of music in the navy is fully appreciated by its officers. One captain when asked recently if he could use any more men on his ship, replied: "You might send me a couple of ukelele players, second class."

Travelette

By NIKSAH.

Nowhere in the world are more beautiful flowers and plants, shrubs, ferns and vines to be found than in the Flower Mart of Covent Garden. The exceptional variety ranges from the delicate ice plant to the most luxuriant and rare orchid. Where do you find the sphinx that, because of its excellent condition of preservation, "rivals Egypt's dilapidated old party." The Giant's Castle, Chair, Sun Rock, Bowl, and many other noted formations are dignified by descriptions in books of travel, but the paradise of the Scillys is the gardens, matchless for luxuriant variety from year's end to year's end.

Names in the News.
Zouave—pronounced zoo-hav.—An active body of hardy French soldiers who wear a modified Arabian uniform. Storming parties are largely composed of Zouaves.

Mrs. Stenographer
by DALE DRUMMOND

CHAPTER XXXVIII.
A Visit to Sarah Long.

"Say, Mary, you should see the stenog in the same office with Sarah Long. She sure is a peach," Betty told me, then went on to explain; "You know, Sarah and I go to lunch together since she stopped looking like a dressed up doll. And the other day I stopped in her place for her. Gee! but that other girl working there makes me tired. No wonder Sarah never goes out with her."

"What's the matter with her?" "Matter! Why, she's so high and mighty you'd think she owned the Woodruff building, or that she was that Queen of Sheba folks talk about, whoever she is. The airs of her. She thinks she's the whole lot. They have an awful nice office boy, just a kid. She treats him just as if he was dirt under her feet. And the way she bosses that shipping clerk and even the bookkeeper, is a caution. They both are nice looking, decent acting fellows, too. She ain't nothing herself but just a \$10 stenog. But she got my goat all right. I was just going to tell her what I thought of her."

"I am glad you didn't, Betty, especially when she didn't like anything or anybody, was very emphatic. And perhaps she thought she had a right to boss. Although even if she had she might be nice about it."

"Nice! Why, if I had been them boys what I'd done to her would have been something fierce. Then I'd have left that office. Honest, Mary, you'd a thought she owned the whole shooting match."

Not Like Miss Greer.
"I don't imagine, Betty, that such girls ever get to be like Miss Greer. It should get to be like a woman or girl what earns \$40 a week is too busy minding her own P's and Q's to be bossing other folks."

"Some people like to exercise their authority."
"They better exercise some other part of their body when I'm around. I was as hot as a griddle cake the way she talked to that clerk. But I don't suppose everybody can be perfect like me and you was awfully homey, too—the biggest hands and feet. Why, when she brings them clappers of her's down it jars the building. You feel like you want to hang on to something to keep from tumbling through the floor."

"I wonder, Betty, if there are as many kinds of girls in other lines of work as in offices. It seems to me no two of us are one bit alike. We all want to make money, some of us want to get to be like Miss Greer. But, after all, we are a sort of a hodge-podge!"

yond comprehension. The inhabitants are not fishermen, as might be expected—all are gardeners and expert to the last degree.
To the tourist world the Scillys are best known for their gigantic rock foundations and legendary lore. Here is found the sphinx that, because of its excellent condition of preservation, "rivals Egypt's dilapidated old party." The Giant's Castle, Chair, Sun Rock, Bowl, and many other noted formations are dignified by descriptions in books of travel, but the paradise of the Scillys is the gardens, matchless for luxuriant variety from year's end to year's end.

Kindness in an employer isn't always as innocent as it seems.
Tomorrow—CARRIE IS CHANGED.
(Copyright, 1918, by Dale Drummond.)

A Hero Every Day

From the far-off islands of the eastern seas, comes a story of heroism on the part of a United States sailor. A man working on a superstructure of the reclining ship at Cavite, Philippine Islands, fell overboard. The waters here are infested with sharks. Recently there have been several casualties caused by these man-eaters. Notwithstanding this danger, Charles Perry, quartermaster, first class, U. S. N., jumped into the bay and assisted by a fellow seaman saved the workman. For this act he has just been commended by Secretary Daniels.

"Ain't it the truth, Miss Matthews! A boarding house Irish stew ain't got nothing on us. We're like Miss Fagin's crazy quilt what she keeps on her basement front bed. Bright colors, in-between, and dark colors all in the same block. But, Mary, have you ever seen how the dark homey pieces make the bright pieces look brighter? Maybe that's the way with us girls. If it wasn't for them stupid, silly ones, the bright ones like you and me and Miss Greer would stand out so plain. Don't blush. When it comes to throwing bouquets there ain't no one got anything on little bright eyes."

"I should say not!" I returned, laughing, yet wondering, as always, where Betty learned such quaint conceits.

A Settled Purpose.
I said no more about renting an apartment, and rather discouraged the girls when they spoke of it. Yet not for one single moment had I given up the idea. But I had quietly inquired the rent in several locations and had found it altogether beyond our means. We must be near the subway for cause of both time and expense. We could pay no more than five-cent fares and if we were too far it would mean getting up earlier, which none of us were able to do. The only way was just to keep on looking until I found something, then tell the girls. Betty got so excited over things that I was afraid it might interfere with her work, which now to all appearances was going very smoothly. Her employer never had given her any more theater tickets, but he had done several nice things in other ways.

Once when it rained very hard he sent her home in a taxi because she had a cold; and he gave her three tickets to hear McCormick in Carnegie Hall one Sunday night.

"I could almost love Grandpa for this!" Betty declared, as she breathed a long sigh of pure delight. "It's a good thing he's got one foot over or I should. He sure is good to me."

"Indeed he is, Betty, and to Mary and me, too," Carrie agreed. "Tell him we thank him very much for giving you three tickets, and so making it possible for us to go."

"You bet your life I will! He's like most old folks, I guess. I've noticed he likes to have a little fuss made over him when he does anything for me."

"That's only natural," I broke in. "and, as Carrie says, it is very kind in him."

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Tomorrow—CARRIE IS CHANGED.
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If the German measles would only attack the English sparrows it would help our war gardens wonderfully.—Durham Sun.