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Vorwaerts calls the peace terms a greater crime than the war. The terms are merely crime's progeny, come home to roost.

Germany will be permitted to keep her gold reserve, and there is general agreement that her reserve of brass is intact.

Every time European socialists say something good about the Reds, American socialists hang their heads in shame.

Our record in the war causes us less pride than the conviction that native-born Americans have too much common sense to be interested in Red propaganda.

The view of the south is that the Fordney bill will save our infant potash industry at the expense of our ancient cotton industry.

M. Vanhee lost thirteen sons in the war, and was himself murdered by the Huns. And that sort of thing explains why France wants some guarantee for the future.

Dr. Renner informs us from Vienna that German-Austria will form an Alsace-Lorraine "without defense." Well, it won't need defense against Germany, and nobody else will violate that guarantee of territorial integrity.

We ask for a small navy in order to show our faith in the league, and ask for a great appropriation for the air service because battles of the future will be fought in the air.

Off the Job.

The action of the state board of health in causing to be published certain news stories alleging non-sanitary conditions on Wrightsville Beach is to be regretted and to our minds would never have been necessary had

the local health department been strictly on the job.

If sanitation had been getting in a bad way on the beach the county health supervisor should have known of it and should have taken the necessary steps to have corrected the evil before it reached proportions sufficiently serious to have warranted the state health board in turning the light of publicity east and holding up the state's principal beach resort as a horrid example of what negligence may be expected to result in.

No particular hotel is mentioned in the news items appearing in the state papers but it would have been next to impossible to have guessed wrong. Later developments have shown the hotel management anxious and willing to carry out any and all suggestions advanced by the local health department with the object of remedying these conditions that were alleged to exist.

But why couldn't this condition have been uncovered by the local health authorities? Hurtful news stories, published under authority of the state board of health, appeared in up-state papers last week while Wilmington, apparently, slept on in blissful ignorance of conditions that were alleged to exist and which the hotel management has since insisted would be cheerfully remedied.

The city and county are paying for a health department all have been led to believe was the last word in efficiency and yet we find a condition of this nature in our midst, known throughout the state long before we at home had an inkling of the matter. The local board of health is spending sufficient money to produce results. Its head draws a respectable salary and the supervisor is to be given an assistant the first of the month who will also draw \$3,000 per year. The department has inspectors at its disposal whose duties should have carried them to Wrightsville Beach and if the conditions alleged by the state board of health existed they should have been known to the health department and steps taken to remedy them before the extreme was reached.

The state board of health knows the value of publicity and it was not the least backward in throwing its searchlight on the beach. The news items accomplished their purpose but they hurt Wrightsville Beach and what hurts the beach hurts Wilmington.

And there was no excuse for the interference of the state board. The matter should have been handled from a local standpoint. Sanitary conditions should never have been permitted to get in a bad way and in our opinion this regrettable condition would not have arisen had the health department been awake and functioning properly.

Incident of Itself Small.

One obvious comment in respect to the trouble between Mexicans and American sailors in the Tampico district is that the Americans used poor judgment in picking a fishing hole.

The hold-up and robbery of the little group of Americans bent upon a day of sport may become the straw which breaks the back of the non-intervention policy of the United States, but it is hardly likely. Although hailed by many as a reason for a sterner attitude toward Mexico, as an overt act of Mexican hostility to provoke war it is a failure.

There exist reasons enough why the United States should be intolerant of Carranza's lack of effectiveness in policing Mexico. If it were not for the strained relations already existing, the incident of the attack on the fishing sailormen would be relatively trifling, easily innocuous. The loss of a pair of shoes, a pocket knife, or whatever the booty of the pilfering Mexicans happened to be, was not accompanied by viciousness of attack such as that displayed in the clash between Japanese and Americans in China.

Although the picnic crowd of sailors carried the flag along with them, there is nothing in a fracas with criminal nationals as described in the newspapers to cause two countries to go to war. The sufficient cause lies in the general disorder of Mexico and the consequent violation of American rights in more important instances. Carranza might easily make the robbery the deciding element in the case by ill-considered response to the state department, but his anticipated apology and promise of punishment doubtless will smooth out the situation. It will require a worse manifestation than this attack to move Uncle Sam to war against Mexico—and there is no assurance that the manifestation will be delayed long.

It may become necessary for this country to restore order in Mexico. Many Americans think it is high time the task was engaged in, but unfortunately, the harder position of it would not be military subjugation, but the restoration of order and the maintenance in a country where the temperament is rebellious and the

spirit exceedingly bitter. The Mexican has little to lose but his life in most cases and taking his life is about the only way to make a good citizen of him. Yet a race may not be slain, although a country be subdued. Policing Mexico would be about the most gigantic task any nation ever undertook. Handling the Hindus would be child's play in comparison. It may be Uncle Sam's duty, but who can doubt that he dreads it?

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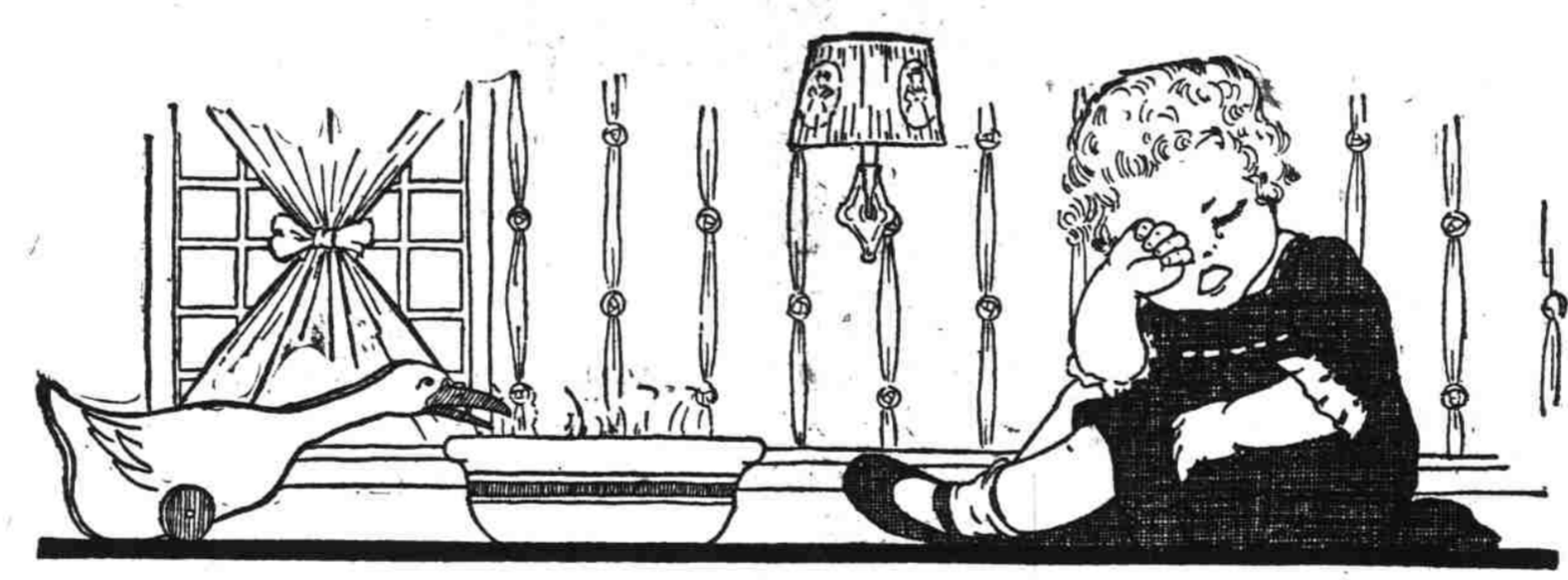
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666 is a fine tonic for pale people. It builds up the blood corpuscles to a red, healthy condition, giving a healthy complexion.

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