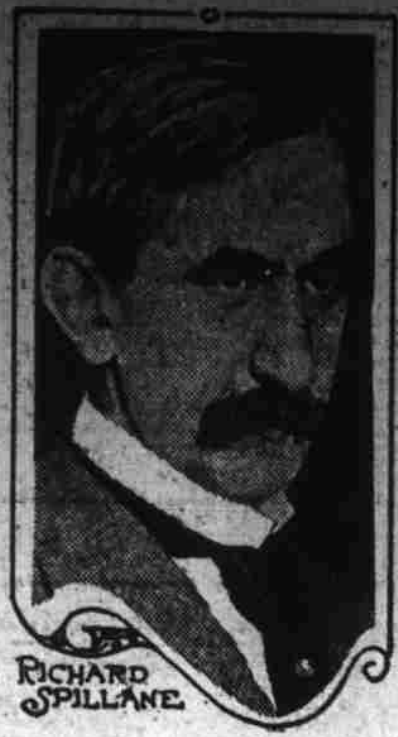


## WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE RETURNING AMERICAN SOLDIERS

BY RICHARD SPILLANE.

Editor of "Commerce and Finance," Noted Authority on Finance and Economics.



RICHARD SPILLANE

It has been the experience after all wars that it takes considerable time to weave the soldier back into industrial life. The returning soldier is lionized for weeks. His experiences are matters of deep interest to all persons. He goes about meeting old friends. He is welcome everywhere. We have more than 1,000,000 men in France. We have more than 400,000 men in the navy. We have more than 2,000,000 men in training. We have perhaps 400,000 men engaged in shipbuilding. Many of our industrial establishments are engaged in war work. Nearly 10 per cent of the steel we are making is going today into war material. Of the 2,000,000 in France a goodly number will remain until peace is signed or, if many of these there now

return, they will be replaced in part by men from this side. When peace is signed the army will be reduced, but not to the size it was before the war. The navy will be kept up to at least three-fifths of its present personnel. Shipbuilding will continue as an established industry, not of its present size or hurried production, but probably to one-half of its present volume, for it will be years before the ship needs of the world are met, many of the crafts now in service being fit only for the scrap heap. The commerce of the seas is going to expand greatly. Before the war the ocean tonnage was 50,000,000. Today it is approximately 44,000,000. Probably 5,000,000 tons of today's ships will be scrapped. The world will need 60,000,000 tons or more of shipping. Labor shortage brought more than 2,000,000 women in America into industrial employment. A fair proportion of these women will drop out with normal conditions returning, but woman has shown her worth as a worker too well to be retired simply because she is a woman. The cost of living will not be so high. But everything will be considerably higher than before this world conflict. Wages will come down in some lines, but never will be down to what they were before the war. The returning soldier will be a better worker than before he entered the army. The army has been a wonderful school, the most wonderful in the world. It has raised the standard of the American man. It has taught discipline, system, order to him. It has made him stronger physically and morally. Many things that are wrong in our system of living he realizes now. He will not be content with our tenement houses or our ramshackle dwellings. He knows the virtue of hygiene. He knows how to take care of himself. He did not before he entered the army. Most of our soldiers have learned more in the army than they did in school. America is better situated to meet after-the-war needs industrially than any other nation. In Great Britain 4,500,000 women out of the 8,200,000 over the age of 21 are in industrial employment. The bulk of them must remain, for the British have sacrificed much of their manpower to win the war and they have done it with a resoluteness that challenges the admiration of the world. France has made even greater sacrifice of men in proportion to her population. The losses of Germany are colossal. So to of Austria-Hungary. The other great nations have thrown practically their entire manpower into the war. America has put only a fraction of its human material. Readjustment in America is simple in comparison with that of the other nations. The failure of the Germans to take Petrograd left to that city the distinction of being one of the two great capitals which have never been occupied by enemy armies in modern times. The other is London.

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## OBSERVATIONS

By the Junior Observer.

**The New Charleston.**  
The man who thinks of Charleston, S. C. as a city behind the times and living on its traditions, has another think coming," remarked David Owens to the Junior Observer yesterday morning, on the street.

Mr. Owens has just returned from the South Carolina city, and spoke in glowing terms of the progress of her people. He also remarked that the business men have developed a great scheme of entertaining visitors, that they operate in relays, to the end that the visitor is kept on the go every minute of his time and the local people "spell" each other so that no one is overworked.

"I was reminded of Mark Twain's 'Innocents Abroad,' while in Charleston," said Mr. Owens. "In the forenoon of the day I was there I was taken about over the city and shown the landmarks. I am of the opinion that nothing I saw was under 200 years old. For instance, one man told me that his great-great-grandfather preached in a church building I visited. And that is a fair sample of the things I saw in the forenoon. I thought of Mark Twain's being shown the mummy of a man who had died 3,000 years ago, and another mummy who had lived only 1,000 years ago. Whereupon Dr. Clemens remarked: 'Can you not show me some people who died yesterday?'"

"I was almost on the verge of asking if they could not show me something of progress whereupon, in the afternoon I was shown the developments of the city within recent times. For instance the sea terminals, great buildings, 1,000 feet long, wide enough for two big army trucks to drive through the entrance-ways together, and where the water is 40 feet deep. I was glad that I had not asked to see some of the people who died yesterday."

Another evidence of the development being made in that city," said Mr. Owens, "is the fact that all five of the civic organizations are amalgamated, consolidated, in their work, under one roof, that of the chamber of commerce. They are co-ordinating their efforts to the end that they are getting things done, and in a big way. And we must remember that Charleston was the first city to operate a trade excursion as far away as to Charlotte, and still there are many of us who are inclined to think of Charleston as a city where effort has gone to seed and where enterprise sleeps.

"To say that the people are hospitable would be uttering a truism; yet it is a truth, as well. I greatly enjoyed my visit to that city, and came away convinced that we may learn from Charleston many things which would be of real and lasting benefit to Charlotte."

Mr. Owens addressed the membership of the Merchants' association on Tuesday night of this week and was deeply impressed with the business enterprise and intelligent activity of the community which in years past has been known as a synonym for civic sloth, and a self-satisfied condition.

**NOWADAYS IT'S BLUE RIBBON**  
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tion which operated to the detriment to the good name and general welfare of that community.

**The Sugar Situation.**  
"I see in the newspapers that the restaurants now 'may' give a little more sugar for use in coffee or tea, and on fruits, cereals and the like, but by personal experience I find that they are not doing this," said a friend yesterday. "I have quit drinking coffee because of the fact that the little measly bit of sugar allowed is not enough to make it palatable, and now that there is no reason for such economy as has been necessary, I believe something might be done to better conditions in this particular regard. I do not know whose business it is to see that it is changed. I suppose it will take an order from the federal food administrator to force some restaurants to 'come clean' with their patrons. As soon as I find one that is doing the fair thing I am going to change my patronage and advise my friends to do the same."

I am glad my friend gives this information, not so much because of the restaurants, but in order that I may get enough sugar to make a cup of coffee palatable at home. Since this food regulation on sugar has been in effect I have been sorely put to it to get any sweetening for my coffee at home and I hope the new order of things will soon reach into at least one home in this city.

But levity aside, restaurants are making a serious mistake to attempt to hold to the little dab of sugar they were authorized to furnish under the stress of circumstances, now that this stress is removed. It will cost them much more in good will among their patrons than it would to add a little of the sweetening agency to such dishes as really need it.

### KELLY-BOST.

Salisbury, Nov. 21.—Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Fanny Bost and Mr. William F. Kelly, a popular young Rowan couple, the wedding to take place in December.

Miss Bost is a daughter of the late Henry C. Bost, of South River, and sister of Rev. S. S. Bost, of Durham, and Thomas Bost, of Raleigh. Mr. Kelly is a member of a well-known family in Scotch-Irish township, Rowan county.



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