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THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, 1916

The Richmond News Leader thinks that if there is anything in a name. Secretary Tumulty might be given the portfolio of War in the cabinet. But then who wants a tumult?

The Bulgars are said to be growing tired of the Teutonic allies. There is the alternative of jumping to the enemy, but stopping in the middle of the road is impossible.

We hope it is not a violation of "strict neutrality" to express the hope that the Russians succeed in pushing the Turks off the map. Anyway our neutrality does not include the heathen and barbarous Turk.

From the way the fraternity is endeavoring to harpoon Mr. Brandeis it is evident that the distinguished Boston barrister has represented the "other side" successfully, to the discomfort of his opposing legal lights

It's bad enough to charge an engineer with neglect of duty and violation of orders when he survives the accident which results, but it is a bit gruesome to hold inquests and fix the blame upon a dead knight of the throttle.

Our idea of the wrong man in office is: The official whose business it is to safeguard the health and welfare of the people, but who listens to the "wheedlings" of those, whose pocketbooks would be touched by the operation of modern health measures, rather than do his duty to the whole people. Swat the fly!

Saloon interests valued at approximately a hundred million dollars in the State of Michigan are said to be at stake in the coming prohibition election. A mere bagatelle as compared with the lives of the boys and girls at stake while the liquor demon is permitted to stalk unmolested and unrestricted through that Commonwealth.

Lord Robert Cecil is the "minister of blockade" of the British cabinet. He is the fellow who will have to bear the brunt of a lot of cursing, and if the policy of his country leads to serious unpleasantness with neutral powers, he will most probably have to shoulder a good deal of the blame in after years, when history is written, if indeed he escapes now.

The Free Press is glad the local police have begun to raid the restricted district again. The warning note was sounded in these columns some days ago when it was learned that neighboring municipalities were crusading against vice, and that the unfortunate women were leaving for other places. The word was going the rounds that Kinston's segregated population was to be increased. The vigilance of the officers must be constant to keep down this moral canker and prevent its insidious growth in the community.

SECRETARY DANIELS' RECORD.

Secretary Daniels is being made the brunt of ridicule and attack by some of the "funnygraph" magazines and weeklies of general circulation. Nevertheless the distinguished Tar Heel has made good in a most difficult place at a most trying period. His administration of the Navy Department has exceeded the anticipations of his best friends, and he has been one of the most consistent supporters of President Wilson. The attacks of the "space writers" of the various magazines may lead some people, who do not think and analyze for themselves, into the error of condemning Mr. Daniels, but the more thoughtful American citizen will give him credit for an earnest, intelligent and capable service.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL ROUTE.

The revival of the discussion of the Nicaragua canal route as the most feasible and practical and the apparent ratification of new treaties which will give to the United States the rights of this route as well as across the Panama peninsula is a vindication of the farsightedness of the illustrious John T. Morgan who, with his distinguished colleague, Senator Pettus, represented the State of Alabama in the upper branch of the National Assembly for so many years.

Mr. Morgan was the "father" of the canal idea. It was his hobby, and he came in for more or less criticism and attempted fun-making on the part of his less brainy and far-seeing contemporaries, when at first he proclaimed the need of an inter-ocean channel which would give to the United States of America an easy access between its coasts. He consistently contended for the Nicaragua route and the selection of the Panama site was in reality a compromise on the part of the majority, who came to see as did Mr. Morgan, after many years of advocacy on his part, but who were not broad-gauged enough to acknowledge that they had been wrong, and that he had been right. Mr. Morgan's opinion never wavered, he was to the day of his death firmly convinced that the Nicaragua route was the feasible one, and it was only in the spirit that the Panama route was better than no canal at all, that he would bow to the will of the majority.

The Free Press hopes that the Nicaragua treaty will be ratified and that a second canal will be dug, which will make the communication between the Atlantic and Pacific doubly sure. Mr. Morgan was right in advocating the necessity of a canal, and he was right in the selection of the route.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

A DE FACTO STATESMAN.

Columbia State: "Senator Root, who says that Huerta was the de facto president of Mexico, is the Mr. Root who was the de facto chairman of the Republican convention in Chicago in 1912. Senator Root is the most eminent of de facto statesmen."

HIS WHOLE AIM TO AVOID TROUBLE.

Wilmington Star: "The long and short of President Wilson's foreign policy has been to keep this country out of war. The Republicans are denouncing that policy, hence, if the administration had gotten into war in Mexico and Europe, it follows logically that he would have been carrying out a policy that the Republicans would have carried out had they controlled the government. A merciful Providence must have divided the Republican party four years ago, so this country could be preserved from the horrors of war."

WE NEED BOTH ROUTES TO BE SECURE.

Birmingham Ledger: "The Nicaragua treaty is again before the Senate for consideration. There is little doubt that the treaty will be ratified. It is of national interest because there is a practicable canal route in which the United States is interested. The Panama canal is not reliable. It has too many slides, and while the engineers are confident that the hills can be cut back so as to make the slides impossible, those rises in the bed of the canal are unreliable and may occur at critical times. It is a wise national policy to secure the Nicaragua route and begin work on it the day there is more trouble at Panama after the canal is open again."

"The Senate should, and no doubt will, vote the treaty through and secure the rights to the old canal route. Senator Morgan liked the Nicaragua route because he did not apprehend any physical difficulties in cutting or maintaining the canal."

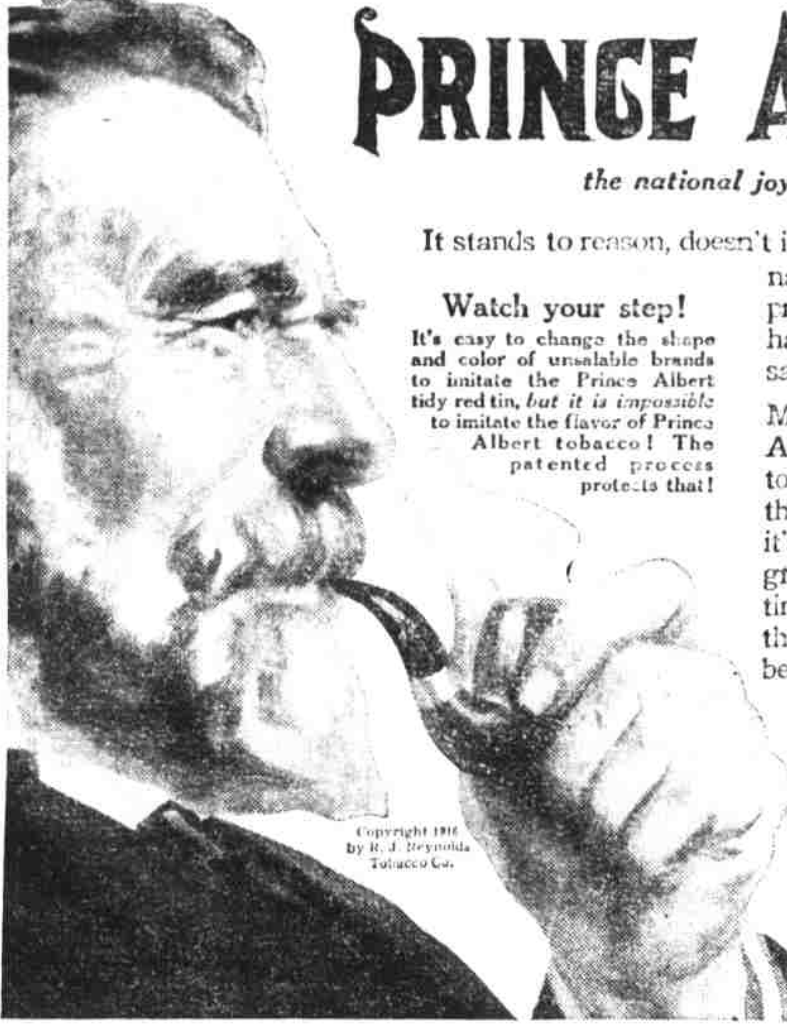
"We are into this canal scheme, and it is business as well as policy to get and hold both routes. This Nicaragua treaty will secure the second feasible route."



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REPARATION FOR COLOMBIA.

Richmond News Leader: "The ratification of the treaty with Nicaragua should be followed by the rejection by the Senate of the mutilating amendments to the Colombian reparation treaty, reported from the Senate committee on foreign relations, and the ratification of that convention in a form acceptable to Colombia. Such action is dictated by the obligation of consistency, by commercial and trade considerations and by regard for American honor. The "taking" of Panama by Roosevelt was the greatest blow that has been struck in years to Latin-American confidence in our professions of unselfishness in our dealings with our Central and South American sister republics. It brought our honesty with respect to our declarations touching the objects and aim of the Monroe Doctrine into question as it had not been brought since the Mexican war. Reparation such as Colombia has announced her willingness to take, as "closing the incident," would be another long step towards the Pan-American union and our trade expansion in Latin-America it would bring, about which we have heard so much lately. It would be a confession of a wrong we had perpetrated that is due no less to ourselves than to Colombia; and we cannot afford any the less not to make it because Colombia's claim comes as a demand, even as an "arrogant demand from a lilliputian State," as some of the opposition have termed it. "The more lilliputian Colombia the more defensive we are placed by not acceding. In truth, in allowing Colombia's 'arrogance' and 'diminutiveness' to influence us against confessing and correcting the wrong is to

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