

uprightness and independence are unquestioned by the nations. To him rank or power is nothing. Seated on a throne from which no power can move him, he overlooks the kings and emperors who put their trust in quick-firers and 'Jack Johnsons.' He, of all others, can afford to take a comprehensive survey of any dispute between State and State and decide, without disturbance from any secondary cause, which is the course that makes for justice. He is still, though in somewhat different way from the olden time, the natural Grand Referee of the nations.

The War

For the life of us we cannot follow the line of reasoning if it is reasoning of those who predict that the end of the war is well within sight. The editor of *Asahi Shimbun*, one of Japan's leading newspapers, tells us that the Japanese think the war will be over by July; amongst English journals when the last mail left Home April was the fashionable date. That is surely optimism run mad. No doubt a great deal will have happened by July; and if, as is anticipated, Italy and Roumania take a hand in the near future, there will probably be swift and far-reaching developments. But it has to be remembered that this war is not only the biggest war in history, but also that, big as it is, both sides have determined that it is to be a fight to a finish. No single victory, however great, on the one side or the other, is likely to bring the struggle to an immediate end. The Allies, for their part, have solemnly declared that they will not sheath the sword until Prussian militarism is crushed. In a word, until Germany is beaten and acknowledges herself to be beaten, and until the Allies are practically in a position to dictate the terms of settlement. That is a large contract; and one only needs to exercise his common sense to see that its execution will take time. Germany has, admittedly, immense resources both in men and material. No one can honestly question German courage. The Germans are struggling—or think that they are struggling—for their very existence as a nation; and it is no mere figure of speech but a simple statement of sober fact to say that they will fight to the last ditch. Under the circumstances it is at least premature, if not absolutely foolish, to be trying to worry out the exact month or day when the trouble will end. On this point the *Times* military correspondent, one of the ablest commentators on the war, puts the whole position in a nutshell. 'All of us are probably asked a dozen times a day how long the war will last,' he writes, 'and all of us give the best answer we can, endeavoring to preserve an appearance of solemnity, but knowing perfectly well in our hearts that our opinion on such a subject is not worth a rap.'

At the same time there is absolutely not the slightest room for pessimism, either as to the final outcome or as to the present position. It is true that Germany has overrun Belgium, but no one, of course, doubted her ability to do that, and it was no part of her real programme. It is true that she has obtained a substantial footing in France. It is true that the progress of Russia, fighting as she is under enormous handicaps, is undeniably slow. But there is another side to the picture; and surveying the situation from a different angle it is evident that Germany's failures are far more considerable than her successes. Her hold on France and Belgium has been slowly but surely weakened. Early in September Von Kluck was within striking distance of Paris; now Paris is absolutely safe. In the Kaiser's scheme, Paris, Calais, and Warsaw all in turn were to be taken 'at all costs'; not one of them has been taken or is in any immediate danger of being taken. Perhaps most significant and momentous of all has been the failure of the prolonged and desperate attempt on Warsaw. The German effort in that direction has extended over more than four months. On October 7 the Germans were in a position almost to train their guns on the Polish stronghold; to-day, in spite of the most violent efforts and of enormous and reckless sacrifice of life, Warsaw is still in Russian hands. The main object, presumably, of

these tremendous drives on the Polish capital is to relieve Cracow by compelling the Russian left wing to withdraw from Western Galicia in order to save Warsaw. So far this object has not been attained; and in spite of local victories—even on a large scale—until the Russians are definitely forced to retire from Cracow Germany cannot claim any real permanent success in the east. On a dispassionate survey of the situation it seems clear to us that it is the German and not the British commentator who has grounds for pessimism.

Prohibition and the Mass

Rather more than three years ago, on the eve of the then pending general election, it became our duty to draw attention to the possibility of a dangerous development of the Prohibition movement in this country—a development which, if ever it eventuated, would place a legal ban upon the celebration of the great act of worship of the Catholic Church. We were informed, upon what appeared to be reliable authority, that one of the accredited lecturers of the Prohibition Party, the Rev. T. B. Hammond, had publicly stated that his party held alcohol to be an evil thing in itself, and that they looked forward to the time when, if Prohibition were brought into operation, its use for medicinal and sacramental purposes as well as its sale and consumption as a beverage, would be strictly forbidden. Under the existing law, if national Prohibition is carried the manufacture, importation, and sale of alcohol are forbidden, but subject to the proviso that its use for manufacturing, medicinal, and sacramental purposes would still be permitted. In about ten years, according to the reported statement of this reverend lecturer, the Prohibitionist leaders hoped to bring about the withdrawal of at least the last two of these exemptions. We immediately interviewed the reverend gentleman in person; and having ascertained that on these two heads at least the report supplied to us was substantially correct, we dealt with the matter in the editorial columns of the *Tablet*. His Grace Archbishop Redwood followed with a circular to his clergy and people, and in the subsequent vote the Prohibition issue was by a narrow margin defeated.

Although the action of the *Tablet* was the subject of general commendation, there were some who, while entirely approving of the course we had taken as a prudential measure, could hardly bring themselves to believe that the danger hinted at was a very real one. It is instructive and significant, however, to note that the danger we feared has actually materialised in the United States. In one State at least it is now 'a misdemeanor' to introduce wine even for sacramental purposes. At the general elections held in Arizona on November 3, 1914, a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Arizona was submitted to the electors, and in the following December, by proclamation of the Governor of the State, was declared approved by the vote of the electors, and in full force and effect. According to the new law the 'manufacture in, or introduction into the State of Arizona, under any pretence' of wine, including, therefore, the altar wine needed for the daily celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is declared to be 'a misdemeanor.' The Catholic priest or layman who manufactures or introduces wine for purely sacramental purposes, as required by the rites of his Church and in conformity with the divine institution and commandment of Christ is thus, according to the actual terms of the law, liable to imprisonment for no less than ten days, nor more than two years, and to a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than three hundred dollars and costs for each offence. The Sacrifice of the Mass, as offered in the Church for nineteen centuries in answer to the divine injunction, 'This do for a commemoration of Me,' is now 'a misdemeanor' in the State of Arizona.

The validity of the law has been challenged in a claim for a bill for injunction submitted to the District Court of the United States for the District of