

Current Topics

Who Won the War?

Some time ago it appeared that America won the war and captured the spoils. Now it seems that Japan and the Argentine made even a better thing out of it than the United States. Recent statistics show that while Canada, Germany, Italy, France, England, Holland, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden are paying dear for a dollar's worth at present, exchange with Spain is almost at par, while for the Argentine and Japan it is at a premium. The following figures are interesting:—

	Unit value.	Rate in cents.	Depreciation or rise.
Canada	1.00	.9100	- 9.0%
Germany	.2382	.0210	- 91.2%
Italy	.193	.0763	- 60.5%
France	.193	.0939	- 51.3%
England	4.8665	3.8000	- 21.9%
Spain	.1930	.1925	- 0.3%
Argentine	.9648	.9800	+ 1.6%
Japan	.4985	.5025	+ 0.8%

Spain, which the old Tory slave-driver, Lord Salisbury, once counted out as a dead nation, is now prosperous in comparison with the land of Orange and Jewish profiteers. Japan and the Argentine are in the happy position of being one better than America. England, Germany, and the rest might be described financially as "also ran" just now. Why worry? Isn't paper plenty?

Prohibition in the States

A priest who arrived recently from the United States tells us that the clergy there are put to no end of inconvenience by the red-tape rules and regulations which regulate their supply of wine for the altar. It is only a small thing compared with what would happen here if Prohibition were once passed and we were left depending on the mercy of a Government too ready to bend its knees before the howling dervishes of the P.P.A. If Prohibition ever does pass those simple people who depend so confidently on promises so often proved worthless will deserve the execration of the community for the way in which they play into the hands of our enemies. But, in spite of the fact that we were almost caught napping last time, we do not believe the good sense of the community will ever allow the tyranny of Prohibition to interfere with right reason and liberty in New Zealand. The trouble the clergy are put to in America is not the only disquieting feature about the state of things there under Prohibition. The *Bulletin* recently told us that barbers were doing a good trade in a certain State, selling bay rum to thirsty customers. A consignment of wood spirit was held up at a small town and the tins were emptied and refilled with water. The local hospital was filled with D.T. cases, and there was a large business for the undertaker for weeks after. But the worst case was where a few gallons of embalming spirit were stolen and poured down thirsty throats instead of being used on the corpse. These are only a few of the things we may have amongst us here if the people are foolish enough to allow a noisy crowd of impertinent people to dictate what a man may eat or drink. We often wonder why the Prohibs. never dream of doing anything so useful and meritorious as trying to check the immorality and the juvenile crime in the Dominion. Of course, it would be too much to expect them to start a movement to keep people from wasting money on millinery and Ford cars that cost three times their value. One of these days they will probably start a movement against smoking, racing, card-playing, bazaars, regattas, athletic sports, and what not. It is about time the common sense of the people started in earnest against them.

A Lesson in Geography

The following table shows how much revision our former knowledge of geography requires in order to bring us up to date nowadays. While Protestant England managed to have Protestant Germany left intact, Catholic Austria was broken up, as were also the Russian and Turkish territories. Including Asia Minor and Arabia, 41 new political entities are shown, and another—Ireland—will soon join them.

	Area. Sq. miles.	Population.	Form of Government.
Poland	135,000	36,000,000	Republic
Czecho-Slovakia	60,000	13,000,000	Republic
Jugo-Slavia	85,000	10,500,000	Kingdom
Ukraine	215,000	30,000,000	Republic
Estonia	7,300	1,750,000	Republic
Livonia	17,000	1,650,000	Republic
Courland	10,000	600,000	Republic
Letvia	9,000	1,500,000	Republic
Lithuania	90,000	10,000,000	Republic
White Russia	140,000	5,000,000	Republic
North Russia	275,000	400,000	Military Gov.
Rus. Fed. Soviet Rep.	Undet'd	Undet'd	Soviet Rep.
Don Rep.	63,000	4,000,000	Military Gov.
Kuban Rep.	36,000	3,000,000	Republic
Tauride Rep.	23,000	1,800,000	Republic
Terek Rep.	28,000	1,300,000	Republic
Tatar-Bashkir Rep.	175,000	9,000,000	Military
Yakutsk Rep.	1,000,000	400,000	Military
Rep. of Siberia	Undet'd	Undet'd	Military
Rep. of Georgia	40,000	2,500,000	Republic
Rep. of Turkestan	400,000	6,500,000	Military
Eastern Karelia	68,000	250,000	Military
Finland	125,000	3,500,000	Republic
Murman Region	35,000	100,000	Military
German Rep.	175,000	60,000,000	Republic
Rep. of Germ. Austria	28,000	10,000,000	Republic
Hungarian Rep.	32,000	9,000,000	Soviet Rep.
Rumania	110,000	12,500,000	Kingdom
Turkey in Europe	10,000	1,900,000	Undetermined
Anatolia, Asia Minor	145,000	5,000,000	Undetermined
Armenia, Asia Minor	75,000	2,500,000	Undetermined
Mesopotamia, Asia Mr.	143,000	2,000,000	British admin.
Syria, Asia Minor	37,000	1,000,000	Undetermined
Palestine, Asia Minor	16,000	500,000	British admin.
Kingdom of Hejaz	96,500	300,000	Kingdom
Nejd & Hasa, Arabia	No data	No data	Emirate
Jebel Shammar, Arabia	No data	No data	Emirate
Asir, Arabia	No data	No data	Principate
Yemen, Arabia	No data	No data	Imamate
Koweit, Arabia	No data	No data	Sultanate
Oman, Arabia	82,000	500,000	G.Br.&France
Ireland	32,000	4,250,000	Hun

Queen of the Home

It is a true saying that marriage either makes or mars the man. It is like all proverbs a generalisation which covers a multitude of instances while having its exceptions. There are men, no doubt, whom nothing can make except a miracle of grace, and there are also men whom nothing—humanly speaking—can mar. On the one hand we might quote another old saying to the effect that you cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear; and, on the other, Horace reminds us that there are just and constant men who can uphold their manhood although the ruins of the world come crashing down about their shoulders. These are the exceptions. The rule is that a bad wife makes a man miserable, desperate, careless, drifting, and not seldom unfaithful; and that a good wife makes a man everything he ought to be if he is to fulfil her ideal. In America, at present in this country, speaking of those outside the Church, divorce has so eaten into the heart of society and so cankered the community that marriages are prone to be made as lightly as they may be broken by the consent of a set of infidel statesmen; but among truly Christian people marriage is not to be lightly entered upon seeing that it cannot be dissolved as long as both husband and wife live on this earth. Pagans and semi-pagans may do as they will, but for Christians the law remains what Christ made it when he said "What God has joined let no man put asunder." Therefore, no Catholic girl can afford to rush blindly into a life-long union on which so much depends, temporally and eternally. Marriages that depend on passion may turn out well but they rarely do: in most

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