

formerly of the "Journal d'Alsace," says that those suspected of being pro-French or who may have a member of their family fighting for France are compelled to wear a tag on which are printed the two letters "F F," which stand for the words "*Französer Freundlich*" (Friendly to the French) and that "all those wearing that tag, men and women, are practically ostracized, no one being allowed to speak to them except by special permission." M. Lippmann quotes a remark of Dr. von Jagow, formerly Secretary for Foreign Affairs at Berlin, "*Im Elsass sind unsere Leute im Feindes Land*" (In Alsace our people are in an enemy country) as proving the persistence of the French fiber after nearly fifty years of annexation.

M. Lippmann denies that Dr. Ricklin's address reflected the sentiments of the Alsatian people; instead, "these words were forced upon him." Finally, M. Lippmann contends that "never will one find an Alsatian of Alsatian parents who does not want to be 'liberated,'" and that "the restoration of martyred Alsace-Lorraine to France is not annexation. It is restitution."

The policy of evictions so harshly enforced and the display of militarism were, even before the war, so autocratic that the German civil authorities themselves have felt humiliated. There was much popular resentment. In 1912 the Kaiser is reported to have said concerning the Constitution granted a year before, "I will break your Constitution into fragments and incorporate you as a province of Prussia." Annexation to Prussia, as a member of the German Parliament remarked, would thus seem to be the hardest punishment that could fall to a people.

THE CHINESE PARLIAMENT

On June 10 the Chinese President acceded to the demands of the revolutionists that Parliament be dissolved, and drew up a mandate of dissolution. But this did not altogether pacify the revolutionists. They also demanded that no member of the present Parliament be eligible for re-election.

A committee of the Chinese Parliament, after the revolution of 1911, completed a draft of a Constitution, of which only the articles providing for the elections and the terms of office of President and Vice-President were passed by Parliament and became law. By virtue of these articles Yuan Shi-kai and Li Yuan-hung were, on October 6, 1913, elected President and Vice-President for a five-year term. A year ago Yuan died, and Li succeeded him as President. Li has enjoyed the support of Parliament, which, however, has been exasperatingly slow in adopting the rest of the Constitution, one reason given being the steadily disintegrating influence due to the old Manchu office-holders, on the one hand, and, on the other, to those men who would like to be new office-holders under a more pro-Japanese administration.

As a Liberal, Li formed a Liberal Cabinet with the exception of the Premier, Tuan Chi-jui. Tuan's policy did not always harmonize with that of his Liberal colleagues or with that of the President. It was hardly to be expected that Tuan, who had always enjoyed independent initiative, could be made to submit to others; at all events, early in March, without consulting Parliament, he tried to break off relations with Germany on his own account, through the pro-Japanese Chinese Minister in Tokyo. When President Li discovered this, he canceled the arrangement. With Parliamentary approval, he himself broke off relations with Germany, not by an association with Japan, but with America; in the words of the Government's declaration, China was "in accord with the principles set forth in the American note, and formally associating itself with the Government of the United States."

This occurred on March 14. But there has been no declaration of war, as was expected. The President's course was disappointing. Tuan saw his opportunity. He appealed to Parliament to declare war. Parliament refused to enter the war at his bidding, and by a great majority voted not to go into the war until it could do so led by a Cabinet headed no longer by Tuan. This it did to avoid the imputation of being pro-Japanese. The Peking "Gazette" accused Tuan of selling out China to Japan. Whereupon Tuan arrested the editor. As this assumption of authority was unwarranted, Li dismissed Tuan. This

angered the pro-war party, already naturally resentful at Li's delay.

The war is really only a pretext, though a very effective pretext, for the activity of the revolutionists. Their primary reason is that they are either pro-Manchu or pro-Japanese. This is not saying, however, that the men who have been nominated by them as members of a provisional government are not statesmen of ripe experience. It would be a pity, however, if the revolution, no matter under what disguise, should turn out to be a reactionary movement and should check whatever advance the Liberal constitutional movement has made.

The ultimate forces making for China's good are not expressed by a division of China, but by Chinese solidarity. In aid of these forces there will be exerted, we are sure, the influence of China's most steadfast and most disinterested friend—America.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE IN AMERICA

The arrival last week in this country of Lord Northcliffe, the distinguished English journalist and publicist, is an event of importance. A portrait of Lord Northcliffe appears in our picture section this week. Lord Northcliffe has made several visits to America. The first was when he was plain Alfred Harmsworth, a notable figure in the newspaper world and a man of rising power and influence. Now he comes as a special representative of the Government of Great Britain. His mission is not that of a diplomat, but that of a war organizer. His task, as he has indicated, is to co-ordinate the activities of the various British commissions now here, to make unified and effective the financial, commercial, and industrial efforts of the war energies of his country in the United States, and to help the two great Anglo-Saxon Allies in their combined effort for the war.

Lord Northcliffe is one of the most forceful men alive. From small beginnings in the publishing of periodicals he has become a newspaper king. In London the "Times" and the "Mail" are under his control, and it is said that his is the directing mind of over two hundred publications of all kinds in Great Britain and its possessions. Incidentally, he owns great paper factories and other gigantic industries. In English politics he is a great power, and to him is popularly ascribed the resignation of the Asquith Ministry and the accession to rule of Lloyd George and his associates. He is a hard fighter. When he was arousing Great Britain to her weakness in munitions and her need of conscription, he made many enemies and defied censorship and autocratic opposition. Even when it was seen that what he urged was a national necessity and his advice was followed, it was long before he was forgiven for his rough positiveness in awakening the country to action.

The services of a man of such unbounded energy and extraordinary organizing ability will in his present mission prove of solid value to his own country and ours.

CONGRESS

During the week ending June 13 Congress, we are glad to report, made two important measures ready for the President's signature—the Spy Bill and the Army and Navy Urgent Deficiency Bill.

The first (notable because of its failure to include the Administration's newspaper censorship proposal) punishes espionage by severe penalties, extends the use of search warrants and the censorship of the mails, authorizes the seizure of shipments of arms designed for unlawful purposes, fixes penalties for disturbing foreign relations and especially for injuring vessels in foreign commerce or otherwise interfering with it, provides for the enforcement of neutrality, imposes new restrictions on passports, punishes interference with the course of army or navy enlistment, and by an embargo clause empowers the President during the present war to prohibit, if in the public interest, the export of any article from the United States to any country. This last, of course, is intended to check supplies from entering the territories of the Central Powers through a neutral state. Despite the British blockade and all Allied efforts, the Central Powers have enjoyed a large trade with the world, chiefly through the Scandinavian countries, Holland, and Switzerland. The

possible enactment of an embargo law by the United States has already, it is reported, caused disquiet in Germany. To some extent the enactment of such a law will relieve the British blockading fleet of its burden because, as most exports that reach the neutrals come from us, the American Government will now be in a position (aided by the British commercial machinery established during the past three years) to see that neutral countries are supplied with only enough food and materials for their own use. As to this the neutral countries have expressed much concern, and three of them—Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland—have sent special commissions to this country to present statements of their needs and requirements.

As its name indicates, the Army and Navy Urgent Deficiency Bill, carrying an appropriation exceeding three billion dollars, provides for the expenses of the increased Army, Navy, and Marine Corps—the pay of enlisted men, their clothing, camp and garrison equipment, the coast and insular fortification, and, in an entirely inadequate degree, aviation. For the taking over of the ship-building plants of the country, the acquirement of foreign vessels now building here, and the construction of our own war-vessels and merchant ships no less than three-quarters of a billion dollars is provided. Unfortunately, these vital appropriations were held back for a week by a dispute over the purchase of the old Jamestown Exposition site, at Hampton Roads, for a naval base at a cost to the Government said to be far in excess of its actual value. The matter was finally settled by a provision materially reducing the cost. Meanwhile contractors who had supplied the Government with clothing and other necessities were, it is alleged, facing bankruptcy owing to the Government's temporary inability to pay them, and the men in training camps were not paid because the money was provided for in this very bill.

EYES SHUT AND EYES OPEN

When the Tax Bill was being considered by the House of Representatives, the Democratic leader there, Mr. Kitchin, of North Carolina, declared that, while it was an inequitable bill, he was going to vote for it with his eyes shut. The bill was indeed inequitable. It contained such unfair items as a retroactive income tax, a ten per cent horizontal increase in tariff duties, a ten per cent tax on all articles now on the free list (which included many food imports), and an unjust form of excess profits tax. Now that many of the unfair provisions have been remedied by the Senate Finance Committee, so that it promises to be practically a new bill after the enacting clause, Mr. Kitchin remarks, as reported :

If it is true that the Senate proposes to strike out all after the enacting clause, it will be the first time in the history of the Government that such a thing has been attempted by the Senate. The Constitution expressly gives to the House the exclusive jurisdiction to originate revenue bills. If the spirit of that provision is violated by the Senate in the manner reports indicate and the bill is rewritten, whatever influence I have will be used to prevent holding a conference with the Senate or, if we go into conference, to report a disagreement at once.

It is true that the Constitution expressly gives the House the exclusive jurisdiction to originate revenue bills, but during recent years the House has shown such haste and superficiality in framing those bills that they have had to be reframed in the Senate. All of our recent tariff laws have borne the impress of the Senate rather than that of the House. The result is that the country as a whole is more and more coming to regard the Senate as a true House of Representatives rather than the House known by that title.

As far as this particular bill is concerned, a measure which Mr. Kitchin was prepared to vote for with his eyes shut, it would appear that when it is made scientific and equitable he will not vote for it with his eyes open. The reason, as he is reported to have said, is that the new bill shows the present war to be "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight and a poor man's pay." The irony of this is that the changes made by the Senate have been made in the direction of lessening the burden upon the individual rather than towards increasing it.

In this connection the United States Chamber of Commerce publishes the findings of a Nation-wide referendum on methods

of taxation. Its questions were drawn up before it was known what the House would do; therefore the publication should not be regarded as a taking of sides between the Senate and House. The largest vote cast in the affirmative was 1,312, and the largest negative vote was 340. The proposal to enact a retroactive tax is specifically condemned. Among the proposals favored were the suggestion to increase first-class postage rather than second-class, to put an excise tax on luxuries, and to adopt stamp taxes.

The two most important measures now being considered by Congress are the Tax Bill and the Food Bill. The latter is divided into the Food Production Bill, which has already passed both houses and is now in conference, and the Food Control Bill, which has just been reported by the House Committee on Agriculture, with the elimination of certain sections from the original draft as presented by the Administration. The eliminated sections are those which would give power to impose a maximum price, prescribe the percentages of flour to be derived from wheat, and fix standards for various commodities. The elimination of the maximum-price control will gratify those who believe that such a provision would have had an unfortunate influence upon the volume of production. The bill as a whole, however, is more drastic in conferring power on the President than anything yet introduced in either branch of Congress.

THE REGISTRATION

On June 13 complete returns from the National registration for military service had not yet been compiled. Enough official figures have been published, however, to show that the registration was, in actual results, as well as in spirit, a sweeping success. Such complications as arose appear to have been the result of blunders and ignorance rather than the result of opposition or political intrigue. Alarming reports were, for instance, circulated as to the conduct of the registration in the city of Philadelphia. The Federal authorities in that city, however, have expressed their conviction that incompetence caused most of the confusion. A trusted correspondent writes us from Philadelphia that "researches have established no evidence of fraud. The machinery of registration broke down entirely in the sudden great strain imposed upon it. In division after division hurry calls were sent out, and volunteers rushed in with plenty of zeal, but with only the vaguest idea of how to go about their duties. A number of registration cards still are missing, but each card is numbered, and the authorities will hold each registrar strictly accountable for the cards issued to him."

The estimated total of those registered for the whole country is now in the neighborhood of 9,500,000. The census estimate of the total number of males in the country within the registration age limits is 10,298,000. With the allowance for men in the naval and military service not required to register, it was estimated by officials before the day of registration that returns amounting to eighty-eight per cent of the census estimate would represent virtually a hundred per cent registration. It is now expected that the final registration figures may go over ninety per cent of the census estimate.

NEW YORK'S MILITARY PREPARATIONS

Among the States that have undertaken to organize their resources for use in war time New York may fairly be called pre-eminent. Having enacted a militia law which provides for the enforcement of the Constitutional obligation of its citizens for military service, and having provided by law for the military and vocational training of the boys of the State under the supervision of a military training commission, New York is now conducting a military census of the State's population.

This is not the first State military census to be taken during the present crisis. Connecticut, for example, took such a census of its people some weeks ago. But the New York census is by all odds the most thorough and detailed that has been attempted, so far as we know, in this country. All persons resident in the State between the ages of sixteen and fifty inclusive—male and female, white and colored, citizens and aliens—are required to