

authorities. The claim made by these men, so far as we know, has been unverified, nor is it clear whether or not the American Government intends to interest itself definitely in their behalf. The first and natural impulse upon hearing of this attempt to kidnap Bergdoll is to exclaim, "Good! What a pity they didn't get him!" It is an impulse, however, which, like many human desires, considers the end rather than the means. At the present time it must be admitted that the only defensible method of securing Bergdoll from Germany is to make his extradition part of the terms of peace—to demand him from a conquered nation, just as the Allies demanded (and didn't get) the German criminals responsible for the war.

The instant Germany is regarded as a nation subject to the restrictions and obligations of peace-time law the power to suggest such action departs. We can then only ask for Bergdoll's return if we are willing to return to Germany such of her citizens as evaded her own military laws during the conflict.

If Bergdoll had been tried and convicted before a civil court, the remedy for the unfortunate situation might properly lie in extradition. There seems, however, little to be done but to wish Germany joy in her adopted son.

But we wish we had faith in the hope that there might be found in Germany at least a few citizens capable of treating Bergdoll as the gallant Burgoyne treated Benedict Arnold when the latter entered the gallery of the House of Commons. This hope, we suspect, is very vain.

THE SHOOTING OF AN AMERICAN OFFICER

ALL well-wishers of international comity were shocked the other day by the news that a Japanese sentry at Vladivostok had shot and killed Lieutenant Langdon, of the American cruiser Albany. The American Government has taken up officially the matter with the Japanese Government, which has shown every indication of sorrow for what has occurred. It at once instituted a court martial to try the sentry.

It is explained that at four o'clock in the morning Lieutenant Langdon was passing through the street in front of the headquarters of the Japanese Eleventh Division. The sentinel, being suspicious, three times ordered him to stop. The American did not stop, and the shooting followed, the ball striking him in the back. After the sentry fired the lieutenant replied with two shots before he collapsed. Langdon was in full uniform. These circumstances of the shooting have been confirmed by

both American and Japanese official investigations.

The unhappy affair calls attention to other interferences with American sailors by Japanese sentries, but these are said to have been merely perfunctory challenges.

The shooting also calls attention to Japan's policy in Siberia. Japanese troops were despatched to that country upon representation by the United States, when Bolshevism was still confined to European Russia, and when the late Admiral Kolchak was at the head of the Omsk Government, in control of Siberia. Bolshevik rule subsequently covered all Siberia except the eastern region, where two independent Russian governments are now functioning, those of Chita and Vladivostok. Like other Powers which have taken military measures to prevent the spread of Bolshevism into their territories, Japan also considers it necessary for self-protection to prevent the entry of Bolshevism either into her own Empire or even into other Pacific coast territories. The Chita and Vladivostok governments, she claims, are not objecting to Japanese temporary occupation of Siberian territory.

Japan, it is assumed, favors the ultimate erection of an entirely independent state in Siberia. If such a state were created, Japan would doubtless regard herself as its protector.

THE PRICE OF MEAT

WHY is the price of meat so high? As Mr. Rogers points out in his article in this issue, a common and popular answer is, "Because the packing-houses control the stockyards."

Hence the Senate has just passed a bill creating a Government commission to regulate the packing industry.

This commission is to be known as the Federal Live Stock Commission. It is to consist of three members appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate. The salary of each commissioner is to be \$10,000, and that of his secretary \$5,000.

The Commission would have the power to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books and papers. In case of disobedience of the subpoena, the Commission could invoke the aid of any Federal District Court; any failure to obey its orders would be punished as a contempt of court.

The bill makes it unlawful for any packer to engage in unjustly discriminatory practices in commerce, to transfer live stock to or receive it from any other packer so as to apportion the supply, to engage in any foodstuffs business when the effect might be to restrain

commerce, to combine with other packers in parceling out territory, or to engage in any other practices tending towards monopoly. Severe penalties of fine and imprisonment are imposed upon any person who willfully refuses to make proper entries, who makes any fraudulent statements, or who obstructs any Government officer in the performance of his duties. There is to be a registration of packers and stockyards and the Commission is to furnish to the registrants regular reports embodying all available information useful to them.

Thus by this bill we abandon the private control of such a business as is the packing industry and enter upon the broader field of Government supervision. The question arises whether Federal regulation will make either for higher prices to the producer or lower prices to the consumer. Certainly the consumer complains. But the producer also claims that, in view of the price paid for meat by the ultimate consumer, he does not get his just share. The middlemen also declare that they do not get enough; in particular, the packers maintain that if it were not for their highly developed organization they could not operate at so low a price. They assert that they have minimized economic waste and that the outcry against them has been based on no legitimate economic complaint. They declare that the cause of high prices is due to the retailers. This was voiced by Senator Sherman, of Illinois, the other day during the Senate discussion when he said:

The most singular thing, to my mind, is that everybody knows how to run the packing business except the packers themselves. Why does not some one inquire about the retailers in meat products? They are too numerous, and that is why the reformers do not go after them.

If lower prices be the main object in view, a commission which controls packers and does not control retailers would seem to be absurd.

MR. SCHWAB AND THE REWARDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

WHY is it that more men of first-rate ability do not enter public service? The question is frequently asked. One answer to it can be found in the report of a recent investigation by Congress.

In the course of this investigation it was stated by a witness that Mr. Charles M. Schwab received from the Government a large sum of money charged up to "ship construction," but in reality given directly to Mr. Schwab as President of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation to cover an expense account while Mr. Schwab was attached to the United States Shipping Board.

This report, which does not seem to

TROUBLES OF THE NATIONS

CARTOONS AS SELECTED BY OUTLOOK READERS

Leason in the Sydney (Australia) Bulletin



JOHN BULL: "LET'S SEE, IT WAS PEACE YOU WON FOR ME, WASN'T IT, MR. LLOYD GEORGE?"

From Florence G. Franklin, Newark, Ohio

Gracey in the Montreal Daily Star



PEACE (ALARMED)—"OH, SAMUEL! SURELY AFTER HELPING TO PULL HIM OUT FOR ME YOU WILL NOT PUSH HIM IN AGAIN"

From R. H. Cowan, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

Sykes in the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger



"HELLO, JAPAN!"

From William H. Coleman, Narberth, Pa.

Bushnell for the Central Press Association



GROUNDHOG DAY IN HOLLAND