

did not consider the consequences then.

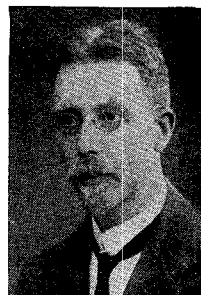
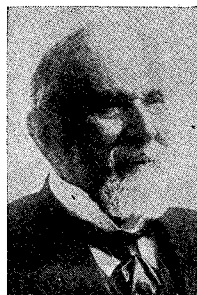
Perhaps this confession of General Hoffman, just because it comes from a German, will make an impression upon minds which have been hitherto unimpressed by the facts. In 1918 President Wilson acknowledged himself to be disillusioned. The Germans had accomplished their purpose, however, for they had succeeded in fooling enough Americans to prevent the United States from resisting this clumsily but effectively camouflaged offensive until it seemed to our military authorities too late for effective action. We wonder how long the further illusion will last that these forces which Germany let loose in Russia are still of concern to Russia alone.

THE NOBEL PRIZES

ON December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the Swedish scientist and philanthropist, the distribution of the prizes awarded by the terms of his will took place. The Outlook has already announced the names of the recipients of the prizes for peace and for literature—President Wilson and Knut Hamsun—for 1920. In addition, the prize for medicine was awarded to Professor August Krogh, of Copenhagen, a distinguished Danish scientist, and the prize for physics to Professor Charles Edouard Guillaume, of Sèvres, head of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures; he has perfected instruments for the measurement of a millionth part of a meter.

The prizes for 1919 were also awarded. The peace prize went to M. Léon Bourgeois, President of the French Association for the Society of Nations and the chief French delegate at the Paris Peace Conference, at which the League of Nations Covenant was framed. M. Bourgeois was also the chief delegate from France at the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907, and is a member of the Hague Arbitration Court. The prize for medicine was awarded to Dr. Jules Bordet, of Brussels, an authority on toxins, and that for literature to Karl Spitteler, the Swiss poet, essayist, and novelist. Spitteler's fame was accentuated by his anti-German stand six years ago during the controversy between extremists in the German and French cantons of Switzerland. This position lost him favor in Germany, where his books had received wide reading. But he gained corresponding favor in France, as was shown at the public celebration of his birthday in 1915, when the French Academy sent him "fraternal greet-

ings." He was educated at the Universities of Basle and Heidelberg and has lived the life of a schoolmaster. He was thirty-six before his first work, "Prometheus and Epimetheus," appeared in two volumes over the pseudonym "Felix Tandem." His books in prose and verse, such as "Gustav," "Lieutenant Konrad," "Butterflies," and the autobiographical novel "Imago," emphasize Swiss elements and points



KARL SPITTELER PROF. AUGUST KROGH

of view as distinct from the German. Spitteler's masterpiece, "Olympian Spring," is an original mythology in verse, in which classical names are retained, but they are the names of very human and, one might almost say, contemporary gods.

FAMINE IN CHINA

RETURNING from China, Mr. J. J. Underwood, correspondent of the Seattle "Times," reports on conditions in that country to Mr. F. J. Taylor, of the New York "Globe." Mr. Underwood predicts that if relief is not hurried to China at least twenty million Chinese will die from hunger this winter.

The crisis was caused, first, by the failure of last spring's crop in the four Chinese provinces drained by the Yellow River; second, by the devastation of last summer's crop there through locusts; third, by the annihilation of the autumn crop by drought. "Now there is not a leaf, a blade of grass, or a twig in all those four provinces," says Mr. Underwood. "Plants are pounced upon as soon as they show themselves above the ground and are eaten."

Nor is this the worst. Families sold their young to get them out of the famine area. "In all these provinces," adds Mr. Underwood, "there is scarcely a girl from twelve to twenty years left. They have been sold into slavery and prostitution and deported." Mr. Underwood continues:

Many men sold their entire families, and attempted to beg their way to Peking. Once they began to arrive there, they were driven out by the professional beggars. There begging is a concession, you know. The superstitious believe that in giving

to the beggar they are giving to the spirits.

The professional beggars declared the famine sufferers outlanders. They threatened to strike. This threat carried weight with the Pekingese, who helped drive the poor from the Yellow River region out of the capital. You see them straggling along the roads leading to Peking and other cities.

Meanwhile "the rest of China, much of it blessed with abundant crops, sits placidly by, superstitiously believing that the spirits intended the drought and famine as a means of regulating the overwhelming population of the land." What are the central and provincial governments doing? Mr. Underwood replies:

The Peking Government is weak. Its soldiers are underpaid.

The provinces are under control of governors-general, who levy taxes anywhere and of any amount to pay anything they wish. These governors-general seized railroad material which was needed to get food to the stricken area.

They quit these tactics when an American, J. E. Baker, was put in charge of the roads.

What is America doing? Mr. Underwood answers:

Baker is in charge of the distribution of funds raised by a special tax on railway tickets for the relief of the starving.

Another American, Major Emmett White, of the American Red Cross, is administering relief, but he has but \$500,000. It costs \$5 to save the life of a Chinaman in the famine area. Rather than spread his \$500,000 over the entire area and do little good to any one, Major White had to pick out a limited district and save 100,000 Chinese.

Mr. Underwood concludes thus:

I have no love for the Japanese, but my hat is off to them for what they did in Korea. Korea has always been a land of many famines due to droughts. When drought overtook Korea the Japanese got busy. They stopped the collection of rents, appropriated 40,000,000 yen, built roads everywhere, and put in a reclamation project. They put every Korean to work. They saved every Korean, when the loss, in an ordinary famine year, would have been a million.

That is what China needs.

And while she gets ready for it every American who can should help the American Red Cross.

A PAPAL STEP BACKWARDS

UNDER date of December 23 a despatch from Rome was published in the public press announcing that "the Holy Office issued a decree today asking Catholic bishops to watch an organization which, while professing

CARTOONS OF THE WEEK

AS SELECTED BY OUTLOOK READERS

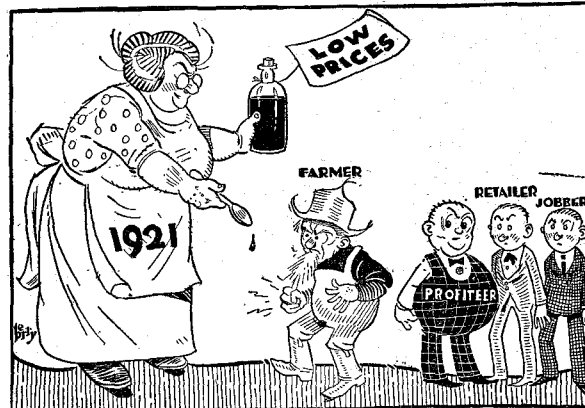
From the Portland Oregonian



WHEN DO WE GET OUR NEW DELIVERY SYSTEM?

From Alethe B. Wilson, Yakima, Washington

From the Nebraska Farmer



ALWAYS THE FIRST TO TAKE THE MEDICINE

From C. O. Jameyson, Wood River, Neb.

Ferguson in the Chicago Drovers Journal



OUR AMERICAN RATE OF EXCHANGE

From Mrs. Vernon Morriah, Flint, Mich.

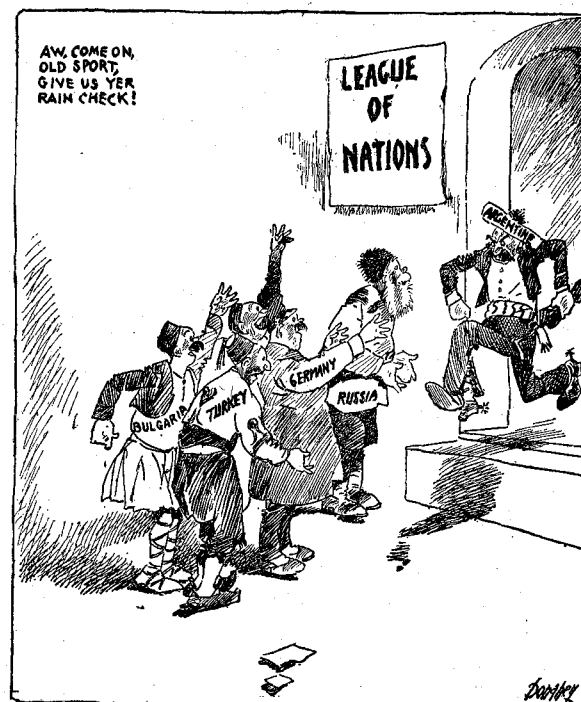
Bronstrup in the San Francisco Chronicle



LOOK OUT, SHE MAY GO DRY!

From J. F. Berry, San Francisco, Cal.

Donahey in the Cleveland Plain Dealer



"SAY, MISTER, GIVE US YER TICKET!"

From Henrietta Jones, Lakewood, Ohio.