

strange country, and perhaps the French runners did not do themselves justice. A photograph of the French team appeared in The Outlook for May 4.

INVITING INSURRECTION

WHEN those who possess authority, whether in business, school, or war, or for settling crucial international situations, fail to accept responsibility and dally or delay, they must accept the blame for the inevitable consequences. Authority that is not exercised ceases to be authority. The disturbing and alarming situation in Upper Silesia is only one more instance of the weakness of a policy of indecision on the part of the Allies.

Neither Poland nor Germany nor France is to-day in control of Upper Silesia. That control rests with the Allies, pending the final settlement under the recent plebiscite and the provision of the Versailles Treaty. The Treaty provision as to Upper Silesia, as we have already pointed out, declares that the boundary line shall be drawn by the Allies in accordance with "the wishes of the inhabitants shown by the vote, and to the geographical and economic conditions of the locality." An Inter-Allied Commission has occupied Upper Silesia during the preparations for the popular vote.

The Supreme Council of the Allies must make its decision. It probably was impossible for this decision to be made without due consideration; some delay was necessary; but the turbulent movements in Upper Silesia which have grown out of uncertainty as to the award strikingly illustrate the danger attached to this method of settling the disposition of a country whose people are divided in bitter antagonism. The theory of self-determination is beautiful to some idealists, but its practical working is far from being easy or peaceful. It cannot be forgotten that for sound reasons the Paris Conference once decided to award Upper Silesia to Poland, and that it changed its mind as a concession to the Wilsonian ideas of self-determination, with the results that are now disturbing the peace of Europe.

Under the language of the Treaty, as quoted above, it is admitted on all hands that the mere fact of a majority vote in favor of Germany as against Poland, with the total vote regarded as a unit, does not mean that Upper Silesia must or should be awarded to Germany as a whole. Certain districts, strongly Polish in population, cast heavy majorities in favor of union with Poland. Other districts, largely German in population, voted the other way. That a division

line will be drawn is generally conceded. But while the decision hangs fire Polish feeling runs high. Nothing else could be expected in view of the whole history of the question. Nor is it surprising that the Poles, recalling the outcome of d'Annunzio's seizure of Fiume, remembering how the Allies refused to act in concert in behalf of the Russian people and against the usurpers under Lenine and Trotsky, recalling also other cases in which rebellion against authority resulted in the yielding of the Allies on point after point, were driven by national ambition for Poland's future to act outside the law.

We are shocked to read in our papers day by day reports that Germans are firing upon Poles, and (if cable des-

patches are correct), in at least one instance, on French soldiers; that Poles and Italians have been fighting in Upper Silesia; that German police forces have crossed a frontier and occupy a town evacuated by the forces of the Allies; that Poles have seized mines in territory which they fear may be allotted to the Germans, and that they are aided by bodies of Polish soldiers acting, of course, contrary to official Polish orders. But we should be more shocked when we read a statement in a cable despatch from Upper Silesia that "the Inter-Allied Commission to-day received a despatch from London saying that the Supreme Council had postponed making public the decisions of the plebiscite officials, hoping that this would tend to allay the

CONTEST NUMBER THREE

"Mine Own People"

WHAT do you really think of your neighborhood? What is your private opinion of your family? Do you agree with Oliver Herford's dictum: "God makes our relatives; thank God we make our own friends"? We should like to know what kind of environment you live in; does it stimulate or does it depress you? Would you have chosen it if you had had any say about it?

For the best letters on the subject of "Mine Own People" we will award:

a first prize of Fifty Dollars

a second prize of Thirty Dollars

a third prize of Twenty Dollars

Tell us truthfully of your revolts, if any, against your home life; also of your enthusiasms. If you are a woman, what do you really think of your men? If you are a man, let us have a critical estimate of your women folk. What complaints have children of their parents, and parents of their children? Do you approve of your neighbors? Be objective. Don't be introspective. You don't have to be bitter.

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

1. Write your name (add a pen name, if you like, for publication) and address in the upper left-hand corner of your letter.
2. All letters must be typewritten on one side of the paper only.
3. Limit your letter to 600 words of average length.
4. Your letter, to be eligible, must reach us on or before June 20.
5. We reserve the right to purchase for publication desirable letters not winning prizes.
6. Unavailable letters will not be returned.
7. The staff of The Outlook will be the judges of the contest.

Address all contest letters to

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Polish activities when it became generally known." We may be surprised and displeased also when we read further in the cable despatch the assertion that the Allied Commission is recruiting Germans for aid against the Polish insurgents.

All the statements just quoted are from current newspaper cable despatches. We are not now concerned to maintain the accuracy of all these despatches. Other incidents of a surprising character might be quoted in abundance. Accurate or not, there is substance enough in the accounts to show that Upper Silesia is not only a danger point, but that the danger is not local. How, for instance, can we confidently expect Germany to yield to the demands of the Allies in the matter of reparation or in other ways to abandon her sly policy of delay and avoidance, when she sees that the Allies do not deal with power and promptness in other matters over which they have properly assumed authority?

There are signs that the leaders of the great Allied nations are learning the lesson that they must act with a united front; that they must formulate their decrees, not first to please one nation and then to please another nation, but to insure the safety of Europe and peace that will last; and that they must firmly enforce just decisions once reached.

WALTER HAMPDEN AND THE AMERICAN STAGE

IT is not often that a foremost actor of the present day ventures upon the hard task of repertoire playing. Indeed, there are few actors and actresses who are even willing to play divers parts. Most of them are content with playing themselves under the thin disguise of various names. Perhaps it is better, as Joe Jefferson said in effect, to cook one dish well rather than to cook many badly, but there will be few to deny that the player of many parts has the greater claim to dramatic honor.

Emphatically of this class is Walter Hampden, an actor who deserves well of the American public, not only for his skill, but also because for many years he has manifested an understanding of that high dignity to which the stage may attain when it is treated with the respect and honor due to a great art. The little theaters and groups of self-conscious players who would arrogate to themselves all the virtues of the present-day drama have yet to produce an actor with the range, power, and purpose of Walter Hampden. Critics who have no good word to say for the com-



WALTER HAMPDEN AS HAMLET
At the Broadhurst Theater, New York City

mercial stage might well bear this fact in mind.

Walter Hampden is now playing in one of the most ambitious repertoires which any present-day actor has attempted. It includes "Hamlet," "The Servant in the House," "The Taming of the Shrew," "Macbeth," and "The Merchant of Venice." "Macbeth" and "Hamlet" we have seen, and the latter at least belongs among the finest productions of this play in recent years. The



WALTER HAMPDEN AS MACBETH
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poetry of "Macbeth" stood forth with unmistakable clearness, but the drama seemed to lack something of that vitality which we associate with the deeds of living men and women—and with Shakespeare's characters. The fact that some passages in "Macbeth" seemed of the stage stagey may have been due to Mr. Hampden's support rather than to any inadequacy in his own presentation.

Whether this was the case or not, virtually the same support in "Hamlet" failed to mar Mr. Hampden's presentation of the character which has tested the powers of almost every great actor for three hundred years. Mr. Hampden's "Hamlet" is one which could not have been created save by a profound and devoted student of literature and life. It is an honor to the American stage.

INCURABLY RELIGIOUS

SOME of the letters received in the War Prize Contest, the results of which were announced in last week's Outlook, indicate that to not a few people the war was a kind of religious earthquake. Its horrors, its selfishness, the sufferings which it brought upon innocent children, the total disruption of social and economic life which followed in its train in many hitherto happy parts of the world, seemed to some people to prove that religion, or at least the teachings of institutional religion, are a mockery. It ought frankly to be confessed that there is some ground for this despondency.

But after a careful reading of all these letters and of many other war experiences that have been printed in various form, and after talking with men and women of all sorts who participated in the war, we are inclined to think that these catastrophic experiences—physical and spiritual—have not darkened but have cleared the atmosphere of the truest religious life. Some weeks ago we received a remarkable letter which confirms this conviction. The Editor of The Outlook had published over his own name, under the title, "What is the Use of Churches and Ministers," a review of a remarkable book, "What and Where is God?" by Dr. Richard Swain. The following letter came in response to that review from President Sniff, of Tri-State College, in the little town of Angola, in Indiana:

I want to tell you about that book review of yours. The book was Dr. Swain's "What and Where is God?"

Last night our engineering students, about five hundred men, met at their annual banquet. The President of the College, several members of the faculty, and several visiting