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**"LOOK IT UP"**

Thinking men and women will do well to consider the striking arguments brought out by the World Trade Club of San Francisco in their campaign for adoption of the units of the metric system of weights and measures.

They show a striking anomaly: That the metric system was invented by a Briton, James Watt, in 1783, and yet all civilized nations have adopted it exclusively, excepting the United States and Great Britain.

That the so-called "British system" of weights and measures is of German Hanseatic trade league—and yet Germany scrap it in 1871 and adopted the metric system, invented by a Briton.

People of Britannia and America may well ask themselves whether they are not carrying conservatism too far.

The Metric System is no untried theory.

The principle—the principle of decimal computation—has been used in the monetary system of the United States since 1786. If the United States had heeded Thomas Jefferson, we should also have adopted this system of weights and measures based on decimals—so simple a system that a child can learn its main features in ten minutes. We know how well it works with money. It will work equally well with weights and measures.

The World Trade Club has started the ball rolling. What we all need is to look the subject up.

Judge Lovett, president of the Union Pacific system, is quoted as saying that capital enough, and ability enough stand ready to rehabilitate American railroads, provided congress can be persuaded to assert national authority over a problem that is essentially national. Yes, there was a time when the Union Pacific was built by the government. Besides giving 15 thousand dollars per mile for its construction up the Platte valley, every alternate section of land was granted for a distance of twenty miles on each side the track, besides the vast coal fields it acquired through the mountain section along its route. One morning Uncle Sam awoke and discovered that for all this enormous outlay European capitalists had first mortgages on what he had built and that he was in possession of the second mortgage. And if we are not mistaken the obligation amounted to many million dollars. And the roads are expecting another haul from the coffers of Uncle Sam.—Adams County Democrat.

The foremost figure in the republican party today is ex-president Taft. He has been very outspoken against every attempt to defeat the adoption of the league of nations. There are many other prominent republicans who take the same view as the ex-president. It is true influential republican newspapers have declared for the league, and condemn severely those who would entangle it, because Mr. Wilson is a democrat.

**LAW MAKING COWARDS.**

The law provides in this state that dealers may show their cigars, but are not permitted to make a big display or exhibit in their windows.

If a dealer is permitted to handle an article, which is granted him by law enactment, why should he not have the prerogative of displaying that article as best suits him?

If the great law-makers in the last legislature in this state were seeking to lessen the sale of the cigar, why could they not have shown courage and stood for a principal, and have passed a law with the purpose in view of eliminating them altogether?

This half courageous attitude on any measure, makes moral cowards of men, and the sad part about the matter is that such side-stepping will take root in the mentality of our youth, with no hope of improvement in the rising generation unless it first be manifest in the minds of their seniors.

A slight display of an article is acknowledged to be a detriment to the youth, for the purpose of commercialism, is just as demoralizing in purpose as though permission be given for a greater display. A principle has been violated just the same in either case.

Why should law-makers be such moral cowards?—Adams County Democrat.

**CONGRESS AND PROHIBITION.**

We have favored the prohibition law, and voted for the amendment when it was submitted in this state. The efforts, however, of the dry forces in congress to make the enforcement laws so drastic that they become subversive of every principle of civil liberty, are going to drive many well disposed men away from

association with a crowd so lost to all the principles of our system of government that they are about to foist upon the people a penal code that the puritans of Cromwell's time would blush to propose.

Some of the prohibitionists in the house of representatives, who believe that there are other questions besides the one relating to prohibition that should engage the attention of congress, have attempted to impress upon their brethren the fact that such drastic provisions as, for instance, the one proposed to search every man's house, without warrant or authority, and prevent every citizen from keeping liquor, will have a tendency to make the law unpopular, and cause a revulsion against it that might mean its repeal, but to no avail.

The American people are, in the last analysis, fair. They believe in a square deal. They might be misled for a time, but they will, in the end, grant to their neighbor the same privileges and rights they ask for themselves. At one time the people of Massachusetts burned witches at the stake, but they finally came to their senses although the election of Lodge to the senate shows some reaction. The people will not stand and look on quietly while some scavenger searches their neighbor's house. Our revolutionary fathers fought a war of eight years' duration to prevent such deeds as this, and men like Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and Washington insisted on putting in the constitution of the United States a provision preventing the seizures, and providing that every man's house shall be safe against seizures, and this provision was afterwards put in the constitution, and constitutes the fourth amendment to that instrument.

The guarantees of the constitution; the sacredness of civil rights that it took centuries to obtain, are of greater importance than the enforcement of any law. We are entering an era fraught with great danger. Legislatures, composed of fanatical men, seem disposed to give away certain civil rights that should be sacred against invasion. The safety of these rights will rest with the courts, and if the courts have the courage to say that they propose to stand between reckless legislators and the principles for which our fathers died at Lexington and Bunker Hill, then all will be well. If not these rights will be restored at the point of the bayonet. History will repeat itself.

Men and women are becoming crazed on this prohibition question. They are drunk with power, a far worse intoxicant than alcohol, because a few hours brings sobriety from alcohol, but nothing but the sword sobers him who is drunk with power. The laws now being passed at Washington may meet with the presidential veto, as we hope they will. The fanatical prohibitionist opposes the repeal of the war-time prohibitory measure, even if the repeal only lasted thirty days, the coming of national prohibition inhibiting it from lasting much longer. The fact that families in California, or in other states, might have their entire fortunes invested in the industry to be wiped out, and that a few weeks abeyance might give them an opportunity to save something from the wreck, makes no impression upon these fanatics.—John E. Kavanaugh in the Spaulding Enterprise.

**AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY.**

All financial roads now lead to New York. Even the output of the Transvaal gold fields is being shipped to this country. It comes here because of the depreciation in sterling exchange. The gold miner can sell his product in New York and buy exchange on London at a discount of about fifty cents on the pound. This means that the United States is a better market for gold by 10 or 15 per cent than London which was formerly the center of all the world's exchanges. While this looks like an advantageous position for the United States it must not be forgotten that our foreign trade is menaced by this depreciation in foreign exchange. Europe wants everything but can pay almost nothing. The international monetary situation amounts to a protective tariff for European industries. If this is kept up it will become a serious handicap to American trade. The only way to open channels of trade with their old time freedom will be to sell goods on the other side on credit. Billions of money will be required for this purpose. It will be a profitable transaction for the United States both directly and indirectly.

**Daily Thought.**

Progress is the law of life. No man as yet.—Robert Bly.

**Today**

Mexico's Latest—The Heart Grows Cautious—A Restless Dove—To End the Ship Strike.

By Arthur Brisbane

The Mexican gentlemen seem to have gone a little far this time. Nine miles from Tampico they held up a launch of the United States warship Cheyenne and rob the sailors under the American flag.

This did not happen in territory controlled by the bandit Villa, but in the territory of Carranza, President of the Mexican Republic.

The incident is different from the average Mexican effort, which consists in insulting the American flag, without robbing or killing men in United States uniform, or in murdering some isolated American ranch owner without insulting his flag.

This effort will teach Mexico whether or not all of the fourteen points drop dead and all the rights of American citizens end in the middle of the Rio Grande.

Lawyers complain that business is bad. Making out income tax returns is hard work and poorly paid, other business has been slack. But there comes a ray of hope in the divorce courts news. The city of Chicago granted 6,220 divorces this last year.

A learned judge says the trouble is chiefly with war weddings. Seven out of ten proved failures. The young lady listening to the "Star Spangled Banner" and boiling with patriotism was willing to marry almost anybody in a uniform. But absence made the heart grow cautious. And when the young man came back after two years many of the patriotic brides, "afraid of those strange men they married two years ago," as the judge puts it, called it all off. Young lawyer, if worried about business, specialize on divorce.

Foch doesn't think the peace dove is firmly settled on her nest yet. He warns England to keep herself ready for war so that "We" (France) will not have to wait for her again. That waiting process, while England was sending troops thirty miles across the channel, less rapidly than we sent them three thousand miles across the ocean, was painful for France, and a good deal will be written about it in French history.

The great American Steamship Association has decided to "stand pat" against the closed shop, which means against organized labor and the right of the sailors to combine as ship owners combine. In addition to standing pat, ship owners say that they will find plenty of seafarers to run the ships.

Maybe so, maybe not. They will be disturbed, perhaps, to hear that Chinese sailors have formed their first labor organization and decided to stick by the white union men.

What became of the suggestion that the government should investigate war profits of the organization of ship owners having unlimited license to rob Government and people during the war? They might be able to pay sailors good union wages.

Pershing and March are to have in our army a rank equal to that of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan and higher than the rank held by George Washington when he died. But possession of that rank, which they will owe to the kindness of Woodrow Wilson, will not make Pershing or March the equals of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan or superior to Washington. As "Sir John," General Pershing has a certain advantage over the old-fashioned American generals who, Washington especially, never attracted the favorable notice of the English King.

There is plenty of work ahead for military fighters, still more for those that must settle social and labor disturbances. In half a page newspaper type we learn that English coal miners flood the mines when they strike. This patriotic effort results in contracts for half a million tons of American coal to go to France. More scarcity here with the usual Coal Trust panaceas, "higher prices" and "fill your cellars now."

Typewriter plants, oil works and the military prison at Fort Leavenworth are all dealing with strikes.

The "General strike" called in Italy was a general failure. That is one bright spot, but it may fade.

Shipping is tied up by a strike. Government could end it forever with a sincere enterprise in the way of Government ownership.

The people built the ships, paid for them in taxes and bonds. They own them, or OUGHT to.

If Government would run the ships with a sinking fund to pay for them, freight and passenger charges as reasonable as possible, rates favoring this nation as they should, fair wages and hours with a share of the profit to the crews, do you think there would be any labor troubles on shipboard? There would NOT.

As we have just learned that the most important thing for the people of this country in war is shipping controlled by Government, could anything be more outrageous than the plan to put ships built by the people under private control and under foreign flags as suggested? This is really as Northcliffe says, "A very docile people."

**Home Nursing.**

In the sick room don't have the patient lie with his face to the window; he is sure to suffer from the light if

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