

### American Church Is Thriving in Berlin

Berlin. —Christmas was celebrated by the American Church in Berlin with a pageant and festivities in which the Sunday school, the American Ladies union and the American Students union participated under the leadership of Dr. Lemuel Herbert Murlin of Boston, who assumed the pastorate here three months ago.

Americans are beginning to take increased interest in their own church off the Nollendorf Platz. The World war scattered the American colony in Berlin. The church service and its activities were abandoned, and the church was closed during that period.

It still is only about one third of its prewar size, but under the leadership of Dr. Murlin and his wife, Mrs. Ermina Fallas Murlin, church activities are taking on a new lease of life.

First ground for the American church in Berlin was broken November 9, 1901, by Miss Mary Bannister Willard, the Rev. J. F. Dickie, D. D., of Detroit, officiating. Years before Miss Willard, as a child, had given the first dollar she possessed to a fund to give the American community in Berlin its own place of worship.

Dr. Murlin formerly was a college president, having served for 34 years at Baker university, Kansas, and Boston university. His alma mater is De Pauw university, Indiana. He serves as pastor here in a voluntary capacity.

Different Christian religious affiliations are represented among the church's congregation. Dr. Murlin is a Methodist. Mrs. Richard Crooks, wife of the American singer, is in charge of the primary Sunday school.

#### Army Promotions

From Washington Post.

Two measures affecting the important matter of army promotions are before congress. Each seeks to provide a remedy for the so-called hump that stands in the way of the promotion of many able officers. Although there is some sentiment in the army against changing the existing status of the promotion list, justice to a large group of officers and maintenance of morale demand that this legislation be enacted.

Only officers of the company grade—lieutenants to captains—are affected by the legislation. Following the World war examinations were held to fill vacancies created by the national defense act, as a result of which former emergency officers were appointed to all grades from colonel to second lieutenant. Those appointed colonel, lieutenant colonel and major were placed among regular army officers of corresponding grades, but captains, first lieutenants and second lieutenants, by an arbitrary interpretation of an act of congress, were listed in accordance with length of service. Thus a man found qualified by examination for a grade no higher than second lieutenant, if he served one day longer than a man found qualified to be a captain was jumped from second lieutenant to captain, and will be a major before the captain.

The legislation before congress proposes that the army promotion list be arranged as it should have been in 1920, with captains placed among first lieutenants, and second lieutenants among second lieutenants as originally appointed. In general older men will be placed above younger men, but those who profited by the war department interpretation will not be deprived of the grade and pay benefits thus obtained. The list will be so arranged that former emergency officers will have the equal opportunity with regular army officers to reach the rank of colonel before they are retired.

For eight years the question of army promotions has been dragging along. Congress now has an opportunity to right the wrong. It should enact the bill clarifying the promotion situation.

#### Entitled to Larger Share.

From Des Moines Tribune.

The Dayton, Ohio, News takes Secretary Jardine's figures for the gross income of farmers of the United States and measures it against the gross total income of the country, making the showing that anyone who has followed the farm debate with any open-mindedness at all would of course expect.

The farmers' gross income for the year is estimated at \$12,253,000,000. That is the department of agriculture's figure, and of course it is a huge figure.

The gross income of all American industry, farmers included, is figured to be in the neighborhood of \$75,000,000,000. That is another enormous figure. The world has not seen things like that before.

From the farm standpoint the interesting thing is the proportion. Gross farm income is less than approximately one-sixth of the total. Yet the farm population is about one-third of the whole population. So the per capita income of the agriculturist is approximately half the per capita income of the country as a whole.

That gets to the heart of the intelligent farm campaign. But what the farmer legitimately wants for the future—not only in this country but wherever he has begun to think seriously and shrewdly with his fellows—is to have the disproportionate distribution of wealth corrected.

#### So's He Now

From Tit-Bits.

The prodigal returned early the next morning.

"Where have you been?" asked his indignant wife.

"After a moment's reflection he ventured, 'The cemetery.'"

"Good gracious!" cried his wife. "Who's dead?"

"The whole bally lot of 'em," replied her husband, cheerfully.

How long have we had the sale of Christmas seals? D. L.

A. In the fall of 1907, Miss Emily P. Bissell of Wilmington, Delaware, launched the first Christmas seal sale, from which she realized \$3,000.

### Out Our Way



### Benevolent Business Oligarchy Being Developed Through Easy Money from Inflation of Capital

From the New York World.

Rarely does a week pass without bringing news of some new business merger. New combinations are constantly forming and old ones are growing larger by a process of absorption. Intensive competition, excess production capacity, and the economies of quantity production and of systematized distribution are proving potent influences for centralization. The movement is by no means new. It appeared among the railroads about the middle of the 19th century, when small and independent units began to be linked into trunk lines, and these in turn have since been merged into still larger systems. In the '80s of the last century the movement began to make headway in the industrial field, and it has since spread to public utilities, merchandising and even into the theatrical and moving picture businesses. There is now some talk of agricultural mergers as the solution of the farm problem.

Much has been written on this trend toward combination. Some of it has been polemical and some coldly scientific; but surprisingly little attention has been given to one of its most important human aspects—its effect upon the individual business man who willy-nilly has become a part or member of the new order. For him, in the great majority of cases, the change means a passing of his one time independence. Just as the industrial revolution of the 18th century changed the independent master craftsman, working in his own shop and with his own tools, into a wage earner supplying nothing but his labor, so this later revolution is changing the man at the head of a small business enterprise into the salaried employe of a huge corporation.

On the whole, this probably means less worry and more ease and comfort for those affected, but whether this is a sufficient offset for the loss of independence is a moot question. At least one fact, however, seems well established: this loss of industrial freedom does not mean also the closing of the door of opportunity for advancement, as is sometimes asserted. It would be nearer the truth to say that the opportunities are multiplied, but within a much narrower range. The big corporation usually keeps a keen lookout for signs of talent among its personnel, and is ready to reward this talent substantially, because it has learned that such a policy yields good returns. Prompt promotion for merit explains why every big business today is so well served by its staff.

Occasionally we do hear of some ambitious corporation official with a promising career ahead of him rebelling at the discipline essential in a large organization, or at the lack of personal contact with anything more than a tiny fraction of the whole work, and going into business on his own account, hoping that, while pecuniary rewards may

come more slowly, the personal satisfaction will be greater. But these exceptional cases only confirm the conclusion that for most business men the yoke of the new system is apparently not galling.

Nevertheless, the ease with which the transition has been achieved can not blind us to its far reaching social effects. It means that the opportunities to advance are to be found along only one path. Men must obey the strict rules of the system—rules which they have had no voice in making. Independence exists, but only at the top. However conducive such a scheme may be to industrial efficiency, it has little of the democracy of the system which it is supplanting.

Individualism is thus yielding to something closely akin to institutionalism. Ability to forge ahead has become less dependent on personal initiative and more on one's ability to fit into a certain place in an elaborate machine. The machine itself sometimes helps to do the fitting. A personnel staff devotes its time to putting the round pegs and the better square pegs into the proper holes. This pays better than throwing away the pegs which do not fit where they are first placed.

Even provision for a "rainy day" is becoming among the employes of great business establishments less and less a matter of personal initiative. Foresight and self control were once much more indispensable to getting ahead than they are in these days when so many organizations are providing sick benefits, insurance and old age annuities. The "tightwad" in the big office today probably has poorer prospects of success than the free spender who spends with an eye on the main chance.

The changes which are now going on have led some observers to predict that with high wages, high salaries and a benevolently oligarchic control of business America will lose many of those traits which have so profoundly affected its development in the past; that a nation of hard working individualists is gradually becoming one of pampered employes who spend as fast as they receive.

Happily, there are many things which challenge such a pessimistic forecast. Out of their larger incomes the people continue to save, as the growing business of life insurance companies and of savings banks continually attests. And while the management of our basic industries is being concentrated in the hands of a few, the actual ownership of these industries is becoming more and more widely diffused through the development among the people of the habit of investment. This diffusion of ownership is, in fact, one of the most comforting features of a transformation which is bound to bring in its train many new social and economic problems.

#### 12 Wives Convinced.

From Arkansas City Traveler.

Yesterday we printed a paragraph containing this unfortunate sentence: "There is one man in the Traveler office who makes it his business to go the rounds every morning and rumple the beds of all the girls in the office." This morning we found on our desk a letter signed by the 12 married men in the Traveler job department, press room and mechanical department, demanding that we publish an exonerative statement clearing them of any complicity. "It is needless to state," they complain, "that we spent a very unpleasant evening after our wives read this article." All right, boys, we hereby state that none of you is the guilty man. (This isn't the first time we've had to save a married man from domestic infelicity.)

He observes the laborers. How indifferent they are! How slowly they move! What time they waste lighting cigarettes, standing and looking, joking together, disputing over their tools. For 10 whole minutes he watches and finds not a single man intent upon his job.

And that crowd standing agape in the street regarding wonderingly the deft movements of the steam shovel. There they will remain looking on instead of going about their business, wasting the time of their employers. Next they will saunter off to peer into shop windows, or to crowd about a truck that has broken down or to watch a man painting a flag pole. And they will return home to tell their wives what a hard day they have had.

He ponders. Can this be the spirit that has made America? Or has the sturdy pioneer yielded to the shirker? Is the national blood beginning to thin? Where is the old sense of responsibility and self

crats, 38; no party designation, 5; non-partisan, 2.

Outstanding results of the 1928 November election in regard to women law makers are:

First woman elected to the Iowa legislature.

Connecticut leads with the largest number of women, having 20 as compared to 15 in 1928.

Fifteen women are serving as state senators.

Approximately 12 women have been re-elected to their fourth term.

Gains were made in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Tex-

as, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Washington.

Losses were sustained in California, North Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, and Tennessee.

There will be no women serving in the 1929 legislatures of the following states: Alabama, Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee.

Q. What is the local name of the hibiscus, Hawaii's national flower? S. L.

A. The flower emblem of Hawaii is the puia alala.

reliance? Where the old delight in doing a solid day's work?

With a sigh he looks at his watch. It is time to go to lunch with his discussion group. He tells his secretary he should be back in a couple of hours. And will she please have the letters ready for him to sign upon his return, as he is leaving early this afternoon. They have canceled the conference as the general manager is playing in the squash tournament. He sets out for lunch, regarding the shop windows on the way, and pausing to observe a motor car that has stalled at an intersection and to join a crowd around a street musician. Once more he is impressed with the universal tendency toward idleness. It disturbs him.

Two hours for lunch. Gazing out of a window, sauntering on the street, leaving the letters to the secretary. Going home early. What is the difference between this man and the shirker over whom he feels concern? Well, you see he is a thinker.

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### No Excuse for Friction Between United States and Great Britain

From the New York Times.

No sooner had the British journalists who recently spent some months in the United States returned home than they were asked their opinion about Anglo-American relations. Excellent, they replied; but immediately added that the best way to keep them so was to stop talking about them. There has undoubtedly been too much talk, too many things better left unsaid, or expressed differently. Some of the words which have drifted back and forth across the Atlantic recall the cynical saying of Bernard Shaw that the "common language" of England and America is uncommonly fitted to lead them to insult each other. One trouble has been that neither side has an accurate measure of the source from which offensive utterances come.

Only on Saturday we had a senator of the United States changing his views about the need of an enlarged American navy because of something said by Dean Inge. That chartered libertine had suggested that some day England would unite with European nations in order to "draw Shylock's teeth." Senator Gillett gravely took this outburst as if it were official, as if it spoke the inner thought of all Englishmen, against whom he must therefore hasten to arm. He should have been informed that the gloomy dean, with his irrepressible propensity to write and speak in a way to startle, is more laughed at in his own country than he is here. Nevertheless, his indiscretions hint at what was meant by the British editors when they said the wiser course is to keep still. Talk between nations is not cheap when it means spending hundreds of millions on warships.

Vivacious Lady Astor, who knows both countries better than do most, made a plea for silence about naval armaments. She declared that she and many others were getting very tired of the endless palaver which leads nowhere. It excites the popular mind, even while confusing it. The technical merits of the debate over cruisers, their number, their tonnage, their guns, are too much for the ordinary citizen. He simply feels that something must be amiss when public men in the United States and in England talk so much about the subject with so much heat. If Lady Astor's proposal that the talkers pass a self denying ordinance not to say anything at all about ships and navies for a fixed period were adopted, it might relieve the tension sensibly. Certainly it would be a welcome change.

This is not to say that the whole question of naval disarmament is not to be debated. Particularly must some friendly agreement between Great Britain and the United States be worked out. As is stated by Mr. Allen W. Dulles, in his article in the January Foreign Affairs, this is the touchstone of the whole matter. Without a preliminary understanding between England and America there is no hope of reaching a general statement. Mr. Dulles writes with full knowledge, from official relation to the discussions at Geneva, both in 1926 and 1927, and also writes in a spirit of great fairness. His general conclusion is that there should be concessions by both sides:

Great Britain should abandon the contention that the United States restrict its cruiser force chiefly to the small type of cruiser, or shape its own naval program to suit the asserted needs of the empire for this type. On the other hand, the United States might properly be asked to consider the British claim that the use by the United States of its cruiser tonnage for the construction of the larger 8-inch-gun cruisers would give combat superiority even though there were tonnage equality; that is, parity of combat strength and not alone parity of tonnage should be considered. \* \* \* Certainly a basis can be found if both countries take the common sense attitude that neither fleet is a menace to the other and that while substantial parity of combat strength should be the basis of any treaty, neither side will insist that the treaty make each of the fleets the replica of the other.

Talk like this is not to be reproached. It does not inflame, but gets up "forarder." However, it should be reserved mainly for competent specialists and informed and well poised public men, and not made the sport, in either country, of those whose specialty is "brawling ignorance all day long."

#### Speaks for Saunders.

From Emmetsburg Democrat.

Ernest L. Hogue, Iowa director

of the budget, died a few days ago of influenza in his hotel room at Des Moines. He was ill only four days.

Fresh reports from the capital city clearly indicate that Hon. W. E. Saunders of Emmetsburg is likely to be named as his successor. Mr. Saunders' close association with Governor Hammill in political affairs during the past four years give him a decided advantage over any other aspirant who may enter the race.

The appointment of Mr. Saunders would, it is needless to say, be exceedingly gratifying to the citizens of our country regardless of political or other considerations. He has served as representative in the lower house of the legislature for six years and he was, during the last session, chairman of the committee on appropriations. Hence he is better qualified in most ways for the position to be filled than the average man in public life.

He has a broad grasp of business matters and he has had many years of exacting experience in large enterprises. Mr. Saunders served for nine years as mayor of Emmetsburg and he proved himself one of the most capable municipal executives in our state. He is thoroughly familiar with the needs of counties, cities and towns and also our state institutions and he would be in a position to pass intelligent and safe judgment on what would be necessary for their maintenance and improvement. He would be in a position to give our state high class service. He is not, in any sense, an extremist and would, we believe, be inclined to check those who are disposed to be too generous with public money. The appointment of the budget director will unquestionably be made within a week or 10 days.

The citizens of our country and this sector kings of the state will await with special interest the appointment of a worthy gentleman to fill the position. It is sincerely hoped that Mr. Saunders will be named.

Beyond Khyber Pass.

From New York Times.

Kipling once told what happened to one who "tried to hurry the east." But his reference was to an Occidental, and King Amanullah of Afghanistan, if he had read it, could hardly have applied the warning to his sector kings.

The news from Afghanistan indicates that he might well have done so, for he has been "hurrying" his wild hill people toward western reforms, and it is reported that the army has risen against him and he and his consort have been forced to take refuge in a fort. Later dispatches may dispel some of the seriousness of the developments. But it seems clear that the Afghans are not taking kindly to Amanullah's efforts to make an Asian power of the state which has been valued by European soldiers and statesmen in war and in peace, ever since Alexander built his fortress of Kabul. To relieve his land of the necessity of looking al-

ways to Moscow or London, Amanullah has proclaimed independence, imported foreign officers to train his army, changed the laws, introduced western dress, abolished polygamy, and lately there has been talk of doing away with the "purdah," or exclusion from public activity of the women.

In the 19th century Russia and Great Britain scowled at each other across the mountains which compose Afghanistan, and that country is still "the bastion of the Indian Empire." For generations England expected her greatest war to arise over Russia's ambitions in India, but the Junker emergence transferred anxious thought to the Belgian frontier, and it was not until Amanullah succeeded his assassinated father in 1919 that Afghanistan loomed large again in foreign office concerns. The new king de-manded and asserted independence, obtained treaties with Russia and Great Britain and proceeded to form what looked suspiciously like Pan-Islamic alliances with Persia and Turkey.

During the past few months the progressive and ambitious king visited the important countries of western Europe and further enlarged his plan of making Afghanistan modern and autonomous. While he was sumptuously entertained in London, it was obvious that the British were putting their minds on India again and stiffening to the task of protecting their imperial Asian domains as in the days of "The Man Who Was." But the dispatches indicate that Amanullah may have his hands full of purely internal troubles for a while, and it is not difficult to think of more displeasing news than this in London. But if "the hook nosed hill gentlemen with the long guns," as Kipling called the Afghans, turn their eyes inward from Khyber pass upon Kabul and the Russifying process, there could be much better news in Moscow.

Rose Under X-Ray.

(From San Francisco Examiner.)

The inner secrets of the growth of the rosebud, as it is slowly unfolded through a three-day period, have been recorded on a motion picture film by means of a new X-ray movie camera invented by Arthur C. Pillsbury, Berkeley, Cal., naturalist-photographer. The potted rosebush was placed before the camera, and every five minutes for 72 hours a new four-inch film was moved into place and exposed to the rays as they passed through the bud. At the end the inventor had 200 feet of film portraying the whole history of the flower's unfolding, down to the last detail of inner structure. This will reduce to 50 feet of ordinary motion picture film. It is planned to make use of the new camera for many scientific investigations; one project is to get a continuous history of the knitting of broken bones.

After Effect.

From Judge.

Wife: Where were you last night? Husband: I was sitting up with a sick friend—and, if you want to know the whole truth, I was as sick as he was.

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