

THE MORNING BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY
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FRANCE BLOCKADES WORLD PEACE.

A great deal of the trouble of the modern world results from the efforts of politicians to deal with economic questions. In France as in other nations, men competent to deal with business problems seldom rise to positions of power in the government.

Such is the low order of scheming that constitutes European diplomacy. Human rights are as nothing, and in spite of each failure that has marked these European conferences since the war, the game continues.

From the time of the first peace conference France has been the stumbling block to world recovery. The curse of uncertainty, the desire for complete revenge and the aim of military power have cast a shadow over the continent.

No doubt exists anywhere in the world that President Harding stands ready to call an international economic conference the moment a favorable opportunity is found. That moment will not appear until France makes it possible by demonstrating a less harsh and selfish spirit.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Instead of dying "from loss of blood or lack of breath," in the good old days, man now succumbs to some one of a number of classified and defined causes. Not all of these are understood, except that death may be the result from any of them.

What must make us think is the increase in the number of deaths from causes that are absolutely controllable. The report says:

"Automobile accidents and injuries resulted in 10,188 deaths compared with 5,162, the rate increasing from 10.4 to 11.5 per 100,000 of population. Suicides numbered 11,136, compared with 8,959 in 1920, the rate increasing from 10.2 to 12.6. Homocides also increased, numbering 7,545, compared with 6,265 in 1920."

MARKING THE OVERLAND TRAIL.

A party is about to set out from Des Moines, to travel across the route from Omaha to the Pacific coast, for the purpose of marking the "Overland" trail. The enterprise is commendable, and, as it will be guided by one who made the journey in 1849 and he will be assisted by a diary then kept, it will probably throw light on some of the disputed minor points.

However, the way is pretty well marked out as it is. Many stones have been set up in Nebraska by the State Historical society, the pioneers and patriotic societies, interested in preserving historic highways. These have been notably assisted by Ezra Meeker, who has repeated his original trek to Oregon several times, and who has consulted not only his own, but the records of those who live along the route in the interest of accuracy.

WHEN THE WOLF PACK HUNTS.

All are more or less familiar with the picture of the sleigh flying over the snow-bound steppes of Russia, the frightened driver urging on his frantic horses, while his companion throws furs and robes to the wolves who leap about the flying group.

The ferocity of these animals is proverbial, and therefore credence is readily given the account that comes in from an Ontario town, telling of how three men, each an experienced hunter and trapper, have been torn to pieces and devoured by the ravenous wolves. Such an occurrence within a few miles of a considerable town suggests that civilization yet has its limits, and that nature, however alluring in prospect, yet has a savage side that must be considered when any plans are discussed with regard to excursions abroad.

Yet the wolf pack of the Ontario forest is mild and harmless when compared to the human wolf pack that hunts perpetually in the large cities. Where society is best organized, and where law and order seem the most firmly established, there lurk the human beasts of prey, too cowardly to hunt and kill in the open. Skulking in the shadows, hiding behind shelter of assumed respectability, even adopting the garb of sanctity as a disguise, these wolves go about, singly or in pairs, seeking their "kill."

MARRIAGE AND ITS PERILS.

A deputy county attorney whose lot it has been to handle almost a thousand domestic relations cases confesses himself "pretty well contented without a mate." With no intention in the world of attempting to influence this gentleman's action, let it be said that there is a side of marital experience that he has not seen officially, and that is indeed a bright one. In countless homes of which the courts never hear men and women are living happily, facing the world all the more bravely because closely united, cheering and inspiring each other, sacrificing for each other and for their children.

There is, in spite of all the divorces, desertions and cases of non-support, no real ground for doubting the fundamental strength of the institution of marriage. Thus, and thus only, are the interests of the children to be protected. The instinct of humankind, the cry of heart to heart, of soul to soul, finds its true answer in permanent union.

Among the more cultivated classes there has arisen an artificial situation which has resulted in the disintegration of ideals and the distortion of the best instincts. The radical tendency to loosen the bonds of matrimony is also encouraged in many modern plays and novels. The presence of innumerable contented families defies their theories.

It is interesting to hear Dr. Felix Adler of Columbia university, the founder of the Society for Ethical Culture, discuss the question. In a recent lecture he said:

"Marriage is a great school, not to be indulged in lightly. It must have love as a basis, but love is not to be confused with infatuation. Many people who try successive marriages say they act on the principle that when love dies, so should marriage. But true love will not die. It will live on and grow. Marriage is not the school for people who are thinking first of their incompatibilities, but how they can best adjust themselves into the lives of the others. The life threads of the man and of the woman are inextricably bound in the soul of a child. The child is the keeper and custodian of our marriage vows."

Dr. Adler warns that great suffering may result for the next generation through the present loose, marital ties, but he has no doubt of the ultimate survival of the institution of marriage. When religion and ethics unite, even the discouraged agents of the law may take heart. Individual cases in which the obligations and opportunities of marriage are lightly set aside are frequent. Mistakes also are numerous, and modern opinion approves of efforts to right them. Out of it all, however, may be confidently expected a new seriousness in the choice of a mate. The seeming riskiness of the matrimonial venture is today leading thoughtful young people to consider with all care their prospects before the knot is tied.

At a time when there is widespread complaint of school taxes, the federal commissioner of education declares that there is a school building shortage that is nothing short of disgraceful. "Only 5 per cent of all the schools are fireproof," he says. "Every week in the year a school building is burned or partly destroyed. Seventy-five per cent of the cities in 1920 reported congestion. Hundreds of thousands of children are on part time."

The criminal court announces that it is all set and 'arin' to go; so bring on your criminals.

Warmest Christmas ever recorded, but keep the home fires burning.

New Farm Census Needed

The statistics of farm values compared in 1919 and 1920 by the census are wholly valueless at present, or for any comparisons in the future. It would not be a very great undertaking, nor would the cost be heavy in proportion to its importance to have the census bureau compile the present value of the farm lands of the country.

The shrinkage in value, since the deflation which began two years ago, has been enormous, and in all probability exceeds the total investment in all of the railroads of the country. This decrease has gone on in every part of the country. The decline throughout the west and on the Pacific coast has probably been even more tremendous in amount and more drastic in the sufferings which it has entailed, than the decline in the south. Lands, which formerly were easily salable at good figures, are today practically without selling value, at any figure. In one county, alone, we are informed, 10,000 pieces of farm property have been advertised for sale under mortgage or for taxes.

The condition is far worse than was ever known before in this country and unless the magnitude of this decline can be intelligently grasped by the country, it will scarcely be possible for the nation, at large, to understand the influence upon our economic and political life of this situation. Without this knowledge we will not be able to realize fully the destructive power of deflation and what it has meant to the agricultural interests of the whole country. We cannot form any intelligent opinion on all of the questions involved, viewing the matter from the financial and political standpoint, without a full understanding of the losses involved.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from other newspapers—

Death Blow to the Klan. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. An unusual number of the elements that combine to give one crime a celebrity over other crimes are present in the case at Mer Rouge, La., on which a national attention probably will be fixed for a long time. The locality is one from which aggravated instances of violence were several times reported during the summer. Because of its circumstances, one incident of which accounts came in August made from the first a deep impression on the country. A very large gathering in that month devoted to as public-spirited a purpose as a good roads movement became the occasion at which the first steps towards a great offense against society was taken. Many motor cars leaving this gathering in the early evening were halted by masked men who inspected the occupants of each in turn and took from their number five men. One of these men was released after being taken to the grove, two others, one an aged man, were brutally flogged. The remaining two men, Thomas Fletcher, an ex-server in a restaurant, and Daniel, unmarried son of a wealthy planter, were never seen alive afterwards.

Churches Federate. From the Kansas City Kansas. The 11 Protestant churches of Newton have federated, to "facilitate co-operation of the churches in promoting mutual interests as factors in the community." Each church has two lay members and the pastor to represent it in the federation. J. H. Langenwiler of Bethany college is president of the federation.

Assimilation. From the Des Moines Register. The use of the English language in a facetious remark by a member of the Philippine legislature, which appeared in the chamber, prompted this bit of information in the Register-Public Ledger news service from Manila: "After the elections, when it was announced by several of the members that they would insist upon the use of English in the legislature, the matter was regarded by the older representatives and senators as more or less of a joke.

Objects to Scale Inspection Fees. Maywood, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Today this town was visited by a holdup man. I would not say a man just as much if he worked with a gun. But this man works from state authority—scale inspector. Here is a list of charges for this evildoer: Platform scales, 600 pounds... \$ 7.50 Automatic scales, 240 pounds... 3.50 Truck scales, 22,000 pounds... 5.00 Transportation... .75 Total... \$10.00

To Settle Labor Disputes. Omaha—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I would appreciate your giving publicity to the following: I have been a member of a labor organization for the past 25 years and have seen various laws, including the anti-picketing law, enacted the purpose of which is to suppress the activities of organized labor.

Robust Health For 1923. means more to you than anything else. Without it success, happiness and the full enjoyment of life are impossible. Over fifty thousand people from all walks of life have publicly testified to the unequalled health-building power of Tanlac.

Common Sense. By J. J. MUNDY. The Value of a Word. An oft repeated word is bound to make an impression on the mind. It is well to have some inspiring motto always before you.

Our Army of Civil Servants. Rescoe C. E. Brown, in The North American Review. The United States government is today probably the largest employer of labor in the world.

What About The New Year? What are YOU going to do with this bright New Year? Will your clean page be checked with broken promises and lost opportunities?

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"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

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