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FRANCE'S GREATEST DANGER. In no way could the United States more clearly indicate its disapproval of French policy on the Rhine than by the withdrawal of American troops.

The peace and stability for which America hoped has now been upset. With old hates and fears flaring up and reason and judgment set aside in Europe, no good reason remains for the presence there of any American soldiers.

France is a nation of declining population. Its leaders fear that unless it crushes the Germans now it will be unable to compete with them or even live, in the future.

By a continuance of its present policy France will alienate what has been its greatest protection—the sympathy of the world. Physical power can not save it. The need is not for greater armies, but for a higher sense of justice.

Democracy teaches people to look ahead to the consequences of the actions of statesmen. America thus sees further than any other great nation, and discerns the seeds of war in the invasion of the Rhineland and the effort to reach a settlement by force instead of by peaceful agreement.

Long ago St. Simon, the French philosopher, considered the causes of the greatness of France. He said that if the country should lose its first 50 savants, its first 50 artists, its first 50 artisans and its first 50 cultivators it would be a body without a soul.

ON THE WAY TO TIDE-WATER. Certain truisms come up in the mind whenever Nebraska's economic future is considered. One of these is that the state must continue to be a large exporter of food products; whether these go out in the raw or manufactured form is not material to the main point.

It was possible, and may be again, to control the cost of hauling material of any kind within the borders of the state. Modification of the Esch-Cummins law is promised, at least to a degree that will restore to the State Railway commission the power to fix freight rates in the state.

Another promise to the Nebraska farmer is that some day the Atlantic ocean will be brought as near as Duluth, Milwaukee and Chicago, by way of the Lakes-to-Ocean canal. Why does this project lag? The obvious answer is much the same as that to the question of the river—with the addition of the New York state canal as a makeweight for argument.

Plenty of business is already in sight for all the railroads that exist, for the river, and for the canals, and as the country develops more freight will be presented for handling.

Another general manager of the Omaha Union Stock Yards also started work as an office boy. Another answer to the foolish assertion that opportunity no longer exists.

An Oklahoma general was thrown from his horse and half-killed, adding a touch of realism to the barbecue inaugural.

Few changes are announced in the personnel of Omaha banks; some tribute to the men who are running them.

SHIFTING PEOPLES TO GAIN PEACE.

A startling decision has been reached at Lausanne, if the word sent out from there is to be accepted as accurate. Instead of seeking a basis of peace whereunder Turk and Greek, Armenian and Syrian, Slav and Seljuk, may live side by side, worship Jehovah or Allah, two names for one God, and carry on their respective vocations in amicable rivalry, the commissioners have decided to separate all Christians are to leave Turkey, and Mohammedans to leave Greece, and live apart, that they may no longer quarrel.

A million inhabitants of the two countries will thus be affected. Six hundred thousand Greeks, so-called, will be required to remove from Turkey, and 400,000 Mohammedans will be forced out of Macedonia and other parts of Greece. This wholesale breaking up of homes exceeds anything of the sort the world has ever seen.

Greater folk movements have taken place, as when the Huns moved from eastern to western Asia and thence into eastern Europe, but that was a migration of a whole people, seeking a new home. The Helvetian war, over which the schoolboy first tests his teeth on Latin, was to prevent such a migration.

Aside from political considerations, which do not seem to excuse the action, its humanitarian aspect is one that will shock Americans. If the movement is carried out it will involve the abandonment of homes established centuries ago, breaking off of ties and associations that have grown up through many generations, severing of friendships—for friendships do exist between these people, even though divided by a barrier of race or faith—and the breaking up of conditions established through ages, merely to emphasize the lack of accord in European politics.

No commentary could be written that more caustically condemns the policy, or lack of policy, that has characterized the Lausanne gathering. Peace is desired by all the world, and peace to last must rest on justice. Where a square deal for all is concerned, no question of religion or nationality should have consideration.

Two CONVENTIONS—AND A MORAL. Yesterday it was the farmers who met in Omaha; today it is the manufacturers. In the clearer vision that is developing in America it is apparent to most that these two great industries of agriculture and manufacturing are inextricably bound together.

Farmers should be interested in the growth of manufacturing in Nebraska, for it means more people in the cities to buy their food. It means also less expense for transportation, both on articles sold and bought. The establishment of small factories in the country towns of this state, to refine the products of the soil which no longer would have to be shipped to the eastern seaboard and returned later in finished form, would produce an ideal civilization here on the prairies.

These local manufacturers, on their part, are intensely interested in the development of agriculture. Two of the principal topics at this convention concern the project of supplemental irrigation to increase and stabilize the harvest of Adams, Phelps and Kearney counties and the Great Lakes waterway, which would cut the cost of exporting farm products.

The coming of a body of 1,000 farmers to Omaha is something of an event. Such conventions as those of the Farmers' union give city folk a definite impression of the importance of the agricultural industry to the state.

Perhaps you have noted that all the while the Europeans are sending ultimatums to one another, they are keeping one eye on the United States bank roll.

The man who blew his head off because his landlady refused his offer of marriage justified the lady's action.

Our "Watch on the Rhine" is wound up.

Big Salaries for Big Men From the San Francisco Chronicle.

In pursuance of the radical policy of stimulating hatred and competence in order that the great public enterprises may have to be taken over by our government, the senate recently directed the Interstate Commerce commission to ascertain and report what railroad officials receive salaries of \$75,000 or more during the current year.

Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the board of the Southern Pacific, heads the list with \$100,000, of which he will pay to the government about one-half as income tax. While it is the business of the owners of the roads to determine what they can afford to pay their financial manager, it will do no harm to speculate on the subject. If the owners of any great business could find a man so very competent and experienced to be able, by wise management, to increase the gross income by 1 per cent a year, without increase of outgo, they would obviously make money by giving him half of such increase.

"From State and Nation" Editorials from Other Newspapers

Weighting the Sward. From the Washington Star. If France goes to the threatened length of seizure of the Ruhr in an effort to collect reparations from Germany the moment her troops begin to move it will be regarded as the most serious in the world's history. It will establish a precedent and set in motion a chain of circumstances which may bring to mankind miseries so great that the afflictions of today will be looked upon as blessings.

Governor Walton. From the Wichita Eagle. From the terrible things we have been hearing about J. C. Walton, recently mayor of Oklahoma City, we had been looking forward to his message to the legislature with some trepidation. We were not sure but that the new governor might appear before the legislature with a dirk in his teeth, a pistol in one hand and a sword in the other, the badge of soviet Russia upon his breast, and a line of red soldiers following him about while he proceeded to do a whirling dervish.

Buying Cars and Engines. From the York News-Times. The way the big railroads are giving orders for cars and engines is interesting to the average citizen. The people will not object to a betterment of the rolling stock of the roads, as cars and engines had become rather dilapidated and some new ones will help out greatly.

Too Easy to Buy Firearms. From the Great Cities. It looks as if the Nebraska state legislature will be called upon to pass a law restricting the sale of firearms. The Society for the Prevention of Crime, is strongly urging legislation along this line.

Men Haven't Any Rights Left. The national woman's party is demanding more equal rights. Unfortunately, however, men haven't any of that kind left.—Baltimore Sun.

Common Sense. The Value of Helpful Criticism. When attention is drawn to your mistakes, do you accept criticism gracefully?

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NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for DECEMBER, 1922, of THE OMAHA BEE Daily 71,494 Sunday 78,496

RE. HUGH ELMER BROWN, Seattle, Wash. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of January, 1923. W. J. KELLY, Notary Public

CALL OR WRITE AKFORD Music Co. 419 South Sixteenth Street TERMS IF DESIRED

"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 of matters of public interest.

The Franco-German Crisis. Hastings, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I wish to make an appeal to all American Legion members and world war veterans for humanity.

Personally I was a member of the 89th division for more than 20 months in all its engagements and operations, was with the division from the time we left the United States until we returned after the war. And right here I would like to ask the question: Why did we go to France? They said for humanity's sake, but what is France trying and doing to humanity now? What is France trying to do to Germany?

Crime and Punishment. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Lawlessness can be curbed only by putting a God-fearing fear of the law into the hearts and minds of those inclined to lawlessness.

Another contributing cause might be that the punishment does not compare with the crime in many cases—perhaps a small fine, a few days in jail is the sentence given for most petty crimes, and until criminals, other than professional ones, are given punishment they dislike, and fear more than work crime will exist.

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Our Secret Ambitions.



start circulating a petition for a pardon, maybe before the criminal has even reached the penitentiary, instead of approving a just sentence. Our laws are the foundation of all things worth while in our country, and the violation of them should be considered a disgrace by all and treated as such, and sympathy, except as might be accorded one who, through ignorance or the workings of a diseased mind, has defiled and defiled a thing of beauty should find no place in the punishment of lawbreakers.

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