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THE FRENCH MENACE.

France has the power. That in effect is Premier Poincare's response to British efforts to save Germany. Nothing short of force will prevail upon France to moderate its reparations demands and temper its teatment of Gemany. There is to be no modification of the Vesailles treaty or of the estimates of the reparations commission. France is going to take its pound of flesh. Instead of the \$12,000,000,000 that financial experts set as the utmost possible indemnity, Poincare announces the determination to collect \$26,000,000,000.

It is plain that this can never be done. The expenses of the Ruhr occupation are larger than the financial returns to the French government. Germany is expected to foot the bill for maintaining all the troops that are sent within its borders. When it has done that, it will be beyond the ability of Germany to pay or France to collect tremendous reparations. So it is to be doubted if the French are making any honest effort to secure reparations. Their effort would seem to be to wreck Germany and seize control of the richest portions.

Supreme in the air, and with an immense army of conscripts awaiting call, France has no fear of Britain or any other nation. With its industry so balanced that it can feed its own people and exist without any interchange of goods with other nations, it occupies a highly strategic position. By its alliances with Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia, Poland and Rumania, it is protected at every point from foreign attack.

No international economic conference is to have any say in the matter of reparations, Poincare announced in his address at the battle-scarred town of Senlis. In expressing his resentment at foreign interference in a "matter primarily interesting the creditors of Germany," there may be seen an allusion to American efforts for an impartial economic conference to settle the whole matter of reparations.

Is there any pressure that Great Britain can exert great enough to force France to change its position? The British plan which as yet has only been vaguely outlined, appears to be to woo Italy and Belgium from their support of French policy. What both these nations want is money. That they can never get until France declares a moratorium on its hatred. One question is whether they realize this yet. And even though they might be willing to cast their influence against France, it is doubtful if France would turn back from its military adventure. Troops are being pushed farther and farther into Germany, and there is no sign

of any turning back. What we see in the European situation is what has existed there since the beginning of history. Let one nation get the upper hand and not reason, nanity, not justice can turn it from exploit ing its advantage to the full. Militarism is in the saddle, as it always has been. The League of Nations, which was advertised as designed to prevent such a crisis as this, is silent and impotent. France today is the greatest menace to world peace. And in the new temper of the people of the world, when this bubble breaks, as it will in the course of time, France will find itself reduced to the position of a third-rate power, for it has shown itself unworthy.

FREEDOM FROM WITHIN.

"This is a free country," the stage comedian re-

marked, and added, "Do as you're told." It brought a big laugh, for in spite of its apparent contradiction, it neatly hit off a situation which much as we regret it, we Americans have inflicted upon ourselves, not knowing how to govern otherwise. In older lands customs rule by general consent. Not having any time-honored customs in America, we have resorted to legislation and regulation. Some inspired paragrapher has observed that if Mount Etna were in the United States, congress would put it under federal control and establish half a dozen bureaus to regulate its lava.

"Is any man free except he who can pass his life as he pleases?" asked Persius. Measured by the Roman poet's standard, who is free today? As society grows more complex it begins to appear that Schiller was right when he wrote that "Freedom is only in the land of dreams, and the Seautiful only blooms in song."

Yet so long as the mind is kept unshackled, there is liberty. The most important right today is that of free speech and free press. If people will maintain their mental independence, thinking for themselves and exercising self-control, the battle is won. If each one can curb within himself the forces of greed, hate, envy and deception there will be fewer "Verboten" signs posted or needed. There is freedom within the reach of every man. It is well expressed by Horace in his satires:

"Who then is free? the wise man who is lord over himself:

Whom neither poverty nor death, nor chains alarm; strong to withstand his passions and despise honors, and who is completely finished and rounded

"This is a free country," the stage comedian remarked, and added, "Do as you're told."

GET OUT THE TAPE LINE.

Poor old Leviathan! Pride of the American merchant marine, crowned queen of the seas, and honored above all other things affoat, she must now abdicate her proud position, and step down into second place. Why? Because Admiral von Holweg of Benin, acting on information furnished by Blohm & Voss, at whose Hamburg shipyards both the Vaterland and the Bismarck were built, to later become the Leviathan and Majestic, certify that the latter is almost six feet, to be exact, 71.37 inches, longer than the former,

Will we yield precedence on this testimony? Not while a voice can be raised in protest. The builders of the ships may rely on their blue prints, but until somebody takes a tape measure and runs it around the two vessels at the water line, and gives the true measure in feet and inches, the claim for the Leviathan will stand. As a matter of fact, that good old ship ought to have expanded more than six feet in length since being reconditioned and set to sailing under the Stars and Stripes,

CROPS AS MONEY.

Suppose a readjustment of our commercial practice were to come about, and that personal service should be paid for in kind, rather than in cash, what would happen? Whenever the plight of agriculture is discussed, the comparison is made of what the farmer gets when he sells and what he pays when he buys. The showing is always bad for the farmer. It takes the gross output of an acre of wheat to hire a bricklayer for eight hours' work; a doctor's bill or a lawyer's fee eats up two or three acres of wheat, and so on through the list.

In Saxony a basis of exchange has been worked out between the doctors and the farmers, whereby professional services will be paid for in rye. The scale is low; it is rather hard to conceive a country doctor in America receiving 19% cents for a consultation, or 39 % cents for a visit, with an allowance of 9% cents per mile one way for travel into the country, all to be paid in wheat at an agreed price per pound. Yet that is the schedule adopted for the Saxony doctors, who take rye in lieu of gold marks, at the rate of five pounds for a consultation, 10 pounds for a visit, and two and one-half pounds for each kilometer of travel one way.

We do not believe that barter and trade will ever be resorted to in the United States again, although payment in kind is frequently made, with has to complain of, and with justice on his side, is that his prices are entirely out of line with the that Omaha poets' club. We are disentire satisfaction to both parties. What the farmer other fellow's. When he gets into a position where he can trade on something nearer to an even basis, he will feel more courage to carry on, but just now he doesn't get much consolation when he weighs out his wheat to pay his bills.

LUCK AND CUNNING.

How far does the element of chance control in human affairs? To what extent can cool, careful calculation of all elements of a problem offset and counteract the uncertainty that attends the result of any undertaking into which the unknown may possibly enter? It is all well enough to say that 2 plus 2 makes 4, but expert engineers make allowance in all their calculations for "the factor of error" as well as the factor of safety.

A golf championship was decided in Omaha on Saturday, in which chance played a considerable part. On one hole, at a critical period in the match, the winner sunk his ball for a hole in 1, the first time in 21 years of playing he had ever achieved the feat. It just so happened. Par for the hole is 3, and this lucky stroke gave him that advantage over his opponent. It is not entirely at point that they were counting holes rather than strokes; the effect of that bit of luck would be disconcerting to the loser at any point in the game, and doubly so at the stage it had reached.

On Sunday Bobby Jones, amateur, defeated Bobby Cruikshank, professional, in a sensational match. Four times they had gone around the 18 holes, and each had a total score of 296. On the play-off they were all square on the 17th hole, a most remarkable situation. The match depended on one hole. Fortune smiled on the amateur, whose drive took him into the rough but to a good "lie." The professional also drove into the rough, but a poor position. Equal in all respects, fighting fairly for the honor, the element of chance decided be-

"It is better to be born lucky than rich," is an old saying, and "the breaks of the game have decided many a contest."

A NETWORK OF GOOD ROADS.

Out of Washington comes word that when the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord is struck by the poet. Let us strive for that thought which like the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building program is complete 90 right chord in the federal aid road building pro within ten miles of a federal aid road. This means that the thought is the poem, while was the astute lawmaker? that the general public of the United States will be served by a system of improved highways that will compare favorably with any in the world, roads of lyrics, but how often do I strive built after approved models, according to careful vainly, for some form of expression specifications, and capable of giving the utmost service to the citizens of a nation who are turning Gradually I am learning that my lack more and more to highway travel.

July 1, 1923, saw more than 13,000,000 automobiles registered and in use in the United States, one for each 8.5 of the population. Many of these machines are used to transport merchandise, building material, farm produce and the like, and all of them serve in carrying on the social communication of the people. Comparisons show that the number of automobiles in use has increased by 2,400,000 since ward about 50 city blocks? If he the people. Comparisons show that the number of July, 1922, and the estimates are that at least a I may be eligible for membership in million more will be added to the total before the the poets' guild of Omaha and Ne end of the current year.

What does this mean? It can be interpreted oply as an indication that in addition to the federalaid road program, many miles of highway are being improved by state and county undertakings, so that the great network of first class thoroughfares is rapidly extending to embrace the entire country. Within a very few years the United States will be lifted from the rank of the poorest highways of any nation to that of the best. The program just announced by the Department of Agriculture covers 34 states, and embraces 187,406 miles of highways. Nebraska has 5,500 miles in the group, and Iowa

War on reckless auto drivers proceeds steadily, but with little sign of winning. However, "keeping thankfully, for Thou art great and everlastingly at it brings success."

The Filipino cabinet may be bluffing, but they will find out that General Wood doesn't play that

A city council meeting at Mexicali has its excit-

Alaska is full of promise and politics.

Homespun Verse -By Omaha's Own Poet-

Robert Worthington Davie

BABYLAND. Babyland, Babbleland;

Creepy little Gestureland: Laughable, affable, Dimple-bridged and teary-spanned. Happyland, Fairyland, Merry, merry Airyland; Cozyland, Dozyland, Perfect fashioned Posyland; Slumberland, Wonderland, Animated Shaverland, Elevated Quaverland. Heavenly Behaviorland. Melodious and virtuous-Lurid little Pictureland. Adoration Mixtureland; Cradleland bridge and spanned By the care of Motherland, By the love of Fatherland, With the bliss of Sisterland, With the pride of Brotherland. Tender, tiny Whisperland;

Gracious, spacious and vivacious

Fundamental Babyland.

"The People's Voice"

An Iowa Poet Wants In. Council Bluffs .- To the Editor The Omaha Bee: It gives me much pleasure to know that there is an ef fort toward association on the part of the poets of Nebraska, and especially of Omaha. I do not know how many poets Omaha contains. ing from the "People's Voice" columns, there must be a goodly number of them. But after this association is formed and the joy of Omaha poets is unconfined, so much deeper will be the poetic gloom on this side of the river. As I understand Mr. Jack Lee's call for poets, they are to come only from Omaha and Nebraska.

Why eliminate a poet from the associatioon just because he happens to reside beyond a state line which i only purely imaginary?" I asked o my mate.
"But the state line happens to be

a dark and muddy river and very far from something imaginary," quoth she. "It is a grim reality." Despite the fact that Iowa is no part of Omaha, be it ever so close,

tinctly in favor of it. If we don't get that means." in we shall hereafter have only cause to write the dirges and the death A poets' association will be good

from various standpoints. console one another when the world from our hearts, we can read them to sometimes do fight." less world run by.

ing for the bestial stomach. I once it is too late.' nged to an association of writers that went against the rocks because that well again to insist on dress tice upon us through the readerless suits and banquets which the smaller fry could not afford and which they really detested. Poets are expected really detested. Poets are expected to dine lightly because poets are poor agement of the state boards of agricin pocket. An occasional informal culture and horticulture. Mr. Bald

to the affairs of the heart and help Often I hear my young poetic of the state board of agriculture, the friends speak disparagingly of free verse, blank verse and the like, mainthe way from the cradle to the grave. not make such acquisations as this after the association is formed. All and revered. Now I am writing in no tone of jest. The world is neither deaf nor blind to art and letters even if it does appear so to us in our struggles for expression. What is really worthy of attention gets it. The busy old world will hush its clattering knows no debasement, remembering

such matters as meter, rhyme and rhythm are merely clothing. I am somewhat known as a writer that will carry me above and beyond anything that smacks of mechanics. of understanding is no indication of unworthiness in the other poet's pro-

I am for the association, and I reative prose. However, dark and swift between me and mine on one side, and Omaha aspirants on the other, flows the dark and muddy braska. I thank the editor if he will toss this extended contribution into 'The People's Voice," which affords us a very excellent medium, after all, for our expressions.

JONATHAN JOHNSON,

Daily Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, we bow before Thee humbly, reverently, and holy and good. Forgive our sins for Jesus' sake, and by Thy Holy Spirit take away our love of sinning that we may be willing and able to do Thy will. Make our home life strong i truth and righteousness, and beauti ful with love, and courtesy, and cheer-fulness. May these children, like Jesus, increase in wisdom and in favor with God and man. We thank Thee for the gift of life. May we all lay hold on eternal life, which also is Thy gift. Show us our work, and make us faithful. Make us unselfish, and so helpful to the weak, the tempted, the sorrowing, the discouraged and the lost. Bless our country with righteousness. Bring men to the new brotherhood of Christ, and clothe Thy Church with power, that the gos-pel may be preached, and Thy Kingom hastened, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROF. J. H. FARMER, LLD., Toronto, Canada.

NET AVERAGE CIRCULATION for June, 1923, of

THE OMAHA BEE Daily 72,799 Sunday 77,783

Does not include returns, left. overs, samples or papers spoiled in printing and includes no special sales.

B. BREWER, Gen. Mgr. V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of July, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, (Seal) Notary Public.

The Omaha Morning Bee: Tuesday, July 17, 1923-



Some of Mr. Rosewater's tartest comment was contained in the short parsgraphs that adorned the edi-torial page of his paper. Here are a few selected at random from issues of 1874:

"The New York World says The Omaha Bee don't know itself from a bull's foot-if anybody knows what

"Omaha is getting along very comsongs. Omaha is the hub around which we revolve. We are outcasts so far as the Iowa state capital is office at Chicago?"

We who are poets must come togethis evidently a measure in the interest the Oregon trail blazers, and in his er, cling together for dear life, talk of Iowa railroads, with a view to Independence day address at Portover our joys of spiritual wealth in their ultimate crossing over the Mis. land, that we are able to get a closer our spiritual abode, and let the reck- souri river bridge at this point. In and more revealing view of Harding ess world run by.

the event of the passage of this act, the man, than we have had of HardBut let me warn the rest of you that what will become of the law passed ing the president, and this "close up" if this association is formed it must by the Iowa legislature for the bene-be a modest affair. There must be fit of Council Bluffs? Better serve of Harding as man and patriot. feasting for the soul more than feast another injunction on congress before The Portland address contained

Mr. C. A. Baldwin serves legal no. spreadeagleism. culture and horticulture. Mr. Baldcheon should be sufficient for win declares with becoming modesty that he has neglected his professional duties in the interests of Douglas county agriculturists, and calls for one another upward along the way some granger to fill his position. We a higher understanding of the art are exceedingly sorry for Mr. Baldafter which we are striving. I in- win's clients, whose business has been sist that we need growth of spirit all neglected, pro bono publico, but inasmuch as Mr. Baldwin is not a member aining that only in lines of exact Mr. Baldwin found leisure to indite measurement and rhyme endings the notice would seem to indicate that his professional engagements were not of a very pressing nature."

> book describing his tour around the Among oter amusing incidents, he mentions his reception Omaha and his experience with Buffalo Bill. Among the incidents of the

A Book of Today

Grace Livingston Hill's new book, has From the Washington Star who returns to Silver men

Greeves encountered under unusual roumstances the responsibilities o Athalie, 14, daughter is divorced wife, is thrust upon him the court. She was stunning and razen, and "it was as though she had seen the embodiment of all his mis akes and sins come back to mock im." he thought. Silver, daughter is deceased first wife, was gracious and well grounded in righteousness. The fusing of the lives of Greeves and daughters has been admirably worked out. Some of the residents of Silver Sands move through the story The book has a spe cial appeal for fathers and it may be ommended to all classes of readers. It will grace any book shelf. Pub-lished by J. B. Lippincott company.

"From State and Nation"

A Lesson in Voting.

"A long time ago I learned a lesson

the Fremont Tribune

with the following story:

which candidate was which.

viction, reached through the weighing

Free Speech Under the British Flag.

Americans are accustomed to hear

ing that the British are more tolerant

he Americans.

the matter of free speech than are

We hear of Hyde Park, London

where, it is said, the radicals are per

mitted to say almost anything they

in a news dispatch that Fred Mc-

Intyre, a farmer living near Caron. Saskatchewan, Canada, was recently

committed for trial on the charge of

sedition, and the utterance for which

It is interesting, therefore, to read

-Editorials from Other Newspapers-

From the Kearney Hub, For a little more than two years the new world in the 15th century it was people of the United States have known more or less of Warren G. who had provided that the women do Harding, president and chief execu- all the work, leaving the men free to tive of the government, hedged in and spend all their time hunting and fightcircumscribed by official formalities ing. It is true that under the system and political artificialities. They have of the Indians the women also did seen him attempting to maintain a the housekeeping, there being no mastraight course, making slight head-way because of obstructions thrown ally. in his path, and wondered whether The women in this country-in the here was just a kindly will lacking world—are doing a good job today.

One reason this is true is that houseseen him stand by his guns, while keeping has been reduced more and tariff and taxes, soldier bonus and more to a science through modern in-ship subsidy, and other issues have ventions, and the women of today, been fought and settled. They have seen him launch the world court proposal with earnestness and courage in the face of party opposition. the face of party opposition, and they the world outside the home. have seen him in his first set speech housekeeping has not been relegated en tour reassert his loyalty to that to the men, as Mrs. MacDougall sugcourse. All in all they have seen much of Harding to commend, yet little to thrill them, as did a gesture or an appeal by Roosevelt. Possibly there has been a question as to his worked ay world for both men and worked by the sover the several occasions impotent.

The people are now becoming more subduing the men. intimately acquainted with the man, and through this better per sonal acquaintance they will possibly national executive and party leader "It was the maxim of the great In the issues that he has discussedturns a deaf ear or a cold shoulder to our songs. If the world won't fight. Experience in these parts has read the poems which are exploded sometimes of the great the fight. Experience in these parts has son, Denver and Sait Lake City—he has touched upon all important issues that he has discussed that courts martial the son, Denver and Sait Lake City—he has touched upon all important issues. touching diplomacy, industry, com-merce, agriculture, and far from the world. We can be spared from that embarassment of bombarding daily newspapers with our scribbled sheets. We who are poets must come together, c, cling together for dear life talk.

many vibrant sentences that will be remembered. Not grandiloquence or Not partisan appeal or political suggestion. Rather a pariotic talk staight from the heart of sincere, loyal, patriotic son of America touching on the essentials of Americanism. "We must guard very zealously against those who seek within our borders to destroy the in- kept my mind clear of all opinions stitutions which has given them hospitality," he declared. "The aspirant balanced against the opposing argu-for American citizenship who breaks ment. By the time election day came the law to gain admission makes a around I had developed a fixed con poor beginning and gives little promise of good citizenship." he asserted in of all the facts, as to how I should referring to smuggling of immigrants. A republic worth living in is worth cast my ballot." iving for, and a republic worth defending is worth our patriotic vigilance," is a patriotic truism that needs to be remembered. As to the viewless with due solemnity that our president compared the contending schools of national politics, the national and international, with his own expression "Grand Juke Alexis has written a of belief that "it must have been des tined that the nationalist school should

new experience, every large aspiration, confirms the national viewpoint." reception Alexis mentions the fact from Alaska and he has made report they will be able to finally make a complete estimate of his qualities, his King George. I would not be scared He has gained much already, since leaving Washington, in the confidence and good will of the people.

a charm that is characteristic of this Mrs. Alice Foote MacDougall, New author's work. The story is interest. York feminist, is quoted as saying ing, the style is pleasing, and there that within a century all the business is a tone that rings true without the of the world will be transacted by sensational features observed in some women. She suggests that the men books that are coming along these may do the housekeeping.

days. It is evident that Mrs. Hill has "Some one has to do the housekeep a healthy slant on life; she does not inest her stories with morbid details erwise engaged the men will have to attract a clientele. There is some do it." said Mrs. MacDougall. But lightful humor in this book and she raises the hopes of men in her he characterizations are deftly por- next line. "Probably," she said, "inrayed. One feels better for having ventors by that time will have recad this novel, whose prinicipal lieved human drugery to such an ex characters are Patterson Greeves, tent that it will be pretty easy for the

Sands, his old home town, and his A happy age, indeed, the coming two daughters, who come back into 21st century, with the women doing life coincidentally with his return, all the work of the world and the

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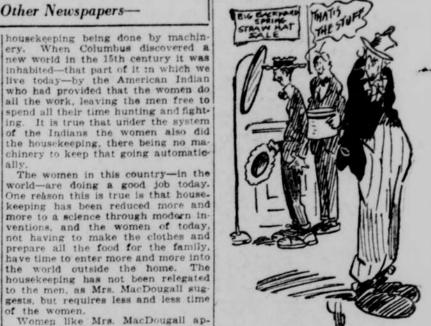
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Abe Martin



there has been a question as to his capacity for leadership, although none as to his sincerity and little as to the wisdom of his judgment, but since he began the Alaska tour there is more reason to have faith in his leadership, and lease confidence in these leadership and lease confidence in these leaderships are leadership, although none woman in the second woman and w more reason to have faith in his lead. The first of centuries ago. They do ership and less confidence in those who have made that leadership on several occasions impotent.

The feminists may find they an' go at will. "It seems like I'm still have quite a job on their hands allus th' only democrat in th' crowd," complained Lafe Bud, t'day. (Copyright, 1923.)

> A Fremont man was asked the other to challenge him to a foot race, to day how he was going to vote in the next presidential election. He replied up in a box stall on choice food. If I had my way I would take a club about voting. It was during the Taft-Bryan campaign of 1908, the year in which I was to have my first presi-dential was

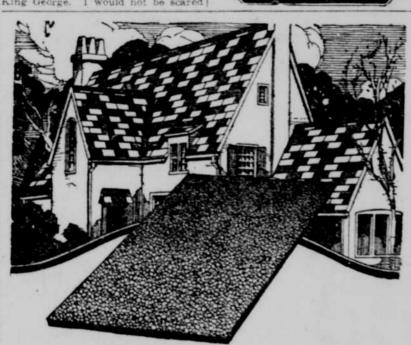
> "I attended every political gathering within a hundred miles of my town and every time I heard a good Bryan orator talk I was determined to you for long to be seen as a sping that President Wilson ought to be hung. He was promptly turned loose by Judge John C. Pollock of the federal court, who held that this did to vote for Bryan, and every time I not constitute sedition, even in war heard a good Taft man orate I switch- time

> ed over to the Taft side. It went on like that for months and by the time more dangerous than McIntyre, as the election was actually near at hand his my head was in a whirl. I made up my mind so often and had changed it so often that when I finally stood time utterance is to be judged more the voting booth I hardly knew strictly than one of peace-time. Taking everything into considera The next time a presidential election, we doubt that Great Britain is

> tion came along. I was four years more tolerant of free speech than older and I changed my tactics. I at. America. This country is just about tended all the meetings and listened as free a country as you will find any to all the speeches, but I carefully where in the world. and allowed every argument

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