

## The Greater Menace

FIGURES obtainable by a special committee of investigation, which recently completed a report, authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury, show that of seven great countries for which statistics were to be had, not only did the United States consume more narcotic drugs than all the other countries combined, but consumed more per capita than the other six put together. The figures:

Country	Population 1910	Total annual consumption Pounds	Consumption per capita Grains
Austria	46,000,000	3,000	1/2
Italy	33,000,000	6,000	1
Germany	60,000,000	17,000	2
Portugal	5,500,000	2,000	2 1/2
France	40,000,000	17,000	3
Holland	6,000,000	3,000	3 1/2
United States	92,000,000	470,000	36

According to the report, "It has been stated that about 90 per cent of the amount of these drugs entered for consumption is used for other than medical purposes. While this statement is probably extreme, a comparison of the per capita consumption in this country with that of other countries indicates that this country consumes from thirteen to seventy-two times as much opium per capita as is consumed by other countries, the records of which were available."

Senator Joseph I. France, of Maryland, formerly a practicing physician, is responsible for legislation recently reported out of committee favorably for action by the Senate, whereby an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and \$2,000,000 for the following fiscal year is provided for use in the prevention of drug addiction and the cure of drug fiends.

There is a powerful piece of legislation known as the Harrison Law, dealing with the traffic in narcotic drugs, but it has not been enforced to the letter because of the lack of facilities for the treatment of drug addicts, who, if the law were enforced, it is held would require hospital treatment to prevent their dying.

"It is imperative that steps be taken at once to enforce the act because under the present system of lax enforcement," said Senator France, "the number of drug addicts is increasing at an alarming rate, and there seems to be no means of checking this increase in the use of narcotic drugs, except by a strict enforcement of the statute."

"It seems to those who had made a most careful study and survey of the situation, that hospital provisions must be made for the accommodation of eight to ten thousand addicts at a time, if the law is to be enforced to the letter."

In Chicago the figures show that there are more than 10,000 who are afflicted with the drug curse, and it is believed a careful survey would reveal perhaps twenty-five thousand.

## Cracks 30,000 Pounds of Walnuts a Day

IN CALIFORNIA, where ninety-eight per cent of all the walnuts grown in the United States are produced, the beneficial effect of modern machinery upon industrial conditions is shown by the fact that the invention of a single mechanical device opened up a new field which gave immediate employment to 600 women.

For several years the California Walnut Growers' Association had difficulty in stabilizing its market, because cull walnuts were offered to the trade. It finally decided to take the culls off the market by converting them into by-products. One year it hand-cracked a quantity of culls and offered the walnut meats to confectioners, bakers and grocers. The popularity of the hand-sorted meats was almost instant, and the demand for them became so great that the association saw an immediate need for increasing its production of walnut meats.

When the necessity arose a walnut grower invented a walnut cracking machine which was so ingeniously conceived that it cracked culls in a satisfactory manner without damaging the meats. More than eighty-five per cent of them came through without being crushed or broken.

When this machine was placed in operation, with a cracking capacity of fifteen tons of walnuts per day, the association found itself in a position to crack as much as 2,000,000 pounds of walnuts each year, and it promptly began developing a wider market for selected walnut meats. Within a year it was able to sell

The entire output of sugar of the Dominican Republic was purchased by the Canadian Food Board at a price equivalent to \$5.76 a hundredweight.

The British Government plans to spend \$10,000,000 in the next five years on agricultural research and scholarships.



practically all the meats it could supply, and this state of affairs resulted in the establishment of a large by-product factory in Los Angeles, with smaller ones at Santa Ana and Santa Barbara.

These plants now give employment to 600 women at least six months out of every year. The women are engaged in removing the meats from the shells of the cracked nuts. The meats are sorted into grades, run through a compressed-air polisher and are then packed for shipment to the trade.

## A Sham Debate

(Harvey Ingham in The Des Moines Register)

IF THE people would stop to consider the number of alarms they have had from Washington in the last four years and what has come of them all they would have no trouble to properly estimate the hullabaloo over Shantung.

The probable arrival of Lieutenant Maynard today with his Liberty motor, made, by the way, in the Ford shops, will serve to recall the terrific onslaught on the Liberty motor.

The Borahs and Johnsons were just as excited over the Liberty motor as they are over Shantung and debated it in precisely the same language and with the same heat.

Then a visitor from Mars might have thought we were on the verge of revolution because of the Liberty motor, just as now he might conclude that giving to Japan the German property seized at Kiaochow would set the world on fire.

But nothing came of the Liberty motor matter and nothing will come of this. It is all heat lightning at Washington.

It may be said with confidence that not a living person expected for a moment that the United States would amend the Peace Treaty by changing the arrangement at Kiaochow. Japan is in possession, France and Great Britain had given their consent, by all the rules of war Japan is entitled to the German property seized, the United States could do nothing, and what is more, the Borahs and Johnsons do not wish to do anything. It is much better for their purposes to have matters as they are.

What, then, is the meaning of this tremendous outcry? Precisely what it was when they were debating the Liberty motor: to create as much disturbance as possible, and in this instance to secure some sort of concession at the last that will weaken or emasculate the League Covenant.

By shouting about everything the Borahs and Johnsons expect to get something.

The first venture to deal with the financing problem discussed by William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, in a recent issue of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT, is a foreign equipment finance corporation with the capitalization of \$100,000,000 formed to provide means whereby credits can be arranged for those countries in need of equipment. It is known that among those interested are the American Locomotive Company, the Baldwin Locomotive Works, the American Car & Foundry Company, and the Standard Steel Car Company.

Since the mine danger has been practically eliminated and blockade conditions done away with, the shipping industry of Sweden is beginning to resume its normal aspects. The various Swedish shipping companies are working under high pressure, shipbuilding developing greatly as compared with the situation before the war. Service to Helsingfors, Abo, Riga, Libau, Reval, and Danzig has been established despite the unsettled conditions in all these places, and additional sailings to other ports are contemplated shortly.

## The Cat's Musical Contribution—When Skinned



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JAPAN has discovered a use for the cat after its demise. Live cats are musical the whole night long in some climates, and probably in Japan also, and perhaps that accounts for the Japanese use of cat-skins in the manufacture of Japanese guitars, called "Shamisen." The photograph shows catskins stretched to make the sounding board of the music. It is a strange fact that although the cat is associated with all manner of stringed instruments, the cat has not played the part in musical production that the use of the term would indicate. The strings are made from the intestines of different quadrupeds, particularly those of the sheep, but never from those of the cat. But the cat gets the credit, and we think she sings more sweetly when

stretched tenuously across the bridge of a violin than when doing sentry duty on the alley fence, but alas for human credulity, it is not she at all: it is in all probability some silent sheep singing the loves and sorrows of romance. The leaner the animal the tougher the string, so that the short thin strings that give off the high notes come from abstemious or underfed animals, while the deep tones may come from the fat and well-fed beasts. Thin people are likely to be high-strung as we say, while stout people are not. And so the differences run throughout the gamut, from animal to man. But the resourceful Japanese have probably shown us a new use for cats. Any American community has felines it would gladly contribute for experimental purposes.