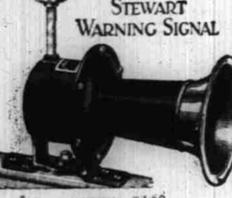


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POLYGAMY MAY BE PERMITTED WHEN GREAT WAR ENDS

11,000,000 Surplus Women Offers Big Problem for Europe to Solve

[By Associated Press] VIENNA.—Whether or not Europe will be obliged to change its marriage laws as the result of the war is a question which has recently occupied sociologists in the central states. Most of them are of the opinion that material modifications must ensue; a few think that legalized polygamy must be established in order to provide for the surplus of women which two years of warfare has made one of the problems of all Europe.

The total population of the states at war, the non-Arian elements of Russia excepted, is roughly 375,000,000 of which, according to best sources, 188,000,000 are women and 185,000,000 men. For the countries of Europe where exact statistics are available, the proportion is 105 males to 107 females. For Europe this leaves in normal times an excess of three million females, of which number one-third would be marriageable.

11,000,000 To Be Mateless To this million of women who at present can find no husband for the reason that nature, while insuring an excess in the birth of males permits more of them to die in infancy, will be added at least eight millions whom death on the battlefield and incapacitating wounds has also deprived of mates. Europe, therefore, is face to face with the question of how these nine million women are to be cared for.

Economically the problem has been solved by the women themselves, by showing that in many departments of industry they are able to fill a place. But the state makes provisions tending to avert this, a certain natural law would increase greatly the rate of illegitimacy of children, which even now is a serious matter.

At the conclusion of the Thirty Years' War, similar conditions prevailed. It was met in many of the central European states by making polygamy legal. When the proportion of males and females had been readjusted by the coming of later generations these laws were repealed. For the time being the European parliaments are too occupied with matters affecting the continuation of the war, but expressions on the subject agree that some sort of legislation will be necessary.

Two Generations to Recover Several writers point out that it will take two generations before the old social equilibrium is reestablished. The tendency of men to marry women younger than they themselves are is held responsible for this. Usually the man married a woman from three to five years his junior, and some authorities fear that greater choice, which the excess of women will give, will decidedly foster this inclination, so that only the girl who today is from 12 to 13 years old can hope to be the subject of competition among men which her mother was.

This would be a matter of only seven to eight years for most of Europe; provided the end of war comes soon. Should the war continue another year or two and so cause the loss of many young men who are now from 15 to 16 years old, the problem would be much harder to meet. In that case the excess of women over men would be no less than eleven millions, so that for every male of marriage age during the next 10 years there would be almost two single women.

It is impossible to say just how European legislation will meet the situation. Legal polygamy is so un- welcome to Europe's social system and religion that opposition to it will be great. The belief is held, for this reason, that legally at least illegitimacy will be abolished and that laws will be passed giving the child born out of wedlock every right upon the care and property of its father. It is argued that this measure of expediency would meet the situation easily and that it would violate no social arrangement now in force, giving in its most extreme application nothing but an expression to a tendency which has manifested itself in Europe for several years past.

HORSE MEAT SHOPS THRIVING IN LONDON

LONDON, England.—Prior to the war there was not a single shop in London where horseflesh was sold for human consumption. A horse butcher, who started business in Soho, the center of the Franco-Italian colonies, six years ago, failed to obtain customers. Today, owing to the great influx of Belgian refugees, there are more than 20 horse butchers, all doing a thriving trade, including five who are located in the southwest district of London, which abuts on aristocratic Kensington.

One of the probable effects of the war and the high price of beef and mutton will be that the London poor will acquire a taste for prime cuts of horseflesh at 14 cents a pound, against beef and mutton at 37 cents a pound. Labor leaders and social reformers view this tendency with growing alarm. They fear it will lower the standard of living and, incidentally, spread numerous diseases among the consumers, as they declare that old and diseased horses have been slaughtered for human food.

The United States will not get raw copper from Norway for which negotiations have been under way for some time, according to a dispatch from American minister to the Danish capital, Copenhagen.

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UNIVERSITY OF GHENT WILL OPEN WITHIN FEW DAYS

[By Associated Press] THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Oct. 20.—It is reported that the University of Ghent will open late this month or early in November as a Flemish institution, in accordance with the ideas of Governor-General von Bissing, notwithstanding the sharp opposition of the Belgian government at Havre. Anonymous circulars are being distributed among professors and students calling upon them to boycott Ghent hereafter. The university authorities, however, have already secured fifteen Flemish and twenty-five Dutch professors, most of them quite unknown men, who have hitherto held minor positions in the educational realm. A number of distinguished scholars have declined the proffered posts, notwithstanding the guarantee of a high pension should they be ousted from their positions after the war. A body calling itself "The Flemish University Association" and comprising over hundred members, has just issued a manifesto signed by two parliamentary deputies and others setting forth reasons why the decree of the governor-general in this matter is to be regarded "as a just and legal decree of a competent authority," praising those who have joined the staff

of the university and condemning former professors who have declined to serve.

The Belgian government at Havre, however, has resolved to remove the names of three Ghent professors from the role of the Knights of the Leopold Order for cooperating in the new scheme, which, in its view, aims at dividing Belgium. The Belgian government is itself prepared, it is stated, on the conclusion of peace, to lay a bill before parliament for the Flemishizing of Ghent, having already had such a plan under consideration before the outbreak of the war.

IMITATORS FUSS FILM STAR, PATENT ASKED FOR HER FACE

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Pavlova has her toes, Paderewski his entire person, Charlie Chaplin his entire person. But it takes a motion picture actress to think up the stunt of having her face patented. Grace Darling, for some time, has had cause for worry because other screen players have made up to resemble her. She has scouted these designing persons by applying to the register of patents in Washington to have her features protected by patent. In case the application is granted the files of the patent office will be the richer by one marble replica of Miss Darling's face, carved by a competent sculptor.

Paris plans to obtain 300,000 electrical horsepower by damming the River Rhone at a point 300 miles from the city.

Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, was once a student under President Wilson when the latter was an instructor at Johns Hopkins university.

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