

The Sun AND THE NEW YORK HERALD. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1920.

NEWSTAND PRICES. Daily, two cents a copy in New York...

FOREIGN RATES. DAILY & SUNDAY. \$12.00 \$12.00 \$12.00

Published in Paris every day in the year. Price in Paris—25 centimes. Daily and Sunday.

The President's expected veto message to the House of Representatives denounces the Knox peace resolution...

Does France Need a Vice-President? Mr. DEMAREST's recent accident has suddenly brought home to the French people that there is no provision in their constitution for a Vice-President...

The Prodigious Cost of Paying the Primary Road to Nomination. The testimony taken by the Senate committee now investigating the matter of preliminary campaign expenditure has astounded the country...

A very serious reflection must occur to those admirers and supporters of General Wood who are now noting and deploring the effect of these revelations upon his chances for the nomination...

Our Cost of High Living. After an examination of the Federal tax returns Secretary HUSTON declares that the American people are spending on what the United States Treasury rates as luxuries twenty-two billions of dollars a year...

These indications were afforded by Colonel PROCTOR, who spoke like an honorable man of what he knew on the subject and what he did not know...

this enterprise of non-political publicity Colonel Proctor testifies that he himself has already contributed, or advanced, as he modestly put it, half a million dollars...

The other contributions to what we may term the mother fund of the Wood propaganda were vaguely stated by Colonel PROCTOR as amounting to "rather less" than his own, which aggregated \$512,000...

The State funds were handled outside of the central treasury. There were State organizations collecting and expending and working for Wood "publicity" in forty-seven States of the Union...

Senator McCormick's Future. News despatches that MR. MCCORMICK is warmly urged and thoughtfully considered as permanent chairman of the Republican National Convention...

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values have long known that the cheapest pair of shoes or the cheapest suit of clothes, like the cheapest motor car tire, is the one which at a pretty stiff first cost delivers the maximum of life or service, figuring down to the lowest mileage cost and annual charge...

Nevertheless, whatever the absurdities of the Government's luxury ratings, if Secretary HUSTON'S figures are correct the fact that the American people are spending twenty-two billions of dollars a year—a half of the national income—on things that may be only near luxuries verifies abundantly the repeated declarations of honest sense economists as well as of cynical dissectors of human nature...

Between Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. We acknowledge the receipt of, and thank Weston Dodson & Company, Incorporated, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for a handsomely printed brochure, bound in black paper with decorative gold, in which is presented under the appropriate title "Let Us Forget" the Constitution for the United States of America...

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used by the white man to 'hoosh' and is used as a synonym for any ardent spirit.

As hoochnoo proper is an illicit product it would be well if the abbreviation "hooch" were confined to unlawful hooch. There are dozens, perhaps hundreds, of words to describe the various kinds of lawful liquors once sold in this country, but very few words for the product of the secret still. It would be sad to apply "hooch" to the stuff that is sold in the gully bars of New York, for the mountaineer makes good whiskey. "Hooch" is brief, brutal and suggests pain. It is the right word for the wrong drink.

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COAST DEFENCES. Lessons Drawn from Experiences in the World War. From an address by Lieutenant-Colonel H. W. Miller, U. S. A., May 25, at St. Louis to the Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Until this war it has apparently been an undecided question as to whether any point on a coast or any section of a coast line was so important as to be impregnable to attack from sea.

During this war there were three sections of coast line that were so fortified as to be considered practically impregnable, except at a prohibitive cost, to attack from the sea.

These were the section of German coast at Kiel, defended by mine fields and the fortifications at Heligoland, the Turkish coast of Constantinople, protected by the fortifications of the Strait of Gallipoli, and the Belgian coast protected by the fortifications of the only two landing points, Ostend and Zeebrugge.

The disastrous attempt and failure to force the Strait of Gallipoli instilled in the Allies a wholesome respect for the difficulties involved there, and to the best of the writer's knowledge no real attempt was made to fortify the defenses of Heligoland and Kiel. It is probable that the defenses at Ostend could have been forced if the Allies had been willing to pay the price, but apparently they were not willing to do so.

During the spring of 1918, April 23 to be exact, an attempt was made to block the harbors of Zeebrugge and Ostend. The mole at Zeebrugge was cleared and the large concrete pier, built with concrete, was placed across the entrance of Ostend harbor. The boats engaged in these undertakings received terrible punishment, but apparently accomplished their mission. It seems probable that had the Allies dared to make the sacrifice it would have been possible to force either harbor, although it is not very likely that they could have retained possession of them for any great length of time.

In the attack upon Zeebrugge the Vindicator was under the fire of a 150-mm. German gun at ranges of from 200 to 300 yards for approximately one hour. Portions of the superstructure of the boat were injured, but the Vindicator was not prevented from fulfilling its mission of landing a force of marines from two ferries which it had in tow.

In spite of the fact that a majority of the batteries (German batteries at Ostend and Zeebrugge) were located on top of the dunes and in plain sight of the sea, there is no evidence that any of them were damaged by shell fire.

It is probable that no firing was done against the Palace Hotel Battery because of the damage that would be done by the large shells round about.

It is understood on good authority that the piled shells paid constant attention to both those batteries installed on the dunes, as well as those located behind the dunes.

As early as 1915 the exact locations of practically every battery behind the dunes were determined from airplanes. It is understood that the moorings came within a few kilometers of the coast at night, camouflaging their gun fire by blinding flares. It is reported that on practically all occasions when the ships shelled the coast fortifications during the day heavy smoke screens were at once set up by the Germans which evidently afforded effective protection. Just back of the Battery Irene, between the dune and road, a large number of steel pipes or cylinders 15 inches in diameter and 24 inches in height were found, which had been used by the Germans in setting up their smoke screens. The writer saw many of the holes made by airplane bombs, but could not find any single case in which either the inland guns or the guns in the dunes had been struck by shell firing from sea or by bombs dropped from airplanes.

Our Shipowners Do Not Have to Rely Upon Foreign Agencies. To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: Your editorial article "Is Our Flag to Fly on All the Seas or to Part?" is for keen perception of the present status of our shipping interests most noteworthy.

Elaborate Ceremony Attending the Opening of the Rice Season. C. A. Steele in Pacific Ports. On the morning of May 15 the King of Siam, many of the nobility and a large concourse of spectators witnessed in Bangkok the "lek Na" or "First Ploughing" ceremony, which is held annually by royal decree at the beginning of the rice planting season.

The first ploughing ceremony this year held more than common interest for the inhabitants, since it furnishes a prophecy of the coming harvest of rice. Rice is now selling at three to four times the retail market price of a few years ago.

At the beginning of the rainy season, the exact day, hour, minute and second being determined by the Brahmin priest in charge of such affairs, the King and a host of spectators gather and watch with almost breathless interest for the signs at this ceremony which are to determine the yield of the forthcoming harvest.

The "lek Na" perhaps is the oldest ceremony existing. In the history of China it is stated that 4,700 years ago the Emperor himself started the ploughing each year with some such ceremony. The custom, which is based on some of the oldest pre-historic superstitions, is almost as old as the art of cultivating rice.

The ceremony took place on a field adjacent to a royal park just outside of the city. The ground had been cleared of weeds and grass and three tall bamboos planted upright in a line from east to west. The corners of the field being marked with bamboo trellis work to give spirit to the field. The King having occupied his box to the mingling air of the national anthem and with every one waiting expectantly, at the proper second the high pitched notes of the trumpet and many snuffed drums were heard and the King's deputy approached the gate. He was dressed in heavy gold and spangled garments of ancient design and wore a conical crown. The oxen were as they dressed in red and gilt and were then yoked to the plough. It seemed to require a large company of attendants to urge the oxen forward and to carry the banners and flags to the front. That made quite a procession as they moved about the field. The actual ploughing was almost a myth, for the ground was merely scratched.

The unwonted exertion required of the Minister in following the plough about the field is apt to loosen his heavily embroidered naning or body cloth, which is kept in place in Siamese fashion by merely a twist in the belt. The admirer of the farmer was watched with the keenest interest by the spectators, not for fear he will drop it altogether but because, according to the belief that it is worn from the ground depend the coming rains. If it is worn low most of the time the rains on which the rice depends will be scanty, while if the garment is overly high from the ground more rain will be expected which are equally dangerous to the harvest.

After three circles about the field the Minister was joined by a couple of women carrying baskets of rice. This he took and sowed broadcast over the field and then the plough was stopped. As soon as the sowing ceased the populace burst upon the field to recover every grain of the rice which was sown, since now it has somewhat of a sacred nature and when mixed with the seed grain of the farmer will produce many times the usual crop.

Siam has been exporting rice since before 1852, when the published records show that 200,000 pikuls were exported. Only three times during this whole period was it found necessary to prohibit the export of rice, and that was in 1885, 1896 and 1877. In each of these years it seems that crop failures were experienced in neighboring countries and coincided with poor yields here.

FROM LAKES TO OCEAN. New York's Support Wanted for the St. Lawrence Deep Waterway. To THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD: The improvement of the St. Lawrence between Montreal and Lake Ontario to enable the Northwestern States to reach the markets of the world by a deep waterway is so important a proposition that every one throughout the entire nation should help enthusiastically to put the proposition through. Certainly what benefits a large part of the country will indirectly at least benefit the rest of the country.

We regret exceedingly that there has been opposition from New York, but as time passes it is becoming better understood that the opposition does not represent all of New York. This opposition, however, is detrimental to the interests of New York because it shows the Northwestern States a lack of cooperation on the part of New York in a proposition of intense interest to all of the States west of New York State.

It is beginning to be understood that the opposition from New York is limited to those directly interested in the Barge Canal. The Northwestern States are not opposed to the Barge Canal; they want to use it whenever it is to their advantage to do so; but it is absolutely necessary that these States have direct communication with the markets of the world through a deep waterway that will transform the present lake ports into ocean ports. This will increase the business of the Northwestern States beyond imagination and will result in greatly increased business for New York and other ports of the country.

It would certainly popularize New York if the Northwestern States were given the understanding that New York would cooperate in the St. Lawrence project. These States have always cooperated with New York, and we are now only asking for a return of the cooperation that has been given.

PAINLEVE PREDICTS FRANCE'S RECOVERY. Says Bountiful Harvests Cover Fields Year Ago Pitted With Shell Holes. NEVER FORGETS U. S. AID Former Premier Here on Way to China as Head of Technical Mission.

Paul Painleve, former French Prime Minister, who welcomed Gen. Pershing's "crusaders of democracy" to the Gallie republic, arrived yesterday by the French liner France, and in line with diplomatic predecessors recently landing here was prepared for the ship news reporters with a typewritten message to the American people. He was met at the pier by Maurice Castagne, French High Commissioner here, and representatives of the French Consulate. He is on his way to China as chief of the French Intellectual and Technical Mission and is accompanied by Hain Jon Kiu, a learned representative of the Chinese.

Mr. Painleve regretted that he could not stop on his way to the Far East to visit "our beautiful cities," recalled his glorious privilege of greeting the "crusaders of democracy" when they reached the shores of France and declared that "on May 29 the soldiers, the peasants, the workmen of France, following the example of the brave soldiers who honor the graves of the American boys who fell on our devastated soil."

Resources of France Enormous. He predicted the speedy recovery of France in these words: "Those that believe she is in the thrice of laziness or that the enormous sacrifices she has endured have weakened her know the France of today no better than they know the France of pre-war days. Her resources are enormous, and in spite of some present difficulties she will surpass the world by the product and vigor of her economic reconstruction. She surprised the world by her resistance against the enemy. One must have seen the plains of Flanders and France from the air to appreciate the splendid harvest that covers the fields, with the population already at labor. This year our crop will nearly double and France will be able to cover her own needs."

Promoters are systematically developing the marvelous richness of North and Occidental Africa and Indo China. From the French colonies they have already secured a concession as they moved about the field. The actual ploughing was almost a myth, for the ground was merely scratched.

Return From China in October. Others members of the Painleve party are M. Borel, director of sciences of the Sorbonne School of Paris, M. Nard, chief engineer of the French State Railways; Germain Martin, president of the Council of Ministers, and Abel Bonnard, poet, novelist and journalist. From the French School of Paris, M. Nard, chief engineer of the French State Railways; Germain Martin, president of the Council of Ministers, and Abel Bonnard, poet, novelist and journalist.

LOCAL WEATHER RECORDS. Barometer 30.00, 30.00, 30.00. Wind, direction 000, 000, 000. Weather, Clear, Clear, Clear. Precipitation 0.00, 0.00, 0.00.

EVENTS TO-DAY. Gov. Henry J. Allen of Kansas and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, will debate the Kansas question in Carnegie Hall, 9 P. M.

GOMPERS AND ALLEN TO DEBATE TONIGHT. Labor and Capital to Be Represented on Platform. Persons prominent in financial, social, industrial and labor activities will occupy the platform at Carnegie Hall for the debate to-night between Samuel Gompers and Gov. Henry J. Allen of Kansas.

ITALY RECOVERING; NEEDS MATERIALS. Rome Banker Here Asks for United States Support. Italy is fast getting on her feet, has set to work and is making good progress in reconstruction, but needs American raw material, said Commissioner Angelo Postiglioni, managing director of the Banca Italiana Di Sconto of Rome, who is here visiting.

THE SUN was founded by Ben Day in 1853; THE NEW YORK HERALD was founded by James Watson in 1855. In 1858, THE SUN passed into the control of Charles A. Dana in 1863. It became the property of Frank A. Munsey in 1914. THE NEW YORK HERALD was sold to the property of the Times, which had it in 1872, when his son, James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which continued in his hands until his death in 1919. THE HERALD became the property of Frank A. Munsey in 1920.

Business and Editorial Offices. MAIN BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES, 250 BROADWAY. TELEPHONE, WORTH 10,000. BRANCH OFFICES for receipt of advertising orders: PRINCIPAL UPTOWN OFFICE—Rue de la Paix, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.