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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1921.

age is apportioned among the counties and these roads are to be perpetually maintained by the State. Every dollar of the principal and interest of these bonds, and all maintenance charges will be paid by a special tax on motor cars in lieu of the personal tax. These cars need the roads; they wear out the roads; they will pay for them, while all they pay will be saved twice over, and more, by the owners in the difference in cost of operation and usefulness of their cars.

On the other hand, Arkansas is undertaking to build a helter-skelter road system by direct tax on land. The land gets the least benefit, the cars the most. Vast acreage is not owned by car owners. There are miles of unsettled territory and very many struggling settlers. Most cars are owned in cities.

The tax threatens confiscation and work is being stopped by force. It is almost civil war brought on by an unwise law with a good motive, but framed to tax those least interested for the benefit of those most interested, and of those who will get the contracts.

When Lansing finishes his discussion of the Big Four, Wilson might come back with a series entitled: "Secretaries of State I Have Known."

Germany's Refusal to Pay.

GERMANY'S reply to the demand that she pay 20,000,000,000 gold marks by May 1, is that she has already paid this amount. This payment is required under article 235 of the treaty, during 1919, 1920, and the first four months of 1921. Out of it the expenses of the armies of occupation were to be paid and part could be used for such food and raw materials for the Germans themselves as the allies might judge essential to enable them to pay the total reparations.

But the chief object of the payment was to enable the allied countries to restore their industrial and economic life pending the full determination of their claims. It was to be a preliminary cash payment for certain specified uses. It was independent of any other provisions, or obligations, or payments, or credits under the treaty.

But the Germans now, at the last date of liability, undertake to offset against it, the value of ships surrendered at padded prices the allies claim, and certain other materials. They also would include all the public buildings and property in ceded territory, and estimate its value at 5,500,000,000 gold marks.

The treaty provides for a credit for this property against the final reparations allotments made to the country gaining ceded territory. But this is a part of the completed total payment and does not in any way modify or concern this preliminary partial payment with its fixed and definite purposes.

The allies also claim the German estimate of value is double the real value, as in the case of ships. Naturally neither would be too low, nor lower than it was possible to make them. The allies concede certain payments on the total sum during the periods specified in article 235, but place the balance due at around 12,000,000,000 gold marks.

Related to this German plea of poverty and financial martyrdom are the reported operations of Stinnes and his associated group. Stinnes is the iron, coal and shipping king of Germany. He is classed as the most regal profiteer of the war period and no one pretends to even estimate his wealth. It is claimed from reliable sources that this group has bought up the leading mining, coke and steel industries of Austria.

They have recently secured control of the great electrical industry of the Italian Tyrol, formerly Austrian. They have their agents prospecting in Russia ready to buy, as soon as there is a government to buy from, or under. Germany has no money for reparations, but she has apparently limitless means for industrial entrenchment in these foreign border lands.

She is reaching out for her old control on which her war strength so largely rested and upon which must increasingly rest her future war making power. Given these industries and the Silesian mines, she would in a few years be back, a menace to world peace and far superior to France in war power.

France is operating on the theory that a cow that can't give milk should at least be willing to provide beefsteaks.

"Get Bergdoll."

SECRETARY WEEKS has declared that he will get Bergdoll if it is humanly possible. It certainly is possible. The United States is still in a technical state of war with Germany, and if the extreme is required, Bergdoll's surrender as well as the release of the two members of our army who undertook to take him from German soil, can be a part of any peace terms.

Bergdoll is not a German. He was born an American. The German rule that that government recognizes no change of allegiance, does not apply to him. Once a German, always a German in citizenship does not fit his case. He is merely an escaped American convict.

To get to Germany, he secured a forged Canadian passport, which involves Great Britain, if she chooses to act, though she is under no obligations to do so. However, only if this government chooses to forget, is it possible for Bergdoll to escape serving his full sentence in an American prison?

It is not apt to forget and still less apt to be permitted to do so. The American Legion has made this case its own. It has determined Bergdoll shall not live at ease, glory over his escape, defy this government he refused to support, and revile this country. He will be returned sooner or later and will get a part of his deserts, as he is also liable to extension of sentence for his escape.

In the meanwhile, those who helped him escape should not be neglected. They are worse than he. Any American who would help a Bergdoll to flee justice, deserves to lose his citizenship and to occupy a cell with him.

King Constantine has called three more classes to the colors, to dispute the Turks' London title to Smyrna. He promised Greece peace but "there ain't no such animal."

If President Harding's hobby is really helping the down and out, say the Democrats, how can he justify helping swell their ranks with the now up and in?

As we understand it, Judge Landis is expected to throw the ball in the first game and throw the hooks in the first crooked play.

A pessimist thinks only of the bills that are passed; an optimist remembers the thousands that are killed in committee.



DE WOLF HOPPER TALKS ON WORLD AFFAIRS.

The first thing that strikes one about De Wolf Hopper, world famous comedian, is his size. He is a big man, physically, with a deep voice and a personality vibrant with vitality. Outdoor sports, all his life, gave him his vigor, he says. As a boy he followed baseball and swimming. Of late years he has obtained most of his recreation in motoring.

The next impression is his admiration for big people, the men and women of the world, who do and have done things. Equally important, and perhaps before his admiration for the dominant individuals of the world, one might put his devotion to his own calling, the stage. Then comes his loyalty to New York—the greatest city in the world.

Speaking on the stage he says that there is no calling in the world which gives one more immediate and satisfying gratification for what one does than the theater.

Call it a personality that the actor has, if you will," he says, "and he must have some self-esteem to succeed in his profession. But there is no aim of Gilead like the auricular appreciation one gets after having administered for the work behind the footlights. It is spontaneous. It is immediate. This applies to the post-prandial speaker, the orator and the lecturer as well. The speaker must wait, and often never receive it.

Hopper has the highest appreciation for the geniuses of his own profession. Booth was the greatest tragedian that ever lived, he says. Joseph Jefferson, the great comedian, and Sarah Bernhardt—well—she is "the divine Sarah."

"I shall never forget to my dying day the time that I first witnessed her in a performance," said Hopper. "She kissed her hand to me."

FIRST SAW BERNHARDT IN LONDON IN 1882.

It was in London in 1882 that Hopper first saw Mme. Bernhardt. She had appeared in "Foolscap" and he was so impressed with her interpretation of that role that he determined to see her in "Camille," which she was to play the next night. He went to the theater, but he was limited, but he felt that he must see the great tragedienne again.

"If she could play 'Camille' as well as 'La Tosca' then I know that she is the greatest actress that ever gamut of human emotions," he declared.

The manager said that Bernhardt would play her best that night, and Hopper should have the Royal box.

"It was superb," said Hopper. "At the last, when Camille dies, everyone in the house felt that he was actually in the death chamber. And when Camille died—well, we knew that she was dead. One forgot the theater, one forgot the scenery, one forgot the audience. You could hear a pin drop anywhere in that great house. It felt that there was a great woman whom I had grown to know during the play and to love—and she was dead."

"For about five seconds there was a death-like silence. There was no reaching for hats and wraps as usual in a theater at the close of a performance. Everyone was enthralled. And then came the applause—and when Madame Bernhardt and the company appeared on the stage in the last ensemble—for the audience had to have some demonstration in order to feel that she was not really dead—then came the applause, like the thunderous waves of the sea."

"And at the very end Madame Bernhardt looked toward the royal box and kissed her hand to me."

Years after Hopper met Madame Bernhardt in New York and she recalled the incident, and to his surprise. Since then he has seen her play and met her many times, but he never forgot that first time in London.

Although Hopper is a comedian he prefers dramatic roles and like productions in which there is a real plot. He feels gratified that "Ermine," in which he is appearing next week at the National affords opportunity for some characterization.

Asked that he thought of Woodrow Wilson as a world-figure, Hopper said: "Of course, that he is an idealist. I believe, as an actor," he said, "it is not within my province to criticize the statements of the day."

Hopper is a staunch admirer of Theodore Roosevelt.

"I wish you the greatest success in your drive to obtain funds for the relief of distress among the women and children workers of America should never be deaf to the appeal of suffering humanity."

Road Seeks to Cut Pay Of Unskilled Laborers

CHICAGO, March 30.—Hearing of the application of the New York Central Railroad for permission to cut wages of unskilled labor was started before the United States Railroad Labor Board today.

Reduced cost of living and the financial condition of railroads were given as reasons for the request.

Grandpa Goose



There Was a Man in Our World and He Was Wondrous Wise



And When He Saw His Eyes Were Out, With All His Might and Main



He Jumped Into Another Bush to Scratch Them In Again



Open Court Letters to The Herald

PRaises HERALD EDITORIAL.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald: On behalf of the Washington Chapter of the American Association of Engineers and of the organization in general, we desire to express our appreciation of the editorial in The Washington Herald of Monday, March 21, entitled "Scientific Administrators."

You have put into concise form the ideals of the members of this association, which through its various clubs and chapters (including in all 25,000 technically trained men), has been endeavoring to arouse in the public consciousness the need of utilizing the services of scientific administrators for the higher, as well as the lower, administrative positions.

It is a loss, not merely to the profession, but more than this, to the public service, to permit the continuance of a policy which subordinates the judgment of these highly trained and experienced men to that of political appointees, placed in positions of great responsibility and who confessedly must learn from their assistants, not merely the details of the work which they are supervising, but more than this, the broad bearing, the policies and the results which may flow from following one course or another.

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The Herald Scientific Comment
Editorial of Meeting Activities of Societies in Washington
Thursday, March 31, 1921.
Engineers' Department Banquet Association of the office of the Chief of Engineers, War Department, annual banquet, held last evening, 7 o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by Secretary of War Weeks, Chief of Engineers, Lt. Col. H. B. Henshaw, Engineer Commissioner Kutz and Col. Clarence O. Sherrill, military aid to the President.

ACID SOIL MAKES WILD FLOWERS GROW IN GARDEN. Wild flowers like acid soil and they will grow in the backyard garden if the earth is like that in which they naturally grow. Dr. Edgar T. Wherry of the Department of Agriculture, told the Wild Flower Preservation Society at its meeting at the Wilson Normal School Community center last night.

"It has been found that, contrary to the opinion often held, the reaction of a soil appears to be very important in determining what plants can thrive in a certain place," he said. "Dr. F. V. Coville has shown, for instance, that it is possible to domesticate the wild blueberry, the trailing arbutus, and other plants of the Heath family if certain acids are kept the soil acid. Tests of soils supporting plants belonging to this family in many localities in the Northeastern States have shown that the soil is not so acid as is generally supposed. Some of these require acid soils and others need earth of alkaline reaction."

Acids can be recognized by their sour taste and a certain acidity, but a much more delicate means of detecting them consists in the use of indicators, that is, dyes which change their colors when mixed with acid solutions, he explained. The most familiar of these dyes is litmus, which becomes red when acid is added, and blue when an alkali, the opposite of an acid, is added. In recent years the Department of Agriculture has perfected a series of indicators which show characteristic colors with different degrees of acidity.

Dr. Wherry has applied these to the study, in the field, of the soil reactions characterizing the growth of many wild flowers, shrubs and trees.

"Do not water your wild-flower garden with the piped city water," warned Dr. Wherry. He explained that the Potomac River, which furnishes the city water supply, drains limestone valleys and is quite alkaline. Instead, rain water should be collected in a barrel, and kept acid by throwing in some bits of pine needles or other material, preferably from pine trees. He pointed out that soils could be made acid by keeping them mulched with half-rotted oak leaves, sphagnum moss, or other such material.

By this means it is not difficult to grow many interesting species which would die if planted in ordinary garden soil because it is too alkaline, and certainly, if too full of clay and lacking in humus to suit the wild flowers, he declared.

Many lantern slides of wild flowers, carefully colored in natural tints, were shown.

URGES FEDERAL PHYSICAL TESTS FOR AVIATORS.

"Physical fitness plays a greater part in aviation than any other occupation," declared Maj. H. Bauer, in charge of the Medical Research Laboratory of the Air Service, in urging proper licensing of aviators.

Now that aeroplanes are used, not only by the army and navy for war purposes, but also for a variety of mail, coast patrol, forest fire patrol and by the Post Office Department for the carrying of mail, and by various civilian concerns for carrying passengers and freight, the flyer should be examined for physical fitness as well as hold a certificate of training. It is even more important that the aviator be physically fit than it is in the case of the navigator or the automobile operator, he says.

A Federal license based on the rules formulated by the Allied Conference on Aviation, and periodic physical examinations during the flying career should be required, he urged.

"Take the question of the eyes, for example," says Maj. Bauer. "The ordinary individual is concerned chiefly with straight ahead vision, but the aviator must have an equal capacity for looking up and down, as well as for correcting glasses. The aviator should not wear glasses. Glasses blur the edge of his visual field and may become broken, lost or fogged. The aviator should keep his eyes clear and sharp at all times. He needs to see a short distance on either side of the road also. The aviator, however, must be able to see in all directions and at all levels. He must turn his head, turn his eyes as far as possible, and then turn his eyes to an extreme angle. His visual fields must be normal in size so he may pick up images at the periphery of his fields. There are six muscles which control the movements of each eye. These muscles normally function together in such a way that the image received in one eye falls on a corresponding spot in the other eye, so the result that we see but one object."

"If any one of these muscles is defective to an important degree, the image may fall in different places in the two eyes when the eyes are turned in a certain direction, with the result that two images of one object are seen and the man cannot tell which is the correct one. Weak eye muscles are very common in ordinary persons, and it is unaware of it because he looks straight ahead most of the time. If he looks to the side he turns his head to do so. But the aviator has to look in all directions, and if he has any defect in his eye muscles he will see double at some time or other."

WILL EXCAVATE ANCIENT PREHISTORIC RUIN. Unearth and reconstruct the Yacka House Monument ruins that were inhabited in prehistoric times by the first Americans will be the object of the field work that will be undertaken by Dr. H. Walter Fawkes, chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution, this summer. This ruin, which is just outside the Mesa Verde National Park, in Colorado, is near the base of the prehistoric former work, which resulted in the reconstruction of the picturesque Fire Temple, Square Temple House, and other structures.

The ruins were discovered in 1874 by a party of the Geological Survey, of which W. H. Holmes, now of the museum, was a member.

W. D.

Opinion's of Other Editors

Brief Comment From Leading Newspapers Throughout Nation

Colombian Treaty.

(Boston Transcript.) The administration forgets that the fundamental question involved in this latest attempt of Colombia to hold up the United States for \$25,000,000 has twice been the subject of national referenda. In each case the verdict of the people has been against Colombia, upon the ground that the Colombian demand that the United States purchase for \$25,000,000 the good will of Colombia was not well founded. Before the new administration is permitted to reverse the verdict of the American people the Roosevelt Senators insist that the whole matter shall be threshed out in open Senate.

(New York Tribune.) In defiance of most primary human and constitutional rights Colombia had refused to consent to an arrangement for digging the canal through Panama, when it was obvious that her veto, if effective, meant the canal would be dug through Nicaragua. Panama, her whole future thus menaced with destruction, succeeded, as was her right, in setting up an independent republic, which our government justly recognized.

This is a record of honor, not of dishonor. To acknowledge the superiority of Colombia's title and the isthmus was to do cruel wrong to the people of Panama—to approve the principle of conquest and to condemn that of self-determination.

And until that treaty is ratified, the United States is not right. True, Colombia was trying to extort every dollar it could out of this country for the privilege of building the Panama Canal; but that did not justify conniving at a rebellion which got this country the privilege without giving Colombia a cent. Thus menaced with destruction, we were justified in recognizing the independence of this country's people. It is not just to refuse to grant Colombia's plea to let the issue go to arbitration. President Harding was emphatically right in urging the Senate to ratify this treaty and to bid the nation's conscience of the shame of a deed which it can never be proud of.

(Chicago Tribune.) In the matter of the Colombia payment, enter explanation No. 2. To wit: the Japanese explanation. It is now mysteriously rumored that we are paying to keep Japan out of Colombia. We do not reject explanation No. 3. We do not reject its predecessors except that we say if the Senate has any hope of purchasing the favor of Latin America for \$25,000,000, paid to the present Colombian government, our august body needs a guardian.

DEFENDS PUBLIC CRITICISM. To the Editor, The Washington Herald: The sincerity of your correspondent who deplores criticism of the

Very truly yours, F. H. NEWELL, Past President, A. E. H. D. APPELBY, President, Washington Chapter, A. T. KOEHLER, District Secretary, March 25, 1921.

Very truly yours, JAMES A. FREAR, Washington, March 28.