

The Bisbee Daily Review

Published Every Day Except Monday by the State Consolidated Publishing Company

Business Office—Phone No. 39. Branch Connecting all Departments.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with subscription rates: SINGLE COPIES, Daily .06; PER MONTH .75; THREE MONTHS 2.25; SIX MONTHS 4.00; TWELVE MONTHS 7.50; SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per year 2.50; SUNDAY (Our Weekly) per quarter .75.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper promptly are requested to notify the business office.

Advertising Rates on Application. Entered as second-class mail matter.

Sunday Morning, February 13, 1916.

BLUE LAWS FOR COBBLERS.

Mike Morano is a shoemaker living in Long Island City, a pair of Greater New York. Sunday before last a policeman found him working in his little shop, and arrested him for breaking the law prohibiting Sunday work.

In most parts of the country we have got away from the old "blue laws," and put a more liberal, humane construction on the duty of Sunday observance, accepting the Scriptural view that "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

An odd thing about this New York case is that if Mike Morano had been a saloon-keeper instead of a shoemaker, he would probably have been permitted to ply his vocation on Sunday without hindrance.

THE HOMING ROOSTER.

Homing pigeons are familiar, and cats, as everybody knows, have an unconquerable tendency to "come back" while their nine lives last.

A month ago there was a poultry show in Madison Square Garden, and among the birds shown was a prize rooster valued at \$250, from Port Jervis, N. Y.

He didn't strut around the yard as of yore. He stumbled feebly, weak from exposure and lack of food. His feet were calloused and swollen.

RECONSTRUCTION.

The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Eaton, formerly "Rockefeller's pastor" in Cleveland, and latterly head of a big church in New York City, is retiring from the ministry.

Dr. Eaton is an able and eloquent preacher, at the height of his powers. As ministerial standards go, he has won notable success.

He can accomplish more by lecturing than by preaching, he thinks, because he will come before a far greater congregation. And he expects to obtain a still wider hearing through his writings.

The war has driven him to this step. He believes that the conflict is making necessary "a great work of spiritual and social reconstruction," and he wants to get into the field where he can work effectively.

His action emphasizes the importance of the press and the duty and opportunity of those who use it. In the realm of newspapers and magazines, especially never has the press wielded such power, and never has it had such a field for useful public service.

The newspapers tend to absorb all other civilizing agencies, even religion, medicine and law. They are, in a sense, the governing power; for they so largely influence, and then express public opinion—the force that governs.

In "the great work of spiritual and social reconstruction" the daily press has a bigger task set for it than it ever had before. And the American press, in general, seems willing to accept its new responsibilities as Dr. Eaton accepts his.

Preparedness advocates may yet see to it that there is a munitions plant in every congressional district.

A MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS.

Dr. W. C. Gorgas, surgeon-general of the United States army, will have an army of a million men, and will need at least 10,000 surgeons to take care of it. His plan is for a national congress of medical examiners, composed of representatives of state medical examining boards throughout the country.

This seems to be a medical variation of the "citizenry trained." "Militarism," the bogey feared by all Americans, consists in having a lot of specialists trained to expert service without any way of using their expert training.

Dr. Gorgas's plan aims to eliminate the muddling which was responsible for the fever camps in the Spanish war. And by standardizing the training of so many surgeons each year it would doubtless help to raise the standard of the profession—an aim constantly in the minds of the best physicians.

THE RIGHT TO SHED COLLARS.

Hereafter schoolboys in New Jersey, at least, may go to school without collars. Juvenile rights have been vindicated.

Last June two boys of Merchantsville, N. J., shed their collars one broiling day, and opened their shirts at the front, presenting a modest debutante effect.

Now the State Board of Education has passed finally on the case, and upheld the boys. Its decision is as follows:

"Had the boys appeared in school without shirts, it and a little later the state commissioner of schools up-but would have been subversive of discipline; but to say that they should not come to school collarless is an unreasonable and unwarranted exercise of power by the teacher."

That righteous decision ought to hold good anywhere, and every boy in America who rebels against the bondage of a linen collar on hot days ought to know about it.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN MEXICO.

Mexico has just had a Women's Congress, the first in its history. And the women have distinguished themselves by demanding equal suffrage. Their demand isn't merely academic, either; they have gone straight to President Carranza, the nearest approach to a government there is in Mexico.

The women are really not asking for a great deal. Full political equality doesn't mean much in a country where men have never had any political rights worth bragging about, in spite of their fine constitution. That might be a legitimate argument for granting the women the franchise. As merely theoretical and supposititious voters, they could doubtless do as well as the men.

ENGLISH LEADERSHIP.

It is reported that Lord Kitchener, the British commander-in-chief regarded as omnipotent the first year of the war, is shorn of his power. He lost nearly half his authority when Lloyd-George was appointed minister of munitions, and now is expected to surrender the rest, leaving the war office for some minor commission.

If this plan is carried out, a Scotchman will be in supreme command of the British land forces. Sir John French, the Englishman who at first led the British forces on the Continent, has already given place to Sir Douglas Haig, another Scotchman.

"British" and "English" are no longer synonymous. The military leadership is passing into the hands of the Scotch. The "strong man" of Great Britain, the civilian in whom the empire leans most heavily, is the indefatigable little minister of munitions—a Welshman.

At the beginning of the war it was all England. But England is losing her prestige. Scotland, Wales and Ireland count more, and the colonies assume a role of greater importance. It is the Empire now—and England is merely a part of it.

Columbia University, in New York City, is establishing evening courses on American citizenship, for the benefit of immigrants. The League of Foreign Born Citizens that has free classes and lectures for the same purpose, is extending its activities.

HEAVEN

By J. O'C.

We know that Heaven is a place to which each single man of grace thro' life desires to turn his face and hopes to enter there, to find an end to grief and pain and bid good-bye to loss and gain and sorrows thick as autumn rain and worldly strife and care.

EAST PRUSSIA SCENE OF GREAT DAMAGE IN RUSSIAN INVASIONS

Statisticians Estimate that the Loss to German Province Was All of \$375,000,000. Vandalism Charged.

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Detailed estimates of what East Prussia has suffered by the war—with its two invasions by the Russians—have been compiled, and they surpass even the guesses that, earlier, were thought to be wild and sensational and were discounted even by the East Prussians themselves.

In the briefest form, the East Prussian damage and loss is quoted from the German statistics as follows: Entirely or partly destroyed, 24 cities, 600 villages, 500 estates, 34,000 buildings.

Plundered, 100,000 residences. Killed or seriously injured, 2,000 civilians. Carried off to Russia, 10,700 persons. Fugitives who had to leave home, 350,000—400,000.

Killed or carried off by Russians, 135,000 horses, 250,000 cattle, 200,000 pigs, 50,000 sheep, 10,000 goats, 600,000 chickens, 50,000 geese.

The investigators who have compiled these statistics make it perfectly clear that "only a portion of this damage may be laid directly to the Russians' vandalism" and that a part of it is chargeable to the inevitable ravages of war. This is particularly true of that portion of East Prussia which was the scene of the first invasion.

Practically all are agreed that the Russian forces during the first invasion were soldierly and orderly, and that most of the acts of violence, plundering, murder and wilful arson and destruction came in the second and longer invasion.

The Russians, it is said, may on their first invasion have been confident of eventual success and may therefore have desired to spare territory which they ultimately expected to annex. The new and relatively inexperienced troops taking part in the second invasion may have been responsible. Anger and disappointment at setbacks may have instilled a spirit of blind revenge. Or lastly, the Russians may have thought to instill fear into the German forces by their depredations and violence.

The total damage caused, both by legitimate war losses and by devastation, the statistics estimate at \$375,000,000. They place this as the lowest figure and believe that eventually it will have to be revised upward. The \$100,000,000 voted by the Prussian Diet for the relief of the province is melting away fast, and the work of rehabilitation has really only just begun. In addition to this sum, money in large quantities has been raised by various communities throughout Germany for corresponding East Prussian districts which is being eaten into rapidly.

Reconstruction work, insofar as buildings are concerned, can for the time being go ahead practically only in the more westerly portions of the province. In the parts along the border line it will probably be necessary to wait until after the war before beginning a permanent work of this kind.

The province has been divided into sixteen districts, presided over by as many head architects with numerous assistants, who are striving to attain the proper combination of taste and

A STICKER



utility, and are meeting with every co-operation from the inhabitants.

The latter have won the warm approval of the authorities by their almost universal willingness to proceed to the province, and its restocking with cattle, before they attack the problem of permanent homes for themselves. They may come later.

To meet the lack of farm animals with which to carry out this agricultural rehabilitation, oxen have been imported and captured Russian horses not available for military uses, and German military horses unfit for further service, are being used. Particularly are efforts being made to restore the thoroughbred horse breeding industry to its former high standard.

PLANS FOR FUTURE

BERLIN—Plans are under way in Prussia for the establishment in every province of funds from which returning soldiers, both during and after the war, may borrow at a low rate of interest in order to re-establish themselves in business. No one will be excluded from borrowing, but the plans have been drawn up with small merchants and tradesmen primarily in view.

The ministers of trade and industry of finance and of the interior, after careful consideration of the situation, and after urgent representations by General von Hindenburg, have called the attention of the presidents of all the provinces and other authorities to the need of such funds and have expressed their willingness to do all they can to aid.

General von Hindenburg has urged the matter especially because he feels that such borrowing institutions would do much to make soldiers feel more secure, and would relieve many of the worry about what they and their families are to do in the future without any capital with which to start business anew. The money, it is proposed, will be supplied in part by the provinces and in part by the monarchy of Prussia. It is probable that the Prussian Diet which opened on January 13, will before its conclusion, be asked to consider the proposition and vote the necessary money.

The loans will be made at some low rate of interest and will be repayable on easy terms. The provinces will repay to the state on the same basis, but the ministers announce that they are willing that 15 per cent of the state's money shall be held by the provincial authorities for the continuation of the loans. Representatives of chambers of commerce and similar business organizations in the various districts shall be called upon to aid the authorities in the provinces in determining who shall be eligible for loans.

POWDER PLANT EXPLOSION

NEWCASTLE, Del., Feb. 11.—Six hundred pounds of powder exploded in a dry house at a projective plant of the Bethlehem Steel company near here. Two workmen were injured. The building was wrecked. The cause is undetermined.

Nobody was in the dryhouse at the time. The injured men were employed in adjoining buildings. Several nearby structures were slightly damaged. A terrific blast was heard for miles. Financial loss is trivial.

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