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CHANGING THE SUBJECT

Maybe people are talking too much war or talking war too much. It might be a good idea to get your mind off the compelling topic for a few minutes and discuss other matters.

THE THAW VERDICT

By a verdict of twelve men Harry Thaw has been pronounced sane, and his liberty is to be restored to him. There will be a wide difference of opinion as to whether it is desirable that he should go about among the people without restraint.

BUG VS. BUG

It was a man with a bug who beat out Bryan for the place of Most Distinguished Nebraskan. Bryan has a bug all right, but he let his live and is nursing it along for 1916.

WRIGHT AEROPLANE PLANS

Orville Wright, premier of the air and prospective member of the commission on preparedness for war, announces that the Navy Department should be equipped with two thousand aeroplanes during peace times and a much larger number in event of hostilities.

DR. HOLMES--THE MINERS' FRIEND

The miners of this country, indeed the miners of the whole world, could do no more appreciative deed, no more deserved honor, than to erect with their own money a memorial to Dr. Joseph A. Holmes, director of Federal Bureau of Mines.

THE GERMAN INTERPRETATION

The Cologne Gazette, chiefly known in this country for its misrepresentation of American affairs and opinions, prints a long semi-official defense of the German employment of gases as a weapon of offense.

DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW

Disrespect for the law and its growth among the people was the subject of a recent brief address by Thomas Davidson, president of the

Indiana State Bar Association. The peculiar and unusual feature of this address was that it was understandable and even interesting to a layman.

Mr. Davidson says that the chief cause of disrespect is found in the making of the laws themselves. He calls attention to the fact that a recent compilation made in the Library of Congress showed that in five years more than 62,000 separate laws had been passed by Congress and the State legislatures and that during the same time there had been 65,000 decisions of courts of last resort.

Nor does he exempt the lawyer himself from his part in the breeding of contempt for the statutes, "for," he concludes, "as a legislator he helps to make the laws; as a citizen, he is charged with obedience to the laws; as an officer of the court, he assists in the administration of the laws."

To use a little of the tongue with which the legal fraternity occasionally impresses and sometimes confounds its clients, Mr. Davidson's address told "Multum in Parvo."

LIFTING ALL OUR COTTON

A very interesting news dispatch published in the New York Sun explains in detail the suggestion to the house of commons by Sir Henry Dalziel that England shall take \$150,000,000 and slap it down on the counter here to move across to Great Britain at cheap prices the cotton still left in our hands as a carry-over from last season's crop.

Well, the cotton is here; no doubt about that. The United States could supply England with three million bales almost upon demand. The United States would never miss those three million bales, for it will not be many days before our new crop will be coming to market.

MAKING IT PLAIN

Dr. E. Lester Jones, who recently assumed the superintendency of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, remarked, in an interview, "I believe that all science can be translated into language perfectly clear to the lay mind. It becomes necessary to speak in that language when a great national scientific service like this is to be understood and appreciated in all its significance."

This pronouncement recalls that it has not been long since the work of the scientific branches of the Government was a sealed book to the general public. The scientists engaged by the Government did their work in an uncanny silence and transmitted voluminous reports to Congress that nobody read.

tributors might take a lesson from all this, but perhaps that is too much to hope for. No one would look there for enlightenment as to what the tariff or currency discussions are all about.

WHAT THE EXPORTS MEAN

Since the close of the last fiscal year, on June 30, this nation has been expressing its wonder over and over again at the Government's announcement of a foreign trade balance in our favor for that twelve-month period of more than \$1,000,000,000.

If you want to know what that \$1,000,000,000 balance for the last fiscal year really means stop to think that in the first month of that year—before the war broke out—we had a balance against us; that again in the second month of the year—the first month of the war—we had a balance against us.

Think that in those two months we not only were not piling up any part of the huge international credit the year finally scored, but were actually going into trade debt abroad by some \$25,000,000.

Think that in September—the third month of the fiscal year and the second month of the war—ocean shipping was still utterly demoralized, international finances were still in chaos and foreign trade to any considerable extent, for lack of ships, for lack of exchange, for lack of all the instrumentalities of foreign intercourse, was impossible.

Think that it was not until October—the fourth month of the fiscal year and the third month of the war—that the foreign trade balance in our favor entirely wiped out, with something to spare, the foreign trade balance thus far standing AGAINST us; and you begin to realize what this country really has been doing during the last six or seven months of the war in piling up international trade credits for the American people.

Forget the recently ended fiscal year and think of the present calendar year. It began with a foreign trade balance in our favor of \$145,780,996 in January. With cotton and wheat at last flowing out of the country in vast bulk—and our gain at very high prices—our foreign trade balance touched in the short month of February the high point of \$174,682,478.

The Iron Trade Review says: "The straining point of output of the largest steel concern of the country is being attained rapidly under the interrupted flow of tonnage to the mills. This week the steel industry is running at slightly over 90 per cent of steel works capacity."

And after the Tag, the Night? Yes, and a queen Presidential bee isn't an impossibility in 1916.

Even with his slightly impaired vision, Harry Thaw made a splendid witness. Our diplomatic relations are being strained through a mighty fine colander. Dropping a bomb in a Venice street is the height of reckless wastefulness. The Sultan's delayed suit for peace may find the allies' wardrobe already full.

MAIL BAG (From The Times' Readers.)

Communications to the Mail Bag must be written on one side of the paper only; must not exceed 300 words in length, and must be signed with name and address of sender. The publication of letters in The Times' Mail Bag does not mean the endorsement of the opinions of the writer. The Mail Bag is a "open forum," where the differences of opinion are argued most questions.

That Navy Yard Wage Question.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: I am directed by the Washington Central Labor Union to voice their protest against the material which appeared in your issue of July 12, under the caption, "Eight Cents a Day." The delegates felt that this was an insult to their intelligence, and an attempt to belittle the issue of the machinists employed at the Washington Navy Yard and the Navy Department.

It is St. Swithin's Day, in other words, and the legend has it that if it rains this day, then for forty other days will it rain. Contrawise, if it is fair today there will follow a fair spell for a month and a third. Remember the weather myth of the centuries!

Why Not Soldier Guards At the White House?

To the Editor of THE TIMES: I have visited many cities of other countries, and that which strikes me as an oddity is that the President of the United States and his residence are guarded by policemen. In other countries the head of the government is guarded by the military.

RECORD EXPECTED IN STEEL BUSINESS

Big Corporation Running 90 Per Cent of Capacity--No End of Rush of Orders in Sight.

NEW YORK, July 15--Reports that the United States Steel Corporation may next month have the largest business of any single month in the corporation's history are heard in the financial district.

New Orleans Refuses To Celebrate July 14

NEW ORLEANS, July 15--For the first time in a century July 14, the French national holiday, was not observed as the biggest fête day of the year by that large part of the population of New Orleans which is of French descent.

Grant on Canoe Trip to Harpers Ferry

Thomas Grant, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, accompanied by his brother James Grant, will leave Washington today on a canoeing trip to Harpers Ferry. He is taking his canoe with a complete camping outfit, including a tent, cooking utensils and provisions.

Concerts Today

By the Fifth Cavalry Band at Washington Circle, at 7:30 p. m. W. J. CAIN, Chief Musician. March, "Invercarigill"; Lithgow Overture, "Semiramis"; Rossini Duo of two Clarinets, "Two Little Bullfinches"; Kling (Chief Trooper) and Sergeant (Ment Bush); Witmark popular Medley, "The Grand Slaun"; Lake Waiata Suite, "Ella"; Cardoso (a) "Love's Dream After the Ball"; (b) "Alabama Jubilee"; Cobb Operatic Potpourri, "The Broadway Review"; Lampe Finale, "Trombonium"; Withrow "The Star-Spangled Banner."

St. Swithin to Decide On the Weather Today

And So Reporters Have to Go Back Into the Morgue And Write All About Musty Old Legend.

This is the day for sky gazing, the stretching of necks, and the tilting backward of heads. It is likewise the day when the believer in legends harks back to the ninth century and its St. Swithin, whose name was connected with heavy rains before the time of weather bureaus.

Scientists do not bother their heads about the clearness or cloudiness of St. Swithin's Day, but there are plenty of others who just dote upon mysterious and legendary topics. They are the sky gazers of the twentieth century who hasten to an umbrella shop if there's a shower on St. Swithin's Day.

Man Held As Burglar in Philadelphia Says He's Probing Bomb Plot.

PHILADELPHIA, July 15--Alleged to have posed as a Government bomb plot during the night of July 14, a man was held on formal charges of burglary today.

NAVAL CONSTRUCTORS OBTAIN BETTER JOBS

Secretary Daniels has accepted the resignations of Naval Constructors William B. Ferguson and John E. Otterson, resigning to enter Private Plants.

TROUSSEAU BOUGHT, FATHER BANKRUPT

NEW YORK, July 15--Frank Kee, a real estate operator, purchased for his daughter Marion, a trousseau consisting of eleven pairs of gloves, twenty-two pairs of shoes, eleven pairs of slippers, five dresses, three hats and a linen suit. He threw in for good measure a quantity of silverware and a Persian rug.

Policeman Finds \$2,500 Brooch in Broadway

NEW YORK, July 15--Patrolman McArevey, on duty at Broadway and Chambers street, whistled for the north and south traffic to halt and the car and went to start waving his arm majestically. That is, he started to wave his arm, but the gesture was completed he halted suddenly.

Dr. Edward Bedloe Dying in New York Hospital

NEW YORK, July 15--Dr. Edward Bedloe, linguist, scholar, politician, a leader in the United States consular service, and one of the founders of the Clover Club, is lying at the point of death in the Samaritan Hospital.

Says Bryan Won't Run

ST. LOUIS, July 15--William J. Bryan has given up the idea of being president and had given it up before he resigned from President Wilson's Cabinet, according to Major J. D. Dixon, of Washington, who is here as field secretary of the Navy League of America.

Attractions Coming To Washington

That Colonial Beach is truly the summer resort of the National Capital is shown by the fact that fully ten times as many people from this city are said to have visited Colonial Beach for the last week-end as visited any other resort.

For this reason Colonial Beach is always described as the Atlantic City of Washington. From now until the close of the excursion season next September the big and practically new steamer, St. Johns, will leave here daily, except Monday, for the Potomac resort.

To start the week of photoplays at Grandall's Theater next week, "The Devil's Daughter" will be known as the feature attraction, with Theda Bara, the "Vampire woman," in the title role.

The headliner for Friday and Saturday will be "The Wild Olive," from the novel by Basil King, and dramatized by Oliver Morosini and Elmer Harris into a screen version of five parts.

On Tuesday Mr. Moore will again present Edith Roberts in the fascinating filmation of Cyrus Townsend Brundy's romantic story, "The Island of Regeneration." Harold Lockwood will be seen on Monday and Thursday in a visualization of May Fretelle's dramatic novel, "The Secret of Frivolous Affairs."

Potash-Perlmutter Is Staged in Court

NEW YORK, July 15--The Potash and Perlmutter case, which has been so long quarreled over, but Potash never haled Perlmutter into a police court, was called each other some pretty hard names, but Potash never said Perlmutter was a burglar.

Shriners' Annual Council Adjourns at Seattle

SEATTLE, July 15--With the close of the forty-first council of the Shrine Lodge, here today, J. Putnam Stevens, of Portland, the imperial deputy, became the new head of the order and Dr. Frederick R. Smith, the present leader, became past imperial president.

38 Buttons in Back Is Fashion's Decree

CHICAGO, July 15--Next winter hubbly will be called upon again to button them down the back. The Fashion Art League of America, in session here for the purpose of passing upon the approved "made in America" styles for feminine wear, issued the edict today, and every husband shuddered. Thirty-eight buttons will be accepted as the proper thing.

Excursion Postponed.

Owing to the death of Mrs. M. J. Hare, eighty years old, the excursion to Glen Echo, which was planned for yesterday, has been postponed until next Wednesday.