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CARRANZA'S STRANGE ATTITUDE
It is hardly understandable that Carranza, at the very time when his military power is manifestly waning, when Villa is more active and powerful than for many months, when Zapata and Felix Diaz are able to overrun and dominate states in central and southern Mexico, should assume the attitude now imputed to him.

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In view of recent demonstrations of Villa's power and the de facto government's weakness, it seems evident that if the American troops were withdrawn soon, there would be an era of anarchy in the northern states, with prospect that the Carranza regime would presently be overturned. The American troops in fact stand between Carranza and ruin; yet the first chief insists, that they be taken away.

There will be, it is understood, no chance of Washington accepting such terms; their acceptance would doubtless be followed by developments of the gravest character, calculated to leave Mexico in worse posture than it was before the American forces were sent into the country. The whole program which Washington had in mind in sending troops there would be abandoned. Neither Carranza nor the Washington Administration can afford to compel such a situation.

THE PARALYSIS MENACE

Infantile paralysis, in the opinion of Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, is quite likely to spread, the coming season, to parts of this country that heretofore have been free from its ravages. His statement of the position, based on a review of the history of this mysterious disease, is anything but reassuring.

It is now established, he says, that the disease is both infectious and contagious, and that it is caused by a microorganism. It is, Dr. Flexner declares, the only disease that has ever circumnavigated the globe. In northern Europe it established itself prior to 1906 in various regions. Then in 1906 its peculiar faculty of migration—of disappearing from one area and breaking out, with no apparent reason, in a distant place—developed. The sections that had been suffering most from it saw it gradually disappear, but other and distant parts were invaded by it; the United States among them. On the basis of this experience, Dr. Flexner suspects that the disease will likely be less violent in those parts of the United States where, last year, it was most serious; and that it will appear in areas that heretofore have not known it. He sees small prospect for its eradication for a long time.

Such an analysis by the foremost authority on the disease in this country is not cheering. It suggests the necessity that the public prepare for most thorough and cheerful co-operation with the health authorities in every effort to control the spread of the trouble, and that the campaign ought to be planned early and put into rigorous effect.

"TAKING OVER DRINK TRADE"

The British announcement that the government is preparing to "take over the drink trade" is not explicit enough to be altogether understandable; but whether it means that the government proposes merely to assume control of the manufacture of liquors, or to go into the business of dispensing as well as producing them, it means a revolutionary step. Mr. Lloyd-George, during the period of his service as chancellor and as minister of munitions, proposed most radical changes in the management of the liquor business; and the liquor interests, which are very powerful in Parliament as well as with organized labor, roundly defeated him. At that time Lord Northcliffe was one of his powerful opponents. Whether the journalistic dictator has changed front now, and is prepared to accept the premier's program, can only be conjectured until more information is at hand.

In the business of liquor, Britain finds, as Germany did a long time ago, that you can't drink your alcohol, and make munitions with it, too. Making modern explosives requires an immense amount of alcohol; and the sources from which it can be most expeditiously and easily made are the grains and potatoes that are

so keenly needed, in all the warring countries, for food. Germany found it necessary early in the war strictly to limit the product of liquors in order to conserve grains. England has not only found the need of economy on this account, but has faced the problem of labor's inefficiency as a result of too much drinking. The government has instituted regulations in the munitions centers, designed to make it impossible for workers to drink excessively; but the conditions are yet far from ideal. Higher efficiency could be promoted, to say nothing of the immense economies in foodstuffs, if the use of liquor were reduced to a rigid minimum. That is what the new move means, whether it is to involve government control of the manufacture, or of the dispensaries.

SPAIN FORCING AN ISSUE

The world, neutral and belligerent alike, is beginning to vision the very definite understanding that Germany's peace move means that, denied present peace on her terms, she is going in for a new career of frightfulness. That means, so far as maritime neutrals are concerned, that ships which approach or leave entente harbors will be sunk on sight without inquiries or guarantees of life.

Through the thinly veiled threat of this proceeding—a threat that has been plainly to be seen through the submarine proceedings for many weeks past, and that has been freely and openly voiced by the German Radicals—Berlin has been holding its club over neutrals, to line them up in favor of quick peace on Germany's terms. Switzerland was quick to second the move of President Wilson; now the Scandinavian countries, which have been terrific sufferers by the submarine attacks, have indicated their concern to see the peace effort pressed.

It is significant, at least, that Spain adopts a different course. Instead of joining in the effort to strengthen Germany's hands in the peace movement, she addresses to Berlin a note that seems to make Madrid, instead of Washington, the leader for the time being at least in insistence on the protection of neutral rights at sea. Madrid bluntly refuses to accept the German view of the international law involved in these attacks. Spain does not concede the right to destroy prizes; and no more is it satisfied that the companies of ships shall be turned out in boats on the open seas.

Spain's note is a shaking of the fist toward Germany. It is doubly significant because German influence has been strong in Spain. In commercial affairs there is a powerful leaning toward Germany, which has furnished much capital and business direction to reviving Spanish enterprise; while on the political side the Spanish aristocracy is in natural sympathy with the German effort to strengthen absolutism in the world. Spain faces a constant turmoil because of the dogged fight of its insurgent democracy and the persistent opposition of the absolutists to every concession in the direction of truly representative government. But all these conditions have been offset by the painful and continuing impression made by the German submarine program, and the result is that Madrid sounds a note that Berlin will find extremely discordant just as this moment.

THE NEW RAILROAD CRISIS

The chiefs of the Big Four railway brotherhoods have circularized their 400,000 members, putting up to them the question of future policy toward the question of the eight-hour fight and the Adamson act. They are mysterious about the precise questions that are raised in the circular now going out; but the intimation is strong and direct, that the possibility of a great strike is once more brought in sight.

On behalf of the railroad men, one of their leaders explains that when the compromise of last summer was reached, the men waived their demand for time-and-a-half for overtime, and supposed that, in return, they were to receive immediately the eight-hour day. The Adamson act passed; it meant a postponement to January 1; and then it was taken into the courts, with prospect that there would be an indefinite period of litigation and more postponements. With all this delay there is dissatisfaction, and the union leaders are taking counsel of their followers as to what shall be done.

The undesirability of such a settlement as was attempted last summer is demonstrated once more. It would be a novel idea, that a law of Congress must not be submitted to the test of the courts as to its constitutionality; yet if the brotherhoods were to be granted the view they have been expressing, there should be no such appeal for interpretation of the act which they themselves accepted. To acquiesce in the settlement that the law undertook, necessarily implied acquiescence in the constitutional procedure for determining what that law meant. The Supreme Court is, under our system, the interpreting authority, just as the Congress is the legislative authority.

To reopen this whole question now, while the President's legislative program is yet incomplete, and while the menace of a strike cannot but disconcert the whole congested business of the nation, would be a most unfortunate affair. The leaders of the railway unions must have been blind indeed if they have not discovered that they have been losing caste in public sympathy and opinion. No class of men have the right to impose upon the country such a calamity as a railroad strike at this time would mean.

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BRITISH SHIPS FOR JAPAN

A few days ago The Times called attention to the persistent propagation and circulation of stories calculated to cause suspicion, in the American mind, against Japan. It is impossible that so many canards of this character should have been hatched and given wide currency, without some general purpose. Their origin is always mysterious and vague. There is never any real authority, and in a number of cases investigation has made it very clear that there was never any justification for such yarns being invented.

Now comes one of the most vicious of these reports; a story that Japan is to have turned over to her after the war a squadron of six dreadnaught battle cruisers, from the British fleet. It is alleged that this arrangement has been made because Japan has been devoting so much industrial capacity to providing munitions for the allies, that she has been unable to keep naval construction up to the pace set for it in her naval program.

Addition of six—one story said eight—great vessels of this class to Japan's navy might be a subject of real concern to the United States. If they were to be used against this country they would, of course, give Japan a great advantage. The story, however, has elements which not only make it highly improbable, but which suggest the same origin as has been suspected in the case of other rumors of Japanese machination to the disadvantage of the United States.

A cablegram from the Japanese government to the consul general of that country in New York, flatly and specifically declares there is no ground whatever for this fantastic narrative. Inasmuch as common sense supports the denial, it should be accepted as meaning just what it says. But the origin of this myriad of inventions, all designed to horror and make difficult the relations between the United States and Japan, ought to be the subject of an inquiry that would not hesitate for fear of what might be developed. Somebody is diligently engaged in efforts to get Japan and the United States by the ears. It is being done persistently, systematically. How many guesses are needed to determine the probable inspiration?

DON'T EXPOSE THE CHILDREN!

There is widespread notion among some parents, that the characteristic disorders from which childhood suffers, such as measles, chickenpox, whooping cough, and the like, are inevitable incidents, and that the child might as well "have them and be done with it." In the case of whooping cough at least, Dr. Woodward, District Health Officer, issues a warning that is timely and especially deserving of attention. He points out that whooping cough, far from being a mild and innocuous affection, is very dangerous to children under five years. In a period of four years 144 deaths, almost all of children, were charged to this disease on the official records; a number that doubtless is conservative as compared to the actual facts.

Children suffering from whooping cough should be kept away from other children and from public assemblies; and other children should be kept away from those suffering from the disease, which is very easily communicated through its characteristic germ. At present the disease is epidemic in Washington, and the greatest care should be observed in dealing with it. Parents must be relied upon for the most effective effort in this direction; and it is highly important that they shall not accept the idea that children do not need to be safeguarded from touch with those suffering from the disorder.

The price of 21,000 crowns for a Budapest window commanding a view of the coronation parade makes inaugural prices in Washington look sad. Still, those crowns may have been in paper money.

Peace sentiment is waning in Berlin. Peace sentiment is waning in London. Germany is confident Britain nears starvation. England is confident Germany nears starvation. The end of the war—

The allies' answer to Berlin is about ready, and there are indications that, whether it be read in Russian, French, Italian, or English, it is going to be some little answer.

Here's hoping that the business of ripping up American railroads in order to ship the rails and bridges to Europe will not get too common. We need some more here.

It is to be said in all candor that Chairman Henry's reply to Tom Lawson didn't quite match the "hot stuff" qualities of the Lawson telegram, but it did pretty well at that.

Don Marquis' Column

French Without a Struggle. There was a young lady named Lloyd Who referred to a bird as a "bold." Though it may be a fact, That the lady lacked tact, She was there when it came to sang froid. —Tommy Atkins.

Governor Spry of Utah has received warnings of poison plots and bomb plots against him, but has escaped so far owing to the rapidity with which he moves from spot to spot.

Whenever a chump does anything that displeases everybody he always calls attention to the fact that great men are sure to make enemies.

The "World Peace Association of Minnesota" has protested against the possibility of universal military training. Pacifism grows stronger, and stronger in the Scandinavian nations.

"It Was Christmas on the Isthmus." Sir: With reference to Clement Wood's rhyme: It recalls to me the opening lines of a splendid epic upon the order of the Ancient Mariner which a friend and I hoped to concoct one holiday season some years ago. It opened thus:

"It was Christmas on the Isthmus," Said the stranger with strabismus. Despite our unfortunate inability to pursue the topic further, I cannot but feel these are lines that the world will not willingly let die. —W. R. E.

Indeed, they shouldn't be lost. Here's the first stanza: "It was Christmas on the Isthmus," Said the stranger with strabismus. As he deftly changed the angle of his left-hand eye.

He was Coptic and his optic Had a sandy look hydroptic. Or perhaps his thirsty glances were zig-zagging after eye.

What's the second stanza? "The World," says a story in the True Facts, "is in a position to present the world facts."

SIR, FOR A BACHELOR THIS INTEREST IS ALMOST MORIBID. Sir: It twins are going to be born in any person's home on the night of December 31, it is that person's duty to inform the newspaper correspondent of his village of his expectancy. Life has no ambition any sweeter to the country correspondent than to send in a story that in his village "twins were born tonight, one in 1916 and one in 1917."

In 1915-1916 it was Eau Claire, Wis. Back in 1910-1911 it was Liberty, Mo. Where will it be this year? —A BACHELOR.

The Rev. Bouck White and the Socialist party have excommunicated each other, neither one, we presume, being radical enough for the other.

The Idea Had Occurred to Us. All the gracious cards can do it. If you don't you will rue it— Why detach yourself from all the post crew?

In a few words—not excessive— Write a rhyme about the year that's nearly through. We shall gasp in round-eyed wonder, If those lines of rhythmic thunder Are not printed ere this last week is a doubt.

Though the theme has oft been treated, Can the thought be quite depleted? Write some verse about the year that's passing out! —Ernest Tyler.

Cassandra. There are holly wreaths in the windows. And spangled trees for the children; There are carols and crowds in the church, and the choir boys singing. Exultantly high and clear.

But also I saw a church full of hospital beds for the wounded; The fragrance of incense changed to the odor of antiseptics, And the chanting was drowned by the groans.

Of those who are long in their death. "And I looked through a window and saw Little children around a tree, Children wild with delight, clean and carefully tended.

Dancing around a tree. But also I saw little children Haggard and starved and embruted, Peering like rats from the ruins Of a bomb-wrecked, pillaged town.

"And I saw the ladies go by Mincing over the pavement In their high-heeled costly shoes of beautiful colored leather, Daintily painted and powdered, Conscious and very complacent, Privileged queens of the world.

Wretches cowering, rags and tatters of women, Torn and befooled and tossed away by the brutal hands of soldiers; Torn beyond all mending— Women who once were proud!"

Cassandra goes crying through the streets: "O, my country, my country, hear me, But also I saw Cassandra!" Black, black is the cloud rolling heavily down upon you;

Red, red are the drops, a fast falling deluge of blood! O, my country, hear me, for I die even now with your danger!"

But who would hear Cassandra When it is Christmas time? —MARY.

Frau Leonore Selek, speaking of her scientific researches in Java, says: "The Dutch government was very helpful to us in Java. It lent inmates of its penal colony to us for most of our excavations. It is interesting to know that, as far as our experience went, murderers make the best diggers." Nevertheless, it might be a little risky to put them to work preparing the foundations for a new social order.

COURSE OF DANCE WENDS WAY WEST

Waltz Originated in Liverpool, Modern "Hula Hula" in Honolulu.

ORIENTAL STEPS DUE NEXT

Dancing Instructors Believe They Will Follow Present Hawaiian Craze.

Westward the course of the modern dance wends its way. From Liverpool to Honolulu is a long way, but not too far for tripping feet and gliding bodies.

In the puppe pathway of the descending sun, has the custom of the dance followed, and this season's offering marks no exception. Young man and young woman, go West and catch up with the dance!

Get out the Japanese lantern and Chinese decorators and fit up the ball room for the 1918 dances, which are coming direct from the Orient.

At least, that's what dancing masters right and left are saying about it, and it is best to take their word for it.

Consider the Waltz. Consult the progress of the dance since ante-diluvian times—perhaps a little later would be better—and see where the fancy steps have taken themselves.

Because the steps that tickled Adam and Eve didn't branch out is no sign that the dance is not a spreading craze. If it didn't invade strange lands then it was because there was nowhere to go.

Consider the innocent waltz, in the name of which many fantastic derivations have been committed. It originated in England, in Liverpool, to be exact. It came to America.

Next came the two-step and no one will deny that it is an American institution. But it wasn't awfully popular for so many years before the "tom-toms" are free to the Middle West usurped its throne.

Virginia Reel a Memory. They lasted until carpenters imported smooth floors into farmhouses and public halls in the corn raising States. Since then they have been enjoying the latest from New York and the "homestead" dances have gone begging.

The Virginia reel is a tender memory, but nobody can truthfully say that it holds sway in ball rooms today.

When Frisco's Barbary coast contributed its quota of dances to polite society it hauled out the turkey trot, the bunny hug, the scissors glide, and scores of other steps which were perhaps fortunately short lived.

Instructors are free to admit that a majority of the dances patterned after the turkey trot came from the underworld of San Francisco. But the more entrancing Hawaiian strains have taken their place, and these will in turn be supplanted by unknown steps from the Orient, it is believed.

Hula Hula Belongs. And there you have it. The cause of the source of the dance is westward. No doubt about it.

Washington dancers and dancing instructors are practically agreed that what Paris is to the world of fashion, everywhere is to the world of dancing.

This season in Washington some, but in Chicago more, and New York principally, the "hula hula," with variations, is leader of the ball room, and even has crowned herself in the private home.

The American Society of Professors of Dancing, at a recent convention in New York, decreed that "hula" should be danced this season—but not in bare feet. That was the only restriction.

America is admitted by dance lovers to be mad over the strains of the wonderful Hawaiian music.

Ukulele Wins Place. The ukulele has installed itself in the hearts of music lovers and in the theaters and on the streets one can hear the strains of South Sea Isle music sung and whistled.

But it is running its sway this year and next season will probably witness the introduction of dances from Japan and other points of the Orient.

Miss Hiltrude B. Fisher, a Washington dancing teacher, says she believes the trend of dancing is westward.

"I believe that the dance is moving to the West," said Miss Fisher. "When one stops to reflect that it has traveled from Liverpool, England, to San Francisco, and then to Honolulu, the conclusion is that it is bound on an indefinite western journey."

"Within two seasons at the most our steps will be importations from the Orient, I confidently believe," she concludes.

Comes From the Orient. Arthur Mack, of 160 Eye street northwest, believes the Oriental dances will prevail within the next few years.

"If you have noticed," says Mr. Mack, "our dances are going westward. Old turkey trot and bunny hug came from San Francisco and the Hawaiian glide is a product of a Western island. I believe that two years more will probably bring us dances direct from the Orient, although one can not say what they will be."

Only a few more Western leaps and the source of the dance will be back again where it originally started, after encircling the world. It required several centuries to travel as far as it has gone, but it is not believed that so many years will be necessary to land it back in the Old World again.

Women Fare Better. The immense popularity this season of Hawaiian music is responsible for the evolution of the Hawaiian dance for ball room purposes, and the prediction of sponsors that it would be eagerly welcomed by America seems not to have gone far wrong.

PARK LAND OFFERED FOR SALE TO U. S.

Owners of 229 Parcels Willing to Sell for Rock Creek-Potomac Driveway.

Of the 456 parcels of land to be acquired by the Government for the connecting drive between Rock Creek and Potomac Park, 229 parcels have been offered by owners for sale to the United States, according to announcement today by the Parkway Commission.

Of the parcels offered, the commission has selected six for immediate purchase. This was all the commission was able to do at present on account of the limited funds at its disposal. From the evidences of willing ness on the part of owners to sell to the Government at reasonable figures, it is thought probable the land may all be acquired without condemnation proceedings.

Unrestricted Route. The Parkway Commission has approved the tentative agreement between Col. W. W. Harts, its executive officer, and the Washington Gas Light Company, which is believed to be advantageous to the United States. This agreement furnishes a free and unrestricted route for the parkway over squares two and three, which are now occupied by the plant and machinery of the gas company, and between the main gas plant and the river, settling for all time the long standing controversy as to the rights of occupancy upon these squares.

The Gas Company has agreed to relinquish all title and claim to the lands desired for this crossing, and has agreed to remove its apparatus and equipment from this area upon notice from the commission that the land is required for parkway use.

Gets Use of Wharf Area. In return for this concession the company will have use, without title, of a wharf area on the river and the discussed bed of H street between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh streets northwest, where it passes between two units of the gas plant. Buildings for the wharf must be approved by the engineer officer in charge of public buildings and grounds so that no unsightly structure may be built.

Recommendation for the purchase of the six parcels of land approved by the commission marks the initial step toward actually acquiring property for the connecting parkway, which is one of the most elaborate features of present plans for the Capital's beautification. The land for the connecting drive will cost a million and a quarter. The plan of improvement will be added to this cost.

Make Important Step. In announcing its first steps in the parkway commission, in a statement, says: "This marks a very important step in the work of constructing the parkway; a step which bids fair to be continuous, as there is no doubt that Congress intends to prosecute the work to speedy conclusion."

There is every reason why Washingtonians should feel that the present Congress fully appreciates the need of connecting these large public reservations in such a way as to eliminate a long-standing condition of sordidness, where once a fair stream ended its way."

The members of the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway Commission in charge of the improvement are Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, chairman; Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of Agriculture Houston. Col. W. W. Harts is executive officer, and William J. Matin, executive clerk of the Treasury Department, is secretary of the commission.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Import are Scheduled Today. Reception to Treasury employes by Secretary McAdoo and Mrs. McAdoo in Treasury building, 11 a. m.

Odd Fellows—Canton Washington, No. 1. Agreements. National-Raymond Hitchcock in "Betty," 8:15 p. m.

Belmont-Annette Kellermann in "A Daughter of the Gods," 8:15 and 9:15 p. m. Keith-Vaudeville, 8:15 and 9:15 p. m.

Fort—The Old Homestead, 8:15 and 9:15 p. m. Lyceum-Burlesque, 8:15 and 9:15 p. m.

Lyceum-Photoplays, 8:15 and 9:15 p. m. Lyceum-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

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SILENT RENASCENCE NOW ON IN GERMANY

Nation Passing Through Period of Transition in Her Internal Affairs.

TO GIVE PEOPLE MORE VOICE

Peaceful Revolution Seen in Reichstag, in Press, and in Royalty's Attitude.

(This is the fifth of a series of reviews of the European war in the past year, written for The Times by correspondents in the field.)

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Germany is as ready for peace as she is for continued war. Her record of 1916 justifies either. She begins the year 1917 with her line on the western front unbroken after England's and France's supreme efforts, and this despite the fact that her armies have swept victorious over three-fourths of Roumania.

Foremost of the year's events in Germany was the proffer of peace by the imperial chancellor, van Bethmann-Hollweg. German public opinion applauded the sentiment which urged this tender. The chancellor's speech in the Reichstag and his note to Germany's enemies aptly summarized the view of the German people.

In the German view, it is now entirely a matter for the allies to decide—whether they desire to make peace, or continue fighting. Germany wants peace—but her united public opinion, her uncrushed army and navy, are ready to fight on.

Rebirth Already Under Way. As a matter of fact, Germany today is passing through a transition period in her internal affairs. Because the world at large has been so interested in purely war affairs, it has overlooked perhaps the most important movement in Germany since 1914. That development is the "Neuorientierung"—meaning "readjustment of the nation to changing conditions." Really, it is the German Renaissance of 1916. A peaceful, political revolution working so quietly that even some Germans do not see its developments.

Repeatedly the Dances and the Dutch and other neutrals ask, "When will the revolution begin?" believing that changing conditions can only be brought about by force, and not being aware that the only revolution is a renaissance or rebirth.

The rebirth is already under way. Everyone from the chancery down to the laborer is playing a role.

To Give People Voice. The chancellor in the Reichstag sounded the keynote of the movement when he said: "There must be free opportunity for all capable people."

In other words, the new movement is a universal change by the people, the Reichstag and the government to give the people by franchise and through the Reichstag more of a voice in the nation's affairs.

The socialists have been saying: "We want more authority." And the government, instead of extending a deaf ear, is listening to all suggestions. Through the chancellor, the government is showing a spirit of willingness to get together.

Thus, the Neuorientierung is making such headway that the National Liberals and the Social Democrats are being swept into the Reichstag more of a voice in the nation's affairs.

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