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SECTION TWO. WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1919. SECTION TWO.

TEACHER ASKS HER CASE BE RECONSIDERED

Miss Wood, in Letter to Education Board, Tries to Clarify Misunderstanding.

Declaring that she never has defended Bolshevism and questioning statements made by the Board of Education in its formal refusal to further consider her case, Miss Alice Wood, suspended teacher, sent a letter to the board today, asking the school authorities to reconsider their final decision.

The letter was written by Miss Wood, following a conference with Paul E. Lesh, attorney for the teachers, and is the final overture for an understanding between the board and the teachers before the case is taken to the courts next week.

Mr. Lesh told The Times today that in the event the board remains firm in its decision, mandamus proceedings will be filed in the District Supreme Court early in the week.

Miss Wood's Letter.

Miss Wood's letter follows:

"The following statement by the Board of Educaiton occurs in their reply to the High School Teachers' Union published April 9:

"'When this order was communicated by the superintendent to Miss Wood she acknowledged its receipt, and stated that, following the instructions contained in it, she would remain out of class until the following Thursday, and that upon her return she would scrupulously obey the requests of the board, and this line of conduct she has admirably pursued in all of her communications with the board.

"'Miss Wood made no protest, no request for a formal hearing and no appeal, and, so far as the board is advised, acted in all respects in accordance with her statement made to the superintendent and above referred. The action of the board thus seems to have been accepted by Miss Wood and questioned only by others.'

"In my acknowledgment of Superintendent Thurston's letter of March 22, I stated that I would follow instructions of the board, and would scrupulously obey the request of the board contained in that letter.

Request Never Granted.

"The action of the board was accepted by me in the sense that I obey the orders of the board and the superintendent, as is certainly my duty as a teacher. The statement of my willingness to obey any ruling of the board in this matter was, however, first made to my principal upon the receipt of the complaint of the two parents in February, before I was ever punished at all.

"On the morning after the board suspended me, and before notice of it had been communicated to me, I went to the school to teach, as usual, but was ordered by telephone to leave my classes. During the week of suspension I received the formal order and made the formal acknowledgment to which you refer.

"When, on the day after the board suspended me, I read the headlines in the daily press branding me as unpatriotic, with a school official given as the authority, and when the days went by and no correction was made by the Board of Education, a correction which mere humanity would have prompted, were the case one of even a household servant, and not a teacher of twelve years' service and untarnished record, I felt that individual protest was useless. The only request I personally did make, that for a statement giving the report of the committee of the board which I had met, has never been granted.

Action "Illegal."

"I considered the action illegal, cruel and unjust, and I asked the High School Teachers' Union to act in the matter.

"Inasmuch as the protest of the High School Teachers' Union seems not to have been understood by you as action on my behalf, I respectfully ask that the action of the board in suspending me be rescinded, that my service for the month of March be certified in usual course to the disbursing officer, and that the stigma on my record as a teacher be removed.

"My knowledge of the specific grounds of your action is, of course, derived only from the superintendent's letter suspending me, which states it was 'because of your attempt to touch on and interpret certain economic and social subjects in which you were clearly an amateur, and in which you revealed indiscretion and poor judgment in assuming to be anything else.' As bearing upon this, I hope you will consider the following statement.

"In following the course of study prescribed in English classes, I had permitted the discussion of the subject of Bolshevism, brought up by a pupil, and up to that time never excluded by any order or suggestion. I knew that such discussion was approved by some parents, and did not then know that objection was made by any.

Did Not Defend Reds.

"I gave definitions of Bolshevism, and anarchy, and soviet. Following the approved practice in any such class discussion, I referred the students to certain articles in magazines, Current Opinion for February, the New Republic, and the Dial, the first two named being in the files of the school libraries. We discussed the situation in Russia. I never defended Bolshevism, and a perusal of the articles in the magazines referred to will prove that they did not defend Bolshevism.

"As to propriety of my discussion of economic and social questions, the fact that I had a major course in economics and sociology in college is beside the mark, for the specific direction—from the head of the department—to conduct current events classes is for all English teachers regardless of their college preparation.

"After the letter of criticism by two parents, Mr. Thomas Bradley and Mr. Frank P. Reeside, had been received, and early in February, I expressed to the principal my willingness to exclude any subject the board might wish to exclude, explaining that I had not brought the subject up, and was of course willing to follow directions.

"A month then passed, and I supposed the parents had dropped the matter after reading my letter explaining the circumstances of the discussion.

"My letter explaining what had taken place in the class discussion complained of by the parents, was written under the impression that it was a reply for the information of my principal and the parents.

Not Aware of Position.

"When I went to the informal friendly conference, as Mr. Thurston had designated it, I was not aware that as a teacher I had to be on the defensive against the Board of Education.

"The summons of March 12 to this conference was my first information that the board had taken up the matter.

"The conference, informal and friendly in its atmosphere, never touched upon the letter of Mr. Bradley and Mr. Reeside, but was a series of questions, usually to be answered by yes or no, relative to my views upon various economic, industrial and ethical questions.

"No charges were made, and hence no defense was attempted. I had broken no rule; I had shown no insubordination. No particular statement I had made was criticised.

"At the close of the conference, I was informed that the committee considered the class discussion of certain questions indiscreet, in view of the state of the public mind, the liability to distortion of facts by pupils and the immaturity of high school pupils.

"If my submission to the orders of the board and the superintendent has been misunderstood and my supposed acceptance of your action as proper or expedient was the ground of your refusal of the request made on my behalf by the unions, I hope that this letter will result in the reconsideration of your action.

"Very truly yours,
"ALICE L. WOOD."

YEOMAN (F) BECOMES U. S. CITIZEN

MISS HELEN HAPPER,
First woman of the American navy to be naturalized.

FIRST NAVY WOMAN IS MADE CITIZEN

Miss Helen Happer, pretty twenty-three-year-old yeoman (f), today has the honor of being the first woman in the American navy to be naturalized.

Miss Happer, who lives at 1443 Belmont street northwest, was a British subject until yesterday, when she received her final papers making her an American citizen.

Miss Happer hails from Ontario, Canada. Four years ago two of her brothers enlisted in the army to fight against Germany. When they had been away for two years Miss Happer decided to go to Detroit with her sister. Inspired by the sacrifices made by her two brothers, Miss Happer opened an organization for relief of fatherless children. In April, 1918, she received word that her brother was killed in action.

This made her feel she wasn't doing enough to help win the war. So she came to Washington. She says she loved the people in America and loved to work for the country, so she became naturalized. And she's not going to stop working as a yeoman (f) until they put her out, she asserts. "I am sacrificing myself by coming to Washington, but there is nothing too hard I can do that can compare with my brother's supreme sacrifice."

FLIES TO NEW YORK IN 1 HOUR, 58 MIN.

Airmail was taken from Washington to New York in 118 minutes yesterday.

No mail ever has traveled the same distance in less time.

The plane carrying this mail was piloted by Leon D. Smith, one of the veteran airmail pilots. The machine used was a Curtiss J N 4, with a Hispano-Suiza 150-horsepower motor.

DOWNFALL OF GIRL BLAMED ON BROADWAY

Aunt Weeps Over Former New York Model Arrested for Theft of Clothes.

In a little house at 2611 L street northwest Mrs. Catherine Goley, past sixty years, sits and cries.

"She was a good girl once," she repeats. "May God have mercy on her."

In a cell in No. 1 precinct police station sits Julia McAuliffe Phillips, pretty nineteen-year-old niece of Mrs. Goley. In the police book she is charged with false pretenses and larceny. Detectives Barbee and Wilson took the girl in custody yesterday on complaints of two war workers that she stole clothes from them. A store owner complains that she forged a $40 check. Of these charges the pretty nineteen-year-old girl says nothing.

"That Julia would even think of doing such a thing almost kills me to think of," the aunt told a reporter for The Times today.

"I raised her," said Aunt Goley, "and for eight years she was a good girl. Her mother is dead. Her father is away.

New York Caused Downfall.

"She was such a devoted girl for eight years. Her downfall came after she came home from New York. No longer was she the devoted girl whom I knew, but just a little uncontrollable girl.

"After she had ben with me a short time she met bad companions. I told her many times, 'Julia, please be a good girl. Don't disgrace us. We all love you, won't you please be a good girl.' It was no use talking to her. And now look at her. After all my years working hard just to give her nice clothes and send her to school she does this. May God bless her and have mercy on her."

Three weeks ago Julia met Captain James Zedler who was stopping at a local hotel. Three days later, the police allege, she forged a check in the captain's name. The police were notified and Detectives Barbee and Wilson began looking for her. Two weeks later two more complaints were made to the police about the girl.

Miss Gertrude Clark, a war worker, who lives at 1109 H street northwest, told the police she had been robbed of over $100 worth of clothes. Miss Clark said she met a pretty girl at a dance. The girl told her she had just come to town and that she did not have a place to sleep.

Worked On Girl's Sympathy.

She said she came to Washington to get a war job and expected it in a few days. "Would Miss Clark let her stay with her several nights for she had no money?" the girl asked. Touched by this sympathetic story, Miss Clark took the girl to hor house and shared her room with her for a couple of days. Returning home one evening she found her shoes, furs and several dresses missing. The girl had disappeared. Yesterday Miss Clark identified Julia as the girl who stayed with her.

A story similar to this was told the police by Miss Emma Russell, of 2602 Rhode Island avenue northeast. She identified Julia and made the complaint against her. Out of work, out of money, nowhere to go and tears in her eyes, for the second time she had worked upon a sympathetic girl. From Miss Russell about $60 worth of clothing was stolen.

Monday, Mrs. Goley is going to go to Police Court. "May the good judge have mercy on poor Julia," Mrs. Goley said. "She is a good girl at heart. God bless her."

Julia worked in New York as a model before returning to her aunt's home here.

BULLET BRINGS HIM LONG LOST SISTER

How would you feel if, on opening your eyes after an operation, you looked up and saw that the nurse hovering over you and smoothing your pillow was none other than your lost sister, whom you hadn't seen for eleven years?

Just such was the experience of Wilson L. Jones, of the Fifth regiment of marines, who related his story last night at Club No. 5 of the War Camp Community Service.

"I reached the hospital late one night," he said, "after being wounded in the fighting that day, and was sent to the operating room. When I recovered consciousness the next day a woman was standing at my bedside with tears in her eyes. She was my sister, whom I had not seen since leaving Atlanta eleven years ago.

"She had aided in the operation when I reached the hospital the night before, and had discovered my identity when examining my record the next morning. My other sister was a nurse in the hospital at Nantes and came to see me soon afterward.

"I had not known that either of my sisters was in the service, nor did they know that I was at the front."

Jones was attached to a machine gun battalion and was wounded in an attack by the Germans after ammunition for the machine guns had been exhausted. He was rescued by a party of marines.

Four hundred thousand residents of the District of Columbia pay Federal taxes, but these 400,000 have no local self-government, no Presidential vote, no national representation.

HEALTH DEPT. WANTS MILK LAW ALTERED

Dr. Fowler Urges Immediate Revisions So as to Protect People of Capital.

Revision of the District milk regulations is needed if Washington residents are to be properly protected against the sale of unlicensed milk in the National Capital in the future, Dr. William C. Fowler, health officer, told The Times today.

"There are certain provisions of the present milk laws which are just vague enough to cause confusion when the health authorities set out to stamp out an epidemic of infringements of the health laws," said Dr. Fowler. "The substitution of an entirely new set of regulations seems advisable."

William H. Simpson, proprietor of the Walker Hill dairy, 530 Seventh street southeast, today was acquitted by a jury in Police Court on a charge of bringing milk into the District without a permit from the Health Department. The jury deliberated thirty minutes.

Trial of Simpson had been in progress since Thursday. It was alleged that on March 13, 1918, Simpson received a car load of milk from the Sanitary Dairy Company of Lancaster, Pa., which was taken in Simpson's trucks to his dairy in southeast Washington.

The jury was told by Judge McMahon that it must find evidence beyond any reasonable doubt that Simpson did not know that the Lancaster company did not have a permit from the Health Department to ship milk into the District.

Dr. William C. Fowler, District Health Officer, testified there was no record in his office that the Lancaster firm has a permit or had made application for a permit to ship milk into the District.

The prosecution produced no evidence that Simpson knew that the Lancaster firm did not have a District license.

TEN CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS PLEDGE AID IN MILK FIGHT

Representatives of ten citizens' associations of the National Capital today stand pledged to support Dr. Fowler in his campaign against the shipment of unlicensed milk into Washington.

The aid of the association representatives was promised at a conference last night with Dr. Fowler.

The representatives not only agreed to support Dr. Fowler in his fight, which they declare to be for the best interests of th epeople of Washington, but also promised co-operation in any move to put through new milk regulations for the District.

GIRL OUT-TALKS, FIVE YOUNG MEN

It happened just the way everyone said it would. Everyone said that Catherine had the goods and would deliver them. Now evesyone's singing, "I'll say she did."

The young lady is Miss Catherine Gayle, of Fort Myer Heights, Va., pretty young war worker and the first girl ever selected by George Washington University for an intercollegiate debating team.

Catherine was awarded first individual honors last night in a debate at the Y. M. C. A. between George Washington University and Lafayette College. Five young men—two from George Washington and three from Lafayette—tried to out-talk Catherine, but they didn't have a show. Catherine told the judges exactly why the Government should own the railroads of the country.

Lafayette won the debate by a unanimous decision, defending the negative side of the question.

Homer Hoyt and Carlton M. Randall assisted Catherine in hammering home arguments for George Washington.

ARREST EX-YANK AS WHISKEY SELLER

After testifyingfl that he had sold a quart of whiskey to a sailor in a spirit of comradeship and not for profit, Ralph H. White, an honorably discharged soldier, of New York, today was placed on probation by Judge John P. McMahon in Police Court.

White was charged with violation of the Sheppard law. He said he came to Washington last Monday to get his bonus for service in the army. While at the National Hotel, he said, he met the sailor, who happened to be a police agent. He declared the sailor cajoled and wheedled him into selling a quart of whiskey, which was to be drunk on an automobile ride to Virginia.

White was convicted of selling booze, but Judge McMahon, after sentencing him to six months in jail and imposing a $500 fine, placed the former soldier on probation.

Jean Shuler's Daddy Has Come Home

MAJOR GEORGE KENT SHULER,
Who has come home wearing the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with two palms, to meet his twenty-month-old daughter.

Pair Introduced at Gangplank of Transport

Jean Shuler's daddy has come home.

When Major George Shuler returned from France he found something waiting for him—something he thinks is far greater than all the honors he won on the battlefields. It was a twenty months old baby, Jean, whom he had never seen. She was introduced to him as he walked down the gangplank.

When he went to France he missed seeing his little girl by two months, and ever since she has been waiting to see her father who fought in all of the battles in which the Marines were engaged in France. Major Shuler is known for his capture of the shell-torn Blanc Mont ridge. General Petain cited him for his work and the coveted Legion of Honor was given him. The Croix de Guerre with a palm also was awarded him, and another palm was added for his heroic work in the Belleau wood-Chateau Thierry sector. Here he did not take off his shoes for thirty days, and slept in fox holes all of the time. He was under the enemy fire from June 2 to November 11, 1918.

He fought at Villers-Cotteret, Saint Mihiel, Blanc Mont ridge, Argonne-Meuse offensive, Aisne, Soissons, and was at Mouzon separated from the Germans only by a narrow strip of the Meuse river when the war ended. He was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross three times.

JEAN SHULER,
Who was born July 22, 1917, two months after her daddy, Major George Kent Shuler, went to France with the Fifth Marines.

GIRLS, DON'T GIVE YANKS THE BLUES!

Little girl, if you really truly love him and want him to get well real soon while he is mending out at Walter Reed Hospital, don't write him weepy letters; don't tell him how much you miss him; don't tell him that you cried your eyes out last night thinking of his having to walk around with a wooden leg for the rest of his life and that sort of thing.

That's what Capt. Charles Levering Ireland, chief of the paycho-therapeutic division at the military hospital, said to the French Club at the Washington salon, 1413 H street, last night, and Captain Ireland is an eminent physician and ought to know.

"If sweethearts would only write cheerful letters to the boys who are undergoing treatment, and tell them that everything looks fine and that they'll be well soon, they would help us a lot in our work," said Dr. Ireland. "The worst possible thing they can do is to write letters which have a depressing effect on the boys; it gives them the blues and interferes seriously with their mental attitude and physical condition."

COLORED BANDITS ROB MAN OF $16

Held up at the point of a pistol by two unidentified colored men at Third and C street southwest, Harry Coleman, 1272 First street northwest, was robbed of $16.

Coleman was walking south on Third street when the two negroes jumped from behind a tree and ordered him to throw up his hands. One covered Coleman with the revolver while the other rifled his pockets. They ran into an alley and disappeared. Coleman was able to furnish the police with a description of the highwaymen.

SAYS SHE WASN'T DRUNK, BUT JUST SMELLED LIKE IT

"She staggered in the station and she staggered out. Then I locked her up for being drunk," so testified Policeman N. O. Holmes, of Second precinct in Police Court, when Mamie Wilson, colored, was on trial.

"Judge, I was not drunk," protested Mamie. "I had one drink. And the officer must have smelled the fumes."

Judge McMahon told Mamie that she would have to pay a $10 fine.

Sad Soda Water Hounds To Bay Over Lemonade In Old Club Bar Rooms

You may see this happen in any fashionable Washington club during the hot days of summer:

Perspiring waiter rushes up to bar that formerly held the spirits of those favorites of Bacchus, which officially depart this life July 1. To custodian behind counter, gruffly: "The party says that last soda was too strong. Give me four plain lemon sodas, two with straws."

The waiter may or may not be perspiring, and the soda may or may not have been too strong, but it is a fact that Washington clubs may have soda fountains instead of the time-honored bars, before the summer is over.

Are "Talking About It."

"I suppose we'll have them before long," said a sweet-voiced attache of the Columbia Country Club, "but you'll really have to ask the manager about that. "I know they've been talking about putting in soda fountains."

At the Chevy Chase Club also, it was said, the question of a fountain in the club house this summer had been brought up. The directors will have to decide it, though. The next meeting will be held in a few days.

Last year at the Army and Navy Club they talked of it, too.

Now the question is in the air again.

None At Metropolitan.

"There will be no soda fountain at the Metropolitan Club," said a positive voice. "There has never been one here, and there isn't any here now."

The University Club manager said he had no knowledge of the intention of any member to urge soda fountains this year.

The Maryland Country Club is going to have one—also a tea room.

ROBBED 'LADY COP;' GIRL IS ARRESTED

Stealing is risky business at best, but snitching a policewoman's "hankies" is a piece of recklessness second to none. All of which Lillian McLemore, aged twenty-two, has found out to her sorrow.

Lillian, so the police say, entered the bed room of Miss Grace Enoch, a Police Headquarters stenographer with the rank of policewoman, living at 912 Twenty-third street northwest, helped herself to all the lady cop's best embroidered handkerchiefs and other embroidered articles not to be mentioned. Now, even a policewoman needs "hankies," especially in this sniffly climate, and Miss Enoch waked not only wrathy but appealed to her associates in the detective bureau.

That was two weeks ago. Yesterday Detective Wilson, arrested Miss McLemore and charged her with petit larceny. Search of the woman's home, 1747 E street northwest, brought to light the stolen "hankies," the lady cop's handbag and other feminine fripperies. Miss McLemore was released after depositing $50 collateral.

CANADIAN WIFE SUES RUSSIAN FOR DIVORCE

Mrs. Mary Boiko, who says she is a Canadian subject, has filed suit against Peter Boiko, who, the wife says, is a Russian, for absolute divorce, alleging misconduct.

Mrs. Boiko, who is represented by Attorney C. C. Miller, says they were married at Gardenton, Manitoba, Canada, February 17, 1917, according to the rites of the Greek Orthodox Church. The wife alleges that her husband not only failed to support her but "frequently has taken money from her." She alleges he is in the District jail now awaiting trial on a charge of non-support.

A subpoena has been issued notifying Boiko of his wife's action.

WINS EDITORIAL HONORS.

John H. Alden, son of William C. Alden, of the United States Geological Survey, a graduate of the Central High School, and now a student in the electrical engineering course at Lehigh, has been elected to the editorial board of the Lehigh Brown and White," the newspaper of the student body.

WALKS FROM OHIO TO SAVE R. R. FARE

There is one man in Washington today who does not want to work, who says he has worked enough in this world. He is Andrew Judzie, an Austrian, who claims to have invented a concrete mixing machine.

Judzie was tried in Police Court on the charge of being a vagrant. He explained to Judge McMahon in broken English that he had walked to the Capital from Cleveland, Ohio. He said he had money in a bank in Cleveland, but had none with him here. He said he intended to walk to New York. Judge McMahon asked him why he was walking to New York if he had a bank account.

"I'm too stingy to spend money for car fare," the Austrian told Judge McMahon.

He was asked why he didn't work. It was then that he declared he had worked enough in this world, and was going to take things easy the rest of his life.

"I don't want to work," he said.

He was placed in the custody of the Board of Charities.

COUPLE DENY GUILT IN WAR RISK FRAUD CHARGE

Wearing the regulation uniform of one of Uncle Sam's sailors, John Richard Ott indicted jointly with Lillian D. Mayberry for conspiracy to defraud the United States Government pleaded not guilty to the charge before Justice Siddons.

The woman also pleaded not guilty. It is allege that they conspired August 19 last, to fill out a certificate to the War Risk Bureau stating that they were married, thereby intending to obtain for the woman a certain allotment of money. The Government declares that the woman was not Ott's wife.

SUES CAR COMPANY FOR $10,000.

J. Milford Hancock, in a suit filed against the Capital Traction Company for $10,000 damages for alleged personal injuries, says that April 8, 1917, the automobile in which he was riding, collided with a car near the Navy Yard entrance, and that he was thrown to the ground and seriously injured. Attorneys Fred B. Rhodes and Chapman W. Maupin appear for Hancock.

CALL MEETING TO STABILIZE D. C. BUILDING

District Commissioners Move to Revive Interest in Industry and Weld Organizations.

By BILL PRICE.

The District Commissioners regard as of paramount importance the conference called by them for next Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, in the board room of the District Building, for the purpose of attempting to revive and stabilize the building industry in the District.

The attempt that will be made to establish an understanding and co-operation will chiefly concern the public, builders, organized labor, dealers in building supplies and material and financial interests.

The conference is the result of a request submitted to the Commissioners by W. T. Galliher, chairman of a meeting held April 7 in the Builders' and Manufacturers' Exchange to devise ways and means to bring about stabilization of the building industry here for a fixed period of time.

At this first conference there were present representatives from the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, banking and financial interests, real estate brokers, Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Department of Labor, builders and construction companies, Lumber Exchange and Builders' and Manufacturers' Exchange.

Two Thousand Houses Needed.

Competent authorities state that 2,000 new houses of all sizes are badly needed in this city. This is a minimum estimate. There is a high demand for homes. The builders are failing to supply this demand and the public is resorting to individual construction work, especially in suburban sections.

The Commissioners are hopeful that the conference next Wednesday may bring about stabilization for a fixed period of time, at least, of—

Prices of building materials.
Rates of wages to be paid.
Small profits to builders.
Liberal rates of interest on loans.
Larger loans to builders.

The situation in Washington, as in many other places, is briefly this: Bankers and money lenders are waiting. They say it is for the peace treaty to be signed. The builders are waiting for lower prices on building material, larger loans, and for an understanding with labor that if they start work there will be no demands for increase in wages.

If the builders and real estate men could have an understanding with material dealers that they will cut to the smallest their profits, thereby lowering prices; with organized labor that wages would not be increased for a given period, and with the money lenders that they will lend more liberally, building projects would start all over Washington.

Purchaser Is Big Factor.

The purchaser is, of course, a big factor in all this effort to stabilize. The builder must be able to show to the purchaser that he has constructed houses at a price possibly as low as they will be constructed for in many future years; that it was done through a general agreement of all concerned to shave their profits; in other words, that the houses put on sale represent value and merit.

The builders say that their first and foremost trouble is that money lenders will not loan any more on a building now than they did before the war; hatt is, they will loan $60,000 on a building that costs $150,000. They loaned $60,000 on the same building when its construction cost was only $100,000.

Their next trouble is the cost of building material. It is claimed that the material men are holding back for fancy profits. The third element is labor. The builder does not want to reduce wages but he does want to know that if he puts in his money and time and starts work, labor will stand pat on present wages for a time at least. Then the builder must yield as the other elements do and agree that his margins and profit shall not be up to former days.

If the Commissioners are able to bring about a definite and binding understanding of all the interests concerned, including the purchaser, something good may be accomplished for Washington.

Capital Falls Behind.

Of all places in the country the Federal Capital is worst off for new buildings and is apparently slower to get into swing for construction owing to the fact that there is lack of agreement and understanding. Other parts of the country are far more active.

The Department of Labor, after a thorough canvass of building operations throughout the country, finds that contracts were let in March for building and construction projects the money value of which exceeds the normal average of that month for the last eight years. The Chicago district alone reported 741 contracts in March, involving $19,212,295.

The representative of a great construction firm recently returned from France declares that the impression of dealers in building material that France and Belgium are going to buy heavily of materials from this country is the worst sort of error. Part of the peace agreement with Germany will be that the first indemnity payment from that country will go back to Germany and Austria to a large extent for raw materials for reconstruction. Therefore, dealers in building materials in this country must look to construction in the United States for their sales and not abroad.