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EUROPEAN CONFLICT

Synopsis of the Great European Struggle

HISTORY OF WARRING NATIONS

From June 28, 1914, Up to the Present Date

The European war has waged for about six months and the probability is that it will continue six more if not longer. Page after page has been devoted to this great conflict for the few months and it is almost impossible for the erstwhile reader to get any idea or conception of it. The writer endeavors in about two columns to give the more important details of the struggle from the start up to the present date.

On June 28th the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne and his wife the Duchess of Hohenberg were shot by a Serbian student at Bosnia and died very soon afterward. An attempt on the life of the Archduke had been formerly made but had failed. The Austrian government immediately made careful inquiries in regard to the murder and arrived at the decision that there were bands of anarchists in Serbia who had designs on the Austrian government.

Austria immediately demanded that those implicated in the killing of Ferdinand be severely punished and the suppression of all similar societies in Serbia. This decree was issued on July 23. As Serbia did not sympathize with Austria they immediately commenced to mobilize troops. Russia and Montenegro followed suit on the 26th of July. The Serbians moved their capital to Nish.

July 28th, just one month after the death of Ferdinand, Austria declared war on Serbia and on the following day invaded the country and shelled Belgrade. Germany objected to the mobilization of troops by Russia, the Kaiser demanding that the Czar cease immediately and martial law was proclaimed throughout Germany. On the 31st of July. The same date the stock exchanges fearing a financial panic closed throughout the world.

The first day of August Germany declared war on Russia, the Czar enforcing martial law and France ordered the mobilization of troops, Italy declaring her neutrality. August 2nd the Germans advanced on France through the neutral country of Luxemburg, Russia invading East Prussia. Germany on the 3rd started three more armies toward France, invading the Belgian soil, this country being neutral and thus breaking the neutrality laws between the two countries.

Great Britain next appears on the field on the 5th day of August, demanding that Germany immediately withdraw her troops from Belgium. The Kaiser refused and the countries declared war, Germany then declaring war on Belgium. The United States proclaimed their neutrality. The German attack was successfully met by the Belgians at Liege and they were repulsed. On August 6th Austria-Hungary boldly declared war on Russia and on the same day the first ship owned by England was sunk—probably by a German mine. On the 7th the Germans succeeded in entering Liege. The following day twenty thousand English troops landed on the French coast and France invaded Alsace-Lorraine, capturing two cities. The 10th of August France broke off all diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary. By the 13th of the month the Germans had succeeded in capturing three more Belgian towns, the same day France and England declaring war on Austria-Hungary.

It can easily be seen that by the middle of August the countries of Europe were all pitted against each other, the allies controlling more men, money and materials than Germany and Austria-Hungary. The general opinion throughout the country was that the allies would soon quiet their opponents.

Japan seemed to feel that they might be interested in the struggle and issued an ultimatum to Germany demanding the complete withdrawal of German warships from the Orient. On the 17th of the month Belgium removed their capital from Brussels to Antwerp; meanwhile the battle between France and the Kaiser was waging with great fierceness and the French losses were very severe. Serbia had succeeded in putting the Austrians to route. On the 19th the Germans occupied Brussels, the former capital of Belgium, and on the 21st levied a tax on the city of Brussels for \$40,000,000; also a tax of \$10,000,000 on the city of Liege. August 23rd Japan declared war on Germany, the Germans securing a victory in France and were very badly defeated in Russia.

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OUR HUMOROUS NEIGHBOR

The attempt at humor and sarcasm by the editor of the St. Louis Leader, in their issue of December 31st, regarding the Record's article on the Chautauqua lectures, was extremely pitiful.

The record made the modest statement that Alma was the first town to introduce the Chautauqua lectures in this neighborhood, and that the nearby towns, immediately followed their lead.

"Swelledheadaritus," is the term applied to the Record writer, and although the word is not listed in the dictionary, the office has a general idea of the meaning intended. It is the policy of the Record to boost Alma, and it is not necessary to do it on "wind pudding and dried apples." Just where this expression first originated or the meaning is not known but possibly the comic (?) writer on the staff of the Leader may be able to enlighten us.

JAS. KLEIN TO LEAVE

Popular Young Business Man Leaves for Ohio Jan. 16.

The many friends of "Jim" Klein will be very sorry to hear that he intends to leave his present position in this city to accept a position with the Seitner Dry Goods Company of Canton, Ohio. Mr. Klein is to be the manager and buyer of the domestic, carpet, trunk, suit case, lace curtain and drapery departments of this concern.

"Jim," as he is familiarly known, came to Alma in 1908 and entered the



employment of the Robinson Dry Goods firm, and later became connected with the firm of S. Messenger, where he held the position of head salesman and buyer.

He is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Saginaw lodge of Shriners and the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Klein intends to leave the 16th of this month and without any exceptions the citizens of Alma unite in wishing him success in his new position.

CLOSE VOTE ON PROHIBITION

The liquor interests have undoubtedly been devoting a large part of their time to serious thought since December 23, and have at last awakened to a realization that the day is coming and it is not so very far away when this country will have nationwide prohibition.

The prohibitionists, although defeated, gained a great deal of ground when the question was brought before the House of Representatives. The proposal was to submit an amendment to the Constitution for national prohibition and was defeated after a ten-hour debate by a vote of 197 to 189. A difference of but eight votes, however a two-thirds vote was necessary to adopt it.

An amendment brought before the house to give the states absolute control of the legislation under the proposed amendment was voted down 179 to 32.

INDEPENDENT RETURNS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The Independent of St. Louis is back in the field again under new management. E. H. Mudge, the publisher of the paper, died a short time ago and gradually the paper dissolved.

F. M. Vandercock is the present publisher and it is the hope and wish of the Record that the paper will meet with success.

THE MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE

All members of the various committees who had charge of the affairs of the Xmas Tree are requested to meet in the Wright House parlors on Friday, January 8, at 8 o'clock in the evening. All who are interested in forming a permanent organization are invited to join the committees.

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Prominent Business Men Transfer Stores

MERCHANTS GROSS STREET

S. L. Bennett Leases Store to W. H. and V. A. Miner.

An important change in the business district of Alma, occurred Monday evening when two of the city's business men, S. L. Bennett and W. H. and V. A. Miner, transferred their respective stores. Stephen L. Bennett, for many years in the confectionery and catering business, has sold his stock and given a five-year lease on the building which he owns and formerly occupied to W. H. and V. A. Miner to be used as a confectionery store and restaurant.

Mr. Bennett is now located at the store formerly owned by Miner's Restaurant at 122 1-2 Superior street with a very fine stock of Victrolas, leather goods and novelties. For many years he has been one of the leading business men of the city. He came here from St. Louis at the age of 12 and secured his first start in the confectionery business by canvassing the homes selling taffy at a penny a box. A few years later he secured a small stand, increasing his stock considerably, and about a year later moved to the Simon Fink building, located then where the Volkney building now stands and establishing a store and carrying a complete line of stock. He remained at that store for about three years and then moved to the building where he has been situated for the last twenty years.

S. L. Bennett may be classed as one of the men who have risen from the ranks of the every day man only by self-denial, careful saving and frugality. He owns a large business block and other property. He is a member of the Masonic lodge and the master of the lodge in 1911; also a member of the Elks' lodge of Saginaw.

W. H. Miner, who has entered business with V. A. Miner, has been a salesman for five years in the store of S. Messenger Clothing company and has been connected with G. J. Majer Company for the past six years.

V. A. Miner has been a resident of Alma all of his life. Three years ago he bought the College Barber shop on State street, selling one-half interest about a year later to Charles A. Sutton. Last April he sold the remaining interest to the same party, the present proprietor, and established a restaurant at 122 1-2 Superior street, which he has successfully conducted up to the present time, when in connection with W. A. Miner he secured a five-year lease on S. L. Bennett's building, also buying part of the stock.

The two concerns are now located at their new stores and welcome all previous customers to inspect their new quarters.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS ORGANIZED AT POMPEII

A large bible class has been organized in connection with the Methodist Episcopal church of Pompeii. The class at present consists of 40 charter members, the organizers being H. L. Holmes of Alma and Dr. Skinner of Ithaca.

The first meeting was held New Year's eve, about eighty being present. The officers elected at the meeting are as follows: President, Glen A. Woodbridge, principal of the Pompeii schools; vice-president, Judge Isaac Seaver; secretary, Ray Snyder; treasurer, Jesse L. Walker; teacher, J. R. Wray.

A song service and an oyster supper followed the election of officers. This is one of the largest if not the largest bible class in the county and the organizers intend to add to the class to some extent.

WEBB-HUNTER

The marriage of Wesley Webb and Miss Mable Hunter was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Webb, parents of the groom at 1:30 Wednesday, December 23. Only the immediate relatives and friends of the bride and groom were present at the ceremony. Rev. Carl of Alma officiated.

THIRTY GOVERNORS SWORN IN

Governors in thirty states throughout the country took their duties of office Friday. Twenty-one of the governors are newly elected, the remaining nine having served previous terms. Seventeen of the number are Democrats, twelve Republicans and one Progressive.

Dyeing, Dyeing, Dyeing, Swisher.

YOUNG AMERICA ATTENDS "MOVIES"

Anyone passing the Vaudeville Motion Picture Theater last Friday afternoon had the pleasure of seeing practically all of Alma's future citizens ranging in ages from four to about fifteen, crowding the street in double and triple lines awaiting the opening of the doors of the theater. Children's day at the Vaudeville was a howling success and about four hundred attended. No partiality was shown and both sexes were about equally represented.

When the theater doors were finally opened, the box office remaining closed, the shoving, scuffling, howling, and happy mob of youngsters were met by their genial and generous host, Mr. E. H. Weese, proprietor of the theater. After all were assigned to their seats the orchestra tuned up and the performance was on. Appropriate pictures were shown and the remarks from the large and critical audience left no doubts in the mind of Mr. Weese as to the success of the entertainment.

CHRISTMAS AT THE POSTOFFICE

The postal receipts of the postoffice for the month of December were a little smaller than those of last year. This undoubtedly was due to the decrease in the parcel post rate which amounts to about one cent a pound beyond the first zone.

The Christmas mail was as large apparently as the mail of last year. It was necessary to hire ten extra men and one dray in order to successfully handle the business. The mails with but two exceptions, were on time, the last package leaving the postoffice Christmas eve for delivery.

ALMA GRAD. MARRIED

Claude P. Satterlee of Wyandotte Marries St. Louis Girl.

Mr. Claude P. Satterlee of Wyandotte, a graduate of Alma college, and Miss Flossie B. Gates were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Gates, at St. Louis New Year's morning at 9 o'clock. Rev. S. B. Ford performed the ceremony, a few immediate relatives and friends attending. Following the ceremony a three-course breakfast was served.

The out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Royal Mudge of Jackson, Miss Dorothy Pennington of Charlotte, Miss Minnie Greer and Miss Johnson of Alma, Mrs. C. W. Satterlee of Detroit, and Miss Vera Stealy of Charlotte.

Mr. Satterlee graduated from Alma college in 1913 where he was one of the most popular young men of his class. He was a member of the debating team and took a prominent part in the school life. At the completion of his course here he attended the University of Michigan obtaining the degree of A. M. while there. Mr. Satterlee is a teacher in the Wyandotte school.

Mrs. Satterlee was formerly a teacher in the Wyandotte schools and was one of the most popular young ladies of the city.

RED CROSS WORKERS SEND LARGE SHIPMENT

The Red Cross association of Alma has responded in a generous manner to the appeal sent out from the association headquarters in New York. Over \$90 worth of yarn has been sold and the following list of 240 articles was shipped to New York recently: 68 pairs of wristlets, 8 pairs of socks, 42 scarfs, 15 pairs of mittens and 13 abdominal bands.

The society is hard at work on their second shipment and twenty articles have already been completed.

ST. LOUIS MAN DIED YESTERDAY AT SAGINAW

Will S. Scott of St. Louis passed away yesterday afternoon at Saginaw hospital. He has been suffering from stomach trouble for some time, and several days ago went to Saginaw for an operation, which was performed Tuesday evening.

The body was brought to the undertaking rooms of G. V. Wright of Alma, Thursday morning and the funeral will be held at his former home in St. Louis Friday afternoon.

W. S. Scott has been connected with the grocery department of the Toger department store of St. Louis for several years. He is survived by his wife, and one daughter, Mrs. Lewis Hudson of Alma.

Mrs. W. A. Tuttle returned Monday after a pleasant visit in Durand with her father.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Suggests Use of the Genuine Australian Ballot

ECONOMY THE WATCHWORD

Discusses Schools, Railroad Commission and Workmen's Compensation Law.

Gentlemen of the Legislature:

In addressing the Michigan Legislature of 1913, I assumed that the best interests of the State could be conserved through co-operation. While the three departments of government, the executive, the legislative and the judicial are distinct, they are not independent; in other words they are so inter-related that unity of purpose must be observed. At the same time each department has its own imperative duties, its own responsibilities. Possibly there have been occasions in the past when members of the State Legislatures have, against their own best judgment, yielded to the wishes of their constituency, expecting that the Governor would correct, through his veto power, errors they might be persuaded to make. That precedent, if it ever was a precedent, is unwise.



WOODBRIDGE N. FERRISS.

and initiatives against efficiency in legislative action.

In the 1913 session of the Michigan Legislature, I used the veto power sparingly. The Executive Office was always open to every member of the Legislature and to every committee for conference, in order that the best interests of the State could be conserved. In the present session of 1915 I shall pursue the same plan, believing that the citizenship of the State will hold the Legislature, together with the Governor, responsible for the sacred performance of their duties. These duties are so clearly defined that no public official can be excused for going wide of the mark. The tendency of the age is to expect altogether too much of every legislative body, and under-estimate the performance of the homely every day duties of citizenship. As a result of this tendency, too many laws are put upon our statute books. The all-important ideal is quality not quantity. If by some process of sifting this Legislature could concentrate its forces upon a few important measures, a legislative step would be taken in the right direction. By careful and consistent co-operation of the Legislative and Executive Departments, the frequency of the Governor's veto can be reduced to the minimum.

System of Enacting Laws.

I have already mailed to every member of the present Legislature a copy of a plan for proposed changes in our system of enacting laws. By adopting the essentials of this plan, this Legislature can reduce the quantity, and thereby improve the quality of our statutory laws. This proposal will not require additional legislation in order to become operative. It can be accomplished by the adoption of a rule in the Senate and House of Representatives. It has, however, the advantage of not creating any new offices nor requiring any additional appropriations. You will all agree that in the making of laws a system should be devised which will accomplish the following results: Accuracy of statement; simplicity of language; consistency; not contradictory; brevity; exclusive and inclusive averments; orderly arrangement; constitutionality. These ends are not attained in our present system.

The maker of this plan suggests that the Legislature amend its rule so as to create a joint committee of arrangement, phraseology and conformity. Every bill as it passes the committee of the whole in each house should be referred to this committee and examined as to its validity, accuracy, consistency, simplicity, brevity, orderly arrangement, phraseology, et cetera. This committee would have the power to propose amendments or even a substitute in case they found any of the

CITY ADVERTISING

The freight traffic manager of the Pere Marquette has offered the following suggestions to the boards of trade through Michigan for advertising their respective towns and cities, which are unusually good:

"Nothing creates a better impression from a passenger train passing through a town or city than good city and factory signs.

"Every town or city should erect a good up-to-date sign, where it can be seen from the train, setting forth the advantages offered to industries and telling what the place now produces.

"Every enterprising factory should likewise have on it, visible from the train, a sign showing the name of the concern and what it manufactures. This is a good and inexpensive way to boom your town and business."

WATER PROCESS GAS

Interesting Interview on the Manufacture

A very interesting interview on the manufacture of water gas was given the writer by Mr. R. B. Wagner, engineer and secretary of the Gratiot Co. Gas Co.

The gas supplied by the local company is water gas which is the equal of coal gas more commonly used, but is obtained by a much more difficult and complicated process.

Coal gas is made from the fumes of coal which are collected, scrubbed and purified and the by-product that remains is called coke which is simply coal with the volatile matter taken out. Coke is quite commonly used for fuel, giving fully as much heat as coal.

The plant which is located here is very large and excellently equipped with large boilers, tanks, compressors and various other machinery which will help to produce water gas.

The coke is placed in the bottom of a large generator and also in an upper boiler of a large tank called a superheater. It is then heated to a temperature of 1400 degrees and the space between the two boilers is used for consuming the gases. The fumes that arise from the coke are called carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. These gases are obtained when the coke breaks up. The heat from the gases makes steam and the steam breaks up into hydrogen and oxygen, which are necessary for the composition of water gas. Oil passes from large tanks into the superheater and when mixed with the other fumes forms a hydro carbon gas. The materials necessary for the manufacture of this gas are oil, steam and coke.

The gas is taken from the superheater to the hydraulic scrubber where it is thoroughly cleaned and after this process it goes to the storage tanks. An immense tank which holds 6000 cubic feet of un compressed gas and the tank is so built that its size may be adjusted by the amount of the gas in the tank.

The gas from the storage tank passes through another process where all of the sulphur is removed from the gas. This is done by having the gas come in contact with iron oxide which removes all of the sulphur and forms iron sulphide.

From the purifier to the compressor is the next process and this is done merely so that the gas can be stored in smaller volume. So thoroughly is this done that 5000 cubic feet of un compressed gas will fill a tank which ordinarily will hold 30,000 cubic feet of compressed gas. The compression takes all of the moisture out of the gas. This is quite necessary because if gas was sent from the tanks through the pipes direct to the homes it would be necessary to lay the pipes below the frost line.

The gas that is stored in the tanks contains a pressure of 80 pounds which is greatly reduced before it is put into actual use. It is easier to store gas containing a high pressure than gas containing low because the increase squeezes all of the moisture out.

The gas then passes through what is called a governor where the pressure is reduced from eighty pounds to ten pounds and then through another governor where it is reduced to two pounds. From this last instrument it is sent by pipes direct to the homes where it is reduced from a pressure of two pounds to two ounces. This reduction is very essential as it would be very dangerous to use gas if the pressure was over two ounces.

The gas for St. Louis all goes out under high pressure and the decreasing of the pressure is done there. The company expects to have lines running to Ithaca in a very short time.

Winter Clothing French dry-cleaned. Men's suits, \$1.25, overcoats \$1.25 to \$1.50—include minor repairs, prompt service.

Mrs. Clinton Satterlee of Detroit is visiting her cousins, Dr. Suydam and wife.

NEW ADDITION

Republic Motor Truck Company Add to Their Plant

INCREASE IN BUSINESS

Makes the Addition an Absolute Necessity.

Hard times seem to make a very little impression on the Republic Motor Truck Company judging from their business in the past few months, and their prospects for the New Year. The automobile truck business is still in its infancy but is increasing by leaps and bounds every day and there seems little doubt that in 1920 horses will be as uncommon a spectacle as oxen are today and undoubtedly used to about the same extent.

The company with their new model three-ton truck seem to take a very optimistic view of the business outlook for 1915 and they have every reason to feel this way. The business has outgrown their present quarters and in order to fill their orders it has become necessary to branch out to some extent. Arrangements have been made with the board of trade so that the building formerly used by the Miller Saw Trimmer Co. will be added to the plant.

The new addition will be used as the paint shop and the floor space formerly used in the main plant is to be used for an assembling plant. Thus the output will be increased considerably. This new addition will undoubtedly mean a larger pay roll.

Alma is very fortunate in having a company of this type located here, as the opportunities for the manufacture and sale of a high class truck are unlimited.

CORN, WHEAT, TARIFF AND WAR

The farmers throughout the county are practically the only people who have not been very hard hit by the war. The following report shows how in many ways they have prospered.

In July, 1913, when the Payne Protective Tariff law was in force and imports of corn were assessed at a duty of 15 cents a bushel, there were 2,007 bushels shipped into the country. Wheat was protected by a duty of 25 cents a bushel, the number of bushels imported for the month of July, 1913, amounting to 4,618.

During the month of July, 1914, under the Underwood Free Tariff Law, with corn on the free list the imports amounted to 1,764,575 bushels. With wheat on the free list the imports for the same month amounted to 45,159 bushels.

The quotation "Every cloud has a silver lining," seems true in this case. The war has cut off all shipments from abroad and the farmers have been given a monopoly on the sale of wheat and corn in the country which has increased the price to some extent.

COLLEGE TEAM WINS ONE OUT OF FIVE GAMES

The basketball team of Alma College returned Saturday evening after their six-day trip. The team was not very successful, but considering the fact that they played five of the best teams in the state and the summary of the scores they showed up in a very creditable manner.

The schedule of the games played is as follows:

- Monday, Dec. 28.—Lakeview Club, Lakeview—Alma, 45; Lakeview, 19.
- Tuesday, Dec. 29.—Lake City, 23; Alma, 21.
- Wednesday, Dec. 30.—Ludington, 22; Alma, 13.
- Thursday, Dec. 31.—Traverse City, 25; Alma, 23.
- Friday, Jan. 1.—Manistique, 29; Alma, 23.

MICHIGAN EXPERIMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING JANUARY 14 AND 15

The farmers of Gratiot county are expected to take an active part in the grain and corn exhibition which is to be given at the Michigan Agricultural College at East Lansing, January 14 and 15. The exhibition is to be run in connection with the annual meeting of the Michigan Experiment association.

Gratiot county claims about thirty-five members of the association and most of them expect to attend and exhibit improved grain which they have raised during the past season.

The Art Club will meet Jan. 13, at the home of Mrs. F. C. Thornburgh, 905 State St.