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GERARD'S CANDIDACY.

THE announcement that James K. Gerard, former United States ambassador to Germany, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president of the United States, has created nation-wide interest, due to Gerard's prominence and because at one time he was a close adviser of President Wilson. Since Gerard published his book entitled, "My Four Years In Germany," there has been a wide breach with the president. Apparently the nation's chief executive did not approve of Mr. Gerard's action in giving to the public some of the correspondence that passed between the United States and Germany. At least he is not now numbered among the close confidents of the nation's chief executive.

Gerard has filed a petition as an "independent Democratic" candidate in South Dakota. In the same state President Wilson received the indorsement of the Democratic organization as its first choice for president. The president has not as yet announced his intentions with regard to a third term, although the general impression prevails he is not to be a candidate. By selecting South Dakota as the place to enter the race for the nomination, Gerard invaded a state pledged to Wilson, all of which may or may not be significant. At least it is interesting and the incident again goes to prove that the coming presidential race is going to be one of the most complex in the history of the country.

LONG ARM OF JUSTICE.

"MURDER will out" and so will the crimes committed by the Germans during the war. We have an excellent illustration of this in the conviction at a court martial just concluded at Amiens of two German officers, Robert Roeckling and Herman Ludwig, on the charge of organizing the pillage of factories in eastern France. Both were given a sentence of 10 years' confinement, 15 years of exile and a fine of 10,000,000 francs. Roeckling appeared to defend himself. Ludwig was convicted by default.

The evidence brought out at the trial verified the early reports of the war that the Germans systematically pillaged cities, towns and villages and carried away everything that was useful. The factories suffered the most. Machinery was dismantled and shipped back into Germany. Here was theft pure and simple. Roeckling is known throughout Germany as "steel king." Associated with him was a brother, Herman, a member of the German armistice commission, for which reason he was not arrested.

These men destroyed the French metal working plants at Briey, Micheville, Longwy and other places, transporting within two years' time millions of tons of material to their factory in Karlsruhe, thereby adding to their wealth and completely destroying the French factories.

The allies have just started the roundup of German officers and agents accused of grave crimes in France. The conviction of these two officers is but the beginning. The strong arm of justice will soon reach into high places and bring more of the accused before the bar of the world.

LABOR DEMANDS AND PRICES.

THE government apparently is confident that the high prices for foodstuffs and the necessities of life will recede—in fact, are now receding—and that by the revision downward many of the pressing labor problems before the country will be solved. At least that is the view taken with regard to the demands of the railroad employes. Attorney General Palmer prepared a statement showing that the climax in high prices was reached this year and the reaction is now setting in.

President Wilson by a recent order postponed turning the railroads over to their owners until March 1 up to which time they will remain under federal control. It was originally intended to turn the roads back Jan. 1, 1920, and with that date in mind the railroad employes, dissatisfied over the wages they are receiving, intended to push their case before the government. The action of the president leaves them temporarily stranded, as it were. The next two months should definitely determine which direction prices are going. It will be encouraging to railroad employes as well as the public as a whole to know government investigations show a downward trend in prices. The Palmer report shows that the customary upward march of prices during the fall months, was less this year than in the past and he expressed the conviction that the next two months would show substantial results in reducing the inflation of living prices.

THE NEW MINE PROBLEM.

THE nationalization of the coal mines is the big issue for which the miners are fighting for. It is the big issue that is back of the controversy, irrespective of the settlement that was recently made by the miners with the government.

The demands made by the miners were in reality only a section of their program. A thirty-hour week struck the public as absurd, perhaps largely because the public did not realize conditions in the industry. But the miners aspire to other changes of far more significance. In March of this year the general policy committee of the miners met in Indianapolis, and President Hayes, of the United Mine Workers, said: "I urge upon this committee to declare for nationalization of mines." The committee so declared, section 3 of its report being as follows: "We concur in the recommendation of President Hayes and declare for the nationalization and democratic management of all coal mines in the United States."

This report came in due time before the Cleveland convention, where the strike order was born, and the convention approved it in a long resolution from which the following is taken:

> We, the United Mine Workers of America, in international convention assembled, representing the workers who have their lives and the welfare of their dependents invested in the coal mines of our country, do therefore
>
> Resolve, That we demand the immediate nationalization of the coal mining industry of the United States.

This report of the history of the resolution may be found complete in the November, 1919, monthly Labor Review of the bureau of labor statistics of the United States department of labor. The report also contains the statement that local miners' unions have been passing resolutions of the general purport for the last twenty years. Thus the policy was not the product of a moment's passion, but was slowly evolved through years of education and thought.

Nationalization can be attempted by legislation or by strike. Considering the cold fate of the Plumb plan, there is at the present time little likelihood of nationalization by legislation. And, for the time being, the strike expedient is worthless. It is believed that neither the miners nor the public can be induced for some time to submit to another season of curtailed industrial activity. But the present situation is not a victory for the government or for any one else. It is a truce. The element of victory in it was won in court and little credit attaches to what the government did in Washington. In fact, the compromise effected in Washington may easily be construed to encourage the nationalization plan.

What the miners expect to achieve by nationalization is, in brief, conservation of the coal supply—which is sadly needed—and the protection of the supply from unprincipled exploitation by operators, many of whom seem to be actuated wholly by a desire for money, without regard to the future. In the abstract this is laudable ambition. But there is a solution short of nationalization, with its attendant evil political dangers and the risk of incompetent government management. The government is empowered to make sane conservation laws, and it can, if it will control the greed of the operators and the defiant spirit of the miners. It has not done these things, but it can do them. Unless it acts the miners' plea for nationalization will be greatly strengthened.

The plutocrats having gone to Florida before Christmas, and the arctic birds having migrated as far south as Michigan, there need be no more doubt about a hard winter.

RIPPLING RHYMES
By WALT MASON.

SNOW.

A lot of snow came down last night; it's lying round me as I write, in ghastly drift and heap; it's in the alleys and the mews, it's everywhere, for men to use—the only thing that's cheap. If snow would make the furnace hot, and heat the house, 'twould hit the spot, and spoil a lot of grief; alas, it isn't worth a dern; in vain we've tried to make it burn, so we rear up and beef. How it would soothe the anguished soul, if there should be a fall of coal, or wood in proper size! 'Twould make the outlook far more bright to have a shower of anthracite from these forbidding skies. We long to see the fireplace glow, and so we get a raft of snow that will not even smoke; and so we sit around and freeze and say that life's one long disease, that's ceased to be a joke. My hands are frozen on my lyre, there is no coal, there is no fire, and knife-edged tempests blow; I look around for stuff to burn, for egg or nut or lump I yearn—and get a foot of snow. The snow lies deep on dale and dell; I have a thousand tons to sell, but no one wants to buy; men want it not, but they'd go broke to get a cord of elm or oak from yonder lowering sky.

:-: PEPS :-:

It is interesting to read that an asbestos factory was burned at Meadville, Pa. These are queer days.

—

Piano makers have gone on strike. Now, if the piano players would only—but that is expecting too much.

—

At any rate Colonel House can never be blamed for the famine in news print.

—

On the first of the year about the only thing we can swear off is the habit of swearing off.

—

The German monarchists are planning to seat former Crown Prince Friedrich on the throne. Well, he doesn't seem to be able to get any other sort of job.

—

If we could only send a committee down to kiss Uncle Carranza, perhaps he would forgive us and let by-gones be by-gones.

—

"These profiteers," said Representative Esch of Wisconsin, "accuse themselves with their excuses. They remind me of little Willie.

"Little Willie came home the other day with a nice new golf ball.

"'Look at the lost ball I found this afternoon, father,' he said.

"'Are you sure, my boy,' the father asked, 'that it was a lost ball?'

"'Oh, yes sir,' said Willie, 'I saw the owner and his caddie looking for it.'"

—

"Look here, neighbor. That dog of yours comes in here every day and digs up my flower beds, and I want you to put a stop to it!"

"Suppose I don't! What then?"

"I'll plant so many flowers that your rotten old dog will wear himself to a skeleton trying to keep them dug up."

—

In the course of one of his lecture trips, Mark Twain arrived at a small town. Before dinner he went to a barber shop to be shaved.

"You are a stranger?" asked the barber.

"This is the first time I have been here."

"You choose a good time to come," the barber continued. "Mark Twain is going to read and lecture tonight. You'll go, I suppose?"

"Oh, I guess so."

"Have you bought your ticket?"

"Not yet."

"But everything is sold out. You'll have to stand."

"How very annoying!" Mark Twain said with a sigh. "I never saw such luck! I always have to stand when that fellow lectures."

—

Collection money was to little Tommy one of the essentials of church-going. Every Sunday morning he saw that his penny was ready. One day just as the ushers began to take the collection, Tommy noticed that a guest in the family pew was not duly provided. Sliding along the seat, he whispered: "Where's your penny?" "I didn't bring one," replied the lady. Time was short and the matter was urgent, but Tommy was a quick-witted kiddy. Thrusting his penny into the lady's hand, he whispered: "Here, take mine! I'll pay for you and I'll get under the seat!"

—

"You say the Blanks are going to move?"

"I think so; they have begun to scratch matches on the walls."

THINGS WORTH FORGETTING.

It takes 50,000 elephants every year to supply the world with enough ivory to make its piano keys. Statistics show us that if all these elephants were hitched together in one team they would pull a large load.

WHO'S WHO IN CURRENT EVENTS.

HARDING ANNOUNCES HE'S A CANDIDATE

The most recent photo of Senator Warren G. Harding.

Senator Harding of Ohio, mentioned often as a Republican presidential possibility, has announced his intention to seek the nomination.

Letters From the People

Chicago, Dec. 26, 1919.—Editor the Capital News, Boise, Idaho.
Dear Sir:

During the next few days the newspapers will, through editorial expression, interpret for their readers the significance, both as to cause and effect, of the recently announced agreement between the attorney general and the packing concerns.

A statement of our motives in entering this agreement I hope will be of interest to you.

Although it is true that we have agreed to sell our interests in stockyards, I want to emphatically assert that our principal reason for being interested in stockyards has been to improve the facilities for the proper marketing and handling of live stock, and that ownership in such yards has not been used as a means of manipulating prices, of obtaining unfair profits. I have often publicly announced that we should be willing to part with our interests in stockyards if arrangements could be made to continue their efficient operation.

As for our willingness to stop handling canned goods and a few other commodities ordinarily sold by wholesale grocers, I want to emphasize the fact that there have been ample economic reasons for our handling these products, in that we have the distributive machinery to get these goods from producer to consumer in most direct and economical fashion.

We believe that eventually the public would have come to realize the soundness of our position, but because of the spirit of unrest and misunderstanding we are glad to make some sacrifices and concessions. I believe that it is just as necessary to make such sacrifices during the uncertain period of reconstruction as it was during the war.

Let me direct attention to the fact that the decree to which we have agreed to submit in no way finds us guilty of combination in restraint of trade, or of any other illegal practices. Under no condition would I have consented to such a solution if the decree were to charge us with guilt.

For this reason, enjoining us from combining to restrain trade will in no way affect our operations, because we are an independent unit in open competition with the other large packers and with the hundreds of smaller ones. The decree in this respect will merely strengthen existing law; which we are following to the letter.

With these thoughts in mind, I trust that you will appreciate the fact that our position is in no way an admission that we have been guilty of anything economically, legally, or morally wrong, and that we have made this concession with the sincere hope that it will help to overcome the suspicion which still lurks in the minds of many people. Yours truly, L. F. SWIFT,
President Swift and Company,
Chicago.

STRANGE FACTS THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW

When the boys of Tahiti came marching home from the world war the fantastic native dances, the "himinies" or folk songs which have been compared to Wagnerian opera, and the ancient fire walking ceremony, were revived to welcome them.

These customs, all but suppressed by civilizing French influences, were among the most interesting practices of Polynesian people, according to a bulletin from the National Geographic society.

"Tahiti women were extolled by early travellers as being the most beautiful in the Pacific islands; their men still are fine physical specimens; and the early civilization of this isolated people has been one of the wonders of science," says the bulletin.

"The Tahitians knew some of the constellations, navigated by the positions of the stars, made progress in music which is startling, yet preserved many savage customs, such as plucking an eye from a human being to be placed in the mouth of a priest as an acceptable offering to their gods, and encouraging their women to suckle dogs, pigs and other animals held in high veneration."

The bulletin then quotes from a diary presented to the society by the late S. P. Langley who visited the island nearly 20 years ago and heard old time songs and saw native dances and rites, which have been revived to honor the men who fought under allied colors in France:

"The native women sing 'himinies' with some very striking effects," he wrote. "The voices have something plangent and metallic in them, yet are melodious and in harmony. In the first song, at the end of each verse, all stopped suddenly, giving the effect of the 'couac' of the opera singer. In all the verses there was an undertone beneath the song. This undertone continued alone for a few seconds at the end of each verse, after the superposed song was finished, and died out separately and slowly, like the drone of some great bagpipe. The natives gave names to each of us, mine being 'A-to-hi,' which means 'qui a les lauriers.'

"I went out to the public dancing and singing, in competition for prizes offered by the government. It takes place in the square before the government house, and everybody is there, either performing or looking on. Almost the whole population of the island has come.

"The chief interest among the islanders seems to lie in the competition of singing 'himinies,' and next to that, in the dancing, which is pantomimic as much as regular. As a public show, most of the dances are unpresentable, so that, I have understood, the authorities have had some difficulty in finding a dance which will do for such an occasion. Savages are here from the neighboring islands, a fine-looking chief from Cook island taking a part, and a woman from the same island gave a little of the presentable part of the 'Hoola Hoola.' Her body would be quivering like a jelly, and suddenly grow rigid as a statue—a notably odd effect."

WHAT THE PRESS OF THE NATION SAY

GERARD AND THE PRESIDENCY.
(Brooklyn Eagle.)

In the judgment of the keenest observers James W. Gerard would have no chance of holding for himself as an aspirant to the Democratic nomination for the presidency and considerable fraction of the delegates from the Empire state unless Tammany hall were to stand for him. In the light of this judgment the filing of a nominating petition for Gerard in South Dakota has more than a personal significance.

Tammany put Gerard on the supreme court bench. On [illegible] the former justice has not been in harmony with Charles F. Murphy. But he has not alienated Murphy, and the boss knows the potential value of a candidate with the highest social connections, an honored name and a stake in the community.

The former ambassador at Berlin has a right to his ambitions. He did good service, hard service, there when we were not at war with Germany, and the interests of nationals of the allies as well as our own nationals had to be looked out for. We are sure that his attitude was always dignified and that it commonly displayed a high type of humanitarianism. Toward the kaiser's government his firmness was not without tact. Gerard is a tactful man. But no one has yet called him a magnetic man; and time, bringing on war, has almost swept out of popular recollection what work was done before the declaration of hostilities between Germany and the United States.

BASEBALL'S LIFE AT STAKE.
(New York World.)

Big league baseball is on trial for its life.

It is true that at the moment the accuser is rumor. But it is rumor that is not without corroboration; rumor that does not utter itself on the sly, but is open and loud and has found its way into the plainest of newspaper type.

Baseball is, from the very nature of things, peculiarly susceptible to such attacks as these. The game has grown into its present state of prosperity on the strength of its reputation as a clean sport. It has survived scandals of mercenary management, of doubtful deals in players, of alleged discriminations between cities of greater and less financial resources, because the public has believed religiously in the squareness of scheduled contests and the straightness of the men in the field. Rumor, hitherto dealing with managers, now directs its attention to players as well. The new charges are aimed at the playing integrity, hence at the life of baseball.

In the Evening World of yesterday Hugh S. Fullerton, veteran follower and reporter of the game, published in sorrow and potential shame the widely current stories of games thrown, of players bribed or lured out of condition, of a world's series stained by suspicion, of gamblers boasting that they had "fixed" players and results. These stories can not be ignored. They constitute an indictment. They raise an issue which will not, like a storm, blow over.

These accusations, veiled though they may be, should be met promptly. There is no way out save the direct way of honest inquiry and the verdict of truth.

HEED COUNSEL OF PERSHING AND WOOD.
(Spokesman-Review.)

With General Pershing and General Wood advising adversely, there seems no likelihood of Secretary Baker's army reorganization bill winning favor with congress. Two serious objections rise against it. It proposes a larger standing army than will be needed in the judgment of Wood and Pershing, and while it carries the principle of universal military training it makes no provision for passing the trained youth into the reserves.

Mr. Baker proposes a standing army of about 600,000 officers and men. Pershing and Wood say that number is more than double the country's need, and the sub-committee of the senate military committee that is drafting a permanent military policy measure agrees with them. It is now considering an army of 280,000 men, with an inclination to reduce rather than increase that number, and would have the nation put its reliance on a system of universal training that would pass the trained youth into a great citizens' reserve that would serve only in time of war.

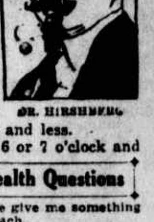
The committee as yet has given the country only the outline of its proposed measure, but they appear to follow closely the broad general principles advocated by Pershing and Wood—principles recommended by Washington and a long line of presidents, including Roosevelt. The nation will makes no mistake if it will take counsel in this program from Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Roosevelt, Wood and Pershing.

CHIEF HARDING, OF BUCKEYE REPUBLICAN CLAN, SENDS UP THE SMOKE SIGNAL OF WAR

Secrets of Health and Happiness

Here Are Some A. B. C.'s of the Art of Getting to Sleep

By DR. LEONARD KEENE HIRSHBERG
A. B., M. A., M. D. (Johns Hopkins University)



DR. HIRSHBERG

PERFECT repose belongs to all, yet in the stillest hours of night it is denied to many.

There are many ways to induce sleep, such as the thought of purling rills, of waving woods, of sheep jumping a fence, of reckoning numbers, a wet sheet wrapped around you, moderation and temperance, exercise and sports.

With fit muscles, with a good digestion and proper food, the average individual, whether middle-aged or a new-born babe, will usually sleep the allotted period as calmly as a sloth.

To be sure, the baby sleeps 20 hours of the day; but as age advances the amount of sleep required for weight, growth, repair and elimination of waste is less and less.

From 3 years until 6 a child ought to be in bed at 6 or 7 o'clock and sleep until 8 o'clock next morning.

At the school ages from 6 to 14 the younger ones should go to bed at 8 o'clock, the older ones at 9, except Friday and Saturday, when one hour less sleep at night is made up by an extra hour next morning.

These hours are to be maintained until the youngsters are 17 or 18. Then ten hours suffice. After this adult life should seldom have less than eight or nine hours of unbroken sleep.

The sleeping room should be dark and quiet. Lights, clocks or noises other than music are taboo to sleep.

To try to sleep too soon after a late supper may portend restlessness and uneasiness. Hunger, too, is as bad in this regard as is a loaded stomach.

Constipation is undesirable and often responsible for sleeplessness, insomnia and somnambulism.

Low pillows, too few covers, closed windows, anxiety, illness or some physical disorder are the commonest sources of disturbed slumber.

If the trouble is emotional, industrial or some physical disorder, do away with the abomination, change your methods, take a hot bath, calm yourself and sleep will carry you into the land of Morpheus.

Answers to Health Questions

S. H. C. Q—Please give me something for gas on my stomach.

A—Try either of the following in a little water every four hours: Salol, 2½ grains; or bicarbonate of soda, 10 grains; or bismuth subnitrate, 5 grains.

* * *

E. L. Q—Can you suggest something for a red nose?

A—You evidently eat too much food that is rich, highly seasoned and hot. You must avoid soups, hot, rich foods, and eat much less than you do at the present time. You might also have a dermatologist scarify the nose.

* * *

Dr. Hirshberg will answer questions for readers of this paper on medical, hygienic and sanitation subjects that are of general interest. He cannot always undertake to prescribe or offer advice for individual cases. Where the subject is not of general interest letters will be answered personally, if a stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address ALL INQUIRIES to Dr. L. K. Hirshberg, in care of this office.

Feed Concentrate With Silage.

[National Crop Improvement Service.]

SILAGE alone does not constitute a balanced ration. It is comparatively rich in carbohydrates and fats, and deficient in protein and mineral matter. For this reason best results are to be had only by the use of supplementary feeds comparatively rich in protein.

You can generally buy these feeds cheaper than you can grow them. Of course if you can grow them you ought to. Alfalfa and clover hay and feeds of like nature you can grow to an extent, but you will have to buy such things as linseed and cotton seed meal. If you will ask the most successful feeders, you will find that they have learned to use certain well established commercial feeds and they will tell you why. If for no other reason the uniformity of such feeds will give you the best results with your cows and other stock.

Home mixed feeds are often deficient in certain nutrients but what is probably worse, you are over-feeding some elements, which is sheer waste. Do not think because you grow it yourself that it is cheaper. It may or it may not be cheaper. You are always taking chances of ruining your