German Boast an Idle One

Washington, July 5.—Persistent stories of Germany's commercial achievements in South and Central America and the generally accepted boast that German goods had completely captured those markets fade under the intense light of careful investigation into merely German propaganda, circulated with the idea of scaring all other competitors out of the field.

William C. Wells, chief statistician for the Pan-American Union, is authority for the statement that for several years before the war Germany actually was losing ground in South and Central America and that the greatest gains were made by the United States.

United States Gain Greatest

"Just prior to the European war," says Mr. Wells, "German trade in most of Latin America was in danger of immediate dissolution. For thirty years, it is true, German trade showed a large and progressive growth—but this was almost entirely at the expense of France. In 1911, German trade reached its apex. In Argentina was centered the German efforts to capture Latin-American trade. In 1911 the percentages of imports from the seven leading commercial countries to Argentine were as follows: United Kingdom, 29.6; Germany, 18; United States, 14.3; Italy, 8; France, 10.4; Belgium, 5.3; and Spain, 3.1. And this was Germany's best year. In thirty years Germany has increased her proportion of the Argentine trade 94 per cent and the United States has gained 141 per cent. All the other coutnries except Belgium lost. France most heavily. Most of the German gains were at her expense.

"In fourteen of the Latin-American countries, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts made by Germany to acquire or to preserve the trade, the result had been practically a failure. The imports from Germany in these countries were only slightly over eleven percent of the whole and less than one-fourth of the imports from the United States.

Just Propaganda

"Wonderful stories have been told and are yet being told of German commercial successe in Latin-America. The spreading of such stories is and always has been part of the German program. It creates an atmosphere which is supposed to have a depressing effect upon rivals. The English, French, Italian or American exporter is apt to be reticent about what he is doing in foreign countries. Not so the German. He claims evertything and then some.

"As illustrating that, some time ago a story came from Buenos Aires to the effect that agricultural machinery from t heUnited States imported into Argentina since the war was giving great dissatisfaction; that German machinery used prior to the war was much better made and more suitable to the country. This story with much detail as to why the German machinery in general use in Argentina prior to the war was better, was published extensively in the United States with no comment whatever. The facts are that Germany had no hold on Argentine agricultural machinery imports. She had been ousted from this field more than twenty years ago—horse, foot and dragoons. American machinery had done the ousting because it was better made and more suitable to the country and to the crops. The trade was more intelligently handled by Americans exporters and as a consequence they secured it.

Germany First in Field

"Both Germany and the United States are new entrants in the race for over-seas trade and the former was first in the field. German manufacturers were pouring into Latin-America field from Mexico to Argentina in competition with British and French goods years before the United States was shipping anything to these countries, except flour, codfish, lumber and the like. Yet in 1913, prior to the outbreak of the war, the United States had passed Germany in fourteen of the twenty countries of Latin-America—that is, the United States exceeded Germany in exports to these fourteen countries in the ratio of more than 4 to 1—$187,412,096 to $43,822,005.

"In the remaining six countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia and Uruguay) the United States trale was over 80 per cent of the German trade—United States $141,540,585; Germany, $175,744,271. For the whole twenty countries the United States trade exceded the German exports in the proportion of 3 to 2.

Figures Eloquent, But—

"Figures are sometimes eloquent if one knows how to read them, but they never tell quite the whole story. The point that the figures of trade with Latin-America do not tell is that the German trade was precarious, somewhat artificial and by no means well based. Its bases were long credit and cheap goods. Long credits and cheapness are undoubtedly good bait with which to fish for trade but not necessarily for the best kind of trade. Furthermore, long credits and cheapness are like bomerangs, having a return curve often to the hurt of the user.

"It was notorious that German losses in Latin-America were much greater than British or American losses. Many well-informed persons believe them to be greater than both combined. The Germans had what amounted to almost a complete monopoly of the bad risks. On the contrary, American losses from bad credits were almost negligble. The leading New York house in the South American export field, through one of its officials, has stated that its losses in South America, extending over a long period, amounted to a very small fraction of one per cent.

"Germany treated Latin-Americans as on a plane with Chinese and Central Africans. It was thought that anything might be sold if only cheap enough. Price was everything; quality nothing. The result might have been foreseen. The flood of cheap flimsy and gaudy Brummagem wares that poured into Latin-America undermined the German reputation. The German stamp on an article was a handicap even when the article itself was not bad. Even the dishonest subterfuge of placing American and English labels in German goods did not save the situation."

FALL AND WINTER GARDENS FOR CANNING CLUB GIRLS

The following timely instructions for fall and winter gardens were sent in to us for publication:

Fall gardens can be grown throughout Louisiana and every canning club girl should make one. Winter gardens are somewhat restricted to the southern portion, such hardy vegetables as cabbage, turnips, beets, carrots, and the like can be grown well into a normal winter. Experiment Station Bulletin 141 contains gardening information for northern Louisiana. It is based on extensive experience at the Calhoun Experiment Station. Every agent stationed in that section should have a copy.

In planning and planting the fall garden the following points should be kept in mind:

1. Have the ground free of grass and weeds before plowing. It is not advisable t oturn under a lot of fresh vegetable matter just before planting the fall garden, as the soil will be too loose and not retain moisture, and the heat generated in the decaying of the vegetable matter will injure the young seedlings. Ordinarily it ss hard enough for the young plants to stand the burning rays of the summer sun above without having a hotbed below.

In gardens where fertilizer is necessary, nothing better could be used than well-rotted stable manure, it must be literally well-decomposed (cool) and applied beneath the ridge during preparation.

Commercial fertilizers are very high. If the soil is poor, it may be necessary to use them in connection with the well-rotted manure. Ordinarily, 100 to 150 pounds of a mixture of equal parts of cotton seed meal and high grade acid phosphate to the tenth acre should give good results.

2nd. As the land is already in ridges 3 1-2 or 4 feet apart, as the case may be, time in plowing for the fall crop can be saved by deepening the furrows between the old ridges with the plow and then bedding on this trench to form the new ridge. If however, the land is quite hard, and this method would not give thorough preparation or the distance between the ridges would want to be changed, it would be necessary to flat break the plot, harrow and ridge it.

3rd. If possible, it is best to ridge the land as soon as possible after the spring crop is off, not only to keep the weeds and grass down but give the summer rains a chance to settle the soil before planting seed or transplanting plants. Of course, if heavy rains occur, and the ground packs very hard it might be necessary to vary these suggestions and rebed the land more than once before planting. On the other hand, the ridge should be cultivated frequently if occasional showers keep the land in proper moisture condition and start the grass to growing before seeding time.

4. Do not plant small seed in the garden in summer unless there is sufficient moisture in the soil to assure germination. Such seed cannot be planted very deep under average soil conditions and there must be sufficient moisture near the surface to germniate it and maintain the young plant until its roots can reach the moisture below. The writer has been quite successful in germinating small seed, like cabbage, under field conditions by allowing previous rains to settle the ridge, harrowing the ridge low at planting time, and rolling the ridge with a hand roller after covering the seed lightly. Under garden conditions the seed bed may be packed with the feet or the back of a hoe. Such seed as turnip, mustard, radish, beet and carrot should be planted in this manner.

5th. As a rule, garden seed of all kinds should be planted deeper and thicker under field conditions in the summer than in the spring.

6th. Large seed, like beans and peas should be planted at varying depths depending on the nature of the soil and the amount of moisture present under garden conditions. Such seed may be planted 3 to 4 inches deep if the soil is dry. Various kinds of beans and other large seed may be planted in dusty soil by digging a hole in the ridge with a hoe about four inches deep, dropping 4 to 6 seeds and filling the hole with water.

After the water has soaked away draw some dirt into the hole and pack it with the back of the hoe, then cover with some loose, dry dirt. Should a heavy packing rain or rains occur before the seedlings push through, reduce the thickness of the soil covering with a rake, if your good judgment and experience would indicate that the seed is liable to rot or cannot penetrate the crust that may form at the surface.

7th. Be sure that the seed planted is of high germination, remembering that most seeds deteriorate in this climate. Cooperative purchase of seed should be encouraged when possible and a sample of the lot purchased sent to the Branch Seed Laboratory, Baton Rouge for a germination test.

8th. As soon as the plants are well established, cultivation with both hand and horse implements should receive special attention. As the weather is very hot at this time, interest in the garden will more than likely decrease and the modest plantings suffer through inattention.

9th. For the production of plants, such as cabbage, to be transplanted to the garden, one may use the frame which was operated as a hotbed in the spring. Seed should be planted in drills, spaced four or more inches apart so that the young plants may be cultivated from time to time. It may be advisable to give the seed bed semishade during the heat of the day—brush or old sacks thrown over a frame work built above the seed-bed will give the necessary protection.

Special attention should be given to the watering of the seedbed as neglect of this operation may mean the parching of the plants. After the seeds are planted, cover lightly and sprinkle with the watering pot, cover with an old sack, damp moss or the like to help conserve moisture. This covering should be removed as soon as the little sprouts begin to show, as a few hours delay will soften the young sprouts and cause them to succumb to the first direct rays of the sun. The best time to water in summer is late in the evening.

10th. Transplanting during hot weather should be done late in the day or during a cloudy period of weather. If the soil is dry, water the plant liberally and draw dry dirt over the wet area to prevent baking. A little shade from a shingle, basket or palmetto leaf, will help the plant get a start. Do not attempt to transplant a plant like cabbage without removing most of the leaf surface. As soon as the plant gets established cultivation should begin.

LABARRE'S BILL PROVOKES HILARITY OF THE SENATORS

Grave and Reverend Seigniors Lose Their Dignity When "Act" is "Introduced"

Senator Gus J. Labarre of Assumption is well known in Opelousas. He numbers his friends over the state by the hundreds. In the upper house of the state legislature he has always proven an active mmber and always acts in accordance with the dictates his conscience.

In every legislature of the land occasinoally "freak" or "damphool" bills are introduced, not with the expectation of being passed but to break the sing-song monotomy of legislation. They oft times raise a howl of laughter and aid the digestion of the overworked (?) legislators. Then they are forgotten until some other jokesmith comes forward with a fresh one.

At the recent and much lamented session of the Louisiana general assembly, which rang down the curtain on its activities last week, Senator Labarre, rising to the opportunity presented, introduced an "act" regulating "snake practice" and "voodooism" in Louisiana. His bill, as rich in humor as a first-class movie comedy, reads as follows:

Senate Bill No. 606 By Mr. Labarre

AN ACT

To provide for the recognition of Snake Doctors and Hoodoo Doctors and any and all kinds of other doctors wanting recognition and legislation; to define snakopractice and voodoopractice; to provide for the creation of Boards for the same; to fix the place of meeting for the same; to provide for the Constitutionality of this Act; to proscribe penalties for the violation of this Act; and to provide for the automatic and contingent repeal of this Act.

Section 1.—Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, That from and after or before the passage of this Act, or in the meanwhile, all persons whether male or female or otherwise; whether resident of this State or not, shall be allowed and qualified to practice the profession of Snake Doctor, Voodoo Doctor, or any other kind of Doctor; provided that at the end of one hundred years they shall appear before a commission appointed jointly from the inmates of the Jackson and Pineville Asylums and prove to the satisfaction of the said commission that their mentality is affected by such practice is not less than one-tenth of one per cent of a miligram; provided further that in the event such satisfactory proof cas not be given they shall immediately exchange places with an equal number of the best qualified inmates of said asylums.

Section 2—Be it further enacted, etc., That the Board licensing snake doctors shall be composed of not less than a quorum of the unretired members of the Camouflage Club having not less than twenty years experience with crimson snakes or in lieu thereof yellow crocodiles; provided that the president of said Board shal have exclusive right to be treated without any cost whatsoever to him by any competent cases appearing before his Board; provided further, that the secretary of said Board shal be the possessor in his own undivided right of a madstone, which is hereby defined to be any mineral substance held by madmen to be a specific in all cases of bites inflicted by real snakes by real fangs.

The Board licensing Voodoo Doctors shall be composed of at least thirteen persons of improper age excepting minors of foreign birth who shall attest to the virtues of monkey beans, the left hind foot of rabbits, goose grease or any other charm or token or gris-gris whereby the Evil Spirits, rheumatism or acute indigestion can be kept out of the human body, whether dead or alive, or driven out of the same if discovered there by Christopher Columbus, or any other person in the past, present or future.

All other Boards shall be created whenever one or more persons shall find it impossible to be legalized by ither of thteabove Boards as practitioners of the healing art; provided that no practitioner shall be allowed to sign more than one death certificate for each patient.

Section 3.—Be it further ordained, etc., That it shall be the dtuy of said Snakeopractic Board to grant a certificate to any applicant who has, for the period of ten years next preceeding the taking effect of this act, practiced his profession in any community, whether dry or otherwise, provided said applicant shall pass a satisfactory examination in the following subjects: Snakeopractic Anatomy, Arematic Spirits of Ammania, and Bromo-Seltzer. Such certificate shall entitle the holder thereof, when registered with the internal revenue department, to also prescribe eye openers or any potions still permitted as war or pint measures.

The Snakeopractic Board shall meet at any place not within three miles certain designated high schools Sunday; provided that in addition to and on any and all days excepted the applicants the subjects hereunder designated for examination are present or can be easily obtained under the terms any laws or resolutions adopted at the first extra session of the year 1918.

The said Voodoo Board shall examine on all spirits, not hereby reserved or appropriated. It shall also examine on all charms, tokens, powders, wart-cures of any character and on any subjects relatel thereto by marriage of blood pressure; provided, that all of those who have, or who may acquire public confidence without examination, which certificate shall at no time be revoked for cause.

The said Board of Voodoo Practice shall meet as soon as practical after the last total eclipse of the sun and regularly after each succeeding eclipse; provided, that at no such meeting any fact shall ever be mentioned or introduced in evidence whereby said monkey bean, rabbit foot or any other mentioned unmentioned or unmentionable charm or token shall be deprived of the inalienable remedies and constitutional rights they now enjoy.

Secction 5.—Be it further ordained, etc., That any one practicing his profession in this State without the above mentioned certificates shall be guilty of a misunderstanding of the terms of this Act or any other Act subsequently to be passed amendatory thereof and shall in the case of Snakeopractic Doctors be deprived of any and all Coca Cola and Bromo Seltzer found in their prosession, and in the case of Voodoopractice Doctors shall be deprived of any rabbit foot found in their possession, and in both cases shall be sentenced to serve one term in the Legislature and be fined a sum equivalent to their excess profits after such term.

Section 6.—Be it further ordained, etc., That no court of competent jurisdiction or otherwise shall ever declare this act unconstitutional, it being expressly declared herein that no constitution, human, political or any other character, can exist without the Board herein enumerated; provided, that if any one objects to any section or provision of this Act, the same is hereby declared not to apply to him, her or it or anyone else.

Section 7.—Be it further and finally declared, That all laws or parts of laws not in conflict herewith, be and the same are not hereby repealed, provided this act shall be automatically and contingently repealed immediately after National Prohibition becomes effective or the call for the first extra session of 1918 is recinded.

SOCIAL FUNCTION FOR THE RED CROSS

An acknowledgement of sincere thanks and appreciation is due Dr. and Mrss. John A. Haas for the magnificent way in which they responded to the call of patriotism. No expense was spared to make the Fete elabcrate, artistic and beautiful. New Orleans could not have surpassed it, and which did not materialize on account of the inclemency of the weather, also preventing the very large number of out-of-town guests from attending.

Special thanks are due the Elks Club for so generously offering their hospitality and several of the club members who so kindly assisted. Considering the frequent changes of date and place, it was a splendid success, both from point of attendance and financially, this was due in a great measure to the able and efficient efforts of Mrs. Willie Stewart, chairman of the Rel Cross of the parish, who had charge of the finances, including ticket sales, and whose talent is called into requisition and cheerfully responded to, for most public functions in Opelousas. Mrs. Stewart was assisted by Mr. Alex Robertson in receiving door receipts

Thanks are due Mr. A. C. Skiles who at considerable expense and time furnished the large dance platform and encosure of fence and gates. Martel's band, who have always donated their services gratuitously when needed for the Red Cross benefits. The merchants who contributed prizes, also those who so generously contributed and attended. Special service was rendered by Nathalie Haas, Evelyn Lewis, Corine Trosclair, Aline Dezauche and Leah Sandoz, who displayed talent in aesthetic dancing interspersed with vocal solos.

The speeches of Messrs. W. J. Sandoz, J. B. Brock and John W. Lewis were an inspiration to patriotism and the community singing gave additional interest.

The success of the refreshments was due wholly to the following chairman of their respective committees, with the ladies who so enthusiastically served with them, with the accounts given in this connection and further acknowledgment of services:

Ice-Cream—Chairman, Mrs. Willie Sandoz; members, Mesdames Leon Dupre, Bert Edwards, A. L. Lacombe, A. A. Anding. Receipts, $55.35.

Punch—Chairman, Mrs. Frank Dietlein; members, Mesdames Dr. J. P. Saizan, John Lewis, Dr. F. C. Shute, Eddie Loeb, Lionel Bienvenu. Receipts, $23.10.

Sandwiches—Chairman, Mrs. Henry Lastrapes; members, Mesdames Geo. Edwards, S. L. Hebrard, J. M. Firnberg, Eugene Ventre, Emile Green, Armand Dejean. Receipts, $23.80.

Jitney Dance—Floor manager, Lieutenant A. J. Perrault, assisted by Miss Marie Meginiey and J. Austin Perkins. Receipts, $37.01.

Door receipts, $80.15. Change, $7. Contributed, 59 cents. Total $215.00.

Mrs. Willie Steawrt, head of the finances, submitted the accounts which were audited by Mr. J. Austin Perkins, cashier of the Planters Bank and Trust Company. Mrs. Stewart has sent a certified check from the Opelousas National Bank for an equal division of the funds, to Mr. Leon Dupre, treasurer for the Red Cross, and Dr. John A. Haas, treasurer for the Opelousas Branch.

The Clarion, which is ever first in the cause of patriotism, has given its aid in press publicity, which is greatly appreciated.

FLORA MARSILLIOT.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Opelousas, La., July 1, 1918.

To the President and Members of the School Board of the Parish of St. Landry:

Gentlemen—We, your executive committee, beg leave to report the following budget of estimated revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1918, and ending June 30, 1919:

BUDGET

Current School Fund	$55123.20
Parish tax	28000.00
High schools from state	345.00
Agricutural high schools from state	600.00
Domestic science depts. high schools from state	600.00
Interest on 16th sections	1840.00
Poll taxes	4000.00
Rent on school lands	32.00
Total	$90540.20

Respectfully submitted,
O. P. DALY,
G. HORAIST,
Executive Committee.

Mr. Fogleman, duly seconded, moved that the report ofthe Executive Committee be accepted and the budget as reported be adopted. Carried.