

Making Tomorrow's World

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FRANCE—WHICH PARIS IS NOT



Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.—France surely laughs in her sleeve at her interpreters from other lands. The majority of these interpreters, fascinated by the alluring gaiety of the boulevards, find in Paris the key to the French character. Others, though, looking beyond, sprinkle their interpretations with such adjectives as light-hearted, vivacious, extravagant. Others, seeing the charming French language there is no word for home, observing the gay, white ways of the cities, or reading of a declining birth rate, quickly pronounce France idle, undomestic, irresponsible, immoral. Now France, curiously, is in many of her characteristics the antithesis of these popular and far-spread interpretations. To estimate her place and part in tomorrow's world, a more nearly accurate knowledge of her characteristics today is of course necessary.

Paris vs. France.
First, in judging France it must be kept in mind that Paris is not France. Many of the descriptive adjectives employed in picturing France do apply to Paris, or, at least, to the sections of Paris where foreign travelers most do congregate. The vivid, colorful cafes, the all-night restaurants, the prurient novels and post cards, are, to a large degree, an effort to give the tourist-public what it wants, or what Paris thinks it wants. The real France

is a notable exception. Here the farmer continues to farm.

Peasant Farmers Land Owners.
The French peasant farmer must not be associated with the German or the British farm laborer. He is of a different and a higher class. This difference is brought about, in a large measure, by the fact that he is an owner of the land, not merely a tenant. Sixty-three per cent. of the French peasants are householders, owning their homes, oftentimes "a small thing but my own." Revolution does not easily originate among the owners of homes. The French peasant is the conservative force in the republic. It must not be inferred, however, that with them conservatism spells stagnation. Though not a revolutionist, the French peasant is not a reactionary. He is materially and morally progressive. He thinks with a clearness that some philosophers might envy. He expresses himself with a grace and a precision that, inherited by his children, gives them a birthright of speech in public, tribune, journalism, unsurpassed by any land.

Distinguished Sons of Peasants.
It is not strange that Rochefort and Clemenceau, the journalists, Labori, the advocate, Millet, the painter, Poincaré, Fallières and Louvet, statesmen, and a host of others, scientists, scholars, preachers, legislators, are the sons of peasants. When the newly-elected president of the third republic, Emile Loubet, hailed his triumphal entry into Montclair that he might embrace his peasant mother, the incident which moistened every French eye and warmed every French heart, assured the new president's popularity. For France recognizes its dependence upon the peasantry and honors, above most nations, motherhood. It is good politics, therefore, when the present scholar-president of France, motoring through France to his country place, as this letter is written, turns aside to

men work in France, but more women, also, than in the other great nations. In the United States 14 per cent. of the female population, at the latest available report, was engaged in some gainful principal occupation; in Great Britain, 24 per cent.; in Germany, 30 per cent., and in France, nearly 35 per cent.

Peasant Woman Holds the Purse.
The French peasant woman, as wife and mother, as village merchant and farm manager, is a most important personage. She holds the purse. From her savings came the enormous indemnity which Germany exacted from France after Sedan. Often a shop-keeper, she is always a sou-keeper. Laboriousness and thrift characterize her daily life. Because of this toil and thrift France, in material resource, is a nation almost or quite sufficient to itself.

The thrift has been aided by the fact, explanatory of much in present France, that the French peasant is a land owner. His problems of legislation differ from those of his German and British neighbors. He has no land question. He is occupied with doing things, rather than with undoing things inherited.

Women Largely Self-Supporting.
The French woman shops with a market basket and not with a telephone, that modern promoter of high prices. Essentially a home-maker and a home-keeper, she enjoys an economic independence that her Anglo-Saxon sisters do not know. Many French girls are self-supporting before marriage, and remain so afterwards. Even where they do not earn their living, they have a dot or dowry—for which the parents save from the girl's babyhood—and she pays her personal expenses from it.

"It is rarely, indeed," said a French woman, "that one sees in France the helpless, incompetent woman, who can turn her hand to nothing, having never learned to do one single thing well. Adaptable and energetic, the French woman can do most things in the most efficient manner possible—her knowledge is never scrappy and what she knows she knows consummately." The new woman may be near at hand in France, but when she arrives she will come without strident voice or social revolution, and will scarcely have more power than now.

The Peasant at Home.
In journeying in rural France the French peasant is seen at home and at his best. He is not on dress parade as Paris is upon its boulevards. He is shrewd, almost cunning; dignified, almost courtly; uneducated frequently, but never boorish; possessed of all the homely virtues, fragrant, serious-minded and devout. To the stranger he is hospitality itself, and to his own countrymen he has a perfect genius for friendship.

High Regard for Woman.
With all their family quarrels, there is a continuous entente cordiale among the French peasant folk. Three appeals arouse their enthusiasm to its highest point: Woman, as wife and mother; the tri-color with its declaration of liberty, equality, fraternity; and the republic, which to them stands for political, social, economic progress. Characteristic of the French, in delicacy, woman-adoration and felicity of speech, was the manner in which the sad news of the death of the distinguished French statesman, M. Thiers, was announced to his widow: "Madame, your illustrious husband once lived." Again, a presidential candidate, a peasant's son, who married a woman of doubtful reputation, was sharply attacked in the Paris and provincial press for his political views, but never a word was published regarding his wife. No woman's name is dragged into the public prints of France.

"The English have a scornful insular way of calling the French light. The levity is in the judgment only, which yet stands; for say a foolish thing but oft enough (and here's the secret of a hundred creeds—Men get opinions as boys learn to spell, by reiteration, chiefly) the same thing shall pass at last for absolutely wise.

And not with fools exclusively. And so we say the French are light, as if we said, The cat mews or the milch cow gives us milk.

"Is a bullet light That dashes from the gunmouth, while the eye Winks and the heart beats one; to flatter itself To a wafer on the white speck of a wall A hundred paces off? Even so direct. So strongly undivertible of aim Is this French people—

"All idealists. And so I am strong to love this noble France, This poet of the nations, who dreams on Forever after some ideal good—Some equal poise of sex, some un-avowed love Inviolable, some spontaneous brotherhood, Some wealth that leaves none poor and finds none tired, Some freedom of the many that respects The wisdom of the few."

And this is not Paris, but France! If the supreme test of tomorrow's world is what it makes of the individual in his daily life, there are many lessons to be learned among the grave and gentle, idealistic peasant folk of La Belle France.

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ABOUT ROAD WORK

Judge Lowe Advises Against Working Roads Too Early in the Spring.

In a statement given out to the weekly and daily newspapers for publication after February 11, Judge J. M. Lowe, president of the National Old Trails Association, warns farmers against spring road work. He says: "The tendency of the average farmer is to get out his plow, just before spring work opens, and fix the roads where they trouble him most. He works under a handicap because he hasn't the proper road making tools but he works just the same and with some result. He heaps up a grade and trims the top of it level until in form and general appearance it is everything he desires as a temporary roadway.

The farmer means all right of course; but he is throwing away his labor, just the same. The spring and the fall are unpropitious seasons to establish loose earth grades. It might work with macadam or rock, but the heavy rains that come about Easter and again in June make a sticky mess out of the soft piles and finally wash away under the line fences.

The making of roads is one of the oldest of known arts. It was in a state of high perfection at the time of Julius Caesar. The ancient Romans knew practically as much about it then as we do now, for the people had been making highways since the prehistoric tree-dweller cut his way through the jungles with a stone hatchet. It was an axiom then as it is now with all scientific road builders that grades of dirt are not to be constructed when the ground is frozen, in the spring or in the fall.

There is a practical virtue in the farmers paying their road tax instead of attempting to "work it out" for it happens that the very time to do the work is when the farmer hasn't a minute to spare—in the middle of the summer.

Judge Lowe is warning all supporters of the good road movement throughout the length of the proposed old trails route to help defeat the "pork barrel" legislation now under consideration at Washington. President Wilson, as well as all of the road association have declared themselves opposed to the bill.

J. H. and Joe T. Plattner of Grand Pass were in Marshall Thursday on business.

Figure on Milch Cows.
The estimates indicate that the number of milch cows on farms in the United States is now 29,737,000, an increase of about one-half of one per cent over the census figures of 1910. Meanwhile the average farm price of milch cows has increased from \$35.79 in 1910 to \$53.94, or an increase of 50.7 per cent. On this basis the farm value of milch cows now in the United States is estimated at \$1,118,487,000 as compared with an estimated value in the census year of \$738,184,000, an increase of \$380,303,000, or an average annual increase for four years of \$95,075,000.

Many Wolves Were Killed.

During the fiscal year, closed July 1, 4,751 grown and cub wolves were killed in the state of Minnesota. The state pays a bounty of \$7.50 for the grown wolves and \$3 for the cubs. This makes a total of \$33,150.50 that the state has paid in wolf bounties during the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Minick arrived in Marshall Thursday for a few days visit with Mrs. Minick's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Worley.

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Mrs. Ezra Baker of Waynesburg, Penn., who arrived Sunday afternoon to be present at the funeral of her brother the late A. D. Swisher will remain for a few days visit to relatives.

Closing Out... SALE

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At my farm, 5 miles south of Malta Bend and 3 miles east of Mt. Leonard, on

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1914

AS FOLLOWS:



Salad Field in France.

may not be seen on Paris streets after dark. Paris is a beautiful city, and the French are lovers of beauty. But Paris is royalist and France is republican. Paris is politically restless, and France is stable. Paris is extravagant, and France is thrifty.

Paris is a sparkling diamond on the broad blouse of all France. It is not strange that the diamond's sparkle is first seen and longest remembered. But the republic is clothed and kept in its right mind by rural France.

A Nation of Farmers.

The real ruler of France is the peasant-farmer. Other great nations are rapidly becoming urbanized. The city is drawing men and women from the farm with rapidity that is alarming in Great Britain, in Germany, and even in the newer United States. Civilization confronts problems created by modern industrialism. That factory products have thus far too often meant distressful conditions of living for the factory laborer and his family is a grim fact in every industrial nation. France, in this change, remains almost stationary and takes time to adjust herself to the newer and different conditions. The one great European republic is an agricultural empire. The high and stable position which agriculture occupies is significant. More than 42 per cent. of the population in France is engaged in agriculture, far more than in any other country of northern Europe, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium or the Netherlands, and one-fourth more than in the United States. This percentage of the population engaged in agriculture shows a slight increase in recent years instead of a large decrease, as in other leading nations. This condition is maintained despite a density of population greater than in neighboring countries, and nearly six times as great as in the United States. Density of population almost invariably means urbanization. France

visits his two living predecessors in office, finding them at work in their vineyards.

Rural Schools Progressing.

The evolution of the French peasant is the history of modern France. He is emphasizing education as never before. The development of the rural school in France is a remarkable fact in the republic's progress. The controversy between state and church, bitter as it was in the extreme and unfortunate, has made necessary larger state grants to education which have been administered even in remote districts with increasing wisdom. Certain distinguishing French characteristics, aptitude for science, clarity of mind, concentration and the critical faculty, intellectuality and artistic taste, are shown nowhere more pronouncedly than in the French schools—and reference is made not merely to the Sorbonne or the Ecole de Beaux Arts, but to the small schools far removed from the capital. The French peasant wishes the best for his children.

The French peasant not only owns France—he works. As France leads in percentage of her population engaged in agriculture, France leads also in the relative percentage of her population who are economically active members of society. In this sunny land, where everybody apparently leads his life away, more workers are to be found, in proportion to the number of inhabitants, than in Great Britain, Germany, or our own United States. The census statistics show that of every 100 persons in the United States 38 are engaged in some chief occupation, agriculture, commerce or industry, including domestic service, and not subsidiary or auxiliary. In Great Britain 44 of every 100 are so engaged, in Germany 45, and in France 51. The French are workers, not idlers, and this percentage increases with each decade. Not only do more



CATTLE

- 2 Jersey cows, be fresh in March, extra
- 2 Jerseys, just fresh. 2 Jerseys, milking
- 1 1-4 Jersey, just fresh. 8 calves
- 8 2-year-old steers 10 yearling steers

- 1 family driving horse
- 1 span extra farm mules.

HOGS

- 12 brood sows, immune. 135 stock hogs
- 3 sows with litters.

CHICKENS

- 5 dozen White Rocks, pure.
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- 6 galvanized chicken coops and other equipment.

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- 1 Jay Hawker stacker.
- 1 sweep rake 1 hay rake
- 1 McCormick mower.
- 1 Janesville corn planter
- 1 Case corn planter—new
- 1 two-row cultivator—new
- 1 New Departure cultivator
- 1 two-section harrow. 1 4 horse disc
- 1 Oliver gang plow. 1 low wagon
- 1 14-inch turning plow. 1 hob s'ed
- 1 grain and seed cleaner.
- 1 good lawn mower. 50 feet garden hose.
- 2 sets tug harness. 1 set chain harness
- 1 set breast harness. 2 saddles
- 35 3-year pine trees for wind break.
- 150 bushels of oats, re-cleaned and sacked.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE

- 1 good piano. 1 large refrigerator
- 3 bed-room suits, chairs, tables, etc.
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