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THE ANNUAL MEETING

New Orleans club women, having had the honor and the pleasure of entertaining the National Council of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at its annual meeting ten days ago, are now enjoying the usual aftermath of such occasions.

Her work being along the lines of inquiry, Mrs. Elliot made a thoughtful survey of the national council meeting to discover what it had really accomplished. Her report made through a local newspaper was to the effect that the meeting didn't amount to a hill of beans.

Mrs. Elliot was forced to this crushing conclusion:

It would appear to the casual looker-on, to the really interested, earnest club woman, who does much of the hard work of the average club federation, that the ladies from the East, West and North are out simply to exploit themselves in their fine clothes.

erated club women, have displayed a great ability to construct elaborate and expensive adornment for their persons, and to display it in peacock fashion. This was not true of our dear Southern women, God bless them.

This tribute to our "dear Southern women" did not have the effect of allaying the inevitable clash of opinion. Local clubwomen took prompt issue with Mrs. Elliot and have certified that the national council meeting was a real uplift.

The controversy as to the justice of Mrs. Elliot's charges will doubtless rage in women's club circles for some time, regardless of the fact that even if they are just they are unimportant. As a matter of cold fact, the annual meeting habit, as extensively practiced in the United States, is one of our national luxuries.

Naturally, seeing the store the men set by their annual conventions for all sorts of organizations, the aspiring sisterhood are bound to have their share of them. Having maintained the convention myth for many years, partly as a means of relaxation and an opportunity to get out of range for a few days of friend wife's inquiring eye, we men naturally cannot point out its futility to the "up-and-coming" sisterhood, but must leave them to discover it for themselves.

The annual meeting is one of our national luxuries. The money spent upon it would buy a flock of battleships, as thick as ducks in the fall on Sweet Lake, or would pay the national bar bill, if not devoted to foreign missions and such. It serves a useful purpose for the men, though not the obvious purpose. If the ladies evolve their conventions into annual did shows, so much the better; the convention at the best will get them nowhere and it is bet-

ter for them to flit through the hotel lobbies, easy to look at, than to sit in a stuffy hall and hear women with their hair brushed severely back talk platitudes to the presiding officer.

The various officers of the government who are trying to meet the food crisis should get together and mold their advice into some consistent policy. One comes along preaching the possibility of famine and scaring people into reckless buying of food, and another follows him to chide them for their panic and to tell them they are upsetting the industries of the country.

Having pulled off their revolution successfully and become a government, Russia's new rulers are appealing to the people to restore to the government arsenals the forty thousand rifles and thirty-five thousand revolvers they used to make the revolution a success.

A congress of the Russian constitutional Democrats has declared in favor of the principle that the land ought to be handed over to the working classes. This is exactly in line with the policy of the grand dukes, though they have a further proviso that the product of the land must be handed back to the grand dukes.

Being obliged to kiss the United States flag as a penalty for speaking disloyal words about it, is the queer idea a court in Shreveport put into execution this week. War hysteria brings about strange manifestations.

Charles B. Trimmer was elected city clerk of Kansas City last week. A man of that name should be able to get anywhere in politics.

LOUISIANA CONDENSED.

Bernard Mistretta and his son Gaetano have been indicted for the murder of Joe Spaminato at Donaldsonville. A special session of district court has been called to try them.

The Lafourche levee board has appointed eleven guards to patrol the levee from Donaldsonville to the St. James line.

Jeanerette had a flag raising Thursday. Business was suspended and the schools were dismissed.

second primary, defeating Edward Haine by five votes.

A suspicious stranger who was sleeping on the levee at Convent was rounded up and sent to jail. German, of course.

Bogalusa has a home guard company of 267 members. Only married men were accepted.

D. M. Pipes of Jackson was elected president of the Louisiana Sunday school association at Monroe Thursday.

Bogalusa will celebrate Monday as "clean-up" day.

Bayou Beuf has formed a Red Cross Auxiliary.

A. G. Pringle won out for a second term for mayor of Glenmora by twelve votes.

Washington parish will have a public meeting at Franklinton to urge food preparedness.

Baton Rouge is entertaining hundreds of Boy Scouts from Louisiana and Mississippi for a three-day's meeting.

Seventy eight young men at Bogalusa are drilling nightly, to be ready for service if needed.

A company of the First Louisiana has been sent to Morgan City to guard the river front.

W. W. Ricker, of Smyth Junction, has been arrested for continuing to operate his private wireless plant, after being ordered to dismantle it.

A. A. Simmons has been reelected mayor of Vinton by a two to one vote over M. T. Woolley.

T. J. Coleman has been convicted of manslaughter at Arcadia.

The war crisis is responsible for the calling off of the Natchitoches parish school rally set for April 28.

The Chamber of Commerce of Morgan City and Berwick has been revived, with Ernest E. Ditch as president.

The annual meeting of Louisiana T. P. A. is in progress at Lake Charles.

The 7,000 school pupils of Calcasieu will devote a portion of their schooltime to gardening this spring.

Z. Richardson, former postmaster at Springville, pled guilty and was sentenced to three months in jail.

Five hundred boy scouts in session at Baton Rouge have wired pledges of support to the president.

A fair was given at Grand Coteau Thursday for the benefit of the parochial school.

L. S. U. won a joint debate with the University of Alabama at Baton Rouge Friday night. "Government Ownership of Railroads" was the topic. L. S. U. had the affirmative.

Ben Davis committed suicide by shooting at Oak Grove, while insane.

NEW MEXICO TO BE LAUNCHED MONDAY

By International News Service.

New York, April 21.—The utmost precautions against any untoward incident have been taken for the launching of Uncle Sam's newest sea monster, the dreadnought New Mexico, which will take place at the Brooklyn navy yard Monday morning.

The New Mexico's sponsor will be Miss Margaret C. De Baca, daughter of the Governor of New Mexico, who was selected for the honor by the late Governor William C. McDonald, Governor De Baca's predecessor.

The New Mexico is a sister ship of the Mississippi, recently launched at the works of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, and of the Idaho, still on the ways at the works of the New York Shipbuilding Company, Camden, N. J. These vessels, when completed, will compare favorably in size and both offensive and defensive power with any battleship afloat.

The armament carried by these vessels will be 42 14-inch guns, 22 5-inch guns, 4 3-pounders, 3 anti-aircraft guns and two torpedo tubes.

The New Mexico will be manned by fifty-six officers and 1,441 men. She will burn oil exclusively and will be the first battleship built by this or any other nation equipped with the electric drive. This system of propulsion has been thoroughly tried out in service on the collier Jupiter, where it has proven extremely satisfactory.

The keel of the New Mexico was laid on October 14, 1915. Although her construction has been materially delayed, due to difficulty and delays in obtaining material and to the scarcity of skilled labor, it is expected to finish her within the thirty-six months allowed by the contract. She is now about 67 per cent completed.

As soon as the New Mexico has been launched preparations will be made for the laying of the keel of the Tennessee, the next battleship to be constructed at the New York yard. A large amount of the structural material for the Tennessee is already in the yard and considerable progress has been made in fabricating this material preparatory to commencing the erection.

Men and women are alike in one respect. The more you argue with them the less you convince them.

Similarity of the Sexes.

CONVICT TELLS STRANGE TALE OF BIG FORTUNE

By International News Service.

Joliet, Ill., April 21.—William Mansfield Williams, serving his fourth term behind the bars of Joliet prison, has by blind chance become the master of a fortune, which, were he free, would keep him in comfort during the remainder of his life.

The only evidence is a key hanging around his neck. Williams himself guesses that perhaps the box to which it is key contains securities worth perhaps as much as \$100,000. The convict does not expect to ever get any benefit from them himself, for tuberculosis has seized him, and he believes death will come before he finishes the eight years remaining on his term.

He says that no one else will profit either, for his secret will go to the grave with him.

Williams, released from prison in December, 1915, sought to go straight. One night on his way home from work a man he had known in the had past accosted him. He gave Williams a sealed envelope and told him not to open it until he was alone. It contained a key, a \$2 bill and a letter of instructions. The letter directed him to a place where he would find a box. This he was to keep until a newspaper personal should direct its disposition.

When the personal appeared Williams answered, but no one kept the appointment, and several days later Williams opened the box and found it contained the securities. There was nothing to show where they came from.

Frightened, Williams hid the box. When another advertisement appeared he did not answer, and a few days later was arrested, convicted on circumstantial evidence of a robbery he denies, and sent to prison again.

Letters received by Williams since threaten him with death if he gets out unless he restores the box. This, he says, he will not do.

DOUAI ONE OF THE WAR OBJECTIVES

Directly east of the Vandy ridge and fifteen miles by rail northeast of Arenas lies Douai, toward which the British and Canadian troops are now advancing.

The historic city, in the midst of the Douai plains, is the subject of the following war geography bulletin issued from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society:

"Dissected from north to south by the canalized River Scarpe, the city of Douai, which at the outbreak of the war had a thriving population of nearly 40,000, is situated on a marshy plain. Its beginning goes back to the Gallo-Roman times, and during the numerous conflicts which devastated this section of Flanders in medieval days it frequently suffered at the hands of English, French, Spanish, German and Flemish armies.

One of the most notable contests at arms in its history was the city's resistance to Louis XI in 1479, an event long celebrated every year by the Fete de Gayant. Half a century after the French king was discomfited before it falls the place fell before the Spaniards. In 1667 it finally bowed to the forces of France under Louis XIV. Then came the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene in 1710, but the English regime was short-lived, for three years later it became definitely a part of the French domain by the treaty of Utrecht.

"Douai is celebrated in ecclesiastical history as a popular place of refuge for English Roman Catholics who fled from their native land during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Cardinal Allen established a seminary here where priests were educated for England, and it was here, also, that the text of the Old Testament was prepared and later combined with the New Testament previously translated at Rheims, the whole being published at Douai in 1609 as the English Roman Catholic Bible and known to-day as the famous Douai or Douay Bible.

"The fortifications of Douai disappeared long ago, and in their place, prior to the present war, were beautiful boulevards and public gardens. The conspicuous architectural feature of the town (probably destroyed long since by shell fire) was the five-storied belfry of the Hotel de Ville, a beautiful Gothic structure dating back to the thirteenth century.

"Before it fell a victim to the Teutonic advance upon Paris Douai was a thriving industrial center. One of its most important establishments was a large cannon factory. Glass and chemical works, paper, farm implements, soap and leather were also manufactured here, while the Scarpe canal afforded cheap water transportation for extensive trade in grain, agricultural products and coal.

"Among the famous figures in the world of art and letters who have shed lustre on Douai as their birthplace was Jean Bellecambre the Elder, the painter, and Maitre de Coudoulers, Mme. Desbordes-Valmore, the poetess, and Giovanni da Bologna, the sculptor. Most of Bologna's masterpieces were executed in Italy during the last half of the sixteenth century and still remain there, but one of the finest—two nude figures fighting—is lost. An interesting copy in lead of the lost work once occupied a place of honor in the quadrangle in front of Brasenose College, Oxford, but thirty-six years ago it was sold for junk by the authorities of the institution, and the plumber who bought it melted it and converted it into lead pipe.

All We Can Take Away.

Only what we have brought into our character during our lifetime can we take away with us.—Humboldt.

MATRIMONY OPENS THE EYES OF A CONGRESSMAN

From the Chicago Herald.

Jeff McLemore, the Texas congressman whose resolution prohibiting Americans from traveling on belligerent ships was defeated, was married three months ago.

Result: He discovered that his wife's shoes cost from \$12 to \$14. Jeff got mad. He couldn't complain to his wife, so he complained to the Department of Justice.

That department will institute an investigation to see if there is a shoe trust. If there is, it will "bust" it.

BREWERS USE OF GRAIN NOT SO EXTENSIVE AS REPORTED.

New York, April 21.—The brewers of this country used 67 million bushels of grain the last fiscal year, it was announced here today by the United States Brewers' Association.

"Of the grain the brewers consumed 48 million bushels was barley, 17 million bushels corn and 2 million bushels rice.

"Half of all this is returned to the farms for cattle feed in the form of dried grains and by-products."

WHY SPAIN'S KING HOLDS HIS JOB

Madrid, Spain, April 2 (by mail).

A cable dispatch came from America today addressed to the King of Spain. It was delivered at the royal palace to the king's personal secretary, Senor Don Emilio Maria de Torres, minister plenipotentiary, who, after reading it, passed it to the representative of the Associated Press who chanced to be present.

The cablegram said: "Our son enlisted as aviator in British Royal Flying Squadron. He was last seen flying over English Channel on December 4 last. Since then nothing known of him and he is officially reported as missing. An agonized mother and father appeal to your majesty to obtain information and relieve their terrible suspense."

Senor de Torres at once set in motion the machinery of investigation through the Spanish embassy at Berlin. This was a typical case among more than two hundred thousand, which are being investigated under the personal direction of King Alfonso, and which constitute one of the most stupendous humanitarian works created by the war.

Judged by results alone the vastness of the work is apparent—two hundred thousand cases traced, of which 150,000 are disposed of and fifty thousand still under investigation. A great number of soldiers, reported "missing," have been located alive in prison camps, and thus the agony of suspense has been removed from thousands of homes. In a much larger number of cases the inquiry has established the death of the missing soldier, while in some cases no trace of the missing has been found.

Besides this, thirty thousand civilians of the invaded sections of Belgium and France have been located for their families, five thousand seriously wounded have been brought back through the king's intercession; forty-four pardons have been granted, of which nearly twenty were death sentences, mostly women accused of being spies.

It is probable Edith Cavell, the famous English nurse executed at Brussels, would have been saved had there been time to carry out the king's efforts.

It is not only a vast work, but it probably deals with more individual tragedies and more human emotions than any branch of activity created by the war.

Pouring in to the palace by cable, telegraph and letter are the pleas of mothers for lost sons, wives for lost husbands, and children for lost fathers and brothers. Each tells a story of terrible suspense. Most of the appeals are from poor people who write with touching simplicity, and with doubt as to how they should address a king. But the simplicity of the appeals has only stimulated the earnestness of the king's efforts.

He has organized this extensive system of search here in the palace, alongside the royal apartments, where he can come and go frequently to see the work as it progresses and personally direct some inquiry of pressing urgency. A dozen large chambers looking out on the royal courtyard are devoted to the work, with scores of officials, including some of the titled women of Spain and of the orders of the Assumption and the Sacred Heart, who devote all their time to this humane work.

CHURCH OF PAVING STONES DEBT FREE

By International News Service.

East St. Louis, Ill., April 21.—The remaining \$750 of a debt of \$20,000 incurred by the Winstanley Baptist Church here when it built an edifice out of discarded paving stones three years ago, has been paid.

The Rev. E. W. Reeder was going to St. Louis on a street car when he saw laborers tearing the paving stones out of Broadway in this city. He had desisted for some time to build a new church, but money was lacking. He conceived the idea of using the discarded stones. They were bought from the city for a small sum.

The new church was built by members of its congregation and Mr. Reeder. The latter donated overalls and directed the work. It required eight months to complete the structure. The site and the building cost a total of \$8,000.

PLENTY OF RAW MATERIAL.

Chicago, April 21.—Within the last week 2,750 applications for membership in the aviation reserve corps have been received at aviation headquarters in the federal building here. This makes about four thousand applications received at the office. When the two aviation schools which are to be opened are ready to receive students each will be able to take care of about seventy-five men.

QUEER TANGLE OF TWO REYNOLDS

By International News Service.

New York, April 21.—Henry Suydam Reynolds, lawyer of this town, has concluded this town is a mighty small place after all. A few days ago he had never heard of H. S. Reynolds of Toledo, O., but now the fact has been brought forcibly to his attention.

At the Waldorf-Astoria Henry Suydam Reynolds satisfied himself that H. S. Reynolds of Toledo is a responsible citizen, and then he unburdened himself of a modern fable of the Dromios which spreads from the Bahamas to Cuba and then from Florida north to New York and westward to Toledo.

It seems that Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Reynolds started from Toledo about the time that Mr. and Mrs. Henry Suydam Reynolds of New York did, and both went to about the same places, including Nassau, Havana, Miami and Palm Beach. Mr. Henry Suydam Reynolds first decided that maybe he was some one else when he received an important letter from some brokers he'd never heard of, evidently answering a letter of his regarding some shares in the American Sugar Company. Now, it happens Mr. Henry Suydam Reynolds owns shares to the exact number referred to, but he'd never written anything about them.

Much wroth and puzzled, he was bewildered further at Nassau when an automobile concern wrote to him about overhauling his automobile—the same make and style as the vehicle he owns. He'd not ordered any overhauling, and he wrote quickly and said so. Then he and Mrs. Reynolds went to Palm Beach, and the morning after their arrival he read with some astonishment and a little panic that he and his wife had just returned to Palm Beach after a week's absence. Since he hadn't been there before in a year he made inquiry and asked also for his mail. The clerk said his mail had been sent to him at the Waldorf-Astoria, as requested.

That was the final straw. Mr. Reynolds wired the Waldorf-Astoria asking whether Mr. H. S. Reynolds was there, and received a reply that he wasn't. He had just left the hotel for Toledo, the reply stated. That about ruined Mr. Henry Suydam Reynolds' peace of mind. He came straight on to New York and found out that while he was perturbed he had nothing on Mr. H. S. Reynolds of Toledo.

FORTUNE PLAYS ODD PRANKS WITH CHICAGOAN

By International News Service.

Chicago, April 21.—James Watson has been swept into the fortune of the wife he deserted and has calmed quits with justice by marrying the woman who came between him and Mrs. Watson.

In 1906 Watson and Miss Anna Haddock fled from Wigan, England, leaving Mrs. Watson and a young son behind. Watson came to Chicago, engaged in the real estate business and became wealthy. Mrs. Watson, bequeathed \$800,000 by an admirer, took up the trail of the elopers and found them here. Several weeks ago she found them and caused their arrest. Then she made a will leaving her fortune to her son. She did not sign it, and the next day she died in an automobile accident. Watson, as her husband, became administrator of her estate.

The day after Mrs. Watson was buried he married Miss Haddock in order to give their children a name. Then he filed suit against the railroad company whose train struck Mrs. Watson's auto, demanding damages for her death.

HIGH LEVING FOR THE ARMY.

Chicago, April 21.—One million pounds bacon at thirty-five cents a pound has been purchased here by the government in the last few days. This is the highest grade of bacon. Among packers it was said that a modification of government specifications as to bacon would make for economy.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

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