

THE NEW ORLEANS BEE

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OUR LACK OF FORESIGHT

An interesting article printed in the news columns of The Bee regarding the need of a coherent waterway system in the United States is a forcible reminder that, despite the constant tendency of freight rates upward as the demands upon the resources of the railroads grow heavier and their operating expenses higher and the increasing congestion of railroad traffic, this country goes on in the same old blundering way, bluffed by demagogues in congress out of utilizing a means ready at hand to relieve the constantly strained traffic situation, all because we lack the patience and the vision to plan ahead to meet our needs.

It is, of course, rather firesome to be obliged to hold up Germany constantly as an example of foresight, but in the matter of waterway improvement that country puts us to the blush. In the midst of a war appalling in its financial drain, Germany has found time to plan an internal improvement of gigantic proportions to be begun as soon as the war ends. It is a ship canal 440 miles long, 120 feet wide and 11 feet deep, capable of floating vessels of 1,200 tons, to connect the Main and the Danube rivers. It will cost 163 million dollars and will require eight years to build. The Bavarian government has already made arrangements to raise its share of the cost.

By following the course of this canal on a map of Germany an idea of its importance may be had. The River Main is to be deepened from its confluence with the Rhine at Mainz to Nuremberg. From there the canal will go south to the Danube. When this work is finished boats from the North Sea may enter the Rhine, go up to Mainz and enter the Main and so on to the Danube and down that river to the Black Sea.

Germany's reason for undertaking the construction of this canal is the same that should actuate us in improving our waterways—the desire to guard against freight congestion and "car shortage." The difference is that Germany began to provide against these interruptions to business long ago by previous improvements, and is extending them to meet a situation disclosed by the enormous demands of the war traffic, while we have not the facilities for our ordinary commerce and are threatened with food shortage when the war demands become heavy, for lack of transportation facilities.

Germany, with an already widely developed system of water ways, has learnt how water borne traffic relieves railway congestion. Between 1895 and 1905 the traffic on German waterways increased 125 per cent, and on railways it increased 71 percent. The two systems work together, the waterways taking the poorest paying heavy merchandise, such as coal, sand, lumber, hardware, leaving the railways free for passengers and fast freight.

Probably our own people realize as keenly as the German government does, that the only solution of the traffic problem is the development of waterways as great arteries for the transportation of heavy and non-perishable commodities—only we do not "get at it" and Germany does. With the possibilities of freight congestion graphically and alarmingly set forth by responsible officials our preparations to meet the emergency are so far confined to an agreement in congress to spend 33 millions on waterway improvement this year—merely enough to maintain the partial and piecemeal work already done on our waterways—and to preparations to scrap with the railroads over fifteen per cent increase in freight rates after virtually forcing them to make heavy additions to their operating expenses.

A dispatch from Clinton, La., states that an unknown thief broke into a grocery store the other night and stole \$100 worth of groceries. The work of tracing him must be difficult as doubtless he was able to carry the loot away in his pockets.

Attorney General Cocco has decided that a Louisiana office holder may join the colors and fight for his country without losing his job with the state. This should release another regiment of patriots for the service of their country.

The astonishment of Washington over Congressman Whit Martin's appointment as a member of the ways and means committee, on recommendation of the republican caucus, in spite of the fact that he acted with the democrats in organizing the House would not be so great if Washington knew the Third district of Louisiana. It takes a diplomat and a statesman to grab off even the smallest variety of office for a single term in any parish of the Third district and Congressman Whit can surround the biggest ones at any time he likes. To a thirty-third degree politician of the sugar belt, taking an important committee assignment from the republicans is no greater task than depriving an infant of a portion of confectionery.

A Wall street newspaper states that the government will not be able to sell its war bonds and certificates unless it makes the loan "attractive," which means in Wall street parlance a good discount. In the present temper of the American people, Wall street is likely to be held up by the heels until all its loose change has been shaken out of its pockets and then thrown into New York harbor, if this sort of talk becomes general. When men are being asked to leave their homes and imperil their lives for a pittance, the talk of financial interests about holding up the government is not going to be pleasing.

The Russian provisional government has promptly and thoughtfully seized all of the goods and chattels of the former emperor. There should be quite a colony of exiled Kings in Paris broke after the war ends.

Well, if Providence sees fit to thrust a special session of the Louisiana legislature upon us in addition to our other trials, we must try to bear it with proper resignation.

LOUISIANA OPINION.

The Three Fatal G's. Abbeville Meridional: Gasoline, gin and girls are the root of all evil according to a Dallas, Texas, grand jury whose report discourses on the causes of crime and deals with idleness, vagrancy and loafing in pool halls and saloons.

Also Applies to White Persons. Lake Providence Banner Democrat: From the way goods are soaring and no telling how high it is going to get, it is advisable for every colored person in the parish to make a garden, raise chickens, hogs and have a few live stock and live as cheap as they possibly can. It is going to be the hardest times this country has ever had to face.

Strong Presumptive Evidence. Madison Journal: A pencil tablet and a screw driver now establish the presumption that the owner is a German spy.

If You Don't Need It, Some Will. Franklin Watchman: The war may not last long enough to compel the people to eat dry bread and kiln cured apples for dinner, take a drink of water and swell up for supper, but it will be bad enough without this attachment, and if we prepare in advance to meet the emergency, by raising something worth while, we will be that much ahead; and therefore able to feed other mouths, twisted out of shape by the absence of that which is necessary to keep soul and body on the move.

Terrors of the Deep. Lake Charles American Press: It will take some time to find out that every strange looking boat seen on the coast is not a German raider or submarine.

Can Be Counted on to Retire. Ruston Leader: A good many of the "hot air" patriots who were loudest in their mal-edications on W. J. Bryan before war was declared have retired into the shades of private life that they neither be seen or heard.

The World Against Her. Shreveport Journal: It is quite conceivable that, if the war lasts for another year, Germany may be left alone. On the other side are ranged Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Roumania, Belgium, Serbia, Portugal, Montenegro, the United States, Cuba, Panama and the Hedjaz—the new government formed by the Arab tribes who have revolted against Turkish rule. We have therefore, 14 nations lined up against the Central Powers. Every first-rate power in the world is now at war with Germany, and nearly all the second-raters. And the number of enemies is growing with amazing rapidity.

TO ENFORCE LAW AGAINST ALIENS

Forrest Penleton, special agent for the department of justice, yesterday received directions from Attorney General Gregory for the enforcement of President Wilson's recent proclamation to aliens living in the United States.

Alien enemies found with forbidden articles in their possession after April 21 will be at once arrested and detained and the articles seized. Those living within half a mile of navy yards, barracks, arsenals or any government place or building connected with the navy or army or any workshop or factory where ammunition or products for the army or navy are manufactured will have to move before June 1 or so to jail.

It is also set forth in the directions from Attorney General Gregory as to how passes shall be issued by the United States marshal, and that all applications for parole of alien prisoners must be passed upon by him. Parole prisoners will have to furnish bond for good behavior and have a supervisor who is an American citizen. The supervisor will keep in close touch with his charge and immediately report any violation of parole conditions.

DESIRE TO BE CITIZENS

Natives of Six Nations Would Come Under the Flag

Among the residents of foreign birth who applied for citizenship at the United States District Court yesterday was Lucien Schertz, 1461 North Broad street, a druggist. Schertz came from France years ago and is well known in the downtown section of the city.

The other applicants for naturalization papers were: Alfred Holt, 23, 8130 Hampson street, England; Abraham Bernstein, 31, 1130 Seventh street, Russia; Giuseppe Spia, 43, 3900 Magazine street, Italy; Henry Jukof, 36, 2227 Melpomene street, Germany; Jake Herman, 27, 2224 Melpomene street, Russia; Hans Christensen, 39, 709 Louisiana avenue, Denmark, and Ernest Peter, 52, 5225 St. Charles avenue, Germany.

DOCTORS BROUGHT HER BACK

Laura Miller, 23, 221 Marais street, attempted suicide yesterday morning by taking poison. She was rescued by the police by Charity hospital doctors who took her home. The woman refused to say why she no longer cared to live.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births Mrs. Clarence Brion, a boy, 3125 Florida street. Mrs. Richard Balden, a girl, 2409 Magazine street. Mrs. Peter Carnesi, a boy, 3011 Ullon street. Mrs. John McGrath, a girl, Charity Hospital. Mrs. Arthur Leineweler, a girl, 4734 Ohio street. Mrs. George Graham, a girl, 824 Third street.

Marriages

James Saffard and Miss Lila Cogan. St. Clair Duke and Mrs. Roberta Sibley. Joseph Augout and Alice Warner. George McGuire and Leona Sweeney. Robert Thompson and Jeanette Robinson. Samuel Cresap and Miss Edith Porter.

GERMAN LINES SHATTERED

Sweeping Victory of the French Driving on Laon Paris, April 20.—Driving on Laon the French today captured the village of Nancy, ten miles south of Laon, and also Fort Malmarsou, which barred the advance on the important highway, the war office announced tonight. Other advances were made north of the river Aisne and in the Argonne region. To date over 19,000 prisoners have been captured and 100 guns taken since the French began their drive, the war office announces. The Germans claim the retreat had ended yesterday but was shattered as the French swept into the German positions along the whole sixty-mile front between Soissons and Aubervive. Many dead were found in the Trenches when the French reached them.

GERMANS INVADING URUGUAY

Troops Ordered to Meet the Foe Coming From Brazil Buenos Ayres, April 20.—The republic of Uruguay ordered all troops in the field tonight to cope with Germans reported marching into Uruguay from Southern Brazil, where anti-German disorders occurred.

FRYING THE FAT OUT OF BOND SALE

WALL STREET AGAINST PRESENT PLAN OF FLOATING

SLIM CHANGE TO MAKE DOLLAR

Washington Deal to Its Objections. Will Sell the Bonds Largely by Advertising

Washington, April 20.—Wall Street is much perturbed over the proposed method of floating the 3-billion-dollar bond issue. J. P. Morgan and other financiers of the country were in Washington yesterday attempting to have the proposed floating plan modified so as to show a little more consideration for the "street."

They fear that appeal for popular subscription to the issue will result in many small and even large investors in stocks unwilling to purchase the government bonds, because they are exempt from taxation, and that if this is done there will be a falling market and the big New York and Chicago financiers will be unable to sell the bonds at a rate of only 3 1/2-4 per cent.

The "street" feels that the bulk of the great issue must necessarily fall on the New York financiers for purchase. Therefore they want the issue to carry a higher rate of interest, so that they may successfully distribute them. They also don't want the bonds exempted from taxation.

The administration is deaf to these appeals. The issue will be launched as proposed, through the Treasury Department, without provision for commissions and Secretary McAdoo feels that there will be a great public response throughout the country. Meantime he has arranged a series of conferences with investment bankers to get their ideas on details.

It is the purpose to make the first issue between 2 billion dollars and 3 billion dollars, depending largely on the immediate needs of the Allies.

This question will be settled when the international commissions get here and have an opportunity to discuss their requirements with officials of this government.

The issue will be inaugurated with a great advertising campaign throughout the country to show every man, woman and child how the bonds can be purchased. It is proposed to spend about a million dollars, of the small sum allowed for the cost of floating the issue, in advertising.

TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL

Mrs. Emma Sloan, 61, 431 Gaionni street, is in the Charity hospital in a serious condition, having been brought there last night in a state of coma. Her condition, it was said, resulted from kidney trouble. Up to a late hour she was still unconscious.

SLIGHTLY INJURED BY FALL

Otto Buckner, 39, 3007 St. Claude street, was taken to the Charity hospital yesterday to be treated for injury received when he slipped and fell while working in the Cambria Brewery where he is employed. His hurts were not of a serious nature.

SMOKED OUT THE HON. COURT

Basis Upon Which Charge is Filed Against Dixie Laundry Affidavit was made yesterday against the Dixie Laundry for violating the law relative to placing smoke consumers on smokestacks. The laundry is across the street from the Criminal Courts building. Thursday smoke from its stack wafted into the court house, making it necessary to suspend court. Dis-Captain Glavin, of the central station, to investigate. The affidavit resulted. The law says smokestacks must have consumers attached that will consume seventy-five percent of the smoke.

PUPILS EARN \$2,000 FOR TEACHERS' PENSION FUND

The waste paper campaign, conducted by the pupils of the city schools, has, as its first fruits, contributed \$2,001.67 to the teachers' pension fund, for which purpose the campaign was undertaken. A check for that amount has been received from the Letellier-Phillips Paper Co., to which concern the paper was disposed of. The campaign will continue with greater vigor than ever since the pupils and their parents have evidence of the success they are attaining.

LOCAL M.D.'S. HOME FROM ALEXANDRIA

New Orleans physicians who have been in attendance upon the annual meeting of the State Medical Society in Alexandria, arrived home yesterday, the convention having closed Thursday night with a banquet at Hotel Bentley. New Orleans was selected as the next place of meeting. Many topics of interest to the profession were discussed and the meeting was a notable success. The list of officers and committees selected for the coming year follows:

President, Dr. Clarence Pierson, Jackson. First Vice President, Dr. Chas. V. Enworth, New Orleans. Second Vice President, Dr. A. B. Nelson, Shreveport. Third Vice President, Dr. E. L. Lockert, New Orleans. Secretary-Treasurer, L. R. DeByss, New Orleans. Council First Congressional District, Dr. W. H. Knoble, New Orleans. Council Second Congressional District, Dr. Homer Dupuy, New Orleans. Council Third Congressional District, Dr. B. W. Smith, Franklin. Council Fourth Congressional District, Dr. J. E. Knighton, Shreveport. Council Fifth Congressional District, Dr. C. P. Gray, Monroe. Council Sixth Congressional District, Dr. J. J. Rollet, Baton Rouge. Council Seventh Congressional District, Dr. E. M. Ellis, Crowley. Council Eighth Congressional District, Dr. E. Lee Henry, Lake Charles. Committee on Scientific Work—Dr. L. R. DeByss, chairman; Paul J. Geipi, New Orleans; E. W. Nahler, New Orleans.

Committee on Publication—Dr. L. R. DeByss, New Orleans, chairman; W. J. Derol, New Orleans; J. B. Vauzhan, Collinston. Committee on Public Policy and Legislation—Dr. J. B. Vaughan, Collinston; M. W. Swords, New Orleans; Geo. S. Boe, New Orleans; W. H. Seaman, New Orleans; L. R. DeByss, New Orleans, ex-officio.

Committee on Memorial—Dr. J. H. Bodenheimer, Shreveport, chairman; Leon J. Menville, Houma; J. T. Nix, New Orleans; J. E. Knighton, Shreveport; and S. R. Gomila, New Orleans.

Committee on Medical Defense—Dr. L. R. DeByss, chairman, New Orleans; J. P. O'Hara, New Orleans; J. E. Knighton, Shreveport.

Committee on Health and Public Instruction—Dr. G. Farrar Patton, New Orleans; Geo. Dempsey, New Orleans; P. A. Ledbetter, New Orleans.

Committee on Cancer Research—Dr. C. Jeff Miller, chairman, New Orleans; Isadore Dyer, New Orleans; W. D. Rousseau, New Orleans. Committee on Hospitals—Dr. Isadore Dyer, New Orleans; E. L. Lockert, New Orleans; and J. P. Leggett, New Orleans.

Two names to be presented to the governor from which to select one as member of the board of medical examiners to succeed Dr. Dupuy, resigned, Dr. Mahler and Bernardas.

To succeed Dr. S. L. White, Dr. C. P. Gray and E. Lee Henry. Dr. W. H. Seaman was nominated delegate to the American Medical Association and Dr. L. R. DeByss was nominated alternate.

A Close Observer.

Sarah, the little daughter of a clergyman, was asked if her papa ever preached the same sermon twice. After considering a moment, she answered: "Yes, I think he does, but I think he hollers in different places."

AN ARTILLERY REGIMENT

Enough recruits have been secured for the Washington artillery to form six batteries at peace strength. The three old batteries have been mustered into the federal service. Battery B has been released from guard duty and transferred to the mobilization camp at City Park race track. Recruiting will continue until full war strength is attained.

STEAMER SAVED BY QUICK WORK

Only quick action on the part of the crew yesterday saved the steamship Nile, moored at the head of Lavergne street, Algiers, from serious damage or destruction when boards in the paint room were ignited by torches of painters who were working there. The damage is estimated at \$100.

OVERALLS FOR PATRIOTISM

Gage, Ok., April 20.—The men of Gage have pledged themselves to wear overalls during the war with Germany as a step toward doing their "bit" in cutting down the high cost of living. According to rules drawn up at a mass meeting, no man can deviate from the practice, even on Sunday.

THEIR OWN TRAP CAUGHT TEUTONS

With the French Armées Afield, April 20.—An incident that strikingly reveals the French strategy in the new drive was witnessed yesterday from the crest of a hill when the French wrested from the Germans one of their strongest defensive positions.

The position consisted of a village surmounting a precipitous ravine. The bank of this ravine was honeycombed with caves hewn out of solid stone, in treacherously dug quarry excavations and shafts. The Germans had stationed their machine guns there—strongly fortified in the rock, which French artillery could not pierce. From the impenetrable quarries below the villages the German infantry waited confidently the expected frontal attack from the French.

Two columns of French infantry suddenly began an encircling movement from the right and from the left. Every movement of these forces was visible to the naked eye. The soldiers advanced at almost a strolling pace along the summit of two converging ridges. Their bodies were clearly silhouetted against the sky.

Neither "fog" nor "mist" cloud of shrapnel which hung low over their heads, nor high exploding barrages, nor gas shells hindered the slow, measured advance of these forces for a single instant.

Not until both these columns simultaneously approached the outskirts of the village did the Germans, hidden in the quarry—still awaiting that frontal attack—realize they had been "out-Hindenburged."

Instantly they rushed out their machine guns in a desperate attempt to cover a retreat. But they were too late. The French converging columns met behind the village. They cut off all retreat. The Germans did not resist an attempt to cut their way through. They hurriedly returned to the protection of the rock caves. And the French columns, ignoring their existence and leaving their ultimate capture to other troops, swept on to the east from the village, penetrating at every step deeper into the German line.

AMERICANS WILL HELP OUT RUSSIA

Washington, April 20.—Rehabilitation of the crippled Russian railway system by a corps of trained American railroad men will be the early result of an appeal to the President from several of Russia's ablest engineers. The new government thus will be strengthened against the pressure to make a separate peace with Germany.

Plans to lend the Russian government some 2,000 million dollars out of the new 5,000 million dollars war bond issue already have been formulated, but American aid is to still further and make effective the expenditure of the money.

Money is recognized as the greatest need of the new Russian government to maintain its credit and sustain its position and supply the armies in the field, but one of the greatest causes of Russian disaster and inactivity has been the demoralized condition of the transport system.

To correct that defect plans are being made to send more than five hundred trained American railroad men to Russia to organize and operate her railroads with the efficiency with which they have built up the American systems. The American railroad men would include train dispatchers, master mechanics, maintenance of way men, yardmasters and traffic experts.

All the labor needed is available in Russia, but the transport system lacks mechanical organization, operating direction and co-ordination of effort. It is said millions of dollars' worth of supplies for the army and food for the civil population lie useless in the congestion of the traffic centers.

The American master mechanics are to put the rolling stock in efficient condition; the yardmasters are to untangle the masses of congested traffic; the train dispatchers are to get the heavy trains over the long divisions with the promptness and skill which have made American railroad operations the marvel of the world, and executive officials are to co-ordinate the efforts of all into an efficient whole.

BOOZE AND "BACCY" TABOOED

Washington, April 20.—The Daughters of the American Revolution this afternoon passed a resolution urging Congress to abolish liquor and cigarettes until after the war.