

TONGUES CLASH IN BELGIUM

Flemish-Speaking Elements Win Point Against Their Countrymen Whose Language Is French.

National divisions are growing more acute in Belgium, says a writer in the Living Age. The Flemish-speaking provinces, already insurgent against the French-speaking Brussels government before the war, and encouraged in this attitude during the German occupation, are more insistent upon their rights than ever.

Parliament recently refused to erect a Flemish university at Antwerp. But the minister of education, apparently without the endorsement of all his colleagues, submitted a bill to parliament providing that "at the University of Ghent instruction shall be given in Flemish; it shall be given in French and Flemish in the schools of civil engineering, arts and manufactures."

This bill was adopted by a vote of 89 against 85, with seven abstentions—figures suggesting the equal division of sentiment over a question that, if we are to credit newspaper headlines, has aroused passions that have brought the people to the verge of violence.

The neutral and Protestant Journal de Geneve regards the action of the Belgian parliament as a "regrettable setback to Latin culture," likely to accentuate "discords of race, language, and even of religion" in that country. It will be recalled that the Flemings are strongly clerical.

NEVER USED BY EMPEROR

Luxurious Private Railroad Car Built for Maximilian of Mexico Is Still in Existence.

On a sidetrack of the Mexican railway in Vera Cruz there rests one of the most historic private cars on the continent. It was built to order for Emperor Maximilian of Mexico more than sixty years ago. So solid was its construction that it is still in fairly presentable condition, despite its weather-beaten exterior.

During the recent revolutionary period it was used as the private car of army officers. Finally it found its way back to Vera Cruz, where it was shunted onto a remote siding to remain forgotten until discovered the other day by an official of the road.

Although the car was built for Emperor Maximilian, the ill-fated ruler never got to ride in it. When it arrived in Vera Cruz, a year before his downfall, conditions were so bad that it could not be sent to Mexico City. It was used later by President Juarez, who signed the death warrant of Maximilian and succeeded him as ruler of Mexico.

Teakwood, brought from India, was used in its construction. It was built in France and received in this country in the early part of 1865. On the outside it presented the appearance of one of the English compartment cars.

Wonderful Ice Formation.

Under blessing of a visit from Our Lady of Guadalupe, Yosemite National park is going to have one of the happiest and most prosperous years in its history.

This was the news spread abroad several days ago by distinguished visitors from Mexico who discovered a perfect likeness of Mexico's patron saint in the ice which forms on the cliff every night from the spray of Yosemite falls. The face is perfectly outlined. The body is swathed in the flowing robe of a Sister of Charity and the arms are crossed on the breast.

"Nuestra Senora de la Guadalupe!" exclaimed the first Mexican who glimpsed the famous cataract after his arrival. He called his friends and they agreed that the natural formation was one of the best they had ever seen. The image must be fully 1,000 feet high, as it extends nearly the entire length of the first drop of Yosemite falls, which is 1,430 feet.

When She's Away.

"The wife's away," said the man who wore a sort of run-down look. "And I've been cooking my own breakfasts. The thing that gets me is how in the name of goodness a person can cook three things, excluding coffee, and have them all done at the same time? I'll tell the waiting world that to do it is a gift. If that woman doesn't come back soon I'll be blistered in every exposed part of my body from hot flying grease. Did you ever try first to cook bacon, then drop an egg into the spider and fry it in the hot bacon grease? Do it, and I'll bet if you never uttered a cuss in your life you'll begin right then."—Detroit News.

Didn't Know How to Use It.

It happened the other night at the theater. The young couple had disturbed everybody around them by their whispering and murmuring. Folks frowned and growled but they talked on. Until suddenly the young man stopped and began to dig around on the floor for something.

Then he nudged the man in front of him, "I've lost my muffler some place," he said.

"Let it alone," the man growled back. "You didn't know how to use it when you did have it, judging from the noises I've been hearing back there."—Indianapolis News.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

AIR DICTIONARY MADE PUBLIC

Rules That Flyers Should Have at Their Finger Tips While Navigating the Upper Regions.

A standard dictionary of the air language under the title of "Nomenclature for Aeronautics" has just been published by the national advisory committee for aeronautics in Washington.

Among some of the new terms prescribed by the committee are the following:

"Airway," an aerial highway between three or more cities, marked and equipped with fields and radio stations.

"Airport," a terminal of an airway, with tracts of water and land for alighting, shops and hangars.

"Amphibian," an airplane designed to rise from and alight on either land or water.

Most motorcar operators will expect that "gassing" means filling the fuel tanks of an aircraft, but it applies to replenishing the envelopes or containing bags, lighter-than-air craft with fresh lifting gas such as hydrogen or helium, to compensate for leakage. The filling of an empty balloon with gas is known as "inflation."

Gender has practically been eliminated from terms used in flying. A "pilot" today is either a man or woman operator of an aircraft. The term applies to both heavier and lighter-than-air operations. The old terms "aviator" and "aeronaut" are discarded. "Aviatrice" was never approved officially.

FIND IT HARD TO BE QUIET

According to Critic, the Ordinary American Knows Little About Sitting at His Ease.

The ability to sit quiet is not too common among Americans. For some reason many people find it easier to talk if they pluck at the upholstered arm of the chair in which they sit, or twist a corner of the sofa cushion, or swing one foot in listless motion, or play with a pencil or a paper cutter or some other object. Fidgeting is a disagreeable habit; the other person finds his attention becoming more and more fixed upon the repetition of meaningless mechanical movements and more and more distracted from other matters.

Because fidgeting raises in this way a barrier to easy social intercourse, it handicaps the person who fidgets. Moreover, it expresses lack of poise and self-control. Restfulness is of the essence of dignity. The person who has not trained himself to sit and talk without any undue nervous movements of the fingers and feet has not really achieved complete mastery over his fingers and feet. A good rule to observe with regard to those members is to use them when they ought to be used and at all other times to insist upon their being quiet.—Youth's Companion.

"Biggest Air Post."

Le Bourget, near Paris, is now dignified with the title of largest and most important airport in the world. No less than 4,812 passenger and freight airplanes were used in the various services during 1922.

In 1920 the number of passengers carried was 10,215; in 1922 the number had almost doubled—19,974. An average of 65 passengers daily took their places in air expresses for destinations all over Europe. A total of 463 tons of express were carried in 1922—an augmentation of 385 per cent over 1920. Compared with 1919, when the port was opened, the increase is of 2,200 per cent. Postal packets augmented to the extent of 143 per cent during the year.

Lines from Paris go to London, Tours, Amsterdam, Brussels, Berlin, Strasbourg, Prague, Warsaw, Vienna, Budapest, Morocco, Spain, Nice, Bucharest, Trieste, Sofia, and new fast expresses will start soon for Constantinople. The trip will take two days.

Lauds American Colleagues.

"America is ahead of Europe in brain and nerve surgery and the American surgeons work with remarkable skill and precision." Thus speaks Einar Key, head physician of the Marlo hospital in Stockholm, and one of Sweden's best known surgeons, upon returning from a three months' trip to the United States, where he had visited leading hospitals and observed the work of the most eminent surgeons.

While in America Doctor Key lectured at a medical congress arranged by the American College of Surgeons in Boston. He visited large clinics in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Cleveland, Baltimore, Syracuse and other places. He declares that American hospitals have better laboratory facilities than those in Europe, while he finds the Swedish hospitals, as a rule are brighter and more cheerful than those of America.

The Church Cow.

A Presbyterian church in North Carolina has just bought a cow! The church carries on a large work in the "poor section" of the town, where many children need pure, fresh milk, but are not able to secure it. The church hires out the cow to poor families with small children at very reasonable rates. The cow gives about four gallons a day, which is sufficient for seven families. These families usually have enough small boys to herd the cow on the public commons and to see that each family gets its share. The experiment is so successful that the money secured for the hire of the cow is being laid aside for the purchase of another cow.—London Post.

CALLS FOR CAREFUL WORK

"Miners" Who Dig for Specimens of Extinct Animals for Museums Must Be Experts.

Few persons contemplating the remarkable specimens of extinct animals to be seen in some museums realize the amount of work which has been entailed in the uncovering and preparation of these specimens. In the first place, a well-equipped expedition is generally sent out to look for these bones, and many miles are sometimes covered in the search of a likely spot for operations. Even then tons of sand are carefully moved often without uncovering the bones that are being sought.

The removal of the soil can be done only by those who are familiar with the work, for an inexperienced hand could readily do much damage by not knowing how to proceed. When a bone has been located it is uncovered slowly by the aid of small brushes and delicate implements. The bones when found are exceedingly brittle and must be handled with the greatest of care. When they are finally brought to light they are given a coat of shellac and then placed in a bath of flour paste.

They are then carefully wrapped in strips of fabric and put in boxes. When the latter are placed in crates for shipment the smaller boxes are surrounded with cotton and other material to prevent any possibility of damage being done to the specimens.

CASE OF REAL FRIENDSHIP

Old Maid's Philosophy Might Be Disputed, but She Was Undoubtedly a True "Chum."

The young principal of a Hoosier school had to borrow some money in a hurry or some of his debtors would notify the school board of his indebtedness to them. He went to a bank and was told it would be all right if one of the teachers of his building would go his security. He went to the oldest and most faithful one in the building.

While they were talking, the principal's young wife, resplendent in fine raiment, with her best friend, the mayor's wife, came through the room on her way to her husband's office. She gave the teacher a condescending nod and told her husband she wished to see him in his office. With an apology on his lips the young fellow followed the snobby wife.

For a minute the little old maid hesitated, then she signed the note, and started one of the pupils toward his office before another snubbing from his wife would make the work of indemnifying that note harder. "After all, a friend should be more loyal than even a wife," she argued to herself.—Indianapolis News.

And Wife.

This story concerns a certain public official prominent in Marion county political life who recently became a bridegroom and went on a honeymoon journey to the South.

The man and his young bride stopped at a hotel in a Florida city and as he proceeded to the hotel register she waited several paces in his rear. It seemed to him that some one had announced to the bellboy, the porter, the clerk and every one about that he was just married, for they waited and watched eagerly. He wrote something and started toward his wife.

"Haven't you forgotten something, sir?" the clerk asked.

The husband turned quickly, sized up the situation in his mind hurriedly and with a snap of his finger, characteristic of him, he said:

"By dad, I most certainly have."

With that he returned to the register and to his own name, which he already had written he added "and wife."—Indianapolis News.

Telephone Service in Morocco.

It is said that Tangier, Morocco, is one of the first cities outside the United States in which telephones were used, the service having been established there more than forty years ago. Practically the same system, however, is still in use. The circuits are all operated on a one-wire basis with the earth as the return conductor. Although nominally each of the 600 subscribers has a number, the person making the call usually asks for his party directly by name. At the present time the installation of a new system is under way, consisting of the latest type of common battery switchboard and instruments.

Record Slow Mail.

An English newspaper reports the recent delivery of a letter containing a key which reached its destination fifty-six years after it was mailed.

M. Bergamin, Spanish minister of finances, declared recently that he had just returned a letter containing certification of the public accounts of Gerone Province and addressed to a director general of accounts who was removed from office February 1, 1866.

It had taken this letter sixty-six years and eight months to reach its destination. It contained a statement of the funds at that time in the provincial treasury.

It Does Look Just Like It.

Charles was spending his first vacation of his five years' existence with his parents at the lake. The wind came up one night, and the next morning Charles looked out on a lake covered with white-caps. Much excited, he ran into the house to his mother.

"Mother, mother!" he exclaimed "some one threw paper all over the lake last night."

GET PHONE NUMBER WITHOUT OPERATOR.

Subscribers of the Sherwood central office of the Bell Telephone company are now using dials in making telephone calls. They no longer hear an operator's voice when they lift the receiver from the hook, but instead get their connection directly, after manipulating the dial.

The Sherwood central is the first Bell office in Pennsylvania to install machine-switching, although the company is using the new system in New York city, Omaha and some smaller places. Officials say no operators will lose their places because of the machine-switching, but that it will take care of the increased demand for service. There happens to be a shortage of operators.

The change to machine-switching required only a few moments and caused no interruption of service. Daily rehearsals had been held and every person knew exactly what to do and when to do it. A schedule was planned and followed to the second. At the moment agreed upon, one group of men cut the wires connecting Sherwood subscribers with the manual switchboard, and immediately thereafter another group removed the wedges from relays which, until then, had kept the machine-switching equipment from working.

The manual equipment in the Sherwood office, Fifty-seventh and Chestnut streets, will not be removed but will be placed into service at the Granite central office to handle some of the calls now being made through the Belmont, Preston, Baring and Woodland centrals.

Although no other central office in that vicinity uses machine-switching, it was necessary to install special apparatus in all, so that calls may be handled from the Sherwood machine-switching office. A person need not know whether the number he calls uses machine-switching. Calls between Sherwood office and other offices are handled as expeditiously as if all were using the same system.

The switchboard of the machine-switching apparatus is, perhaps, the most complicated piece of electrical machinery in use. It seems almost human in its ability to select the right number from among thousands.

The principal officials of the Bell company witnessed the change to the new system. Leonard H. Kimmard, president of the company, in Pennsylvania, personally supervised the change. Among the visitors were telephone men from New York, Chicago, Boston, Baltimore, Washington and other cities.

Already Here.

Charles M. Schwab said at a dinner in New York.

"They tell us to beware of a social revolution, but hasn't a social revolution already taken place?"

"A bricklayer called on a college professor the other day and said: 'Say, prof, my daughter wants to study Greek. Like to have a job of teaching her?'"

"Indeed I should!" said the professor eagerly. "Suppose I gave her three lessons a week—one hour lessons, you know. How would that hour?"

"Humph!" said the bricklayer. "How much are you goin' to charge an hour?"

"The professor laughed genially. 'It'll be quite fair,' he said. 'I'll make my rate per hour just the same as yours.'"

"The bricklayer turned red in the face. His eyes bulged. 'You profiteer! extortioner!' he growled as he clumped out."

Shipment of Deer from Michigan.

Three buck deer and two does that were captured at Munsing, Mich., by game wardens arrived in Altoona on Thursday of last week and were received by game warden Frank A. Myers. The animals were liberated in the Bees Creek game preserve. This is the second shipment of Michigan deer sent to Blair county, as the week previous Mr. Myers received three does from that State, the animals being taken to the Dry Run section and liberated.

The Michigan deer are much larger than the Pennsylvania deer, one of the does liberated two weeks ago weighing 215 pounds. The deer received last Thursday were sent by express and were crated and taken to the game sections in automobile trucks.

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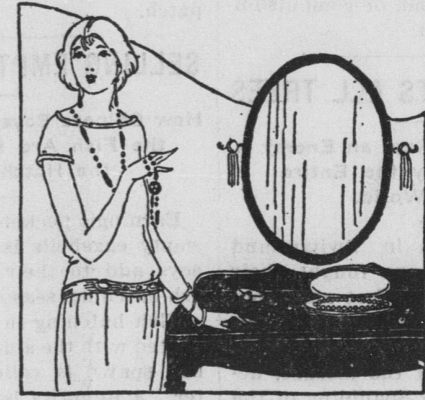


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