

FRENCH BORDER TO HAVE STEEL WALL

Republic Unworried by Arms Cut Discussions.

Paris.—Whatever arms cuts may, or may not, be decided upon at Geneva, France is taking it for granted that her present vast scheme of frontier fortification will not be effected and is pushing ahead the building of the country's great steel wall.

Stretching from the English channel to the Mediterranean, the chain of modernized forts and pill-boxes is due for completion in two years, at a cost of \$100,000,000. The father of the extensive defense chain was the late M. Andre Maginot, minister of war.

The great Hadrian wall in England, dating from the time of the Romans, the great wall of China, even the World War Hindenburg line, were mere straw defenses compared with the barrier France has set up as her protection from foreign foes. One of the mightiest forts in the chain, at Hackenberg, facing Germany, has been described as a man-made Gibraltar.

Underground Arsenal.
Deep down in the earth, the engineers of the French army have dug out an underground arsenal, fitted with mechanical appliances, whereby shot and shell can be rushed by a system of underground railroad to any of the smaller, subsidiary posts in the scheme of defense. The Hackenberg defends the great industrial area of Metz.

There are other big mountains of steel like the Hackenberg fort, but some of them are above ground, like the Howald.

These and half a dozen other big forts keep guard over the 220 miles of frontier from the edge of the tiny territory of Luxembourg down to the Swiss border. Linked with the big forts are numerous smaller pill boxes, or machine-gun posts, some sunk even in the marshes of the Rhine.

Mounds of Steel.
Going along northern France by road, the traveler passes at regular intervals these mounds of steel, small or large, peeping from the earth, each with its gun, or guns, ready.

Cross-fire between the forts would result in the creation of what, the French general staff believe, would be an impenetrable barrier in which no human thing could live.

From the English channel down to Luxembourg, the defenses are not so important, being composed mainly of machine-gun nests.

Spanish Royal Palace Is Now Open to Public

Madrid.—The former royal palace at Madrid, one of the finest in the world, has been thrown open to the public as the "Museum of the Republic."

Visitors are allowed to see the throne room, sitting rooms, banquet halls, the famous "Hall of Columns," where so many functions—including that of foot-washing on Good Friday—took place, but so far they are not permitted to visit the private apartments and bedrooms formerly occupied by the king, queen and the infants.

During the days of the monarchy, the palace was not open to the public, but it was nevertheless possible to gain admittance through a letter from one's embassy, provided the royal family was not in residence at that time.

Judge's English Bad, but His Law Is Good

Bridgeport, Conn.—Superior Court Judge Foster gave himself zero in English, but marked himself 100 in law.

Counsel sought to have his judgments in two civil actions set aside because he used faulty language, saying "an ordinarily reasonable and prudent person." Foster declining to set aside the judgments said:

"This group of words constitute awkward, clumsy and imperfect English. In place of these words there should be substituted 'reasonably prudent person.' But the only power the court has to disturb the verdict is based on some error of law by the judge or jury."

Expedition Discovers Old Assyrian Tablets

Philadelphia.—A highly colored mammoth figurine of a bull, decorated with gold trappings, has been found by the University of Pennsylvania archaeological expedition at Tell Billa in Mesopotamia.

Word of the find was sent to the university museum by Dr. E. A. Speiser, field director of the expedition.

"In addition to the figure of the bull," Doctor Speiser reported, "we have unearthed a number of Assyrian tablets, a gold carving and a beautifully carved small ivory plaque more than 4,000 years old."

Texas English Teacher Has Remarkable Record

Austin, Texas.—Dr. Morgan Callaway, Jr., of the University of Texas, ranks second in the nation in the length of service as a college English teacher, according to the English Journal, a publication for teachers.

Doctor Callaway has been teaching for 51 years, the last 41 at the university here. His record is exceeded only by that of James Main Dixon, at the University of Southern California.

WHY Special Weave of Blanket Makes for Warmth

Blankets, contrary to a popular belief, are not heat-producing like a hot-water bottle. No blanket ever created heat. It can merely hold in body warmth, and its heat-retaining qualities are brought about by napping.

The warmth value of a blanket, as explained in Dupont's Magazine, depends more upon its construction than upon the materials from which it is made. Some people believe they would freeze if they used a cotton blanket in the winter time. But a double-woven cotton blanket can be superior to a poorly napped wool blanket in retaining heat.

For example, take nature's method of covering an animal during winter. As cold weather approaches, a thick undercoating of fur—called pelage—grows close to the animal's body. Millions of air spaces between the fine hairs in this undercoating hold in the natural body heat and keep out cold air. Extra napping on blankets insures extra layers of air spaces similar to those in animals' fur.

Napping means simply this: After a blanket has been woven, the fibers of the yarn are pricked up by wire brushes, so that millions of tiny air spaces or air cells are produced. The dead air trapped in these spaces prevents the conduction of heat from the body. The thicker and loftier the nap, the "warmer" the blanket.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Why Dahlias Were First Imported Into America

Unusual questions are commonplace in the mail of the United States Department of Agriculture. Often the answers provided by the specialists in the various bureaus of the department bring to light facts of a sort not anticipated in the request for information.

An interesting example occurred recently. The editor of an agricultural paper in the South could not answer when a subscriber inquired whether dahlias roots could be used for hog feed.

He passed the question along to the press service of the department. The press service could not answer. A specialist in the feeding of swine had never heard of dahlias roots as a part of a menu for porkers.

But Mr. David Griffiths, bulb culture specialist, was able to answer the question. Dahlias roots have some nutritive value and would not be poisonous to swine. He added that the original importations of dahlias into this country were made with the intention of using the roots for human food, a bit of information of interest to dahlias fanciers.

Why Gold Is Weighed

In the case of a small deposit a bank probably would accept, for instance a \$10 or \$20 deposit in gold coin on the basis of the sum stamped on its face. In any considerable sum, however, the bank would weigh the gold coins. Gold weighs so easily. If a \$100 deposit in gold coin weighed a little light, credit on the bank book would be given for only \$98 or \$97, or whatever the subtraction through wear might show. This is not necessary in accepting deposits of silver or paper, because the government guarantees the value of these. Gold must stand on its own weight and fineness and, therefore, is the standard.

Why Known as 'Indians'

Indian is an adjective originally derived from India and was properly applied to the people of that country. It was transferred to the native peoples of America through a geographical and historical mistake. When Christopher Columbus began his first journey of exploration in 1492 his purpose was to sail to India. When two months later he sighted land he believed he had reached that country, and as a natural consequence he referred to the natives as Indians. Since that time the misnomer has been applied to the races of the New world, with the exception of the Eskimos.

Why Coin Is "Dime"

"Dime" is derived from the Latin "decem" meaning 10, or "decimus," one-tenth. In the Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries "dime" was applied in England to the tithe or tenth part of one's income paid to the church. According to the King James version of the Bible, the last part of Genesis 14:20 reads, "He gave him tithes of all." John Wyclif translated this passage, "He gave him dimes of all things." The American 10-cent piece was called a dime because it represents the tenth part of a dollar, the national monetary unit.

Why Teeth Decay

Calcium, in combination with phosphorus and oxygen, is an important constituent of the bones and teeth. A lack of this element in the diet, particularly of the growing child, should be avoided. There are of course various reasons for tooth decay, apart from wrong diet.

Why Spokes in Flywheel

Weight in a flywheel is most effective in the rim, and the metal is placed where it will do the most good. Likewise, a solid wheel, unless it were a very small one, would be difficult to cast.

Why Mirage Is Seen

A mirage is due to the unequal heating of the different parts of the atmosphere, which bends the light rays and so produces distorted images.

BOY AND GIRL TO MAKE LOVE TEST?

Seek to Prove Wiles of Cupid Are Lasting.

Kansas City, Mo.—To prove that his wiles are lasting, Dan Cupid is about to be entered in a long contest with time, with the announcement of the winner to be made in five or six years.

The little fellow must stand by and watch the annulment of the marriage of Kathleen Stewart, fifteen, said to be a granddaughter of Col. Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, and Paul T. Lange, Jr., eighteen, son of a Kansas City druggist.

Proceedings for the annulment were made at the direction of the bride's mother, Mrs. Robert Anderson.

Cupid may hover as close to his victims as he chooses while the girl pursues her studies at the exclusive Barstow School for Girls here and the boy attends college. These are the terms of an agreement reached by the bride, bridegroom and their parents.

If, at the end of the school year, Cupid is the master of the situation, Paul and Kathleen again may become engaged.

But then looms another separation. According to Paul T. Lange, father of the bridegroom, Robert G. Stewart of New York, father of Kathleen, has promised to send her to Vassar college for four years and Paul will begin a two-year course at the University of Kansas.

After that the winner of the contest, between Cupid and time will be announced, and if the principals in the 1931 holiday romance still are as much in love they may be remarried with their parents' blessings.

The couple eloped to Merriam, Kan., and were married without the consent of their parents. Both gave their ages as over eighteen, to eliminate the necessity of obtaining their parents' permission.

Stillwater Vets Form a New Last Man's Club

Stillwater, Minn.—Another "Last Man's club" composed of veterans of the World War is being formed here.

The original "Last Man's club," composed of Civil War soldiers, held its last meeting and disbanded two years ago, with Charles M. Lockwood of Chamberlain, S. D., the last survivor.

The new club, to be known as the "Bully Beef club," is made up of 285 American Legion men identified with the Stillwater post, although all are not residents here.

Instead of the famous bottle of Bully wine that graced the annual banquet table of the original club, a can of "bully beef" brought back from France by Doctor Frissell of Brownstown, Minn., will be the trophy of the new club. It is to be opened by the last survivor, probably 50 years from now.

Jobless, Gets \$1,000 for Finding \$25,000 Gems

New York.—Charles Kane, forty-year-old jobless farmhand, shuffled along the Bronx river parkway near Hartsdale and stumbled on a valise containing jewels valued at \$25,000.

He was "broke." So he "dagged" notoriety with his thumb, begged jackets until he had 15 cents and called a telephone number he found in the valise. The valise belonged to Mrs. Robert T. Stone of New York. It had bounced out of a car driven by her sister, Miss Edith McCoon. Insurance agents for Mrs. Stone paid Kane \$1,000.

Soviet Ex-Stammerers Speak at Convention.

Moscow.—A conference of ex-stammerers took place here in which every delegate proved his right to attend by making a speech. Addressing the conference of former stammerers, Professor Vsevolod Kostchenko said that there are 2,000,000 persons with speech defects in the country and that practically all are curable. "Tractor" and "plattletka" (five year plan) are among the most difficult words for stammerers to pronounce.

Discover East African Frog That Hates Water

Boston.—A frog that never goes near the water is one of the curiosities noted by Arthur Loveridge of Harvard's museum of comparative zoology during a trip through East Africa. He found this type of frog in an exceedingly dry and sandy region.

Old Size Money Out Totals \$573,000,000

Washington.—More than \$573,000,000 in old-fashioned over-size paper currency is still floating about the country. This money, representing almost 9 per cent of all the paper money in existence, is believed to be held largely by hoarders. Banks have long since ceased using it and have turned it in for exchange for the smaller and handier size.

Treasury officials say it is entirely too early to decide just how much of the money is being hoarded and how much has been lost, destroyed or removed from circulation channels in other ways.

HOW THE MUSIC OF BIRDS IS AFFECTED BY WEATHER.

The song of birds is affected by weather changes, according to an English naturalist, H. G. Alexander, who has been making a study of the effects of atmospheric conditions on our feathered friends, says Charles Fitzhugh Talman, in his Science Service feature, "Why the Weather?" (Washington):

"Changes in weather, especially the onset of severe cold or snow, have an influence upon the amount of bird song, but the effects are different for different species.

"Freezing weather reduces the amount of song of the ground-feeding species, such as skylarks and thrushes, while cold winds have the same effect upon more arboreal feeders.

"Some species, including the coal-tit, respond vocally to sunshine, and some, such as the blackbird, are encouraged by rain. The investigator suggests that sunshine or rain may affect the food supply of these birds and thus induce song, but rain stimulates blackbirds more than either thrushes or robins, though the food is very similar."—Literary Digest.

How Element of Chance Evolved Safety Glass

Twenty-five years ago M. Edouard Benedictus, a French chemist, while at work in his laboratory, reached up for a bottle on a high shelf and accidentally upset its neighbor. The overturned bottle fell with a crash to the stone floor some six feet below. Mr. Benedictus was astonished to find that though the glass was cracked in all directions the bottle was not broken. His attention was attracted by the striking appearance of the cracked bottle. He picked it up and examined it. Then it occurred to him that the bottle had originally held a solution of liquid celluloid. This had evaporated, leaving the glass inside covered with a transparent coating.

Mr. Benedictus immediately conceived the idea of safety glass but at that time there was little use for it.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

How Plant Snare Insects

One of the most curious of all New Zealand plants says Nature Magazine is the little sundew whose white blooms enliven the woods in July and August. It is one of the carnivorous plants, the leaves of which are covered with little red hairs each tipped with a drop resembling dew. When these hairs are excited by an insect alighting on the leaves, they slowly bend, and the insect is rolled to the center, where it soon dies. If an inorganic body, such as a stone, which it cannot digest and is therefore of no use, is placed on the leaf, the tentacles respond and close over it, but the plant soon discovers its mistake and they open again.

How Bookplates Originated

From the time Hildebrand Braun denburg of Bibebrach presented a gift of books to the Carthusian monks of Buxheim with a colored wood cut of an angel bearing a shield, a mark of his ownership of the books, the art of the bookplate has flourished and developed steadily. The earliest bookplates generally bore heraldic devices, with mottoes and armorial bearings, not counting many whimsicalities. The early American bookplates were nearly always imported ones. They were either engraved in England or by English artists here.

How Barnacle Feeds

It is literally true that every time a barnacle opens his mouth he puts his foot in it. When exposed to air, the barnacle keeps the trap door across the top of his shell tightly closed. But when the tide comes in and covers him, the trap door opens and out comes several pairs of feathery feet which wave about, politely kicking small atoms of sea food into the hungry barnacle's mouth, says an article in St. Nicholas.

How Congress Is Numbered

Since the senate is a continuous body only the house of representatives is considered in numbering congresses of the United States. The Constitution went into effect March 4, 1789, and the first congress was the congress between that date and March 4, 1791, when the second congress came into existence and lasted two years, and so on. A congress is elected in the even years and takes office in the odd years.

How "Silencer" Works

The National Rifle association says that the Maxim silencer works on the same principle as an auto muffler. The tube is screwed on the muzzle of the gun. This tube consists of series of baffles that causes the gases to issue slowly instead of with a sudden rush. It is this rush of powder gas from the muzzle of the gun which creates a vacuum, causing the report when discharged.

How to Mend Umbrella

One of the best home methods of mending a tiny hole in an umbrella is to place a piece of sticking plaster under the hole. Before applying the plaster dampen it and then press it firmly into place.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

J. I. Wagner, et ux, to Harold Hendricks, tract in Liberty Twp.; J. I. Wagner, et ux, to Mary E. Hendricks, tract in Liberty Twp.; \$5.
Sarah A. Wagner, et bar, to Mary E. Hendricks, tract in Liberty Twp.; \$5.
H. C. Evey, et ux, to John W. Spotts, et ux, tract in Ferguson Twp.; \$1.

H. C. Evey, et ux, to John W. Spotts, et ux, tract in Ferguson Twp.; \$1.
H. Leigh Ebricht, Adm., to Bertha Hironimus, tract in Centre Hall; \$1,803.59.
Spring Creek Cemetery to Thompson A. Snyder, tract in College Twp.; \$30.
John M. Hartswick, et ux, to David L. Behrs, et al, tract in State Joseph K. Bitner to Junie C. Swabb, tract in Gregg Twp.; \$4.

Looking Ahead

Spring is here, but the "Big Spring Drive," promised from Washington, has not materialized.

The Promised Land is not in sight.

But acute and experienced observers like Colonel Ayers, of Cleveland, are hopeful, and the scientific analysis of conditions made by the Standard Statistics Company indicate that the present sluggishness means only a further postponement of business revival.

Great corporations are preparing for this revival in the face of the current depression. They look ahead.

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