

The Centre Reporter

CENTRE HALL, PA.

ENGLISH SPEECH FOR CHINA.

As nobody knows even approximately the number of inhabitants in the vast Chinese domain, so, perhaps, nobody can say definitely and positively how many distinct dialects are spoken by the peoples of the different provinces. A recent authority puts the number at "over a hundred." So widely differing in many respects are many of these dialects that they constitute practically distinct languages. To endeavor to group, combine and standardize these languages into one common speech for the whole empire would be a work of many years and of immense difficulties. In fact, it would seem to be an undertaking involving greater difficulties than the introduction of a complete new tongue. And it must be remembered that the official and educated classes are familiar already with English. The language is taught in the universities and many of the schools. It is the common medium of official communication with other governments. At the same time, the leaders of the new movement are enthusiastic friends of our country. If the republican movement shall succeed, that success may be followed by the transformation of the Chinese into an English-speaking people.

It was noted in these columns recently that the price of platinum in the New York market had risen to the highest figure ever reached—over seven hundred dollars a pound. All over the world the demand for platinum arising from the use of the metal in electrical appliances has made it highly prized. In connection with this subject a curious story comes from Paris. It is said that a number of twenty-franc gold pieces forged in the reign of Napoleon III., have been found to be worth at least double their face value. This is due to the fact that in the alloy of which these forged coins were made platinum was used. At that time platinum was cheap. A pound weight of it could be bought for a few shillings. The spurious twenty-franc pieces contain about six grammes of platinum each, and today these six grammes are worth about \$9.

A crusade on "fads and trills" in the public schools of the city is to be started in New York, with more thoroughness and less experimentation as its slogan. Everywhere there seems stirring this revolt against the excessive system of experiment to which the schools have been subjected, with corresponding loss of thorough grounding in essentials. The educational theories of the present seem to share the prominent American craze for speed, more or less regardless of the risks involved in attaining it. The agitation, which appears to be general, will doubtless result in restoring the pendulum, which has swung too far in both directions of conservatism and progress, to its normal swaying.

It's well to be clean, but if you wash your rugs with gasoline, be careful. A Springfield, Mass., merchant, who is fastidious, had his office rugs scrubbed with gasoline and then gone over with a vacuum cleaner operated by electricity. The cleaner collected gasoline fumes which were ignited by an electric spark, whereupon there was an explosion and a blaze necessitating a call on the fire department.

That collision between a steamship in the merchant service and a United States armored cruiser in the harbor of Honolulu, in which the cruiser was so badly damaged as to necessitate immediate retirement for repairs, was the merchant ship steamed off apparently uninjured, might be cited as illustrating Kipling's assertion to the effect that the "weaker vessel" is the deadlier of the two.

Prof. Worthington told a London audience that in order to obtain pictures of what happened when a drop of water fell into a vessel containing water he had taken photographs by an electric spark of the duration of three-millionths of a second. Some day, perhaps, Prof. Worthington will be able to take a photograph of the drug store soda-fountain wink.

One of the baseball umpires announces that it is not wise to see too much while umpiring. It isn't what an umpire sees, but what he hears or feels that makes his task a heavy one.

It is proposed in Spokane to make no policeman out of applicants whose valists are greater than their chests. However, rotundity will come with police service, as of old.

A Chicago man says ragtime is as dangerous as whisky. And just as disagreeable to take.

The debt of New York is larger than that of the nation. But then New York has all our money.

MINERS REFUSE TO COMPROMISE

All Negotiations With Operators Are Off.

WHITE EXPECTS A WALKOUT

Operators Regard Demands Impossible Of Concession—No Formal Strike Will Be Declared Until After March 25.

New York.—"All negotiations with the anthracite coal operators are off," declared John P. White, president of the United Mine Workers of America, at the adjournment of the meeting between the miners and operators, in which the miners declined the operators' counter proposition.

"I look for a general suspension of work on April 1," he added.

What They Demand.

Reiterating demands for a recognition of the union, an increase of 20 per cent. in wages, a shorter working day and other changes, the Mine Workers replied to the counter-proposition offered them by the anthracite coal operators.

The operators' proposition is declined.

The meeting between the miners and the operators was brief. Mr. White read to the operators the miners' reply to their rejection of the miners' demands. It was received without comment, and the meeting adjourned without delay.

None of the operators was willing to talk.

Reply Of Miners.

"We regret the positive position you have taken," the miners' reply reads, "as we had hoped that as the representatives of the anthracite coal operators you would consider the great change in conditions existing now as compared with those of 1902, upon which the Coal Strike Commission gave its award; and would, therefore recognize the reasonableness of the demands of the anthracite mine workers and make such concessions as industrial and market conditions and conditions of living unquestionably now warrant.

"Your proposal to renew the present agreement does not appeal to us, nor will it appeal to the people we represent. The award of the Coal Strike Commission was not intended to continue in effect for all time thereafter, regardless of how materially industrial and other conditions might change, and does not adequately meet changed conditions now in effect."

The reply says in conclusion: "Now, firmly believing that as public-spirited citizens we have done more than our full duty during all these years when anthracite operators employed unprecedented prosperity, we feel that the responsibility which might follow failure to reach a satisfactory settlement of the questions at issue, when weighed by a discriminating public, cannot be placed upon the anthracite mine-workers or their representatives."

DR. WILEY RESIGNS.

Food Expert Says He Has No Statement To Make Now.

Washington.—Harvey W. Wiley, Uncle Sam's chief chemist and father of the Pure Food Law, ended his long and honorable service with the government Friday, tendering his resignation to Secretary of Agriculture Wilson.

"There is no statement I can make now," was his declaration.

"Dr. Wiley has resigned; that is all I can say now," was the comment of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson.

Dr. Wiley's resignation caused no great surprise, following numerous reports that he would sever his connection with the government because of constant conflict in his department. For two years Dr. Wiley's official path has been beset with storms. It is understood that he will become the editor of a publication.

Ever since he entered the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Wiley has waged unceasing warfare in behalf of pure foods and drugs, and he has been a terror to food adulterators. So great was his popularity with the public at large that, when recently President Taft was asked to depose him for insubordination, thousands of petitions poured into the White House from all sections of the country asking that his services be retained at any and all cost.

Dr. Wiley was appointed chief chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1883, leaving the position of state chemist of Indiana to accept the post.

FIRE DESTROYS CHURCH.

Atlantic City Episcopalians Lose Their Beautiful Edifice.

Atlantic City, N. J.—St. James' Protestant Episcopal Church, on Pacific avenue in this city, was burned Friday. The church had been prepared for confirmation services. Bishop Scarborough, of the New Jersey diocese, was in the rectory at the time and aided in saving some of the church property. The loss is estimated at \$60,000.

SWARMIN' AGAIN



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LABOR MEN PLEAD NOT GUILTY

Motion To Quash the Indictments Is Overruled by Judge Anderson—Thirty Days Granted To Defense To File Exceptions.

Indianapolis, Ind.—"Not guilty" was the plea of 46 men arraigned in the Federal Court here on indictments charging complicity in the alleged conspiracy unlawfully to transport dynamite from state to state. Judge A. B. Anderson overruled all demurrers of the defense, but granted 30 days for the filing of exceptions to his ruling. A motion to consolidate the cases, made by United States District Attorney Charles W. Miller, was sustained, but the court consented to hear attorneys for the defense if they decide to petition for separate trials. The court instructed that the defendants appear when presentation of the matter is made. The trial was set for October 1.

When Judge Anderson announced he would overrule the demurrers to 34 indictments, he turned to the defendants, for whom seats had been arranged in tiers, and said:

"Gentlemen, do you know the nature of the charges against you?"

"We do," came in a heavy chorus.

Then one by one the indicted men, present or former union officials from many sections of the country, and headed by Frank M. Ryan, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, arose as their names were called by the clerk and responded: "Not guilty."

Attacks from many angles were made upon the indictments charging the defendants with aiding and abetting Orrie E. McManigal and John J. and James B. McNamara in the transportation of dynamite on passenger trains; with being principals with McManigal and the McNamaras in the illegal acts and with having conspired to violate the statutes prohibiting such transportation.

That the statute of limitations had run against the offense of conspiracy alleged and that the indictment did not aver violation of law because it was not set out the defendants had mislabeled packages of explosives they were alleged to have carried on passenger trains, were the two principal contentions of counsel for the defense, Elijah Coline and Patrick O'Donnell, of Chicago; Walter Ball, of Muncie, Ind., and W. N. Harding, of this city.

TURKS REPORT GREAT VICTORY.

Say Italians Lost 2,000 in Eleven-Hour Battle.

Constantinople.—Edhem Pasha, the Turkish commander in the district of Benghazi, reports to the Turkish War Ministry an important Turko-Arab success at Tobruk.

He says that the Italians were driven out of their positions and retreated to their ships after a battle which lasted 11 hours. Edhem Pasha estimated the Italian casualties at 2,000 killed and wounded.

The Turkish losses were also very heavy, including many Arab women who were carrying supplies of ammunition to the Turkish troops in the fighting line.

MISTRIAL IN BATHTUB CASE.

Jury Seven For Acquittal and Five For Conviction.

Detroit, Mich.—The jury which has been trying the case of the government against the so-called Bath tub Trust in the Federal court here failed to reach an agreement and was discharged by Judge Angell. The jury was reported to have stood seven for acquittal and five for conviction.

JEFFERSON HIGHWAY.

Bill Provides For One From Charlottesville To Monticello.

Washington.—A hundred thousand dollar roadway and memorial arch for the home of Thomas Jefferson is proposed in a bill introduced in the House by Representative Flood, of Virginia. Mr. Flood wants \$50,000 appropriated to build a highway from Main street, Charlottesville, Va., to Monticello. A gate to Monticello he would have erected an archway to cost \$50,000.

MAINE WRECK IS "AT REST"

Ceremony Attends Burial of Historic Hull.

AN IMPRESSIVE SCENE

"Dynamite Johnny" Acts As the Maine's Last Pilot—Procession To Sea a Silent One, No Salutes Being Fired By Convoy.

Havana.—Under lowering skies and in a heavy tumbling sea the old battleship Maine, resurrected after 14 years' burial in Havana harbor, plunged, with her colors flying, to her everlasting rest, 600 fathoms deep in the sapphire waters of the Gulf. The sinking of the hulk was carried out precisely as planned, marking the end of the great work begun more than a year and a half ago.

After impressive ceremonies in the morning, which ended with the formal transfer of the custody of the bodies of the heroic dead by the Mayor of Havana, Julio de Cardenas, to Brig-Gen. W. H. Bixby, chief of the Engineer Corps, U. S. A., as the representative of the United States, the coffins were taken aboard the armored cruiser North Carolina, where they were deposited on the quarter deck, completely covered by a great mound of floral tributes, under a guard of honor, composed of marines. Minute guns were fired by the North Carolina and the scout cruiser Birmingham and the batteries of Cabanas fortress until the ships cleared the harbor.

The Voyage Seaward.

Soon after 2 o'clock the navy tug Osceola, aboard of which were the United States Minister, Arthur M. Beaupre, and the staff of the legation, Brigadier-General Bixby, Col. William M. Black, Lieut.-Col. Mason M. Patrick and Major Harley B. Ferguson, constituting the Maine commission, passed lines to the stern end of the wedge-shaped wreck, and started seaward. Two flanking tugs attached lines to either end of the bulkhead, which then became the after part of the hulk, for the purpose of steadying and steering her.

Her decks covered deep with flowers and palms and a great American ensign floating from the jury mast, where the mainmast formerly stood, the Maine put to sea on her last voyage.

On deck stood Capt. John O'Brien, famous as "Dynamite Johnny," skipper of the filibustering steamers Dauntless and Three Friends, acting as the Maine's last pilot. As the wreck passed the American squadron the crews manned the rails, the marines presented arms, the scarlet coated bandmen on the quarterdeck played the national anthem, while minute guns boomed a requiem.

Passing out of the harbor no salutes were fired, the flotilla, headed by the Maine, proceeding in silence with flags at half-mast. The course was almost due north, so as to keep the wreck head-on to the heavy seas and thus avoid the danger of falling into the trough.

Precisely at 5 o'clock the crew instantly threw open the valves, and Captain O'Brien jumped aboard a tug alongside, which steamed a little distance away. Then all eyes in the great fleet were fixed on the wreck, the crews of the warships lining the rails. All was silence but for the wash of the heavy seas.

For ten minutes no change was visible in the trim of the great, rusty, battered hulk, which pitched heavily as the huge rollers struck her. Then she was seen to be sinking at the bulkhead end. Soon the waves began to wash over her deck. As she remained pitching and wallowing each moment, settling deeper and deeper, the stern was seen to rise. In a few seconds the hulk was almost vertical, showing first the propellers and then the full keel. The next moment there was a flash of blue as the great ensign flying from the mast struck the waves and disappeared. Simultaneously the decks were blown up by the air pressure, and with incredible velocity the Maine plunged down, leaving no trace save flowers tossing on the surface of the sea.

Precisely 20 minutes elapsed from the opening of the valves until the vessel disappeared.

Hold-Up On Tenement Roof.

New York.—Guiseppe Dulaca, an Italian diamond merchant, was held up and robbed of diamonds and other jewelry valued at \$1,000 on the roof of a tenement in Harlem. After the robbery the man was badly beaten up. Four men were involved in the hold-up, and one of them has been captured.

Strikers Fight Police.

Boston.—The scene of the serious textile strike trouble in Massachusetts shifted from Lawrence to Barre. In a clash between strikers and the police and deputies three policemen were shot, two others injured with stones and a score or more of the strikers were clubbed so that it was necessary to call physicians to attend them. Only one arrest was made. Between 15 and 20 shots were fired. Women strikers were particularly bitter, urging the men on in their attack.

WAR IN THE AIR.

London.—The Daily Telegraph, in a paragraph under the head of "The Peace of Europe," says: "In diplomatic circles the European situation is giving rise to considerable anxiety. It is understood there is the possibility that an acute crisis already is engaging the attention of more than one of the great powers."

MOUSE IN THE BREAD.

Why a New York Woman Has Sued a Baker For Damages.

New York.—A mouse, discovered in a loaf of bread, is the cause of a \$10,000 damage action filed here in the Supreme Court by Mrs. Ida Seligman. She has sued a local bread company for injuries that she claims resulted from her discovery. Mrs. Seligman says that the sight of the mouse caused nausea, loss of sleep and appetite and constant recurring headaches.

BOY SCALDED TO DEATH.

Amherst, O.—Mrs. Angelo Miragliotta, 32, was arrested here on an affidavit sworn to by Mrs. Anthony Caltale, Mrs. Caltale charges that the two-year-old boy, Phillip, was killed by being thrown into a kettle of scalding water by Mrs. Miragliotta on February 28. Mrs. Miragliotta is in the county jail at Elyria.

MINER BLOWN TO PIECES.

He Put Electric Batteries and Explosives in Same Bag.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—John Gaddis, a miner, was blown to pieces in a peculiar accident at New Derry, Pa., near here. When he quit work Gaddis put his electric batteries and explosives used in blasting coal in a bag and swung it over his shoulder. The batteries, jarring together, short circuited, causing a spark, which ignited the explosives.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION REACHING AN ACUTE CRISIS.

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\$16,100 FOR PAINTING.

Vaughan Portrait of Washington Brings Record Price.

Philadelphia.—The Gilbert Stuart head of Washington, known as the Vaughan portrait, the feature of the sale of the art collection of the late Joseph H. Harrison, Jr., was sold at auction here to Thomas B. Clarke, of New York, after a lively competition, for \$16,100. This is a record price for the painting and brought the sale to a close, enough money being realized to pay the bequests in the will of Mrs. Sarah Harrison, whose executors conducted the sale. It was announced that the remainder of the collection, including the portraits of Washington and Franklin by Rembrandt Peale, will be presented to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

WHY KING GEORGE WILL TAKE NO TRIPS TO FOREIGN COURTS.

London.—All the projected visits of King George and Queen Mary to foreign courts have been abandoned for this year. The change in the royal program is attributed officially to the coal strike, but in all probability the tension in Anglo-German relations and the possibility of the occurrence of unpleasant incidents if the King and Queen appeared in Berlin have more to do with it than the labor trouble in the British Isles.

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