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Philadelphia, Monday, February 16, 1929

### A BOOMERANG FOR VARE

THE zest with which Mayor Moore has taken up Senator Vare's defiant utterances regarding Chief Hepburn's street-cleaning charges is comforting to a public disgusted with neglected streets and justly indignant over the abnormal remuneration alleged to have been accorded to incompetence.

It is encouragingly evident that Mr. Moore stands squarely back of Chief Hepburn in the latter's expose of the excessive profits which have been going to the negligent contractors and that any sa-called political pressure from the Vare camp will simply expedite a square deal and a vigorous reformation of conditions that have grown intolerable.

Mr. Moore is no cloistered critic. He has inspected thoroughfares whose condition he calls "disgraceful." His direct announcement that his administrationhas no intention whatever of surrendering to political contractors and examination of the Vare books "is not a bad idea" reveals the sort of vigor which will have \*the fullest measure of popular support.

### HOG ISLAND SIMPLIFIED

THE ultimate fate of Hog Island is unaffected by the purchase of the shipyard site by the United States shipping board. The government simply exercised an option which results in giving it full control of the yard.

The ownership of the land and the plant is now identical. Under the existing agreement the International Shipbuilding Corporation is to operate the yard until the twelve vessels now under way are completed. The disposition of Hog Island will then be a problem for the government to determine.

Whether it is to be scrapped or utilized according to its possibilities will depend on the initiative of the public the vigor of private enterprise. What has happened is merely a simplification of ownership titles.

## THE RAIL DECISION

REPUDIATION by influential rail Without the active co-operation of locomotive engineers, firemen, trainmen, signal men and telegraphers, whose representatives decided to continue work for a peaceful adjustment of their claims, no serious interruption of rail service could be brought about by the maintenance-of-way men's union.

The older brotherhood leaders have learned to read the lesson of events. They know that any policy likely to carry a labor organization into conflict with the will of the country would certainly bring disaster and loss to the union itself. Ir accepting the suggestion for a later isettlement through a wage tribunal, which was advanced first by Mr. Hines and later by Mr. Wilson, they have made a strike seem highly improbable. And they left the maintenance-of-way men with no alternative but to co-operate with the other organizations in a settlement on the basis of patience and logic.

## DILUTED MILITARISM

HARD sledding is ahead for comtor Wadsworth and other pencemakers who continue to talk, with monotonous insistence, of war.

effects of General Wood's boom upon the country and they are shy. General Wood, as a presidential candidate, symbolizes a governmental policy of militaristic tendencies. His boom already wears a forlorn and weatherbeaten aspect.

Nothing sould more vividly suggest the desperation of the general's managers than their attempt to have the woman't evote organized to pull them out of the mire. Much ten wu- poured at the suffrage convention in Chicago in behalf of the soldier exadidate, but one may limited potentiality in any emergency involving the feminine mind and feminine

In the debate on compulsory training we shall hear much about the benefits it might provide for the youth of the land. Much of this will be true. Camp life is stimulating. So is golf and tennis and

Rational objection to the pending Senate bill is due to its luck of candor and whe inefficiency of the scheme which it presents. It is misleading. It would not provide for an actual army.

The country dislikes militarism and the Senate military committee proffers a doubtful substitute. If the country were to appropriate a billion a year to give its eyouth two weeks of outdoor sport would do all that the Senate can have a achieve by its present plan. wouldn't be deluded with a false sense

of armed prowess.

youthful officers who, with the material for a good-sized army under their hands, could not be content for long. An officer's life is dull in times of peace. Moreover, it is unprofitable. Active service brings not only diversion. It also brings

promotions and higher pay. The people of the United States should first be permitted to know whether they are in need of a large military establishment. If the need exists it should be met with scientific thoroughness and not by a costly makeshift devised by men who know more about politics than they know about military technique.

### THE LANSING INCIDENT AND AUTOCRATIC PRESIDENCIES

Stand-Pat Leaders in Both Parties Likely to Redouble Their Efforts to Nomi-

nate a "Safe" Candidate in June A SIDE from the merits of the contro-versy between the President and Mr. Lansing, its effects upon the immediate future deserve more than passing con-

The first and most obvious result to be expected is the disruption of the Democratic party by factional quarrels.

Mr. Wilson has had remarkably unanimous support from his party. When he took office he was the one man in it who had definite and positive policies. He knew what he wanted. The other leaders had been devoting themselves for so many years to destructive criticism of Republican policies that they were not able to agree on any constructive program. Mr. Wilson took them by the scruff of the neck and shook some sense into them. Then like whipped dogs they followed where he led. To the surprise of every one he held them together and forced them to pass bill after bill to carry out the program that he had laid down. He has been the Democratic party for the last seven years.

But there have been whisperings of discontent heard in Washington from time to time. Now and then the discontent has been shouted aloud in the Senate. But on the whole the Democratic leaders have subordinated their own views to those of the President. The reluctance with which they have done this has increased with the years. Men familiar with their temper have for months been looking for an open revolt to occur at any time. The President is entering on his last year of office. His power to reward and punish will soon disappear, and the party leaders are aching for a pretext for asserting them-

The treatment of Mr. Lansing, who, like the party leaders, has subordinated his own opinions to those of the President out of considerations of personal loyalty and high-minded patriotism, exhibits to the others the kind of a reward they may expect for this kind of fealty.

So we may expect the Democratic leaders in and out of Congress who carry their brains under their own hats to begin to say in public what they have long been saying and thinking in private, and the Democratic party will cease to consist of one man. Unless all signs fail the party will enter the presidential campaign in as great a state of demoralization as it entered the campaign of 1896 when Graver Cleveland had disrupted it by his persistent determination to have his own way, regardless of the political conse-

But the action of the President will not affect the Democratic party alone. As it is the culmination of the conditions which inevitably accompany the administration unions of the minority that clamored of a man of dominant personality who for a transportation strike was inevi- refuses to play the game with proper regard to the susceptibilities ciates, the disposition of the leaders in both parties toward the nomination for the presidency next summer of a man who will regard himself as their associate rather than as their boss is likely to be

strengthened. That disposition is already manifest. The organization Republicans have been looking with favor on Senator Harding, of Ohlo, and Governor Lowden, of Illinois, just as in earlier days they looked with favor on William McKinley. Mark Hanna nominated McKinley because it was known that the candidate would work harmoniously with the organization and would not try to set up a political dictatorship in the White House. The event justified anticipations. The change in relations between Congress and the President was just as great when Mc-Kinley succeeded Weveland as it was when Van Buren succeeded Jackson.

The organization Democrats are just as eager as the organization Republicans to bring about the nomination of a "safe" candidate who will play the game pulsory military training bills in with them. The Lansing incident will Congress despite President Wilson, Sena- | improve the chances of every such aspirant for the nomination from Governor Cox, of Ohio, to Senator Hitchcock, of Nepraska. Champ Clark, with his long Majorities representing both parties in experience in Congress, may even pose Washington have been observing the as the McKinley of 1920. If he had a Mark Hanna to back him he might win this year what he lost in 1912-the Democratic nomination. He has already put on the market a book containing the story of his life to serve as a campaign document.

The relation of all this to the prospect for the success of the efforts of those who wish to see Mr. Hoover nominated is not far to seek.

Every one who knows anything about Mr. Hoover is aware that if elected to venture to suppose that ton galore has a I the presidency he would not be a President of the McKinley or Van Buren type. His supreme qualifications lie in his wellsnown habit of going straight for what he is after and getting it regardless of political pressure. He would not play politics as President in the ordinary sense of the words. That is, he would not deal and dicker with party leaders for support. He would appeal to the country over the heads of the politicians. His friends are confident that the things he would seek to do would commend themselves so completely to the best judgment of the people that the politicians would have to fall in line or suffer the consequences.

As soon as the name of Mr. Hoover was mentioned in connection with the presidency the old-line politicians laughed at the suggestion. They said they did not even know whether he was a Republican or a Democrat, and that he could get no support until he declared himself. The danger of the compulsory training | He met this challenge by saying that system as it is now outlined is that it until the parties had declared themselves perpetoates a large organization of he did not know to which party he be-

longed in this crisis, thus challenging a definite and concrete statement of policy from men who never commit themselves to anything if they can help it, and rebuking the twaddle-mongers and political pifflers so completely as to gratify every one who has any respect for straight-

forward honesty. If the political paleontologists interested only in the fossilized formulas of a bygone age have their way no man of Mr. Hcover's type will be nominated by either party, not because there is any danger of Mr. Hoover becoming a party autocrat like Mr. Wilson, but because they wish the President to be merely a cog in the political machine, moving only

when the whole machine moves. If Mr. Hoover or a man approximating his independence and ability is nominated by either party it will be through the imperative demand of the country at large, a demand so unmistakable that the politicians dare not disregard it.

#### SHIPS ON THE BLOCK

THERE are so many elements of novelty in the auctioning off of the cream of the former German liners, which begins in Washington today, that certain misconceptions of the situation have been. perhaps, natural. In particular the status of all ships flying the American flag has been misunderstood, in some quarters deliberately, in others ingenuously.

As a matter of fact no special rulings are necessary to determine the government's rights over any unit of our commercial fleet in an emergency. Although owned by a company of international omposition, the St. Louis, St. Paul, New York and Philadelphia were promptly converted into scout cruisers in the Spanish War. Their American registry immediately established the jurisdiction of the United States.

John Barton Payne, chairman of the shipping board, has, however, performed a public service in explicitly outlining the conditions under which the thirty vessels, which once flew the red, white and black, are to be sold. No bids covering the entire fleet are to be accepted. The ships are to be sold to as many private companies as possible. They will always be available for government purposes. They must retain their American registry. They are to ply on routes which, in the opinon of the board, will best serve American commerce.

It is hard to see how legitimate criticism of such a plan can be made. In theory, at least, it is admirable. Practical considerations, however, demand that the ships should bring prices commensurate with their intrinsic worth.

Senator Ashurst's contention that the whole flect was to have been sold to a single concern for \$28,000,000 has been emphatically disputed. Had his forecast been verified the transaction would have been outrageous.

It is said that the Leviathan alone could not be replaced today for less than \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000. It is preferable for the ships to be retained by the board than to be sacrificed.

Fortunately, there are strong probabilities that the disposal of the ships will be rationally conducted and that bids will e entered from a variety of sources. The world is still short of merchant vessels. Passenger services under the American flag are still ridiculously disproportionate to the dignity of the nation and its commerical position.

That private ownership cannot be made profitable under the "dry" laws is a somewhat frivolous subterfuge. There is inadequate sea communication between the United States and so many foreign ports-in particular those of South America-that the demand for accommodation is far stronger than the call for highballs. If the "sports offended their reservations are still unlikely to go a-begging.

Opposition to the unprecedented auction sale is in direct conflict with the public's present marked antipathy to government ownership.

Chemists and the War Cutcheon told U. of P. students that chem-

ists were a dominant factor in the big war. He said truly that German chemists made it possible for Germany to make its wonderful display of martial strength at the beginning of the carpage. It might be well to note the fact, perhaps, that this use of chemistry was one of Germany's chief crimes. It revolu-tionized warfare and robbed it of all its chivalry. Once chemistry took a hand, how ever, it worked beneficently as well as malevlently, and unquestionably did its share-a big share-to bring the struggle to a successful conclusion. And not all the experiments born of the strife were for the furtherance of hostilities, for one of the important events of this bloody time was the discovery by American chemists of the secrets of German dyes.

Apart from misplaced The Janitor Approves, windows. lack of water and gas supply lights badly located and a badly arranged amphitheatre, it is said (by the junitor, perhaps) that the pathological laboratory of the Philadelphia General Hospital, designed by Philip II. Johnson, perpetual city architect, is all that can be desired. The janitor has a luxurious bathroom, which occupies more space than some of the workrooms for scientific investigators.

Are You Thankful? Says Senator Vare, "Philadelphia ought to go down on its knees and thank heaven for the street cleaning contractors it has got." The senator is to be congratulated on a joyous lack of proportion. His is a happy state of mind that a sense of humor would blast. Otherwise he might be destroyed when the Mayor gets after the "jokers."

Having been on the Floored! carpet for a week, street - cleaning contractors will go to the mat today.

There is bitter significance in the fact that the only bid thus far received for the Hog Island plant is from a junk firm. Philadelphia cannot afford the ignomi...y attached to such a transaction. Ifog Island is a valuable asset of which the city should avail

It is wisely remarked by a contemporary that if every householder cleaned the snow from in front of his house the whole street would be cleaned. He would eat the snow, we suppose, or boil it down on the kitchen

Perhaps the President has come to the conclusion that what he needs is an entirely new cabinet.

Maintenance-of-way men will doubtless see the true way of maintenance by keeping

## MILLION SHAKE EXPERTS

That Number, at Least, in the United States Have Had Experience of Earthquakes

### By GEORGE NOX McCAIN

ARE you one of the estimated million in the United States who have experienced an earthquake shock? The reports during the last six weeks of the earthquakes in southern Mexico have led to the question.

No other part of the Western Hemisphere in the last twenty years has experienced quite many seismic disturbances as southern Mexico. I have been interested in the accounts of

earthquakes in that region because I hapsened to be one of the estimated million who have felt the effects of a genuine earth

Not a mere earth shudder, either, which left its only record on the seismographs of the various meteorological stations in the country.

It occurred while traveling in what, down in Mexico, is known as the "tremblor" area; that is, the earthquake zone. It runs in rregular fashion across the country from the Guif of Tehuantepec to the bay, or gulf, of Campechy on the Atlantic side.

LONG and tiresome railroad ride from A Coaxaca landed me one afternoon in the little city of Orizaba, the last town of any consequence on the plateau before the railroad to Vera Cruz plunges down into the hot lands of the coastal regions.

There is one thing in Orizaba that attracts the attention of every observant American, or at least did, that ever descended at its station on the Vera Cruz-Mexico Railroad line. It is a great sign painted on the bricks of a high warehouse wall facing the station. It is in large white letters, unique because it is not only a good job of sign painting but is in English. It reads:

> Origaba manufactures the only Beer that ever made . Milwaukee jealous

The hotel was of the usual type of native Mexican hotel. It was a quadrangular building with a courtyard open to the sun, with fountain playing in the center. The basin of the fountain was surrounded by a low stone wall about eighteen inches high, and the water in the basin came to within about ix inches of the rim.

My room was on the second floor, opening upon a balcony or roofless corridor that over-

ung the courtyard.

This courtyard or patio was flagged with big stones. In its rear, on the ground floor of the hotel, were the quarters of the servants and peons employed around the place.

TT WAS a bright, hot afternoon, with not A a cloud in the sky. The courtyard was described and the hotel, from the prevailing quietude, seemed to be asleep. It was siesta. or rest-time. The single door opening on to the veranda

was wide open as I stood in front of the bureau shaving. There was no other exit from the room, which resembled a big stone Suddenly the floor seemed to rise and fall with an undulatory movement, and for an

nstant I experienced a feeling of nausea like sudden qualm of seasickness. "Your liver's out of order," was my mental exclamation as I steadied myself with one hand on the bureau?

Simultaneously from somewhere close at hand came a series of the most piercing shricks in a woman's voice that I had ever heard. They were of a woman in a frenzy of terror. I dropped my razor and rushed out on the baleony, to find my traveling companion, who had the adjoining room, shead

"What is it?" he eried as the screams ontinued. I noticed people rushing from the rvants' quarters toward the center of the

ourtvard and the fountain. I hurried forward on the balcony, and in the second room beyond my own, the door of which was open, I saw a stout Mexican lady of about forty in the arms of an undersized. gray-haired gentleman, her senior, who was vainly endeavoring to soothe her. The woman vas ghastly pale and the husband, who was very dark, was a yellowish hue with fear.

'What's the matter?" I asked. "Trembler! Trembler!"

It was an earthquake shock. I turned and looked down in the courtyard, to see the servants and many of the guests of the hotel on their knees around the fountain, with hands and eyes raised to

heaven in prayer. In contrast to the shriek-

ing woman, there was not a sound or moan

from those in the courtyard. They were too busy praying and awaiting the next act in the seismic drama. "In less time that it takes to tell it " in the phraseology of a decadent literary style. my companion and myself, with safety first uppermost, with the shricking woman and her terrorized husband following, ran along the balcony, down the stairway at the end

danger at least of tumbling walls. We found a score of people ahead of us. while others came rushing from the surrounding stores and dwellings, heading for the center of the square, the only safety zone in

and out into the public square, beyond the

THERE were no other immediate shocks. After a time, following the example of the natives, we returned to our rooms.

The proprietor of the hotel illustrated the force of the disturbance by pointing to the fountain. The tremor had been heavy enough to lift the placid water in the basin six inches and dash it over the rim, where it had dribbled away in little streams on the

IN MY rambling around Orizaba afterward I discovered that no great damage had been done beyond shaking some stones from the walls of old buildings and breaking off tall tingpole in front of one of the public structures.

It was the shock that virtually destroyed the city of Chilpanzinga, where hundreds of persons had been killed in that little city and he surrounding villages. The earthquakes reported by telegraph

from Vera Cruz during the last month or so had their center of disturbance in the state of Vera Cruz. The upheaval was on the western side of the earthquake belt. Its most disastrous effects were in the vicinity of Jalapa, where villages were wiped out of existence both by earthquake shock and vol-canic eruption. The town of Barranca Grande was overwhelmed,

Another time the unenviable experience of feeling an earth tremor came to me in Caracas, Venezuela. It was barely perceptible however, and no damage was done to prop-

The inhabitants of Caracas are not disturbed, as a rule, by these occasional evi-dences of the instability of the soil, although one of the greatest catastrophes of modern times occurred there in the early part of the eighteenth century. A large part of the city was completely destroyed, thousands were killed and thousands more died from disease and starvation that followed the upheaval. The great bulk of the estimated million

now living in this country who have experienced an earthquake shock are survivors of the Charleston disaster of 1885 and the California earthquake of 1906.



LOYD GEORGE says that the Russian Russia's Revolution Mistakes of Peacemakers revolution cannot be crushed by force. This, "I Told You So!" They Cry he says, he told the Al-lies at Paris last year. But All Alike to Blame He did so. The rec ords show it. Wilson no doubt told Trading That Betrayed

Peace and the Colleges the Allies the same thing, for he was less favorable to the Russian adventure than about Europe's greatest bed of natural rethe others

And Clemenceau doubtless knew that the force. He had even fewer illusions than the Yet they all did exactly what could not

and should not have been done. g g g WITH regard to the peace, it is not an instance of hindsight being better than

foresight, Mr. Wilson on his sickbed has been able to say to himself many times, "I told them so at Paris." Mr. Lloyd George has just said to his Parliament regarding the Russian revolu-

tion, "I told them so." When the break-up of the coalition in England comes, if he chooses to be radical. the English prime minister will devote all his energy to saying on the stump, "I told

M. Clemenceau, traveling in Egypt, is the sole member of the trio who probably does not repeat to himself. "I told them so." He knew as well as the others just what kind of peace should be made, probably better, for he was abler than either of the others and understood his Europe better; but he was less voluble on the subject of right than they, though no less active than they on the subject of wrong. q q q

ALL came to Paris knowing what sort of peace should be made, but each put something else before the peace. Mr. Wilson put the League of Nations be-

fore the peace. Mr. Lloyd George put extending the Britsh empire before the peace. M. Clemenceau put making France the first power on the continent of Europe be-

fore the peace.

Mr. Wilson traded everything to extend American kultur throughout the world He called it the League of Nations.

Mr. Lloyd George traded everything for an all-British route to India and for new markets for British trade. M. Clemenceau traded everything to make France unmistakably and permanently dom-

inant in Europe. To dominate Europe, an all-German route to the East and the spreading of its kultur throughout the world were the German objects in the great war.

A wise man says that during a war the victors and the vanquished exchange psy-Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau met at Paris with the psychology of defense and changed it insensibly to the psychology of

victory, which does not differ much from the psychology of the aggressor. q q q WHAT did they get out of their trading? Mr. Wilson got a League of Nations which the world refuses to take seriously because the peace is so bad.

"By their fruits ye shall know them," and nen judge the forces that will make up the by their first fruits, the peace. Mr. Lloyd George got his all-British road o India, but it has turned out to be at the same time an all-Bolshevist, all-revolution-

M. Clemenceau got first place in Europe for France, headship in a continent of bank-

THE world needed first of all that it should I produce to make up for the five years' destruction of the war.

### And the peace-mak-ers shut out from production the greatest in-Churns merrily along. dustrial country

Europe, Russia. They closed Europe' greatest factories and

Europe, Germany, and

the only great agri-

Everybody cries "Produce!" "Produce!" no production. The world not only can't get into its stride again after the

NEXT!

WHIM

OF STATE

war, but it finds that the peace fastened a ball and chain to one of its legs. In face of the facts, the victory psychology

is weakening, and Mr. Lloyd George says, 'I told them so.' g g g

THE universities and colleges of the coun-1 try are trying to raise \$200,000,000 to meet the high cost of living which the war and the peace have brought upon them. They are doing so openly, with advertisements in newspapers, with "campaigns" ducted by press agents, with the voluntary services of committees of alumni.

The crisis in education is too great for the olleges to depend upon their presidents getting the money out of the rich privately, way a wife gets money out of her husband. Endowments must come by right, not by

"Producer of producers," says an advertisement of Cornell University asking for \$10,000,000, "she must go on."

9 9 6

WHAT a great thing it would be if the universities and colleges of this country could get their endowments because they were "producers of producers" and not because of the ingratiating way their presidents have with the rich! In the first place, they might have educators for presidents and press agents to raise the money.

Which would be a gain all around. Then, too, education would not have to please the few, but justify itself with the many by its results; would have, indeed, to show that it was a "producer of producers.

Which would be the greatest possible gain. The peace, by fastening chains upon duction and thus increasing the already high cost of living, may have done something for the world by sending American universities to the advertising columns for their endowments. You must have something to sell to enter the advertising columns.

The Senate, without permitting itself to be moved by the convulsions of Anglophobia, should see to it that good and fair prices are received for the thirty-four former German liners to be sold by the shipping board.

Twenty men were arrested on Saturday for spitting on the sidewalk. The Conscience less Pup says this is as it should be, for spitters cannot expect to rate high as good citizens in a clean town.

The frank assumption of equal respon

sibility for the calling of cabinet meetings is what the country has learned to expect from Contractors who thought they were carying trouble to capacity may find themselves

with heaping loads when their books are ex-The opinion grows that Mr. Lansing would have cut a better and bigger figure if

he had quit a year ago. Mr. Lansing would have saved himself an awful lot of embarrassment if he had had blusself elected Vice President.

### ADRIFT

TT'S a free life, the sea life. I When the turbines croon their song And the old ship, the bold ship.

It's a square life and a rare life With its wind and spray and foam With its rough pals, sure enough pals And the turbines rushing you home

So sweep the decks down, buddies, Stand your watch on the foc's'le peak, And break out a smile, there, buddies

We'll be home in another week! It's a drear life, a sear life. When the engine misbehaves

With the lost ship, ocean-tossed ship. In the maw of the hungry waves. It's a dour life and a sour life With longings unfulfilled

For the home cheer and for you, dear

. When the turbines' song is stilled. So hold on tight there, buddies It's blowing a nasty squall. Don't dream of the home fires, buddies,

We may never get home at all!

# What Do You Know?

LARK MERILL

QUIZ

1. What is ex-Secretary Lansing's native state? 2. Lerd Kitchener and Lord Nelson had the same first name. What was it?

3. What is an exordium? 4. What is the literal meaning of the word edelweiss? 5. What American general was nicknamed

"Kaiser William"? What is the first appearance of the expression "the almighty dollar" in

American literature? 7. What is "boxing the compass"? S. Of what country is Teheran the capital?

9. Who are the Maoris? 10. How many scruples make a dram in apothecaries' weight?

## Answers to Saturday's Quiz

1. John Barton Payne has been appointed secretary of the interior. 2. Texas is the southernmost state which has approved the suffrage amendment.

3. Mindanno is the largest island in the Philippines. 4. Rear Admiral Joseph W. Oman is the governor of the Virgin Islands of the

United States. Previous to 1804 each elector voted for two candidates for President. The one who received the largest number of votes was declared President and the one receiving the next largest number of votes was declared Vice President Amendment XII to the constitution provides that the President and Vict President shall be voted for on distinct

ballots. 6. A payane is an ancient stately dance, originating in Spain. The word is descended from the Latin "payones"

-"peacocks." 7. Croesus, king of Lydia, was a famous rich man of antiquity. He lived in the sixth century B. C. 8. John C. Foster wrote the music of 'The

Suwance River." 9. A "Carthaginian peace" megas a peace in which the defeated foe is virtually exterminated as a nation. Such a peace was enforced by Rome after its third Punic war.

10. Joan of Arc was born in Domreny, a town of France situated on the Mean river, twenty-nine miles southwest of Nancy.