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EDITORIAL COLUMN

Devoted to the Current Topics of the Day

THE WILL TO PEACE IN FRANCE

In the discussion of the pact outlawing war in the French Chamber of Deputies, two things were said which every American ought to know. One was by Paul Boncour, staunch advocate of peace for many years, and Briand's right hand man in this particular work:

"Armed peace is not a real peace; it is only a breathing space between wars. Complete security by complete disarmament—that is the star to which you must hitch your chariot."

The other was by Colonel Picot, a terribly wounded veteran of the World War:

"All my life I was trained for war. War was my whole education. Now, I come before you to ask for peace.

"It is not enough to ratify this pact with your vote. It must be ratified with your hearts to have life in it.

"It must be ratified with your faith, for faith creates. If from this chamber goes out an act of faith, it will find echoes everywhere."

If these two utterances represent the spirit of France—and there is every reason to believe that they do—President Hoover's search for the "way to permanent peace" will have all the help that French logic can give it.

"BOYS OF 1898" DIED IN VAIN

President Machado of Cuba is one of the most ruthless dictators now living. No one dared to run against him when he had himself re-elected last November.

Opposing editors have been openly murdered with sawed-off shotguns, or have mysteriously disappeared. Labor leaders have fared the same way.

At least one labor chief was fed to the sharks, for his arm was found in a shark's stomach. When this discovery was made, Machado prohibited further shark fishing.

The other day, 10 anti-Machado men were arrested on the charge of a plot to murder the president and bring about American intervention. Most of these men are university students or professors. Not an atom of evidence of any such plot has been made public.

Machado rules Cuba by grace of Wall Street. He has decided that so long as he carries favor with the big financial interests of this country, he can play the tyrant at home with safety—and so far, he is right.

He has abolished the Cuban liberty which American soldiers died to win. His rule is a mixture of terrorism and gambling graft.

The Shipstead resolution for an investigation of Cuban affairs was quietly smothered in the Senate, and President Coolidge took the extraordinary step of paying a personal, official visit to Machado in Havana.

How much longer will our government fail to understand or refuse to admit that it is maintaining a vicious tyranny in an island which Americans died to set free

GANG WARFARE IN CHICAGO

Chicago gangsters have adopted modern mass production methods; the product, in this case, being the corpses of their rivals.

Instead of "knocking off" one competitor at a time, a whole opposing gang is lined up against a garage wall and treated with machine guns. Six were killed outright, and another died an hour later, refusing to the last to name his executioners.

Frank J. Loesch, assistant state's attorney of Cook County said on hearing the news: "This could occur only in a city where there is an alliance between crime and politics."

He is quite correct—but just how he proposes to break that alliance is not easy to see.

It is no new thing. The gang war which came to its climax—for the moment—in that blood-soaked garage began in a florist's place more than four years ago, when Dion O'Banion, head of the North Side mob of bootleggers and rum runners, was murdered by his West Side competitors.

O'Banion was a notorious gunman and gangster, but it seemed as if half official Chicago, ranging from aldermen to judges, sent flowers to his funeral, or attended it in person. It will be interesting to see how many officials pay honor to the latest casualties.

In the absence of crooked politicians to corrupt and paralyze the administration of justice, these gang wars would be impossible.

Mr. Loesch is right—but he did not go quite far enough.

The public has yet to learn of a city whose crooked politicians were not owned by its privilege-seeking utility interests. The oldest and most used "subway" in the world is that which leads from the offices of a gouging gas or electric or street car company to the headquarters of the gang.

When Samuel Insull gave \$125,000 to buy a seat in the United States Senate for his henchman, he was helping to create the conditions which made possible the recent mass murder on North Clark Street.

Mr. Loesch apparently sees the light. But if he hopes to "clean up Chicago," he will need to pay about as much attention to utilities as to the bootleggers.

CELEBRATE CENTENARY OF CARL SCHURZ

The one hundredth birthday of Carl Schurz was celebrated last week, and a somewhat belated memorial meeting in his honor is planned in New York for March 21.

The career of Carl Schurz is one of those romances which America made possible. He was born in a village of the German Rhineland March 2, 1828. A youth of 20, he took part in the revolutionary uprisings of 1848; and when Prussia's iron legions stamped out the last hope of German liberty, Schurz escaped first to France, then to the United States. He landed in 1852. Nine years later, President Lincoln appointed him minister to Spain.

That would be a romance in itself; but it only a start. He resigned, came back, entered the Union army, and became a major general. He was a special investigator for Johnson in the South after the war. He was United States Senator from Missouri; he was Secretary of the Interior under Hayes, where he anticipated the civil service law by establishing the merit system; probed the Indian Bureau, and even warned the country that it was frittering away its natural resources.

Liberty pays. The United States got half a century of splendid service from the life which Prussia tried to snuff out on the gallows.

It is proposed to raise a fund, in honor of Schurz, to establish closer cultural relations between the United States and Germany. If the plan goes through, the first lecture under the fund on the other side of the water should be on what Germany lost and America won in Carl Schurz, and why.

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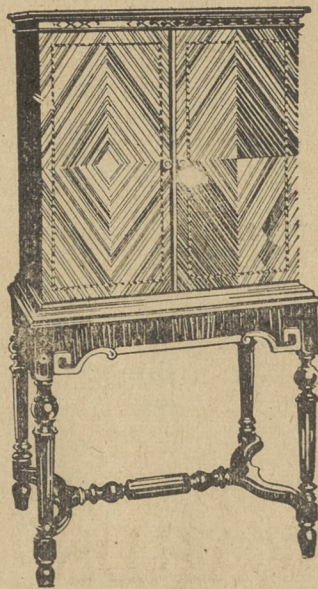
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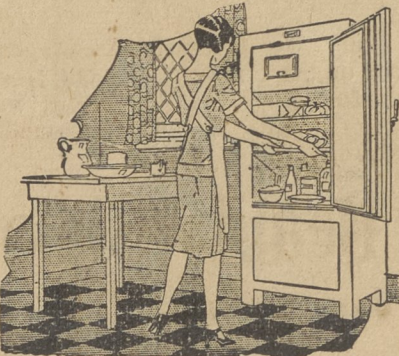
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