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France Hopeful for New Year

Begins 1920 With Greater Confidence Than It Did the Last.

DUE TO DEFEAT OF RADICALS

Elections Stabilize Internal Conditions, Though Fall of Franc Is Still Serious Problem—Study Financial Policy.

Paris.—France began the new year with far greater confidence than the last. This is in spite of formidable handicaps, such as the balance of trade running against her at the rate of about 1,500,000,000 francs a month, about 50 per cent depreciation of the exchange value of the franc and the consequent difficulty of procuring raw materials and machines urgently needed for reconstruction.

France's renewed confidence is derived directly from the result of the recent elections. These are regarded here as having definitely stabilized internal politics, ended all danger of revolutionary agitation for some time to come and brought about a better attitude by capital and labor toward the immense effort before France.

Money is forthcoming for investments in anything that promises stability. While the investments in short-term treasury bonds are continuing at the rate of nearly 2,000,000,000 francs a month, there is plenty of money for industrial and commercial enterprises and long-term loans. The 4,000,000,000 franc loan to provide immediate resources for indemnifying victims of the invasion was oversubscribed before the official opening of the subscriptions. Important banks and industrial companies have lately increased their capital to an aggregate of nearly 500,000,000,000 francs.

Big Trade on Bourse.

Transactions on the Paris bourse, which still are confined to cash deals, have exceeded on certain days records of pre-war trading, when futures entered largely into the totals. The upward movement of all industrials which began before the signature of the treaty at Versailles, has been unchecked by successive liquidations. This is regarded by keen observers here as a sure sign of economic recovery.

Employers say the labor situation is improved and that the last strikes developed signs that the workers themselves were becoming weary of long continued disturbances of business, industry and transportation. They see a tendency against frivolous strikes and an indication that only real grievances will induce the wage earners to quit work hereafter.

Decentralization of capital and industry is seen in the establishing in Normandy of textile industries to replace those in the occupied territory destroyed by the war. This movement has been greatly extended by development of water power in the region of the Alps and the center and south of France. Industrial leaders say that no particular region of France hereafter will monopolize any industry, and declare that this scattering will prove beneficial and result in a more equable recovery of all parts of the country.

To Transfer Industries.

Powerful financial groups are at the head of the movement to transfer important industries from the coal region to southwestern France, where water power soon will be available. Other groups are being formed to develop manufacturing centers near the coast so as to reduce the cost of transporting raw materials. Industrial leaders say that this activity on the part of capital, supported by the recovery of labor from what has been characterized as a wave of "laziness," gives a healthy tone to the situation.

Instability of the exchange value of the franc is regarded as one of the weakest points in French conditions. It is pointed out that France cannot pay twice over at present high prices for supplies she needs, and that is what the present low value of the franc means. The French government is now studying a complete renovation of the financial policy with a view to making such provisions to meet obligations as will give greatest stability, both at home and abroad. Details of the new financial policy are as yet not disclosed, but it is understood that it comprises a large interior loan to take up all short-term bonds and floating debt, and important increases in all taxes to bring the revenues up to the annual budget, estimated to require 20,000,000,000 to 25,000,000,000 francs. It is not expected that any internal financial arrangement can exert more than a moral influence on the value of the franc abroad, and this may be said to be the object of the greatest anxiety in official circles.

African catfish have the power of discharging an electric shock sufficiently powerful to disable a man.

TEST NEW 'MOVIE' INVENTION

New York Theater Tries Concave Screen, Giving Effect of Third Dimension.

New York.—A concave motion picture screen that may revolutionize the movies was tried out at a local theater today.

It is said to give an effect of a third dimension—an appearance of thickness or depth—that relieves the eye strain. A group of scientists witnessed the experiment.

Dr. Louis Pech, head of the faculty of medicine at the University of Montpellier, France, the inventor, supervised the exhibition.

Dr. Pech ascribes the relief from eye strain to his belief that the eye functions normally when it sees things of three dimensions, even if the appearance of the third dimension is an illusion.

Letter Finds "Mamma."

Cincinnati, O.—A letter written by Lucille Shepherd, thirteen years of age, of Osborne, asking Chief of Police Copelan to institute a search for her mother, Mrs. Rose Shepherd, led detectives to find Mrs. Shepherd here the other day. The child wrote "they needed mamma to take care of her and her little brothers." The officers were in Mrs. Shepherd's apartment when a man, who said he was George Murphy, entered. He was crumpling a letter in his hands. The detectives say the letter was from the husband of the woman in which he pleaded with her to return to him and her children. In police court the cases of Mrs. Shepherd and the man were continued.

Meet Ethyl and Methyl Alcohol

Two Most Prominent and Interesting Members of the Family.

MANY OFFSPRINGS ARE KNOWN

Difference Between Grain and Wood Alcohol Clearly Described—Fatalities Due to Amateur Attempts to Make Grain Alcohol.

Chicago.—While there are seventeen or more alcoholic products known in chemistry, there are two of general commercial use in the country—ethyl alcohol, or ordinary alcohol, the kind we used to be able to buy "for medicinal purposes," and methylated spirit, or industrial alcohol, which is popularly called "wood alcohol," and which does contain an amount of that fluid.

Ethyl or ordinary alcohol is formed by the spirituous or alcoholic fermentation of saccharine juices. The fermentation must be completed before it is distilled. It is made from grain, either corn, wheat, or barley. This is also known as grain alcohol. The formula is C_2H_5OH.

Methylated spirit, or industrial alcohol, is made of ninety parts of ordinary alcohol and ten parts of wood alcohol—methyl alcohol.

Source of Wood Alcohol.

Wood alcohol is obtained by the dry distillation of wood. The common method of obtaining this is to take cordwood which has been seasoned for about two years—beech, maple, and birch are best—place it in iron or steel retorts over a slow fire. The intensity of the fire is gradually increased as the distillation progresses, until at the end of from twelve to eighteen hours nothing remains in the retort but charcoal.

The distillate is passed through a condenser, and the liquid thus gathered is allowed to set in tanks until the greater part of the tarry matter in it has subsided. The lighter part is then drawn off and saturated with slaked lime to fix the acetic acid. It is then distilled a second time and the distillate sent to the refineries as wood alcohol. Sawdust or any woody fiber or cellulose can be used in place of cordwood.

Wood alcohol, either in its pure form or as an ingredient of industrial alcohol, is a poison, and has a selective action upon the optic nerve, in which it often induces a condition of permanent atrophy which results in total blindness.

For some purposes "completely denatured alcohol" is made by adding to industrial alcohol a little benzine or pyridine to spoil the taste and render it offensive. Denatured alcohol may be made more cheaply than ordinary alcohol by using cheaper materials, such as any starchy vegetable substance, or a waste byproduct, as the poorest grade of molasses or the waste of a canning factory.

"It is probable that a good deal of the wood alcohol that is being distributed as a beverage is the result of the attempts of amateurs to make ordinary alcohol. In their ignorance they use vegetable substances such as potato peelings, and, by using too intense a fire and making the distillation without having first allowed fermentation to take place, produce methyl or wood alcohol instead," said J. H. Nusbaum, a chemist.

Churcyhard as Playground.

London.—"I draw the line at cricket and football in the churchyard," the Rev. J. M. C. Crum, rector of Farnham, Surrey, told a meeting of parishioners, "but I don't stop them skipping on the flat grave-stones. If I had a grave there, I would just as soon have little children over it as geraniums."

AMERICAN TROOPSHIP DEKALB ON FIRE

A striking photograph of the United States troopship DeKalb, formerly the German raider Prince Eitel Friedrich, on fire in the Hudson river near Spuyten Duyvil. All of the members of the skeleton crew of 300 escaped uninjured.

Germany Accused of Taking 26,000 Dogs

Paris.—The French ministry of agriculture has lodged with the commission of war damages a claim for 26,000 dogs alleged to have been stolen by the Germans during the war. The ministry specifies some of the thefts, naming specially six valuable setters taken by the German crown prince and a prize pointer taken by General Von Kluck.

Germans Crowd to College.

German newspapers say 41,000 more students enrolled in the universities of Germany than in 1914. In the year of the beginning of the war there were 50,000 students enrolled, while in 1919 there are approximately 91,000. This represents an increase of nearly 2,000 each for each of the 23 national universities. In 11 technical schools more than 16,500 have enrolled

Owl, Protected by Law, Disturbs Law

Chelsea, Mass.—Residents in the vicinity of Chelsea have been disturbed nights by an active but elusive screech owl. The little marauder starts in his disturbance between 9 and 10 o'clock. The police have been asked to capture the bird. During the day the owl flits from one chimney to another in an effort to escape capture. The police have given an alibi that it is against the game laws to shoot the owl.

Foot Caught in Rail, Woman Dies.

Pittsburgh.—Her foot wedged tightly between the rail and a plank, at a railroad crossing, Mrs. John Forbes, sixty-five, of this city, was struck and instantly killed by a fast train.

Has Ludendorff's War Car

Chicago Man Now Has Machine in Daily Use.

Limousine Was Seized for General While Owner Was Touring Germany.

Chicago, Ill.—Gen. Ludendorff's general headquarters motor car, with the same black body and sloping duck nose, that carried the military head of the German armies over Belgian and French roads while its occupant was seeking to annihilate the allies, can be seen almost any day on Chicago's streets and boulevards.

Bullet-scarred and battered after traveling more than 60,000 miles as the equipage of the German commander, the limousine has returned to peaceful pursuits and civilian service.

In the summer of 1914 C. L. Willey, a Chicago lumber merchant, with his wife, was touring Germany in the motor car. The war flamed up and the automobile was seized by German officials, despite its owner's protests, becoming the official property of Gen. Ludendorff.

Somewhere in its war activity the limousine was the target of well-aimed machine-gun fire from the allied airmen and its roof was perforated in many places.

Through an American consul Willey brought about the return of the automobile. C. L. Willey died in 1916 and the car is now used daily by his son, C. B. Willey.

Fall Into Hydrangea Bush Fatal.

New York.—Phoenix Miller, eleven years old, fell into a hydrangea bush. A broken stem of the plant went through a nostril and penetrated the brain, killing the boy instantly.

MARTYRS TO FAITH

Hopi People Punished for Embracing Christianity.

Government Ethnologist, Investigating "Mound of Death," Finds Evidence of Truth of Story Long Current in the Southwest.

Ethnologically speaking, the Southwest is a region of many mysteries. There, in fortified villages built on shelves of rock high up on canyon walls, lived the cliff dwellers, nobody knows how long ago. Perched on lofty heights are ruined castles and towers. Over the mesa tops are scattered the remains of many ancient towns.

One of these ruined towns is relatively recent, having been destroyed in the year 1700, and its history, fortunately preserved, is most remarkable. It was called Awatobi, and all that remains of it today is a huge rubbish heap, which is known to the Hopi Indians as the Mound of Death.

It was a Hopi town, populous and thriving, and was attacked and razed by the inhabitants of seven other Pueblo villages, who killed all the men and carried off the young women and children.

Dr. J. Walker Fewkes, government ethnologist in chief, having learned the story, undertook to excavate the mound of rubbish, and thereby obtained ample evidence of the truth of the tradition.

It seems that Awatobi was first to welcome the early Spanish priests, and to embrace Christianity. To this circumstance the neighoring villages attributed a failure of rain. The new religion was suspected to be a kind of sorcery, and it was decided that the only remedy lay in wiping out the offending town, together with its population, which, according to the Spanish mission records, numbered about eight hundred souls.

From the viewpoint of the Hopi people to be a sorcerer was and is today the worst of crimes. After all the good folks have prayed all night for rain a wizard may blow away the clouds with a single puff of his breath. Sickness is always due to sorcery, and persons suspected of witchcraft are even nowadays made away with in secret.

The attack was decided upon at a secret meeting in the pueblo of Walpi. A certain spring was appointed as the meeting place for bands of warriors, each man carrying, besides his weapons, an unlighted torch and a bundle of greasewood. Before dawn they marched silently up the mesa to the east end of the doomed town, the gate of which had been left open by agreement with a traitorous Awatobi chieftain.

Choice was made of a time when most of Awatobi's warriors would be engaged in rites of religious ceremonial in a large subterranean chamber or "kiva."

The attacking force invaded the town without causing alarm, surrounded the kiva and plucked up the ladder which afforded the only means of exit from it. Then they lighted their torches and threw them down, together with lighted bundles of greasewood. The interior of the underground chamber was thus converted into a literal furnace and, further to torment the burning men, the ruthless witch hunters tore from the near-by house walls strings of red peppers that hung there drying, crushed them in their hands and flung them into the fire.

The story that led Doctor Fewkes to undertake his inquiry and excavation of the Mound of Death was told to him by an aged Indian woman whose great-great-great-grandmother was one of the survivors of the massacre. She was even able to point out to him the approximate location of the subterranean chamber in which the men of Awatobi were burned to death.

Three Witches of Belvoir.

Here are their names: Anne Baker, Jeane Willimott, Ellen Greene. And, above all, here is the name of their cat, "Rutterkin." For by means of Rutterkin they entered, said they, into communion with familiar spirits. These three witches, who lived in 1618, were the confidential servants of the earl of Rutland at Belvoir castle, England. They had a grudge—today we should say a "grouch"—against the earl and determined upon revenge. They managed to pluck a hair from the head of a member of the family, and they burned it for ill luck. They securely made off with the glove of the earl and rubbed it on the back of Rutterkin to call down bodily harm on the glove's owner. They were believed to have accomplished the death of the earl's son, through frightening the boy, and they were tried at Lincoln, condemned, and burned at the stake for the crime of "witchcraft." At that era the question of "witchcraft" was stalking through the world.

Like Oldtime Sea Story.

A tale of piracy, with an oldtime flavor, comes from the Orient. Between Hongkong and Macao, the captain of an oil junk was surprised to observe seven men, armed to the teeth, standing in an open boat alongside. Four of them had rifles, two had two revolvers each, and the seventh had a revolver and a dagger. As the captain refused to surrender his vessel when called upon to do so, the pirates fired into the air in order to intimidate him. This had the desired effect, for the junk was stopped and the pirates clambered aboard. They overpowered the crew and steered the ship for an island where another vessel was anchored. They transferred the cargo to it, took everything they could remove and then liberated the imprisoned crew and let them sail away in their empty junk. The pirates kidnaped two of the crew, evidently being short of men.

Famous Statue of Liberty.

In 1886, on the 28th of October, the Statue of Liberty, presented by France to the United States and placed on Bedloe's island in New York harbor, was unveiled. The total height of the colossal statue is 306 feet. The pedestal rises 155 feet and the statue towers 151 feet above it.

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