

THE OBSERVER

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THE QUININE FAMINE.

Among the many drugs affected by the war is the staple quinine of such general use. In the temperate zones the use fluctuates, but in all the hot countries where malarial fevers abound it is regarded as an indispensable necessity, because it is the most reliable remedy and preventive known to science for such disease. Just why a European war should affect the supply and the price of a product which is derived from the bark of trees indigenous to South America and which have been cultivated very liberally in the islands of Jamaica, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and even in Japan, does not appear. War always causes a large increase in the use of medicines, and in anticipation of such an increased demand it has been the practice of speculators to attempt to corner the supply and hold up deliveries in order to advance the price. European manufacture of the alkaloids of Peruvian bark has, no doubt been seriously hampered by the war while the use has increased. The rest of the world, accustomed to depend largely upon European production, is caught at disadvantage. The obvious remedy in the case of medicines as in the case of dye stuffs, is for each nation to engage in the manufacture of such indispensable articles so that interruption anywhere from any cause can soon be compensated for by enlarging the volume of production in other localities.

At present the government of the United States is engaged in policing certain troubled districts of the islands of Haiti. Haiti is an island that is celebrated for its malarial diseases. The native population has become partially immune to them, but sojourners from other parts of the world find them both debilitating and deadly. A little more than 100 years ago Napoleon Bonaparte sent an army under Gen. Leclerc to subdue Haiti, but the army was almost immediately attacked by an epidemic of malarial fevers which caused the death of the commander and made such appalling

devastation among the troops that a few months later they were glad to surrender to the commander of a British squadron in order to escape from the island with their lives.

The Haitian campaign has brought about a sharp demand on the part of the army and navy for large quantities of quinine, emphasizing the painful shortage of this medical commodity.

HEALTH INSURANCE.

A baby trying to grow up in unhealthy surroundings is a social liability. The community will have to pay, with heavy interest, for the injury to the baby's health and morals.

The debts of the community are personal debts of its members. This is a fact as easily proved as that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, yet it is a fact which communities, and persons, are slow to act upon.

A large portion of the taxes you pay—and everyone who eats, wears clothes, and dwells under roofs pay taxes—is applied on the heavy penalty which ill health exacts. Yet if it were proposed to spend enough money to prevent all preventable disease and crime, which would save us from punitive damages, the selfishness of the community's members would express itself in one mighty wall of protest.

It is even probable that a project such as is now before the New York legislature to distribute, equalize and at the same time sharply reduce the state's bill for illness, will be opposed by the obstructionists whose chief function in life seems to be opposing all measures of progress.

In 11 European countries health insurance has been established and has produced the expected returns. In New York it is urged that all workers getting less than \$100 a month—and the plan might well extend eventually to include everyone—be protected by compulsory health insurance. The cost of insurance, the bill provides, is to be met jointly by the state, the employer and the individual. All physical disability, not covered by the workmen's compensation act would call for benefits in the form of medical, surgical and nursing attendance, medical supplies, a cash benefit for not more than 26 weeks in the year and a funeral benefit.

As a natural result of such insurance all concerned, including the worker himself would be impelled to take a greater interest in the maintenance of health. In time preventable illness will be thought of as a disgrace; tuberculosis will be as extinct as cholera in civilized communities; typhoid as rare as the black plague; other social diseases rare visitations. Health insurance is one step toward the control and ultimate eradication of these expensive drains on the strength and resources of humanity.

GREAT SALT LAKE.

Its Water is Saline Simply Because it Has No Outlet.

Great Salt Lake has no outlet. The Jordan river, which enters it from the south, is the outlet of Utah Lake, Bear river, coming from the north, carries the outflow from Bear Lake. The waters of Utah and Bear lakes and of Jordan and Bear rivers are fresh, and so is the water of Weber river. The third great tributary of Great Salt Lake, but the lake into which the three rivers flow is saline. It is saline because it has no outlet.

The fresh waters of the rivers contain some saline matter, but the quantity is too small to be discovered by taste.

As stated by the chemist, in parts per million, the quantity seems minute, but when account is taken of the total volume of water brought by the streams to the lake in a year their burden of saline matter is found to be really great, amounting annually to more than 500,000 tons.

Year by year and century by century the water which they pour into the lake is evaporated, but the dissolved solids cannot escape in that way and therefore remain.

They have accumulated until the lake water is approximately saturated, holding nearly as much mineral matter as it can retain in solution. The lake contains over 5,000,000,000 tons of common salt and 900,000,000 tons of glauber salt (sodium sulphate) as well as other mineral matter.—New York Telegram.

ROMANCE OF THE BAHAMAS.

Life in Nassau Was Once a "Purple Princely Thing."

During the American war between the states Nassau of the Bahamas was very much on the tongues of men, as the devil-may-care emporium of contraband cotton, whereby hangs many a dashing sea story, some of which you can still hear from the lips of the men who took part in them.

The whole history of the Bahamas, since Columbus made his first landfall in the western seas on Watling's island, has been a fantastic record of desperate opportunism. The prose of "legitimate" business has seldom dulled the edge of precarious prosperity on these derelict islands, whose very existence still seems at the grudging mercy of the sea.

Buccaneering, wrecking and blockade running—no more tedious employ than these masculine professions occupied the Bahamians for generations, and so long as there were merchantmen to be boarded or scuttled, rich cargoes to be harvested from the white fanged reefs or cotton to be run to Wilmington at a profit of \$100,000 the trip life in Nassau was a purple princely thing, and even the shoeblacks in Bay street played pitch and toss with gold.—Richard La Galleine in Harper's Magazine.

The Footmen's Gallery.

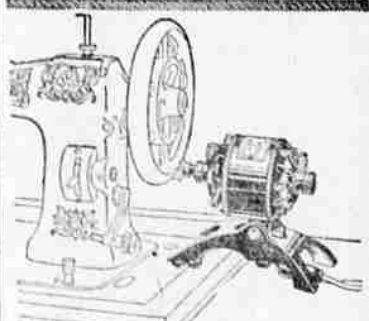
There was in one part of the theater where in bygone days smoking was permitted the footmen's gallery, where servants in attendance on masters visiting the theater were admitted free. But the occupants of the footmen's gallery were so noisy and they so frequently hissed out of existence plays that their masters approved of that the privilege was withdrawn, and the gallery became the "shilling gallery," which has kept up to a great extent the traditional privilege of outspoken criticism originally exercised by footmen.—London Chronicle.

Rich as Croesus.

The boys were bragging about their parents. "I bet my father is richer than your father," said one. "He has to pay lots and lots of money for taxes every year." "That's nothing," retorted the other. "My father is so rich that he can afford to hire a lawyer to fix things so he don't have to pay any taxes."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Suspicious Document.

"All this here business education among women is tough on us cooks." "How so?" "The last lady I worked for gimme a reference written in shorthand. What did she say about me, I wonder?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.



LADIES. It is with pleasure we call your attention to the NEW PERFECTED SO-E-Z, sewing machine motor saves you all the labor of running your machine. See our window for demonstration. Free trial in your home. Free Sewing Machines on Easy Payments.

F. D. HAISTEN Furniture on easy Payments

Now Ready! Wool, Cotton, and All Silk Fabrics for Spring and Summer. Our collection of wash goods abounds in new ideas of fabrics, colorings and designs. Every thing we show is new, attractive and appealing in appearance, richness and beauty. Priced yard 10c to 60c. Our Silk Line will more than maintain our prestige for style leadership in dress fabrics—See the new wash silks and plain and fancy taffetas. Prices range from yard 75c to \$2.00. In wool dress goods we show many entirely new fabrics particularly adapted for spring wear—particularly a fine assortment of black and white fabrics, and fancy plaids. All wool dress fabrics, yard 50c to \$2.00. In selecting all our fabrics, cotton, wool and silk, the same care has been used this season as heretofore, and all fabrics will be up to the usual N. K. West & Company's standard that you have learned to depend upon. We invite your comparison—we are continually giving the best values. The Best Clothing is None too Good for the Boy of Today. The modern boy is as particular about his apparel as any grown-up and we are as careful in choosing his styles as we are in selecting clothing for his father or older brother. We also insist that every garment be durable—the fabrics all wool, and the making of the best; that is why we buy "BEST-EVER" suits for boys. Also that's why this store has won the high favor of boys and parents alike when it comes to clothes that give entire satisfaction—in fact we guarantee perfect satisfaction. Boys Suits \$5.00 and up. N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

Hens Get Deacon's Jug of Bourbon.

Dopetown, Ind., Feb. 14.—Mrs. Deacon Mudleg got so mad when the deacon came home seeing double last night that she threw his jug of "medicinal" bourbon out the bedroom window. It fell in the White Plymouth Rock flock's water trough and broke. Mrs. Mudleg, not knowing this was astounded early today when she looked out the kitchen window and saw about fifty of her fat, motherly old hens reeling around the yard, leering and cackling idiotically at one another. They seemed to be celebrating something and upon looking closer Mrs. Mudleg saw two of the most domineering of the roosters, badly pecked and clawed, lying unconscious near the fence, while the others were limping around muttering to themselves and keeping as far away as possible from the stewed matrons. The deacon was for killing the hens, but Mrs. Mudleg said no, she would get the old girls some more bourbon and maybe—maybe, drink some herself.

Today's Oddest Story.

Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 14.—More than ten cords of firewood has been cut from an elm tree, found by its rings to be 300 years old, felled at Prices' Church of the Brethren near here. It was the last of a dozen elms that were old trees when the church was built in 1790. The tree was 75 feet high and 5 feet, 3 inches, in diameter.

Germany has whipped all the little ones and the big cathedrals anyway.

YOUNG MEN DEFENDED.

La Grande, Feb. 12.—(To the Editor of Observer)—In your issue of the 9th instant there appeared an article written by a prominent business man of La Grande in which he stated that "almost invariably when a young man of today applied for a job, he was incapable of performing the work required of him. He usually wants a manager's job before he has served his apprenticeship. To him work in a dirty place is distasteful. He wants his hands kept white and clean, and he feels disgraced if he cannot wear good clothes and a white collar, etc." And the writer of said article refers us to the employers of labor in La Grande and elsewhere for confirmation of the absolute truth of these assertions or accusations, etc. Now notwithstanding of all the cloud of witnesses referred to, we do unhesitatingly find a verdict of not proven (Scotch) But even if correct, does it not say well for the young man who wishes to wear good clothes and a white collar. Such a man has been respectably raised and will endeavor to conduct himself, so as to be respected by refined and honorable people. His love for clean hands is another evidence of gentlemanly instinct. "He dislikes working in a dirty place." What kind of a man would he be who loved to work in a dirty place?

"When the young man of today gets a chance to try-out, he works for a little while in hopes of a raise then if the raise does not come he leaves to look for a softer place?" Is it not just as likely that the young man after working a while concludes to quit because he is unable to live respectably on the meagre pay that his job brings him or he may object to being rated as a man at the work table while he rates only as a boy at the pay window? Is it not a fact that employers of

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labor today are far more anxious to increase the earnings of the invested capital than to increase the earning or the comforts of their employers? Is it possible to find an employer of labor whose chief aim it is to add to the earnings and happiness of the employee? Echo replies that it is not business. Then wisdom declares we must not try to harmonize the teachings of Jesus Christ with business methods or we shall get snowed under with unexplained explanations. One word more for the young men who seemingly are too modest to defend themselves. I am deeply interested in the young men because I have raised some and am trying to raise some more and I wish to offer a word of comfort and consolation to all employers of labor in Oregon and to assure them that should they, and their managers also, all be called to follow the first born in Egypt before tomorrow's sun, that the young men of this state would have all the business wheels revolving again before the setting of that same sun. Yours truly, L. GARRICK.

THE EXPLORER AT ARCADE. Lou-Tellegen, the distinguished romantic actor, who scored such a pronounced success in "The Explorer," will be seen at the Arcade Monday and Tuesday in his second Jesse L. Lasky production, "The Unknown," a gripping drama of the famous Foreign Legion in Algeria. In this photodrama Mr. Tellegen is seen in a character entirely different from anything he has played heretofore, either

on the speaking stage or the screen. The Foreign Legion is a military sanctuary where men who have met with misfortune or disgrace may redeem their past by bravery and honorable service. No questions are asked and no papers are required to explain who or what they are. This organization is stationed in Algeria and the pages of history abound with mention of its heroic exploits. Volumes have been written about its romance and tradition. Princes in its ranks have rubbed shoulders with murderers; thieves have fought side by side with the aristocracy. A man is taken for what he is, not for what he was. Into this, comes Lou-Tellegen as an English ne'er do well. The Captain of his company is known as "Devil Destin." A young American girl, whom the Private saved during a brawl in an Algerian dance hall, has taken a great deal of interest in him and when Destin discovers that his attentions to the girl are unwelcome, she starts persecuting the Private. Persecution follows persecution, until finally, the Private is to be shot for mutiny. His friends effect his escape and with the girl, disguised as an Arab boy, he flees into the Desert. They are found by Destin. The Captain sees a Victoria Cross on the young man's breast and suddenly realizes that he has been persecuting his own son, from whom he disappeared years before when the father had been cashiered from the British Army. How the young man is freed and returns to England to be the head of an honorable family completes this story of thrilling instances. The production is of the usual lavish Lasky character, true to detail and artistic in its presentation and, with its wonderful photography, makes a photodrama long to be remembered. In the cast supporting Mr. Tellegen are Theodora Roberts, Dorothy Davenport, Hal Clements, Horace B. Carpenter, Tom Forman, Raymond Hatton and other members of the Lasky all-star organization.—Adv.

The Careful man realizes that Burglars always know where Valuables are hidden. Do he puts his valuables where they are safe—in our Safety Deposit Vaults—and has no fear. IT IS CARELESS TO KEEP JEWELRY AND VALUABLE PAPERS IN THE HOUSE; IT IS ALSO DANGEROUS. YOU MAY LOSE THEM; FIRE MAY BURN THEM; BURGLARS MAY STEAL THEM AND MAY KILL YOU TO GET THEM. THE CAREFUL MAN KEEPS HIS VALUABLES IN ONE OF OUR SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES. HE KNOWS THEY ARE SAFE, SO IS HE AND HIS FAMILY. WE WILL RENT YOU A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX FOR \$2.00 PER YEAR. La Grande National Bank LA GRANDE, OREGON Capital \$200,000.00 Surplus \$50,000.00 Resources \$1,000,000.00 Fred J. Holmes, President F. L. Meyers, Cashier C. C. Pennington, Vice President E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers. DIRECTORS: Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, F. L. Meyers, A. Blokland, H. S. Brownlton, A. T. Hill, J. F. Conley, F. L. Meyers, H. E. Coolidge.