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FRANCE MAKES BIG PRESENT

Railroads Benefit by Ten Billion Francs Because of Benevolence of Government.

PARIS, Dec. 3.—France, in its new railroad control law, makes the railroads a present of advances, past, present and to come in the next five years, of an amount estimated at 10,000,000,000 francs. These advances, however, are in large part due to the former agreement with the railroads whereby they had to transport millions of troops and millions of tons of supplies during the war at a rate based on pre-war conditions. The sponge is passed over all those transactions.

The new law, to which the railroads have informally agreed, needs formal acceptance by the corporations but it is expected to become effective early next year.

The government then will have general supervision of the roads through an executive board that will control operation and order improvements. The government will control directly freight charges so that certain industries may be favored if desirable.

The companies will have reinforced credit and during five years the government will pay the interest on 6,000,000,000 francs of securities the roads will issue to improve the lines.

A co-operative pool of profits is instituted by the law. Railroads earning above a certain return to stockholders and above interest charges will be paid into a common fund to be used to meet any deficit by other lines. A company, however, that shows greater than normal efficiency in handling traffic or otherwise, may retain additional profits, determined by a sliding scale.

There also is provision for labor participation in the various controlling boards and opportunities for profit-sharing.

KING WANTS TO COME BACK.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—Prince Rene de Bourbon, brother of former Empress Zita of Austria, who is visiting Edward F. Hines, millionaire lumberman, predicted in a statement that Emperor Charles and his queen will soon regain the throne of Austria, as 80 per cent of the people of Austria wish them to rule.

Prince Rene was married to Princess Margaritha of Denmark five months ago.

"I am of the firm belief that the future of Austria is very promising," he said, "but I know that its reconstruction must take time."

TIDAL WAVES SWEEP TOWN

MANILA, Dec. 3.—The entire town of Ibaday in the province of Cadiz was inundated by a tidal wave Sunday and many houses with their occupants swept out to sea, according to dispatches from the postmaster of Ibaday.

Dispatches to constabulary headquarters here said the town of Macato in the same province was also submerged by a tidal wave and more than 100 natives drowned.

ULSTER PAPER COMING

LONDON, Dec. 3.—Preparations are being made here to publish a newspaper with morning and evening editions, devoted to the cause of Ulster, according to the Daily Mirror, which says 250,000 pounds has already been raised for the purpose.

The enterprise was started, the Mirror says, in view of the fact that so many London newspapers which formerly advocated unionist principles have lately let Ulster down very badly.

COW BREAKS INTO HOUSE

Lostine Family's Milk Supplier Makes Itself at Home in Dining Room.

LOSTINE, Dec. 2.—(Special).—The box social given Tuesday night by the Rebekahs was a very pleasant and profitable occasion. The boxes sold, even at limited prices, netted the society a sum of \$82.00, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Mrs. S. M. Crow and Mrs. Chris Johnson have been solicited for the Red Cross at Lostine, assisted by Mrs. Roy Hann at Evans and, though many felt unable to keep up their war-time memberships, the committee feel they did pretty well in securing memberships, considering that quite a large percentage of our people had been solicited and paid in their annual membership dollar on Armistice day, when they were celebrating in other towns—some in Joseph, some in Enterprise, and some in Elgin, in Union county. The same committee will have charge of the sale of the Christmas Seals, assisted by Mayor W. P. Robinson, at the Lostine Drug Store. The posters are already in the windows of the different business houses in town, to help the fight against tuberculosis.

While Mrs. Joe Thompson was alone in her house on Tuesday afternoon and was upstairs taking a bath she heard considerable noise down stairs. She slipped on a bathrobe and slippers to go down and investigate, and found their pet Jersey cow in the dining room among all her freshly ironed clothes. "The cow has been having the run of the yard recently, and the wind must have worked the front door open and 'old bossie' walked into the sitting room regardless of rugs and furniture, and on into the dining room. She had about all the clothes on the floor but had not damaged them and Mrs. Thompson got her out without any serious damage.

The people of Chapman district, north of Lostine, gave a pie social last Friday night for the purpose of getting funds for their Christmas entertainment and treat, and to get together for a social evening.

Committees have been appointed in the Union Sunday school for the Christmas entertainment, and work has started already on the program. There will be a special offering taken for the needy ones in foreign lands. Among those who were entertained for Thanksgiving dinner were: Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Robinson and children and Miss Myrtle Mason at J. H. Jackson's; Mrs. Lizzie Templeton and son, Cole Leonard, of Wallowa, at her son's; F. B. Leonard; Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hosick and children and Mr. and Mrs. South and children, at Harry Williamson's; Mr. and Mrs. Lin Mapps and children, at Berkeley Candler's; Mr. and Mrs. Moody, at B. E. Duncan's; Mrs. Poley and daughter, Margaret, at W. C. Fleener's; and Miss Thelma Gray of Enterprise, with her cousin, Agnes Chapman, at the J. J. Chapman home.

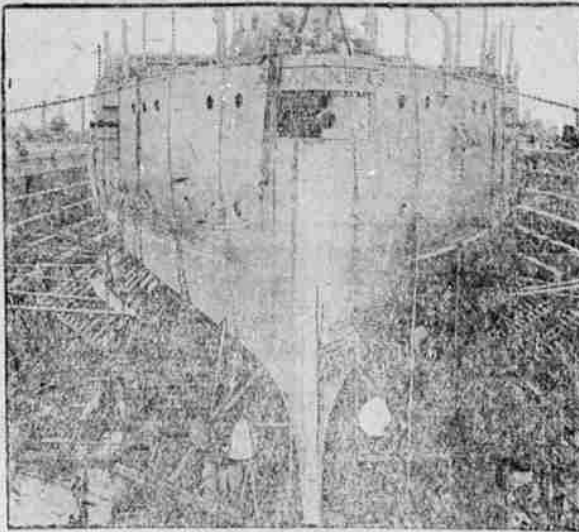
J. J. Chapman and son, Sanford, one of our soldier boys who was seriously wounded in the war, but who has about recovered his old time health and vigor, returned from a trip to Portland recently.

John Lewis left for outside points last Saturday on a business errand. Earl Whitely left Saturday for Stanfield and Walla Walla, where he expects to spend the winter. He went to Enterprise in the morning and took the train out from there.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Clemons and son, Gerald, went to Wallowa Saturday for a short visit. Mr. Clemons went out from Wallowa on Sunday's train for points in Umatilla county, and Mrs. Clemons and son returned to Lostine Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Leonard, who were Wallowa visitors that day. Mrs. Clemons expects to join her husband as soon as he gets located.

Albert Daisley is with the highway crew at Weiser, Idaho, having gone

How They Would Scrap 'Em



If battleships are scrapped under the Hughes proposal, this is how it will be done. The U. S. S. Arkansas is partially dismantled while being overhauled at the Philadelphia navy yard. To scrap the ship the dismantling process would be continued and some of the material salvaged for other use.

from Wallowa with them when they left the county after the grading was completed.

The same mild but stormy weather prevailed, though we had a drop to freezing and a fall of an inch of snow Monday night, but chills prevailed again by Tuesday morning and it continued to rain and blow by spells both day and night. It is probably what is needed along Columbia gorge if they are getting this weather, but the low lands seem to have had more snow and colder weather than the up-lands of the state. So we won't complain about the rain and wind.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Cook and children left on Saturday's train for outside points, where they will visit with Mrs. Cook's people at Inabler and Cove.

Miss Maxine Childers came in Saturday for a couple of weeks' visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Childers. She is working in Pendleton.

E. L. Rucker has moved from his wheat ranch in the hills to the W. B. Hunter ranch up the Lostine river, south of Lostine. Mr. Rucker wanted to run an irrigated farm for a time and will still continue to farm his place in the hills, which he has in fall wheat.

Mr. and Mrs. Arch Willett are at the W. Avery wood camp up the south fork, where Mr. Avery is getting out posts on a contract.

Miss Leola Holmes, a teacher at Joseph, spent the Thanksgiving holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Holmes, up the Lostine river.

Mrs. Joe Thompson recently gave a party in honor of her niece, Miss Stollie and Evelyn Thompson, of Wallowa, who were visiting here. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Houck and daughters, Gladys and Pauline, Mrs. B. E. Duncan and daughter, Dorothy, Mrs. Arch Willett

and children, Maurice and Aneta; Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Poulson and four children, and Mesdames Sam and Alf Lilly. The children played games and Mrs. Thompson, and the adults spent the evening with Elmer and Dominos.

Mrs. Thompson recently received quite an assortment of fancy articles as gifts from her relatives and friends in West Virginia, her old home, which she left last April to come to Oregon, and was married during the late summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Houck entertained Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williamson and children, and Mr. and Mrs. C. South and children at dinner on Sunday.

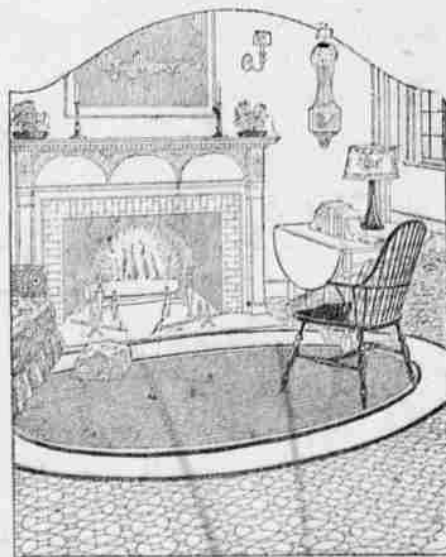
Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Poulson have been entertaining his father, the elder Mr. Poulson, from Promise Land, for some time.

Gale Crow and Frank Fisher were down from Hurricane Creek on a business trip on Wednesday.

Hotel bills in Italy are increased by 20 per cent by luxury taxes and funds for war widows, etc.

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A Column for Card Players and Question Box—Conducted by Hoyle, Jr.

Address questions about any game to Hoyle, Jr., The Observer. Answers will be mailed promptly. No questions answered unless signed with name and address.

AUCTION BRIDGE.

"Straws Show the Way (as Wind Blows)."

The straw or trash of the discard in Auction is most important, and also most difficult.

The only rule which is a blanket one is "discard to protect your hand." Now, what will protect the hand?

1. The discard from strength on a trump declaration, and from weakness (protecting or guarding honors) on no trump.

This is the most generally used and most logical discard, because with the declared trump against you, you are not liable to bring in your own or your partner's long suit, but at no-trump it is sometimes possible to do so.

2. The discard always from strength has its advantages, especially for the beginner, as it will protect high cards in short suits often, but at the same time may occasionally cost a trick in the long suit.

3. The discard always from weakness has this great disadvantage, as it would often compel the player to unguard an honor which would make a re-entry and stop the strong suit of the adversary, and also gives the Declarant the advantage of knowing which hand to finesse against.

If you have once led, you have shown your strength, and may then discard from any suit to protect your hand. Discard only once from

strength, and then for protection.

The Reverse Discard. In discarding, the play of a high and then a lower card in the same suit reverses the original meaning of the discard.

If you adopt the strength discard, and wish to throw away your weak suit at no-trump, do so by discarding first a high and then a lower card of the same suit.

If you use the weak discard, and wish to throw away your strong suit, discard first a high and then a lower card of the same suit.

Be sure of two discards before using the reverse discard.

Here is another discard often used. The discard of a seven spot or higher indicates strength; under the seven spot indicates weakness. This method is not dependable for frequently the hand may not hold the required cards to permit the use of the above.

The discard of an ace shows great strength in that suit. Watch the Declarant's discards and protect the suit that he is saying.

After you have led or shown your suit the reverse discard shows command third round of that suit.

In discarding at no-trump, don't throw away all cards of one suit.

This exposes your partner's hand and makes it easy for the Declarant to place the strength of that suit, and you may need one card of that suit

to put your partner in the lead again.

If partner is discarding from weakness, protect as far as possible the suit he is throwing away.

If forced to protect honors in other suits, don't be afraid to unguard honors in the suit in which partner is strong.

If a player has led one suit, and later in the game discards a high card of another, it shows a re-entry in the latter suit.

It is not always possible, and sometimes very difficult, to show which honor to keep protected.

Strict watch should be kept on partner's discard, and the same suit should not be thrown away or trashed from both hands.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What is known as the "encouragement discard?"

A. The discard of the seven, or higher card, shows a desire to have that suit led.

Q. A is dealer and bids one heart.

B bids one spade. C bids two hearts.

What should D bid with the following hand?

Spades—Jack, 8, 5, 4, 3.

Clubs—King, 10, 6, 4, 3.

Diamonds—Queen, 7, 4.

Hearts—None.

A. D should bid two spades. D

not only holds a trick in each off

suit, (King of Clubs and Queen of

Diamonds), but he has absolutely no

cards of the suit the opponent is

bidding. He can use his small

trumps to ruff the Heart suit. Also,

B must have at least four spades and

three honors, or five spades and two

honors, one of which must be the

Ace or King. Therefore the combin-

ed strength of the two hands, B's

and D's, must be great enough even

to raise more than once.

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