

U. S. Bureau Cuts Infant Death Rate

But It Is Still Higher Than Many Foreign Lands

Washington.—Examination of nearly 600,000 infants and pre-school children at 26,353 child-health conferences during the fiscal years 1924 and 1925 was reported to the children's bureau of the United States Department of Labor by states co-operating under the Federal Maternity and Infancy act, according to a statement recently made public. Forty-three states and Hawaii are co-operating under this act, which provides federal aid for the promotion of the welfare of mothers and babies. Vermont, Louisiana and Rhode Island having accepted during the fiscal year 1925. States not co-operating are Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Maine and Massachusetts. The children's bureau made public an official report covering the state accomplishments during 1924, together with preliminary figures for 1925.

These figures show that, in addition to the examination of babies and young children at the child-health conferences, maternity and infancy activities during 1924 and 1925 included the holding of 9,699 prenatal conferences attended by approximately 75,000 women; classes for midwives with a total attendance of approximately 40,000; the holding of mothers' classes with an attendance of more than 162,000 mothers and the organization of 5,000 "little mothers' classes. The number of child-health centers established was 1,706; the number of prenatal centers 245.

Defects Frequently Found

Although centers are for "well" babies, the report states, defects are frequently found, which require correction before the child is free to gain a maximum of physical fitness. Defects most frequently encountered are refractive errors in the eyes, naso-pharyngeal growths and abnormalities, orthopedic defects, glandular enlargements or insufficiencies, dental caries and malnutrition, always the large percentage in every group. Children are always referred to family physicians for the correction of these defects, if there is a physician. A few states have arranged for clinics at which defects may be corrected by a staff physician or a specialist. Some states furnished estimates of defects corrected during 1924, ranging usually from 20 to 40 per cent.

Other important activities under the act include home visits by nurses in sparsely settled country where health conferences are not possible; nutrition work for expectant mothers and for children; efforts to make good confinement and postnatal care possible for mothers; inspection of maternity and infant homes; improvement of birth registration; the distribution of silver nitrate solution to prevent ophthalmia neonatorum; anti-diphtheria campaigns to have all preschool children examined before school entrance and general educational work.

The children's bureau also reports as to the cost of the act and the total appropriations, national and state, spent in accordance with its provisions. The act authorizes \$1,240,000 annually for five years (the five-year period ends June 30, 1927), \$50,000 of which may be spent by the children's bureau for administrative and investigating purposes. From 1924 appropriations of the states accepted \$918,280; from 1925 funds (up to October, 1925), \$949,827. During the fiscal year 1924 the children's bureau spent for administrative and investigating purposes \$35,578;

Little Girl's Pet Duck Nets \$540 for Charity

Warren, Ohio.—Eva Bora, ten-year-old schoolgirl, had no money to give to the current community chest fund, so she took her pet duck to school and gave it to the teacher, saying it was her contribution. At a luncheon of chest fund workers the duck was auctioned off a part at a time. The bill brought \$35, the feet \$20 each, and the auctioneer collected \$540 for the fund. Then the buyers surrendered title and the duck was returned to Eva.

during 1925, \$42,972. Estimates on a per capita basis show that federal appropriations for maternity and infancy work cost annually less than 1 cent per inhabitant of the United States.

Infant Death Rate Falls

Commenting on the report of work done under the act, Grace Abbott, chief of the children's bureau, said:

"The provisional figures for 1924 of the vital statistics division of the bureau of the census indicate a substantial drop in the infant death rate for both urban and rural communities in the United States birth registration area; but even with this improvement the infant death rate in the United States is higher than in Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the Irish Free State, and no state in the United States birth registration area has so low a rate as New Zealand. It is quite evident, therefore, that the United States cannot afford to slacken its interest or reduce in any way the intelligent expenditure of funds to lower the death rate among babies."

Finds Ground Fire Keeps Off Bombers

Tests Show That Antiaircraft Guns Are Effective.

Washington.—A year's experience with antiaircraft firing has demonstrated that this form of fire is more effective upon bombing planes than that of other classes of artillery against their normal targets." Maj. Gen. F. W. Coe, chief of coast artillery, asserted in his annual report. General Coe referred to the special antiaircraft training ordered by the War department and conducted at Fort Tilden, N. Y., with the assistance of air personnel from Mitchell field, "with a view of determining the degree of efficiency which may be expected from antiaircraft guns and machine gun fire against air targets." The ability of searchlights operating on data obtained by listening devices to illuminate a target continuously while in range of the guns formed a part of the problem. General Coe's judgment as to the effectiveness to be expected from antiaircraft batteries was based not only on this special test but upon firings during the year by other coast artillery units.

NOTED SECESSION DOCUMENT FOUND

Hunted Ordinance Turns Up in Sandusky, Ohio.

Sandusky, Ohio.—South Carolina's ordinance of secession, missing almost from the day of its adoption on December 20, 1860, came to light here. It is in the temporary possession of Common Pleas Judge William L. Fiesinger, who refuses to discuss it except to say that it has been an heirloom in a Sandusky family for some years and that, for the time being at least, he can only admit that he has it.

It has become known here however, that Congressman James T. Bezz of this city investigated at Washington and reported that the museums there told him the document now in Judge Fiesinger's hands had been long sought but never found. The congressional library, Bezz said, has made repeated requests for the loan or purchase of the ordinance or a photograph copy of it.

After Lincoln was elected the South Carolina legislature called a special session to vote upon secession. The meeting was held in Columbia, S. C., December 17, 1860, and adjourned to Charleston because of a smallpox epidemic in Columbia.

At Charleston the ordinance, declaring "that the union subsisting between South Carolina and other states under the name of the United States of America is hereby dissolved," was framed, approved and signed.

Neatly hand-lettered in one corner of the document is a statement to the effect that it was found in the house of Doctor Lamb, secretary of state, along with other documents by federal officers on March 3, 1865.

The document, which has been referred to as "the cause of the war of the rebellion," is in a remarkably good state of preservation. That some of the signers were nervous when they signed is evidenced by scrutiny of the approximately 200 signatures on the ordinance.

The report pointed out that up to this year no method had been found to furnish training to the personnel of the 17 antiaircraft artillery regiments of the organized reserve allocated to the central part of the country.

The distance to the sea coast antiaircraft batteries prevented sending officers, as no funds for transportation were available. Only three antiaircraft regiments are maintained in the regular establishment, all located on the coast, but during the last summer special training teams from these regiments were sent into the interior and arrangements also were made for reserve training with National Guard regiments at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Sparta, Wis.

"This arrangement is not satisfactory," General Coe said, "and proper training can be given to these units and the three National Guard regiments similarly situated (in the interior) only by organizing and stationing a regular antiaircraft regiment at some point in that region."

50-Caliber Gun Favored

The report said that all antiaircraft regiments should be supplied with the new 50-caliber machine gun in place of the present 30-caliber equipment "as soon as funds can be made available," and that similar steps should be taken to replace the model 1918 three-inch antiaircraft guns with the new model 1923-E weapon on mobile trailer mounts which "embodies many improvements" and will be approved for manufacture when minor defects developed in tests at Fort Monroe, Va., have been corrected. The urgent need for sound locating devices to detect airplanes at night was being met through ordinance department of our antiaircraft service," General Coe added, and this development would be pushed as fast as funds permitted.

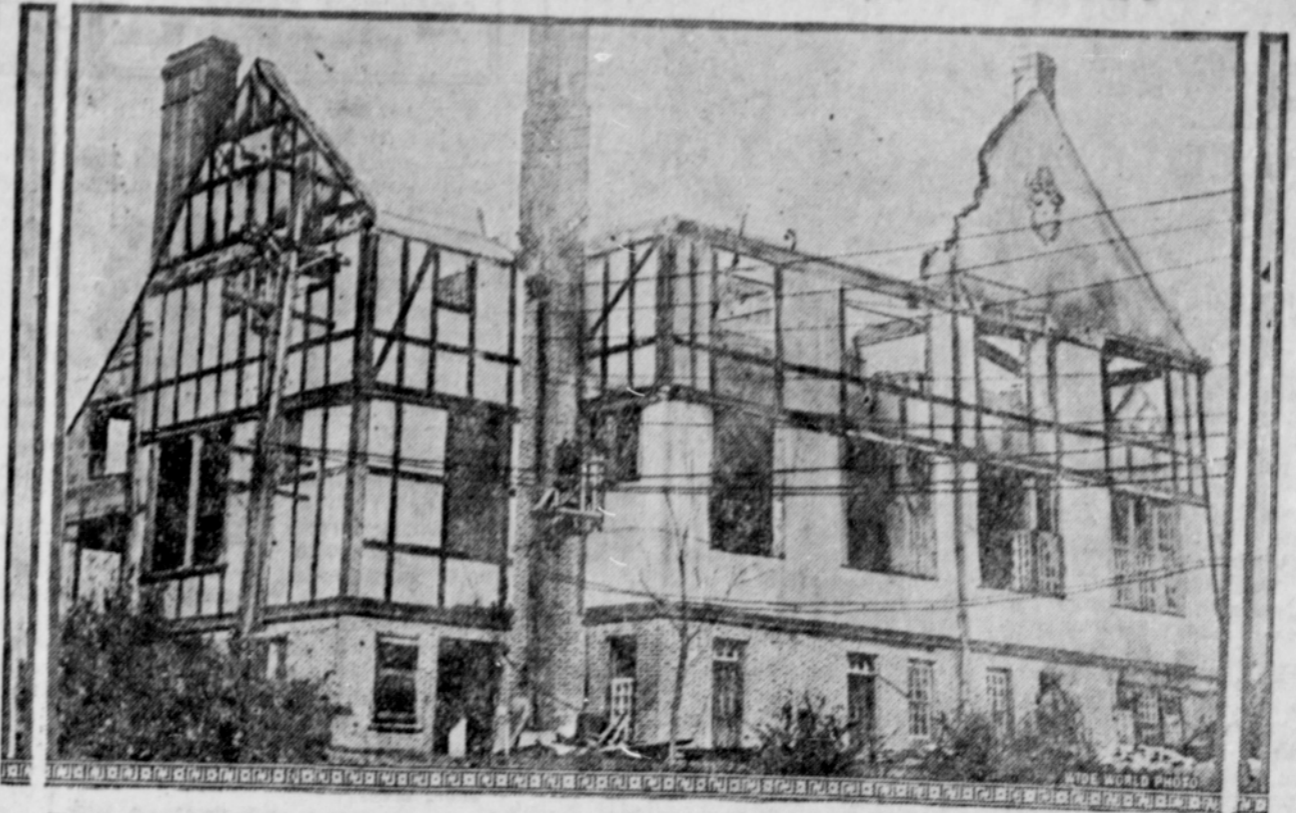
"I wish especially to urge the necessity for increased activity in development of our antiaircraft service," General Coe insisted. "Other coast artillery developments are either refinements or extensions of well tried out ideas. The antiaircraft service is, however, at a point where original investigations and extended trials of new designs and methods are imperative."

Athens Flood Reveals Tombs and Mummies

London.—More than 100 persons are believed to have perished in the floods in Athens following a torrential rain, says a dispatch to the Daily Express. Many houses in the refugee settlement collapsed. Inmates were buried in the ruins.

Flood waters from Mount Lykabettes uncovered 38 tombs in Anagnostopoulou street, in Athens. Five mummies and numerous gold ornaments and vases were uncovered.

National Amateur Golf Cup Destroyed in a Fire



The national amateur golf championship cup, which Robert T. Jones took back to his club at Atlanta, Ga., was destroyed by the fire that ruined the East Lake Country Clubhouse the other day. The ruins of the building are shown above. The lost trophy was thirty years old.

Glorify Both Living and Dead Emperors

Hue, Capital of Annam, Interesting Place.

Washington.—"Hue, capital of Annam, where an emperor recently died and another was crowned, may be considered the heart, though not the metropolis, of French Indo-China," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"Annam is less completely under French control, officially, than any of the other states with which it is associated in the territorial group known as French Indo-China," continues the bulletin, "but Annam and the 12,000,000 people of Annamese blood really constitute the chief factor in this region of French influence. In few places are the old forms of oriental magnificence maintained as completely as in the imperial establishment at Hue. Until recently the palace was forbidden ground, and it is still far from easy to obtain access."

Like Fairy Palace.

"Inside the palace walls is a richness and an elaborateness seldom encountered outside fairy tales and the settings of extravagant stage presentations. There are picturesque gardens; paved courts, where on occasion the 10,000 mandarins of Annam strike their foreheads in unison on the ground before the emperor; dim corridors of countless columns with their huge perfume burners sending up continual clouds of incense; and exquisite rooms of intricately wrought ceramics and gold and silver. Opening into the emperor's state rooms is the great Golden Door, through which, in addition to the sovereign, only the extraordinary ambassadors may pass.

"Lavish festivals and displays take place within this fairy land of luxury. The most charming and characteristic, perhaps, are the children's ballets, in which scores of dainty, costumed youngsters go through elaborate steps and postures with bright fans in their hands and a lighted, colored lantern attached to each youthful shoulder.

"Outside the palace enclosure Hue is less appealing. The 'metropolitan area' of the city is in large part a collection of native villages clustered in the shadow of the great palace-citadel walls. Across the river is the French residency with its Gallic-western atmosphere. For a long time Hue was little known, and as the seat of an important country, its size was exaggerated. Its population is only 60,000.

WIN A FINE TRIP



Miss Irene Mitchell of Chicago (left) and Miss Geraldine Dyson of Springfield starting on a trip around the world which was awarded them in connection with the Illinois Products exposition of 1925.

Tax on Women Urged to Give Farmers Relief

Victoria, B. C.—Taxing women to relieve farmers was proposed by the agricultural committee of the provincial legislature in a recommendation made to the Hon. Dr. D. J. MacLean, minister of finance.

The agriculturists would impose a poll tax on women earning more than the legal wage under the minimum wage act. The proceeds would make taxation relief for the farmers possible, the committee pointed out.

elaborate and have much in them to remind one of Fontainebleau and Versailles. It is likely that their builders were influenced by French officers then in the employ of the Annamese. The later tombs are of native architecture. Both types are striking and artistic, and make up one of the most beautiful groups of royal tombs in the world."

Flintlock Made in 1765 Used by Hunter in Maine

Oakland, Maine.—Hunting in the woods of Maine with a flintlock is something quite out of keeping with this advanced age, but that is what Capt. John G. W. Dillin of Media, Pa., skilled rifleman and noted big-game hunter, has been doing of late. Captain Dillin, who has a record of 40 seasons of hunting in the woods of Ontario and his home state, has been the guest of Walter Welch, and with Benjamin Libby as guide, they went to Sandy Beach plantation.

The flintlock with which Captain Dillin roamed through the forest was made in 1765 and figures in a tragedy in which its owner, Christian Kaufman, shot and killed an Indian who was kidnaping his neighbor's daughter in Berne township, Berks county, along the Blue Ridge mountains, about 1770. The rifle remained in the Kauffman family until about eighteen years ago.

This type of weapon was called the Kentucky rifle by Daniel Boone after he made his memorable trip over the mountains into Kentucky in 1769.

STATES DOUBLE COST OF OPERATION IN SEVEN YEARS

Expense of Government Takes Big Jump.

Washington.—Tremendous increases in costs of the state governments during recent years are shown in a summary of financial statistics of governments of the 48 states issued by the Department of Commerce.

The report discloses that the cost of maintenance and operation of the general departments of the state governments more than doubled between 1917 and 1924; that total expenditures, including outlays for permanent improvements, such as road construction, almost tripled during the same period, and that the net indebtedness more than doubled, due to bond issues for highways and the soldiers' bonus.

Payments for maintenance and operation of the general departments of the state governments in 1924 amounted to \$1,101,405,253, or \$9 per capita. The per capita cost in 1917 was \$4.19, and in 1923, \$8.17.

Total payments for 1924, including maintenance and operation of public service enterprises, interest on debt, and outlays for permanent improvements, amounted to \$1,513,628,021, or nearly three times the total of 1917, which was \$517,503,220. The total in 1923 was \$1,310,332,703.

Of the total payments in 1924, 66.2 per cent was for operation and maintenance of the general departments; 9.7 per cent for operation and maintenance of public service enterprises; 3.7 per cent for interest on debt, and 20.4 per cent for outlays for permanent improvements.

The total revenue receipts of the state governments for 1924 were \$1-

370,066,018. This was \$301,713,633 more than the total payments of the year exclusive of the payments for permanent improvements, but \$143,562,003 less than the total payments including those for permanent improvements. In only 21 of the states was there sufficient revenue to meet all payments during the year.

The net indebtedness continued to increase and in 1924 was \$1,183,467,433, or \$10.63 per capita. In 1923 the per capita net debt was \$8.72, and in 1917, \$4.93. Bonds in 1924 were largely for highways and for the payment of soldiers' bonuses.

For 1924 the assessed valuation of property in the 48 states amounted to \$131,333,557,565. The amount of general property taxes levied for state purposes was \$368,083,710. The per capita levy was \$3.31 for 1924.

Monte Carlo to Have Rival Gambling Resort

Paris.—Monte Carlo is threatened with a rival in the nearby Mediterranean. Next spring a new city is to be built outside Valletta, the capital of Malta, Paris has learned, and Premier Ugo Pasquale Mifsud of Malta is quoted as saying that no expense will be spared to make the new gambling center without an equal in the world.

It is reported the Maltese Monte Carlo will have theaters, grounds for various forms of sport, ultra-modern hotels and a sumptuous casino, with roulette and other forms of gambling.

To Fight Chauffeurs

Paris.—Pedestrians have organized to protect themselves against the tyranny of chauffeurs.

White Man's Burden Pleases Joe



Joe Bonomo, "world's strongest human," holding seven bathing beauties between scenes on the lot at University City, Cal., where the strong man is starring in serials.