

Opinion

Digest of European Press
Covers Variety of Current
Events

Disinheriting the Childless

SINCE 1900 exactly 119 bills have been introduced in the French parliament with the general object of encouraging the people to multiply, and a few of them have found their way to the statute books. However, depopulation continues, and is a source of deep concern.

The *Mercur de France*, in commenting on the subject, notes that laws of this kind are no novelty. It cites ancient Roman legislation on the subject. The "lex Julia" and the "lex Papia Poppaea" provided economic penalties for the unmarried and for those whose marriages were not fruitful. They also conferred special privileges on parents.

Bachelors between 25 and 50 years old and unmarried women between 20 and 40 did not have full inheritance rights. Widows, after two years of widowhood, were treated as unmarried, and divorced women must remarry within a year and a half to escape the rigors of the law.

Inheritances withheld from the unmarried were distributed to the children and other relatives of the testator, provided they were parents. Otherwise they were confiscated by the state.

The "orbi," or persons married but having no children, could get only half of what was bequeathed to them by will, and even to obtain that much they must have married at a child-bearing age. Otherwise they were regarded, for inheritance purposes, as unmarried.

One day when the Roman knights complained of the severity of these laws, Augustus exclaimed: "It is men that make the city; you will not see men leap from the earth, as they do in these fables, to fulfill the duties that you neglect."

The consul having the greater number of children took precedence. The governors of senatorial provinces were appointed for one year and drawn by lot, but those having large families were allowed to choose their posts. The senator with the most children headed the senatorial list and spoke first in debate.

Fathers could be admitted to the magistracy before the legal age — one year for each child — and had first choice of appointments.

The *Mercur de France* notes, however, that in spite of the law a relative of Emperor Tiberius was appointed praetor, which shows that there is nothing new under the sun, as similar things happen today.

Consuls Papius and Poppaeus, authors of the law, were bachelors, and so was the poet Horace, who lauded their legislation in verse. But modern instances of this might be cited also, for "men feel less guilty when they preach virtues that they do not possess."

Whatever may be said of the Augustan laws, the population did increase. But Christian teachings concerning celibacy and second marriages were responsible for their falling into disuse. By the middle of the second century they were practically forgotten.

In the middle of the fifth century, Emperor Majorian tried, in the face of the barbarian invasion, to restore the old laws to their original vigor and to show that for the nation that desires to live the sacred state is marriage, and the sacred duty to raise children. But he had no hold on his times, and an assassin's dagger put an end to his dreams of new glory for Rome.

The breaking up of the empire and its civilization accomplished what the laws could not then accomplish. Men went from the cities to the soil, forced to dig for their food. Instinctively they multiplied, the better to defend and protect themselves.

The *Mercur de France* sees a lesson in this experience that may be applied to modern France.

Business Crisis in Sweden

A STOCKHOLM correspondent writes to the *Cologne Gazette*:

"The economic situation in Sweden is causing the greatest anxiety. It is a question of typical after-war misery or unemployment, of want of capital, of the falling of prices."

"In the last half of the war there was a rise in prices in Sweden which was maintained until last summer. Since then the prices have been going down, especially in the last few weeks. American goods at low prices are now coming on the market, causing the value of the stocks, constituting the bulk of the money in Sweden, to go down so that the holders of these stocks try to get rid of them at any price."

"It is generally believed here that the neutrals must be swimming in gold after all the money they made during the war; when it is said to be the contrary, it looks to us like justice. Never has there been so little money in Sweden as today. The banks will give no credit even to their old clients. One after the other new war societies are collapsing, pulling down with them old commercial houses. But what has become of all the money that was pouring into the country during the last years? A great deal of it is in stocks, which at the present time are selling at high prices. At the present time there is not a share in Stockholm which is not selling off its goods."

"It is still worse in Norway. The buyers are often asked what he will pay for these things being a fixed price, so that a suit of clothes marked at 600 crowns may be had for 500. It is the same with shares. All that has been gained in the last years is often lost in a few days. Sweden exported a great deal in the autumn. The importation of foreign articles, however, is so much money going abroad. In Norway these importations have become so considerable that many prohibitions have been made."

"It is to be expected that very shortly there will be great difficulties in the question of importations in the Scandinavian countries. A grave economic crisis is imminent."

Mark Twain's Cousin in London

MISS MILDRED CLEMENS, cousin of Mark Twain, has come to London to show us something of the famous American "Chautauqua." She has traveled widely, written much and with vigorous personality she makes an admirable lecturer, declares the *London Chronicle*.

"My little show" is not actually a "Chautauqua," but it is its forerunner," she explained. "I have toured with it all over America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and I hope it will prove the beginning of a 'Chautauqua' of speakers throughout the United States and your country and its dominions."

"My cousin, Mark Twain, visited the Hawaiian Islands 50 years ago, Miss Clemens said. It was great pleasure for me to follow where he had been."

"Waiting in Honolulu to set off for the islands, I met the famous 'Honey Bee' Workers' association was formed at a mass meeting at the Salvation Army hall, Sheriff Frank C. Hoy was elected president. The organization plans to see that families of workers who may be idle, due to threatened industrial depression, shall not want for food or other necessities."

EUROPE TODAY--MAP SHOWING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AS NOW FIXED



surrounding. He was so keen he wouldn't come home until it was dusk."

What Time Did Clock Strike 12?

WHAT time was it when the castle clock struck 12? Ten thousand pounds hangs on the answer to this question, explains the *London Express* correspondent in Denmark, which has been the subject of lively argument in the eastern civil court, Copenhagen.

The clock in question is in the tower of Lystrup Castle, the seat of one of Denmark's greatest landholders, the late Count Moltke, a life member of the ancient house of Jords.

Count Moltke died on the night of December 19-20, 1918, a few seconds after the castle clock struck 12. The Danish parliament recently approved a new and increased scale of death duties, and the estate of all persons who died after midnight on December 19-20.

It is contended by the count's heirs that the castle clock was fast and struck a minute too soon. The count, they say, died on December 19, and therefore his estate is exempt from the increase in the death duties.

Many expert witnesses have been called on each side, and the rival lawyers have argued the matter with heat.

Senator McCormick in Berlin

IT is unnecessary to say that Senator McCormick's repeated declarations that his European trip was entirely personal and unofficial were not taken seriously by Europeans. The semi-official *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* devotes the following leading article to his stop in Berlin:

"Mr. McCormick, whose intimate relations with President Harding are well known, received great attention in Paris and Warsaw, and other capitals that he has visited. The visit to Berlin is on his own initiative. But we rejoice to see such a well known personality from the United States taking the opportunity of gaining information about the state of Germany so as to be able to draw a true picture of the facts on his return to his country. As a state of war still

exists officially between Germany and the United States, and diplomatic relations are not yet reestablished, public opinion in America has been reduced to reports of representatives of the American press in Germany, and American journalists, with few exceptions, judge the economic situation of the country from the hotel where they are living and do not trouble to inform themselves about the misery of the people."

"Our country is suffering greatly from the rupture of normal relations with the United States; Germany had never been at war with the United States and there was a great deal of trade between the two countries."

"Germany would be very glad if the personalities with whom Mr. McCormick has been conversing are able to use their influence toward the resumption of former amicable relations."

Rumbles in Portugal

REVOLUTIONARY outrages are becoming frequent in Portugal, although they are often not dangerous and the smallest cracker is called at once a bomb. But public opinion becomes agitated. The Capital announces the discovery by the police of a Bolshevik revolutionary plot, following the arrest at Porto of certain agitators, railway men and revolutionaries professing Bolshevik ideas.

The plot is called "The Popular Legion," which is supposed to be a "committee" made up of different Bolshevik organizations. First, a central "committee" will be formed of three members and a liaison agent. This "committee" is to be in contact with the one at Lisbon and they will decide together the day the movement is to take place and the form of government which is to be established.

The plan provides for every detail, hour by hour, for the strategic points that the revolutionaries are to occupy so as to act with security and take possession of the G. N. R. (National Republican guard) and of a gunboat which is to take them up the Douro and help in taking possession of the police at Massarelos, then to go up the river as far as the customs and the Bank of Portugal which the revolutionaries wish to take.

Senate Group Hit Land Bill Harding Was Among Them

Washington, Feb. 12.—(WASH. BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—When the Mondell soldier land settlement bill was before congress last year members of the public lands committee of the house, who were conducting hearings upon it, were puzzled for a time by opposition propaganda appearing in magazine articles, anonymous circular letters and other forms.

Representative N. J. Sirovich of Oregon, chairman of the committee, and other members investigated for some time and finally revealed an organization backed by prominent senators, including Warren G. Harding, Smoot of Utah, Wadsworth of New York, and last, but not least, former Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts.

HELPED BY HARDING

Weeks is one of Harding's closest friends, helped to "put him over" at Chicago, and is commonly believed to be slated for appointment as secretary of the treasury or secretary of the navy, as he may choose. Weeks appears from the testimony before the house committee to have been the strongest force behind the "Forward-to-the-Land League," the organization in question.

A letter in the committee record shows that Weeks offered to subscribe \$5000 toward a \$100,000 fund to put vim in the movement. Senator Harding was only a small contributor, but helped out by lending his name as putative author of the testimony showed was largely prepared by Mrs. Haviland H. Lund, secretary of the Forward-to-the-Land League, and was in active consultation with Weeks and the others in making plans for the movement.

Mrs. Lund, whose testimony appears in the "Homes for Soldiers" hearings before the public lands committee, told in detail of the activities of herself and the senatorial group. She explained that their objection to the Mondell bill was that it seemed to them tainted with state socialism, as it provided for the government in the first instance advancing the funds for land development, while the senators thought the work should be done by private capital "at reasonable profit."

She explained that the standard of the league was long term credit and 6 per cent profit. This appears in the hearings:

Chairman Sirovich: Six per cent profit for whom?

Mrs. Lund: For the men who buy and equip the land. . . . This is an important point that you cannot have anything of lasting consequence in this world if it cannot pay expenses and pay enough profit to keep business men willing to devote time to it knowing that it is a good business investment.

Mrs. Lund (S. D.): Do you consider Senator Harding as one of the financiers of this project?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir; Senator Harding is interested.

Mr. Johnson: Does he want 6 per cent profit?

Mrs. Lund: He did not say anything about profits, one way or the other. He was interested in making the argument to show business men that it could be done. I think Senator Harding would be called a contributor to working fund bearing no profit.

Chairman Sirovich: Do you mean Senator Weeks and Senator Harding?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir; and Senator Wadsworth, Senator Smoot, Senator Fernald, and Senator Watson.

The Chairman: Is Senator Weeks helping to finance your plan?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir; Senator Weeks has given a good deal of money to it.

The Chairman: He has given a good deal of money to it?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir; and he has recently subscribed \$5000 to our \$100,000 fund to carry on this work.

The Chairman: Did Senator Wadsworth and Senator Harding subscribe?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir; Senator Harding has given a good deal of money to it.

The Chairman: How much did Senator Harding contribute?

Mrs. Lund: Senator Harding and a number of gentlemen contributed smaller amounts of money from time to time.

Mrs. Lund avoided saying how much Harding gave. Senator Harding was interviewed at the time of the substance of his statement was given in the *Journal*, June 24, 1919.

FUBLICIST GOT \$50

It was to the effect that Mrs. Lund had talked to him different times and on two occasions he gave her money, \$100 at one time and \$50 at another, but not for propaganda. She was "up against it," he said, and he gave her money out of sympathy. He had made her no payments within a year, he stated, and if she stated that he gave her money to use against the land bill, she told an untruth.

In the hearings it developed that Mrs. Lund had paid \$50 to R. L. Bolton, described as a newspaper man, for preparing a press notice so worded that it appeared to come from the national league, accusing the committee of unfairness. Chairman Sirovich asked:

"Was this some of the money which Senator Weeks and Senator Harding contributed?"

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir.

Mr. Sirovich: You made all the arrangements for having it published?

Mrs. Lund: Yes, sir.

Mr. Sirovich: These are the high spots of the testimony as they concern Harding. They occurred some interest at the time because the Ohio senator was revealed as one of the group with Weeks, Smoot, Wadsworth, Myron T. Herrick and others of political and financial influence who were working bricks at the Mondell land bill for returning soldiers, which Representative Sirovich and Mondell, the Republican house leader, were trying to advance, and which was finally buried under the debris.

It was considered significant at the time that Weeks and Herrick were among the brick hurlers, as they were a few years before in fighting the establishment of the federal farm loan system, their argument on both occasions being the same: that the government should not engage in such things, but leave the field to private enterprise, to business men and bankers, who would operate for "reasonable profit" and accept merely cooperative effort from the government, which would consist of a commission to make a national survey and conduct educational work at government expense.

A Japanese fisheries expert will study the waters of Peru with a view to determining the extent of their products and the best methods for increasing them.

New Europe

Poland, Czechoslovakia and Jugo-Slavia Major New States to Be Created.

IN the wake of the war has been created a new Europe. One distinctive undertaking of the several peace conferences was the effort by the victors to make territorial reassignments in accord with radical affiliations and aspirations.

A glance at the map of the new Europe, presented herewith, reveals the startling changes in territorial boundaries. And the work is not yet done. In some cases the lapse of years must be awaited before the definite determination of certain areas will be arrived at by plebiscite.

The National Geographic Magazine for February contains an informing exposition of the map of the new Europe by Ralph A. Graves, who discusses the territorial readjustments decreed by the treaties of Versailles with Germany and Hungary, of St. Germain with Austria, of Neuilly with Bulgaria and of Sevres with Turkey.

Plebiscites Decried

From each of the four enemy countries were carved areas of greater or less degree. Germany ceded to France the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, a region approximately 1600 square miles, occupied by 2,000,000 people. After 15 years the inhabitants of the Saar basin will determine by plebiscite whether they shall continue under the control of the League of Nations at present, be joined with France or revert to Germany.

Plebiscites already have been had in the case of six other German areas. The people of two areas in East Prussia expressed a preference for German domination over Polish domination. Holstein and Southern Schleswig voted to remain a part of the new German state, Northern Schleswig cast its lot with Denmark. The plebiscite in Upper Silesia remains to be taken.

To Belgium goes the tiny region of Moresnet, formerly German. Poland acquires former German territory as large as South Carolina, while the former German seaport of Danzig on the Baltic becomes a "free city." The Kiel canal is opened to the merchant marine and the fortifications that once guarded it are dismantled. For 15 years German territory west of the Rhine is to be the "zone of allied occupation."

Austria-Hungary Dismembered

From what once was the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary has emerged the republics of Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, while to Italy, Rumania and Jugo-Slavia go slices of the one-time Hapsburg domain. Austria has been reduced in size to 32,000 square miles, which approximates the size of Maine and nearly a third of her population of 6,500,000 are crowded in Vienna.

The sturdy republic of Czechoslovakia, comprising Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia and Ruthenia has been termed the key-land of Central Europe.

Hungary is reduced to an area of 36,000 square miles, having a population of 8,000,000. She lost Transylvania to Rumania; Croatia, Slavonia and a part of Banat to Jugo-Slavia, and 25,000 square miles of Slovakia to Czechoslovakia.

Bulgaria, the third member of the central powers, surrendered Bulgarian Thrace to Greece, which now controls the Aegean coast. The Bulgars also ceded two bits of territory on the west to Jugo-Slavia.

Turkey Nearly Wiped Out

By the treaty of Sevres—not yet ratified by the Turkish government—Turkey in Europe is reduced to the Chatalja district, a small region. To Greece goes Turkish Thrace. The Dardanelles, Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara pass to the control of an inter-allied commission.

Turkey in Asia is similarly dismembered. From it are created the independent states of Syria (now under French mandate), Mesopotamia (now under British mandate), Armenia and Hódjas and the autonomous state of Kurdistan. Turkey further renounces all interests in Egypt and assents to a British mandate over Palestine. Access to the sea is guaranteed Bulgaria, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan through a group of internationalized ports among which are Dedeagatch, Batum and Trebizond.

Along the Baltic Coast

Turning to Northwestern Europe, to that region adjoining the Baltic, one is confronted with a series of independent states that includes Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The last three republics have not as yet been recognized by the United States.

From there is Poland, again created as a separate state by the amalgamation of parts of Posen, West Prussia, East Prussia and Silesia, once German; Poland and the autonomous state of Bukovina, once Austrian, and all of Russian Poland. It gets an outlet to the sea by the free city of Danzig. The plebiscite region of Eastern Galicia is to be under Polish administration for at least 25 years.

Jugo-Slavia includes groups of South Slavic peoples among which are the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes. Flung, the sore spot of the Italian-Jugo-Slav controversy, becomes like Danzig, a "free" state under joint control of Italy and Jugo-Slavia. The latter is assured its cherished window on the sea. This new state acquired Carniola and Dalmatia from Austria; Croatia, Slavonia and a part of Banat from Hungary; Bosnia and Herzegovina from Austria and Hungary jointly, and three small pieces from Bulgaria. The kingdom of Montenegro has been absorbed into Serbia. Peter I occupies the Jugo-Slav throne at Belgrade.

Albania retains its identity, though its boundaries are yet to be fixed. Macedonia has fallen to Greece together with the administration of Smyrna in Asia Minor pending the outcome of a plebiscite to be taken in five years.

Rumania Enlarged

Rumania recovers Bessarabia from Russia and acquires Transylvania, Bukovina and a part of Banat from Austria and Hungary.

The more or less nebulous republic of Ukraine, across the Dniester river from Rumania on the northeast, cannot at present be assigned definite boundaries.

Such is the new Europe. How it will weather the storms ahead challenges prophecy.

Will Feed Unemployed

Findlay, Ohio, Feb. 12.—(I. N. S.)—In an effort to see that the unemployed in this city are not starved, the "Findlay Workers' association" was formed at a mass meeting at the Salvation Army hall, Sheriff Frank C. Hoy was elected president. The organization plans to see that families of workers who may be idle, due to threatened industrial depression, shall not want for food or other necessities.