

# LANGUAGE ROW GROWS SERIOUS

### Belgian Unity Celebration is Clouded by Disagreement Reports Indicate

By EDWARD TRAUS  
Associated Press Correspondent  
GHEENT, Belgium.—(AP)—At the very moment when Belgium is preparing to celebrate the first centenary of its political independence by a double international fair at Antwerp and Liege, the capitals of the Flemish and Walloon provinces, the language question has come to the foreground with a dangerous acuteness.

Both French and Flemish are recognized by the Belgian constitution as "national" languages.

French was nationalized when the Belgian provinces separated from the Netherlands in 1830 because the Flemish language was used by the then Dutch "oppressors." It was adopted, especially by the intelligentsia who always considered French the language of the "smart" or "educated" people in opposition to the Flemish dialects used by the peasants and artisans.

In the course of years, this led to a social split among the Flemings themselves and it may have rightly said that the linguistic question was originally a social problem.

The Flemish extremists, in fact, are not waging war on the French language as such, but "betrayed by the governing classes of the Flemish population" they say, "who favored the French language rather than their own," they ask recognition of their native language in all official departments as well as in the army and in the schools, from the primary grades up through the universities. They want Flemish to be the only official language in all French provinces.

During the war, readily supported by the German occupiers who were prompt to discover the possibilities of the language dispute, the Flemish extremist leaders made a definite bid in behalf of their "disregarded rights." Under the guidance of the Germans, these extremists set up an independent government called the "Council of Flanders," and they might have gone further and proclaimed a Free Flanders, republic or kingdom, had not the armistice stopped short this "separatist movement."

The responsible extremist leaders fled for their lives, either to Germany or to Holland and all of them were subsequently condemned, either to death or to life sentences by the Belgian government after the war.

Still, the linguistic question remained unsolved. It was taken up again, about three years ago, by other Flemish leaders whose loyalty to Belgium was unchallenged. They obtained, in behalf of most of the "traitors" a political amnesty of which some of them availed themselves to start afresh a campaign on behalf of an "independent" Flanders.

These extremists succeeded in winning eleven seats from the loyalist Flemings in the parliamentary elections, and their group, headed by Mr. Vos and supported by the only communist in the House of Deputies, has brought about a rather serious political situation.

The moderate Flemings under the leadership of Burgomaster Van Lauwelaert of Antwerp, are trying to persuade the government to take the wind out of the extremists' sails by conceding their main claim, which is the complete Flemingization of Ghent university, which they consider as the Walloon stronghold.

But, most of the maligned Flemings, supported by the whole French speaking part of the population, are opposed to such a change in this center of Latin culture. They have offered instead to create an entirely new Flemish university, either at Antwerp or Ghent, in order to meet the wishes of the Flemish leaders and make it possible for those who wish to do so, to follow the complete courses of a university in the Flemish language. All existing universities in Belgium—Brussels, Louvain, Liege, and Ghent—are French institutions.

To this proposal, however, the French leaders object, for reasons of sentiment and prestige. This gives the linguistic question its political touch, as the fight has centered upon transformation of the university of Ghent and the special technical schools annexed to it, into an exclusive Flemish institution.

The Flemish extremists threaten to interfere by demonstrations, obstructions and even more drastic means, with this year's celebration of Belgium's independence, unless Ghent university is handed over to them unconditionally.

## BIRTHS INCREASED BY BOUNTY PLANS

GENEVA (AP)—Use of the family allowance system in France and Belgium has substantially increased the birth rate among workers receiving this aid, the International Labor Office has found.

Nearly five million workers are affected in these two countries. Under the scheme, supplementary wages are paid to families, the amount being graded according to the number of children.

The plan came into being in almost all of Europe immediately after the war. It was regarded in some countries as a temporary expedient to prevent serious privation during reconstruction.

In Central Europe the system declined in importance when conditions became more stable, but is still retained for civil service employees and coal miners. In France and Belgium the system has developed steadily.

The plan has been widely discussed in Great Britain and has been adopted for certain classes of workers in New Zealand and Australia.

## RUINS OF FACTORY WHERE TEN PERISHED



Workers, reporters and fire officials inspecting the ruins of the Pennsylvania Fireworks Company factory at Devon, Pa., after it was ruined by explosion that took toll of ten lives. Over eighty were injured in the disaster. Blasts were heard over thirty miles away.

## 10,000 Wild Horses Are Ranging Southeastern Oregon Asserts Official

Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian, said that Oregon has at least 10,000 wild horses with nearly all of them in the southeastern section of the state. Lytle said that the actual wild horse census of the western states will never be taken and that only estimates can be made.

The most satisfactory way to make an estimate, he said, is to count the wild horses seen in known areas in various districts, then determine the average number per square mile, multiplying this by the grazing area, Lytle explained. The method, while considered the most nearly accurate, is obviously liable to error in counting stealthy and timid animals.

California officials in this manner estimated about 7,000 deer in the Stanislaus National forest, but when it became necessary to kill these animals five years ago because of hoof and mouth disease there proved to be more than 25,000. This is likely to be true of the wild horses. It is believed, however, that there are at least 10,000 wild horses in southeastern Oregon, 15,000 in northern Nevada, 8,000 in Washington, 6,000 in Idaho and 12,000 in Montana.

There is a growing demand, Lytle said, that worthless wild horses be disposed of, since they eat or destroy much of the fine grass in the western states. It is estimated that one horse eats one and one fourth times as much grass as a cow and six times as much as a sheep. Because they can go much farther to water than

either sheep or cattle they eat the grass away from these animals. Ordinarily the grass would be used as cured winter feed when snow water would be available.

Some stockmen have suggested bombing airplanes be used to get rid of the horses in certain districts particularly the Tuscovora mountains in Nevada where it is almost impossible to get them otherwise. Their idea, however, is not actually to slaughter the animals by bombs but to frighten them out of the mountains and into country where they can be killed by more humane methods or sold to horse meat concerns.

The demand for horses by meat concerns is such that they doubtless would buy the animals should it prove possible to round them up. In event of the round up for this purpose the animals would help for four days to give anyone opportunity to prove ownership. If ownership was not proven the money would be paid by the purchasers to the persons rounding them up.

It was hoped by the Oregon range stockmen that dourine infection would be diagnosed in some of Oregon's wild horses so they would be ordered killed. But so far all blood test samples submitted by officials to Washington have been free from the infection. Dourine is a social disease prevalent among animals.

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## ARTIFICIAL CLOUDS MAY BATTLE FIRES

AMHERST, Mass.—(AP)—Artificial clouds may now be used to reduce forest fire hazards.

The experts of the Northeastern Forest Experiment station, with headquarters at Massachusetts Agricultural college here, have found that any reduction in sunshine intensity reduces the fire hazard and by using cloth screens of various thicknesses artificial degrees of cloudiness can be produced.

Paul W. Stichel of the United States forest service, attached to the station, has been conducting experiments at the Harvard forest at Petersham.

Tests made in white pine duff—the needles and litter on the ground in a white pine forest—showed that the rate at which the duff dries out is dependent on sunshine intensity.

Measurements made of the moisture content, solar radiation intensity and relative humidity of the various stations showed that fully exposed duff was consistently drier than that of the shaded areas and the degree of hazard under the cloudiest area was least.

For predicting fire hazards, Mr. Stichel explained that by summing the average cloudiness since the last rainfall a better determination of its effect on the reduction of fire hazard was possible.

These studies also indicated the role played by ground vegetation in reducing the danger from fire and the importance of getting cut-over lands clothed with growth as early as possible.

## BRIAND'S IDEA HELD OLD ONE

### United States of Europe Is Revealed as Seventeenth Century Scheme

By G. LANGELAAN  
Associated Press Staff Writer  
PARIS.—(AP)—Wide spread discussion of the plan for an United States of Europe, as advanced by Aristide Briand, foreign minister of France, has brought to light that statesmen have been talking about the idea for centuries.

The first serious project for such a confederation was put forward in 1603 by Henry IV of France and his minister of finance, the Duc de Sully. This went so far as to gain the support of Queen Elizabeth of England.

Known as the "Grand Dessein" (Great Project), its authors described it as "Laws and statutes calculated to cement the union of all the members and to maintain amongst them, order once established, mutual assurances and reciprocity as regards religion and politics, for the liberty of commerce."

Europe was to be divided into fifteen principal states, each to send representatives to a council in some central city, but not a capital. There the delegates were to be "constantly assembled as a senate to deliberate on affairs as they arose, to occupy themselves with discussing different interests, to pacify quarrels, to throw light upon and oversee the civil, political and religious affairs of Europe, whether internal or foreign."

The decisions of this council were to have "the force of irrevocable and unchangeable decrees as being considered to emanate from the united authority of all the sovereigns."

The first task in bringing about this much to be desired state of things, was to be a war on Austria, for only when that kingdom had been split up, it was expected, would general peace prevail.

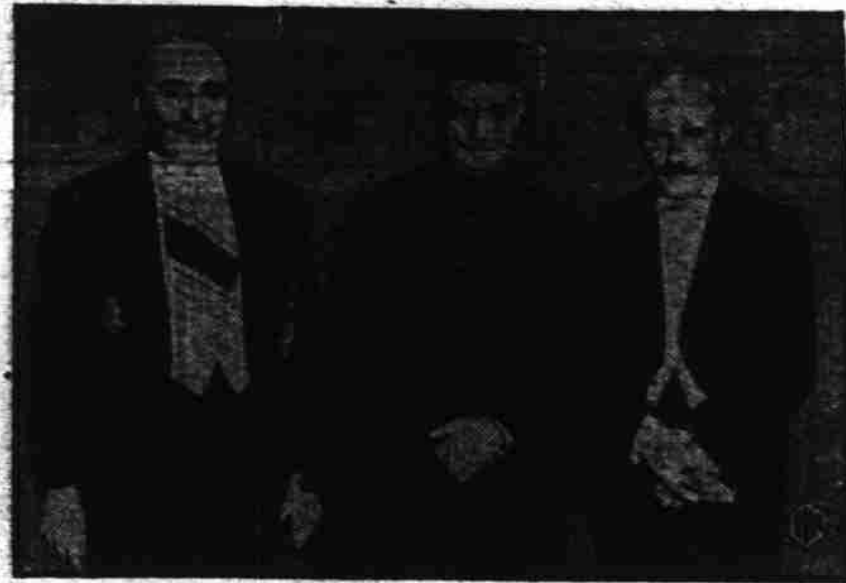
Queen Elizabeth of England was in favor of the plan, Sully, Henry IV's minister, wrote from London:

"I found her keenly occupied with the means of bringing this plan to success. . . and she appeared to me not to doubt that the plan could be carried through successfully, but she wished, however, it could be done without recourse to arms in the first place."

The assassin's knife was the end of Henry's life and his project.

The seed had been sown, how-

## GIVEN ACADEMIC HONORS



Father Nevils, S. J., president of Georgetown University (center), with the two distinguished guests of the university upon whom were conferred the highest distinctions which the institution can award. M. Paul Claudel (left), French Ambassador to the United States, received an honorary degree in recognition of his diplomatic attainments. Maestro Arturo Toscanini (right) was honored with a degree in recognition of his high attainments in the realm of music. He is a world-famed symphony orchestra conductor.

ever, and in 1623 the scholars and diplomats of Europe were discussing a scheme put forward by another Frenchman, Emeric Cruce, which was really only a slight modification of the Great Project but extended it to Asia.

Cruce makes a criticism of his own plan which has a very modern ring about it:

"Suppose that peace is signed today, and that it is published to

the whole world, how do we know that posterity will ratify the articles?" Cruce foreshadowed a system of reprisals so that the majority of opinion should prevail.

Charles, Duke of Lorraine, in 1688, again tackled the problem. He proposed a council of 13 members, meeting once a week. Each of the 13 countries who were to own Europe was to maintain a member at this council for at

least a year.

America first became prominent in the endeavor to help Europe travel the path of peace in 1693, when William Penn contributed an "Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of an European Dyet, Parliament or Estates." His international assembly was to be composed of 90 members, and their voting power was to be calculated on the estimated yearly value of the several sovereign countries. The kind-hearted Quaker felt sure that an effective geoeconomic plan would unite Europe in brotherly love and banish cruel war.

Abbe St. Pierre, a French priest, in 1740, proposed a union of kings of Europe. "That sovereign who shall take up arms before the union has declared war shall be declared an enemy of the union and it shall make war on him until he be disarmed—" is his way of dealing with a ruler who refuses to abide by common rules. The council was to have 24 members and sit in a specially created town to be known as the "City of Peace."

Jean Jacques Rousseau, whose teachings did so much to bring about the French Revolution, contributed a not very convincing essay on the "Union of the United States of Europe." As in most of his writings, the innate goodness of man was to work the miracle of peace.

Immanuel Kant, the great German philosopher, at the age of 71 brought forward a plan for a "Permanent Congress of Nations." He foresaw the republican form of government in every state as the main hope of salvation and peace for the United States of Europe.

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