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DISEASE COSTS BILLIONS A YEAR

Economic Loss From Preventable
Ailments Is Estimated at
Enormous Figure.

BASED ON STUDY IN ILLINOIS

Influenza Epidemic Responsible for
Economic Loss in Vital Assets of
Approximately \$1,000,000,000
—Health Means Money.

New York.—Economic loss in this country from preventable diseases is estimated by American Medicine at \$2,500,000,000 a year. This conclusion is based on an elaborate study of the subject by Illinois Health News, which shows that in 1918 in Illinois alone illness and death from such diseases entailed a loss of \$24.67 for each man, woman and child in the state. Although the general death rate in Illinois was at the low figure of 14.2 per 1,000 of population, the loss from the principal preventable diseases amounted to \$15,881,685, or 6.01 per cent of the total property value of the state.

"If this ratio of per capita cost," American Medicine says, "were to apply for the entire United States the loss during 1918 would amount to more than \$2,500,000,000. The Illinois figures, however, merely considered the cost of the following communicable diseases: Typhoid, malaria, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, meningitis, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and pneumonia.

"In computing the financial cost, three items were involved: (1) The cost of funerals based at \$100 for adults and \$50 for children; (2) the value of life lost at \$3,000 for an adult and \$500 for a child; (3) the cost of care of those who recover, including medical service for adults.

"Utilizing the same figures for the few above-named diseases in a computation on the basis of the United States mortality figures for 1916, the death losses from these ten diseases (poliomyelitis not included) amounted to approximately \$70,000,000 and the losses due to medical care and wages to approximately \$1,078,000.

"The recent epidemic of influenza involved at least ten million persons, with a mortality of approximately 400,000. Assuming that each case of illness involved only \$25 for medical care, the cost would be \$250,000,000.

Pestilence Adds Another Billion.
"Inasmuch as the mortality from influenza involved approximately three persons of working age to one child, one may consider the average loss by death equivalent to \$2,400, and the funeral expenses at \$80, giving thus a total economic loss in vital assets of approximately \$1,000,000,000. These figures, large as they are, take no account of the losses in production due to the pestilence, nor, indeed, of the cost of labor turnover due to the mortality of industrial workers.

These tremendous costs of communicable diseases may be regarded in part as an index of the economic efficiency of communities. It certainly does not reflect great interest or care in the conservation of the assets of the community to note the astonishing destruction of resources due to preventable communicable diseases.

"It is probably a shock to the conservative thinker about economic wastefulness to realize that the number of industrial accidents reported to the New York state industrial commission for the year 1917-1918 was 286,871, a number larger than the total casualties of our American army occupied in the strenuous work of conquering a pitiless foe. It is of the utmost significance that war, with all its atrocities, is probably responsible for little greater disease and disability during the period of greatest industrial activity than occurred during the ordinary years of conditions reflecting normal industrial activity.

Health Means Dollars and Cents.
"Health must be estimated in terms of dollars and cents, in terms of productivity in order to reach the conscience of the average taxpayer, who must be called upon to defray the expenses of health departments and to meet the increased costs laid upon industry by virtue of the economic losses entailed through sickness and death. The economic value merits greater attention particularly at this time, when every effort is being made to secure the rehabilitation of the wounded and to increase the vigor and potential power of those who have suffered from disease while pursuing their course as part of the military or naval forces of the nation.

"It must not be forgotten, however, that similar problems are of equal importance in connection with the everyday living of the growing nation, now bent upon renewing national prosperity and raising the standards of health, comfort and prosperity for all the types of citizens which comprise the nation."

Needle in Her Body.

Concordia, Mass.—A surgical needle that has been in her body for more than twenty years has never given Mrs. F. J. Hannum of this city trouble until recently. The needle was removed by a physician after Mrs. Hannum had suffered severely with cramps in the leg until the needle was found.

Canada Expropriates Luxburg's Gold Coin

Halifax.—German gold coins formerly owned by Count von Luxburg, who figured in the "sink without trace" notes which passed between Berlin and the German embassy in Argentina, were ordered expropriated and turned over to the Canadian government as prize money, in the admiralty prize court here. The steamer which carried the count back to Germany several months ago put in here, and the money was seized at that time. There were thirteen 20-mark pieces and eighteen 10-mark coins.

BATS ARE WELCOME IN TEXAS

State Passes Law Protecting Them as
Killers of Mosquitoes and
Malaria.

New Orleans.—"Malaria can be eliminated. The mosquito alone is responsible. The surest method of ridding the earth of mosquitoes is propagating the bat."

These are the words of Dr. Charles A. R. Campbell, mosquito exterminator and protector of the bat. He is the originator of the only municipal bat roost in the world, at San Antonio, Tex., which will accommodate 250,000 bats, and already has about 35,000 guests.

Through the efforts of Dr. Campbell the city of San Antonio passed, June 8, 1914, an ordinance prohibiting the killing of bats, and on March 10, 1917, Texas passed the first law in the world which protects the bat.

Since the erection of the municipal bat roost at San Antonio and the original bat roost built by Doctor Campbell at Mitchell lake malaria has practically disappeared from the territory.

FATHER, 13 SONS, ARE SLAIN

Two Daughters in French Family Also
Killed by Germans—Remark-
able Record of War.

Paris.—Thirteen sons killed on the field of battle, three discharged with grave injuries, one wounded four different times, the father and one daughter summarily shot by the Germans for going to Lille to celebrate the centennial anniversary of a relative, and another daughter killed by a German shell at Dunkirk, is the record of the family of M. Vanhee, a French farmer of Reminghe, near Ypres.

M. Vanhee had 36 children, 22 sons and 14 daughters, all of whom were living when the war broke out. One of his sons was valet to Pope Pius X; he returned to France to fight and was wounded in each of four different engagements.

One of the sons lost both legs, another returned from the front blind and deaf, and another underwent the trepanning operation.

MORSE CODE SAVES OFFICERS

Finds His Belt Has Been Left Un-
fastened When Pilot Starts Spec-
tacular Spiral.

Camp Dix, N. J.—About to be hurled from the tonneau of an airplane that was starting a spectacular spiral 3,000 feet over headquarters when he discovered that in making accommodations for a third passenger and a moving picture camera he had forgotten to adjust his own lifebelt, Lieut. M. Leroy Wightman saved himself by tapping out a telegraph code message to his driver, Sergt. John Morse.

Wightman was hanging on by his feet and one hand, face downward, when he managed to make known his predicament.

"Come out," the officer frantically spelled out by taps on the aluminum body of the plane in dots and dashes, and the driver, catching the message largely through vibration, righted the plane and flew back to the landing field to see what had gone wrong.

EIFFEL TOWER 'DEMOLIBOLIZED'

Will Be Accessible to Tourist Visitors
for the First Time Since
War Began.

Paris.—The Eiffel tower has joined the ranks of the demobilized, its military job being ended, although its wireless telegraph station will be maintained and indeed strengthened to make it equal to the German post at Naueu. It will be accessible to tourist visitors after being unapproachable for more than four years.

During the war a dozen machine guns were mounted on the highest platform as protection against air attacks. On the first platform were four-inch guns and searchlights, and later a powerful siren to give warning against air raids.

"Flu" Decimates the Congo.

Brussels.—Persons arriving here from the Congo say that Spanish influenza has played havoc among the population of the Belgian Congo territories. Many villages have lost nearly one-half of their inhabitants.

Vast Storage of Food.

Boston.—Despite the exorbitant food prices prevailing, the cold-storage warehouses in this state have reported to the state department of health the storage of 17,750,000 pounds of food during the past month.

THE "KISSESS BRIDE"



Mrs. Virginia Reeves Harris Warner, known as the "kissless bride," is having no particular trouble annulling her secret marriage to the youth who told her that "he pitted married people who had children," and that he didn't care for her any more. Warner visited his young bride, who was still known as Miss Harris, several times after their marriage, but for fear somebody would find they were married they did not even kiss, but when she was willing to live with him on \$150 a month she says he refused to allow her to do so. When he admitted that he did not care for her Miss Harris told her parents and the untangling of the knot began. The bride is popular in society in both Washington and Philadelphia, being the step-daughter of Commander Archibald L. Parsons, of the Philadelphia navy yard.

TRIAL WITH ONE-MAN JURY

Seattle Has First Case on Record
Where One Man Brings
in Verdict.

Seattle.—One-man street cars now pass without comment, one-man submarines were more than a theory when the war ended, but what is probably the first one-man jury tried a case in the court of a Seattle justice of the peace recently.

Earl E. Barr, a returned soldier, was the only one to appear of six prospective jurors whose names were drawn to try a suit for damages. Barr was properly examined and passed for cause by both sides, and neither attorney exhausted any of the possible peremptory challenges.

Several witnesses were examined, and after giving oral instructions the justice allowed the jury to retire and deliberate upon its verdict.

Barr was out 25 minutes and returned the following verdict:
"We, the jury in the above-entitled cause, find for the plaintiff in the sum of \$63.18.—Earl J. Barr, foreman."

TWIN BROTHERS RE-ENLIST

Lure of Army Life Too Much for Vet-
erans Who Served
Overseas.

San Francisco.—The lure of the army has won out. Jesse H. Bruce and Robert H. Bruce, twin brothers, who received their discharges when they arrived from overseas with the 363d, "San Francisco's Own," recently re-enlisted for service with the Army of Occupation.

The twins, who look exactly alike, requested Col. John H. Gardner, recruiting officer, to see that they were placed in the same unit.

"We have never been parted," the Bruces told the colonel. "We enlisted together and fought side by side in the Argonne, and we want to remain together when we get to Germany."

WANTS TO END COUNTY JAILS

Philanthropist Receives \$30,000 for
National Campaign With That
Object.

New York.—Adolph Lewisohn was 70 years old, so he gave a garden party at his country home at Ardsley. The party was combined with a meeting of the national committee on prison reform, and \$30,000 was presented to Mr. Lewisohn by friends for a national campaign which the committee will soon begin for the abolishment of the county jail.

Hundreds of friends of Mr. Lewisohn motored up from the city to pay their compliments to the philanthropist.

Mr. Lewisohn said that fully 65 per cent of the men in county jails today are innocent.

Build Own Truck.

Medford, Mass.—Members of the fire department at the central fire station have built and equipped a combination motor truck which is now in commission.

The new truck was constructed completely by the firemen and represents a cost to the city of but \$500 for materials used.

The engine in the truck was rebuilt from an engine in one of the discarded pieces of apparatus.



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