

### AMERICAN CLAIM IS IGNORED BY ALLIES

#### Priority in Collecting for Rhineland Army Denied By Finance Ministers.

Paris.—The allied finance ministers signed an agreement here for the distribution of the first billion gold marks of German reparations. The agreement disregards the American claim of priority for its expenses in connection with occupation of the Rhineland, so far as the actual sharing of this money is concerned. It recognizes the claim, however, by a special clause which states that all the agreements on this question are subject to American rights as the various governments may establish them, the finance ministers contending that they do not have the power to decide this question.

The memorandum handed to the reparations commission by Roland W. Boyden, representative of the United States with the commission, states that the cost of the American army of occupation up to May 1, 1921, was about \$241,000,000.

It sets forth that the allied governments, with the exception perhaps of Great Britain, had received payment for their armies of occupation, and that probably the British also were covered by a preceding arrangement. Therefore, the memorandum states, "the United States counts upon obtaining integral payment for the cost to May 1, with interest, before any part of the German payments are distributed for reparations or other object."

### RUSSIAN DEAD LIE IN TANGLED HEAPS

Washington, D. C.—Tangled heaps of frozen corpses, some attacked by starved dogs, sickness, dirt and cold in the Volga valley are described to Secretary Hoover in a nightmare picture of the famine districts of soviet Russia drawn by Dr. Thomas H. Dickenson, of the American relief administration, in a special report on conditions there.

"Losses from famine in soviet Russia," he said, "come under the heads of emigration, disease and death. Emigration from the villages now rises to about 20 per cent. Houses are deserted, not a dog, cat or pig left, with snow breaking through the roofs and windows.

"On sidings everywhere, from Poland to the Urals, are freight cars crowded with refugees. The government has not the locomotives to carry them, so they are waiting.

"Diseases are well distributed between summer and winter. Last summer cholera, this winter typhus. Russia lost 6,000,000 dead of typhus in 1919. One city of 200,000 lost 45,000."

### \$7700 IN BONDS IS FOUND

#### Securities Are Identified as From Centerville, Wash., Bank.

Portland, Or.—Liberty bonds totaling \$7700, identified as having been taken from the Farmers' State bank of Centerville, Wash., when that institution was looted by burglars last week, were found on the east bank of the Willamette river, about three-quarters of a mile below Municipal Terminal No. 4, by John R. Frank of St. Johns. In addition to the bonds there was a note for \$370, eight shares in the Centerville Elevator company and other papers.

Frank was fishing, he told police, when he noticed a brown cardboard folder lying on the sand at his feet. When he picked it up he found that he held a small fortune.

When Frank found the bonds he took them home, dried them out and counted them. Then he carried them to the police station at St. Johns.

The bonds were in denominations of \$1000, \$500, \$100 and \$50. They were all registered, and the news of their location was telegraphed to Centerville, together with the names of their owners.

### Syndicalists Sentenced at Montesano.

Montesano, Wash.—Following a jury conviction on a criminal syndicalism charge Judge Sheeks sentenced William Holley to one year in the penitentiary, Edward Pluva to one day in jail, and Emil Seigert to pay a \$150 fine.

### Oklahoma Swept By Tornado.

McAlester, Okla.—Nine persons were killed and a number seriously injured by a tornado that levelled a path through Gowen, a mining village fifteen miles east of here.

### Ex-Potentate Garretson Dies Suddenly.

Tacoma.—Ellis Lewis Garretson, imperial potentate of the Shriners of North America in 1920 and 1921, died at his home at Stellacoom Lake suddenly of heart failure.

### SHELLS USED AS CURRENCY

#### Probably the Earliest Form of Money of Which There Is Any Real Knowledge.

The earliest tribes did not need money because no individual in the tribe owned anything personally. All property belonged to the tribe as a whole and none to any one person. Later on when the tribes met there arose the custom of barter or trade, the simplest form of which was the exchange of articles possessed by one tribe for those owned by another. For instance, some of the Australian tribes had a rough green stone which was valuable for making hatchets. Members of another tribe, seeing these green stone hatchets naturally wanted them. They had no money, as we know it today, but they had red ochre with which they painted their bodies. Thus it developed that the tribe owning the green stones wanted some red ochre, and each article became a kind of money—each became valuable for trading purposes.

It was necessary, however, to await the developments of a "unit of value" before money became elastic. It required something valuable in the eyes of these tribes. One of the earliest forms of this elastic money was shells. The skins of animals were long used by savage tribes as money, but these could not be carried about like shells. The skins, however, were valuable in trading and fortunes were reckoned by the number of skins owned. As soon as animals became domesticated the live animal itself replaced the skin as money.

### SCHEME PROVED A NUISANCE

#### Office Force Refused to Allow Methodical Man to Overlook Letter Written to Himself.

The methodical Mr. Kellam granted acknowledgement when Kessler, an office assistant, presented him with a note, according to the New York Sun.

"Found this in the 'K' mail box. It's addressed to you," said Kessler. Kellam took the note, walked toward the pigeonholed mail box and later resumed his seat. It wasn't long before Kloss, another fellow worker, came up to him with a note addressed to him which he had picked out of the mail box. Kellam was not quite so cordial, but he took it and repeated his trip to the office mail box. He was even less cordial when Klanster, another associate, approached him a few minutes later and held out a note.

"I found this in the 'K,'" he began. "Damn it," shrieked Kellam. "I know where you found it. I put it there so I'd get it in the morning—it's to remind me to do something tomorrow. For the love of Mike put it back!"

### Mysteries of Nature.

One of the most mysterious powers that close observation has revealed is the capacity of certain fishes and water animals to live out of the water. Some small crustaceans have been known to lie for 40 years in dried mud without losing the power of actively living when the mud was moistened again. A naturalist visiting Jerusalem took a little mud from the pool of Gihon, at the Jaffa gate, and put it in a pill box. It lay dry for 40 years, but when some of the dry dust was put into a saucer full of water it gave rise after a short time to some lively water fleas. The eel, as is well known, can travel through damp grass. There is a tropical fish, known as the climbing perch, which has the very curious habit of scrambling, by means of its pectoral fins, up stones, roots, and even the trunks of trees, in search of insects on which it feeds. Still more surprising is the habit of a South African fish, called Charlas, which is said to make nocturnal raids on the fields in order to eat the grains of millet.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

### One Way It Does Not Rain.

The weather men have been trying to answer: "How does it rain?" It is a hard question, says Dr. W. J. Humphreys of the weather bureau at Washington.

"Lots of people are content to say that the droplets at the top of the cloud pick up others on their way down and come out at the bottom full-sized rain-drops," he said. "That sounds nice, but those who give this explanation seem to overlook the fact that clouds can float in the sky for days without giving a drop of rain."

He has calculated how big a drop would result from such a fall, and it turns out that a cloud particle falling from top to bottom of a dense cloud a mile thick and picking up every other droplet on its way, would come out only one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, much smaller than an ordinary raindrop.

### Poker in Hand.

We lived in the flat above our landlord. He and his family were in the habit of going on motor trips every Sunday. So one Sunday we were rather surprised to hear a peculiar grinding noise in what seemed to us to be their kitchen. As my husband was not presentable, I grabbed up the poker, for I felt sure it was some one trying to break in, and bravely ran down to the front door and rang the door bell. I thought they would hear the bell ring and be frightened away. Imagine my embarrassment when the landlord of the flat opened and the landlord stepped out and caught me with the upraised poker in my hand. When I finally got through explaining he merely informed me that the noise was caused by the grinding of his coffee mill.—Chicago Tribune.

### BUILDING ACTIVITY IS IN EVIDENCE AT DALLAS

From present indications Dallas is going to enjoy a healthy building boom the coming spring and summer. Already a number of new buildings are going up around town and many more are in contemplation.

Work has been commenced by Oscar Holmes, contractor, on a new concrete building on Mill street, just adjoining the Sterling Furniture store to the west. The building is being erected for J. W. Crider, of San Jose, Calif., on the site formerly occupied by an old farm building, which has been torn down. When completed, the new room will be occupied by Phil Begin with a modern pressing and cleaning establishment.

Dr. C. L. Foster Monday purchased a lot on Washington street, just east of Dr. A. B. Starbuck's residence, and expects to commence soon the erection of a fine new home thereon.

Harold H. Rich has just purchased a vacant lot at the west end of Court street from Henry Voth and will put up a fine home on it this summer.

Fred Stinnett has also purchased a lot from Mr. Voth adjoining that of Mr. Rich and will erect a home thereon.

Ben Phillips, who last week sold his new home on Ash street to M. O. Martin, has already commenced the erection of another house on Main street, near Ash.

Dr. L. A. Steeves will erect a home on a lot on East Clay street which he recently purchased.

Lee J. Oements has commenced the erection of a house at the east end of Court street.—Itemizer

#### Obedyed Orders.

"I told the chef to prepare the fowl so that it would tickle my palate."  
"And he did?"  
"Yes; he left the feathers on."—New York Central Lines.

### ODDITIES AND NOVELTIES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Washington—Suing his wife for divorce, a deaf mute of Chicago complains that his spouse used too much rough language in her finger talk.

In London a suit for "jactitation of marriage" has been filed by a man against a woman who annoys him by claiming to be his wife when she is not and never has been, the first legal action of the sort for more than a hundred years.

From Texas comes the tale of a physician who has discovered what is called a "truth serum," which, when administered to a suspected criminal, paralyzes his imaginative faculties so that he can tell only facts and not thoughts which are not true.


New York has an inventor who has perfected a means by which rays of light, allowed to play upon the letters on a printed page, are converted into musical sounds, pleasant to hear, so that the blind can read through their ears.

Denver, Colo., is to furnish blind persons with police whistles, which when blown at street crossings, will cause traffic cops to halt all traffic while the sightless cross the street in safety.

A Maryland legislator has introduced a bill which will make it illegal for more than two persons to ride on the front or three on the rear seat of automobiles, with the idea that it is crowding a machine which produces accidents. Some of his conferees have asked the author of the bill if he didn't mean it for street cars.

### DALLAS CHICKEN THIEVES LOCATED; PAY FOR LOOT

Dallas Itemizer.—"A few weeks ago ten blooded Plymouth Rock chickens were stolen from Joseph Black, who lives at the corner of Academy and Levens street. The next day Marshal Chase was able to trace the thieves to a certain house several blocks away by the feathers that had



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