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NAVAL LIMITATIONS TASK NEARS FINISH

Tonnage of Airplane Carriers Fixed and Declaration on Divers Expected.

Washington, D. C.—The arms conference has virtually reached the end of its efforts to put a curb on naval armaments. To the capital ship settlement was added an agreement for limitation of future tonnage in airplane carriers. Some sort of declaration with regard to the use of submarines and an agreement not to construct any auxiliary vessels hereafter with a tonnage of more than 10,000 are expected also to be added to the accomplishments of the conference before the final curtain is rung down. A five-power treaty embodying all the points on which there is agreement now is in process of drafting. There are growing indications that the four-power treaty to preserve peace in the Pacific, which already has been signed, will be in some way further clarified before the conference quits. The American delegation is understood to have withdrawn any objection to the Japanese proposal that the treaty's scope be defined as not including the major Japanese islands, and the plan for an exchange of clarifying notes or for amendment of the treaty text is expected to take definite form within a few days. The Japanese request for a clarification of the treaty's terms is said to have been based largely on the development of a difference in view on the subject between President Harding and the American delegation. This development has been a topic of such widespread speculation in conference circles that the president took occasion to characterize as "silly" published reports that Secretary Hughes was considering resigning from the cabinet as a result of differences arising between him and the White House during the arms negotiations.

CABLE RIGHTS ON YAP ALLOCATED

Washington, D. C.—The scope of the Washington negotiations over the ex-German cable properties in the Pacific, centering in the island of Yap, has been broadened into a proposed six-power treaty definitely allocating German holdings between the United States, Japan and the Netherlands. A tentative draft of the treaty was considered at a meeting of the heads of the American, Japanese, Netherlands, British, French and Italian delegations, and although final approval awaited further word from foreign capitals, the proposal found general acceptance. Under the allocation, which goes much further than the separate Yap treaty negotiated between the United States and Japan, the American government is to have full control of the cable between Yap and the American island of Guam. Japan is to obtain the line known as the Yap-Shanghai cable, now diverted to connect Yap with the Japanese Loochoo Islands, and The Netherlands is to have the line from Yap to Menado, a city on the Dutch island of Celebes.

FRENCH-JAP PACT CHARGED

Both Accused Nations Declare That Communications Were Forgeries. Washington, D. C.—Copies of what were declared to be communications between the Japanese and French governments covering the proposal that the two governments act in concert at the Washington conference as to the establishment of a Japanese protectorate over Siberia, were given out by the special delegation of the far eastern republic, which has asked for a hearing when the conference takes up the Siberian question. The communications were characterized by a member of the French delegation as "forgeries, stupidly contrived," and by a spokesman of the Japanese delegation as "malicious fabrications."

HAD TO TIE THE YOUNGSTERS

Were Not to Be Trussed When Grandmother Dipped the Candles on the Old Farm.

There was another event that took place once a year in the big kitchen, so much more exciting than spinning that instead of being allowed to sit at liberty, with directions and cautions, we had to be tied to the table legs with a clothes line or we would have been covered with grease. It was a mysterious proceeding, which began with my grandmother spreading a space on the floor with Albany Journals, and Ontario County Reports and Waterbury Americans. Then she stirred the contents of a brass kettle that hung on the crane, and took up the Waterbury Americans, cherished souvenirs of her native town, and replaced them with ordinary Repositories. Next she brought four kitchen chairs and set them on the four corners of the rectangle of newspapers and connected them with two poles. Then she stirred the brass kettle again and looked at the clock. Then she proceeded to bring in a large number of rods, each of which was looped with six twisted wicks, and laid the ends of the rods neatly on the poles. It was then that we were tied up with a little free rope allowed for limited range, before the brass kettle was emptied into the copper boiler. And now the fun began, when my grandmother dipped the first two rods of wicks into the boiler of melted tallow, and we danced as much as the table legs would permit. It was two rods at a time and then two more, over and over again until the full-grown candles hung in rows, slender at the top and enlarging to a thick, pointed end at the bottom. It took some of the joy out of our young lives when the tin molds came and put an end to candle-dipping.—W. Henry Shelton in Scribner's.

Elk Sheds Antlers Yearly.

Once a year elk shed their horns. As soon as the old ones are gone new ones start. This process is repeated every year, the only difference being that an upper prong appears each time. Thus an elk's age can be told by the prongs in one of his antlers. The shedding is apparently a painless occurrence. As an antler falls off a clot of blood forms at its root. In the first six months of its growth there is a soft skin over the antlers; known as the velvet. As long as there the antlers rest soft and sensitive. When the velvet peels off, the antlers become hard and dry up, and they lose all feeling.

R'member



BROTHER OF W. C. EMMEL IS A LEADING SCIENTIST

W. C. Emmel, manager of the J. C. Penney Company store at Athena, went to Pendleton Tuesday to meet and greet his brother, Dr. V. E. Emmel, whom he had not seen for eight years. At the age of forty-three Dr. Emmel is listed by an authoritative scientific magazine as among the twenty-five leading scientists of the United States. He is a self-made man, having achieved a broad education through his own efforts, and at present holds the chair of science in the University of California, the largest university in America. Dr. Emmel is a graduate of Pacific University and a post-graduate of Harvard and Brown. He received an M. A. from the University of California at St. Louis and of the University of Illinois. He was in Portland for a short time while returning home from New Haven, where he attended a meeting of scientists at Yale College as a delegate from the University of California. Mr. Emmel found the meeting with his brother to be a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring one.

TEST OF LAND VALUES SEEN IN COMING INDIAN SALES

Just what demand exists now for wheat land, asks the East Oregonian: Many think there will be a partial answer to this question by the action of the public at the sale of Indian lands by the government on January 18. At that time a total of 1,280.64 acres in 20 different tracts has been advertised for sale and the reception accorded the offer of sale will afford some idea of the interest felt in wheat lands. Some changes have manifested in the coming sale. Heretofore all Indian land sales have been for cash. In the coming sale, the purchase price will be paid down, and the balance may be paid in three equal annual payments. The interest on the deferred payments will be six per cent. The buyer may pay cash if he desires. All of the land offered has been appraised, and this appraised valuation is listed in the advertisement of the land. No bid at a figure lower than the appraised valuation will be considered. Of particular interest is the fact that the appraisals have been materially cut from the prices asked during the post-war days. On an average, the land listed for sale now is about 60 per cent of the prices of appraisal at the sales of 1920. The highest price ever realized for Indian lands on the Umatilla reservation in government sales was \$265 per acre; the highest appraisal on the land now offered for sale is \$130 per acre, or just one-half of the best price ever paid.

ATHENA-PILOT ROCK IN A GAME TOMORROW NIGHT

Athena and Pilot Rock high school basketball teams clash tomorrow night at Athena in the first game of the season between these schools. The Athena boys' team give every evidence of being able to put up a stunning good game as they have been in action before this season, but the girls are venturing into the first game they have played this year. On account of third Lyceum course number being also scheduled for tomorrow night in the school auditorium, the games are set to begin promptly at seven o'clock, so those in attendance may have the opportunity of hearing Kindley, famous humorist and lecturer. Games so far scheduled for the season are as follows: January 7, Pilot Rock at Athena in double header. January 13, Weston at Athena, double header. February 3, Umatilla at Athena. February 10, Stanfield at Athena, double header. February 18, Hermiston at Athena, double header. In what is classed as one of the best basketball games of the season, at Adams, the first town team defeated Athena.

CHAPLIN TOMORROW NIGHT

An exceptionally strong program is offered tomorrow night at the Standart Theatre at regular admission prices. Charlie Chaplin comes in his great three-reel comedy, "A Dog's Life," and Constance Talmadge will be seen in "A Virtuous Vamp," one of her greatest comedies. For Sunday night, the Goldwyn picture, "Snow-blind" is the offering, supported by a two-reel Western and Patia Review.

RETURNING TO ATHENA.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Foss, who left sometime ago for Portland, to remain for the winter, are returning to Athena, being at the home of John Foss at Moro, Sherman county for a short visit. It is understood that Mr. and Mrs. Foss are returning to Athena with the object of residing here permanently.

HODGEN FAMILY REUNION

The annual reunion of the Hodgen family was held at Umatilla on New Year's day, when a large number of the clan gathered for the occasion. The usual good time was had by all in attendance, which included a large number of neighbors and friends. Lou Hodgen and family of this city were present at the reunion.

Champion Pig State.

It may be surprising to many easterners to learn from the census that Illinois falls to around 4,000,000, while the 3,000,000 class includes only Missouri, Indiana, Nebraska and Ohio. Kansas, which used to boast of its great groves, now has fewer than 2,000,000, a drop since 1910 from 3,000,000. The Sunflower farmers have recently been going in strong for wheat or oats, in preference to corn, the great pig food.—Providence Journal.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Following is the annual report of Athena Branch Library from January 1921 to December 31, 1921: Cash on hand Jan. 1921, \$ 49.33 City Library Levy, 350.00 Rental Collection Funds, 54.10 Fines on overdue Books, 20.17 Total, \$373.60 Total Expenses, 358.93 Bal. on hand Jan. 1, 1922, \$ 14.67 Late fiction books added out of Rental fund, 31. Book Circulation. Adult classed, 1955; Fiction, 3746; total 5701. Juvenile stories, 1098; classed, 806; total, 1404; grand total, 7105. Members Registered. Adults, 74; Juvenile, 32, total, 106. ANNA LITTLEJOHN, Sec.

PHEASANTS ARE HUNGRY.

Word comes that the winter weather of the past month has been hard on the game bird life throughout the county. It is said that large numbers of pheasants have succumbed to hunger and weather conditions. Clint Holcomb, residing west of Athena, has come to the rescue of the pheasants on his farm, by scattering bundles of wheat hay over the place, which the birds readily find and feed upon.

BACK FROM VACATION.

All the teachers of the Athena schools who spent the holiday vacation at their various homes have returned. The college students who came to their homes here have also returned to their different schools to complete the year's work.

GOOD GRAIN WEATHER.

It appears to be the unanimous verdict of grain growers that the winter weather conditions are ideal for the growing grain. There has been sufficient snow to cover the grain and shelter it from frost and freezing temperature.

VALUE OF CROPS OF U. S. IS LESS

Washington D. C.—Important farm crops of the United States this year were valued at \$5,875,877,000 by the department of agriculture in its final estimates for 1921. That was almost \$3,400,000,000 less than last year's crops were worth and \$8,000,000,000 less than the crops of two years ago when high prices prevailed for farm products. The values were based on prices paid to farmers December 1, and the crops comprised about 90 per cent of the value of all farm crops. There were only two billion-dollar crops this year—corn and hay—while last year four crops were valued at \$1,000,000,000 or more. Production was below last year for almost every crop, although the acreage of the important crops was slightly larger except cotton. The area devoted to the important crops this year was 348,336,000 acres compared with 349,067,000 acres last year. Final estimates of production and value announced were: Corn—Production 3,081,251,000 bushels; value, \$1,805,624,000. Winter wheat, 587,032,000 and valued at \$568,725,000. Spring wheat production, 207,861,000 and value \$178,343,000. All wheat production, 794,893,000; value \$737,068,000.

SOVIET AGREEMENT SIGNED

Grain Bought for Relief in Volga Region of Russia. London.—The agreement negotiated here whereby soviet Russia will turn over to the American relief administration \$10,000,000 worth of gold for the purchase of grain in the United States for famine relief in the Volga region was signed by Walter Lyman Brown, on behalf of the relief administration and by Leonid Krassin on behalf of the Russian soviet government. The agreement calls for the expenditure of \$10,000,000 in America within 90 days. The purchases of food and grain are to be made monthly at the rate of not less than one-third of the total amount and the first order must be given within five days of the signing of the agreement.

Government Charges

Government charges against Hamilton of conspiring with the Governor Sterling and Vernon to defraud the state of \$2,000,000. Mr. Sterling's term as state treasurer during his own term as state treasurer were stricken from the record, partly by Judge Edwards and partly by the state.

Panama Hats.

Most of the so-called Panama hats are made in Ecuador. The material is called paja toquilla and comes from a palm two or three meters high. The leaves are cut just as they are about to unfold, the veins taken out and the fiber remaining is dipped for a few minutes in boiling water to which a little lemon juice is added for bleaching purposes. Each leaf has approximately 90 strands about 55 centimeters in length, although the best grade reaches 80 centimeters. The hats can be woven only during the part of the day when the humidity is greatest, since the straw of the best quality is not dampened. A man working six hours a day completes an ordinary hat in six or seven days, but on a very fine one he spends a month and a half; it is the labor, therefore, which makes the hats expensive. The most famous are those of Monte Cristi; they surpass all others in fineness, lightness and perfection.

Witch Hazel and Witches.

The witching power of the witch hazel has received a scientific jolt, but the great mass of Americans, English and other peoples will never hear of it, or listen to it, and even though they should read about it, they will keep on believing just the same in the witchery of witch hazel. Old beliefs will stand up under any number of scientific jolts. The hazel was bewitched, hence its name. Witches have always made their wands out of this early-blooming yellow-flowered shrub. Whether it has magical qualities because witches use it, or whether witches use it because it has magical qualities, cannot be determined. But if a man needs a divining rod in order to find hidden water or buried treasure, he must cut that divining rod from a witch hazel bush. Men's faith in goblins, hobgoblins, spooks, wraths, elves, efrits, sprites, fairies, brownies, harpies, nymphs and muses is no firmer grounded than it is in witch hazel.

PRESIDENT ASKS FARM CONFERENCE

Means For Relieving Depression Is Expressed Purpose of Gathering.

Washington, D. C.—President Harding, in a letter to Secretary Wallace of the department of agriculture, asked that the latter call a national conference at Washington to "suggest practical ways of improvement" for "the severe agricultural depression which exists throughout the land." Prompt action was taken at the department of agriculture in response to the request, telegraphic invitations being dispatched immediately to a number of organizations and individuals whose attendance is desired at the gathering. The conference, it was indicated, probably would meet here about January 15. Farmers and representatives of lines interested in farmers' products will make up the personnel of the conference, which, it was said, would number between 100 and 150. Farmers' organizations, manufacturers of farmers' products, transportation interests, marketing agencies, shipping interests, fertilizer makers, farm implement manufacturers, packers, state, agricultural college representatives, cotton, grain, livestock, fruit commission men, experts on rural social problems and bankers are expected to attend. "No one will pretend that present conditions could have been avoided," President Harding said in his letter to the secretary, "but none of us will deny that some corrective constructive steps should be taken to remedy the severe hardships under which so important a portion of our productive citizenship is struggling. I am convinced that a conference may be made a very helpful agency in suggesting practical ways of improvement, particularly if brought into co-ordination with the helpful investigation which has been begun by a congressional commission committed to a related work."

EACH HAS PLACE IN LODGE

According to Custom, the Occupants of Indian Tepees Have Their Allocated Space.

As there are six different ways of building camp fires, it should be explained that my friends built theirs according to the Ojibway custom; that is, in the so-called "lodge fashion," by placing the sticks upright, leaning them together, and crossing them over one another in the manner of lodge poles. When the fire was lighted, the wind-shields sprang a perfect draft to carry the smoke up through the permanently open top in the apex of the structure, and one soon realized that of all tents or dwellings, no healthier abode was ever contrived by man. Indeed, if the stupid, meddling agents of civilization had been wise enough to have left the Indians in their tepees, instead of forcing them to live in houses—the ventilation of which was never understood—they would have been spared at least one of civilization's diseases—tuberculosis—and many more tribesmen would have been alive today.

On entering an Indian tepee one usually finds the first space on the right of the doorway occupied by the woodpile; the next by the wife; the third, by the baby, and the fourth by the husband. Opposite these, on the other side of the fire, the older children are ranged. To the visitor is allotted the warmest places in the lodge, the place of honor, farthest from and directly opposite the doorway. When the dogs are allowed in the tepee, they know their place to be the first space on the left, between the entrance and the children.—Arthur Hening in World's Work.

Jokes in Architecture.

The buttlers of the old churches in England were not so serious but that they now and then perpetrated a joke, even in stone. On more than one of their crannies they carved in relief a scene representing a monk preaching solemnly to a flock of geese. The same humorous spirit is sometimes to be detected in the domestic architecture of early times. Here is an instance: Just upon the boundaries of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire formerly stood a rambling old farmhouse. The living room was long and low, and on the center beam that went across the ceiling was inscribed this legend: "If you are cold, go to Hertfordshire." This seemingly inhospitable invitation was explained by the fact that one-half of the room was in one tenancy and one-half in the other. The fireplace was in Hertfordshire.