

BABIES HELP PAY FOR WAR

Even Talcum Powder Has Been Levied Upon to Meet Expenditures Due to Slaughter.

The postbellum H. C. L. has hit the babies.

In the Home Sector William G. Shepherd says: "About \$3,000,000 will go into Uncle Sam's coffers from the pockets and purses of soda water drinkers in 1923. Folks who like bowling or billiards or pool will give about a million and a half to Uncle Sam. People who play cards will give him two and a quarter millions. Automobiles and motorcycles will bring him in 50 cents a head from the whole 100,000,000 of us. We'll give him about \$55,000,000 for going to theaters and movies.

"Every one of the 100,000,000 of us, indeed, will give Uncle Sam an average of two cents a day, directly, for pleasure and conveniences, with baby paying tribute for his talcum powder, mother and sister paying tribute for their perfumes, father paying tribute for his cigarettes and athletic club dues, all the kids paying tribute for the movies and their trips to the corner soda fountain.

"The war did it all, too. We're paying just ten times more to Uncle Sam in internal revenue this year than we did in 1914. We paid so little then—one-tenth of 7½ cents a day—and we paid it so indirectly that few of us realized that there really was such a person in the world as Uncle Sam. At last the old party has found us. Since then a lot of us have fought and died for him. And if he's worth dying for he's worth supporting."

MAY DEVELOP GUM MARKET

Opening of Mesopotamia to Civilization Likely to Add Largely to the World's Supply.

As law and order come into the wild and unsettled mountains of Mesopotamia, especially when new roads and the eventual railway connect the northern Kurdish country around Mosul with the rest of the world, many a now useless tree and shrub will doubtless be put to service as a contributor of gum. The gums of Mesopotamia have many commercial uses, and the unsystematic tapping and trading that now brings the product on pack animals to Suleimanya, where merchants buy it from the Kurds and sell it again to other merchants in Bagdad, is a mere suggestion of the industry that may be developed by enterprising promoters who may have observed the extent of this natural resource in Mesopotamia and looked further afield than Aleppo and Bagdad for markets. Now that British occupation has opened the land to western ideas, it would not be surprising if the gum industry grew to be a source of considerable national wealth, and an important factor in creating a new Mesopotamia.

Lengthening Life of Silk Stocking.

"No economies are small," says a French proverb, and the professional stocking mender's job is evidence of thrift as understood by the Parisienne. "Here," said one of the craft, "are 30 pairs of silk stockings which have been through my hands more times than I can count, and look at them." They were patched and darned till there was little of the original left, but as Elise remarked, "with boots they still make an effect!" Before the war madame paid three half-pence per pair to her mender and provided the thread; now she gives fourpence or fivepence and expects miracles of endurance from the fragile web. Where the mender formerly spent ten minutes she now must devote an hour to some of these stockings, and it is difficult to see how she gets a living. But madame's motto is, "Throw nothing away," and she lives up to it.

Plastic Dressing for Wounds.

Industrial plants are now using the Ambrene treatment for burns, scalds, and all surface wounds which proved very successful for casualties incurred in the world war.

The dressing is a compound of wax and resins, and is solid when cold. It is heated to about 150 degrees Fahrenheit and applied by means of a special atomizer, or it can be generally dabbed on with a soft brush. A plastic dressing, impervious to air, is thus formed, which does not adhere to the wound and which promotes the healing process without appreciable contraction. Disfigurement and scars are prevented to a greater extent than was possible under the old methods.

Bold Chinese Bandits.

Bands of kidnapers recently have caused much alarm in Tanchowfu, Shantung, China. Operating in groups of from 30 to 50 they have carried away and held for ransom wealthy Chinese for whom they have obtained as much as \$50,000 in some cases. Ten citizens were kidnaped in October. Promises to pay ransoms have been ex-

acted by torture. Troops have tried to capture the bandits, but have failed. It is believed the kidnapers came from Dalny, crossing the Gulf of Pechili in boats in which they escaped with their captives.

Spanish Licorice Industry.

The manufacture of licorice extract and paste is an important Spanish industry. This is a comparatively new industry, as formerly the root was exported unmanufactured. Over 6,000,000 pounds of the root were exported in 1918 and more than 600,000 pounds of extract and paste.

With the Children.

Gene Stratton Porter, age two and one-half, daughter of Dr. E. A. Porter, Hartsville, Ind., has difficulty finding proper words to express herself, as most children at that age do. Personal pronouns are particularly difficult.

One of her friends asked Gene to go home with her recently.

"I want to go home with Hazel, mother, can me? I want to go down there with she."

One morning she came downstairs with her shoes on the wrong feet and looking at them with a puzzled expression said: "Mother, me got my shoes on wrong side out."—Indianapolis News.

Vessel Too Big for Docks.

America, it seems, with all her progress in shipbuilding, has no dock on the Atlantic coast suitable for repairing a vessel like the Leviathan or the Imperator, says Shipping. When the Leviathan needed overhauling, she had to be sent to Liverpool to the big Gladstone dock. Even there it was necessary to wait for the new and the full moon to dock and undock her, as the highest tide was required to float the Leviathan, but the channel leading to it will not permit her passage.

Island of Crete "Upending."

In the course of a discussion on the subject of Crete at the Royal Geographical society, Prof. L. J. Myres described two remarkable changes of ground level that have occurred there since classical times, says the Scientific

American.

The whole island has swung upon an axis, the eastern half sinking and the western rising, so that whereas at Hierapetra and Spinalonga the ancient quays and harbor works are now under water, the little Greek harbor of Phalassarna, at the west end of the island, is now totally upheaved, so that one can walk about on the floor of the ancient harbor, upraised and dry.

Chinese Engineers Hate Toll.

In no branch of modern progress has China advanced during the last twenty years more than in engineering, if we except, perhaps, medicine. The Chinese engineer has come to stay. He is a much-criticized person, and the principal objection the up-to-date modern engineer offers against him is that he refuses to undergo the long and tedious period of training necessary in any branch of engineering today: if he can become an engineer without soiling his hands or taking off his coat, he is quite willing to pose as having mastered engineering; but he objects to the toll and the dirty work.

War-Torn Villages Arising.

Villages in the vicinity of St. Quentin, France, are literally rising phoenixlike from their own ashes. Confronted by a lack of stone and building materials, the artisans have established a big grinding machine in which the debris of the shell-shattered houses is remade into mortar.

The state board of control, acting upon statements contained in telegrams received from the three members of the state highway commission, indicating that there was urgent need of funds with which to meet obligations already incurred by the state through the awarding of contracts for post and forest roads in Oregon, disposed of \$1,000,000 of bonds under the so-called federal aid road law passed at the special session of the legislature last January. The bonds were purchased by the Lumbermens Trust company of Portland, which submitted the most satisfactory bid of \$9.99 in behalf of the Continental & Commercial Trust & Savings bank of Chicago.

Bonds issued by the Grants Pass, Medford and Ochoco irrigation district will be certified by state irrigation securities commission as soon as the records of each project are completed and filed with the state engineer, according to a decision reached at a conference held in Salem. The Grants Pass district, in Josephine county, has voted bonds in the sum of \$184,000, the Medford district \$1,250,000 and the Ochoco district \$100,000. The three projects are now under development.

The state highway commission has a legal right to make local changes in the roads to eliminate curves or grades and to bring about other improvements, but it is not empowered by law to abandon routes already established by the legislature, according to a decision handed down by Judge G. F. Skipworth of Lane county, in which he held against the commission in the case brought by S. H. Rockhill of Riddle to restrain the state from proceeding with the construction of the so-called Canyonville cutoff section of the Pacific highway.

Fred Carver, 11, and Herbert Doyle, 15, who ran away from the boys' and girls' aid society home in Portland Monday, walked into the police station at Salem and surrendered. They said they were hungry and wished to return to Portland.

Testimony and evidence relating to the train wreck at Bertha station May 9, which resulted in the death of nine persons and the injury of 40 others, will be taken at a hearing by the Oregon public service commission in Portland Monday, May 24.

Complete investigation of the sugar situation as it affects the entire state of Oregon will be made by Hail S. Lusk, chief assistant to United States Attorney Humphreys, who left last week for San Francisco. Mr. Lusk will be in California for at least a week.

Daniel McCarthy, 102 years of age and the oldest patient at the state hospital at Salem, is dead. He was committed to the old Hawthorne Institution in Portland in 1868 and remained there until 1883, when, with other patients, he was transferred to Salem.

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