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With Medford Stop-Overs

FRANCE HOLDING 80,000 GERMANS AS WAR HOSTAGES

PARIS, Oct. 24.—The American embassy, under its obligations to represent German and Austrian interests in France, is looking after about 80,000 persons who are detained as alien enemies in eleven localities in France. These were Germans and Austrians living in the country at the outbreak of the war. The French government provided special trains going to neutral frontiers for two days after hostilities had begun, and all those remaining within France after those days were obliged to report themselves to the police and go to those towns in France to which they were assigned.

The state department at Washington has attached H. Percival Dodge, formerly minister to Panama, to the embassy here as special agent to have charge of German and Austrian affairs. The third floor of the embassy office building is taken entirely for this work and a considerable staff of secretaries and interpreters are at work.

The reason that France holds 80,000 civilians as prisoners of war appears to be as hostages for the proper treatment of French citizens who are similarly held in Germany and Austria, and to have in hand a means of reprisal should there be any ill-treatment of French soldiers captured by German or Austrian armies.

RELIEF WORK IN TEXAS FLOOD REGION

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Oct. 24.—Relief work among destitute sufferers from yesterday's flood along San Pedro and Alazan creeks, in which eleven persons were drowned and two thousand made homeless, was well under way.

Nearly two hundred houses were swept away and the property loss was estimated at between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The flood was confined to the lowlands where the poorer classes lived. Several persons were still missing today and it was feared the death list might be increased.

GREAT EXPLOSION ON BELGIAN COAST

ROTTERDAM, via London, Oct. 24, 6:15 a. m.—According to a report from Flushing, published in the Nieuwe Courant, a tremendous explosion was heard at 7:30 Friday night on the Belgian coast, followed by another at 8. The coast guards think that the pier at Zeebrugge was blown up.

It is reported here that the Germans are preparing to leave Antwerp and that the German officers' wives have been ordered to leave Brussels within forty-eight hours.

SON BORN TO VICTORIA OF SPAIN

MADRID, Oct. 24, via Paris, 4 p. m.—A son was born this morning to Queen Victoria of Spain. The son born today is the queen's sixth child, the others being three sons and two daughters.

A FITTING EMBLEM

As a mark of special imperial gratitude, Kaiser Wilhelm has graciously granted Lorraine soldiers the right to wear the skull and crossbones. As the press reports put it:

Berlin (via The Hague and London), Oct. 21.—Emperor William has conferred on the pioneer company of a Lorraine battalion the right to wear the skull and crossbones on the cap which heretofore has been a distinction monopolized by the famous Danzig Death's Head Hussars. The action of the emperor was taken at the instance of the crown prince, who reported the valor of the pioneers in building bridges and constructing earthworks under particularly dangerous circumstances.

In other words, the right to wear the ancient and awesome emblem of death has been transformed into a great honor by our mediaeval twentieth century royalty. To go into battle decorated like bottles of poison is a special distinction doubtless inspired by God. To chase around like a black flag of the pirates of the sea is almost divine honor.

Yet what emblem could be more fitting for the civilized occupation of these modern dealers in death? What label is more appropriate for wholesale and sanguinary murderers? What insignia better fits the destroyers of cities and ravishers of the countryside?

How much more entitled the modern soldier is to wear the skull and crossbones than ever pirate that roamed the main! What tame sport to loot a rich merchantman at sea and make the crew walk the plank compared to mining the water and sending innocent thousands to death without warning! Or to hurl death from under the sea or high up in the air to unsuspecting thousands! How cheap to burn a looted vessel compared to burning a looted city like storied Louvain! What poor sport to sink a laden lifeboat compared to smashing the cathedral of Rheims! Attila the Hun had nothing on the modern soldier as a destroyer.

The skull and crossbones is a most fitting decoration for the modern warrior—but it should not be confined to a few regiments or a single nation. It should be the universal decoration for the blood-stained soldiers of the armies of Europe, for every one of them is a representative of death in many awful forms and each earns the proud right to this royal emblem. But as long as the kaiser has monopolized it, he should at least confer the privilege of wearing it upon every soldier who has helped to desolate bleeding Belgium.

As a matter of justice, the jeweled and tinselled crowns of the monarchs of Europe should be sold at public auction to the highest bidder for the benefit of the widows they have made, and each ruler forced to wear for a crown a human skull. Those who have won special merit for unusual atrocities, like the burning of Louvain, should be elevated to the nobility and decorated with crossbones.

CAUSE OF HIGH TAXES

A STATEMENT issued by standpatters who have monopolized the republican party local organization and are working in harmony with the state and national organizations to make the republican party, purged of Roosevelt and the progressives, the true party of reaction, the tory party of the nation, says that state taxes are high because Oregon has democratic officials.

Oregon has only one democratic state official—the governor. Taxes are high in spite of the governor and not because of him. Expenditures are made by the legislature, not by the governor. The legislature is overwhelmingly republican. The other two members of the board of control, which expends the money appropriated by the legislature, are republican. The laws forbid any expenditures by state officials in excess of the appropriations. Therefore the legislature is solely responsible for high taxes.

These legislative appropriations were made over the governor's protest. They were passed over his veto. He did what he could to hold down expenses and saved over \$600,000 at the first session by vetoes, but the standpatt machine was too strong for him at the last session and passed the bills over his veto, though he saved several hundred thousand dollars by vetoes. The high taxes are necessitated to raise the money to pay these legislative appropriations.

The discord and jangle between the governor's office and the legislature was due solely to the governor's efforts to cut down expenses and to prevent measures in behalf of special interests from becoming laws. Had it not been for the fight waged by Governor Weston against legislative extravagance, taxation would be much higher.

Dr. Withycombe stands pledged to a program of harmony with the legislature. There will be no fight of the executive against the big appropriation bills. There will be no gubernatorial opposition to corporation and special interest measures. There will be no vigorous defender of the people's cause to stand between the people and the interests, to interfere with the reactionary program.

A standpatter will be on guard. Harmony will reign—and in the words of the Oregonian, it will be "war to the knife and knife to the hilt," upon the Oregon system. And the taxpayer will pay for legislative extravagance by increased taxation for a "harmony program."

A Dying Planet

(By J. Lawrence Hill.)

A stupendous effort has been made by the Spencerian philosophy through Lord Bacon's method, added by the discoveries and deductions of investigators like Haeckel and Darwin, to eliminate from human thought everything derived from consciousness or innate prepossession and limit positive conclusions to those things that can be demonstrated and explained in terms of matter ad force. A school of philosophy, most prominently represented, perhaps, by Sir William Hamilton, has been dismissed with contempt; and science has been accounted the sole worthy guide in the realms of theoretical as well as of practical knowledge.

As to the credibility of a belief in an inhabited world as opposed to one in which life exists upon only one insignificant planet out of unnumbered millions, science would doubtless ask that its evidence alone be considered. But the mind of man is not so constituted, nor has his habit been so ordered. The conception of evolution, for example, is as old as Greek poetry and philosophy. The graded steps of creation, which science has with infinite pains uncovered, were set forth in Chaldean legends long before they took form in which they appear in the book of Genesis. The history of human thought has been that of the seer and poet long before the physicist had proved them.

Assuredly we can never get much higher in authority than the judgment which sits in the enlightened human soul. All that we see may be but untruthworthy manifestations of a universe whose real nature may never be known to us, as Herbert Spencer suggests, or but a "dream within a dream," as Poe, with equal authority of genius has sung; but there is no proving this, so that to all intents and purposes enlightened human consciousness is the court of last resort. We may reach wrong conclusions, but some conclusions or other we cannot avoid, and in spite of the impressive demonstrations of the new psychology pointing to the material structure of the soul no conclusion of the mind more firmly persists to this day than the conviction that the universe is directed by some omnipotent will, just, orderly and beneficent, and that in the scheme of things the human soul occupies some place of honor as it holds in the organic life of our planet. The pervasiveness of the Christian religion, even among biologists, chemists and astronomers, is an answer to materialism that cannot be set aside. In the democracy of the intellectual life one cannot rule the multitude. The ruling of the dictatorate is the law.

Whether mankind believes that there are other worlds than this, therefore, is quite as much a matter of inherent probability as it is of evidence brought by the telescope. They who hold that man is nothing more in the cosmic scheme than the ephemeral of an hour's life are hopelessly overruled by the conviction which man holds, stubbornly, against all comers of materialistic science, that he is part and parcel of the divine, and eternal from which he springs and to which he is destined to return. The chance that the inhabitability of the other worlds has for acceptance depends quite as much on how that habitable state comports with man's view of his relation to the universe, largely a priori, as it depends on the photograph of Mars. Continued thought on this question by idealists, psychologists as well as astronomers, undoubtedly tends toward the conviction that our solar system at least is in some way vitally connected with the cosmic plan concerning us. It will be impossible for mankind to believe long in the fact that the history of our other planets has an important bearing on our own problems and an instructive lesson concerning our own destiny, without a quickly succeeding conviction that whatever that significance and lesson is it will be revealed to us. The mind instinctively shrinks from the thought that knowledge of the solar system's development has been uncovered to us up to a certain interesting and pregnant point, only to have the veil dropped over the rest of the way in baffling and futile mystery.

This eager hope and fond desire is supported by a part of the astronomical world, ably represented by Mr. Percival Lowell in his recent articles in the Atlantic Monthly, and by a powerful argument from analogy. We are apparently justified in supposing that like causes will produce like effects uniformly throughout the solar system. Throughout the eight or ten members of that system we see a uniform process going on, from the chaotic original state now prevailing on Uranus and Neptune, through all stages of youth, maturity and old age, till we come to the dead globes of Mercury and Venus, whose atmosphere and moisture long have vanished, whose rotary motion has at length ceased, whose helpless, inert mass presents always the same lifeless, unproductive face to the sun.

All the matter that comes to the surface of our globe from the depths of space through which we fly consists of the same constituent elements of which our planet is composed. All the fires that burn in the sun are identified by the spectroscopy as materials in combustion exactly such as we have here. The laws of gravitation, gases, liquids, solids, tides, atmospheres and momentum operate the same here as out in space as far as we can observe their effects. Therefore, we conclude that a planet occupying the same stage as our own in development from vapor to a frozen and lifeless ball, would show the same state of organic and inorganic life as ours. This state of development applies to but one planet in our system—Mars—and on Mars the stage of development is somewhat farther advanced than that of our own.

The inhabitants of Mars, if such inhabitants there are, and many astronomers of highest authority affirm there are, have reached a stage toward which this planet is slowly but surely tending, where the means of sustenance are growing nearer and nearer to the point of exhaustion, when soon all that lives and breathes on its steadily drying surface and its steadily failing atmosphere must lie down and breathe its last breath and lift its last despairing cry to the un-answering depths of space. Is it not answering that scientist and dreamer alike turn with eager gaze to that dying star and long for some means of transmitting intelligence through the intervening ether, if happily we may gather some lesson of solace or wisdom from its longer experience, some secrets it has wrung from the surrounding universe, before its knowledge and its dreams, its joys and its sorrows perish beyond the possibility of communication to us or to others?

Geneva, via Paris, Oct. 24, 12:40 a. m.—Three German spies, having headquarters in Geneva, were sentenced by the third military tribunal here Friday. The three are Lieutenant Colonel Otto Ulrich, of Berlin; Dr. Woblander and Herr Kohr, a chemist. They were charged with plotting against England and France and thereby violating Swiss neutrality.

SWISS SENTENCE GERMAN SPIES

Colonel Ulrich was not present, having gone into hiding, presumably somewhere in Switzerland. He was sentenced in default to serve two years in prison and pay a fine of \$200 (\$1000). Dr. Woblander must serve three months and pay a fine of \$40 and Herr Kohr must remain in prison two months and pay a fine of \$20. All three were sentenced to expulsion from Switzerland for life after serving their sentences.

RUSH GERMANS TO THE FRENCH BOUNDARY LINE LONDON, Oct. 24, 3:30 a. m.—A dispatch to the Daily Express from the Hague says a report received there from Antwerp is to the effect that the Germans are evacuating the Belgian city.

The dispatch adds that the German garrison left Friday in response to most urgent orders. "Practically all the German forces have evacuated Antwerp and marched south, apparently to take part in the conflict," the Daily Chronicle says.

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AUSTRIANS CLAIM MORE VICTORIES OVER RUSSIANS

LONDON, Oct. 24, 4:25 a. m.—The official Austrian statement given out Friday is contained in a dispatch from Vienna by way of Amsterdam to Reuters Telegram company. It says:

"While yesterday in the battle south of Przemyśl our heavy artillery had been severely effective severe fighting developed on the banks of the Lower San where at several points we allowed the enemy to cross the river. These Russian forces have now been severely attacked by our troops, and pressed against the river. At Zarneca we captured over a thousand Russians.

"Parts of our troops suddenly appeared before Ivangorod and beat two Russian divisions. We captured 3600 prisoners, one standard and 15 machine guns.

"Returning from a successful action on the River Sava our monitor Temes struck a mine and sank. Thirty-three men are missing but the others were saved.

Be Weatherwise

When you work in the rain wear the FISH BRAND REFLEX SLICKER Waterproof through and through. Cannot soak up water and get heavy. Our patented Reflex Edges stop water from running in where the frims overlap and button. The best wet weather coat your money can buy. \$3.00 EVERYWHERE TOWER'S SATISFACTION GUARANTEED Catalog Free A. J. TOWER CO. BOSTON

IT Theatre

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY Matinee and Evening MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY Episode No. 12—"Evasive Treasure Box." THE RELIC Two reel Broncho feature. MUTUAL WEEKLY WAR NEWS LABEL'S STRANGE PREDICAMENT Keystone comedy 10c ALWAYS 10c

STAR Theatre

Friday and Saturday On Lonesome Mountain Two Part Lubia

The Counterfeiter's Daughter Biograph Drama

Hearst-Selig Weekly Latest Current Events

Buxom County Lass (Ninth of Wood B. Wedd's Sentimental Experiences.) A Good Comedy 10c ADMISSION 10c

PAGE Theatre

SATURDAY Matinee 2:15—Evening 7:00 "Lord Chumley" Special Feature

A Klaw & Erlanger star feature in four parts. A most realistic drama, depicting home and army life in England, with bits of comedy and showing the home life of the English nobility, featuring "Lillian Gish" and an all-star cast. Edison

"Making a Convert" A drama of unusual interest and educational value, which contains a lesson to impulsive people. Vitagraph

"Buddy's Downfall" Comedy With the loss of his trousers, he makes a bad impression. When he recovers them, he sallies forth and his revenge is sweet. Paul Kelly in the title role.

ADMISSION Lower Floor, 15c; Balcony, 10c. Coming Sunday "The Fortune Hunter"

Page Theater One Night Only October 26

Engagement Extraordinary America's Foremost Actor NAT. C. GOODWIN Supported by MARGARET MORELAND In the Great New York and London Success

"NEVER SAY DIE"

In the cast: Dennis Cleugh, Isador Marcell, Stanley Harrison, Gladys Wilson, Charlotte Lambert, Luke Vrohman and others. Seat Sale opens Theater Box Office, Friday, Oct. 26, 10 a. m. PRICES: \$1.50, \$1.00, 75c and 50c SPECIAL NOTICE—The management does not hesitate to state that Mr. Goodwin is the most prominent star booked at this theater since its opening; that the company supporting him is first class and "Never Say Die" one of the best plays ever produced by Mr. Goodwin. It gives him every opportunity to display his great ability, and it is seldom that a city of this size is so fortunate as to secure the engagement of such a prominent star and strong company in a production which has made a phenomenal success in London and all of the largest cities of the United States. THIS IS NOT A MOVING PICTURE