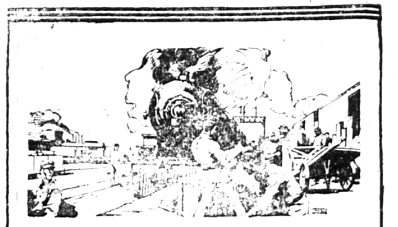


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They couldn't be built now for twice \$1,000

When the talk turns from politics to railroads, and the conversation then continues on breaks in water, it is not long before the hard-pan facts of the situation are brought to light.

At present, the cost of building a mile of standard gauge track is about \$100,000. This is a record for the industry, and it is the result of the high cost of materials and labor.

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EX-KINGS EYE DANUBE STATES
Federation Is Formed on Paper by Plotters in Switzerland.
DETAILS ARE NOT COMPLETE

Exiled Rulers, Seeing the Hopelessness of Their Cause, Now Center All Their Plots on One Great Scheme.

Berne, Switzerland.—From "the playground of Europe" before the war, Switzerland has become "the plotting ground of Europe" after the war. And all of this plotting may now be summarized in one general and brief constitution of a Danubian confederation.

To the credit of the Swiss it must be said they resist in the extreme the desire the abuse that is now being made of their country and their hospitality by the exiled rulers and statesmen of the empires and states that they are as helpless in the matter as they are innocent.

Keeps Everybody Busy.
While the swarms of their little country from being converted into an incubator, however, they can at least try to keep the plots being hatched therein from actually hatching, and the Swiss secret service, together with its civilian police, its detectives and its public officials generally, are putting in quite a few sleepless nights to this end.

Now that the gradual readjustment of Europe has left no doubts in the minds of certain exiles, like King Constantine of Greece and some of the former rulers of German states of the independence of their empires, all of the plotting in Switzerland has come slowly to center on one great scheme that is not only considered possible, but that is considered by many of the great minds and authorities of Europe as being absolutely imperative and inevitable.

This is the constitution of a Danubian federation to replace the old dual monarchies and which, according to its backers, is the only thing that can rescue the life of the half dozen or more states into which the old Austria-Hungarian monarchy has been divided.

Vital and Imperative.
Whether this Danubian federation has its center north of the Danube with what is left of Hungary and Austria as a basis or whether it has its center south of the Danube with Serbia and Rumania playing the leading role, whether it be announced or published in form, together with half a dozen other possibilities or ramifications, are generally considered unimportant. All that is regarded as vital and imperative is that such a confederation be constituted and that it be organized in full harmony with and support of the allies.

Hungary and German Austria, as they will exist when the peace conference finishes its work, will be dead states, their own people and statesmen admit that. Poland and Czechoslovakia are merely gambling bets, but Serbia and Rumania are considered as the two big future bets of south central Europe.

On the other hand, there are just as many supporters and just as many plotters in Switzerland who would like to see Vienna regain some of its past glory as the center of the new Danubian confederation. Budapest is equally well represented, while there are plenty of others who can demonstrate from a dozen standpoints why Warsaw is inevitably destined as the future great center of middle European life.

Miss Irma Chafford was able to return to school Monday after a week's illness.

PERSONALS

The Sunday school board of the M. E. church held a board meeting at the church Monday evening.

The first picture to be shown at the Temple Theatre will be "The Sign of the Cross" on Tuesday evening.

Miss Margaret Wilson of Vinwood avenue is receiving from several days' illness.

R. A. Whitfield has returned from an extended trip to Chicago and Oklahoma.

The Good Time Club of Franklin will give a dance at the Franklin Hall on Friday evening, Feb. 27.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Strain on a baby girl on February 11.

H. B. Wines has purchased the home owned by W. Whitfield on Fourth street.

Miss F. Jones of Panama will arrive here on Tuesday.

Miss A. P. Shepherd of Atlanta is visiting at the home of Mr. J. J. Young.

Miss A. C. Williams of Panama is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Young.

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TAKE TIME TO SMILE

Learning a Dangerous Lesson.
"Make hay while the sun shines," quoted the genius philosopher.

"It sounds like an old adage," replied Father scornfully. "But seriously, they tell me it is the cause of high prices. Did it ever occur to you that the more hay you make the lower the price you're liable to get for it?"

Automatic Inference.
"I guess you've got out of the line of my speech," said Senator Scrumm, "about my being a public servant."

"Yes, but it is his duty," said a household relationship go just now, "chiming to be a servant sounds just a trifle bossy."

Sure Thing.
"It was a silk umbrella," said the hotel porter, "and it had a long brass handle that was hooked in the rail."

"That's nothing," said the hotel clerk. "I had an umbrella with a gold handle once and it was hooked in the rail, too."

His Knowledge.
While being questioned about her first day of school, Miss the stout daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Galtin, confided to her grandfather.

"What bothered me most was that George (her teacher) knows so much more than I do."

The Desired Quantity.
"Have you decided on what you shall say in your next speech?"

"Maybe I won't make any speech," said Senator Scrumm. "So many people want to talk now that the wisest way for a man to be popular is to help make up an audience."

No DISLOYALTY ALLOWED.
"The Grace Jones of her husband?"

"Jones?" Why, on their wedding day she would have kept her adobe the women?"

Averens.
Of all the kids in town, it was these two most likely to get the same punishment.

Her Way.
"Our cook is a contrary kind of woman."

"How so?"

"She is a rare creature, yet all her works are well done."

The Varieties.
"The girl I love is the pink of perfection. These little pinkies of perfection in families would be all right if it wasn't for the poppers."

Queer Action.
"Is Maude color blind?"

Every Man's Desire

Every man hopes for the day when he can live in comfort with out toil; and it is in every man's province providing he saves during the period in life when toiling is easiest.

A well maintained savings account is the best insurance against old age.

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REDFORD MICHIGAN

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We are justified, rather, obligated, to the exertion of our utmost business effort.

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A. C. CORWIN, Vice-Pres. B. J. GREER, Asst. Cashier
C. E. WALDO, Vice-Pres. A. G. SHEPHERD, Asst. Cashier

Funeral Held for Cat, Pet of New York Woman

LEWIS, Mass.—Funeral rites over a cat here were attended by all the employees on the summer estate of Mrs. Charles de Houshield of New York, and the feline "remains" were buried on the estate in a metal casket.

Houshield, a Persian cat, said to have cost \$5000, was greatly treasured by Mrs. de Houshield, and when it died at her home in New York, the owner had the body home here in a special automobile truck.

CALIFORNIA RICE DOES WELL

New Agricultural Industry Produces Crop Worth Millions of Dollars.

Washington.—In eight years the Sacramento valley of California has developed a new agricultural industry, rice growing, which the past season has resulted in a gross production estimated to be worth approximately twenty-one millions of dollars. This showing is the result of research carried on by the bureau of plant industry of the department of agriculture.

Following experiments by the bureau covering three years, the first commercial rice crop was planted in 1912. The value of the 1919 rice crop in California will probably be several million dollars greater than that of wheat and peaches, both of which are commonly thought of as relatively large crops in that state.