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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1920.

AMERICA AND THE MESOPOTAMIA OIL FIELDS.

It is now being asserted that the United States has claims upon the oil fields in the Near East which have years of priority over those of other nations based upon rights that can be successfully established, and representations have been made to the British and French Governments asking for recognition of these rights. It is claimed that this interest was secured before the war largely through the influence of Rear-Admiral Coley M. Chester, of the United States Navy, and that this interest, which is represented by one of the largest concessions ever granted by the Ottoman Government, attracted an unusual amount of international attention at the time it was obtained because it was bitterly fought by the Germans, who were then in the ascendancy in Turkey.

According to the New York Sun, Rear-Admiral Chester, who had an extensive acquaintance with the Near East, was detailed in 1908 by the Navy Department to go to Turkey and act under a commission given to him by the New York Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade and Transportation to advise commercial bodies of the United States regarding the development of American commerce in the Near East. This mission was similar to the one undertaken about the same time by Admiral Lord Charles Bessborough in behalf of the Associated British Boards of Trade and under the support of the British Government.

On the recommendation of Rear-Admiral Chester after his arrival at Constantinople an agent of American interests was sent to Turkey. This agent succeeded in negotiating a convention with the Ottoman Government for the construction of 1,200 miles of railroad extending through Asia Minor from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, and including all the mineral rights in a zone forty kilometers wide along the line of the railway. A party of twelve Turkish officials was brought to America by the Government in the interest of this concession, and one of the purposes of the visit of the Assistant Secretary of State to Constantinople in 1910 was to foster this American enterprise. The interest shown by this Government became a strong factor in securing the acceptance of the convention by the Ottoman Government, for despite opposition of the strongly entrenched German interests at Constantinople the passage of the measure became a mere legal formality when it was presented to the Ottoman Parliament.

The chief value of the concession is in the mineral rights, the railroads merely serving to bring the products of the mines to the markets. The present interest in the concession, however, lies in the fact that between Mesul, on the Tigris, and Suleimania, near the Persian border, the road would pass through the oil land section known as the Mosul oil fields. This is the part of the Mesopotamian region in which there has been recently a keen international competition and where it is said geologists from almost every European country have been making surveys for oil. According to the statement of Rear-Admiral Chester, "a good part of this area lies within the limits of the American concession."

Plans were well advanced for taking advantage of this concession when the war broke out. Rear-Admiral Chester has just laid this American interest in the Near East before the Navy Department as representing the source of oil supply for United States vessels in the East and before the State Department as being an American enterprise which should be protected and developed. The outcome of the United States representations will be awaited with interest.

THE FLABBINESS OF MODERN PREACHING.

The following quotation from a work on "The Menace of Immorality in Churches and State," by the Rev. Dr. J. R. Stratton, of New York, contains more truth than poetry: "The church and pulpit of today must awake, especially in our great cities, to the imperative need for aggressive action against the entrenched evils of the age. The church of God is not a hospital to nurse sick souls into heaven. The church is rather an armory for the training of soldiers to fight for righteousness and to strive for the salvation of souls. Preachers who stand in their pulpits from Sunday to Sunday and satisfy themselves with denominational recitals, propounding platitudes and reeling off rhetorical bouquets, when the very fires of hell are raging right at them in the slums, the palaces and the amusement centres of the city, and

when multitudes of young men and women are being swept away to eternal destruction—preachers who do that, haven't caught the first glimmer of their real mission as prophets of God and good soldiers of Jesus Christ."

"We can imagine the pained contempt with which the stalwart and rugged Prophet of Nazareth would look upon some of our prim and precise 'ministers' of today. Men who cannot see beyond the narrow confines of their own little parish who 'preach soft things,' and in their smug aloofness are entirely oblivious of indulgences all round them that are sapling the very foundations of society. Men who close their eyes to the appalling evils that are destroying hundreds of people for every one their churches reach. Men whose main stock in trade is pink teas, dulcet music, and dainty ethical sermonettes—when the Lord of Life and the Captain of our Salvation is calling for us to 'endure hardness' in the battle for righteousness."

"The trouble today with many of our churches is that we take up so much time defending our denominational trenches from each other that we have but little strength left to turn and fight the devil, who is assailing us all from the back and rear. We need to get back to the simplicity and unity of the early church. The church of today is too much on the defensive, and a church on the defensive is a church without faith. Against the awful forces of sin and corruption, both in high society and the under world, the church, united, militant, and mighty—should lift up the flag that 'bears the lilies of the Lord.' And in it all, the ministers must lead."

INTERNATIONAL SHIPBUILDING.

British and American shipbuilding has not developed that rivalry which at one time during the war it was felt might be the case. There was then much speculation as to the ultimate effect of the great effort in American production. Shipbuilding on a maximum scale was a necessity for the Allies while the submarine ravages were going on. The United States was urged by the British Government to use its great resources in the development of its mercantile marine. So remarkable was the energy with which this appeal was responded to that there were those who predicted that British supremacy in the shipbuilding trade of the world would be seriously challenged. A year ago this belief had not completely passed away, for at the end of June, 1919, the amount of tonnage being built in the United States exceeded that in the United Kingdom by 1,350,000 tons. But since then there has been a quick return to the former respective positions of the two countries. The return issued by Lloyd's Register, giving the figures of the world's output for the quarter that ended on the 30th of June, contains striking figures. The amount of merchant tonnage under construction in the United Kingdom at that date was 3,578,000, while the amount being built in the United States was less than half the amount reported a year ago, and was 1,472,000 tons less than the British figures. A number of the yards which rushed into activity in America during the war have been discarded; industrial enterprise has reverted to spheres which offer greater attraction to American capital and labor; and the predominant part of the United Kingdom in the world production of shipping has been re-established. There are, as has been said, 3,578,000 tons building in the United Kingdom, an amount greater by 1,856,000 tons than reported at the end of June, 1914. No information is given by Lloyd's regarding Germany; in Japan there has been a shrinkage during the last quarter of 30,000 tons; in Holland has increased her production by 32,000 tons, and the British Dominions are 36,000 better. The total amount of construction throughout the world—excluding Germany—is now 7,721,000 tons, less by 328,000 tons than the record figure of September last, but more than double the amount at the end of June, 1914, when the tonnage reported was 3,163,000. In the United Kingdom, the returns from the Clyde, where there are now 1,260,000 tons being built, give the largest increase on the figures of last year. These are satisfactory figures; they denote an opportunity of which the British shipbuilding industry should take the utmost advantage. But they should not be construed with an excess of confidence regarding the future. If the trade unions connected with the industry are well advised they will be careful about wages, and also about production. Freights are falling and building contracts are being cancelled. The signs are that a highly prosperous year may be followed by reaction.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Flower-Like Tongue.

(Exchange.)
 At the local club the conversation had got on the topic of the English language, its uses and abuses. "Have you ever noticed," said one man, "how four people are of flower phrases when speaking of a woman. Her cheeks are always 'roses,' her hands are 'lily-white,' her eyes are 'dewy violets,' and—"

"You've forgotten one," broke in the man with the sour face, who had hitherto been silent.
 "Which one?"
 "Her tongue, it's a 'scarlet runner.'"

Modern Poet.

(Washington Star.)
 "D'Annunzio is not only a poet, but he's a fighter."
 "Yes," replied the glum editor, "he probably got that way getting his poetry printed."

Wanted Them to Last.

(Western Veteran.)
 An old couple had saved hard all their lives and, with the money, had bought a beautifully furnished house. One day the old woman missed her man and called out to him:
 "Where are you, Thomas? Not on the couch, I hope?"
 "No, on the floor."
 "Not on the floor?" came in tones of anguish.
 "No, I've rolled it up!"

Keeping Time.

(From "Ever Heard This?")
 A gentleman at a musical party asked a friend, in a whisper, how he should stir the fire without interrupting the music. "Between the bars," replied the friend.

From War to Peace.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)
 "Our cook, who left us for a munitions factory, is back with us."
 "How's her cooking now?"
 "Well, her nitroglycerine cakes are pretty fair, but I don't care much for her shrapnel biscuits."

A BIT OF VERSE

'Tis Sixty Years Since.

The other day I met Elinathan Cobb.
 "So-so," the old man said. "I've just been down
 To get my paper. Three days out of five
 Those drafted mail-clerks take the papers on
 To Canada or to Sheffield or some place.
 Then send them down upon the four o'clock
 And we don't get them until almost night.
 They're wearing watch-chains big as goose-gelders
 And fancy socks. It's no use to complain.
 Nobody dares say 'Boo'; their votes all count.
 They do just what they please. Why should they care
 Whether we hayseeds get the news or not?
 When I hear folks like them make that constant fuss
 About their wrongs and rights, I sometimes think
 How I was sexton of the First Church here.
 In the late fifties, right before the war,
 I swept the building out and built the
 Cleaned, tiled, and lit the lamps and rang the bell.
 I never missed a service. I received five dollars yearly. Abner Estabrook, the senior deacon, after meeting once called me aside, out in the entryway. I wondered what was up. 'Bub,' Abner said,
 Does the committee pay you well enough?
 'Yes, sir,' I said. (Oh, he was pretty smooth.
 Was Abner!) Well, then, don't you think, said he,
 He really meant it, too—that you can spare
 Something for foreign missions? 'Yes, he did.'
 "And so, of course, you gave your bit?" I laughed.
 "What," asked Elinathan Cobb, "do you suppose
 Abner would say if he came back today?"
 —G. S. B., in N. Y. Tribune.

THE LAUGH LINE

Heard at the Commons.
 "Well," said the waiter to the student, who had just had his coffee cup refilled for the seventh time, "you must be very fond of coffee."
 "Yes indeed," replied the student, "or I wouldn't be drinking so much water to go a little."—Lehigh Burr.

"Jones is the finest after-dinner speaker I have ever heard."
 "Indeed?"
 "Yes, he always says, 'Waiter, give that bill to me.'"—Pearson's Weekly.

Not to Blame.
 "What do you mean by keeping me standing here like a fool?"
 "I can't help it, w w you stand."

Recommendation Didn't Appeal.
 "What kind of meat have you this morning?" asked the haggard husband of the butcher.
 "The best steak we ever had, sir," replied the butcher. "Here you are, sir, as smooth as velvet and as tender as a woman's heart."
 The husband looked up. "I'll take a pound of sausage, please," he said.—Pearson's Weekly.

Exception to the Rule.
 "All the world loves a lover," quoted the young man who was making his first call.
 "You haven't met father yet, have you?" the fair maid queried.

Ancestors to Order.
 Visitor (looking at portraits)—What a lot of ancestors you've got!
 Newrich—That's dead right! I didn't want so many, but Sarah insisted.—Boston Transcript.

In Germany the wages of men have increased in lesser ratio than of women. In March, 1914, men's wages and women's wages were in relation of 100 to 44 and in September, 1918, in that of 100 to 48.

Benny's Note Book

BY LEE PAPE

Last nite I wook up suddinly all of a suddin, thinking, G. gosh, my baseball bat is still out on the front steps, gosh, G.

And I quick got up and went down stairs in my pidjammers and everybody was asleep and the house was dark as anything, and the baseball bat was st'll waw I left it out on the top step leaning against the door, and I took it in and started to sneek up stairs without making any noise, and wen I got half ways I dropped the bat and it fell all the way down agin, soundin more like 10 bats than jes' one, me thinking, Jimminy kris-mas, holey smoke.

And I stayed waw I was to see if anything would hap-pin, wich sumthing did, being pops voice sayin, Whose there, whose there?

Me not sayin anything, and pop sed, Whose there, I say?

Me thinking, Maybe, if I jest stay heer without sayin anything he will think he only imagined it, maybe.

Speak or fill shoot, sed pop loud as anything, its me, pop, its me, its only me, I sed loud as anything, and pop sed, Well then w dident you anser, and wat in hev-ins name do you meen by crashin' 'round the house at 3 o'clock in the morning?

Gosh, is it 3 o'clock, pop? I sed.
 Never mind if it is or not, wats the idee of slammin' and bangin' in the dark like a wild-man and scarin' people half out of their senses? sed pop.

Wy, pop? I sed, wat did you think it was? and pop sed, O shut up, do you think this is a tee party or wat? Go rite up to your room and I'll wait heer till you pass me.

Wich I started to do, slow, being a heck of a sensation on account of it being so dark I couldnt see waw he was, wishin afterwards I had did it fast on account of pop havin' time to give 4 forse cracks some place wen I went past inste did ony maybe one or 2.

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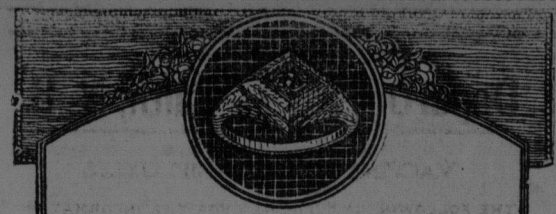


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GERMAN DRIVE ON RUSSIANS TALKED OVER

Reported in Berlin That the British and Germans Are Negotiating.

FOR HUN OFFENSIVE AGAINST BOLSHIEVISTS

French Charge That Reports Are German Propaganda to Try and Break up Entente.

(Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Company.)
 Berlin, Aug. 6.—In spite of constant denial by the French, reports persist in semi-official circles that General Ludendorff and Hoffmann are discussing with the Allies measures to be taken for a possible offensive against eastern Russia.

Department of Health

VACCINATION OF EMPLOYEES

THE FOLLOWING IS PUBLISHED FOR THE OF THE PUBLIC, GENERALLY, AND THOSE DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

1. "Section 30 of 'The Public Health Act, 1907,' Chapter 36, is hereby amended by last paragraph thereof the following paragraph:

"No person shall be employed in any other place wherein the employees come into close and prolonged contact one with another until such person produces to the employer a certificate, signed by a regular practitioner of successful vaccination, to certify that he is immune to vaccine virus prior to his employment, then in such small-pox by reason of having had the disease or shall employ any person in employment without such certificate being produced. Where small-pox, who is at the time of the employment employed as set out in this section, within fourteen days prior to the inception who has not complied or been required to comply with the provisions of this section, shall be primarily liable to pay all such costs as the sub-district Board of Health incurred in necessarily protecting the public such charges, costs and expenses were incurred necessary precautions relative to, or incurred to any such case of small-pox, and such costs may be used for and recovered with of the Chairman of the sub-district Board in any court of competent jurisdiction, with recovery or death of any such person. Such in addition and without prejudice to any liability provided for any violation of the provisions of this section.

The terms and conditions of this section operative until the First day of July, A. D. 1921.

Fredericton, N. B. July 27, 1920.

(First publication June 12th, 1920.)



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