

### Holland Is Planning To Drain Zuider Zee Thus Making New State

IF the plans of the Government of Holland do not mis-carry, Queen Wilhelmina will have another state added to her little kingdom. The Dutch intend to reclaim the whole of the Zuider Zee from the grasp of the ocean. The idea is now being considered by the Second Chamber of the Netherlands Parliament, and the engineers propose to dam the body of troublesome water, thus creating a hinterland at home instead of looking for colonial expansion. It will suggest to outsiders that the Dutch feel that the danger of German aggression has now been thoroughly mastered by the Allies, so that Queen Wilhelmina and her people need no longer have fears for the integrity of their country.



QUEEN WILHELMINA.

strait) to the island of Wieringen and thence to the Friesland coast at the town of Piaam, in a northeasterly direction. Including the island, the total length of the dam will be about twenty-four miles; excluding the island, about nineteen miles. A lake of 832,000 acres in area would be formed, of which, it is understood, about 500,000 acres would be drained, leaving the remainder as a lake in the midst of the redeemed arable land.

The Zuider Zee is of comparatively recent origin. When the Romans were spreading throughout Europe the greater part of what is now the Zuider Zee was covered with forests, and as late as the middle of the eleventh century a chart of Holland shows that the present island mentioned above then formed part of the continent. The River Yssel discharged into the North Sea, between the Halder and the present island of Texel; another river, the Vlie, emptied between what is now the islands of Vlieland and Terschelling, and in the centre of the forest region was a lake.

But in A. D. 1170 a great flood occurred, known in Netherlands history as the "All Saints' Day Flood." This flood began breaking down the then existing barriers between the land and the sea. It formed the islands of Texel and Wieringen and destroyed the towns of Medemlick, in North Holland, and Stavoren, in Friesland. More floods occurred in 1237 and 1250, and a large part of the land west of Harlingen and Stavoren and as far south as Elburg was washed away and the island of Vrieland was created. In 1395 further foundations formed the islands of Terschelling and Ameland, and in 1410 the Zuider Zee had practically assumed its present form.

When work on the project will begin is not yet known, but it will be decided as the bill progresses through Parliament.

It is calculated that the dam will be completed in the ninth year of work on the project.

#### A German Dream.

Early in October the Deutsche Tageszeitung, of Berlin, published a lurid account, from a Norwegian merchant, of a Zeppelin raid on London. The merchant described the King, Queen, Duke of Connaught, and retinue taking refuge in the cellar of a big grocery concern. Inasmuch as the Duke of Connaught arrived in England only a few days ago from Canada, the falsity of one item is manifest, and the rest of the story is equally true.

#### Our Princes.

A reminder that "Old Time is still a-flying" is the news that the fourth son of the King and Queen has chosen his profession and gone to Osborne. The King's sons alternate between the army and the navy. The Prince of Wales is a soldier; Prince Albert, who is now at home ill, is a sailor; and the third son, Prince Henry, in all probability will be a soldier.

#### Neighborly.

"Whither away?"  
"To call on our new neighbors."  
"You consider that a duty?"  
"Not at all. But I was away the day they moved in, and so didn't get to see their furniture."

### Large Losses Reported In PEARLING Industry Since Outbreak of War

MOST people may not be aware that four-fifths of the world's output of pearl-shell of the best quality is produced from Australian waters almost exclusively—that is, including the few Dutch and other islands in the immediate neighborhood of the northern shores of the island continent. The only other pearling grounds of consequence where high-grade shell is obtained lie around the Malay Archipelago and Manila.

Mr. James Clark is the authority for the statement, and he has for many years been the foremost figure in the pearl shelling industry. Pearling is a very precarious business, and many men fall, Mr. Clark says. As with mining, there is a peculiar fascination about it. Once a man embarks on this enterprise he generally keeps going, in the hope of some day striking a pearl of great price, which sometimes comes into his possession if others do not intercept it. Once he sold four beauties for £17,000, and he has another that has been valued at £5,000. Vanderbilt bought a pearl on one occasion for £25,000, but it was not one of Mr. Clark's. He offered £10,000 in Paris, just before the war broke out for an Australian pearl, and he is glad now that the offer was not accepted, or the pearl might still be on his hands.

The London market is controlled by a few dealers. At the present time most of the Australian product goes to America. Pearlshellers are getting considerably less for their shell now than before the war, although the cost of gathering it and of freights is ever so much higher. A great portion of the fleet is now laid up, and the comparatively few boats that are at work are only in commission to keep the men employed.

Mr. Clark has 35 vessels at Bromme, while the Celebes Trading Company, in which he has large interests, has 65 vessels at the Aru islands. Thursday Island, between Australia and New Guinea, was formerly the headquarters of these boats, but the Commonwealth restrictions made it necessary to transfer them to the Dutch flag. When both the fleets in which he is interested are fully working, employment is given to about 800 men, chiefly Japanese, Malays, and Manila men, and the expenses of operation run to about £65,000 a year.

Prior to the war shellers at Bromme got as much as £230 per ton on the spot for their shell. The price had now dropped to £110, which was quite unprofitable. The only hope of keeping the industry going as a permanent and profitable business is for the Australian Government to fix such a price for shell as would leave owners a reasonable margin for all the risks they had to take, and to limit the export. If the Government would follow this course, and see that the pearl fleets were so limited that the supply did not overtake the demand to any extent, much could be done to improve the conditions of the Australian pearling industry, which was well worth encouraging in every possible way.

#### Jap Maroons Defy Sun.

Under a scorching sun that at times drove the mercury up to 130 degrees Fahrenheit, 2,000 soldiers of the Japanese army, stationed in Formosa and the Pescadores, made a twelve-day march in Formosa between July 1 and July 12. Only three cases of sunstroke are reported. The first nine days were spent in marching, and the troops actually covered more than 100 miles. The last three days were spent in manoeuvres.

With a view to finding the best clothing to protect soldiers from the heat, the soldiers were allowed to wear any costume they pleased. Some wore helmets, some straw hats; some wore an ordinary uniform with a hole on either side, or a knitted undershirt, or a thin kimono; some wore their heavy boots; some tabi. Besides their clothing, the best food and drink for soldiers under these conditions were also studied.

#### Socialists Want Peace.

The Berlin Vorwaerts, commenting on the recent interview given by Field Marshal von Hindenburg, in which he discussed many phases of the war, says, according to a Berlin despatch forwarded by Amsterdam: "He advises France to be reasonable and not to act as a further obstacle to peace. This advice will have a better chance of being heard abroad if we show ourselves reasonable, too. If we are going to drag this war on indefinitely, then the whole of Europe will bleed to death and America and the colored races would be our heirs. But we want Europe to live; not Germany only, but all the nations. We want France to live. We see her now bleeding white, but we have never hated her. We want peace also for England and Russia, peace for the whole blood-stained world."

#### Professional vs. Amateur.

Little Nelly told little Anita what she termed a "little fib."  
Anita—"A fib is the same as a story and a story is the same as a lie."  
Nelly—"No, it's not."  
Anita—"Yes, it is, because my father said so, and my father is a professor at the university."  
Nelly—"I don't care if he is. My father is a real-estate man, and he knows more about lying than your father."—Auckland (N.Z.) News.

Treatise will leave the scales quite easily if they are dusted with flour first.

There are thousands of children who are bright but frail—not sick but underdeveloped—they play with their food—they catch colds easily and do not thrive—they only need the pure, rich liquid-food in

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#### Games of Russian Children.

One of the pet games played by Russian children is known as babki, or pig bones. It is similar to the American game of tenpins, but the bones of a pig's leg are used. On the vast Russian estates, where the peasants make many of the toys for the master's children, the bones from the legs of pigs are thus utilized.

#### Marriageable at Nine.

The Turkish woman is marriageable at the age of nine years, and by Turkish law, at that age, if married, she is competent to manage her property and dispose of one-third of her fortune. The law allows her to abandon her husband's house for just cause, and will protect her in so doing. She cannot be compelled to labor for the support of her husband.

#### They Don't Like Bachelors.

In the Argentine republic if a man engaged to marry hesitates beyond a reasonable time in leading his fiancée to the altar he is heavily fined, and if a resident of the republic should fail to marry he is taxed until he reaches the age of eighty.

#### An Awful Experience.

A native diver descended into the water to see whether one of the piers, then in course of construction, had set. While he was engaged in this work a great iron cylinder subsided a little, crushing his hand between it and the masonry. When, on a signal being given, another diver came down he found his unfortunate comrade imprisoned under water without hope of escape. After a few moments of mute despair and harrowing uncertainty a speechless decision was arrived at, and the newcomer proceeded with chisel and hammer to hack off his unhappy companion's hand at the wrist. The prisoner was thus liberated, but died soon after reaching the surface from the shock. Never, I think, has an optum eater in his dreams imagined a more pitiful spectacle of hopeless human suffering.—"Travels in India."

#### Lay of the Cow.

"What are oxen?" asked the teacher. The little foreigners looked blank: "Does any one know what a cow is?" she asked hopefully.  
A dingy hand waved wildly at the back of the room. "I know. I know, teacher. A cow she lays milk!"—Harper's Magazine.

#### Where Women Tell Their Ages.

Japanese women wear gold pins in their hair until they reach the age of twenty-five. At thirty the pins are white, and at forty they wear plain shell combs.

#### Power of Music.

Mrs. Flatbush—Did you say her husband has a passion for music? Mrs. Bensonhurst—Oh, yes! Every time she sings he flies into one.—Yonkers Statesman.

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#### Constantine Lucky.

The difference between British humanity and German "kultur" is well exemplified in the cases of Greece and Belgium. Germany trod roughshod over Belgium because the latter happened to lie in her chosen path to Paris. When Belgium resisted she was ground under the German heel without compunction or pity.

In the case of Greece, Britain and her allies have shown every consideration. King Constantine has been secretly and treacherously hostile from the start. He has been a thorn in the side of the Allies' Balkan campaign.

With her long coast line Greece could have been speedily pounded into submission by the warships of the allied fleet. Yet King Constantine has been reasoned with till reason has ceased to be a virtue. It is almost time he was given a taste of the argument peculiar to those Teutons he loves so dearly.

It is exceedingly fortunate for that deluded monarch that he is showing his German leanings to the Allies instead of showing allied leanings to the Germans. Had the latter been the case he would even now be hunting among the shell holes for his crown.

"Who is that chap riding on the hearse with the driver?"  
"That's Smiley, the professional humorist. He's on his vacation."

#### Curious Transference of Heat.

A workman in the observatory at Toulouse has invited attention to a singular phenomenon. A bar of iron is taken by the end, and the other end is plunged into a fire, heating it strongly, but not so much that the hand cannot retain its hold. The heated end is then plunged into a pail of cold water. Immediately the other end becomes so hot that it is impossible to hold it. This phenomenon, familiar to workmen in iron, is ascribed by them to some repellent action they suppose the sudden cold exerts upon the heat contained in the iron, which is thus driven to the opposite extremity.—Chicago Herald.

#### Wit of Disraeli.

There is a story about Disraeli that is much like him and will give an idea of what he was at this time (1877). As he was leaving a house he asked some one to give him his arm down Piccadilly. The man, who must have been a person of some wit, said, "At such a time as this I should wish to be met by my creditors." "No," said Disraeli, "it is not at such times that your creditors meet you. Your creditors meet you when you are carrying a bundle."

There you have the literary quality of the man.—E. S. Nadal in Outlook.

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