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Attributes Safety to Prayer

TORONTO, Ont., June 19.—(By Canadian Press)—Because an old Chinese woman smoked opium in bed in Fowchow, West China, a Canadian doctor is exultant at the great witness set by the survival of a Methodist Church when all the adjoining temples and houses were burned. In a letter just received by the Methodist Missionary Society offices here, Dr. E. Kyle Simpson describes vividly the conflagration in Fowchow.

"Behold how great a fire an old woman smoking opium on a straw bed may kindle," writes Dr. Simpson. "The fire leaped over the city wall in the morning and before nightfall it had burned about one-third of the area inside and about one-sixth of the city without the wall. Probably about 5,000 people are homeless. In the west end in an area of one-third of Fowchow proper the only building standing is our church. The temple next door where we hold our dispensary is gone. Our evangelists' school is also burned, but the church, old, ramshackle that it is, stands.

"The Chinese say 'That is God's protection' or 'the fire god fears the foreigner.' One post on the corner of the 'heavenly wall' took fire and went out, but was not put out by human hands. For eight hours the fire raged round it on all sides, first on one side and then on another. Temples, fine homes, poor homes and shacks burned down; but some were praying that the church would be spared and be a witness to God's protection, and it did not burn."

Dr. Simpson's own explanation is brief and joyous. "I can attribute it to no other cause than the direct answer to prayer. Hallelujah."

Outside the wall the large temple which was the finest building of the city, and which the Canadian Methodists had rented for a middle school, was burned. Rev. R. G. Longley and wife and family were living in a portion of it, but escaped with the loss of \$1,000 in personal property. The school loss was \$500 in books and equipment. Another \$500 loss to equipment was entailed by the burning of the evangelists' school. The dispensary had housed the children's church of 200 persons. The younger school children have had to be sent home as there was no money with which to rent other spaces for a school. The Chinese themselves through their Red Cross had supported the dispensary, but the local gentry had lost their homes and were now in no position to make donations to medical work. And the price of labor and building material was soaring. In the face of such discouragements Dr. Simpson concluded, "But this is God's battle and His soldiers are going to win out some day."

MAJESTIC THIS WEEK

BETTY COMPTON, in
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BEN REDDEN

TENOR, Will Sing:

- (A) FLOWER SONG—From Carman.
- (B) THE IRISH EMIGRANT.
- (C) ASTHORE.

NOTE—B and C was sung with great success by the celebrated O'Shaughnessy many years ago in St. Patrick's Hall.



EARLY CABLES

CHURCH UNION BILL THROUGH.

OTTAWA, July 15. Church Union Legislation passed the final stages in the Canadian Parliament to-night when the House of Commons adopted the Senate amendment providing for a vote either by ballot or at a church meeting of a congregation wishing to remain out of Church Union. Previously in the Commons a similar amendment was defeated. There was no opposition to-night, though Bert Forke, Progressive Leader and sponsor of the Bill, rose to speak after the amendment had been declared passed and was ruled out. William Duff, Liberal, Lanenburg, regretting the Senate had not gone further and provided that the name "Presbyterian Church of Canada" could be used by dissenting congregations, stated the minority group of the churches would carry on and build up a new Presbyterian Church in Canada in spite of what Parliament had done to disturb the ancient continuity of that church.

\$1,000,000 FLOOD IN CHINA.

PEKING, July 15. Kaigan, in the Province of Chihli, the largest commercial centre North of Peking, has been destroyed in part by flood along the Hangko River, according to word received here to-night. Damage to the city is unofficially estimated at \$1,000,000. The loss of life is not thought to be great although the railway bridge and hundreds of houses were completely destroyed. Fear is expressed lest the dykes protecting the city of Tientsin may not hold against the onrush of waters and thus precipitate a flood condition worse than that of 1917.

FREE STATE GOVT. TO RELEASE

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

DUBLIN, July 15. The release of Eamonn De Valera, Austin Stack and other political leaders now in prison, has been decided upon by the Free State Government, it was learned to-day. The official announcement will not be made until to-morrow or Thursday.

U.S. FLIERS IN PARIS.

PARIS, July 15. The United States army fliers, who are circling the globe and are now in Paris, are nineteen days behind their original schedule, but with a gain of twelve days to their credit since they left Tokio. The pilots of the three planes and their assistants were in fine health on their arrival here, in spite of weeks of heavy strain, but they were tired and almost overcome by the enthusiasm of their reception. The fliers have covered from the Pacific Coast of the American Continent to their present resting place, a distance of nearly 18,000 miles, in something less than four months. They will remain here long, but will proceed to London, and from there, flying by way of the Orkney Islands, Iceland and Greenland, Labrador and Canada return to the United States. Under their original schedule they would be in Washington on Aug.

U. S. ROWERS' VICTORY.

ARGENTEUIL, France, July 15. Holders of Olympic doubles sculls championship, Jack Kelly and Paul Costello, United States, raced to easy victory in Olympic trials in this event this afternoon, defeating the French pair by five lengths and Hungary's by nine lengths on a 2,000 metre course, thus earning the right to enter the finals Thursday.

10th, but although they may clip two or three days off their flying on the remaining hops, it is not expected that they will arrive there much before August 25th. They are due next to hop to London, a distance of 225 miles, and then enter upon the sixth and final division, with the following hops by miles:—Hull, England, 156 miles; Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, 370 miles; Thorshaven, Faro Islands, 273 miles; Hornafjord, Iceland, 200 miles; Retkjavik, Iceland, 339 miles; Anngmagaalik, Greenland, 500 miles; Ivigtut, Greenland, 500 miles; Indian Harbor, Labrador, 572 miles; Cartwright Harbour, Labrador, 40 miles; Hawkes Bay, Newfoundland, 290 miles; Pictou Harbour, N.S., 420 miles; Boston, 520 miles; Mitchell Field, New York, 175 miles, and Washington, 220 miles.

OFF FOR THE PRESENT.

OTTAWA, July 15. The five hundred dollar scheme for the construction of the St. Lawrence deep waterway scheme to the Great Lakes was ended for the present session when the Railway Committee of the House to-day advised that the bill be withdrawn. It was the scheme of a company which sought incorporation under the name of Confederation Canal and Power Company with half billion capitalization.

WHEAT CONDITIONS.

WINNIPEG, July 15. Predictions made at the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday that conditions in Western Canada were the worst in seventy years and that the wheat yield would not be more than fifty per cent. of last year's harvest, was characterized to-day as "pure bunk." While it is admitted conditions in some parts of Northern Saskatchewan and Northern Alberta are dry, due to lack of moisture, the opinion is freely expressed here that timely rains would have decidedly beneficial results and would boost crop prospects. The consensus of opinion among the trade here is that the final harvest will touch the three hundred million bushel mark.

HOUSTON NEXT MEETING PLACE.

LONDON, July 15. The International Advertising Convention will meet at Houston, Tex., in 1925. The city was the unanimous choice of the delegates in session here to-day.

INTER-ALLIED CONFERENCE TO-DAY.

LONDON, July 15. The all-important inter-Allied Conference for making effective the Experts' plan for German Reparations will open in the British Foreign Office at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, with Premiers MacDonald and Herriot at the head of the table and the plenipotentiaries of the Minor Allied Powers interested in obtaining war compensation, seated around the Board.

P. E. I. POTATO INDUSTRY.

CHARLOTTETOWN, July 15. Nine thousand acres of certified seed potatoes, over three times the acreage of last year, were planted in Prince Edward Island this year, according to a statement made here to-day at the annual meeting of the Potato Growers' Association.

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CHARGED WITH MURDER.

HALIFAX, N.S., July 15. Lewis Bovis, one of the gang captured by the Halifax police after a hard struggle and gun battle yesterday, was this morning charged with murder and attempted murder of police officers Falton and Kennedy, respectively, when the party were arraigned in the police court this morning. His confederates were charged with breaking in and entering the residence of T. C. C. tabley. The prisoners were remanded for one week.

RICHARD'S LIME...
LIMBER

SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

GOOD FORM IN TELEPHONING.

Recently I met an old school friend on the street. I had seen her only once since the death of her husband a year ago and was anxious to know how she was getting on.

"I've tried to reach you by telephone," I exclaimed, "but they told me there was no telephone listed for you."

Too Heavy A Time Cost.

"Yes," she said, "I've had it taken out. It wasn't the expense, although of course I've had to cut down heavily on expenses. A telephone would be a real convenience in lots of ways, and it's a real deprivation to have to do without one. It's just that I simply cannot spare the time to answer it. You know I'm decorating parchment lampshades to help out my income and with the housework and sewing for the children it takes just about all my time. And remembering what a slave I was to that insistent bell in the old days I just gave up the idea of having a telephone. It was not at all unusual to have the phone ring a dozen times in the course of a day and the friends who called up to talk about club affairs, or just for a chat, or to ask about the church supper, or something like that, would take 15 or 20 minutes apiece, and when you multiply that by 12 you can see the time it consumed."

"My Cake Is Burning."

"There was one woman in particular who was an enthusiastic club woman and an indefatigable worker. I used to groan when I heard her voice for nothing short of actual rube-

ness would shut her off under half an hour. I used to tell her my door bell was ringing, or that I smelled my cake burning, and other fibs, for if you told her outright that you hadn't the time to listen to her she would be mortally offended. I accomplish twice as much now as when I was interrupted so often on the telephone even though I do miss the convenience."

There isn't a woman who reads this who won't sympathize with my friend; I'm thinking, or a man either for that matter. For what husband hasn't fumed time and again when trying to reach his home by telephone to be told repeatedly that the line was busy. It might be a good idea if the telephone company, along with its other directions would print a set of "good form in telephoning" rules for housekeepers. I suggest the following:

Ask Her What She's Doing.

"Always begin your conversation by asking if the one you have called is busy. She may have callers, or she may be dressing to go out, or she may be cooking or otherwise too busy to spare much time.

"Time your call. Keep your eye on the clock and don't talk over ten minutes.

"Stick to the subject you have called about and don't go rambling off onto other subjects. Be brisk and concise and don't waste a lot of useless time in non-essential details.

"If you must make a social call by telephone, choose the evening, as the daytime should be clear for business calls, and don't be too long about it even then."

This is not only common courtesy but common sense, and if these rules were adhered to much valuable time would be saved by thousands of housekeepers which now is wasted at the telephone.

The Debt of Nations

On December 31st, 1923, the national debts of four leading participants in the great war, on the side of the Allies, compared as follows: The internal debt of France was \$52,247,000,000 and the external debt estimated at the rate of exchange then current, was \$28,331,000,000, making a total indebtedness of \$80,578,000,000. On the same date, according to a study just completed by the research department of the Bankers Trust Company of New York, the internal debt of Great Britain was \$32,709,000,000, the external debt \$6,290,000,000, making the total debt \$38,999,000,000. The internal debt of Italy was \$18,293,000,000, the external debt \$19,254,000,000, a total debt of \$37,547,000,000. The United States at that time owed \$21,916,000,000, of course all internal.

If these figures are adjusted for varying degrees of inflation by dividing the total debt of each country by the valuable price index number of that country, the following result is obtained: The debt of France so stated amounts to \$17,555,000,000, that of Great Britain to \$24,999,000,000, that of Italy to \$6,542,000,000, and that of the United States to \$14,514,000,000. If these figures, which for simplicity may be referred to as figures on the pre-war gold basis, are compared with the estimated national wealth of each country similarly estimated

in pre-war gold dollars, we find that the debt of Great Britain is 35.71% of her wealth, that of Italy 30.78% of her wealth, that of France 30.32% of her wealth, and that of the United States 6.31%.

Comparing the interest charge estimated in pre-war gold dollars, with the national income on the same basis, we find that the percentage of interest charge to national income for Great Britain is 10.52%, for France 9.50%, for Italy 6.18%, and for the United States 2.18%.

On a per capita basis, the debt of Great Britain in pre-war gold dollars is \$531.89, that of France \$450.13, that of Italy \$163.55, and that of the United States \$131.95, whereas the per capita interest charge is \$22.38 for Great Britain, \$16.69 for France, \$6.15 for the United States, and \$5.25 for Italy.

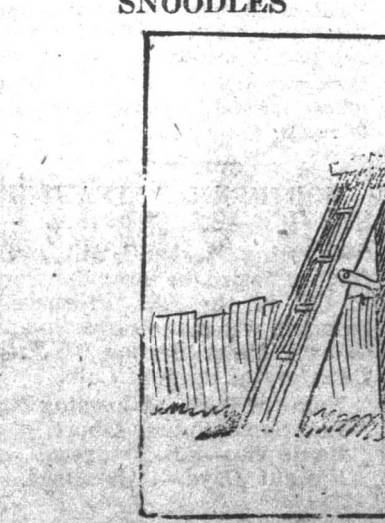
To sum up, therefore, these figures show that, estimated in pre-war gold dollars, the national debt of Great Britain is heaviest, that of France comes next, that of the United States next, and that of Italy last. In proportion to public wealth, the debt of Great Britain comes first, Italy and France in the order named follow closely, and the United States comes last with only about one-fifth or one-sixth of the percentage of the other countries.

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Gold From the Laurentic

£ 172,000 WORTH RECOVERED THIS SEASON.

Owing to the better knowledge of the condition of the wreck, and to the weather being favourable for diving, the work of recovering the gold sunk in the White Star liner Laurentic, which was torpedoed off the Donegal coast in January, 1917, has been very successful. In fact it is within sight of completion. When the Laurentic went down she had on board 3,211 bars of gold. There have been obtained this season 115 bars, and only

39 more remain to be got up. Each bar is valued at approximately £1,500.

As was explained in The Times a couple of months ago, it may be more difficult for the divers to take out the remaining bars. The strong room in which the specie was stored for the voyage to America has long gone to pieces, so that its contents have scattered. When the divers resumed operations this year they found over 24 of the smashed plates of the steamer lying over the area where gold was known to be, and this metal had to be shifted before the bars could be searched for.

The salvage work is being conducted from the Admiralty salvage vessel Racer, of which Mr. T. C. Robinson is

chief officer, and is under the direction of Commander Guybon C. C. Damant, O.B.E., formerly Inspector of Diving in the Royal Navy. At the head of the naval diving staff is Mr. Ernest C. Miller, M.B.E., D.S.C., Warrant Shipwright, R.N. The remains of the Laurentic by Mr. Miller are to be seen at Wembley at the stand of Messrs. Siebe Gorman in the Palace of Engineering.

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