

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1918

## SENTIMENT NOT ITS ONLY VALUE

What The River Rhine Means To Germany

Its Main Artery

Right of Access Through Holland of Utmost Importance to Industry and Commerce—Scheldt of Almost Equal Usefulness

Although there appears to be a general if vague belief that the Rhine River is the western boundary of Germany, a moment's reflection would suggest that if this were so the Rhine would be also the eastern boundary of other countries and that they would have as good right as Germany to sing its praises, just as Canadians and Americans take equal pride in the Great Lakes. So it is an error to speak of reaching the Rhine as though we should then for the first time look over German territory. If it is necessary for the Allies to advance as far as the Rhine before they have put out of action the German armies in the field, they will have passed over much German ground in their progress. A considerable part of Germany will be already in their grip. It is by no means necessary to cross the Rhine in order to inflict upon Germany some of the suffering she has inflicted upon France and Belgium and Serbia.

### The Mouth of the Rhine.

Not only is the Rhine not the boundary river of Germany, but neither its mouth nor its source is in German territory as Charles M. Pepper points out in the Washington Star in the course of a discussion of the Rhine as a factor in peace negotiations. This has long been a cause of mortification to Germany, and to it is partly due the rise of the pan-German movement and the dream of a Mitteleuropa. The Rhine flows into the North Sea at Rotterdam in Holland, just as the other great German river, the Scheldt, flows into the North Sea through Belgium. Even the Danube pours into the Black Sea, but this fact was not felt as a humiliation by the Pan-Germans because of the subsequent relation of Austria to Germany. But for a long time it has been their business to assert, sometimes in the most offensive language, that Germany must control the Rhine and the Scheldt to its mouth.

### The Rhine as a Free River.

It is true that various treaties guaranteed Germany the use of the Rhine as a free river, but it is not the use of the Rhine as a free river to all other nations, the river being in fact free, as established by the treaty of Paris in 1814. In subsequent times this principle was upheld, but many, naturally, does not put much in treaties, and has long desired the sole ownership of the Rhine. All of equal importance in her view is control of the mouth of the Rhine, and on this account it will be a blow to her when she is obliged to surrender Belgium could a severe blow upon Germany if held that the German violation of territory was sufficient reason for withdrawing from the treaty that practically internationalized the Rhine, and that in the future German vessels could not use the mouth of this river. If in this decision she had the support of the Allies she could inflict enormous economic losses upon Germany.

### Switzerland's Desire.

The Rhine is important to Germany because it is the main artery of her industrial life. The vast Westphalian coal fields are tributary to it. The iron ore which is imported from Sweden and her countries flows down it to the last furnaces. Cologne, Mannheim and Frankfurt are dependent on the Rhine. It is planned to make it more so in the period of reconstruction that will follow the war. The intention is to make use of the Rhine as the source of electrical energy that will operate many of the great manufacturing plants within the empire. This will mean that the Rhine is to become a canal instead of a river, and oddly enough it is Switzerland that files a mild protest to the scheme. Switzerland has ambitions to secure free access to the North Sea, and since the Rhine is by treaty free for purposes of navigation to all the nations of the world there is nothing extraordinary in Switzerland's ambition. But since Switzerland would be sending Rhine manufactured goods in competition with those which Germany ship to the four corners of the world it is not likely to get much comfort if Germany is left to decide the Rhine shall be canalized or not in this account, it seems likely the Rhine is to be made of it, matters will come up for discussion when stalls of peace are being arranged.

FACTORS COME TO STAY.  
Matters Never Will Give Up the Very Useful Machine.

There is no reason to believe that stern farmers who have been forced the war to adopt some of the practices of the less conservative west will return to the old order. General



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use of the tractor in farm work, for example, has proved its value to the most skeptical. At the same time it has paved the way for better co-operation than formerly existed. New York State authorities set the pace by purchasing a large number of the big machines and renting them to associations of farmers formed expressly for the purpose of using them. The result has been not only that man power has been saved on already existing farms, but that considerable areas have been restored to cultivation which had been abandoned for lack of help.

The tractor has been accompanied by two other machines also important to agriculture—one for digging ditches in land which required drainage and another for spraying the crops after they had been planted. The ditching machine, even more than the tractor has taught a lesson in the value of united effort. It costs more than the ordinary tractor,

and this requires that it shall be purchased for the use of people in groups. Farmers are learning how to get together. The economies they have effected are so obvious that they will not be willing to resume the expensive practice of always working alone.

Introduction of heavy machinery also has increased the popularity of farm schools. Skilled help is necessary for the operation of the machines, and it has been found that the success or failure of the tractor, the amount of repairs necessary, and the life of the machine itself, are in direct proportion to the skill of the operator. Haphazard methods are going out of vogue.

The West can take credit to itself for its pioneer work in introducing heavy machinery on the farm, but it is not to retain a monopoly of the practice. The era of intensive application of labor-saving devices to food production is only beginning to dawn—Oregonian.

## LOCAL NEWS

Wanted—Girls to feed mangle and fold in flat wash department, Royal Hotel, T.F.

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### DYKEMAN'S AUTUMN OPENING

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### FAMILY PRAYERS.

Theory Advanced to Account for Decline of an Old Custom.

I see that Sir Joseph Maclay wishes that Englishmen should return to the habit of having family prayers. My fellow sociologists have given various reasons for the abandonment of the practice in many families. One of them has pointed out that the household prayers remained the order of the day as long as the family breakfasted together. "Disruption came in with the institution of a bath room in houses." Before that, in England, morning bathers were taken in bedrooms, and members of the household went downstairs practically together. When there was a succession of bathers in a room where there was a set tub, the first had finished his breakfast before the last had begun. Thus breakfast became a series of semi-detached meals. Thus the family circle was broken, and family prayers gradually disappeared.

When I was a boy in a town that had the doubtful honor of being celebrated in verse by J. G. Holland, family prayers were regarded as more important than breakfast. The head of the house read a chapter of the Bible, often stumbling over the names of persons, tribes and towns. There are fathers who read in a voice that convinced the listeners that the reader had himself written the text and was laying down his own parental laws. There were also fathers who read in a voice that convinced the listeners that the reader had himself written the text and was laying down his own parental laws.

Charles Lamb argued against pompous grace before meat, "blessing" we used to call it, when if a minister were at table the host would ask him to "say the blessing," as he would afterward inquire if he would "have them read from the Gospels." I confess I mourn the abandonment of family prayers. Our young folk are shamefully ignorant of the

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Old Dutch Cleanser, 3 for ..... 27c

Quaker Oats, 30c, pkgs

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## THIS WOMAN ESCAPED AN OPERATION

By Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Many Others Have Done the Same.

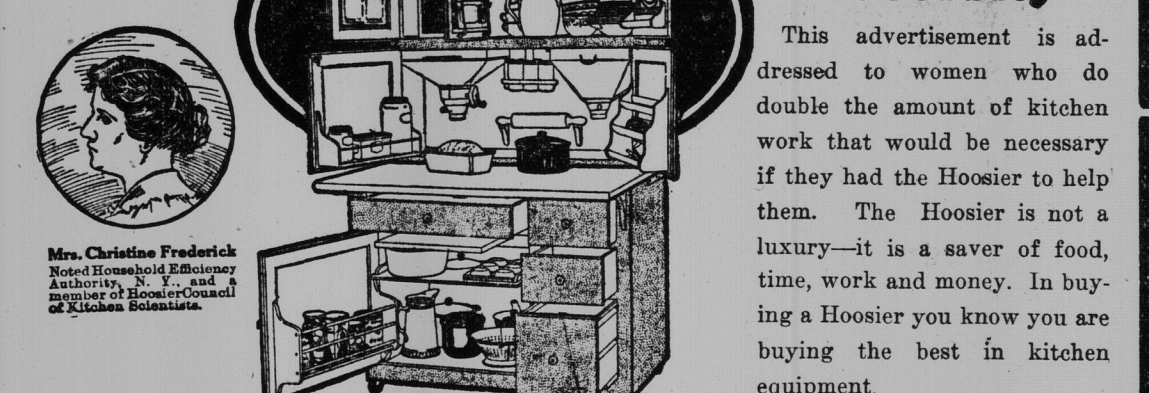
Troy, N. Y.—"I suffered for more than seven months from a displacement and three doctors told me I would have to have an operation. I had dragging pains, backache and headaches and could not do my housework. My sister who had been helped by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound asked me to try it. I have taken several bottles and am now entirely well—so I do all my work—and not a trace of my trouble. I have told many of my friends what I have done and they have given Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial.

For suggestions in regard to your condition write Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass. The result of their 40 years experience is at your service.

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ing an invitation to "lead in prayer," prayed that "those two sons"—my brother and I—"might be like two hemispheres." After we had risen from our knees my father said: "That was a fine prayer, but just what did you mean by wishing that my sons should be like two hemispheres?" "Oh, nothing particular,

Mr. Johnson, but I thought it would please the boys."—"Herkimer Johnson" in Boston Herald.

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