

London Advertiser

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1923.

The Day's Biggest News.

The biggest piece of news today is that United States is willing to take a seat at a conference with European nations to see what can be done to save Europe from an economic disaster.

It is not only the biggest news, but the best news.

United States does not commit itself to any great extent. The message accepting the invitation of Premier Baldwin is written in guarded terms that express the temerity the nation feels in moving even a short distance from its beaten path of splendid isolation.

The frank manner in which Britain discusses the matter will produce more results than any other method. Premier Baldwin was frank to the point of offending some of the French diplomats when he addressed Britain's reply on the matter of Ruhr operations.

Lloyd George, in his United States tour, has been equally frank in telling United States that she could not, with her wealth, strength and influence, stand to one side while Europe perished.

The matter immediately under discussion is Germany's ability or inability to pay her war debts. The thing runs in a circle. Germany owes France, Britain and the rest of the Allies large sums of money; her financial system has been riddled and exploited until her currency quotations are reckoned in terms of white paper alone. Britain, France and Italy, in turn, owe United States billions of dollars, and United States has come forward with a plan to pay pound for pound for everything she owes. It is for that reason alone, if for no other, that she is qualified to address United States on the subject of a conference where the method of German payment can be discussed. Had Britain flunked the question, she could not have spoken.

The Allies owe United States the following amounts, reckoned in dollars:

Great Britain\$4,166,318,358
France3,358,104,083
Italy1,648,034,050
United States has a great deal at stake. She should be interested in listening to any plan whereby a movement toward repayment can be started. If Germany pays France, France can pay Britain; or if a basis of working can be arranged Germany could also start to pay Britain, for they both owe her money. Britain could then, with less of a crushing burden on her resources, go on with the payments she has already started to make to United States. The big thing is to get the work started.

To assist in the rebuilding of a financial fabric in Europe to make this possible, United States might be asked for a large loan. This would put her in the favorable condition of being able to dictate the terms on which this would be granted, and it is not out of reason to suppose that one of the stipulations would be that the powers cease the building of navies and the piling up of armament, which has been a tap on their vitality that has crushed useful and sane development in other lines. In making such a stipulation United States would, of course, be a party to it. The world must get the smell of gun powder out of its nose.

It looks like a big event, big enough to drive serious people to their knees in prayer that it may be a success.

Can Jump On Them.

Sir Adam Beck's horses cleaned up in jumping competitions at big U. S. centers.

Sir Adam has been showing the Chicago sewer canal people that he can do a bit of high jumping himself when Canada's water levels are at stake.

The Problem of the Farm.

To what extent can more farmers be classed as competitors of those already on the land?

This question comes because a number of representative agriculturalists who have been discussing their problems through the columns of The Advertiser express the view that putting more farmers on the land is going to make more produce to compete for the available market.

If Canada were growing for a world market, that feeling might not be so acute, but there is not a world market today. Half the world is bankrupt, and cannot buy from us. That backs the produce into the home market, and keeps it there. Liverpool becomes a positive market instead of a clearing house.

Put it another way. If Western

Ontario were to double its production of pork, cattle, wheat, oats, etc., what would happen? The people here could not consume any more than they do now; therefore there would be more offered to each purchaser. It would tend to beat down prices.

We realize this is not a popular theory for the man who likes to speak of national greatness in terms of millions of bushels, regardless of profits to those who produce them.

One farmer, in a letter to this paper, notes that nearly any meeting called in a city can pass a resolution and hold up both hands for more immigrants and more wheat and cattle growers to compete with those now in the business. He says these same meetings never pass resolutions urging a half dozen more factories to start to make agricultural implements, boots and shoes or clothing.

Another correspondent points out that with all the people leaving the farms in Ontario there is still plenty produced to feed the population. He asks in what line there is a shortage, and offers to at once go into the production of that commodity.

These questions are easier to forget or brush to one side than to answer. Going back a few steps, one is forced to the opinion that the world is not a very big place. Reeve Thomas Elliot, of West Williams, pointed that out in his discussion on farm conditions. The markets of Europe that used to compete for our produce do not do so now because their money is not worth anything. That makes one big outlet largely closed off. The market to the south is tariffed off, and when we had a chance in 1911 to bargain for access to that market we turned it down. Today the farm populace finds itself faced with a combination of world affairs and our own inability to enter into larger markets when the opportunity offered. The home market is today the most certain outlet the producer has, and it will remain so until considerable progress has been made toward European recovery.

London's Mayors.

Is there anything obligatory about a second term for mayor, is the query of a reader.

There is nothing whatever to guarantee a second term, nor is there anything to preclude it. It is custom, and the custom is good or bad depending on the calibre of the mayor.

London has had 22 mayors who have had a two-year term or more. They can be listed as follows:

Four years: Frank E. Cornish, 1861-62-63-64.
Three years: David Glass, 1858, 1865, 1866; John Campbell, 1872, 1880, 1881; George Taylor, 1889, 1890, 1891; John W. Little, 1895-96-97; Adam Beck, 1902-03-04; C. M. R. Graham, 1912-13-14; Hugh A. Stevenson, 1915-16-17.

Two years: S. H. Graydon, 1869-70; Benjamin Cronyn, 1874-75; Robert Lewis, 1878-79; E. Meredith, 1882-83; James Cowan, 1887-88; E. T. Essery, 1893-94; John D. Wilson, 1898-99; Frederick Rumball, 1900-01; Joseph C. Judd, 1906-07; Samuel Stevely, 1908-09; J. H. A. Beattie, 1910-11; C. R. Somerville, 1918-19; E. S. Little, 1920-21.

One year: Murray Anderson, 1855; William Baker, 1856; F. Leonard, 1857; William McBride, 1859; James Moffatt, 1860; Frank Smith, 1867; W. Simpson Smith, 1868; John Christie, 1869; J. M. Cousins, 1871; A. McCormick, 1873; D. C. McDonald, 1876; Robert Pritchard, 1877; C. S. Hyman, 1884; Henry Beecher, 1885; T. H. Hodgins, 1886; W. M. Spencer, 1892; C. T. Campbell, 1905; J. Cameron Wilson, 1922; George Wenige with one year, and a candidate for 1924.

Note and Comment.

Up to date 17 citizens have denied that they are going to run for mayor of London.

The season is here when men take guns and invade the northern woods. Here's hoping they may all be delivered from the guns of their friends.

Hon. Frank Oliver's first act on the railway board was to disagree with the first finding. A man who knows enough to disagree sometimes is a valuable member.

When that European conference takes place let it be around a pine table with no secret pigeonholes. Likewise ask the reporters to come in and sit down so that the world may attend the gathering.

The visit of Dr. Campbell Morgan to London during the week has been a big event in the religious life of London. He has not proclaimed a new 1923 gospel, but he has taken the old gospel and shown how well it can measure up to the needs of 1923 people.

The Saskatchewan government was told to keep its hands off the wheat pool. It did. Now it is being scored in certain quarters because of its non-participation. The Regina Leader regards it as a case where the government "is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't."

DIBS AND DABS

BY HARRY MOYER



As the Farmer Sees It

By Henry van Dyke

DAY DREAMING ABOUT OURSELVES.

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