

United States News

WASHINGTON. — Reports to the U.S. employment service for the week ending May 19 show an increase of 7,450 unemployed in 41 cities over the previous week. Reports furnished by 4,621 representative firms in 83 cities show that 42 cities, or 50.5% of the cities reporting, have a labor surplus aggregating 135,380, as compared with 127,850 unemployed the previous week in the same cities.

—Expenses of the U.S. government during the war period, Gen. March announced, were approximately \$23,363,000,000. Normal expenditure for the same period would have been \$2,069,000,000, leaving war-costs of \$21,294,000,000, of which the army spent \$14,000,000,000.

—Revised figures show total casualties of the American Expeditionary forces during the war were 286,044. Battle deaths numbered 48,909. The total wounded 237,135, with a duplication of about 7,000 wounded more than once.

—The following are the principal accommodations made by Pres. Wilson in his message, which was read at the opening of Congress last week:

Repeal or amendment of the wartime prohibition act in so far as it applies to wines and beers. Repeal of the so-called "luxury tax". Creation of a federal agency of advice and information as a clearing house for suggested improvements in industrial conditions. Maintenance of the U.S. Employment Service.

Adoption of the land-for-soldiers bill drawn up by the Dept. of the Interior. Legislation to facilitate American enterprise in foreign trade. Reconsideration of federal taxes to relieve the burden particularly on productive resources, making incomes, excess profits, and estates the mainstays of steady taxation. No revision of import duties, but protection of the American dye industry. Adoption of the suffrage amendment. Return of the telegraph and telephone lines to their owners under a more coordinated system. Return of the railroads to their owners with a uniform system of operation.

—Although the two wheat diseases recently discovered in Madison County, Ill., and which previously were unknown in this country, may cause heavy losses to individual farmers, the losses in area affected will have no appreciable effect upon the total production of this year's wheat crop, said a statement issued by the Dept. of Agriculture. The first of the two diseases, said the statement, apparently is identical with the "take-all" of white heads known in many foreign countries. The second is flag smut in wheat. As both pests are extensively known in Australia, federal experts sent to Madison County are of the opinion the diseases were brought to this country in seed shipped from Australia. As a result a nation-wide survey now is in progress to find if either of the diseases have been introduced anywhere else in the United States.

—President Chamorro of Nicaragua has been warned by the American government against attempting any invasion of Costa Rica.

NEW YORK. — Federal Judge Mayer announced that he would issue an injunction restraining the government from interfering with the production of beer of 2.75% alcoholic contents, pending a judgment for determination of the brewers claims that such a beverage is not intoxicating.

—Nearly 1,500 men and women employed by the Mergentaler Linotype Co. of Brooklyn went on a strike, in an attempt to enforce demands for a 44 hour week.

—Reversal of the conviction of J. F. Rutherford and seven other

members of the International Bible Students' Ass'n., found guilty of violation of the Espionage Act, was ordered by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on the ground that they did not have a fair trial. Seven had been sentenced to imprisonment at Atlanta penitentiary for twenty years each.

FALL RIVER, Mass. — A demand for 15% increase in wages was made upon all textile manufacturers in the United States by the United Textile Workers of America. The organization has a membership of 600,000 men and women.

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Ed. J. Gaynor of Washington, D.C., president of the National Ass'n of Letter Carriers, in a speech here, demanded the resignation of Postmaster General Burleson.

CHICAGO. — Two beggars wearing the army uniforms with three wound chevrons were exposed and three army deserters arrested by Maj. Crockett and Capt. Campbell of the Army Intelligence Bureau. Paul Babbit and Kenneth Crosier were taken into custody in the Salvation Army Hotel. Both wore overseas uniforms.

—According to a poll taken by 'The Chicago Tribune', 55 senators — 4 more than the necessary majority — will vote to amend substantially the league of nations covenant. It seems clear that the opposition has the whip hand and that no pressure for prompt acceptance of the treaty without change will be sufficient to shake its determination to undertake a drastic revision of the covenant.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Organized labor defeated the Illinois state police bill in the senate. The vote was 16 for the bill and 28 against it.

DES MOINES, Ia. — After passing a law requiring the state board of control to manufacture the automobile plates used by the state, the Thirty-eighth General assembly failed to provide an appropriation for the purchase of the necessary machinery with which to equip a plant for their manufacture.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia. — A score of persons were killed and a hundred injured by an explosion at the Douglas Starch Works. Of the 150 men and boys who had just gone to work on the night shift, few escaped injury or death. The entire plant was burned by result of a fire which was confined to the Douglas plant. The loss is \$3,000,000.

CRESTON, Ia. — Roy Emerson will be held until a special grand jury completes its investigation into the death of his mother, whose body was found in the undertaking establishment she conducted with her son. Mrs. Emerson was killed by a blow on the head. The accused man said "Of course I am not guilty."

ODEBOLDT. — What is perhaps the largest farm in Iowa may be sold shortly. The property known as the 'Cook Ranch' may change hands. An option of \$350 an acre has been sold.

OAKLAND, Calif. — A resolution indorsing the proposed nation-wide strike in behalf of Thos. J. Mooney was adopted by the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, representing 250,000 shipyard and other metal trades workers.

A CURIOUS BOY

The country clergyman was nailing a refractory creeper to a piece of trellis-work near his front gate when he noticed that a small boy stopped and watched him with great attention.

"Well, my young friend," he said, pleased to see the interest he excited, "are you looking out for a hint or two on gardening?"

"No," said the youth, "I be waiting to see what a parson do say when he hammers his thumb."

The Evolution of Soil-Inoculation.

Until less than forty years ago, it was universally believed that plants take from the air only oxygen and carbonic acid as free gases, and that nitrogen was absorbed by them through the roots in the form of compounds contained in the soil.

Hence the publication in 1881 by Schulz, proprietor of a baronial estate at Lubitz in Brandenburg, of his experiments extending over a period of fifteen years caused quite a stir. Schulz had cropped his fields of Lupines for fifteen years without using any fertilizers containing nitrogen, and still he could prove that the soil of these fields had become richer in nitrogen during the time.

Professor Hellriegel of Bernburg, experimenting with leguminous plants in quarts of sand, which contained no nitrogen whatever, found in 1885 that these plants have themselves not the faculty of assimilating free nitrogen, but they are enabled to assimilate it with the help of the small nodules on their roots. He also advanced the theory that bacteria produced these nodules and caused them to absorb the nitrogen.

The correctness of this theory was proven by Beyerinck in 1888, who isolated these bacteria. Doctors Nobbe and Hiltner began further experiments in 1889, which demonstrated that each kind of leguminous plants harbored its own species of bacteria and that the bacteria required for the different plants could be supplied at will by inoculating the soil with them. They also brought much light into the obscure mode of operation of the bacteria.

Thirty years have now passed since Nobbe and Hiltner began their experiments, and other investigators have brought further light to bear on the matter, so that Hellriegel's theory has long been fully vindicated. No progressive European farmer would now-a-days any longer sow clover or other leguminous plants without supplying the corresponding bacteria to the soil, though we must confess with shame that in this country, in spite of the educative work done by governments and seedsmen, very few of the farmers can be prevailed upon to give the bacteria a trial.

Fertilizing Pastures

should be looked upon as a permanent investment, in a class with fences and building, rather than a reason for expecting full pay and a profit the season they are applied. No system of farming maintains fertility once in a soil as does grazing with beef cattle or sheep. There are many pastures in the blue grass region which have been grazed continuously for from 50 to 100 years and to all appearances are better than ever now.

Lime, phosphates, and stable manure are the materials which give the best and most lasting benefits. They are also the cheapest of fertilizing substances. A liberal use of these at the start is advisable rather than small applications at frequent intervals. The same may be said of reseeding. Scattering a little seed among weeds and brush is usually a waste of time and money. The results obtained are not at all comparable to those where a seed bed with fertilization has been prepared before seeding.

Safety in a Thunderstorm.

If you are out of doors in a very severe electrical storm, it is well to observe the following rules for your own protection:

1. Keep away from wire fences. They may carry a dangerous electrical charge long distances. Cattle

in pastures are frequently killed from the neglect of farmers to ground the wire of the fence.

2. Keep away from hedges, ponds and streams.

3. Keep away from isolated trees. Oak trees are frequently struck; beech are seldom struck. It is safer in a dense forest.

4. Keep away from herds of cattle and crowds of people.

5. Do not hold an umbrella over you.

6. It is safer to sit or lie down in an open field than to stand.

7. Drivers should dismount and not stay close to their horses.

8. Do not work with any large metal tool or implement.

If you are indoors—

1. Keep away from the stove and chimney. The hot gases from the chimney may conduct the lightning to and down the chimney.

2. Do not stand a position between two bodies of metal, as the stove and water pipe, for example. An exception to being near metals is the case of an iron bed. One of the safest places is on a mattress in an iron bed, provided you do not touch the metal. The metal surrounding you makes a safe cage which will prevent the lightning from reaching a person inside.

3. Do not stand on a wet floor nor draw water from the well or faucet.

Do not stand directly under a chandelier, near a radiator, nor on a register.

5. Do not use the telephone.

—*Electrical Experimenter.*

Hackneyed Phrases

The New York journal of affairs, Life, commenting on a newspaper reference to the naturalist J. Burroughs as being on his latest birthday "eighty-two years young," opines that "it was a fine thing to say the first time, good the next ten times, fair the first hundred times, but that it begins to get a little stale." The Toronto Globe puts "psychological moment," and "acid test" in the same category. It may be questioned, however, if there are any phrases extant so overworked as the "social uplift" and "kiddies" of the eleemosynary institutions. They have long since outrun the "dull thud" of the reporter.

Queries and Answers

Are Catholics permitted to indulge in hypnotism?

Hypnotism is permissible when it is used like an anesthetic for surgical purposes. But we are not allowed to let our will pass under the control of another, and it is sinful to use hypnotism for the purpose of making people do things such as hypnotized subjects do at the mere suggestion of the hypnotizer. In some cases it has been known that things have been accomplished which they could not have possibly done by natural means—they have related what "has happened on the other side of an opaque screen, for instance. A Catholic can readily understand that this sort of business cannot be tolerated. We must never forget that wicked angels, far more powerful than we are, are ready to cooperate with human beings who, either explicitly or implicitly, put themselves under their control.

To avoid numberless evils, it is very important that the pastors of souls do not cease to remind the faithful that they should abstain from contracting marriage unions with persons who are strangers to the Catholic Faith, that they should understand well and keep before their minds that such marriages have always been reprobated by the Church.

—LEO XIII.

WANTED a good Catholic lady with the view of marrying her. I am 50 years of age, farming a 1/2 Sec. of land at Glenbush, Sask., have horses and cattle, farm is in good condition; have also business education. Jos. S., c-o St. Peters Bote, Muenster, Sask.

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