

SOBBING ILLNESS RESULT OF WAR

People of Central Europe Afflicted With All Kinds of Nervous Diseases.

JUVENILE CRIME IS RAMPANT

General Demoralization Caused by Physical Weakness, Combined With Overwrought Nerves—Religion Seems to Have Lost All Influence.

By JULIAN GRANDE. (In the New York Times.) Berne.—During the war I have been several times in England, France and Italy, but since the armistice I have been obliged to remain here, in the heart of Europe. Consequently I cannot say how the war seems to have affected the people either in my own country or in those of our allies or in the United States. If, however, I were asked how it has affected people on the continent generally, I should say that it has made them more nervous and some of them even nervous wrecks.

Perhaps nowhere was this more noticeable than at the meetings of the International Socialist Labor congress, attended by delegates from 27 countries. I have spoken to delegates from most of these lands, and there was not a single one who did not show signs of extreme nervousness. Either he was constantly clapping and unclapping his fingers, or he was fidgeting in his chair, or constantly blinking his eyes. Moreover, if I asked one or other to jot down something for me on paper, I noticed that his hand positively trembled as he wrote; and when a delegate addressed the congress he usually exhibited still more marked signs of overstrained nerves. Several delegates to whom I spoke volunteered the information that they slept very badly at night, and this testimony was quite independent, for not one knew what the others had been saying to me. To some I suggested that perhaps they were doing too much mental work. "No," was the reply, "even the laboring classes in our country are not sleeping well just now."

Sobbing Sickness. In Austria, for instance, the people are suffering from what may be called a sobbing sickness, which is the result primarily of nervousness. Both men and women suddenly begin to sob, and very often continue sobbing even in their sleep. Some doctors seem to think this malady is due to unwholesome food, which causes stomach dilation; others attribute it to nervousness alone. In some cases this nervousness has become an acute that people have attacks in the night not unlike an epileptic fit. The sufferer begins by feeling a choking sensation, then cries out, and finally becomes quite unconscious, very often remaining so for 20 minutes or even half an hour, after which he falls into a deep sleep. Afterward he remembers nothing whatever about what has happened to him. The result of this sobbing sickness and these attacks is, of course, still further to weaken a people already very greatly enfeebled.

Another effect of the prevailing nervousness is naturally to make people far more irritable than usual; and the physical weakness combined with the overwrought state of their nerves also makes them distressed for effort or exertion. Religion, it is significant, seems to have lost all influence over them. Not only have adults become careless and indifferent with regard to morality, as is proved by the grave increases of certain diseases, with which the medical authorities no longer know how to cope, but the condition of the children in the cities and towns, particularly in Austria, is distressing beyond words. For example, the number of offenses against the law committed by children and young persons under eighteen in Vienna alone was, in 1913, 7,885, but in 1917, 14,029—a nearly 78 per cent increase. And now it is scarcely possible to keep count of the number of thefts and other misdemeanors of which even young children are guilty.

Again, the children often cannot be made to attend school, and the youths cannot be induced to do any work. The children play truant for days and weeks together, and the youths leave their work for any trivial reason or none. Children and young people are constantly quarreling until they come to blows; they have no respect for their teachers, parents or elders; they insult and abuse older persons and even spit at them sometimes and threaten them with violence. Thieving, however, is the commonest offense.

Few Children Survive. In Poland nervousness and nervous prostration have become so appalling that very few mothers give birth to children capable of surviving. Thus, at the maternity hospital of Lemberg in two months only one infant survived out of 91 born and people are daily perishing from hunger. This interesting old city with its cathedrals and universities has now become forlorn and desolate, and what is true of it is true of the rest of Poland and Austria.

To add to the scourges of nervousness and sobbing sickness, infantile scurvy, caused by bad milk, is greatly increasing among young children in Austria.

PREMIER IS THRIFTY TO SEEK JOBS FOR SOLDIERS

Clemenceau Says Holed Overcoat Is Good Enough, Wears Garment Torn by Assassin's Bullet Because "Clothes Are So Expensive."

Paris.—"While clothes are so expensive I am not going to indulge in the luxury of a new overcoat. Just because a fool shot a few holes in my overcoat," Premier Clemenceau is reported to have said. The "Times" jacket and overcoat, both showing bullet holes, were pieces of evidence that had to be produced at the trial of his would-be murderer, Lucile Cottin. M. Clemenceau, however, happens to be particularly fond of those garments, and he asked M. Ignace, under-secretary of state for war, to let him have them back quickly. M. Ignace replied in tones of gentle reproach that the articles were in the hands of the judiciary and that under the rules it would be quite impossible to part with them until the case was past the appeal stage. Then M. Clemenceau, who is an enemy of red tape, did what in French is described as an "effronté act," the nature of which is not specified, but it may be surmised. His garments came back the same day. The French are a thrifty race and expert clothes menders. The bullet holes can be "stopped" so as to defy detection, and the coat will be as good as ever. This is M. Clemenceau's opinion.

CORPSE SAT UP AND GRINNED

Lumberjack Caught in Log Jam, But Man Is Back on Job Now.

Aberdeen, Wash.—"And when the undertaker drove up to the river the corpse just naturally sat up and grinned at him." That's the way they tell it at the Humtulus logging camp, 35 miles north of here, where Harry Mitzoris, lumberjack, was "alleged" to have been killed in a log jam. Struck on the head as he fell and rendered unconscious, other loggers saw the body float off on a piece of timber and lodge in some brush; but Mitzoris is back on the job.

WHEN IRVING HAD \$13 WEEK

Old Pay Roll Unearthed in London as Stage Hands Demand \$15.

London.—In view of the movement among theater employees for a minimum wage of \$15 a week and pay for rehearsals some one has unearthed the pay roll of the Queen's theater of half a century ago and given it to the public for comparison. In it Sir Charles Wyndham is shown as receiving \$13 a week, while Sir Henry Irving received less by \$2. Toole, the leading star, got \$55, and Miss Ellen Terry, the leading lady, was put down at \$25.

Gives \$500,000 to Help Physics Research

New York.—An appropriation of \$500,000 to promote fundamental research in physics and chemistry was announced here by the Rockefeller foundation. The fund, to be administered by the national research council, will be utilized to support during a five-year period several fellowships whose holders, working in the laboratories of co-operating universities, will turn over to American educational and industrial institutions the results of their investigations. The plan, expected to build up a continuously expanding corps of expert investigators, will be put into operation by selection of a group of fellows, scientific college graduates, especially adapted to research and of an age (twenty-five to thirty years) when "imagination and creative powers are at their best."

Fossil Remains Found

Steamboat Springs, Col.—The fossil remains of an antediluvian monster, half fish and half reptile, believed to have lived millions of years ago when the great Uintah basin was an ocean, have been discovered in the elaterite deposits of Indian Canyon by George Stewart. The snake fish fossil was found completely imbedded between two layers of elaterite and had shiny, jet-black scales of a diamond shape.

Horses Took Mail Sacks

Dallas, Texas.—A truck containing 40 sacks of parcel post mail, which disappeared from a railway station the other day and which officials announced had been stolen, was found several hours later 15 miles away on the farm of B. M. Burgher, postmaster. The postmaster formerly had owned the team and they had returned to their old home, taking the mail with them.

Money No Object. Rockland, Maine.—Money has no charm for this lad, Peter de Simons, a barber here, refused a fortune of \$16,400 because one of the requirements of the will was that he would have to reside in Italy.

Organization Formed by the Emergency Employment Body Will Cover U. S.

Washington.—Organization of a special field corps in connection with the emergency employment committee for soldiers and sailors of the council of national defense was announced by the war department. The corps is composed of approximately 35 army officers specially selected and assigned to the work by the war department, and will be under the direct supervision of Col. Arthur Woods, special assistant to the secretary of war and chairman of the emergency employment committee. It has been organized to carry out in the field the plans of the war department and of the committee for the re-employment of soldiers, sailors and marines and their readjustment and absorption into civil life and peace-time conditions.

WAR COST WORLD 260 BILLION

Prominent British Economist Sees Period of Great Trade Activity Near. London.—Edgar Crammond, prominent British financial writer, estimates the direct cost of the war to the allies at \$141,500,000,000 and to the central European powers at \$68,375,000,000. He estimates the total cost of the war, including indirect losses, at \$299,875,000,000. He concludes that the fall in the price of commodities and wages will take place slowly and gradually. The war has enormously increased the power of production in Great Britain, and he is convinced that this at the present time is at least 50 per cent over the production of 1913.

WAR WITH MICROBES IS NEXT, SAYS EXPERT

Philadelphia.—That the next war may be one of microbes is the prediction of Dr. Isaac Sharpless, president of Haverford college. He says: "The next war is likely to be a biological war where the victory will be attained by that army or nation most successful in inoculating its adversaries with disease germs poured down upon them from above. While this may be too horrible even to contemplate now, nevertheless it is a possibility and even a probability to be reckoned with, and certainly it should be most seriously considered before we begin to burden ourselves with the inevitable costliness of military training."

LEAPS 3,300 FT. IN PARACHUTE

Soldier Without Experience Lands Safely in Trial of New Air Device. Seattle, Wash.—Robert E. Cadden, a soldier in the One Hundred and Sixty-sixth depot brigade, Camp Lewis, leaped safely from an army airplane here at an altitude of 3,300 feet, using a new triple parachute for flyers.

Oil Found at Depth

Akron, Col.—Oil in commercial quantities has been struck at Akron. Drillers on a water well at the Burlington roundhouse Sunday encountered a good flow at a depth of 1,450 feet, and experts who have made an examination declare the flow is good for seventy-five barrels a day. It is not possible to test the well, as the casing is not strong enough for the strain, and it is not known what the railroad company will do. Other companies are being discussed to start drilling at once to test the formations about the city.

Some Boss, This Man

New York.—"Blow yourselves, then come back to your jobs," the "boss" of the United States Gypsum works, Oakfield, N. Y., wired Charles Dean and Anthony George, A. E. F. veterans, along with \$100 gifts. They did.

Born in Subway

New York.—Mrs. Anna Rogers, ill on the subway, whispered to a woman passenger. She whispered to the conductor, who, in turn, whispered to "men passengers." They cleared out. Both mother and baby are doing nicely.

MARK HEROES' GRAVES

Four Thousand Yanks Engaged in Work in France. Very Thorough Is Work of Grave Registration Section of Expeditionary Forces.

In the American Battle Area.—Four thousand men of the American expeditionary forces are now engaged in the registration of and search for the graves of Americans who died in battle. The work of seeking the resting places of American heroes is being undertaken by the section of grave registration, which is directing its efforts so as to be able to designate the grave of every American should congress authorize the return of the bodies of the fallen. Tireless seeking for identification marks the daily task of the men at the graves registration section. They set out on their solemn mission equipped with pick, shovel and gas mask. Sometimes they pry down into the ground for the identity of the dead warrior, sometimes they ferret in the recesses of discarded dugouts and sometimes they clear away the brush of the forest to find some trace of the victims of battle. Each cemetery where Americans have been buried is fully plated on maps. The graves registration service is now extending every energy to complete the burying, marking, recording and classification of the heroic Americans.

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WORK ON ROADS TO BE RUSHED

Construction This Year to Exceed Volume of Any Year in History.

LARGER FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

If All the States Take Advantage of Federal Appropriation of \$343,000,000 Will Be Expended—Freight Rates an Obstacle.

Washington.—Many important steps have been taken to expedite road construction under the enlarged program recently authorized by congress, and the indications are that a larger volume of highway construction will be accomplished this season than in any previous year in the history of the nation, according to a statement issued by David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture. The requisite official machinery, says the secretary, for executing this program—that is, the department of agriculture, through the bureau of public roads on the one hand and the 48 state highway departments on the other—is already in existence. A conference was held by the secretary on March 1 with the state highway commissioners of the Eastern and middle Western states, and all phases of the problem, and especially the interpretation of the liberal amendments of the federal aid road act, were considered.

The appointment of Thomas H. MacDonald, chief engineer of the Iowa state highway commission, as engineer in immediate charge of the work of the bureau of public roads under the federal aid road act, has just been announced by the secretary, and it is planned that, in the near future, Mr. MacDonald will formally assume the position of director of the bureau of public roads. Freight Rates an Obstacle. It developed at the conference that the present freight rates are one of the principal obstacles to the active resumption and extension of highway activities. The situation was laid before the proper officials of the railroad administration on March 1 by representatives of the department of agriculture and of the state highway officials. They were given a sympathetic hearing, and the question is now under active consideration by the railroad administration. Secretary Houston also has taken up with the secretary of war the question of releasing from the army highway engineers in this country and abroad, in order that their services may be utilized during the coming road construction season. The secretary's statement in part is as follows:

"During the war it was necessary to curtail road construction operations because of the difficulties of securing transportation, materials and the requisite services. Now that the situation has changed, the work will be actively resumed and vigorously prosecuted notwithstanding the fact that conditions are still abnormal in some respects, especially with reference to the prices of materials and supplies. Congress at its last session not only made available from the federal treasury large additional sums for road construction, but also made some important amendments to the federal aid road act. These amendments will have the effect of greatly lessening the difficulties of selecting and constructing needed roads. The amount of federal funds available for road building on March 1 was over \$72,000,000, which under the law must be matched by at least an equal amount from the states. More Funds July 1. On July 1, \$95,000,000 more of federal funds will become available for general road purposes and \$4,000,000 for national forest roads, which, with equal contributions from the states, will provide an additional \$199,000,000 for federal aid road work, making an aggregate sum of \$343,800,000 for the calendar year.

"In other words, the 1919 program for federal aid road building is greater than any previous annual road building accomplishments in this country. The states and their civil subdivisions also will carry on a large amount of road work without federal aid. The extent of this is uncertain and will depend upon local labor, industrial and agricultural conditions. The present indications are that approximately \$290,000,000 will be spent in this way. The purpose of the federal aid road law is to encourage the construction of roads of a substantial nature by the states and to provide adequate safeguards for securing systematic and economical action. Long experience has shown that the best results will be secured if the work is performed under the supervision of the state highway departments, the method of the control depending upon local conditions."

Ban on Snoring

New York.—"Don't sleep out loud during the sermon," is the printed admonition distributed to worshippers of the First Washington Presbyterian church.

Rough on Rats

Beloit, Wis.—He surely was rough on the rats. E. J. Seaver declares he has killed 3,000,000 rodents in the last eight years.

GUNMAN IS WAR HERO

New York Bad Man Returns With Fine Record. Commanding Officers Ask That Citizenship Be Restored to "Monk" Eastman.

Camp Upton, N. Y.—"Monk" Eastman, gunman, notorious leader of gangsters who once terrified New York's East side, now is Private William Delaney, veteran, back from France with an enviable war record. He was honorably discharged from the One Hundred and Sixth Infantry and within a few days there will be forwarded to Governor Smith a petition signed by his commanding officers, asking that he be restored to citizenship. "Monk's" life history is the story of a "come back." In the old days he was an opium addict, burglar, creature of the slums with ever a "gun" on his hip. In 1917 he finished a term for burglary and in October of that year enlisted, no questions asked. Into war, which has made heroes out of cowards, strong men out of weak, went "Monk." When the Twenty-seventh division took its place in Flanders, "Monk" was there. When the gallant New Yorkers swept forward against the Hindenburg line—and cracked it—"Monk" was in the first wave. When comrades fell and stretcher bearers were needed, "Monk" volunteered. When carried to a British hospital wounded in the head while leading a bombing squad into the face of machine guns, "Monk" escaped to mount once more the firing step. These and many more are the facts recounted in the petition signed by Col. Franklin W. Ward of the One Hundred and Sixth, by Maj. J. Scott Buxton and by Capt. James M. Conroy and Lieut. Joseph A. Kerrigan. "Monk's" immediate superiors, who fought by his side on foreign soil.

JAILER'S WIFE KILLS NEGRO

Holly Springs, Miss.—Attracted to the county jail here by the sounds of shots, Mrs. W. R. Jeffries, wife of the jailer, found her husband under fire of two prisoners seeking to escape. She secured Jeffries' revolver from the office and, firing between the bars in the jail door, fatally wounded one of the men, a negro, and drove the other, white, to his cell, where he sent a bullet into his brain. Jeffries entered the jail to lock the prisoners in their cells, closing the door behind him. The two prisoners, each armed, confronted him and demanded their release. Although unarmed, he refused and the men began to shoot. Seven shots were fired at him, but owing to the dim light the aim of the prisoners was poor and none of the bullets took effect. The arrival of Mrs. Jeffries put an end to the one-sided battle.

NO DUMPING OF FOE'S GOODS

Importations From Germany Shut Off, Alien Property Custodian Notifies Public. Washington.—German hopes of reconquering American markets have received another blow. Users of dye, chemicals, fertilizers and other products originated by German science were notified by the alien property custodian that importations from Germany hereafter would be subject to prosecution as infringement of patents licensed under the trading with the enemy act, for use by American manufacturers. Possibility of a dumping of great surplus stocks which Germany was reported to have accumulated with the intention of underselling and perhaps stifling the infant American industries in the same lines thus has been blocked effectually before shipments could begin. Government officials regarded the decision as of far-reaching importance to business in this country.

Escaped Deer Returns After Two Months

San Francisco.—"You would hardly believe that a live axis deer could be lost for a couple of months in San Francisco and live to come back home and tell about it," said Sergeant McGee of the park police, "but that is what happened to our pet, Bahoo, that escaped two months ago. After the first week he was missing we never expected to see him again. It was only natural to think that some sportsman with a taste for deer meat had run across him and turned him into venison. But one afternoon recently Bahoo came scampering through the thickets and meadows, then up the drive, and straight to his old paddock. Without batting an eyelash he cleared the seven-foot fence and was back home again. Then we saw how he had escaped. Bahoo is surely some jumper. What puzzles us all is how he managed to live so comfortably while away without anybody noticing him. He is in the pink of condition. That much is certain."