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# FRANCE HOPEFUL FOR NEW YEAR

## Begins 1920 With Greater Confidence Than It Did the Last.

## DUE TO DEFEAT OF RADICALS

**Elections Stabilize Internal Conditions, Though Fall of Franc Is Still Serious Problem—Study Financial Policy.**

Paris.—France began the new year with far greater confidence than the last. This is in spite of formidable handicaps, such as the balance of trade running against her at the rate of about 1,500,000,000 francs a month, about 50 per cent depreciation of the exchange value of the franc and the consequent difficulty of procuring raw materials and machines urgently needed for reconstruction.

France's renewed confidence is derived directly from the result of the recent elections. These are regarded here as having definitely stabilized internal politics, ended all danger of revolutionary agitation for some time to come and brought about a better attitude by capital and labor toward the immense effort before France.

Money is forthcoming for investments in anything that promises stability. While the investments in short-term treasury bonds are continuing at the rate of nearly 2,000,000,000 francs a month, there is plenty of money for industrial and commercial enterprises and long-term loans. The 4,000,000,000 franc loan to provide immediate resources for indemnifying victims of the invasion was oversubscribed before the official opening of the subscriptions. Important banks and industrial companies have lately increased their capital to an aggregate of nearly 500,000,000,000 francs.

### Big Trade on Bourse.

Transactions on the Paris bourse, which still are confined to cash deals, have exceeded on certain days records of pre-war trading, when futures entered largely into the totals. The upward movement of all industrials which began before the signature of the treaty at Versailles, has been unchecked by successive liquidations. This is regarded by keen observers here as a sure sign of economic recovery.

Employers say the labor situation is improved and that the last strikes developed signs that the workers themselves were becoming weary of long continued disturbances of business, industry and transportation. They see a tendency against frivolous strikes and an indication that only real grievances will induce the wage earners to quit work hereafter.

Decentralization of capital and industry is seen in the establishing in Normandy of textile industries to replace those in the occupied territory destroyed by the war. This movement has been greatly extended by development of water power in the region of the Alps and the center and south of France. Industrial leaders say that no particular region of France hereafter will monopolize any industry, and declare that this scattering will prove beneficial and result in a more equable recovery of all parts of the country.

### To Transfer Industries.

Powerful financial groups are at the head of the movement to transfer important industries from the coal region to southwestern France, where water power soon will be available. Other groups are being formed to develop manufacturing centers near the coast so as to reduce the cost of transporting raw materials. Industrial leaders say that this activity on the part of capital, supported by the recovery of labor from what has been characterized as a wave of "laziness," gives a healthy tone to the situation.

Instability of the exchange value of the franc is regarded as one of the weakest points in French conditions. It is pointed out that France cannot pay twice over at present high prices for supplies she needs, and that is what the present low value of the franc means. The French government is now studying a complete renovation of the financial policy with a view to making such provisions to meet obligations as will give greatest stability, both at home and abroad. Details of the new financial policy are as yet not disclosed, but it is understood that it comprises a large interior loan to take up all short-term bonds and floating debt, and important increases in all taxes to bring the revenues up to the annual budget, estimated to require 20,000,000,000 to 25,000,000,000 francs. It is not expected that any internal financial arrangement can exert more than a moral influence on the value of the franc abroad, and this may be said to be the object of the greatest anxiety in official circles.

### Indians Enter Industry.

Douglas, Wyo.—Lo! the poor Indian. No more does he roam the plains of the West while the squaw attends to keeping the wolf from the door. Proof that the red man is competing with the white man in railroad building and other strenuous labor is had in the appearance on a local industrial firm's payroll of such names as Jealous of Him, John Crow Dog, Two Eagles and many others.

# EXPECT U. S. STUDENTS

## French Universities Look for Influx of Americans.

**University Union Preparing to Receive and Advise Seekers After Knowledge.**

Paris.—Next year is likely to see a great influx of American students to French universities, in the opinion of H. S. Krans, secretary of the American university union in France.

Mr. Krans' new Paris headquarters, facing the Luxembourg gardens, are being fitted up to receive and advise seekers after knowledge from overseas.

Founded shortly after America's entrance in the war, by fifteen of the leading American universities and colleges, the union now has thirty-three American-learned institutions on its membership list, including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Johns Hopkins, Princeton and other leading universities and colleges throughout the United States.

"Paris is destined to become the brain of the world," said Mr. Krans to a correspondent of the Associated Press. "German universities will be largely avoided by Americans. Dogged determination was shown by one young New York student who arrived here with the problem how to board and live on 6 francs a day.

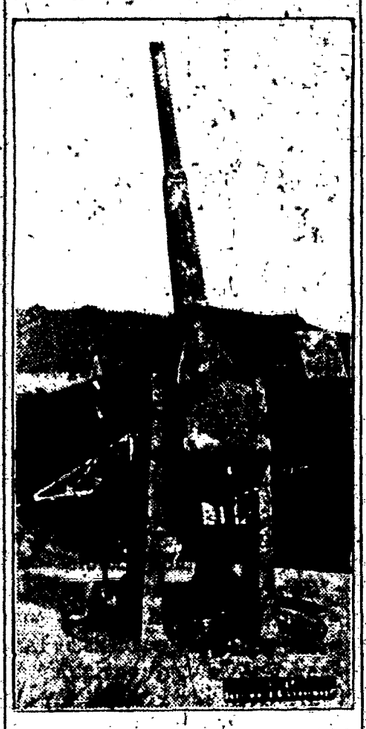
"Through the medium of the union, a French landlady gave him a small room for 2 francs a day. The young man cooks his own meals, and is 'passing rich' on 4 francs a day."

French teachers and students are constant and eager inquirers at the union's Paris home. Many of them are anxious to take a course of studies in the United States.

Fourteen French students already are studying in American universities on free scholarships from a fund collected by 6,000 American students in recognition of the hospitality extended to them by French universities during the war.

The Society for American Fellowship in French universities is planning to send twenty Americans each year to the Sorbonne and other French seats of learning; nor will the Alsatian university of Strasburg be neglected. Twenty-five scholarships for American girls in France already are filled.

# TO PROTECT PANAMA CANAL



One of the anti-aircraft guns which guard the Panama canal from air attacks. The guns have been placed on concrete bases in such locations as to protect the vital works of the canal.

## Sand Digger Quits Work When He Finds Fortune

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Fortune just laughed right out loud in the face of a humble sand digger here recently.

Thirteen hundred and fifty dollars, thoroughly wet from its long immersion on the bottom of the Ohio river, but still good spendable money, was scooped up in his bucket. As no owner's name appeared in the wallet, the finder claimed the coin by right of discovery and immediately quit his job by right of affluence.

### Letter Finds "Mamma."

Cincinnati, O.—A letter written by Lucille Shepherd, thirteen years of age, of Osborne, asking Chief of Police Copelan to institute a search for her mother, Mrs. Rose Shepherd, led detectives to find Mrs. Shepherd here the other day. The child wrote "they needed mamma to take care of her and her little brothers." The officers were in Mrs. Shepherd's apartment when a man, who said he was George Murphy, entered. He was crumpling a letter in his hands. The detectives say the letter was from the husband of the woman in which he pleaded with her to return to him and her children. In police court the cases of Mrs. Shepherd and the man were continued.

# MEET ETHYL AND METHYL ALCOHOL

## Two Most Prominent and Interesting Members of the Family.

## MANY OFFSPRINGS ARE KNOWN

**Difference Between Grain and Wood Alcohol Clearly Described—Fatalities Due to Amateur Attempts to Make Grain Alcohol.**

Chicago.—While there are seventeen or more alcoholic products known in chemistry, there are two of general commercial use in the country—ethyl alcohol, or ordinary alcohol, the kind we used to be able to buy "for medicinal purposes," and methylated spirit, or industrial alcohol, which is popularly called "wood alcohol," and which does contain an amount of that fluid.

Ethyl or ordinary alcohol is formed by the spirituous or alcoholic fermentation of saccharine juices. The fermentation must be completed before it is distilled. It is made from grain, either corn, wheat, or barley. This is also known as grain alcohol. The formula is $C_2H_5OH$.

Methylated spirit, or industrial alcohol, is made of ninety parts of ordinary alcohol and ten parts of wood alcohol—methyl alcohol.

### Source of Wood Alcohol.

Wood alcohol is obtained by the dry distillation of wood. The common method of obtaining this is to take cordwood which has been seasoned for about two years—beech, maple, and birch are best—places it in iron or steel retorts over a slow fire. The intensity of the fire is gradually increased as the distillation progresses, until at the end of from twelve to eighteen hours nothing remains in the retort but charcoal.

The distillate is passed through a condenser, and the liquid thus gathered is allowed to set in tanks until the greater part of the tarry matter in it has subsided. The lighter part is then drawn off and saturated with slaked lime to fix the acetic acid. It is then distilled a second time and the distillate sent to the refineries as wood alcohol. Sawdust or any woody fiber or cellulose can be used in place of cordwood.

Wood alcohol, either in its pure form or as an ingredient of industrial alcohol, is a poison, and has a selective action upon the optic nerve, in which it often induces a condition of permanent atrophy which results in total blindness.

### Denatured Alcohol.

For some purposes "completely denatured alcohol" is made by adding to industrial alcohol a little benzine or pyridine to spoil the taste and render it offensive. Denatured alcohol may be made more cheaply than ordinary alcohol by using cheaper materials, such as any starchy vegetable substance, or a waste byproduct, as the poorest grade of molasses or the waste of a canning factory.

"It is probable that a good deal of the wood alcohol that is being distributed as a beverage is the result of the attempts of amateurs to make ordinary alcohol. In their ignorance they use vegetable substances such as potato peelings, and, by using too intense a fire and making the distillation without having first allowed fermentation to take place, produce methyl or wood alcohol instead," said J. H. Nussbaum, a chemist.

# TEST NEW 'MOVIE' INVENTION

**New York Theater Tries Concave Screen, Giving Effect of Third Dimension.**

New York.—A concave motion picture screen that may revolutionize the movies was tried out at a local theater today.

It is said to give an effect of a third dimension—an appearance of thickness or depth—that relieves the eye strain. A group of scientists witnessed the experiment.

Dr. Louis Pech, head of the faculty of medicine at the University of Montpelier, France, the inventor, supervised the exhibition.

Dr. Pech ascribes the relief from eye strain to his belief that the eye functions normally when it sees things of three dimensions, even if the appearance of the third dimension is an illusion.

# BRITAIN FACES MEAT GLUT

**Importers Complain Against Vegetarian Tendency, Caused by the World War.**

London.—Englishmen used to be considered the greatest meat eaters in the world.

Now, declares the Society of Meat Importers, the average Englishman eats 33 per cent less meat than he did before the war. Unless he can be induced to eat more of it, the country will be faced with such a glut of meat as it has never had before.

The annual consumption of meat in the United Kingdom before the war was about 2,800,000 tons, say the importers. It is now only 1,200,000 tons. And this, they contend, is due largely to the high cost still maintained. Englishmen and Englishwomen, they say, are just as fond of meat as ever, but they cannot afford to eat as much as they used to.

# HAS [illegible]

## Chicago [illegible] in Dec[illegible]

**Limousine [illegible] While Owned [illegible] Germany.**

Chicago, Ill.—The [illegible] great headquarters [illegible] same black body [illegible] nose, that carried the [illegible] the German armies [illegible] French roads while [illegible] seeking to annihilate [illegible] seen almost any day [illegible] streets and boulevards.

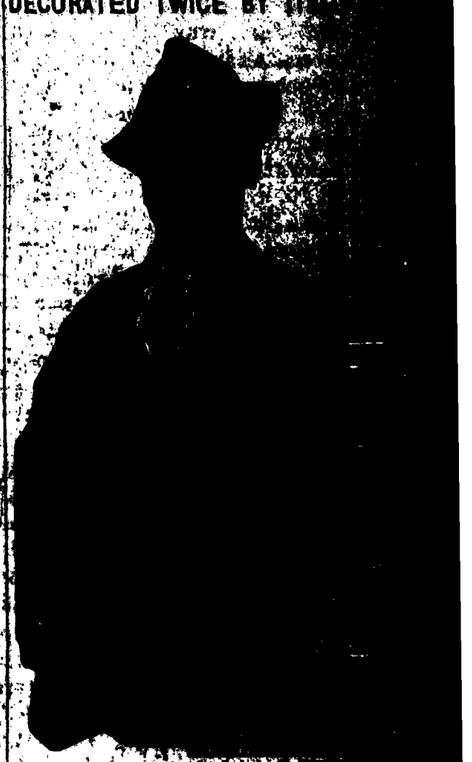
Bullet-scarred and [illegible] traveling more than [illegible] equipage of the German [illegible] the limousine has returned [illegible] pursuits and civilian service.

In the summer of 1914 C. L. [illegible] a Chicago lumber merchant, [illegible] wife, was touring Germany in [illegible] tor car. The war flamed up [illegible] automobile was seized by G[illegible] ficials, despite its owner's protest[illegible] coming the official property [illegible] Ludendorff.

Somewhere in its war activ[illegible] limousine was the target of [illegible] machine-gun fire from the allied [illegible] men and its roof was perforat[illegible] many places.

Through an American consul [illegible] brought about the return of the [illegible] mobile. C. L. Willey died in [illegible] the car is now used daily by his [illegible] C. B. Willey.

# DECORATED TWICE BY IT[illegible]



Sergt. Caterino Pailli[illegible] formerly of the [illegible] diti, was decorated twice [illegible] lian government for bravery [illegible] the unusual distinction of [illegible] Gabriele d'Annunzio. [illegible] stationed at Fiume. [illegible] cently in New York [illegible] Italy.

# HE INTERVIEWED [illegible]

Los Angeles [illegible] Railway [illegible]

Los Angeles, Cal.—[illegible] sixteen months old [illegible] Southern Pacific [illegible] Son of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] are here from [illegible] to be the youngest person [illegible] fully interviewed under [illegible] stances. Asked if he [illegible] the accident happened, the little fellow responded [illegible] his statement of the [illegible] events,' telling his story [illegible] words. Here is what [illegible] happened and the way it [illegible] 'Toot! Toot! Choo! Choo! [illegible]

## Owl, Protected by Law, Disturbs [illegible]

Chelsea, Mass.—[illegible] the vicinity of Ch[illegible] been disturbed slightly [illegible] tive but steady [illegible] The little marauder [illegible] disturbance between [illegible] o'clock. The police [illegible] asked to capture the bird [illegible] ing the day the owl [illegible] one chimney to another [illegible] effort to escape [illegible] police have given the word [illegible] it is against the game [illegible] shoot the owl.

# GERMANS CROWD TO [illegible]

Universities [illegible] 41,000 Students [illegible] in Talk.

German universities [illegible] students enrolled [illegible] of Germany [illegible] of the [illegible] 41,000 [illegible]