

PEACE OR WAR **N**OW and then somebody rises to say international conferences don't get us anywhere. Simon pure mossbacks! With a simple "pooh-pooh!" they wave aside the efforts of several previous administrations, both Republican and Democratic, to have world powers agree to arbitration rather than go to war over their disputes.

The "pooh-pooh-ers" point to the conferences of Europe, an endless series of which having accomplished little.

The answer is the United States has not attended any of them officially. Had the United States done otherwise, there is little room to doubt the result would have been very different.

England is suspicious of France. France is even more suspicious of England. Belgium doesn't know which, if either, to rely on. Italy eyes them all with distrust. Germany is awaiting the day when she can "come back." Russia, jealous and desperate, is ready to join any combination which promises recognition. And so on.

Not one nation of Europe trusts any other nation of Europe. And with reason.

On the other hand, these nations are asking the United States to help. They know they can trust this country. We have nothing to gain but world peace, and they know it. So our word means something.

That is why a conference with the United States taking a leading part would get somewhere.

But supposing it didn't. Suppose not a single agreement were reached by the great powers attending the conference. What would be the result?

This: 1. The world must at least credit the United States with having done everything it could to put civilization back on its feet. (Just now the world hates us because people are saying we can help them and won't.)

2. The world would know just which nation, or group of nations, is blocking peace, and why.

3. World opinion, thus brought to bear on such a nation or group of nations, would ultimately bring it to its senses.

In short, a conference would clarify the international atmosphere. Uncertainty, the greatest foe known either to business or to peace, would be swept away, whatever happened.

We would know where we are headed, and could act accordingly.

There's everything to gain and nothing to lose by trying to avert the war now being cooked up in Europe.

If war comes, no power on earth can keep this country out. Make no mistake about that. The way to keep out of the next war is to prevent such a war. That is a job that Uncle Sam can do and that nobody else can.

"I am only stating quite frankly my view that unless America takes a hand * * * a real settlement will be postponed until the hour of irreparable mischief strikes."—David Lloyd George, former premier of Britain.

THREE hundred babies are given so-called intelligence tests, at a meeting of American Psychological Association.

Just what is intelligence? It certainly is not merely the possession of facts, for the average schoolboy of 1923 knows more concrete facts than did Socrates in the days when science and most of the world were unexplored.

We can have a lot of fact-knowledge without being intelligent. Any bottle can be filled with milk. Real intelligence is in reasoning power, the ability to distinguish right from wrong and the logically true from the obviously spurious.

DID you notice that Ribot is dead? You don't quite place the name? He was prime minister of France from March to September, 1917, during one of the most critical periods of the war.

Less than six years to make him dim in our memories. Even the World War is beginning to seem distantly remote. Nothing is indelible in the memory of man. One of our most blessed possessions is the power to forget, quite as indispensable and sooths as memory, the power to keep fresh in the mind. We would be terribly unhappy if we did not have this ability to forget.

45.6 Per Cent of Homes in U. S. Are Owned; 17.5 Per Cent Unincumbered

QUESTIONS ANSWERED
You can get an answer to any question you may have in writing to the Indianapolis Times, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave., Washington, D. C., including cents in stamp. Medical and dental and marriage advice can not be given. Unsigned letters cannot be answered, but after a few days, if no other personal replies, although the bureau does not require it, it will assure prompt replies to readers who confine questions to a single subject, writing more than one letter if answers on various subjects are desired. **EDITOR.**

What percentage of homes in the United States are owned free of incumbrance and how many are owned, though incumbered?

According to the census of 1920, there were 45.6 per cent of the homes in the United States owned; 28.2 per cent being owned free and 17.5 per cent owned incumbered.

What railroad crosses the United States from coast to coast? There is no single railroad that

crosses from coast to coast. The principal lines that cross the country from the Mississippi to the Pacific Coast are: Union Pacific, Central Pacific, Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Santa Fe. Connections may be made from the Atlantic Coast for any of these.

According to the treaty with Great Britain and Canada, how much water may be diverted for power purposes from Niagara Falls?

By the treaty ratified in 1910, the amount of water that may be diverted on the American side for power purposes is 20,000 second feet and on the Canadian side, 56,000 second feet. About 500,000 horse power is generated at present.

What will remove the odor of paint from rooms?

The following remedies have been suggested:

Sprinkle a handful of hay on the floor and place a little chloride of lime on the hay. This is said to absorb the offensive smell in a couple of hours.

Leave in the room overnight, a pail of water with three or four sliced raw onions in it. Shut the door, and in the morning the paint smell will have gone, the onions and water absorbing it.

How many pounds are there in a bushel of the following articles? Rice, 45 pounds. Pears, 45 to 58 pounds. Peaches, 48 to 50 pounds. Plums, 40 to 64 pounds.

These different weights of fruit are caused by some fruits being more solid than others.

How do the deposits in postal savings banks compare with those in mutual stock and savings banks?

On June 30, 1921, the total deposits in the postal savings system were \$152,389,903; in mutual and stock savings banks, the total deposits on the same date were \$6,018,258,000.

U.S. Will Have Reached Population Limit About Year 2100, Declares Statistician

By NEA Service

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 22.—About the year 2100 the United States will have reached a point at which it will be unable to support any more inhabitants.

This is one of the startling assertions of Dr. Raymond Pearl, professor of vital statistics at Johns Hopkins University.

"If no way has been found to beat population's progress," he says, "the United States will find itself then in the same position as China today. We will have some 200,000,000 people and the number will oscillate back and forth, as a few years of famine and then plenty affect it."

Pearl is well known in economic circles for his studies in population growth. He is one of the country's leading biologists and statisticians and has specialized on heredity and biometry, or statistical study in human life's variations.

"The world is on the high road to population saturation," is his conclusion.

"From my experiments I have formed two mathematical laws according to which populations seem to grow.

How Law Works

"One is that a population, starting at a beginning as near as possible to zero, grows at an increasing rate until it reaches its optimum relation between its means of subsistence and the number of people. Then it keeps on growing, but at an ever-decreasing rate until the saturation point is reached.

The 'optimum relation' in the United States was passed in 1914. Now our population is growing, but at a decreasing rate.

Hoboken, N. J., is already close to its own saturation point. If its population increases, the city will have to expand or its people will have to move out.

"When the saturation point is reached, what happens to the United States will be about the same as what is happening in China today, if nothing is done meanwhile to correct this law. That is, famine, pestilence, war, will cut down the population for a few years. Then there will be a few more good years, and famine will step in again.

"War, pestilence, famine. Itself as though there were no disaster.

"War and pestilence, therefore, are no solution. The only other one suggested thus far is birth control. On that subject I am still doubtful. It's good remains to be felt.

"The only alternative is this law of self-regulation by which over-crowding results in great misery and suffering.

"I have come to believe that the fundamental cause of the last war was population pressure, just as it has been in the past and undoubtedly will be in the future. But that does not solve the problem."

Uncle Sam Runs River Ferry and Making Profit

By W. H. PORTERFIELD.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Tally one more for Uncle Sam. Before the war, a three-angled ferry system across the James River, connecting Norfolk, Portsmouth and Berkley, Va., was run by a private corporation which leased it from the city of Portsmouth and county of Norfolk.

The franchise and charter covering same dated back to Colonial days. The ferry system was inadequate, somewhat antiquated and rather unprofitable.

Came the war, with the fortification of Fortress Monroe, the establishment of a great camp at Portsmouth, the development of vast war industries all through the Norfolk region. The ferry system broke down and the Government took it over, and, through the United States Housing Corporation, expended \$1,250,000 in perfecting it.

The war closed and Uncle Sam continued to run the ferry line. It scored a loss the first year. Then economies in operation were effected by President Watson of the Housing Corporation. Last year the system showed a profit of \$116,000.

The Super-Snobs

By BERTON BRALEY.

THEY sneer at the obvious always. With noses up high in the air. When their shin-bones are cracked on an obvious fact they won't admit it is there: They scorn all conventional As "pabulum meant for the strong." And they simply ignore any Which proves them extensively wrong. They were pacifists during the conflict. And now that the battles are won, They sit back and carp in a manner that's sharp. At all that's accomplished and done: They're proved undependable prophets. On what they have said all along. Yet with undimmed hopes they presume some new dope Which is just as confoundedly wrong. Their theories carry them nowhere. Their formulas ask no favors. Yet it is remarkable that the world will not heed The things that it left to do; With grand supercilious hauteur. Their paths' philosophic they tread. And if by strange sooth they encounter the truth They cut the poor lady quite dead! (Copyright, 1923, NEA Service)

Congress Will Be Asked to Define 'Child'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—What is a child?

At least two members of the Senate—Shortridge and Colt, of the Judiciary sub-committee—want to know.

The Senators have been listening to Miss Grace Abbot, chief of the Children's Bureau, Mrs. Florence Kelley, general secretary of the National Consumers League, Owen R. Lovejoy, secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, and others who the sub-committee, have decided to offer an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting child labor.

Discussion always came around to the question of what is a child. Colt and Shortridge, being a majority of the sub-committee, has decided to offer an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting child labor.

Then Congress will be asked to enact a law defining what is a child, just as, following the addition of the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution, it had to pass the Volstead Act defining the term "intoxicating liquor."

Catch your car at 7:10 a. m., allowing plenty of time—that is forty minutes—to get up town and ten minutes to get into the office. Well here we are on the W. Michigan St. car line, at 7:10 a. m., bound for town slowly but moving.

We have got as far as the Belt Railroad when the slow jerky car comes to a stand still. After a ten-minute wait a great big interurban comes up in back of us and gives us a lift over the railroad track and there we stop, naturally tying up about four W. Michigan and three W. Michigan cars. The only thing for us working people to do is walk across to the W. Michigan St. car line, that is if we want to get to work some time during the day.

About three hundred people or more come plugging across the boulevard about as fast as their legs can carry them. Eventually we are on the W. Michigan car with hopes in our hearts that we will get to town not more than fifteen minutes late. As the car approaches West and Washington St. we see that the dead W. Michigan car has been pushed to this intersection and no cars can get by this place. Now for another stand still.

About a good ten minute wait we are about to move on, and at 8:25 a. m. we are at the corner of Illinois and Washington Sts.

"How interesting" said a lady who was distinctly related to Mr. Bryan. "I never knew before that there was any relation."

On a subsequent occasion the same guest told the story with evident relish to Mr. Davis himself.

Mr. Davis looked puzzled, then remarked: "Well, I never looked up my family tree, but that's the first time I've heard I was related to Bryan."

Public Opinion

A Plea For jitneys

To the Editor of The Times:

This is what the people of Indianapolis, especially those living on the W. Tenth St. car lines, have to put up with.

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