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SAYS CHINA IS NOT ONLY DANGER POINT

OXFORD PROFESSOR WARNS

Points Out Several Zones In Europe Where Peace May Be Menaced; U. S. Fortunate, Belief

According to Prof. G. P. Gooch, the eminent Oxford historian, who has been in the United States recently, China is not the only storm spot in the universe, and there are still signals flying in eastern Europe. Professor Gooch names specifically four danger zones. One of them is Bessarabia, a country formerly Russian, now Roumanian, and a region which promises to be the Alsace-Lorraine of eastern Europe for some time to come.

Another source of danger is the tension between Poland and Lithuania over Vilna, a tension which has caused trouble more than once during the past few years. A third danger is the dispute between Bulgaria and Jugo-Slavia over Macedonia, and last but not least is the trouble between Jugo-Slavia and Italy over Albania and the Adriatic coast.

Of course here in America we cannot vision war breaking out between any of these nations so soon after the close of the great war. But we do not understand the hatreds and the fears which these nations bear for one another. The atmosphere of intrigue in which they live is entirely foreign to America, and not understandable here.

Because we know so little of these things is all the more reason we ought to be thankful that by avoiding entangling European commitments we are not in danger of becoming involved in any of them. War between Russia and Roumania, between Poland and Lithuania, between the Serbs and the Bulgars or the Serbs and the Italians might be a local affair, but the chances are that, because of the interlocking complications, the trouble would spread just as it spread in 1914.

For this reason and because we are not directly interested in any of the territory involved we ought to be grateful that we are not committed to take sides in or to help solve any

DAYS WHEN RAIN COATS SELL WELL.

Dealer Tells Interesting Facts About This Kind of Business, in Magazine

Fred Kelly in Nation's Business says: My friend, C. C. Daily of Elyria, Ohio, who sells chemicals to rubber manufacturers, tells me of a raincoat maker who remarked:

"During May and June last year we had abnormally high rainfall, but only 5 per cent of it fell during profitable hours."

Then the raincoat man went on to explain:

"If it's raining in the morning when you leave home, you wear your old clothes and carry an umbrella.

"If it rains between 7:30 and 9 you may stop in a store on your way from the train to your office and buy a coat. But probably your time margin is scant and you just hurry along without stopping.

"Rain from 9 to 4 catches a few shoppers down town, but they probably wait under cover till it slackens up.

"But rain from 4 to 6 catches folks near a store and with time to buy a coat. Then business in the raincoat trade booms. This is the profit-making hour.

"Rain in the evening either keeps you home or makes you call a taxi.

"If it rains after 3 o'clock today—we are waiting for the telephone to ring. The stores will want ten dozen or twenty dozen 'rush' tomorrow. But for the last six weeks it has rained only at night and we do small business."

FIRST FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY IN AMERICA

Met in Philadelphia in 1752 and Benjamin Franklin Was Director

On May 11, 1752, in Philadelphia, was held the first directors' meeting of the first fire insurance company to do business in America. The company was and is "The Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire." Among its board of directors was Benjamin Franklin who in 1736 had organized the Union Fire company, a volunteer fire fighting organization.

There was no direct connection between the volunteer fire fighters and the insurance companies though the latter did contribute large amounts to the volunteers.

Firemarks, now in such demand as antiques, were then used on insured houses to distinguish them from those of the uninsured so as to make sure of protection. The mark of the Contributionship is directly traceable to the Hand-in-Hand company of London which was established in 1696. The English company used two clasped hands. The design was changed by the Contributionship into the Lady-to-London or Saddle Seat grip which is practically unbreakable.

Description of dinners given, with fines collected for non-attendance at directors' meetings; reveals these men as of Rabelaisian appetites and capacities. At one time by curbing their appetites due to an excess of enthusiasm for the public welfare or an excess of food and drink they were able to acquire a fund large enough to mark the road to New York with thirty-one milestones.

MANY SCHEMES TO INSURE GOOD GAS

In the hectic days following the war the nation was very much concerned as to whether there would be enough petroleum left to supply public needs, and the gas man was frequently suspected of adding dish water and discarded crank shaft lubricants to the products he retailed to the public. This period of deceit and fraud has been followed by competition over the quality of gasoline, and some of the big companies have protected their reputation by sealing tanks after they have filled them. In other cases the gasoline has been colored in order to distinguish it. "Tricks of the trade" have run the gauntlet of time in all industries and all lines of business, and evidently the gasoline situation has greatly improved.

HARD ROAD CEMENT PRICES ARE LOWER

Cement used in the construction of hard roads in Illinois during 1927 will cost approximately five per cent less than in 1926.

Leading Portland Cement companies in the middle west are prepared to supply 14,185,000 barrels or more than four times the estimated requirements for road construction during the present year.

These were the outstanding features of the opening of bids for 3,600,000 barrels of cement by Col. C. R. Miller, director, Department of Public Works and Buildings, and Frank T. Sheets, chief highway engineer, Division of Highways.

Representatives of seventeen of the leading Portland Cement companies were in attendance at the opening of the bids. Individual companies expressed a willingness to supply from 500,000 to 3,600,000 barrels of cement, the full estimate of the Division of Highways.

The estimate for 1927 is practically 100,000 barrels in excess of that used in 1924 when 1,230 miles of hard road were constructed in the state.

During 1926 a total of 2,352,000 barrels were contracted. Shipments for the year totalled 1,582,132 barrels. At the end of the construction season there remained in storage approximately 30,000 barrels, practically all of which would have been used but for unseasonable weather during September which slowed up construction work.

Portland cement companies located in eight middle western states were represented in the bidding.

WANTS LAW TO COVER TIPPING PRACTICES

Tips and gratuities paid for hat checking in hotels and coins left for waiters or others in public service will become the sole property of the recipients if Senate Bill No. 211 is enacted into law. The proposed measure is reported favorably by the senate committee on license and miscellany.

The measure voids all contracts by which employes agree to pay over to their employers or others such gratuities as may be received from the general public. The right to sue to recover is provided.

Had Him Puzzled Too

"Look here," said the farmer to his new hand, "I want to know why you kissed my daughter last night in that dark corner."

"Well," was the answer "now that I've seen her by daylight I've been kind of wondering myself."

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