

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1928

RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON NAVAL BUILDING

Failure of Geneva Conference Not to Have Effect on Number of Vessels to Be Added

In a few sentences President Coolidge, in his message to Congress, has indicated the proper course for this country to pursue, as regards naval building, in view of the purely "negative" results of the Geneva conference of last summer.

"The failure to agree should not cause us to build either more or less than we otherwise should."

"Any future treaty of limitation will call on us for more ships."

"We should enter on no competition."

"We should refrain from no needful program."

Whole Situation

These sentences express the whole situation in which the United States stands with respect to naval strength and indicate the only policy it now can follow pending any further attempt to limit building by international agreement, declares the Kansas City Star.

The navy now is behind on cruiser construction. It would have been behind if an agreement had been reached at Geneva. The failure of the conference therefore changes nothing so far as the United States is concerned. Neither can any determination Britain may reach as to new construction alter our own requirements. These, by the finding of the navy general board, are for thirty new cruisers to be built over a 5-year period. They will be necessary to the battle fleet, under the Washington treaty ratio, irrespective of whatever may be done in the future toward limiting cruiser tonnage.

No Doubt

No doubt the present building of cruisers which should have been built long ago, and the building of which would not have been halted even had an agreement been reached at Geneva, will cause unwarranted conclusion in some quarters. That need not concern Congress in the discharge of its obligation to keep the country's first line of defense at a requisite strength.

If there are Americans who still think, after the refusal of Britain to concede naval parity to the United States, that the League of Nations can induce the naval powers to limit their armament, they may be allowed to indulge that hope, but it should not deter the United States from keeping its national defense up.

INVESTIGATE COST FEDERAL PRISONERS

Lake County Asked to Supply Figures to National Government

Recommendations that the board of supervisors investigate the cost to the county of holding federal prisoners in the county jail is made in a letter from H. H. Hart, consultant in delinquency and penology, received by County Clerk Lew A. Hendee.

A bill is now pending before the house of representatives which would set a just compensation for the 900 federal prisoners throughout the country being held in county jails.

Statistics show that the taxpayers of Cook county paid out \$5,782 for federal prisoners last year, that Sangamon county lost \$2,505 and Vermillion \$4,907.

Whether Lake county and Dupage, where many are kept by the government, are in a similar situation, is not known. Lake county jail often has twenty or more federal prisoners who are fed on regular jail fare. Keeping them does not add to the cost of the jail, deputies state, as they need nothing more than food. No more men are required to handle them.

COUNTY ENGINEER TO MAKE CROSSING SURVEY

Survey of grade crossings of the county was started last week by E. M. Lobdell, county superintendent of highways, for the purpose of supplying States Attorney Smith with engineering data for the Illinois Commerce commission within the next 30 days demanding adequate protection of railroad crossing in the county.

The petition will have to be supported by an engineer's report, such as Lobdell is preparing, for the purpose of revealing to the commissioners the need of greater protection on railway crossings.

The demand found its inception at the December meeting of the board of supervisors when Supervisor Dave Patten of Newport Township, presented a resolution calling upon the railroads to protect traffic.

The action had been prompted by a number of killings on especially dangerous crossings through Lake county, members of the board stated at the time.

Women claim to be able to enter all fields of activity, but the ball fans say they don't seem to have done much yet in left, center and right field.

Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Stanley Vestal has taken one of the figures dearest to the American heart in choosing Kit Carson as the subject of a biography for the spring. It seems that Mr. Vestal knows that Western country intimately, that he lived in it as a boy, was friendly with the Indians and was even permitted to view many Indian rites that adults would never have seen. So the outlook seems good for a sympathetic and interesting story of this romantic figure.

"The Great American Bandwagon" published this week, purports to be a true and lively chronicle of contemporary life in these United States. This was a large order for Mr. Charles Mers to undertake but according to Carl Van Doren he has done it successfully. The story is full of gusto, rarely malicious, an amusing picture of our so-called American civilization.

AMERICA ABROAD

"THE GYPSY"

By W. B. Trites
Frederick A. Stokes Co.

America is by way of becoming famous in France. What with Ernest Hemingway and now a new star in our firmament, W. B. Trites. "The Gypsy," Mr. Trites' first book, was published first in France and received extravagant praise. Then it was brought over here and, given a most artistic format, has been launched in America.

It is interesting to speculate upon the reasons why a book of this type might be popular in France. It is the story of an artist, Arthur Mallock, a man who, at fifty, considers himself a failure. He has never, because of indolence or lack of inspiration, been able to fulfill the promise his early work gave. Then one day in Spain his eye is caught by the figure of a young gypsy. Graceful and lithe "she walked as if to barbaric music." Arthur fell in love. His wife, Julia, with all the trust in the world, helps Arthur to obtain the services of the gypsy as his model. She even has her come and live at their house. Arthur paints remarkable pictures. He becomes quite a sensation in New York, the inspiration all being due to the gypsy and the strange hold she has over him.

The gypsy is crafty and egged on by her mother suggests that Arthur might marry her. She mentions poisoning in the same breath and Arthur seems by his silence to give tacit consent. So one evening Julia is poisoned. The rest of the book is given up to Arthur's remorse and his own death.

Now this seems the sort of thing which would appeal more readily to a French than an American audience. The French who make wide concessions to the passion they call love will more readily understand and forgive Arthur's remarkable compliance with the plot to kill the wife whom he deeply though not passionately loves. But that brings up the weakness of the book, it is in characterization and motivation. None of the characters live, they are paper dolls pasted on a background of real beauty. Mr. Trites' talent thus far has found itself in description but not in the more intricate phases of a novel.

"THE LEGEND CALLED MERYOM"

By Joseph Gaer
William Morrow & Co.

In "The Legend Called Meryom" Joseph Gaer has written a book which it is difficult to classify. A hitherto unknown author there is no help to be had from his past work or knowl-

edge of his life. He has written a tale of a remote little Jewish village in Russia and the merit of his story is that nothing ever happens. Or almost nothing.

For instance during the first hundred pages of the story there is the birth of the child Meryom, her growing into girlhood, reading a few books with the hunch-back cobbler, Azriel, and finally the establishment of a library in the little village. This stably and badly, sounds like even more action than it seemed in the book. The charm of the story is in its slow tempo, its simple actions, it rests our minds as a tune played on muted strings. It is in the recounting of these simple things that the author gives the very atmosphere of the place, the personalities of the people. Their conversations, for example, so rudimentary and often futile, give the exact limit of their minds. These queerly phrased yet simple common-places are the very thing these people would say, the author makes it so authentic it is less like reading than like listening.

In the character of Meryom Mr. Gaer has tried to create something more complicated, to show that she had a beauty beyond that seen by ordinary eyes. In a measure he has succeeded, yet his greatest success lies in the recounting of the life of this simple village, in the commonplace realities of life through their fundamental character take on a universal, an epic quality.

The novel that has captivated the country:

Dusty Answer

by Rosamond Lehmann

A best seller everywhere. Christopher Morley said of it, "We have not had since 'The Constant Nymph' a first novel of such brilliant cruel and tender beauty."

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NAMES DIRECTORS FOR LIBERTYVILLE HOSPITAL

Board of directors for the Elizabeth Conell Memorial hospital of Libertyville were named last week by Judge P. L. Persons in the county court at the request of the trustees under the will of the late Elizabeth Conell.

Max Kohner of the Kiwanis club, Celia Noble of the Woman's club, club, R. G. Kaping of the American Legion, and Samuel Insull Jr., were those approved.

The retiring board consisted of Dr. J. L. Taylor, Attorney, Ben H. Miller, State Senator Rodney B. Swift, Mrs. Crystal Eaton Taylor and Anna Scott. This board never functioned as the will provided that the directors should take over the hospital as soon as it was ready for operation. The building is still in progress.

Until the building is completed the trustees, Dr. Taylor, Attorney Miller, and Insull Jr., will be in charge.

The old board resigned because it deemed it sound judgment to pick leaders in civic enterprises for the purpose of interesting a greater number of people. In addition some of the old board has since moved from Libertyville.

The folks who talk lightly about getting into war, might consider that the last one we had cost the country \$30,000,000,000 and it would be just as well to pay that debt off before running up a new one like it.

HOW BREAD LOAF PRICE IS DIVIDED EXPLAINED

Proportion of Total Received by Farmer, Miller, Baker and Others Shown

The average price of bread in the United States averages eight and one-half cents.

The farmer receives 1.15 cents; the miller, 0.41; baker, 5.11; grocer, 1.28; and the railroad or other handlers 0.60; total per pound 8.55 cents.

Thus it is shown that the farmer who sows the wheat and reaps and threshes the grain passes on a very small amount of business to the miller who grinds it into flour, and both of them as well as the small grocer and the large railroads, or the trucks, seem all to be within the clutches of the white-capped baker who clips off more than five cents out of the total amount which the housewife pays for her pound of bread.

THIS COP TELEPHONES HIS DOG WHEN NEEDED

The night policeman at Nashville, Ark., when walking his beat, frequently takes his dog with him. If the dog is at home when the policeman wants him, the patrolman merely calls his home by telephone and asks his daughter to place the receiver to the dog's ear. It is said the dog, upon hearing his master's voice, immediately darts from the house and runs to town to join the policeman.

It is hard to induce people to take the office of vice-president, but some might be induced to hire out for the job by the day.

What would become of our horse races, if these noble steeds should all at once choose not to run?



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