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FRANCE RICHEST NATION OF WORLD

Death Duty Statistics Prove This Statement—Millions of Money Is Thus Accrued

PARIS, Dec. 25.—That France is easily the wealthiest country on earth is proven by the death duty statistics which have just been communicated to the chamber. The Unied States may boast of many more immensely rich people, but France can point with pride to the fact, that more than half of the population, counting men, women and children, have property to bequeath.

The total amount of money left by persons who died last year amounts to $1,092,200,000. The number of those who left property was over 400,000, while the total deaths did not reach twice that figure. The average estate therefore possessed by a Frenchman, woman or child is therefore nearly $2,750.

But the most remarkable feature is the number of small estates as compared with the United States. Thus $1,650,000 was left in sums not exceeding $2,000. Of estates between that figure and $10,000 there were nearly 48,000.

On the other hand large fortunes are few. Only 534 persons left over $200,000. Only seven died worth from $2,000,000 to $10,000,000, the latter being the largest amount recorded.

From the death duty figures statistcians deduce he following conclusions: Four millions French persons own less than $50 apiece; 4,000,000 less than $250 and 4,000,000 more less than $1,000. But 1,700,000 possess $4,200 each, 270,000, $15,000; 175,000, $30,000, and 90,000 from $70,000 to $140,000.

There are 18,000 possessors of 1,000,000 francs—that is $200,000. Very large fortunes are few. No person died last year worth more than $4,000,00 Three estates of that amount paid duty in 1905 and three in 1904.

The total wealth of France is estimated at about $4,500,000,000,000 and there is no country whose wealth is so equally divided among the inhabitants.

PARISIAN ADVOCATES MONARCHIAL GOVT.

Comes Nearest to the Ideal Form Says M. Jules Lemaitre—Why He Thinks So

(By Raoul de Saint Rene)

PARIS, Dec. 25.—"Monarchy is the form of government which comes nearest to the ideal" is the dictum pronounced by M. Jules Lemaitre, the eminent academician in a remarkable series of articles in the Action Francaise, which contains a bitter attack upon the present form of government. M. Lemaitre tells how he was an ardent republican long before the republic was proclaimed. He was 17 years of age at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, and when the republic was announced he believed it would save France and usher in a reign of justice. But he is no longer of that opinion, and draws up a formidable indictment against the republic which he accuses of having passed laws of religious persecution and spoliation, fomenting civic war, diminishing the means of national defence causing increasing deficits, using threats of anarchy and bringing about an economic revolution.

"Monarchy has lasted twenty times longer than the republic," he adds. "We have fathers and grandfathers who have lived under the Restoration or under the monarchy of July, and who confess that they enjoyed a period of national prosperity. Twice already the republic has killed itself by its disorders and is about to do the same thing now. Monarchy is the most natural regime for Frenchmen and they would share this opinion immediately is necessity compelled them to take stock."

ILLEGAL CLUB HELD UP BY THIEVES GIVES IN

Gamblers Are Summonsed and Action Taken for Carrying Prohibited Arms

PARIS, Dec. 25.—The extraordinary spectacle of an illegal club being held up by thieves has occurred at Beziers. At 11 o'clock the other night two thieves, armed in true wild west fashion, with two revolvers each, entered a club in the centre of the town, and under threats of exposure demanded all the money in the possession of the manager and croupier. Afraid of the possibility of exposure, they parted with all the money in the establishment, including the receipts of the bar. The bandits then retired without disturbing the thirty gamblers sitting around the green table. The gamblers were none the less afraid, but after the thieves had left the premises, several of them regained their courage and went in pursuit. In the course of the chase several shots were fired and the attention of the police was thus drawn to the incident. An inquiry was instituted and resulted in the manager of the gambling house being summoned, while action was taken against several of his customers for carrying prohibited arms. The thieves got away.

Amazing Operation

LONDON, Dec. 25.—An amazing operation upon a mad patient who swallowed a knife and fork was described in the report of the Richmond asylum visiting committee on Thursday. Dr. Donelan, the medical superintendent, stated that a male patient complained of pains and stated that he had swallowed a knife and fork. The Roentgeau rays confirmed this and by an operation a knife and fork, some rags, and a woollen muffler were removed from the man's stomach, and the patient quickly recovered.

BRIDAL COUPLE MAKE POOR T'IEVES

Hungry Crowd Formulate Plan Which Lands Them in the Hands of Police

PARIS, Dec. 25—Even the best laid schemes of Apaches occasionally go wrong. A young woman, well known in the world of gallantry, had a special cavalier who rejoiced in the nickname of "Tintin." The couple recently turned virtuous and resolved to marry instead of continuing to live according to the tenets of free love. The marriage duly took place at the Mayor's office of the Thirteenth Ward in the presence of twenty persons, all denizens of the Apache world.

After the marriage ceremony, the party discovered that they were hungry, but they could not order a repast at a restaurant for the reason that they had no money. The bridegroom, however, being a resourceful individual, conceived a plan which commended itself to his bride and the guests. He suggested that they should set forth on a thieving expedition among the tradesmen of the neighborhood. One should confine himself to stealing wine, another should provide cold meat, with a few fowls and some game, a third would be responsible for the salad, a fourth for the bread and cakes and so on. It was arranged that the thieves should meet at a certain spot at a given time with their provender. They all set off on their various expeditions, but unfortunately they met with worse than failure, they were caught. The bridal couple were the first to fall into the clutches of the police, and three of the guests were caught robbing grocery stores in Rue Nationale.

AMBITIOUS ARTIST'S PRAISEWORTHY AIM

Always a Pathetic Figure He is More Sinned Against Than Sinning

PARIS, Dec. 25.—Gravely trying to live down the shame brought upon him by an ambitious woman, "Francois Houssy," as he now calls himself, has exhibited at the George Petit galleries forty sketches in oil, some of which depicting quaint old nooks and corners in Nuremberg, are unusually good.

Only a comparatively small number of people knew that Francois Houssay, the painter is identical with Frederic Humbert. The husband of the Grande Therese of the phantom millions was always a pathetic figure, perhaps more sinned against than sinning, and there is fresh pathos in this one man show of his.

When the doors of the prison were opened to him, he did not ask anybody to assist him, he set to work with the grit of a true man, and tramped, knapsack paint and brushes slung over his shoulders and a few francs in his pocket throughout southern Germany.

As he writes himself to the art critic M. Arsene Alexandre, he determined to work out his own salvation, and his sketches show both determination and talent. The endeavor is pathetice and commands respect.

Guiltily weak throughout the whole story of the colossal frauds, the son of a former minister of justice, and the husband of the unforgettable Therese, sank low, but one must admit he is struggling manfully to retrieve his disgrace.

AEROPLANE LANDINGS ARE BEING PLANNED

Enterprising Sporting Paper Has Just Published a Map of Stopping Places in Paris

PARIS, Dec. 25.—Convinced that it is supplying an immediate want "Les Sport,' the most enterprising sporting paper in Paris and probably in the world, has just published a map of aeroplane landings in this city.

The suitable landing indicated by this pioneer of aerial guides begin with the wine depots at Percy and with the parvis of Notre Dame. The roof of the Hotel Meurice, the courtyard of Lonore, and the national printing establishment are also pointed out as offering certain advantages while the Place de la Concorde, the Arc de Triompal, and the Esplanade des Invalides are not omitted. The plan has been drawn up by the Society de Nouveau Paris, which is fighting hard to modernize the city, just as the Society de Vieux Paris is striving with might and main to preserve every old wall and crumbling ruin.

A brilliant idea has just come to the mind of Francois Jourdain, president mind of the Nuveau Paris, which is to form a law reserving the belt of fortifications around Paris as a future landing ground for aeroplanes. It would to him make an ideal aerial promenade, once the earthworks walls and ramparts had been levelled and by the Hotel Maurice.

As to the private stations mentioned on the map, the owners are only too anxious to serve the public. The proprietors of the big department store, known as the Galleries Lafayette offer a prize of $500 to the first aeroplanist whose machine lands on their roof and same offer is made by the Hotel Maurice.

Burglar's Booty in Cathedral

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A Roman Catholic priest of Plymouth has handed to the chief constable a box which he found in the cathedral near the confessional. It contained a quantity of jewellery, forming part of the proceeds of a robbery which occurred a fortnight ago at Westbury terrace, Plymouth.

Chauffeur's Alcoholic Cargo

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Ernest Mawby, of Brighton, was at Kingston-on-Thames on Wednesday fined 40s. and costs for being drunk whilst in charge of a motor-car. When the car was searched the police found a bottle of champagne, a bottle of ale, a bottle of wine ,and a revolver in it.

Upper picture shows the palace of the president of Hayti, which was stormed by the revolutionary mob. To the left is General Jules Coicou, former military governor, whose home was ruided, and on the right is General E. Marcelin, a former gambler and Alexis' minister to finance.

DRAMATIC REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE DOWAGER EMPRESS

(By Lady Henry Somerset.)

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Last week I was looking out of the window of my rooms in London, when I suddenly noticed a flag flying half-mast high. For a moment that symbol of death struck me as strange, and then I looked again and saw the yellow flag with the black dragon, and remembered that that amazing women, the Dowager Empress of China, lay dead in the Forbidden City, and that here at the Chinese legation the history of China was transplanted into the very midst of London.

There is probably no figure of this age who has a more dramatic story, for she was undoubtedly the most remarkable woman of our day. The Theodora and the Lucretia Borgia of the east, she combined in her person the worst feminine qualities and the most masculine political insight and energy.

For forty-seven years she ruled over the millions of the Chinese empire, and although since 1889 the emperor was nominally the chief, she never relinquished her power until she drew her last breath.

No more pathetic scene, however, could be imagined than the deathbed of this relentless woman, dressed in her robes of state, with none to approach her, for the Chinese Emperor and empress die alone. She had been borne into the death chamber in order to die according to the rites of the imperial house, observed for the last three thousand years.

I remember some time ago one of our English admirals telling me of an audience that he had with the dowager empress.

He was allowed only to approach within sixty yards, and then as he fell on bended knees he saw before him, dressed in magnificent Chinese embroidered robes, the tall and rather slender figure, in a rigid attitude, covered with jewels and looking like an idol. Her hair was black as ink, parted in the middle. All might have belonged to a painted stone carving, save the eyes, which glittered like those of a cobra.

"'She looked at me as though she saw me and yet she saw not. I was as nothing before her,' he told me, while politically she had the deepest interest in his visit.

Two years ago the empress matured her plans for the higher education of women, and sent to England to beg those interested in this subject to go out to China to organize schools for the higher class Chinese girls. Lord and Lady Cecil were chosen, and I was among the committee who asked to go. Perhaps it was one of the greatest disappointments I have had that I could not at that moment be of the party, owing to the fact that for family reasons I was obliged to remain in England.

A resident in Pekin has given us lately an interesting description of the time at which he saw Tsu Tsi at the moment of her great humiliation. It was the time when the court were to return to the Forbidden City, when they had fled before the allied troops, and when she and the emperor had suffedel almost a year's excile. The great company awaited the return of the fugitives, the Chinese nobles on their Mongolian ponies, gorgeous in the robes of state, the ladies of the harem carefully guarded in their green carts, and the whole strange crowd of the Chinese court, and then at the end of the procession the two yellow chairs covered with the peacock's feathers, containing, as the writer says, "the Son of Heaven and his aunt."

Before the little temple the chairs were stopped, in order that the dowager empress should offer thanks for her safe return.

The Boxers had burnt the temple tower, and a sham tower had been hastily erected in bamboo and matting, but that which met her eye was the most unaccustomed sight of all, namely on the gate there stood all the diplomatic community of Pekin, gazing down upon her, an act which had hitherto been forbidden under extreme penalty. The dowager empress turned her face towards them for a moment. This proud woman drank the cup of her humiliation to the dregs, and then with that curious presence of mind which never deserted her, she turned and said to them all: "I am glad to see you all." The secretary of the Dutch legation, who spoke Chinese, answered: "Thank you, your majesty."

"I hope you are all well," the dowager empress said, and then she was borne away to the Forbidden City.

Another curious scene of which I heard was one in which the dowager empress entertained the ladies of the diplomatic corps. They sat around her, nibbling Chinese sweetmeats and drinking syrup and tea, while the woman who never hesitated to command the death of anyone who stood in the way of her ambition, who, even, when fleeing from the palace, found time to have the emperor's favorite wife, whom she disliked, flung down a well, passed from guest to guest, stroking their arms or cheeks, and melting into tears when she spoke of the suffering of the siege. At the end of the visit there was a distribution of splendid jewelry, and the ladies in a flutter of excitement left, laden with big rubies, emeralds and saphires, but their pride was destined to have a fall, as the Tientsin jeweler pronounced them to be colored glass set in thinly plated gold.

This was another example of the way in which the dowager empress, in spite of her shrewdness, was cheated by her officials, who had been ordered to procure the most costly articles, but who had pocketed the money destined for the presents which were to be bestowed on the guests.

Of the sorrowful emperor's death, it is needless to speak, for that has passed into history.

In his "Purple Prison" at Pekin, a city within a city, surrounded by the temples and palaces and other buildings of Hoang-tcheng, the most magnificent and probably the most costly palace of the world, mother-of-pearl, gold and ivory everywhere in profusion, with the exquisite little lake on which grow every form and variety of lotus, and the bending foliage of beautiful Chinese plants, reflecting the pagoda-like and picturesque architecture of this imperial palace; the emperor led his miserable existence. His friends if they become too intimate, were removed and heard no more.

UNNAMED GERMAN PHYSICIAN SAYS THE KAISER IS INSANE

Emperor William Not Responsible for All the Crimes, Misdeeds and Statements Attributed to Him—All Germans Know His Condition

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—What the Germans dare not whisper has been said by a well known German physician in an English weekly paper—the Kaiser is hopelessly and progressively insane. The article, which is of course unsigned, or the author would probably be drawn and quartered, has created an enormous sensation throughout Germany. "Why do we allow a single individual, whether king or anarchist, to contine to throw poisoned bombs amongst a peacefully striving nation," the article begins. "Why should Emperor William alone be at liberty to endanger, from his ambush of imperial dignity, the peace of the nations of Europe? He alone is the immediate danger of our times. But let us add at once that we have no right to blame him. This seems a paradox, but if the nations will only understand the real condition of affairs, all danger would at once disappear, although the Emperor William may go on making speeches, sending wires and publishing interviews to his heart's content."

After enumerating some of the most flagrant misdeeds and, one is tempted to say, crimes, committed by the kaiser, the writer concludes: "But it is time that nations should ask themselves the question: 'What is the secret of this man's actions?' And they ought to know the answer, which is fully understood among diplomatists and in large circles in Germany.

"Emperor William offers a rather typical picture of a certain kind of mental disease. He suffers from a malignant inflammation of the middle ear (otitis media), which in an ever-increasing degree is affecting his brain. In order to be near him Professor Passow, one of the highest living authorities on that disease, was called from Heidelberg to settle down in Berlin.

"The fate of nations may depend on this fact being known and thoroughly understood by the English. The kaiser complains of being alone amongst a nation of sixty millions. And so indeed he is—a man with a progressive mental disease is always alone. But for his present capers the bacilli that attack his brain are alone responsible. British people can hardly understand how much the Germans have already had to suffer on account of their emperor. Shall they again suffer—shall fresh enmity arise between the British and the Germans on account of the latest folly of this dangerous mun who wears the purple? The emperor has dethroned himself, although he may still continue to wear the much-abused crown of his forefathers."

* * *

Six weeks' mild imprisonment, which might just as well be called a vacation is the punishment which a court-martial at Metz has seen fit to impose upon a regimental bandmaster convicted of having cruelly ill-treated his subordinates on 1,280 separate counts. The court only investigated 355 charges, which were all supported by strong evidence.

There is great indignation at the sentence, and it is pointed out that to ill-treat a soldier in Germany, according to the decision of the court-martial, cost only a little more than an hour's pleasant relief from duty on full pay.

* * *

The statement has repeatedly been made in various European and American papers that the widow of the murdered Grand Duke Serge, Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorowna, sister of the czarina, had taken the veil and entered a nunnery. One paper even published her daily life in a convent where speech was forbidden.

The fact is that the Grand Duchess, who has always been interested in charity, and who is the idol of the people of Moscow, has founded in that city what we would call a "deaconesses' home," the object of which is to supply the population of the poorer classes with free nurses, district visitor and infant school teachers.

The authorities of Berlin point with great pride to the fact that in spite of the bad times only 1 1-8 per cent of the people of the greatest city are unemployed.

* * *

For the purpose of determining the number likely to be dependent on public charity during the winter, and this revealed the fact that out of the 2,083,000 people living in the metropolitan district only 40,124 people, including 1,716 women, are out of work.

TOBACCO WAR IN PARIS CITY HALL

Shall Councillors Be Permitted to Smoke While at Their Work or Not?

PARIS, Dec. 25—A tobacco crisis has broken out at the Hotel de Ville, the Paris city hall. During their official sittings, the city fathers have adopted the habit of soothing their nerves with indulgence in the fragrant weed. While regaling themselves with cigars and cigarettes, they have listened with comparative equanimity to the speeches of colleagues whose views did not precisely coincide with their own and perhaps many a row has been averted or lessened by this comfortable practice. It is true that from time to time, certain aldermen have protested against the custom, notices having even been posted with the request that there should be no smoking before seven in the evening, but they objected in vain. At last, however, the opponents of the practice are making a firm stand and the matter is to be thrashed out at a coming meeting. It is argued by the protesting party that senators and deputies do not smoke while they are engaged in legislation, that judges do not solace themselves with an occasional cigarette while they are holding trials, so why should the sittings of the Paris Municipal Council be a solitary exception, all the more invidious, by the way, as the spectators are rigorously forbidden to follow the example. This discussion will be interesting and at the present there seems to be no indication as to whether smokers or non smokers will carry their point.

Happy Though Rich

LONDON, Dec. 25. — Speaking at Liverpool on Tuesday, Sir W. R. Hartley, the famous jam manufacturer, agreed with J. D. Rockefeller that the rich, if they got pleasure from their wealth, did so because of their ability to do things which gave satisfaction to someone besides themselves. "For more than thirty years," he added, "I have practiced systematic and proportionate giving."

Accounts Simplified

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A blacksmith and wheelwright, who had carried on business at Rollesby, Norfolk, said in his public examination in bankruptcy, that he kept no account books. Amounts due were pencilled on a board hung up in the smithy, and when they were paid the entry was planed off the board. He had had several boards in use in this way.

Gipriano Castro, president of Venezuela who has left his country ostensibly for the purpose of seeking surgical treatment abroad, but who is believed by many to have abandoned his country for good and all.

MOST POWERFUL GUN IN WORLD CONSTRUCTED

Will Send Any Battleship in Existence to the Bottom of the Sea

(By Richard Abercorn)

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The most powerful gun in the world, capable of sending to the bottom of the sea, any battleship in existence with a single shot, has been constructed for the British admiralty by Vickers, Sons & Maxim, and is to be mounted on the recently launched battleship Collingwood and her sister ships, St Vincent and Vanguard. The gun, which is 51½ feet long weighs unmounted nearly 66 tons. The projectile of 850 lbs. will have a muzzle velocity of 3,010 foot seconds and a muzzle energy of 534,000 foot tons, which means that at a distance of 3,000 yards, it will penetrate 33 inches of wrought iron, while the most powerful gun possessed by any other navy will at the same distance be able to go through only 16 inches of iron. The fire delivery possibilities of the new gun are extraordinary. During the proving tests, two guns mounted in one turret, got off eight rounds in two minutes and four guns mounted in two turrets, got off sixteen rounds in two minutes, forty-five seconds with full service charges.

MOTOR TO THE POLE

Relief Party Starts to Bring Back Adventurous Explorer

LONDON, Dec. 25.—There started out of Lyttelton (New Zealand) harbor an expedition having for its object the relief of Lieut. E. H. Shackleton and his comrades, who have been endeavoring to reach the South Pole by means of the latest things in sledges and motor cars.

The relief party sailed in the Nimrod, which took the eplorers early in the year to King Edward VII. land. Since her return the vessel has undergone a thorough overhaul, while the scientists' quarters have been enlarged, so that in case any of the shore party is ill there will be hospital accommodation. About six weeks may be taken in the run from Lyttelton to the landing place. Lieut. Shackelton and his party, will, it is hoped, appear before the end of February, after which the Nimrod will return to Lyttelton.

If all goes well it appears improbable that the ship will have to winter in the Antartic. It is hardly to be expected that it will run any chance of being frozen up before the end of March at the earliest. It takes 280 tons of coal and stores sufficient to last thirty-eight men for twelve months.

Loving Cup with Pitt's Seal

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A firm of Abingdon auctioneers have just disposed of a loving cup, presented by George III. to the mayor of Oxford, Sir T. Munday, for his services at his coronation. The leather case in which the cup was kept still displays the seal of William Pitt. The price was £245.

Eight Flocks Without Pastors

LONDON, Dec. 25.—On the removal of the Rev. E. Milnes, pastor of the Zion Captist church, Bacup, to Victoria Park, London, Mr. W. H. Baron, Sunday school superintendent for thirty-five years, stated that, including Zion church, there are now eight Baptist churches in the Bacup district devoid of pastors.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS WILL OPEN HOSPITAL

Believe Ministers of Church of England Possess Healing Power, Too

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Not to be surpassed by Christian Scientists and to show that the ministers of the Church of England possess the same healing powers as the followers of Mrs. Eddy, the Bishop of London has decided to appoint a "Central Church Council," in London, for the consideration of questions connected with the healing by spiritual means. The idea is to appoint a council which will have influence not only with believers, but with men of science as well. The council will strictly investigate cases of faith healing and report on them for the benefit of others. One of London's best known female physicians, Miss E. M. Reed, M.D., who is now specializing in mental and spiritual healing, and who is collaborating with eminent medical authorities, is on the point of opening a "house for spiritual healing," which will at the same time be in harmony with the teaching of the Church of England and will have several leading physicians as consultants. Speaking of Mrs. Eddy and her followers, Dr. Reed said: "Christian Science absolutely fails to recognize physical laws. It is based on the knowledge that mental states control to a large extent physical conditions. That is true, but it is not the whole truth. You cannot cure by suggestion alone, neither can you cure without it. The principle of the new movement is a sane combination of the powers of faith and exact medical knowledge applied to the problems of healing."

FOG ACCIDENTS

Wedding Party Smashed Up at a Railway Level Crossing

LONDON, Dec. 25. — A dense fog which prevailed on Tuesday affected not only htis country but France as well.

At Leeds a fourteen year old errand boy named Thomas Dutton missed his way, walked into the River Aire and was drowned.

A railway clerk at Glasgow, while on his way to his head offices with a large sum of money, was rendered unconscious by thieves, who ripped open his bag and stole £42.

Several serious accidents occurred in the fog in Paris. In the Rue Monge a man was run over by a tram car and died shortly afterwards in hospital. At Sevres, on the left bank of the Seine, a train coming from Brittany collided with a suburban train, and five persons were killed.

At Poissy a carriage containing a wedding party was run into by a train at a level crossing. Three women and the driver of the carriage were killed.

In Wednesday's fog a cripple of Mossley, Manchester, named Elliott Tinker, who keeps a coal wharf, fell in the canal. His daughter was drowned through tumbling in while rushing to the rescue.

History of a Church Bell

LONDON, Dec. 25. — The parish church of Deeping St. Nicholas, near Spalding, at present has only one bell, which was found many years ago on Frieston shore, near Boston. When Deeping church was being erected it was used by the contractors to call their workmen together. Failing anything better, it was subsequently placed in the church spire, and for sixty-three years has been used for calling the worshippers together, and though now cracked, is still employed for the purpose. A new peal of bells will be placed in the spire shortly.