

The Morning Star

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Table with 2 columns: Rate, Amount. Rows for One Year, Six Months, Three Months, One Month.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1921.

Export Rates

The action of the Chamber of Commerce in passing resolutions against the cancelling of the South Atlantic and Gulf exports rates is most timely and appropriate.

The rates were prescribed by the Railroad administration and by the Shipping Board because these bodies were convinced that the Northern ports were inadequate to meet the growing volume of export business.

The great congestion during the war, the direct result of the fact that exports moved almost exclusively by Northern routes, brought home to the government that a suddenly arising crisis might seriously imperil the national interests.

The appeal of the Chamber to the executives of the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line Railroads is a wise and correct method of procedure.

The future of the South depends to a large extent upon the frustration of the Eastern roads' purpose. The Southern lines are charged with a peculiar responsibility in the premises.

The Fall of Leygues

The fall of the Leygues cabinet was not unexpected. For some time, the question has been not whether the Premier would go soon, but how soon.

The action of the Chamber of Deputies, abrupt and submerging as it was, was the culmination of a growing resentment against the Leygues manner of handling the problems of German disarmament and reparations.

Letters to the Editor

AGAINST THE FEE SYSTEM. It is little less than amazing that the County Commissioners in session here Monday recommended the repeal of the present salary laws for public officials and substituted therefor the old worn-out fee system.

No Farming Out of Public Functions

Why are the Commissioners so intent upon foisting the fee system upon this county? Is it a desire to improve the public service? Then never was a worthy end made more unachievable by an unworthy means.

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General Enoch Crowder, investigating political conditions in Cuba as the special representative of President Wilson, speaks in gloomy vein of the situation there.

Legislative Paralysis

Considering that legislative paralysis is a curable affliction, it would seem that General Crowder is unduly exercised over the situation in Cuba. It is conceivable, of course, that a paralyzed legislative arm might become a ruinous handicap in a time of emergency.

American people generally, we believe, will refuse to become excited over any ordinary case of legislative paralysis while they recall our own loss of the legislative function in the midst of the League of Nations controversy.

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Are There Witches?

By Frederic J. Haskin

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—"She's a witch," yelled a woman in a New York court room not long ago, and to the surprise of the judge and some of the spectators, other women took up the cry.

The belief in witchcraft is supposed to have perished in this enlightened country a little over 200 years ago. Shortly after the witchcraft persecutions which took place in Salem in the 17th century, a whole literature against the belief in witches sprang into being.

These bold intellectuals were at first regarded as heretics, but they gradually prevailed. People who believed in witchcraft became ashamed to acknowledge the fact.

But the belief in witchcraft by no means ceased, as the New York ladies recently demonstrated. Literal belief in witches who commune with the devil and cast supernatural spells is still common to a large part of the human race.

Belief in witchcraft as literal and crude as is indicated by this incident, and that of the New York court room, may be comparatively rare, or at least limited to a few very ignorant sections of the population.

By his belief in witchcraft, as in fairy tales, ghosts and other supernatural phenomena, the ignorant man is primarily expressing a feeling of helplessness and a desire to turn both to their own advantage.

But this position is possible only to a mind somewhat trained and logical. The untrained mind thinks not in terms of logic, but of emotions and images.

In other words, the ignorant man is vaguely aware that there is a supernatural world, and he necessarily conceives of this world in emotional and sentimental terms.

The principal art galleries of Europe are at Florence, Rome, Venice, Paris, Dresden, Berlin, Vienna, London, Petrograd and Madrid.

It is easy to see how the psychological essentials of witchcraft still work among us. All of our willingness to believe in bogaboos conjured by our politicians is based on the same credulity, the same ignorance, and the same desire to find a dramatic cause for troubles which are really due to our own stupidity.

Another element enters into the matter here. There are usually leaders of the community who are so ignorant as to blame for the misfortunes of its members, and they are only too glad to have the blame added on some supernatural force.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By William Brady, M. D.

Q. In the famine in China as serious as the papers report it to be? V. T. A. The state department says that reports made to the American minister at Peking indicate that at least 15,000,000 people are seriously affected in the stricken districts.

Q. How many lynchings occurred in the United States during 1920? M. O. D. A. During and up to November 18, 1920, there had been 50 lynchings in the United States.

Q. What is the meaning of the word "aboy"? C. C. H. A. Its original meaning was probably "aboy" but is usually used as a halloo to attract attention.

Q. What is meant by "horse furniture"? E. B. C. A. The trappings of a horse are given this name—such as saddle, bridle, etc.—the housings, caparison, and (if an armored war-horse) bards or armor.

Q. What is the religion of Mexico? F. E. Mexico has no official religion and the constitution of 1917 specifically states that no religion shall be considered a state religion.

Q. What lake in the United States is next in size to the Great Lakes? M. W. A. The Great Salt Lake is the largest lake in the United States besides the Great Lakes.

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Daily Health Talks

By William Brady, M. D.

CASES OF ACID DYSPEPSIA. Dyspeptics who read this with a bear in mind (1) that the health of each person is a delicate matter.

The question or rejoinder that naturally occurs to the victim of acid dyspepsia or indigestion, particularly the dyspeptic, is: "Well, then, is there anything we can do about it?"

At least two of every three cases of acid dyspepsia are caused by an overproduction of gastric juice.

Please list the cause of illness and how it can be prevented and cured. (S. K.)

ANSWER—Chilblain is first degree frostbite, skin to first degree degree (more recently known as chilblain).

Rupture. Through some accident or other find that I have a small hernia.

Cigarettes. If I smoke an average of five cigarettes a day do you think it will do any harm? I am nineteen years old.

JAPANESE SOCIALISTS VERY ACTIVE IN EMPHIRE'S CAPITAL. TOKIO, Nov. 30.—(Correspondence of Associated Press.)—Increased socialist activity continues to be noticeable in Tokio.

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