

ASSOCIATION'S ROAD BILL IS INTRODUCED

Differs Materially From the Measure Sponsored by Governor Morrison

By R. E. POWELL. Raleigh, Jan. 27.—The road bill introduced upon by the North Carolina Good Roads association, but varying a great deal with Governor Morrison's plan, was introduced in the house today.

MEXICAN OIL WELLS AMONG GREATEST Development of Industry in That County Has Been Remarkable

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Since the world war emphasized the importance of petroleum in modern warfare and awakened a keen realization of the ever greater part it will be called on to play in reconstruction and the industrial and commercial development of the future, interest has turned more and more to Mexico, which contains the most spectacular of the present producing oil fields.

Mexico came into the world race for oil production late. Its first producing well, yielding a mere 10 barrels a day, was brought in not quite 20 years ago. Now it has a group of the greatest oil fields in the world, a number of which are capable of producing from 10,000 to 100,000 barrels each of "liquid gold" daily.

Mexico's production was doubled and by 1917 it had more than doubled again. In 1918 Mexican oil wells yielded nearly 64,000,000 barrels, and in 1919, more than 87,000,000 barrels. This latter production was in excess not only of the current annual production of Russia, previously second among oil producing countries, but also exceeded Russia's high water-mark of 85,000,000 barrels in 1901.

But Mexico is accepted as having the greatest demonstrated oil field in the world and it is estimated that if all its producing wells had been permitted to flow at their maximum during 1919 the resulting production would have been 32,000,000 barrels more than the actual production of the entire world in 1918.

Greater Stream of Oil. The practice of Mexican natives of burning fragments of asphalt and bitumen which floated on the waters of a large lagoon near the coast of the Gulf of Mexico—south of Tampico, and within them in the neighboring city, led to the realization that there must be underground petroleum supplies near by. Small producing wells and even larger ones were brought in from 1901 onward, but it was not until 1903 that the first of the tremendous gushers that have astonished the world was brought in near San Gerónimo, yielding between 60,000 and 75,000 barrels of oil a day.

The first stream of oil had ever been encountered before and the drillers were entirely unprepared to cope with the situation. The great geyser of oil spouted from the boiler of the drilling rig and for two months constituted an all fire that the world has ever known. The roaring pillar of flame that appeared during its greatest fury reached a height of 800 to 1,000 feet, illuminating the countryside at night for many miles, and was visible to ships more than 100 miles at sea. It was finally extinguished by huge pumps drawing streams of gravel and mud.

The gigantic gushers of Mexico are believed to flow not from oil sands as in many fields, but from caverns hollowed out of limestone by erosion and filled with oil. It is supposed that the underground lakes of oil rest on water under artesian pressure. What eventually is expected is illustrated by one of the most famous of the wells, the Contrero del Llano. This well flowed a mighty stream of oil for 10 years, producing more than 100,000 barrels regularly each month, and then suddenly turned to worthless salt water over night.

Territory Undeveloped. Such as the known oil fields of Mexico are, it is possible that only a beginning has been made in uncovering the vast resources of the country.

Noted Typhus Expert to Direct American Medical Unit Abroad



Dr. Harry Plotz, ranked as the world's foremost typhus expert, through his discovery of the typhus bacillus, has just sailed for Europe at the head of a medical unit of 20 experienced American specialists, which will fight epidemics and launch health programs in the stricken countries of Eastern and Central Europe under the auspices of the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, one of the eight leading American relief organizations joined in the great \$33,000,000 appeal of the European Relief Council, of which Franklin K. Lane, 42 Broadway, is treasurer.

Herbert Hoover is chairman of the Council and will direct the administration of its relief funds, \$10,000,000 of which will go for medical relief, the balance for food and clothing for the 3,500,000 starving children in Eastern and Central Europe. Dr. Plotz is a member of the commission of leading medical experts, which will supervise the medical relief work of the Council. Doctors and hospitals in the stricken areas are helpless to combat diseases, because of their complete lack of the simplest medical supplies, according to Dr. Plotz, who asserts that the typhus epidemic will recur this winter in even more severe form than last year. The first undertaking of the American Jewish medical unit will be to furnish medical supplies to communities so that epidemics can be fought.

liquid mineral wealth of the republic. The fields now under exploitation cover only about 800 square miles. Geologists have found promising structure for oil in Mexico over an area aggregating 230,000 square miles. "The future of the Mexican oil industry is likely to be profoundly affected by political developments. The Mexican constitution of 1917 in effect declares that oil found under land does not belong to the owner of the land but to the state. This provision and regulations based on it have been contested by the foreign interests which control 91 per cent of the Mexican oil industry. Action has been taken both through diplomatic channels and in the Mexican courts, but no final decisions have been reached."

DEATH OF MR. PLUMB. A. G. Plumb, a saw mill foreman, died last night at 8 o'clock at his residence, 108 Castle street. The funeral services will be conducted by Dr. J. M. Wallis, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and interment will be made in Oakdale cemetery. Mr. Plumb was 49 years old. He is survived by his widow, and one son, Martin Plumb, of this city. He was employed as a saw mill foreman by George E. Burton, Town Creek. However, he has resided here for four years, coming to this city from Milford, Delaware.

Under the new Organic act of March 2, 1917, the legislative power in Porto Rico is vested in a legislature consisting of two houses, the senate, consisting of nineteen members, and the house of representatives, thirty-nine.

The railroads were under federal control from January 1, 1918, to March 1, 1920.

Septa Grotto, No. 79, M. O. V. P. E. R. Annual session of officers and Constituting candidates this (Friday) evening at 8 o'clock sharp. Business proposed to be presented will be given consideration. All Proposals are expected to be present, wearing their Fez and showing their 1921 card.

"A BEAUTY!" That's what you'll exclaim, my boy, when we show you the fine points about this Harvard Bicycle. We cannot describe all of the advantages about this dandy wheel in this small space, but we would like to have you call and examine this handsome "bike."

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Admit No Knowledge Of Master Builders

Members of Trades Council Decide to Stand Pat and Await Developments

After discussing for several hours the proposed twenty per cent reduction in the wages paid union men engaged in commercial building here, members of the Wilmington Building Trades Council, in session last night, decided that they would stand pat and await the next move. At the conclusion of the meeting J. M. Maughlin, president of the Building Trades council, gave the Star the following statement: "Who is the Master Builders' association? An organization of which organized labor knows nothing about."

"We ask this above question after noting the article in the local papers of recent date decreeing that the rates of recent building contracts must be reduced after February 28, and stating the different scale of wages which the Master Builders' association see fit to quote.

"Owing to the fact that none of the different crafts have any agreement of any kind with the Master Builders' association, we see no reason why they should make any adjustment in wages. "How Things Really Stand" is the title of an article in the local papers which has been lived up to by both parties and at the present date there has been no differences or difficulties of any sort which have not been met satisfactorily and adjusted by these agreements to both parties.

REPARATIONS QUESTION MUST BE SETTLED, SAYS BRIAND. PARIS, Jan. 27.—Tomorrow will be the decisive day of the conference, Premier Briand told the Associated Press at the close of the meeting today which lasted four hours, and which closed under somewhat optimistic circumstances "this reparations question must be settled once and for all before Saturday night," M. Briand said. M. Briand seemed to treat the question of disarmament of Germany as of less importance, saying "the reparations question must be settled first."

Marriage licenses are required in all the states and territories except Alaska, California and New Mexico require both parties to appear and be examined under oath or submit affidavits.

Wrestling Series Is Evened Up By Hanson

Puts Ellis Down in Tough Bout of Record-Breaking Duration

Hanson evened up the thousand-dollar series between himself and Kid Ellis last night when he pinned the shoulders of the local boy to the mat after three hours and twenty-three minutes of fierce grueling. The bout was staged at the Academy of Music before a packed house and even though the battle lasted past midnight the audience had become so interested that no one left on account of the lateness of the hour.

After much debate, Hanson and Ellis decided to continue the match, agreeing that whoever got the first fall should be winner. The wrestlers went to it again and in three minutes Fritz secured a combination wrist-lock and hammer-lock on Ellis, pinning his shoulders to the mat. "Until last night the longest match ever staged in Wilmington was between Hanson and Seaholm. This bout, which was held last winter, went for three hours and a few minutes. The bout last night was declared to have been one of the best ever held here. Hanson was on the defensive practically all of the time, but put up a game fight.

The area of the island of Cuba is 45,881 square miles, or about that of Pennsylvania.

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