

The Gazette-News

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Thursday, September 21, 1911.

THE KAISER'S COSTLY AFRICAN POLICY.

Unless the optimism of the German press is unwarranted, the "conversations" between the French and German foreign offices over Morocco will end shortly, and the war specter which has had the world's money markets in a cold sweat for months will be laid for the time being.

As settlement in full for the claims and demands Germany has made in Morocco, France has offered that part of the Congo which has the river Sangha as its Southern boundary, with a strip of territory giving an outlet to the Atlantic above Libreville.

Emperor William has again shown, for the third time in six years, that although last in that fertile field, he is a factor to be reckoned with in the partitioning of Africa.

It was Emperor William's strong arm and inflexible will which forced the Algeciras conference in 1906 and checked the plans of Great Britain and France for partitioning northern Africa between them.

Much good, we trust, we believe, will come of the movement initiated by the Board of Trade in naming a committee to lay plans to secure a meeting of the heads of commercial bodies, editors, etc., of all western North Carolina, in Asheville while the fair is in progress.

New York did not take kindly to the idea of having the Binford girl "in our midst," but the metropolis is very glad to receive Gaby Deslys.

The papers of the State are not at all backward about letting the Henderson authorities know what they think of the handling of the Hawkins case.

Do not call this Indian summer. In the first place, it is not time for it yet; secondly, this is the real, common or garden variety.

when Germany entered the lists, so that the Kaiser's chief battle has been for economic advantages. Germany has a large and increasing merchant marine, in which, by the way, it is said the Kaiser is heavily interested personally, and which does a thriving business in African waters.

It is thus seen that the Kaiser has been in a measure successful in his African diplomacy, but what his people think of paying the piper is another question.

THE "RULE OF REASON."

President Taft declared in his Detroit speech, in speaking of the Sherman anti-trust law: "It has required 20 years of litigation to make the statute clear. But it is now clear."

These things being true, there are some people who seem to think the President should see to it that certain trust magnates are put in jail. The New York World is of this opinion, saying: "But with all respect to the President, we do not believe he will ever put a full set of teeth into the Sherman law until he enforces it as a criminal statute."

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The crunch of the tromping underfoot of individual rights is still heard in the land. Kissing in public is forbidden in Kansas City.

These postmasters are first class; men of the high stamp, it might be remarked.

Playgrounds for the Children.

Editor of The Gazette-News: Apropos of the agitation by the Child's Welfare society of the question of playgrounds for children, and of Dr. Hart's expert testimony in regard to the value of such a provision, it may be well to recall a coincidence that seems to the writer very significant.

Ten or twelve years ago, more or less, a "gang" of small boys in a certain part of the town organized a "club"; and, having no better place for the same, they began to play on one of the residential streets. A "cop," in the performance of his sworn duty, soon put a stop to this. The youngsters then repaired to a vacant lot, which they found much better suited to their purpose. They were congratulating themselves on the good that had come out of seeming evil, and were ready to pass a vote of thanks to the officer of the law, when the owner of the property appeared and drove them from the field.

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THE POWER OF STEAM.

Many May See But It Takes Genius to Realize.

When James Watt saw the steam causing the kettle lid to jump up and down he said, "There must be power in that steam that it can lift such a weight."

There was. Millions prior to him had seen the same phenomenon and regarded it as an unexplained mystery.

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was unconstitutional whenever such regulation interfered with the regulation of interstate rates by the federal interstate commerce commission. If the two kinds of regulation clash, which should surrender the field? Judge Sanborn's decision was pre-eminently nationalistic. Yet there was danger in such a decision, for while effective state regulation of interstate rates may be rendered impossible, the federal authority would still be non-effective in the same area, and the twilight zone between federal and state control would appear wherein the carriers would be supreme.

But, putting aside the special case of the action of the carriers, how are we to answer many of the questions which immediately arise in connection with the step they have taken? There are no indications that the conference considered these questions, except in the most hurried and cursory manner. According to the press report, a committee of three governors, Harmon of Ohio, Hadley of Missouri and Aldrich of Nebraska, was appointed to represent the governors' conference in this case, and to file briefs with the Supreme court as a protest against Judge Sanborn's decision.

The governor's conference is neither an American citizen nor a state. It has nothing that has hitherto been recognized as a legal or corporate entity. Suppose the court asks, "Who or what are you?" By what arguments are the three governors and their counsel to convince the court that they, representing not their respective commonwealths, but a conference of only 25 out of 48 governors convened for the discussion of public questions, for the exchange of information and for social intercourse, are entitled to be heard as one of the interested parties in the case before that august tribunal?

It is enough to say that if the United States Supreme court should concede the right of the governors' conference to be heard at the bar of that tribunal, the court's action would be equivalent to an official recognition by the highest interpreter of constitutional law in America of the standing of the conference under the American constitutional system. We should then have in the governors' conference an entirely new branch of government, with a status established on the unshakable rock of the court's recognition of its existence as a political entity entitled to be heard in the settlement of judicial and constitutional questions.

It is hardly possible that such a development would be viewed with composure even by the states, for, notwithstanding the fact that the governors' conference could be depended upon to defend and also promote the rights of the states, these commonwealths would never view without jealousy the creation out of their own officials of a body which possessed a distinct federal status not absolutely subordinate to their own. The act on the part of the governors certainly raises an important question of constitutional development, even as it seems to precipitate a struggle between the new

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