

THE VALLEY OF THE RHONE. AMERICAN GOODS AND AMERICANS IN THE SILK COUNTRY OF FRANCE.

LYONS, FRANCE.—This Rhone valley is one of the richest parts of the French republic. Its products amount to hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and there is scarcely a family which has not a hoard stored away in a wooden stocking under the rafters. It already buys many American goods, but the field is not half worked. Lyons, where I am writing, has a population of 500,000. It has excellent stores, but they are filled with French, English, German and Belgian goods, and the chief American products to be seen are California fruits, Chicago bacon, typewriters and sewing machines. And still the American vice would walk rapidly into the hearts of the better classes, and our ice cream soda would make its way into the affections of the Lyons weak maidens. I found American soda fountains doing a good business in England. There are none in Paris and only a few in Berlin and Hamburg.

OPENINGS FOR AMERICAN DRUGS.

We should have a good trade here in American drugs. We ship many to England, but none to speak of to France. The French drugs are poor. They are made by the natives of diluted extracts and adulterated solids. You have to take doses the size of horse pebbles to accomplish the desired result, and the medicines as a rule are put upon the homeopathic plan. Our consul at Lyons recently sent out for a dozen two-grain quinine pills, replying to the word "grain" by the letters "gr." The druggist interpreted this to mean grain, and the result was that the dose taken was big enough to kill an ordinary man. The quinine was so strong, however, that it only made a buzzing in the consul's ears. He complained to the druggist and tried to have him introduce American specialties, but so far has only succeeded as to poison patients. The druggist says that chemical products will not stand the voyage across the Atlantic, and he intimated that the French goods surpass the American.

THE AMERICAN BATH.

There is one specialty in the drug line, however, that the Frenchman could be worth imitation. This is the American bath. You see the sign "American bath" over one or more saloons in every continental city. The principal hotels of Europe advertise American baths, and the genuine American bath has plenty of custom. The American cocktail makes the Frenchman smile and he rises responsive to the Kentucky "high ball."

The most of the bars, however, are French. They keep no American liquors and the drinks are manipulated by French bartenders who cannot speak English. The other day an American drummer dropped into one for a drink and called out in loud tones: "I want a glass of American whiskey." "Comment?" said the waiter, with a puzzled look on his face. "Bring me a Manhattan cocktail!" said the drummer.

And thereupon the drummer got angry and cursed the Frenchman for putting up an American sign, when he had no American drinks and could not even understand American language.

There is a real American bar in Lyons, and it is the most fashionable drinking place in the city. It was started by a New Yorker, who thoroughly understood the science of making the inebrious but destructive American cocktail, and who did it so

well that he has made a fortune out of the business.

CHAMPAGNE AT 20 CENTS A BOTTLE.

And still I don't see why the French should care for American liquors, when they have the best and the cheapest wines of the world. You can get good claret here by the barrel for four cents a quart, and champagne which is not at all bad for 20 cents a pint or 10 cents a glass. A fat claret is served in the restaurants at 16 cents a bottle, and all sorts of wines are remarkably cheap.

This is not far from some of the chief wine-raising sections. I passed train loads of Burgundy and claret on my way from Paris to Lyons. The wine was carried in tank cars, just as we carry coal oil, and some trains were composed of great hogsheds on trucks, each hogshed marked with a number for miles through vineyards, every vine having its individual stake, the whole country apparently growing poles about which green vines were climbing.

SEND ELEVATORS TO FRANCE.

I would advise our elevator factories to systematically work the European trade. Everyone here lives in a flat. Lyons is a city of flats, and this is so throughout the continent. Paris is a gigantic beehive of living apartments, and small houses cannot be built. The result is the people live in apartments and not one family in a thousand has a house to itself. The most of the flats are five stories and only the fewest of them have elevators. This is also true of the hotels. A vast amount of building is going on in all of the cities and hundreds of new apartment houses without elevators are being constructed. Such elevators as are made in Europe are twenty years behind the times. They are slow and stuffy. The ones that so far have only succeeded as to poison patients. The druggist says that chemical products will not stand the voyage across the Atlantic, and he intimated that the French goods surpass the American.

QUEER FEATURES OF FRENCH FLATS.

There are many curious features in French tenement houses. The renters put in their own gas fixtures and the landlords insist that the pipes be put outside the walls, saying that if they are inside they may leak. At the close of his lease the tenant takes the fixtures away with him or sells them to the incoming tenant.

The heating arrangements are very bad. As a rule every man heats his own apartment and stoves are used. Steam heating plants are not known by the majority of French householders, and only the fewest of the apartments have electric lights.

It is wonderful how the people crowd themselves into small flats. To save room, cupboards are often built in the walls of the larger apartments. Each cupboard when closed looks as though it might be a door leading into another room, but when opened you can see it has a bed inside it and you learn that it is there the children sleep. The rooms of such apartments are all connected. The floors are very good and they are kept shiny by means of iron shavings which look much like excelsior. These are sold at so much a pound, and they scour the floor until it shines.

JUDAS SLITS.

One of the queer features of every front door is what the people here call

Yankee Drugs for French Diseases—How American Cocktails Make Johnny Crapaud Smile—Our Consul at Lyons—Queer Features of French Life—Flats Houses and Their Judas Windows—Claret at Four Cents a Quart and Champagne at Twenty Cents a Bottle—Carpenter Takes a Three-Cent Bath—He Writes of French Grades Unions and Their Old Age Pensions—The Postal Savings Banks and Their Enormous Deposits.



THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND OF THESE CHILDREN HAVE DEPOSITS IN THE SAVINGS BANKS.

a "Judas." This is a little plate of with slits a sixteenth of an inch wide brass about as big as a visiting card cut in it. This card is tucked over a little hole in the door and is so arranged that the person within can peep through and without being seen, tell who is knocking before deciding whether she is at home or not. If she does not want to receive her caller the servant gives word that she is not in and therefore the name Judas. I don't know but that this is quite as honest as the Judas kisses which our ladies often give their callers when they wish that they are elsewhere.

I have gone through several flats here in Lyons. The best of them have no comfort for the servants. The usual place for the hired girl is a little jolt, made by cutting off half the height of the kitchen, just wide enough to hold a bed, where the girl crawls off to sleep. She has no light but from the kitchen and the ventilation is poor.

A BATH FOR THREE CENTS.

And still Lyons has some very good things. How would you like a bath for three cents? I had one today, and two

and does more business than any consulate in France except Paris.

It deserves to be made a consulate general, inasmuch as Lyons is the commercial center of manufacturing France, and in the most thickly populated part of the country.

I am glad to find a consul here who speaks French. Our American representative is Mr. John C. Covert, who is well known to the newspaper world of the United States from his long connection with the Cleveland Leader. Mr. Covert began life as a printer's devil in the Leader office, but at the age of 21 came to Paris with hardly enough money to pay a week's board bill. He lived in France for eight years, supporting himself by teaching the Frenchmen English. Like Bayard Taylor, he came to Paris on one end of it to the other, studying the people and learning the language. After a time he returned to the United States and remained there until the election of President McKinley, when he was sent to Lyons.

There is an opening for our carpenter's tools and hardware and also for American sewing machines. The Singer machine sold here is the Singer. This company has thoroughly organized its foreign trade. It has agencies in every country and in every town, and it practically monopolizes its field. There is no reason why other machines would not sell equally well if they were properly pushed. The French and German cannot make such machines in comparison with us.

I find Deering harvesters and McCormack reapers largely used in the Rhone valley and think there should be a big opening here for American plows and other implements. Mr. Antriat, one of the Deering representatives at Paris, tells me that the farm laborers are gradually going to the cities. They are working in the factories, and the result is that machinery must take their place. This is so not only in France, but in all parts of the continent, and as a result there is an increased demand for agricultural tools. Every manufacturing country, too, should study the export trade. There is money in it.

HOW THE FRENCH WORKMEN COMBINE.

The recent trouble between labor and capital in the great coal strike leads me to write of the workmen's organizations in the Rhone valley. This city of Lyons has numerous trades unions. Every day and there is a strike, but the men still work long hours and for small pay. They have, however, some very good institutions, and among these are the workmen's aid societies. These are a sort of mutual benefit or pension associations, intended to give their members money in their old age. The members enter when young, and at 55 expect to have enough money saved to be able to retire and live on their pensions. The amount of pension is in proportion to the length and amount of saving, and the members range all the way from three years to 60.

Hundreds of school children belong to such associations, and the government itself aids in their support. There are now more than 2,500,000 members. The societies pay out \$6,000,000 pensions every year, and have assets amounting to about \$60,000,000. The societies are under the control of the interior department, and the officials believe that they prevent strikes and socialist tendencies.

These associations were begun just after the French revolution, and they are in a thriving condition today. They can be organized by any class of workmen or employees. Some of them are composed of clerks, some of salesmen, and many of factory hands. The members are required to pay monthly dues, and the money is invested in government bonds at 3 per cent. This is added to by the government, so that the funds bring in at least 4 1/2 per cent, which interest goes on at a compound rate and accumulates the vast amounts which are given out for old age pensions.

There are also accident societies and societies organized by the different railroad companies and other large corporations for their employees. It is wonderful how the money grows out of these small savings. Two cents a day

laid aside for 16 years gives an income of about \$100 a month from that time on, and more produces money in the same proportion.

The government is so organized that such societies are formed in any community. Deposits can be made wherever there is a postoffice. The smallest deposit is a franc or 20 cents, but postage stamps are accepted, and many poor people buy savings stamps and paste away a cent at a time until they can make up the deposit for a month.

FRENCH POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

The postal savings banks of France have deposits amounting to more than half a billion dollars, and their receipts, including the interest, amount to more than \$150,000,000 a year. There are now about three and a half million postal savings bank depositors, and these include all classes of people and persons of all ages. There are almost as many women as men among the depositors, and also 200,000 French children. Many of the depositors are farm hands and tens of thousands of them are employees in the mills and factories.

About 5,000 school children have such accounts and they are encouraged by the teachers to open them. In every common school a child can deposit with the teacher amounts of one cent and upward, and the agent of the postal savings banks comes around once a month and collects the savings. When the child makes its first deposit it gets a bankbook, and when its deposits have reached a franc or 20 cents it is supplied with a bigger one.

Parents often lay aside money in these banks for their children, so that they can have a capital with which to begin life when they reach manhood or womanhood. Mothers lay aside money for their daughters' dowries, and girls thus save for their wedding trousseaus.

The most of such savings is invested by the government in bonds and mortgages. The government pays an interest of 2 1/2 per cent on the deposits, but no account is allowed to run over \$400, after which the depositor can, if he wishes, draw out the money and start again. The government officials give depositors advice as to investments, and especially so when the government or the municipalities are about to issue loans. Such loans are made in bonds of low denomination and the result is that almost every family in France is a bondholder. Every man, woman and child who is interested in such bonds or in the government savings banks feels that he is a part of the government, and is consequently a patriot.

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BEAR HUNT INVITATION



President Roosevelt hopes in the near future to visit Governor Hobbs of Mississippi, and accept the latter's invitation to engage in a bear hunt. The president has assured the governor of his intention to seize the first opportunity to get at him.

ROBERTS COMING.



General Lord Roberts, head of the British army, is coming to the United States. He is trying to persuade General Kelly Kenny to accompany him.

A PLUCKY LITTLE PHILOSOPHER.

Out in Riverside there lives a little chap who deserves a place in the world's philosophy along with Mr. Wiggs and David Harum. He is by nature sunny and is apt to take the world as it comes along. His that are childhood tragedies to most youngsters are usually passed by with a smile. For this he rightly has been considered something of a wonder, but the climax came one other day. He had gone to play with a neighbor's child and the boys, seeking excitement, had managed to climb to the top of a big tree. Our little philosopher had only just reached the top when his foot slipped and he fell to the ground. He uttered a word and it was the scream of the playmate that attracted the attention of the mother. The doctor came and found two bad fractures of the leg and hip. The little fellow bore the setting of the bones patiently. After it was done the mother slipped out of the room to hide her own tears. A faint little sound came from the room where the injured boy lay. She hurried back almost hoping to find him crying.

"My son," she said, "do you want something? I thought I heard you call."

"Oh, no, mother," answered the little fellow, "I didn't call. I just thought I'd try singing a bit." And he went on with the song.—Chicago Chronicle.

HITS the Real Estate News are closely interested in buying etc.

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the dance

Light and ants to the Street Found a Real

of forcing without it is now being intro-points of the country work very well. The in the endless chain of a series of re-a preliminary heating wing from the bring rich, or water leg, at its chamber. Beyond chamber, and on the rich, is the main con-which the coal reaches and by the time the en to the fair and nters or all consumed, the first chamber is sage through the sec-baler dies and dies no principle is being a consumption of coal An heavy a draft as an be used with this successfully causing leved that the street will sell its Second as there will not be for it, with the r plant, and the real very valuable.

AST YEAR

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—Archbishop Rierdan and Garrett McNery, started today for

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Remains Wednesday

—The remains of John die here July 20, will United States Nov. 5, nd her daughter, the will accompany them. Mrs. Mackay's stay in tain, and may be only answer to Kansas.

ov. 3.—The answer of lerado in the suit of us vs Colorado for the e use of the water of by the latter state United States supreme in general, the de-bill at complaint are set forth that the ap-water complained of sistance upon the doc- the application of the aral streams for bene-a, by usage and cus-the arid region of the the time of said appli-ph, by the recognition the United States has in the law applicable in said arid region." the people of Kansas recognized the neces-of the water of the purpose of irrigation water themselves.

FLASHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GR. AT COAL STRIKE ARBITRATION COMMISSION.



This is an authentic flashlight photograph of the Coal Strike Arbitration Commission appointed by President Roosevelt, showing the board in actual session. The Commission is now diligently at work collecting evidence and gathering facts, the testimony of the miners being first taken. They may be regarded as the plaintiff in the case. Throughout the investigation the meetings of the Commission will be held at Wilkesbarre, Philadelphia and New York. President Roosevelt's instruction to the Commission urges them to leave no stone unturned to get at the very bottom of the controversy. The whole country eagerly awaits the report of the Arbitration Board. This is the first time a board of such construction and under such circumstances has been appointed. The experiment is therefore watched with keen interest.