

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2, 1931

BILLS VETER FOR TODAY

THE LORD SUSTAINS—The Lord will upon the Lord...

THE YOUNG DIE SIMPLY—The young die simply, they are not afraid...

FLAYER—Father, enable us to be worthy of Thy wonderful promise...

THE YOUNG DIE SIMPLY—The young die simply, they are not afraid...

DIAMONDS

In the little province of Namaqualand in South Africa a group of happy and contented farmers lived. The soil was fertile, the climate mild and pleasant, and the crops, while not always bringing rich returns in the markets, were always sufficient to guarantee a roof over one's head, three square meals a day and such clothes as one needed. The farmers were all honest hard-working people and lived together peacefully and contentedly. A plow could be left in the fields in the evening without danger of its disappearing before morning.

Then one day diamonds were discovered. Most of the diamonds for which South Africa is famous are found near Kimberley. Alexander Bay is the center of the diamond diggings. But just enough diamonds were found in Namaqualand to turn everyone's heads. The poor people quickly saw great riches easily within their grasp. Farms were abandoned and practically the entire populace turned to diamond hunting.

As the word spread that diamonds had been found in Namaqualand, the big diamond companies stepped in and promptly bought up most of the lands on which there was any possibility of diamonds existing. At about the same time also came many crooks and adventurers looking only for easy money. It did not take the big companies long to get possession of all of the important diamond areas. Then the new-comers who had been looking for easy money, as well as the old timers who had abandoned their farms, had about reason for being willing to work the diamond fields for \$1.50 a day. Though whatever diamonds they found belonged to their bosses, they had no hesitancy in putting particularly attractive stones in their mouths and walking out with them. The old timers would not stoop to do this at first, but they became very envious of their fellow workmen who were not so scrupulous and who were soon riding around in expensive motor cars and living in fine houses.

The companies too realized that something was wrong and began enforcing very stringent regulations to keep their diamonds from being stolen. The workmen were herded into compounds like cattle, stripped of their clothing, dressed in uniforms without pockets, and watched carefully by guards throughout the day. All diamond reservations were fenced off and no one was allowed to approach or depart without a pass. But still the diamonds continued to disappear.

Now it is said that the fever has spread to the old timers and that anyone who can swallow a diamond and get away with it does so. Conditions have become so bad that the diamond, most precious of all gems, famed for its purity, is now known in Namaqualand as a "noxious weed". Many have been caught stealing, and many have been sent to prison. Families have been broken up and much sorrow prevails.

The farmers of Namaqualand are wishing that diamonds had never been found there.

PROGRESS IN GERMAN SELF-HELP
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

In signing an emergency decree compelling the individual German states to put their financial houses in order, President Hindenburg has not only marked a milestone in the march of centralization in Germany, but has undertaken the most notable measure of self-help since the campaign started.

On the birth of the Republic, the German states resigned the prerogative to collect certain taxes on condition that the Reich retained to them a large share of the proceeds and inferentially helped them out in emergencies. Such a compromise flew in the face of sound fiscal practice. It introduced a division of responsibility between the authority spending taxes and the authority spending them. The result may be easily imagined. To the states and communes the Reich appeared in the guise of a milk cow.

Relieved of responsibility as tax-paying authorities, the states became extravagant, and put in hand all manner of programs providing for unproductive expenditures. At first these were met by the contribution of loans abroad. Since the interest on these loans was not yielded by the improvements, the states soon got into difficulties, and from time to time applied to the Reich for assistance. The drain on the central budget increased. But from the budgetary standpoint the worse feature was the uncertainty attending the states' requisitioning of funds.

This lack of fiscal coordination has been pointed out by foreigners and Germans alike. The Dawes committee intended that it should be remedied immediately after its plan came into effect. Mr. Seymour Parker Gilbert, Agent-General of Reparation Payments under the Dawes plan, became brusque when nothing was done. The problem only grew weightier. So disturbing did it become that last year the German Finance Minister added the following comment to the budget:

The financial settlement between the Reich and the states and communes is the keynote of public finance. It cannot and must not be allowed to become a question of who is to secure the largest share in the booty; it is a question of responsibility and expenditure in such a way that the public purse will suffer and the requirements of Germany's situation.

There is warrant in this statement for the allegation of many observers that here lay the root of the Reich's budgetary disorder. Of course, the trouble was that the problem was more political than financial. The assertion of state rights is not limited to Germany. The federal authority always meets

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Florida Milk

Remarkable strides have been made in Florida during the past few years in the dairying business. Milk and dairy products in general are rapidly reaching a level which invites favorable comparison with any other state. The eradication of the dread Florida cattle tick has made possible the importation and breeding of high grade cattle which have materially reduced the amount of dairy products formerly supplied Floridians from outside farms.

"No more important public service is being rendered the people of Florida and all who come to the state, from the standpoint of good health, than that by the state milk inspection bureau, at the head of which is a splendid Gainesville citizen, Dr. John M. Scott," says the Gainesville Sun. "There recently was given to the public a statement in which were outlined some of the provisions made through legislative process, for the protection of consumers of milk and milk products."

"Briefly stated, there are certain requirements in defining just what constitutes milk and what constitutes cream. The inspection laws prevent adulteration and severe penalties to be imposed upon any who might be inclined to break that law. Adequate labels are provided in Florida so that the purchaser knows what is being bought for use and consumption.

"One of the immediate and direct benefits arising from the new milk production and distribution enactments is the encouragement of Florida's dairy interests in the direction of furnishing a supply of pure milk from Florida cows instead of having it shipped into the state from points often far removed. When the new regulations were put into effect some two or three years ago, the 'balance of trade' in the milk business was greatly against Florida. Milk was imported in tank car lots in addition to the truck shipments. Dr. Scott's department set out to put over a campaign of education which has been so successful Florida today is 'growing' its own milk crop in such quantity, so it is said, that importations are no longer necessary in filling the demands, even during the winter season.

"So we may be thankful that pure Florida milk is available to everybody and, right now, at prices below normal. The advice to drink milk for health's sake is as sound today as it ever was. A quart a day for the kiddies and a pint for the grown-ups is not too much."

RUSSIA AND AMERICA
LAKELAND LEDGER

The article in this issue by Mrs. Anton Schneider on the Soviet challenge ought to be read by every person who is capable of realizing what is taking place in this world of ours. Concerning that Russia will succeed in its plan of leveling society for the time being, there is every reason to believe that any material improvement in the condition of people there will be reflected in all parts of the globe. It is contrary to human experience that any people will submit to conditions that will keep them in chains indefinitely, under the sanction of a great program that will substitute itself to government.

If the Russian five-year plan succeeds, there will be another step, as Mrs. Schneider observes, and still another for at least an entire generation. The status of the whole people necessarily must be raised by any program of this nature, and the Soviet experiment may actually lift the workers and peasants up to a level that will be helpful to other workers in the rest of the world by their own example. Business may be slow but these last few days are philosophy.



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