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ARCHDUKE FRANZ FERDINAND OF AUSTRIA BOASTS: 'NO MAN CAN STOP ME'

Vienna, Austria, Feb. 25. — Archduke Franz Ferdinand, a European nobleman, stood before a gathering of his subjects yesterday to announce, "No man can stop me."

The royal continued,

Serbian peasants stacked like logs.

Those close to His Highness are quick to apologize for his behavior, noting that the burden of nobility, however minor, is never easy to bear; but some observers



The Archduke, here pictured with his wife, Sofia.

"Were any harm visited upon my most exalted person, the crowned heads of Europe would stir themselves in their might, and God Himself could not stem the tides of blood that followed! All the world would be set aflame, and the horrors would not cease until the destruction of the hemisphere itself was complete!"

QUITE THE FOP

The archduke is reported to be in fine fettle as of late. His Highness, as he demands to be addressed, has been acting quite the cockerel, according to European dispatches. He is planning a vacation in Sarajevo next season, where he is expected to be seen boasting and strutting about, coming on like quite the fop, cutting a rakish profile, jutting forth his chin, and generally comporting himself in a brash and untoward manner.

DISMISSES RUMORS

"I'm quite the raffish rogue, quick with the rapier and rapier wit alike, and I'm not afraid to unsheathe both, if necessary," he said. "I've heard rumors that there are ethnic tensions seething throughout my empire," he added. "Poppycock. Will someone please be charged with keeping dew off my snuff tin?"

The archduke then arbitrarily boasted that he has a summer home made out of

CONCERNED PARENTS CALL FOR OPERA RATING SYSTEM.

Read the story on page 13.

Henry Ford's New 'Assembly Line' Frees Workers' Minds to Contemplate Meaningless Void of Existence.

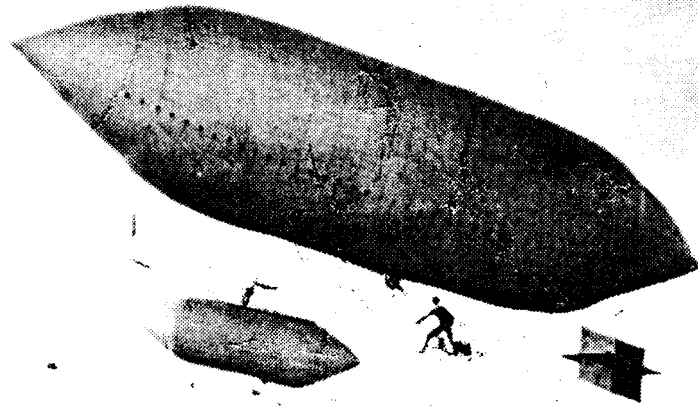
Read the story on page 13.

have taken issue with young Ferdinand's rakish behavior.

"We live in an age of Progress, in which royalty is but a symbol for the masses, and true power and lieg-hood lies with the industrial plutocracy," said noted smelting magnate J. Willoughby Sloane of Philadelphia. He does not doubt that others will agree that the puff-chested archduke is asking for trouble, and that no one should care if such a noble were to come to some harm. "The archduke is a symbol of a bygone era," Sloane said, "and in this century, men shall not care in the least if harm, no matter how grievous, were to come upon a mere figurehead."

BOASTS

Here are further excerpts from the archduke's speech: "I have a porcelain palace surrounded by six-foot-tall iron spikes... I'm surrounded by bodyguards, and I have a special getaway carriage equipped with a small concealed cannon, and I can shoot arrows tipped with poison... I have several peasant wenches who wait on me hand and foot, and a chest filled with precious jewels and gold bullion... No one has shot more pheasants... I have 1,278 pairs of kid gloves... I have more Victrola records than any other archduke... I am schooled in the gentlemanly martial arts, such as fencing and boxing per Marquis of Queensbury rules... I am extremely well-groomed... Woe betide the wretch who is foolish enough to try his hand at besting the great Franz Ferdinand, for, if a few swift sweeps of my blade don't dispatch him outright, surely any number of the crowned heads of Europe would quickly race to the defense of their noble brother to smite the lowly upstart's challenge to the Divine Right of imperial rule!"



Pictured above is the latest example of Teutonic superiority, an air-ship that can easily out-pace a loping horse.

U.S. BUREAU OF REVENUE NO LONGER ACCEPTING CHICKENS

Hard Currency or Bank-Cheque Only Methods of Paying New 'Income Tax'

CAPRICIOUS NEW LAW UNFAIR, SAY FARMERS

Washington, D.C., Feb. 25. — "Modernization" has come to the U.S. Subtreasury, effecting the establishment of the new Federal income tax. In accordance with its implementation, Revenue Commissioner Lawrence C. Pettigrew announced that the U.S. will not accept chickens or other poultry as payment for monies owed.

Said Pettigrew: "Although chickens have long been an acceptable form of viable legal tender for the rendering of federal tariffs on farm products, shipping, and other excises, certain fowl can no longer be acknowledged for such purpose, no matter how succulent."

DEEMED 'IMPRACTICAL'

Pettigrew explained that chickens were becoming a nuisance, as government employees sorted through the enormous stacks of income-tax paper-work filed by tax-paying citizens. Many of the forms arrived in cages along with the fowl, covered in chicken defecation and poultry-lice, and giving off a stench. A few chickens had pecked at the forms until they were well-nigh illegible, and some were presumed to have eaten the forms entirely.

Many of the chickens also laid eggs during their shipment to Washington, surprising the government with the unexpected and costly expense of sending back the eggs, which qualified as

over-payments, to their respective tax-payers.

Pettigrew cautioned that there was no viable way in which to deposit the amassing chicken-revenue. "Nothing in the Federal Reserve charter permits the acceptance of chicken-deposits, as it is difficult to calculate the birds' value, let alone interest," Pettigrew said.

The government has tried storing the chicken supply at the Federal gold reserves at Fort Knox, but this has proved impractical, as chickens do not stack in heaps side-by-side as well as gold and silver bullion.

INSTABILITY OF VALUE

Perhaps most importantly, the value of a chicken depreciates rapidly following its demise, and with the mass glut of poultry flooding into our Republic's capital, the government cannot sell deceased chickens to the populace, even at cut-rates, before the meat spoils and the carcasses become virtually worthless. "The advantage of legal tender or negotiable instruments," Petti-

grew said, "is that their value is much more stable over a given period of time. Government-backed currency is much less apt to die, or to decompose as quickly, as a chicken that has passed away. Currency is also backed with stores of gold and other precious metals, while chickens are backed with only their will to live, which, unfortunately, has not proven to be particularly strong."

EQUIVALENCY SCALE

Pettigrew recommended that Americans accustomed to poultry-based tax payments substitute hard currency or bank-cheques for chickens come Tax Day of next year, according to the following animal-tender scale:

Tax due: one to three chickens...two pennies. Three to five chickens...four pennies. Six to eleven chickens...six pennies. Goose of fertile age...one quarter dollar. Wild bull-turkey of roasting age...thirty cents. Slaughter pig...two quarter dollars.

Yesterday's Chicago Live Stock Market Quotations.

Beef steers, \$7@7.25; bulk fat cows & heifers, \$4.50@6.50; veal calves, slow to 25 cents lower; slunk calves, steady. Hogs, \$10.25@10.75; bulk packing sows, \$9.50@10; litterate hogs, \$8.75@9.50; dressed poultry remained full steady, with broilers, 28@28c; castrated roosters, 24@25c; cute baby ducklings, \$7.50 a bushel.

General Produce and Cash Grain Markets.

Oats—No. 1 white, 50@40c; No. 2 white, 31@32 1/2c. Wheat—No. 2 red, \$1.20@1.22 7/8; No. 2 northern dark, \$1.45@1.47. Hominy feed, white, per ton—\$30.25. Butter—creamy, fancy prints, 44@47; dairy, choice to fancy, 40@41. Tallow—special loose, 4 1/2c. Mother's milk—preferred, 42@43 7/8; wet-nurse, 37@39.

DOES AMERICA SUFFER FROM A 'ZEPPELIN GAP'?

'The Nation That Controls the Zeppelin Controls the World,' Secretary of War Proclaims

As the Kaiser continues to fortify his mighty fleet of zeppelins, voices of concern can be heard rising up from the bosom of this great Republic: Does the United States suffer from a zeppelin gap? Many a man believes the answer is yes.

GERMAN DOMINANCE

"Though it saddens me greatly, I fear that Lady Liberty cannot currently compete with the Germans in the arena of the flying dirigible contraption," said Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison during a speech to a joint session of Congress Friday.

At present, the Germans are said to be in possession of twenty-five zeppelins, compared to the Republic's two. What is more, the Kaiser's zeppelins are said to be capable of reaching speeds of up to fifteen miles per hour.

Further, his enormous airships can block out the sun, causing crops to wither and die, or causing lesser minds to mistake the air-ships for avenging angels of the Lord, inciting great panic.

AMERICA'S RESPONSE

Most worrisome is that the Germans are rumored to be developing an enormous 600-yard zeppelin which could carry as many as 28 armed men inside its hanging underbelly compartment. It may be obvious that the balloon-wielding enemy has a decided advantage in sky-to-ground combat.

"Were one of our boys to see a hostile airship, he would be unable to flee it on foot," Garrison said. "Such is the technology the Prussians possess."

The Secretary proposed building a country-wide network of pointed towers to provide a formidable defense against attacking air-ships. He also proposed an increase in zeppelin research spending, which could bring the total war budget to \$100,000. President Wilson may have no choice but to veto such an outlandish sum should it cross his desk.

In response to the growing U.S.-German zeppelin gap, Wilson has issued a challenge to America's leading dirigible makers: "Improve your zeppelins so that, if the need for war should arise, we may smite the Hun."

The president asserted that the United States has no immediate plans for war with Germany or any other nation.

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