

at Paris and San Remo, excluding all contact with the Soviets. According to the "Matin", France will nevertheless be represented in the economic negotiations. It is asserted that Italy has adopted the same attention.

Paris June 1st.—The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the League of Nations, asking for its intervention with a view to preventing the extension of the Bolshevik movement in Persia.

Paris June 2nd.—The "Temps", learns from an authoritative source in London that the negotiations for the reestablishment of commercial relations with Russia will extend over a considerable time, M. Krassin not having plenipotentiary powers, that requiring to consult with Moscow. According to the correspondent of "Excelsior" in London, M. Krassin, in the course of the conference with Mr. Lloyd George, declared that the raising of the blockade and the conclusion of peace were indispensable conditions for the reestablishment of commercial relations.

Paris, June 2nd.—The newspapers announce that in consequence of the improvement in the President's condition, the project for the convocation of a congress at Versailles with the view to the creation of a Vice-Presidency for the Republic, has been postponed. The "Petit Journal" says that although the President showed at the Council of Ministers yesterday that he recognized the general utility of the Project, he considered that, in the actual circumstances, the measure might appear unfavourable to him.

A SURPRISING DISCOVERY.

A rumour is current to the effect that a Demerara gentleman recently deceased had been in Barbados where he occupied a house on the sea coast at the stream, and that while there he indulged in the fancy of spreading bank notes between the bed on which he slept. He left the house forgetting the money there, and only remembered it in time to apprise his relatives just before his death. He died, and an inquiry a few days after, revealed the existence under the bed of a layer of notes aggregating a few hundred dollars. A servant admits putting the bed, but not sufficiently thorough as to turn the mattress. What a loss!—*Barbados Globe*, May 26th.

A MAN'S PRAYER.

"Teach me that sixty minutes make an hour, sixteen ounces one pound, and one hundred cents one dollar. Help me so to live that I can lie down at nights with a clear conscience, without a gun under my pillow, and unhaunted by the faces of those to whom I have brought pain.

Grant that I may earn my meal ticket on the square, and that in earning it I may do unto others as I would have them do unto me. Blind me to the faults of the other fellow, but reveal to me my own. Guide me so that each night when I look across the dinner table at my wife, who has been a blessing to me, that I will have nothing to conceal. Keep me young enough to laugh with little children, and sympathetic enough to be considerate of old age. And when comes the day of darkened shades and the smell of flowers, the tread of soft footsteps and the crunching of wheels in the yard—make the ceremony short and the epitaph simple."—*ibid.*

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN FLORIDA.

It has frequently been stated that Louisiana is the only one of the United States in which the sugar-cane can be profitably grown, and that Louisiana has already reached the limit of its possible production.

From recent articles however in American sugar journals, it seems likely that a large development of sugar production will shortly take place in Florida.

Historically, it appears that sugar cane was first cultivated in the United States in Florida, where a plantation was established as far back as 1767 for the purpose of growing sugar-cane and indigo. The enterprise, however, does not seem to have been successful, and it was only shortly before the American Civil War that an attempt was made to revive the industry. In 1860 Florida was credited with the production of a little more than 2,000,000 lb. of sugar. The Civil War seems to have practically extinguished the industry in the State.

Nevertheless, the production of syrup has been carried on extensively in Florida for many years, and during the past three years attention has been given to the possibility of developing the sugar industry on a large scale.

In the Everglades district hundreds of thousands of acres of land are being reclaimed by drainage operations. This island is thoroughly well adapted to cane growing. It is said that it has been fully demonstrated that this new land can grow crops of cane of more than average quantity and quality, and only the application of capital in the erection of modern sugar mills is needed to give Florida a position as an important source of sugar supply.

In *Facts About Sugar*, March 16, 1920, the formation of at least three large companies for the purpose of growing cane and manufacturing sugar in the above mentioned district of Florida is noted. It is stated also, that the area under cane in Florida at present is 16,318 acres, from which syrup and sugar are produced to the value of \$2,686,129. With the interest now being attracted to the industry, it is regarded as certain that a

rapid expansion in production will take place in the next few years.—*Agricultural News*, 17th April.

A MALAY MARRIAGE.

Among the Malays the choice of picking his wife does not belong to the youth but to his parents. When the parents deem it high time that their son should have a wife they call together some of their relatives, generally women. At this meeting parents with marriageable daughters are named and their character discussed. Having decided as to the parents to be approached first, they appoint an old lady to make the necessary arrangements. She then starts on her "hunting" for a wife expedition. When visiting the said parents she informs them that a certain person wishes to build a church. If the proposal is refused, the hunter proceeds to others. On the contrary, if the parents wish to accept the proposal they would ask the emissary to call again after a few days.

During these days the parents of the maiden call in a meeting of their relatives and inquire into the character and standing of the suitor and his parents. Having thus satisfied themselves that the youth is a suitable match for their daughter, they await the revisit of the hunter. At this visit their reply is given, and the amount to be spent by the would-be bridegroom for the marriage is named. When these primary points are settled the father of the youth fixes a day to call upon the parents of the other party, when the amount for expenses is handed over, together with a few clothings and jewelry (the quality of these depends on the bridegroom's standing), as a sign of their "betrothal". At this meeting is also fixed the wedding day. On the appointed day dinner is given in both houses, and at the hour of midnight the bridegroom is taken to his "plamin" [a chair in the shape of a throne] in a procession to the house of the bride, where both the "plamins" are placed side by side with the bride and bridegroom in them. This sitting together is termed "berstanding". From that time they are husband and wife.

A divorce is very easily effected. A "haji" [priest] is called, who separates them, thus breaking the bond of marriage. Divorce does not forbid them to marry each other again, or to any person. When marrying each other again the woman must undergo a marriage ceremony with another person before remarrying her divorced husband.—*Autumns of youth*.

There is a species of beetles, called the mordella, which are provided with 25,000 eyes each. The dragon fly is said to have no less than 20,000 eyes, and can observe anything in any direction without moving its head.—*Signs of the Times*, 11th May.