

# Briefly Told

Abraham Lincoln's father was in politics too; he was road supervisor of his district.

The anti-tobacco crusade is not new. King James I wrote and printed a "Counterblast to Tobacco," a copy of the first edition of which has just brought \$500.

Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, blames the world's sugar shortage on American prohibition. "Dry" countries use more sugar, he says.

Hamburger steak has been cut off the Navy menu "because there are so many opportunities of introducing low grade products" in its ensemble.

It is reported that the Vatican will make a second application for admittance of the Holy See into the League of Nations.

"A six-hour day isn't enough if a man is interested in his work," says Thomas A. Edison.

The laundry business was a money-maker for the United States Government during 1919. Laundry property to the amount of \$3,315,153 was paid for and a profit was made besides amounting to \$2,356,259.

The Potato Peelers' Union is the latest in the field, with headquarters at Chicago. Potato peeling is an art. The union scale is \$6 a day and three meals.

Geographically speaking, the Prince of Wales was correct in saying during his Toronto speech, "When I go down to the United States next week," etc.

"In the next war" there would be no more reason to forbid the use of gas than of rifle fire, one is as humane as the other—so says, seriously, Major General Sir Louis Jackson of the Royal Engineers.

Superstitious Fifth Avenue merchants in New York permitted gypsies to "bless" their money tills. Afterward it was found that some of the cash had disappeared.

"The degenerate west" is D'Annunzio's appellation for the United States.

The "navel orange" is a native of Brazil. Forty-five years ago its buds were grafted on two California orange trees. These two trees still survive, the parents of an industry that has produced \$40,000,000 in profits and now uses 175,000 acres in California alone. The "navel orange" was first brought to the United States by a missionary.

"Wilson felt the temper of the country accurately, both in keeping us out of war and declaring war," says Charles Zueblin.

An original painting of Abraham Lincoln was not removed from Bangor, Maine, to Philadelphia because no express company could guarantee delivery without damage.

"We have lost the spiritual leadership of the world." —Secretary of War Baker.

Lord Grey went about so very little during his stay in America that people wonder where and how he absorbed the complete understanding of the American situation which he revealed in his letter. The explanation is, he had a very efficient secretary, who was eyes and ears to him.

The coal and steel magnates of Germany, led by the ironmaster Stinnes, have bought the leading daily, weekly and monthly publications of that country. The outlook for a free press is therefore not much better than under Wilhelm.

Spain has extended France an additional year for the payment of the 450,000,000 pesetas now due.

Richard Bullock, the original of "Deadwood Dick," is dead in Los Angeles at the age of 75.

On January 1, there was in circulation in the United States \$5,846,086,199, or \$54.77 per capita.

Skins of the white whale and the hides of sharks are helping supply the leather deficiency.

Dr. E. E. Southard, famous psychiatrist, says the four types of labor unions correspond to the four types of human temperament. The phlegmatic temperament is best represented by the business type of union, such as the American Federation of Labor; the sanguine temperament by the uplift type of union, such as the Women's Trade Union League; the melancholic temperament by the revolutionary type of union, such as the I. W. W.; and the choleric temperament, by the predatory type of union, such as the gunmen and similar organizations.

"The Republicans are likely to win in November; they are committed to create 'order' in Mexico; and in following out that piece of patriotism they will lead us several years longer along the road to Prussian symmetry and to the best of all despotic worlds."—Norman Hapgood.

The University of Wisconsin has secured a professor of ancient history from the Imperial University of Petrograd, which has been practically abolished by the Soviets.

Federal authorities report there are 500,000 "Reds" among the population of New York City. The most dangerous "Red," they assert, is the native American who cannot be touched by the alien laws.

There are four Smiths in the Senate and four in the House.

Dr. Esther Lovejoy, president of the Medical Women's International Association, began life as a salesgirl in a dry goods store.

McLean County, North Dakota, saved \$1,645,000 by last year's campaign against gophers and grasshoppers. Seven hundred farmers participated.

Five hundred millions of dollars are squandered annually in "wild cat" investments in this country, according to Houston Thompson, Federal Trade Commissioner.

Fifty-two thousand Americans emigrated to Canada in 1919 and carried with them cash and effects valued at \$18,000,000. About the same number entered from England.

Even Benjamin Franklin was not satisfied with the Constitution. In an address to the convention he said: "I confess I do not entirely approve of this Constitution at present; but, sir, I am not sure I shall never approve it; for . . . the older I grow the more apt I am to doubt my own judgment . . . I agree to this Constitution with all its faults—if they are such—because I believe it . . . is likely to be well administered for a course of years.

In the Senate on Lincoln's Birthday, Senator Keyes read the Gettysburg speech from Lincoln's original manuscript which has been in the Senator's family for a number of years.

Because of the attitude of the Soviet Government the New York Life Insurance Company has closed its \$64,000,000 Russian account.

Jack Dempsey's manager consulted the collector of internal revenue at New York only to learn that if the pugilist receives \$500,000 for fighting Carpentier, the income tax will amount to \$304,350, leaving Dempsey "only" \$195,650.

New York was compelled to issue an order forbidding the use of trucks for one day to clear the streets of snow. Traffic prevented the snow-cleaners working 80 per cent of their time.

A South Carolina sportsman who sent President Wilson a wild turkey was fined \$10 for violating the game law.

Schleswig voted more than two to one to be detached from Germany and reunited with Denmark.

France has removed the tax on wheat harvested in France this year. To tax the growing of crops would seem to be an effective way of creating a food shortage.

Cardinal Gibbons will present Admiral William S. Benson, U. S. N., with a medal of military grade of the Order of St. Gregory, recently bestowed on the admiral by the Pope.

Snow first choked New York traffic. And then as a result of all forces being drawn to the work of snow removal, garbage and ashes accumulated to such extent as to constitute a new menace.

There are 24,000 vacant houses in rural New York. The farming population has been reduced by 3 per cent in one year, and the hired help by 17 per cent.

Influenza reports from the nation indicate a decrease in the number of cases compared with last year, but an increase in the proportion of deaths. This is accounted for by the fact that a large percentage of the deaths occurred among persons who had taken the disease the previous year and had not made a full recovery.

"This whole matter has been stirred up by the newspapers," says Admiral Sims, of the medals controversy.

In Poland you go shopping with a bag of potatoes—if you are fortunate enough to have them. You give 20 or 25 potatoes for a pair of shoes. Employees are paid in potatoes. A nobleman completely refurbished his estate, wrecked during the war, at a cost of 12,000 potatoes. It sounds strange, but how sensible it is, after all. A potato is always a potato, but when is a dollar a dollar?

The American army of occupation in Germany is so busy marrying German girls that the commanding general has called a halt.

Alessandro Volta, the Italian professor, the memory of whose electrical discoveries is perpetuated in the term "volt," will have unveiled to his memory a monument at Rome in 1927, the hundredth anniversary of his death.

President Wilson's activity upon emerging from his illness conveys a suggestion to all sick ones: stay at home until entirely able to begin work with a flourish.

To illustrate how factory waste means money waste, an eastern factory manager threw 147 silver dollars out of the window as representing a week's waste of needles alone.

Homes for tramps are rapidly disappearing from large cities, the tramps having largely disappeared since prohibition.

Another literary man, Robert Underwood Johnson, formerly editor of the Century, has been appointed United States Ambassador to Rome.

Nine men from nine departments of a university, set down on an island together, could start a modern civilization, says a university advertisement.

Tobacco growers of the United States have offered France a loan of 60,000,000,000 francs for the tobacco monopoly of that country.

General Grant wrote his memoirs under the advice of Robert Underwood Johnson, the new American Ambassador to Italy.

Bodies of American soldiers interred in France will be brought home, or remain in American Fields of Honor in France, as the soldiers' nearest of kin may desire. That is the final settlement of this question.

Premier Nitti saved the Italian cabinet situation by the greatest speech of his career in which he let fly a volley of the most unpalatable truths. Even in foreign diplomacy, truth has a novelty and a force which renders it useful.

Herbert Hoover says he gives his allegiance to neither of the existing parties because he does not yet think it is clear what either of them stands for.

Speaking in Springfield, Mass., Speaker Gillett said that the United States was facing the "worst financial crisis in its history."

"The British Navy did not win the war. The British Navy made it possible for the armies to win the war."—Admiral Jellicoe.

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