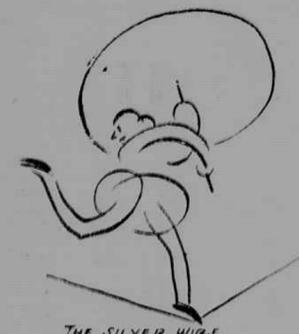


Was, Is, and Always Will Be—"Greatest on Earth"



THE SILVER WIRE.

By John P. Marquand

WHEN finally the decorative attendants, their voices still strong in spite of their pleas of the past three hours to buy popcorn and peanuts, speed you down the inclined plane which is the exit from the Garden with admonitions not to delay the crowd in back, some one is bound to ask you the ultimate question, Well, how did you like the circus?

And should you pause a moment before

you answer, you will find yourself in a maze of contradictions. You are flooded by recollections of other circuses; you struggle with comparisons. You may even pause to analyse your feelings, a fatal step that adds to your confusion. Yet in any event the same answer will be wrung from you. Out of the maze of unformed thoughts and visions of bright colors and impossibilities, you will hear yourself saying the same thing you said last year:

"Well, it's the same old circus."

You may have said it about the problem play the other night, but this time your voice contains no regret. You say it with relief, proud of your discovery. The gold Dianna and her how does not look over the roofs of Madison Square any longer. She gazes, instead, into the windows of office buildings and out upon a park where the fountain plays a decorous accompaniment to soapbox orators. Time has swept away the Eden Museo and its chamber of horrors. Pillars of victory stand on the ground where leannetons used to lock their wheels in jovial debate and O. Henry was wont to lay his plots of the "Four Million." The whirlpool of traffic has moved up twenty blocks. They have added an amendment to the Constitution. The world is growing better or worse, depending on how you look at it. But out of the chaos of change you feel sure that two things have remained the same—two institutions have withstood the ravages of reform. Down at the Battery the Aquarium is still the

Aquarium, and up at Madison Square Garden the circus is still the circus.

Toddy enough you are glad they have lived up to their tradition, that the fish still swim in the midst of doubtful Victorian surroundings; that the artist is yet to come who will put art into the circus poster. In pictures, at any rate, the lion and the tiger, the giraffe and the gun and a lot of other animals, whose names are too hard to spell, still lie down together in a blazing riot of color.

No artist has improved the composition of the galloping horses and their daring riders. They gallop on the wall outside in all their pristine charm, and inside the circus eternal the Greatest Show on Earth is still the greatest show.

No you wonder as you wander home through the bright lights how the circus has managed to do it, and perhaps you conclude that sadly enough and strangely enough the circus has never had a square deal. In the course of time some one has succeeded in taking almost everything seriously some of the time, but for some obscure reason the circus has been left out. You can't explain it, even granting the possibility that the circus is intended to be funny, for this hardly seems a valid reason for such perennial charity. We have analyzed most of our humorists with the same care that we have sought the alcoholic content in our better known beverages. We have discovered that comedy is merely a mixture of a few rather drab and conventional essentials. Away back



SUGGESTION FOR AFTER DINNER DIVERSION

maic unity has it got it? The climax—is it there? No one has told us. The circus has not stood in the X-ray of the critics, and therefore the circus has not had a square deal.

This is probably the fault of the circus as much as any one else. Plenty of things have been said about the circus. The only trouble is that they all have the insidious taint of circus propaganda, obscuring the real issue. The circus itself has seen to it that no one has ever taken up the circus in a serious way. Every year we have the joke about the tall man. They "hang something" on the bareback rider and they write the biography of Jumbo the elephant. Then they begin a story with the statement that the circus has come to town, and, embroidering on the news, get as far as the ringmaster and the orangutan and the popcorn. Sometimes they discuss the reason why the young boy leaves home to join the institution; sometimes you read the facts and figures story. If you stood all the sales of hay consumed by the colossal institution end on end, they

would reach a certain height. You can find out what the wild man eats for breakfast, what time most cheers the musical seal. Indeed, you can find out almost anything, except the great essential that the press agent touches upon ever so lightly and lovers about gingerly—the dramatic value of the greatest show on earth.

It seems strange that the circus evades it. It may be that its reluctance is a part of the great, unshakable tradition that has painted the posters and written the programmes. Surely the circus is not ashamed. It has no reason to be, because, if you stop to think of it, time and custom have gracefully combined to make it one of the greatest of our dramas. Take it from the beginning. Every aged feature, from the gay abandon of the rush to the ticket office to the grand opening pageant which was marching when Nero hung his rag over the railing of the Coliseum, forms a part, an essential link in the great play.

Right from the beginning you get the element of suspense. You get the thing that every playwright strives after the moment you pass under the colonnades of the yellow brick building. If you have your tickets, you wonder whether the show has started; if you have them not, you wonder if you will be able to buy them. Although it is the same feeling you have experienced every year, it is as poignant as it ever was. "Have your money ready!" some one is shouting in a noble monotone, and you search your pockets just as frantically as ever. Nor do you feel any particular relief

when you get your ticket, because then you wonder if you will find your place. Ahead of you is a glare of music, the incomparable music of the circus. A smell of wood shavings is wafted to your nostrils. You surge forward.

And still there is suspense, because you are waiting for the climax. They are riding the horses in the ring. You have seen them before, seen them so often that you have ceased to wonder at the defiance of gravity. Instead, while you are waiting you can watch the happy ending. It is bound to come. The clown who cannot

pushing over the deserted rings, making your way into the lower regions, where the elephants are yawning in majestic rhythm and up again where the Strange People stare at you in cold superiority. "This way out. Please keep moving," some one is calling, and then it is over.

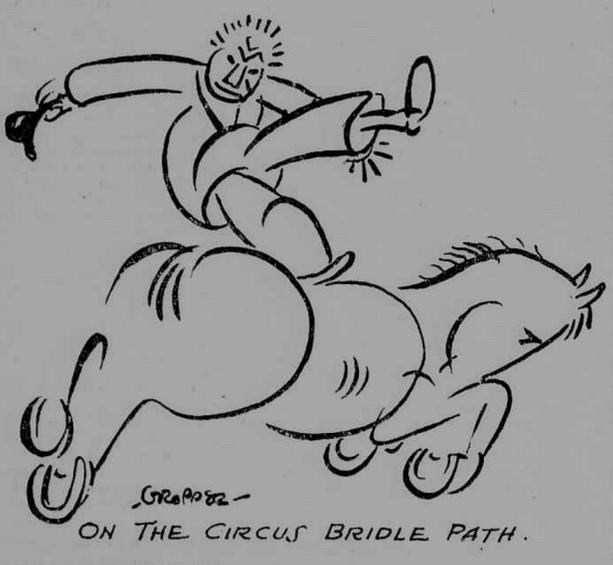
Outside the automobiles do not break in two. Men move by in a singularly normal manner, free from the glare of the spotlights. For a moment you expect something to happen, until you realize that the curtain has fallen and that the drama is over.

"Well," you say, "it's the same old circus."

And you are glad of it, glad that the play has not changed with a changing world.



WHEN THE TRAINED JORD IS CORNERED



ON THE CIRCUS BRIDLE PATH.



A TILT WITH GRAVITY

in the time of Sir Francis Drake some one contended for us that all the world was a stage, but few and feeble are the voices claiming that all the world is a circus. Somehow or other the circus as the circus has run the gamut in blanket form, its propriety unquestioned, its expediency unassailed. If it has a vicious, brutalizing influence on the young, no one has found it out. Its dra-



IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

And still there is suspense, because you are waiting for the climax. They are riding the horses in the ring. You have seen them before, seen them so often that you have ceased to wonder at the defiance of gravity. Instead, while you are waiting you can watch the happy ending. It is bound to come. The clown who cannot



THE MOST MUSICAL HORSE IN THE WORLD

Going Back 10,000 Years Behind the Garden of Eden

By William A. McGarry

ANOTHER ten thousand years may be added to recorded history as the result of work to follow an exhaustive survey of lands wrested by Britain from the Turks and plans now in the making by the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania and virtually every other institution in the United States and the countries of her allies interested in archeology and anthropology. The estimate is based on statements by cautious scientists who admit that they have already delved from three to five thousand years back of the latest date in the newest encyclopedia, and also that they have found references to a definite date as far back as ten thousand years before Christ.

philosophy of immanent reason had been of record only in Indian, Egyptian, Persian, Hellenic and Hebrew theologies, and the earliest important reference to it was in the sixth century B. C. The translation of a Babylonian tablet made by Langdon shows that the theory was known and rather widely expounded as early as 2,500 years before Christ.

These and other researches convinced Langdon and other archeologists years ago that the buried and forgotten cities of ancient Mesopotamia contain far older records than anything so far brought to light. Chief among these cities is Ur of the Chaldees, referred to in the Scriptures as the birthplace of the prophet Abraham. Owing to its inaccessibility and other difficulties with which the archeologist has had to contend, no extensive exploration ever has been started there.

The same is true of many other cities known to historians through the development of the comparatively new science of archeology, which is less than one hundred years old. When it is considered that it is less than eighty-five years since the

first Babylonian tablet was deciphered, it is evident from the records that tremendous strides have been made in revealing a knowledge of the manners and customs of ancient peoples. Yet the surface has hardly been scratched. Even in Babylon, Nineveh, Tellah, Nippur and a few other cities where British and American scientists concentrated their efforts in the last fifty years the work has not been completed. The principal difficulty has been lack of transportation. Trouble has been experienced also with the sheiks of the desert.

Making a Business Of Discovery

In the past archeologists have had to make the best of things, packing up priceless records as best they could and transporting them long distances by camel train. This resulted in a very large percentage of breakage. In all the clay tablet libraries of this country and Europe there are not more than a few score whole specimens. The loss is to be avoided in the future. According to the University Mu-

seum, it is planned to establish, probably at Baghdad, a clearing house in which a corps of experts representing all the institutions in the field will examine records found. They will then be packed up carefully and sent to the respective museums, with the danger eliminated of losing the information contained upon them.

"It is the hope of archeologists," says the University Museum, "that, with settled conditions assured for the future, transportation will show a rapid development, and that a central point may be established for the purpose of cleaning, comparing and deciphering tablets. As an instance of what this will mean, it may be mentioned that the tablet in the University Museum containing the Sumerian story of the food is broken off at a point where it starts to give information about the relation of the ancients to their gods. The collection from the Nippur library had to be brought back in such shape that it has taken twenty-five years to clean all the tablets.

"When labor and other conditions make it possible to resume work it is presumed that the British government will follow in

this case its historic policy of liberality toward the sciences, and will permit all properly organized bodies to operate under its protection. The opening of Palestine will be good news to all archeologists. Particularly in the south, where there has been virtually no work done, it is known that ruins of ancient cities lie buried at various points in this region, but many of them have never been visited by white men because they are under the protection of fierce bands of natives.

"A great number of educational and other institutions in this country are now taking preliminary steps to engage in archeological research, not only in Mesopotamia, but in Asia Minor and the islands of the Aegean Sea, where it is known there are buried many of the finest specimens of Greek civilization. These fields have been practically closed to science. It is true that in recent years the Turks did permit a certain amount of excavation, but invariably they refused to permit anything to be taken out of the country.

"Under supposed present plans of the

peace conference, Greece will get a portion of the Ionian littoral. Greece always has been favorable to archeological research. But back of the Greek holdings there are immense fields for exploration in territory whose political status is not now determined. If Armenia, for instance, obtains anything like the borders she seeks, it will open to excavation all of ancient Cappadocia, home of the Hittites. Absolutely nothing was known concerning this people until Dr. A. H. Sayce, of Oxford, opened the way to the translation of Hittite tablets a few years ago. Here is a wonderful field for the archeologist."

After the Soldiers The Scientists

According to reports being received by the museum from its agents in Palestine and Mesopotamia, the path is being cleared in all regions for a welcome to scientists by the work of the British armies. Even in sections where it has not been necessary from a military point of view to contend with native tribes their heretofore undisputed sovereignty, a good impression

has been made by the insatiable instinct of the British pioneer for order and progress. Huge tracts of land that were fertile fields in the days of Nebuchadnezzar and have been deserts ever since have been brought back to cultivation. Hostility toward outsiders is being dissipated.

Years of painstaking research will be necessary before the world can have anything like a complete knowledge of its early inhabitants of Mesopotamia. But in the light of what has been accomplished the task ahead seems comparatively simple. So recently as the time Queen Victoria ascended the English throne scholars were denouncing the new science of archeology as a sign of the imagination. Archbishop Usher's scheme of computation, by which he estimated that the earth and man were created about 4004 B. C. was widely accepted. It is interesting to note that this date is still printed in the margin of many Bibles, in the first chapter of Genesis.

French and English scientists started the excavation of Nineveh in the 40's. Possibly if they had known the difficulties of the way of finding a key to the then unknown script upon tablets unearthed they might have given up in disgust. But after the script had puzzled archeologists for some years it was discovered that the Persians had adopted the Assyrian wedge-shaped stroke as the foundation for the written characters. With this as a key the work of translation was still further helped by the discovery in Persia of a tablet with what was later found to be the same narrative in the early Assyrian as the later Persian characters. Archeologists now know that the Assyrian script contained about 600 characters, each with at least two different phonetic values, so with the key obtained they have learned to decipher tablets with accuracy and unanimity of opinion.

One of the chief difficulties in the study of ancient peoples has been to determine their methods of chronology. Until only a few years ago it was thought that no approximate accuracy had been attained by an early civilization until within about a dozen hundred years of the Christian era. Before the war science had carried back its records and had fairly well established the sequence of years to a point from 2000 to 6000 B. C.

The university has also made discoveries in recent years that, when followed along lines indicated, may lead to more definite information about the connections that undoubtedly existed between the early Chinese and other ancient peoples. Quite recently the museum acquired the famous bas-reliefs of the horses of Tsan-Tsu, known and revered by a quarter of the earth's population, for centuries as the "Heavenly Horses." Research by Dr. C. W. Bishop, curator of the Oriental section of the museum, and by other authorities has established the fact that the Emperor who immortalized these animals by having them reproduced in stone got them from Persia by sending out a powerful armed force which has been described as the largest horse-stealing expedition of ancient times.

What Language Does Peace Speak?

By Fred B. Pitney

AMONG the thirty-odd nations whose delegates are gathered in Paris for the peace conference there are many different languages spoken and there are many of the delegates who speak only their own language. In this situation it was necessary for the conference to adopt an official language. French has long been the accepted diplomatic language, but for the special purposes of this conference it was decided to adopt two official languages, French and English, as the conference would be controlled by the five great powers, America, England, France, Italy and Japan, and the official proceedings of the conference are held in the two languages.

The arrangement is for every speech in French to be translated into English by the official interpreter, and likewise every speech in English is translated into French by the interpreter, who is present at all meetings and has developed into one of the most important members of the conference. The official interpreter is Professor Mantoux, a university professor of French and English, who served during the war as a lieutenant in one of the French colonial regiments.

At meetings of the full conference, where there are present delegates who speak neither French nor English, those

delegates are accompanied by their own interpreters, who translate for them.

Official documents of the conference are also printed in the two languages and copies in each language are distributed among the delegates.

This method of procedure simplifies the work of the conference as much as is possible among so large a number of delegates speaking so many different languages. They all know they have to understand or have some one with them who understands one of two languages, and confusion is avoided and delay is minimized.

For newspaper men the problem is very much the same. They must be able to handle freely one or both of two languages, but they must be, at the same time, prepared to make excursions into various other languages as the special need arises. Most of the old hands among foreign correspondents have French and English and can always get an interpreter for what other language they need. The men who have gone to Paris for this particular job have a harder time, but the way has been made as easy as possible for them.

Secretary Lansing receives the newspaper men at 11 o'clock every morning and gives them information about what the conference is doing. This meeting is primarily for the American correspondents, but there is no prohibi-

tion against newspaper men from other countries. At these meetings questions are freely asked and answered with such freedom as the Secretary chooses. The condition is that Secretary Lansing is not to be quoted directly, and that all dispatches built on the meetings are to be sent as information and not as official statements. In other words, the dispatches go on the authority of the correspondent.

Lord Robert Cecil holds the same kind of meeting for the British delegation, and Stephen Pichon speaks officially once a week for the French government. M. Pichon is quoted. Andre Tardieu also speaks officially for the French government from time to time and is quoted directly.

These are recognized routine sources of information. In addition to them each correspondent cultivates particular sources of news; that is to say he cultivates friendships with men in a position to know what the conference is doing and what the delegates are thinking about. These sources are often more valuable than the recognized and routine sources. The correspondent always seeks, if possible, to make his friendships among the delegates to the conference who are attending the daily sessions.

Several members of the British delegation are readily accessible to news-

paper men and will talk freely to those whom they know can be trusted not to betray a confidence or divulge a source of information. Some among the American delegation are also accessible, while M. Tardieu can always be seen when he has the time to spare.

There are, of course, a thousand and one sources of information about the doings of the conference, but this method of procedure applies to all of them. It is a matter of knowing where to go for a piece of information that is required, gaining access to the man who has it and persuading him to "come through." Moreover, it is a matter of gaining the friendship of men in a position to know things so that they will make a point of keeping you informed. It is a matter of being known as a man of discretion, one who knows what should be published and what should not, and as a man who can be trusted with weighty secrets that are confided to him in order to clarify his understanding of a situation and guide him in what he writes.

In the stated meetings, at which any properly credentialed newspaper man is received, the person holding the meeting is always careful and guarded in what he says, for some indiscreet person may have slipped in with the crowd. If some of the points touched on at one of these meetings remain persistently

obscure the newspaperman seeks out his particular source of information and gets them cleared up.

It is the practice at a stated meeting, if the person holding it has only one language, to have an interpreter present. Sometimes, however, the correspondent not speaking the language in use must depend on his friends among the other correspondents to translate for him. Private sources of information are among those with whom one can converse more or less freely, and in special interviews an interpreter must be provided if needed.

The French censorship is provided with a large staff of foreign language experts, some of whom are expert. A dispatch written in English is handled by one of the experts in English. It does not have to be translated, unless a point comes up about which the censor is doubtful. In that case he takes it to the chief censor, translates the passage in question and gets a ruling. If the correspondent is dissatisfied with the ruling he first sees the censor who handled the dispatch, and if still unsatisfied may see the chief censor. In that event he would better be able to speak French freely, for it is very unsatisfactory to conduct a dispute with the chief censor through an interpreter—and it is generally useless anyway.

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