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War in the District.

WE LIVE in picturesque days.

A drawn revolver battle between police and whisky runners at the District line.

A breakneck automobile chase over country roads, with blazing of automatics and whistling of bullets, ending in victory for Washington officers.

These are pictures drawn from the history of the past two days in the National Capital. No need to look overseas for adventures of war—to the Balkans, to Poland, to Ireland or Russia. Day after day in the front line trenches during the world war passed with no more thrilling incidents.

These were not unusual days in Washington's recent history. They roused hardly a flicker of excitement in the sated minds of the people. Tomorrow they will be forgotten. Still more picturesque adventures will fill the newspapers.

Yet if these battles had been fought on the Ulster border they would be considered as world history. A revolver battle in some obscure Balkan city teems with potentialities of world war and cables hum with the details. But they have no more actual thrill than can be found in the daily details of this constant war between Washington police and law violators.

Prohibition has introduced a picturesque and romantic character into the pages of American history—as much so, perhaps, as the cowboy, the range rider, or any other of the colorful characters of the old frontier. No less bold, resourceful and romantic is the police officer or the enforcement agent who furnishes the combat pictures in this chapter of history.

The District of Columbia is only a minor battle ground in the guerilla warfare which covers the entire United States. But never, since the Confederate troops were encamped just a few miles across the Potomac, have the people of the District lived through more exciting days.

District police are showing more and more resoluteness in conducting their side of the battle. They are making it a real war—a battle to the death and not parade ground maneuvers. Their exploits deserve, at least, to be remembered—to hold a definite place in the annals of two-fisted fighters.

Judging from the cost of the Mayflower's new motorboat, it must have been designed by Secretary Mellon and built by Tiffany.

Buying an Empire.

IF ONE MAN controlled all the newspapers in the United States he would be the most powerful individual in the world.

It is a situation impossible of realization but interesting to speculate upon. His command of public opinion would be absolute. The power of despotic monarchs would be a feeble thing compared to the force in his hands.

In Germany this is exactly what has happened. The German workman or farmer reads only home or foreign news which has been predigested by the apparatus of one man. This one man has done many interesting things in the last few years. Without much aid from the press he secured his position as, without much doubt, the most powerful human being in Central Europe.

Hugo Stinnes has spent some time obtaining a strangle hold on the German press. At last, according to the Manchester Guardian correspondent at Berlin, his mastery is an accomplished fact.

There are now 4,100 newspapers in Germany, without counting trade journals or magazines, we learn from this writer. Hardly a fair-sized village but has its newspaper—many of them two or three.

Post-war conditions have made the existence of individual publishers almost impossible. The highest obtainable circulation and advertising rates barely cover the cost of print paper. Into this situation Stinnes stepped with his characteristic thoroughness.

He purchased seventy of the largest publications outright. His next step was to obtain mastery of all the stereotype factories, placing under his indirect control all but the smallest provincial papers. His latest step has been to buy up all the telegraph agencies. A British correspondent says that one small agency still remains independent.

The smallest village paper hardly can print a line, with the exception of strictly local news, without the consent of the Rhenish ironmaster. As newspaper after newspaper goes into bankruptcy Stinnes purchases them.

Perhaps the most interesting point is that he loses money on all of them. He considers the influence he wields on public opinion worth the price. What visions of great empire hover in the brain of the busy, shabby little man? He buys power, regardless of cost—to what end?

Let Layman Suggest.

VETERANS' BUREAU physicians who lament criticism of their work by the public make a serious mistake.

It is an error common among experts whose horizon circles a strictly professional universe. They fail to realize that the public often can detect defects to which they themselves are blinded by their very zeal.

A number of these medical men connected with the fourth district office gathered about the banquet table the other evening and talked over the mountain of labor confronting them. They seemed to feel that the public did not appreciate the work they were doing.

"If people would only leave us alone we could put this big work over," Col. R. U. Patterson, medical adviser of the bureau, is quoted as saying in an address that night.

The people of the fourth district—the people of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia—have such a vital interest in the work in which Col. Patterson and his colleagues are engaged they would be foolish to stand aside entirely.

A large amount of human ruin was wrought by the war, and professional builders are engaged in the task of reconstruction. The public has much at stake. Citizens of this district owe it to themselves and to the bureau officials to watch every step of the process and to call attention to every evidence of an error.

Frequently the doctors will be right. Sometimes they will be wrong, and a timely word of criticism may turn them in the right direction again.

Doubtless Veterans' Bureau officials are actuated by the best motives in the world—high altruism and supreme devotion to duty. But they have the human faculty of forgetfully slipping back to the CC pill and iodine methods of army days. Why should they resent the public taking note when these lapses come?

They want the support and help of the public. Yet the poorest service possible would be failure to call their attention forcibly to any case where there was a chance that they had been careless.

There are 60,000 claimants for aid in the fourth district. Of these, 3,000 are in hospitals. Would anyone have the public so blind to its responsibilites as to turn these men over to the care of a government agency and then completely forget them?

The would-be politician demanded to know "if Henry Ford purchased Muscle Shoals whether or not he intended to reduce the price of muscles."

A Long Step Ahead.

IT IS gratifying to note that the government is making real progress in its avowed purpose of encouraging better methods in the despatch of public business.

The war emphasized the fact that a real partnership exists between government and business, and active steps taken by departmental officers toward making the working arrangement between the two constructive and mutually helpful, are highly commendable.

The two departments which come into the most intimate contact with the people, are the Treasury Department with its new and intimate tax laws, and the Postoffice Department whose business it is to serve and, therefore, to help every individual citizen.

The Postoffice Department is an educating and business building agent. Accordingly, its prompt recognition of the value of labor-saving devices in the more effective and more economic handling of the mail, is most praiseworthy.

One of the most interesting of these devices is the epoch-making postage meter machine, the use of which the department has authorized. It is now in satisfactory use in many important business houses and its indicia is already familiar to a large reading public.

The first of these machines has just been installed in the offices of the local telephone company.

The postage meter imprints directly on the letter a postage stamp and a postmark in such form as to avoid the necessity of stamp cancellation and postmarking at the outgoing postoffice.

The general use of these machines by important mailers throughout the country will effect annual savings to the government running into many millions of dollars. Similar savings will result to the users of the machine. There will be other equally important results such as the more rapid despatch of the mail and the protection to the business men and the government against defalcation and other losses incident to the handling of adhesive postage stamps.

The labor employed in the routine work performed by this machine will be released to work calling for superior mental activities and which is more remunerative to the individuals performing such service.

This is one of the most noteworthy instances of the practical application of business methods to government operations that has yet marked the progress of the postal service. It recognizes the value of active co-operation with the users of the mails in the interest of a better postal service for everyone, at the minimum cost to the public.

At least the bituminous coal strike should do away with the smoke nuisance temporarily and give us a couple of lungfuls of fresh air.

Protection for Our Industries.

WHY smile at the House of Representatives for its humble effort to make illicit liquor selling safe for American citizens?

The vote to deport aliens caught violating the national prohibition law may well have been a highly meritorious action—satisfactory to all who hold that the resources and opportunities of these United States belong, first of all, to the native born.

What a growl of disgust emanates from any good citizen at the sight of a high-powered, luxurious automobile dashing along our spacious streets—with some gentleman who arrived from Russia via steerage a few years ago behind the wheel. Had bootlegging been reserved for Americans, someone now walking would be driving that car to some palatial home where liveried servants and bejeweled wife and daughters awaited his coming.

If there is much money to be made by breaking the nation's laws, at least give the opportunity to men who deserve well of the nation.

The Pennsylvania man who discovered a coal mine in his cellar discovered the right thing in the right place.

The Herald in New York

These Hotels and Newsstands in New York City Have The Herald on Sale:

HOTELS

Astor	Imperial	Prince George
Belmont	Martinique	Ritz-Carlton
Biltmore	McAlpin	Savoy
Breslin	Murray Hill	Vanderbilt
Commodore	Pennsylvania	Waldorf

NEWSSTANDS

220 Broadway	Pennsylvania Station	Schultz, 42d St. & 6th Ave.
Woolworth Building	Hotaling's, Times Square	News Boy, 32d St. & 6th Ave.
200 Fifth Ave.		

New York City Day by Day Impressions: by O. O. McIntyre

NEW YORK, April 7.—The Palm Beach crowds are back. And the migrations to Europe have set in. Most New Yorkers who flit from resort to resort tarry in town only a week when they return from Florida. The fine homes in the East Side are being boarded up for the summer. The caretakers and their families are sitting out front, which means that summer is really here.

Eugene O'Neill has launched another theatrical success under the management of the Provincetown Players down in the village. The latest is called "Harry Ape." The first was "Emperor Jones," which later moved up to Broadway and played for a season. O'Neill's "Annie Christie" is playing at still another Broadway theater. An odd genius is this playwright who lives far away from the Rialto amid the fisherfolk. He has seen life at its crudest and his plays reflect it. Several years ago he was stricken with tuberculosis and he built a home on the Atlantic Coast—rarely going anywhere or receiving visitors.

The Third avenue elevated trains have some pretty hard fares after midnight. Gangsters on their way home from spiels, dock-wallopers on the loose and thick-chested men who rule by might of fist. The other night a group began to rough house one of the cars of the train. A guard stepped in and pleaded for order. The crowd grabbed him, stripped him of his uniform and when the police came in response to his shrill whistle they found him under a seat wrapped in abandoned newspapers. Many Chinese on their way to Chinatown find themselves helpless victims of the crowd's rowdyism. In the days of the old strong-arm squad special huskies rode the Third avenue and cracked heads with reckless abandon.

I don't know why a red-headed man should be any more amusing wearing a monocle than those with hair of other shades. But a monocled red-haired man was laughed at all the way up Fifth avenue the other afternoon.

The manager of a chain of Broadway night cafes refers to his patronage as "flat hats" and "white fronts." The "flat hats" are the college boys and the "white fronts" are the swells.

SAYS HUMAN RACE HAS NOT IMPROVED

Prof. Edwin C. Conklin, of Princeton University, created a mild sensation at Yale when in a recent address he predicted that two or three generations will see the extinction of the best stock of the human race so far as America is concerned. That is, unless society takes drastic steps toward artificial selection among the upper strata of mankind in the near future.

Prof. Conklin lectured on "The Future of Evolution," and pointed out that race suicide is imminent among the wealthy classes owing to social taxes on the raising of children, while the laboring classes are multiplying at an enormous rate. America, he added, is also faced by the problem of race amalgamation which is going on between whites and negroes. Mulattoes already number one-fourth as many as pure blacks in this country, he asserted, and are increasing at double the rate of the latter. The result, while raising the standard of the negroes, is detrimental, he said, to the best strains of blood on whose preservation the future of the country depends.

"Most people think," said Prof Conklin, "that man is far better physically and intellectually than centuries ago. As a matter of fact, there is no good reason to believe there has been any material change in the human race since the last ice age, about 20,000 or 30,000 years ago. So far as man's cranial capacity is concerned there has been no increase during that time.

"All the signs point to the conclusion that man has reached his greatest development along physical and intellectual lines. If there are any changes they will be minor ones, unless, indeed, there be such another secular change as an ice age.

"What progress man has made in the last 20,000 years has been social rather than biological. Knowledge has increased and bee npreserved and transmitted, but I can see no reason to believe the intellectual capacity of man is any greater now than it was in the time of Socrates and Aristotle."

WHO'S WHO IN THE DAY'S NEWS

Higher ideals and better ethics in business is the hobby of C. F. Abbott, widely known in this country among the executives of big business. Abbott was in Washington recently and conferred with President Harding on ways and means of improving commercial standards in selling. Starting in as a "Knight of the Grip," Abbott has steadily grown to be known as the "father of the idea of fair and honest dealing in business."

CHAS. ABBOTT

He has been sales manager of some of the largest manufacturing concerns in this country and his knowledge thus gained has led him into spreading the gospel of better business in nearly all of the big cities in this country and only recently toured Latin-American countries on the same subject. At present he is conducting a series of lectures before the Y. M. C. A. in New York. Abbott says he has met with great success in this latter work.

"Starting in with the younger men contemplating a business career, training them properly and seeing that they are placed in their proper sphere in the business world, is the biggest step forward in putting selling on a more honest basis," is the way Abbott speaks of his work at the Y. M. C. A.

The Friend of the People

Answers to Your Questions

This department is conducted by The Herald to answer questions of its readers. All questions will be answered in these columns. Address letters to the Friend of the People.

NOT BREAKING LAW.

To the Friend of the People:

This is called a residential street. A rents space in his private garage to a couple of neighbors at a fair price. B says A is breaking the law as he is commercializing a strictly residential section. Who is right? G. J.

A has a right to rent space in his garage to friends. So long as he is not running a garage and does not need a city license he is not commercializing the district.

HAS NO SECURITY.

To the Friend of the People:

Suppose A buys an apartment in an apartment house from B and the building is heavily mortgaged. A agrees to pay $10,000 for the apartment. He pays $3,000 cash and the balance in monthly installments. What security will A have that his apartment will be released from the mortgage unless the mortgage is part of his purchase contract. A LAIMAN READER.

Unless the mortgagee is a party to the purchase contract A will have no security that his apartment will be released from the mortgage.

WATCH OKLAHOMA.

To the Friend of the People:

My home up to the declaration of war was in Oklahoma. I enlisted in Colorado, but for the past three years have been in Montana. From which State am I entitled to receive a soldier bonus in case that State has enacted such a law? C. C. C.

You would be entitled to get a soldier bonus from Oklahoma, but that State has not enacted any bonus legislation as yet.

HISTORY OF RURAL CREDIT BILL.

To the Friend of the People:

Please send me some information on rural credit bill, Wallace farm bill and any legislation pending for the benefit of the farmers in 1921. R. M.

On April 7, 1921, the Senators of agricultural States appeared before the Senate urging more liberal farm credit. On April 25 a committee of Senators conferred with the President urging need of extensive credit. The rural credit bill appropriated $50,000,000 to be set aside for easier farm credit. The Senate passed the Curtis Nelson bill June 28, 1921, thus placing a large number of government bonds in farmers' banks so as to loosen credit and raise deposits in these banks.

IT CAN'T BE DONE.

To the Friend of the People:

Will you kindly tell me if it is legal in the State of Maryland for a young lady to marry her mother's brother. In other words for her to marry her uncle. J. S. B.

Marrying of so close a blood relation is unlawful in Maryland.

J. M. BARRIE'S PETER PAN.

To the Friend of the People:

Please answer this question. Who was Peter Pan? E. G. F.

Peter Pan is the fanciful character in a play of that name by J. M. Barrie. He is always taking care of little boys who are lost, and he never "wants to grow up."

U. S. COURT IN CHINA.

To the Friend of the People:

Please inform me if there is a United States court in China. Who is the judge? J. V. R.

There is a United States court located at Shanghai, China. The judge is Charles S. Lobingier.

BOXER'S NAME.

To the Friend of the People:

What is the original name of Willie Ritchie, the boxer? When and where was he born? J. L.

Willie Ritchie's real name is Geary A. Steffen. He was born in San Francisco, Cal., February 13, 1891.

BASEBALL PENNANT.

To the Friend of the People:

Who won the pennant in the American League in 1918? H. H.

Boston.

MONDAY'S CHILD.

To the Friend of the People:

What is the rest of this verse?

Monday's child is fair of face
Tuesday's child is full of grace

Wednesday's child is sour and sad
Thursday's child is happy and glad
Friday's child has far to go
Saturday's child is full of woe
But the child born on the Sabbath day is
blithe of body, happy and gay

Open Court Letters to The Herald

Other People's Views of Current Events

Communications will not be returned unless specific request for such return is made and stamps inclosed.

Letters should be typewritten whenever possible. Communications extremely difficult to read will not be considered. No communications signed with fictitious names will be used.

Hopeless for Mama.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Anent your editorial of April 3 on "Shifters," permit me to advise the worried mater familias that it is of no use for she will have only her trouble for her pains; that if clever enough to manage her home properly, she has done her duty well and nobly. She is only taking another view of the question, "What is the world coming to?" which is ever with us.

I joined the Shifters eighteen years ago and helped to initiate one of my law professors. He hesitated about accepting our "bid," so we had to strong-arm him to get the initiation fee and fasten the insignia upon him. He thought "What is the world coming to?"

Going back a little further, the translations of the inscriptions on the Rosetti Stone disclose that it was chiseled to eulogize the King for "reducing taxes" inter alia, during his reign. Evidently they thought in those B. C. times that "reducing taxes" was something modern and up-to-the-minute.

So don't worry, mother. Your zeal is commendable, but you won't land. Remember that we were just as devilish to our parents, and take some consolation in the thought that the next generation will be so to theirs.

CHIEF SEATTLE.

Kabat Comes Back.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

A writer to the Open Court has written a letter in which he tries to convey the impression that he is a hardboiled Westerner, and to show how tough he is he signs his letter "Cactus Bill." He agrees with everything I have written about flappers, but raises the question that since I know so much about cake-eaters I must associate with the F street boys. He implies that I am not aware of the fact that there are still some regular men left, and insinuates that any of the two-fisted men he knows is capable of beating me up.

Must I again tell this wide but narrow world that one does not necessarily have to be a member of a class which he criticises? There is Billy Sunday, the eccentric evangelist, who has many enemies, yet I have never heard any of his critics assail his character despite the fact that he is so thoroughly familiar with conditions of vice and evil in the United States.

"Cactus Bill" must be a cake-eater hiding under a tough nom de plume, because he takes so many pains trying to emphasize the fact that the refined and gentlemanly men he knows are no less men nevertheless. He tells me to put that into my pipe and smoke it. As I don't smoke a pipe I can't comply with his request. I smoke cigarettes, but you won't find an F street long cigarette holder separating me from the smoke proper.

I don't like his insinuations about his two-fisted men, and I am both willing and eager to meet any of them at any time and any place. I prefer to meet "Cactus Bill" himself.

I am not a hard-boiled person, but I do not back down with anyone who thinks he is so tough that every time he takes a shave he has to smooth his rough skin with emery paver.

HARRY KABAT.

"Brotherhood of Man."

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Four years ago the greatest nations of the earth were pitted against each other in mortal combat, on one side those which stood for domination of the world and on the other those who justified their participation in this awful conflict by rising to the defense of Christian civilization. Every nerve-string of this mighty nation was keyed to the highest pitch and every eye and ear was turned toward what was then known as the "Great Spring Offensive."

With the British forces fighting with their "backs to the wall," and the French determination voiced in that historic slogan, "they shall not pass," the manpower and the soulpower of our America was thrown into the breech and the German hordes were crushed and civilization saved.

But at what a cost, and what has the sacrifice and the resultant victory availed us? Are we taking advantage of the opportunity offered us and our posterity to live in peace and the pursuit of happiness which we had hoped and prayed for during that awful period of distress? I am afraid not. It is true that we have been sobered somewhat from the drunken orgy of extravagance and its attendant consequences, but too many of us are still inclined to distort the old adage into "Give us the luxuries and we will do without the necessities."

And we are not pulling together as we should and as we will have to do if we expect to bring order out of the confusion and chaos which is an aftermath of a struggle born of hate, closely followed by selfishness and now in a period of suspicion.

The damnable profiteers will have to be lashed to the mast. The selfish capitalists and employers of labor who would take advantage of conditions and reduce the working man to servility, must be brought to their senses and be made to see the responsibility they are taking and their fate, when the reaction which is bound to come, removes from them the protection which they now enjoy.

I am not a pessimist from choice, but "I would rather be a truthful pessimist than an optomistic liar" to quote our esteemed President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in a recent address, and when we get down to cases and see things as they are and not as they are painted by the propaganda of a selfish, self-centered, money-mad band of conspirators against the public weal, we will find the remedy for the disease that has so greatly threatened our body politic, and just that much sooner will we get back to normal, peaceful and prosperous conditions for all the people, and throughout the nation and throughout the world we will have regained our right to proclaim that we are a government "of the people" and the foundation stone re-dedicated to the only cause upon which civilization can survive—The Brotherhood of Man.

GEORGE TRAVERS.

Prohibition a Success.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Replying to Grant Tarl's letter in which he asserts that prohibition is a failure and recommends that we try government ownership and control of the liquor traffic; I wish to express my objections to both statements. First, the legalized liquor traffic was an evil, and the only right way to deal with an evil is to outlaw it.

If the enforcement of the law is not as it should be, this does not prove that the law is a failure, but that some officials are not doing their duty, also that some citizens who should give their influence to the enforcement of this grand law cry out, "It cannot be enforced." As some one has said: "One violation of this law attracts more attention than 100 places that have been blest by it."

Consider that there are thousands of children who are better fed and better clothed than in the old days of the legalized saloon. Thousands of families have saving accounts in the bank that never had one when the saloon got the most of the weekly wages. Best of all, there are thousands of young men who are growing up without the downward pull of the open saloon to start them toward a drunkard's grave.

As about nine-tenths of the drinking of "moonshine" liquor is done by those who formed the abnormal appetite in the saloon, when this class has passed away the new generation will get a new vision of life and will not put a "thief into the mouth to steal away their brains." Again we do not condemn a law because it is frequently broken. Think of our traffic laws. Last month there were over 2,000 violations of these laws in the District of Columbia. Shall we repeal them because they are broken every day? The laws against stealing are also broken every day. Repeal them? No! Enforce them.

As to government ownership and control both wholesale and retail of the business, I most strenuously object. If I am not mistaken, this plan was tried out in South Carolina and was a failure. I do not think that Uncle Sam will ever consent to become a wholesale and retail liquor dealer.

As President Harding recently said on this subject: "The liquor traffic was destructive of much that was most precious in American life. In another generation I believe that liquor will have disappeared not only from our politics but from our memories."

N. J. KINNEY.

Wants Government Ownership

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Yes, "It is up to the public." The one from whom I quote represents the owners of one of the bounties of nature which never ought to be owned by any individual or corporation, and which our grandfathers had no moral right to give away. I concede, however, that as long as they own it, they have a legal right to charge what they can get for their coal, or not sell any at all, if they so desire. It is not the proper function of the government to dictate the price of coal any more than that of any other commodity. And if for any reason, good or bad, the coal operators see fit to close down the mines for a year or two, what right has the public to interfere with them? Haven't they a right to do as they will with their own? but if people become disorderly, it is the proper function of government to send a military force to preserve order (at great expense), and charge the cost over to the public. Or, if it is the miners who become disorderly, it works the same way, of course. In either case it is the proper function of the government to protect private property, though the public must pay for it. So it is no wonder that the people are beginning to be dissatisfied with such a condition of things, and after we have suffered long enough from them, we will demand that the government take over the mines—pay a fair price for them, of course—and operate them for the benefit of all, including the miners themselves. Then the government will be in a position to regulate both the price of coal and the miners' wages. And until then a big and evergrowing problem concerning both these propositions seems likely to be "up to the public."

W. S. CLINGAN.

Darlington, Md.

Opposes Civil Service.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Lately I have seen much comment in the Open Court in regard to Civil Service. This is the veriest nonsense. Neither party pays any attention to it when it can be sidetracked. It tends to make the employes under it less efficient, as they know removal is not easy and therefore loaf on the job. Very few of them would receive more than half the salary they receive from a private corporation, and they know it.

They think they own the job, as they are under Civil Service rules. And the greatest humbug of all is the Civil Service examination for postmaster. Eight years ago a case came under my observation in a village in Virginia. There were three applicants, one a Republican and two Democrats. They entered the examination. Both Democrats failed to pass. The Republican passed, making 80 per cent. The Republican was at that time postmaster. One year passed and his name was never certified to the Postmaster General for appointment.

At the end of twelve months this office was taken out of the Civil Service class and a postoffice inspector was sent and this postmaster, who had passed the examination, was removed and one of the Democrats, who only made 16 per cent in the examination, was recommended by the inspector and received the appointment as postmaster, and I learn there were thousands of similar cases at that time and will be in the future. So why have any Civil Service examinations at all if they are to be made a humbug, which many wise people think they are.

D. E. G.

Cactus Is Willing.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

In Thursday's issue of The Herald I read a reply to my recent contribution to the Open Court, said reply appearing under the caption, "A Chance for Cactus Bill." That gives me an idea. Why not use the Open Court for a matrimonial agency?

Really, Ed, you weren't spoofing me? I've got a chance, haven't I? Whoopee! You've got me so riled up I'm on the verge of running wild on F street. All right, old chap; full steam ahead. You furnish the "gal" (a real "gal," with quotation marks and everything), and I'll tend to the license and get a minister to hitch us together.

"CACTUS BILL."

The Herald's Scientific Notes and Comment

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1922.

Philosophical Society of Washington, Cosmos Club, tonight, 8:15 o'clock. "Experimentation at High Temperatures and Pressures with Special Reference to the Fusion of Calcium Carbonate," by F. H. Smyth; "The Prediction of Solubility Relations Under High Pressure From Compressibility Measurements," by E. D. Williamson; "The Production of Pressure in Magmas by Crystallization," by G. W. Morey.

VACUUM TUBES OPERATING ON DRY CELLS PERFECTED.

Vacuum tubes that operate on dry cells have been perfected and the mussy, heavy storage batteries that are now a necessity with vacuum tube radio receiving sets are doomed. Although the new tubes, only three inches long, have not yet been advertised they are being placed in quantity production by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

Most vacuum tubes have filaments requiring a current of from 0.6 to 1.0 amperes, at from four to six volts that can only be supplied satisfactorily from a storage battery. The new Westinghouse tube's filament requires but 1.1 volts to operate and uses 0.2 amperes continuously. This means a power consumption of less than one-fourth watt as compared with three to five watts in the ordinary tube filament. It is said that one No. 6 dry cell, if the tube is operated one hour out of the twenty-four, will last about ninety-five days. The filament of the new tube is of platinum, about one-eighth as thick as fine tissue paper and about 100th of an inch wide. It is coated with a very thin layer of certain oxides with the result that a special form of Wehnelt cathode is formed. A special spring keeps the filament in position, but allows the filament to move freely in case of a severe jar.

The Western Electric Company has also produced a vacuum tube that operates on dry cells, but these are not being sold for radio use, although they are used in hearing devices and other such instruments.

Radio experts predict that the dry cell radio vacuum tube will open a new era in radio reception when once given wide distribution as it will then be possible to take a receiving set practically anywhere.

HOW DID SCORPIONS GET IN NORTH DAKOTA MINES?

Puzzle—Who planted poisonous scorpions in North Dakota? Specimens of scorpions ordinarily found only in semi-tropical or tropical countries, which were recently found in a lignite mine in Western North Dakota have been the cause of widespread flights of imagination in local communities and serious speculation by entomologists of the State during the past few weeks.

Three specimens of these creatures—Uroctonus mordax Thor, to be exact—are declared by Dr. L. Webster, entomologist at the Agricultural College here, to be the first ever found in the State. Authoritative dopesters believe that the scorpions may have been brought to North Dakota with the lumber used in the lignite mines, while other people interested in the find suggest that they may be relics of bygone ages—that their families may have been living closely associated with the lignite for centuries and more.

NEW MATERIAL FOR TRANSPARENT TUBES.

A medicine dropper and a small graduate created some excitement at the Birmingham meeting of the American Chemical Society. They were new pieces of chemical apparatus designed by Louis J. Cortman for measuring and handling hydrofluoric acid, the substance which quickly turns into vapor the ordinary chemical apparatus made of glass, silica, porcelain or other such materials. The new pieces of apparatus were made out of transparent bakelite which is unharmed by the powerful acid. Heretofore opaque lead tubes have been used in carrying out the tests in which hydrofluoric acid was used.

BEES COUNT THEMSELVES LIKE TELEPHONE CALLS.

A traffic census of bees coming home from work is being taken by scientists of the Bureau of Entomology. A gate is provided that works on the one-way street principle and only one bee can enter the hive at a time. The apiculturists keep tab on the bees by the same device that is used by the telephone company in keeping track of the number of times a subscriber used his telephone. As the number of entrances made by the bees is something like 300,000 a day, the Bureau of Standards experts who constructed the counting device had to provide a special source of electric current to operate the apparatus.

RADIO CABLE PROTECT HAVRE SHIPS.

Radio submarine cables of the Loth type will soon be installed in the port of Havre, France, to guide incoming and outgoing vessels in that harbor during foggy weather, according to information received through the consular service. High-frequency current is used to electrically charge the cable on the ocean's floor and the pilot of the ship is able to steer by the hum produced in receiving apparatus on board ship.

The Havre Chamber of Commerce has recently equipped its life saving and signalling service at this port with a powerful wireless telegraph and telephone plant. This supplements the old-fashioned method of flag signalling which can not be seen when the wind does not keep the flags from drooping.

CANCER TENDENCY IN MAN FOUND INHERITED.

The question as to the inheritance of a tendency to the formation of malignant tumors has long been an open one. The Carnegie Institution of Washington has published a careful tabulation from the numerous family histories at the Eugenics Record Office, and it was discovered that children of cancerous fathers and non-cancerous mothers showed a striking excess of individuals inheriting this disease over those produced from normal parents. But, singularly, it was further found that in the case where the mother was cancerous and the father was non-cancerous the excess was still greater. W. D.