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THE NEW YORK HERALD was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death, in 1872, when his son, also James Gordon Bennett, succeeded to the ownership of the paper, which remained in his hands until his death, in 1918. THE HERALD became the property of Frank A. Munsey, its present owner, in 1920.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1922.

Germany's International Loan.

The international bankers conferring in Paris over the great loan needed by Germany have not said explicitly that they will raise a billion dollars in gold for her. Before taking a recess on Friday until next Wednesday, however, the bankers did inform the Wirth Government that the loan would be out of the question unless Germany accepted the conditions of the Reparations Commission. This would seem to imply that under satisfactory circumstances the loan might be arranged.

These new terms provided for the indefinite postponement of the reparations payment due May 1 on condition that the Wirth Government would make two very radical changes of policy. One was to balance its budget through a heavy increase of internal taxation by some sixty billions of marks. The other was to shut down the printing press output of limitless paper money.

Now it is announced that the Wirth Government accepts those reparations terms, and the news is big in import. Even without a great international loan Germany would be benefited by shutting off the floods of paper money. With the value of the paper currency falling as the printing press ground out more and more of the notes, German business and the German people never could know how much of the paper it would take to pay their taxes and other bills or where they could get enough of it.

On the other hand, the Government as well as the people would be better off under the striking and necessary financial reforms. Hitherto the Government, taking in much less than it was called upon to put out, has had to make up the difference with the aid of the overworked printing press, making the value of the money the public received for its work and business less and less.

But when the Government is taking in more than it puts out it will be possible not only to stop inflating the currency but even to cut down the vast mass of existing paper money. This in turn will give more value to the currency that business and the people receive for their goods and their work, so that out of their enlarged substance they can do more for the Government.

If on top of these material gains to the Government and to the people the international bankers make a big gold loan to Germany both to aid in meeting readjusted reparations payments on a reasonable basis and to pay for required raw materials from abroad, the whole national situation will improve. Germany the government and Germany the nation, with their feet again planted on solid economic ground, will become an enormous factor in the rehabilitation of all Europe.

Dempsey's Argentine Rival.

Should FIRPO, the young Argentinean with a wallop, train on so as to become a formidable rival of DEMPSEY for heavyweight honors the present day sporting world would be turned topsy-turvy.

That FIRPO has the physique and the brute force necessary for a pugilist of the first rank is admitted by the experts, who say that New York has seen no such puncher since the palmy days of FITZSIMMONS. Whether he can be taught to use his strength to advantage is another matter, and will depend largely upon his tutor. TOMMY RYAN might mold the young South American giant into a formidable fighting man. There is no craftier or more skillful boxer than the former middleweight champion.

FIRPO'S prowess in the ring has brought the Argentine Republic into still greater prominence than has been won for it by the excellence of its thoroughbreds and the quality of its polo team, which has been playing brilliantly in England of late. The home of some of the finest horses, sheep and cattle, our South American sister republic is raising men of a fine physical type as well.

But the possibility of one of her sons becoming champion fighter of the world will not be willingly admitted by those who believe that the preeminence in the ring belongs to the Celt and the Saxon, not to the Latin races. Yet more than 200 pounds of muscular youth is anxious to climb the ladder of fame in the prize ring, and FIRPO may yet achieve his desire.

The Call to Service.

The determination of FREDERICK TRUBEE DAVISON, son of the late HENRY P. DAVISON, and ROBERT L. BACON, son of the late ROBERT BACON, to follow a political career is one in which the public may take satisfaction and upon which young men who find themselves in a position of similar advantage should ponder.

Careers in finance were open to both these sons of distinguished fathers. Had they so decided they could have looked forward to an enlargement of their material fortunes to a degree which they cannot expect if they hold to the ideal of disinterested public service.

The fathers of both Mr. DAVISON and Mr. BACON were eager that their sons should enter public life. They themselves were ready always to find time in the press of their personal affairs for the opportunity of serving the community or the nation. Both rendered the country service of exceptional merit, culminating in Mr. BACON'S residence in France as our Ambassador and Mr. DAVISON'S leadership of the American Red Cross.

It would have been a natural ambition on the part of these men to desire to see their sons follow them into the vast field opened by membership in the Morgan firm, but they chose to advise them otherwise.

Young Mr. DAVISON will be renominated for the State Assembly, in which he has gained favorable attention during his first term of office. Mr. BACON will be nominated to succeed Representative HICKS in the First Congress district. Their progress will be watched with interest, and their success, if it comes, is certain to lead others in the same direction.

It is not probable that this country will ever have a governing class in the sense that England had in the days before the war. Nor is it desirable that it should. The conditions that prevailed in England did produce a class of young men who were in many ways admirably trained for the responsibilities of public office. But these conditions were not necessary for the growth of a Lincoln.

What is important is that men of wealth should feel the same spur to accomplishment that stirs those less fortunately placed. Their example can be a precious influence for good citizenship.

The Irrational Glove Tariff.

Former Representative LUCIUS N. LITTAUER, the American glove manufacturer at Gloversville, New York, makes a defense of the indefensible Fordney-McCumber tariff duties on gloves. He takes exception as well to THE NEW YORK HERALD'S figures showing how, under the freakish Fordney-McCumber system, the duties could multiply themselves as the value of the French franc, expressed in American money, rose to normal. Mr. LITTAUER says among other things:

> "The writer of the editorial ignores the simple fundamental fact that as the gold value of foreign depreciated currency increases in value toward par, the cost in such foreign currency of any article is always lowered in proportion to the currency's increased value.
>
> "The 150 franc a dozen Paris glove with francs at nine cents cost $13.50, but this same glove when francs were at par, worth 19.3 cents, cost in Paris 40 francs, or $8; and, will not, as your editorial states, cost $28.95. The Senate duty then will be $4.80 a dozen, not $17.37.
>
> "When francs after the war were 5.85 cents value, the price of French gloves in francs was increased 300 per cent.; but as the Underwood bill duty was specific, the ad valorem equivalent rate of duty became 300 per cent. less."

Mr. LITTAUER of course is entitled to his opinion that the restoration of the franc to the gold basis will inescapably and exactly return the price of French gloves to their pre-war level in France. But possibly he will concede that the great economists and great bankers of the world are entitled to their opinions on this question of the relationships of pre-war prices and post-war prices. And certainly the economists and bankers, Mr. LITTAUER to the contrary notwithstanding, have something very tangible and very impressive on which to base their unanimous conviction that prices will not return and cannot return to the low pre-war levels so long as nations are burdened with mountains of debt and so long as an inordinate share of the money earnings of their people must be taken away from them in colossal taxes.

The verification of the views of the world's bankers and economists who do not agree with Mr. LITTAUER'S doctrine that the par or gold value of a country's currency will automatically and necessarily send its prices back to pre-war levels is found right here in this, our own country, in striking example. The money of the United States was never off the gold basis for one second during the war and it never has been off the gold basis for one second since the war. But prices in the United States went up generally some 100 per cent. during the war—on the gold basis. Prices in the United States nearly four years after the close of the war are up from 50 to 75 per cent. above pre-war prices—on the gold basis.

Senator SMOOT of the Finance Committee, using the economic sense he possesses in large measure, tried to steer the mad McCumber tariff makers away from the folly which makes their glove schedules an irrational tariff. But they, like Mr. LITTAUER, thought they knew more than the world's economists and bankers—or, more likely, they didn't care so long as they piled up the duties.

Even if Mr. LITTAUER'S dream of pre-war prices came true, a $2 specific duty on $8 was 25 per cent., but a 60 per cent. duty on $8 is $4.80—or an increase of 140 per cent. And such treatment of American women, newly possessed of the ballot, is nothing less than political as well as economic lunacy.

As for Mr. LITTAUER'S mathematical fancy that it is possible for a rate of duty or for anything under the sun to "become 300 per cent. less" than it had been, THE NEW YORK HERALD confesses its inability to fathom the mysteries of that proposition which out-Fordneys FORDNEY. In plain arithmetic, 100 per cent. is the limit of reduction for anything and everything; after that the thing ceases to be. It might have increased 1,000 per cent., but when that 1,000 per cent. thereafter has decreased 100 per cent. it is all wiped out and there is nothing left to talk about in reason.

And so we leave his 300 per cent. reduction discovery to the solitary edification of Mr. LITTAUER.

Back to Adam and Eve.

Major J. A. MCEWAN and Mrs. MCEWAN of London are looking for an Eden in England in which they may live the life of ADAM and EVE. Major MCEWAN led the Black Watch at Vimy Ridge; his courage needs no further indorsement. He is seeking for his experiment a spot beyond the reach of the curious. His understanding of one difficulty modern imitators of ADAM and EVE must overcome is thus disclosed. ADAM and EVE had the great advantage of pioneering an idea. They were not pursued by photographers, interviewers or health food cranks anxious to use them for advertising purposes.

It is a hard job that Major and Mrs. MCEWAN have set for themselves. They start seriously handicapped. ADAM and EVE had the great advantage of knowing nothing about world wars, or automobiles, or radio, or electric fans. While they were in Eden the problem of the flapper never bothered EVE. They endured life, enjoyed it indeed, lacking many things their descendants have become accustomed to use and abuse. Consequently ADAM and EVE did not miss the things Major MCEWAN and his wife are going to miss. The question the Major and Mrs. MCEWAN must face is whether they are going to be able to put the conveniences of conventional civilized life out of their minds along with its inconveniences. Perhaps the irritating factors of contemporaneous existence which have driven them to the experiment they are going to try have obscured some of the compensating, comforting factors which they accept without due thought.

If ADAM and EVE were alive now, and still in the Garden, they might be willing to swap places with Major and Mrs. MCEWAN.

Pulling Father Time's Whiskers.

The fact that a college of astronomers was summoned by the late Pope BENEDICT for the purpose of making a better adjustment of the date of Easter Sunday has opened the way to a small army of reformers who desire to rip the calendar at present in use into slithers.

The calendar as we now have it is practically that of JULIUS CÆSAR. The Julian calendar was faulty to the extent that it made the year too long by about twelve minutes. Pope GREGORY corrected this error. The Gregorian calendar was immediately adopted in Catholic Europe, and in England in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Greek Church has not adopted it at all.

Unfortunately, the year does not consist of a number of complete days. The difference must be adjusted by the use of leap years. The error has been so accurately computed, however, that there will be neither gain nor loss of a day in several thousand years.

Calendar reformers are troubled about the length of the month. There are months of twenty-eight days, of twenty-nine days, of thirty days, and of thirty-one days. Had JULIUS CÆSAR taken a grade course in Colburn's "Intellectual Arithmetic" he might have made a year of thirteen months each of four weeks, leaving posterity to take care of the 365th and 366th days.

This is exactly the plan of some of the calendar reformers. Several proposals are before the public as to the disposition to be made of these two days. One is that the 365th day shall be known as Zero. All the reformers are agreed in making the 366th day a legal holiday. Fine! A holiday will follow a zero day, and neither will count.

Humanity has struggled along with the Gregorian calendar for a century and a quarter among English speaking peoples, and for a much longer time in Catholic Europe. Until now humanity has raised no serious objection to it. But it has not occurred to the reformers that their proposed calendar is open to the same objections that have been urged against the calendar now in use. Nor does the fact occur to them that a change of the sort they advocate would throw the whole world into confusion ten times as great as did the substitution of the Gregorian for the Julian calendar.

The reformers are pretty busy regulating the affairs of other people. Perhaps they will succeed in giving us a reformed year. A better scheme than the one proposed, however, would be a constitutional amendment requiring the year to be exactly 364 revolutions of the earth on its axis. That would make reformation of the calendar both easy and scientific.

Dr. Stillman's Gift.

The gift of Dr. ERNEST G. STILLMAN of a tract of wild mountain land between the Military Academy at West Point and Cornwall constitutes a valuable addition to the Palisades Interstate Park, the great recreation and pleasure ground at the northern gate of the city.

This park already included about 36,000 acres, of which 35,000 acres are in this State. It embraced the Palisade cliffs and the west bank of the Hudson from just north of Fort Lee to Palisades, New York. Within this area lie many of the most picturesque spots and much of the fascinating scenery of the lower Hudson Valley.

The highland region of the park system, its wildest and most interesting section, lies just south of West Point and extends westward to Tuxedo. It includes the heavily wooded slopes of Bear Mountain.

Dr. STILLMAN'S addition comprises 600 acres which lie along the Storm King Highway for more than four miles upon both sides of the road and are separated from the Hudson River only by the West Shore Railroad right of way the entire distance from the West Point reservation to the town of Cornwall. The land was acquired by Dr. STILLMAN'S father with the purpose of preserving this beautiful wild region of New York State, and with this object in view the son has turned it over to the Park Commission.

The value of this gift, great as it is to the present generation, will increase with the years. It is a benefaction to the people of which the State may well be proud.

For Swimmers to Remember.

With the coming of the swimming season once more swimmers should fix firmly in their minds the fact that certain precautions must be observed to avoid accidents.

Those who go into the water soon after a hearty meal court danger. Those venturing too far from shore in rough weather or before they have had sufficient practice risk their lives. Those who get themselves into difficulties in the water through imprudence endanger not only their own lives but the lives of those who go to their rescue. Deep water is not necessary to the enjoyment of swimming. A veteran fisherman off Coney Island greeted a swimmer who had braved a head wind in order to reach the dory anchored on the banks half a mile from shore with the remark that the water close in shore was just as salty as the middle of the ocean.

The muscular effort used in swimming is entirely different from the muscular effort required in other sports. Every part of the muscular system is brought into play in this health promoting pastime, which confers such far reaching benefits that everybody who can engage in it should do so.

Those having access to salt water enjoy a boon which is denied to residents of the fresh water States. The latter must be content with ponds and lakes and rivers; but health and enjoyment can be had in any of these, down to the smallest of the old swimmin' holes in which the neighborhood boys laugh away the happiest hours of their lives.

The gentleman who undertakes to entertain his out of town friends on Broadway nowadays is likely to be able to give them a sight of The Finest in action in almost any restaurant.

In the grain fields there are many jobs for men; but they are not jobs for men who are not willing to work. Machinery has done much to improve the lot of the agriculturist, but it has not made the wheat harvester's task one for loafers.

Sir ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE describes hell as "only a hospital ward in heaven." That follows if one accepts the new definition of a criminal as a sick man. Hell no doubt makes some provision for incurable cases.

The former Emperor of China wants more money. Even royalty in eclipse feels the sordid necessity for cash and more cash.

The Blush Rose.

I saw a pretty wedding in the early morning hours
While most of folks were still asleep—
a wedding of the flowers;
The white rose was the dainty bride, a spider wove her veil,
'Twas spangled o'er with drops of dew like moonstones milky pale.
The red rose was the happy groom, the bridesmaids sweet were two
Moss rosebuds wearing satin frocks and bright green bonnets new.
The bluebells rang the wedding chimes, the buttercup, behold!
Had wrought the shining wedding ring of its own yellow gold.
A daisy from the meadow spread her tablecloth of white
And put a pat of butter on she molded over night,
And to complete the wedding feast a lingering dandelion
Presented on a golden tray his finest home made wine.
A breeze came up the garden path and boldly blew aside
The filmy veil of gossamer that quite concealed the bride,
And lo! her petals, once as white as snowy pearls that link
Their loveliness on beauty's neck, were all a glowing pink.

MINNA IRVING.

Michigan.

O land of the sky blue water,
O glorious Commonwealth of Mich.,
With your Manistee and Menominee,
And furniture, motors, copper and fish!

Lakes to the right of you,
Lakes to the left of you,
Lakes both alow and aloft,
How the waters laugh as they cut you in half,
The waters so blue and so soft!

To you, O mistress of the unsalted seas,
These:

Carp Lake and Otter Lake and Lake St. Clair,
And Big Two Hearted River, just to make you stare,
And Michigamme an oriflamme,
And Gogobic near Choate,
And Perch and Trout and Mullets,
Yea, all the fish that float,
And Siscowit on Isle Royale that every storm blast rakes—
O lakes, lakes, lakes, lakes, lakes, lakes, lakes—
O mercy sakes!

And then the towns of Michigan!
Detroit, where first the lizzies ran,
Grand Rapids, where the woodsaws rip
And chairs grow legs and tables tip,
And Battle Creek, which shreds equip,
And Dafter, Raber, Rudyard—Kip!
Then Badaxe, Grindstone, Mackinac,
And Alabaster, Sanilac,
Peck, Ypsilanti and Capac.
Pere Cheney, Ida and Orion,
Graafschap, Cheboygan and Filion,
Pokaygon, Stronach, Shepherd, Zion,
Germfask, Matchwood, Manistiaw,
Muskegon, Filer, Chippewa,
Marenisco, Wacedah,
Basswood, Hazel, Mackinaw,
Ishpeming, Negaunee, Stambaugh,
Garlic, Sugar, Saginaw.
Escanaba, Freedom, Woodrow,
Ann Arbor, Huron, Northstar, Clio,
Frankenmuth, Greenbush, Nadeau,
Elsie, Harriette and Clytie,
Crystal, Wolverine—Goodnighty!
In names old Mich. is on the loose,
She's ace, king, queen, jack—down to deuce!

MAURICE MORRIS.

As Gus Williams Sang It.

Words of the Song About the Offering of Pins and Needles.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have a sheet of music on the corner of which is printed:

To John T. Moriarty,
27 CENDS, OR
PINS AND NEEDLES BY THE DOZEN.
Written and sung by Gus Williams.
Boston: Louis P. Goulland, 86 Tremont st.
Copyrighted in 1875 by Louis P. Goulland.

Here are the words:

Of you listen to my sdory
I will try and told you somding
Vot you see most every daytime
As you valk along de streed
Now and den you hear a bellow
From a great big cheeky fellow
Von of whom, wen I describe him,
You did ofden meet.
He will holler out so loud
To his audience (a crowd)
Und he gives such gread inducements
In his own peculiar way.

[Spoken after first verse.]

He's one of dem fellers vot we see sdanding on de corner eney day, und he speaks like dis:

Pins and needles by der dozen,
For your uncle, aunt or cousin,
A plain gold ring,
A wedding ring,
Und a locket wot's immense.
Here ve have some fine tooth powder,
A receipt for making chowder,
Take der lot, I sell to you for twenty-seven cends.

Selling if it rains or shining,
You vill never find him pining,
But as habby as an oysder,
He does always seem to be
Telling jokes that are so funny,
Anyding to raise de money
From his audience around him,
Heye to business, see?
Of a policeman moves him on,
In a minute he vas gone,
But upon some other corner
In dwo seconds he will be.

[Spoken after second verse.]

Yes, indeed, you can't drive him away; he's like a jack-in-de-box, de moment you put your hand on him he ain't dere. Unt all dem fellers look alike, und dey all seem to wear de same kind of clothes. You may go anywere in der United Sdades, I don'd care how small de town is, und the moment it gets dark, you will see von of dem fellars on de corner, mit de same olt identical box in front of him, de old greasy lamp over his head, und de same old cry of—*(Chorus).*

M. LOUISE WILSON.

ESPERANCE, May 27.

Air of Gus Williams's Song.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The music of the song about pins and needles, as sung by Gus Williams (Gus Levick), is the old German air entitled "The Forge in the Forest." A ten cent disk of this air was published about three years ago. A part of the music is played on anvils by supposed blacksmiths; hence the title.

DANIEL KELLEY.

NEW YORK, May 27.

A Tongue Twister by Gus Williams.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Another one of Gus Williams's songs was "She Stood at the Gate Welcoming Him In."

Repeat this line three times in quick succession. I think it will be found difficult to say.

OLD TIMER.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., May 27.

Honest Postal Workers.

Justice to a Body of Public Servants of High Grade.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Your editorial article of May 23 under the heading of "Honest Post Office Workers" is before me. I am exceedingly grateful to you for bringing out so forcibly and properly that phase of the case at this time.

It is undoubtedly true that the postal employees of the country are of exceptionally high grade and contain an unusually small percentage of dishonest people. Under the heat of trying to capture the crooks we were quite likely to make the impression you suggest and your editorial article therefore was very much in the public interest and we thank you for it.

JOHN H. BARTLETT,
First Assistant Postmaster-General.
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 27.

Those Who Walk Wrong.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Women and boys are the persons who usually walk on the wrong side. There is an excuse for women, as they generally have been looking in some shop window, but the boys do it out of pure cussedness. I generally tell them that they never will be soldiers.

Major H. FREDERICK,
Civil War Pensioner.

NEW YORK, May 27.

Almost, Not Quite.

Alma correspondence Ozark Spectator.

Mr. and Mrs. Near Pippins called on Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Grissom Sunday.

Mississippi Floods Not Mastered

The Levee System Called a Failure by an Observer Who Favors the Outlet Plan.

Years ago when levees were three or four feet high in the low places along the banks of the Mississippi a man by the name of Cowden advanced the theory of outlets as a means of protection from floods.

The steamboat interests and various cities and towns which were entirely and exclusively dependent upon this great river for the transportation of their commerce rose up in arms against his idea. The city of New Orleans especially became alarmed at the possibility of retarding the current and thereby closing the mouth of the Mississippi River. In the excitement that followed they closed up every outlet and dammed every creek and bayou that nature had provided for the relief of this mighty stream, and all this for the sake of transportation.

The great middle West in the meantime was clearing forests, digging canals and hurrying the waters that fell from heaven between the Alleghenies on the east and the Rocky Mountains on the west to the great natural drainage basin of the nation.

The engineering ability of the War Department and the ten thousand levee boards insisted that the theory of erosion would take care of any overflows in the future. In order to create the erosion they called on the nation to build the Mississippi chain of mountains called levees on each side of this great stream, costing the Government billions. And still we have the disastrous overflows.

The engineering societies of the nation have discussed the solution of the Mississippi River floods at their annual conventions and they have accumulated data about the Danube, the Seine, the Nile; in fact all the principal rivers of the world. Whether in this discussion they have discovered that any two of these great rivers are alike in all of their physical surroundings has not yet been determined.

To confine the waters between levees so as to produce erosion is the basis of their proposals. If the experience of sixty years is of value as evidence, then their plan is a failure, and they should at least seek some other solution.

There is no question but there will be sedimentary accretion in all spillways, but if the accretion is utilized to improve the topography of the country I am sure that it would contribute more to the country's benefit than rushing it into the Gulf of Mexico.

Let the Government and the engineers get away from the old underlying principle that the Mississippi River is for navigation only. Let Congress reckon with the Mississippi River as a great drainage system of the nation and make the question of transportation secondary. There is no use in having boats on the river when you flood out the corn crop on each side.

A spillway can be made at a cost comparatively low when it is compared with the injury suffered by thousands of people and the damage done to property from floods occurring in spite of the levees. I do not profess to be an engineer or an authority on this great problem, but I have common sense, and from my observations I know that unless they make a spillway the levees must go higher and higher, and the higher the levees the greater the disaster will be when they do give way.

Any graduate of a grammar school can take a text book on geography and see that a spillway can be constructed either between the Mississippi River and Lake Ponchartrain, or from the mouth of the Red River paralleling the Atchafalaya, and that the flood situation can thus be relieved.

The Government could afford to pay the property owners for the land needed to make a gap five miles wide on the banks of the Atchafalaya. Construct two big dikes there. Tear down the levee at the mouth of the spillway and when the river arrived at flood stage the water would go through this five mile gap to the Gulf. Besides giving relief it would build up by the deposit of tons of sediment a territory that is to-day useless except for its forest.

The Atchafalaya River is a great relief valve for the Mississippi whenever the Red River and the Ouchita are not bank full. The War Department has accumulated data that will stagger the ordinary mind. It is perfectly possible, however, for Colonel Beach to work out some solution based on the opinions of citizens and engineers who have been actual observers of conditions for fifty years.

The little farmers along the banks of this mighty stream have been taxing themselves to the limit to keep the waters of twenty-eight States from destroying their property. The Mississippi River and its tributaries are not a local proposition. They are a national proposition, involving the drainage and protection of the country. The forests are being constantly removed, and all the water is hurried to the great arteries of drainage. The people of this nation must learn to look upon the Mississippi as the nation's great drainage system; its care, the protection of the land from floods, should be taken over entirely by the nation, and the little farmers should be relieved from the burden of taxation that now rests upon them.

There hasn't been enough tonnage floating down the Mississippi River since the railroads paralleled its banks to pay the cost of maintaining the Mississippi River Commission. Let the public have the facts. Let the War Department go back and check up its figures and see how much its work has deepened the channel of the Mississippi River in the last fifty years and its officials too may be convinced of the fallacy of their theory of the levee system.

The people along the banks of this mighty river hardly have time to recuperate from one great flood before another overtakes them.

WILLIAM POLK.

ALEXANDRIA, La., May 25.

Happy Oblivion.

A lesson I have lately read.
It was but yesterday I said:
"Old hearts the Season cannot cheat—
They taste the bitter through the sweet;
And memory there must be on earth
Of some dour hours of wintry dearth!
I will go forth and question these
That one mere flattering touch can please."

For, look! the blossoms from the clod
Speak nothing of the iron God
Who, ruthless, turned his frosty key
And prisoned fair Persephone.
Now, freed, has she so soon forgot
That hidden house where light is not?

Look how the young leaves take the wind
As though Heav'n's breath were always kind! . . .
Then, on the trunk of that old tree,
Named for my roof, long loved by me,
I laid my lips and spake this word:
"O Winter dark thou must have heard——"
"No, no!" The young leaves laughed outright,
"We only know this Hour of Light!"

The Rose enthroned—of her I sought:
"Rememb'rest thou when there was naught
Of thee save that unlovely thorn?"—
"Go, churl, thou slanderest the morn!"

Not any child of Summer knew
Of aught save sun and quiet dew,
And gracious visiting of rain;
Then, since all questioning was in vain,
I said: "This Hour is mine—mine, too;
What they know not I never knew:
Happy Oblivion—there's a deep
Where all dark memories may sleep!"

EDITH M. THOMAS.

A Danger and a Nuisance.

Practices of Smokers on Ferryboats and in the Hudson Tubes.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Your editorial article regarding "The Selfish Smoker" is excellent and much needed. I have no objection to smoking in my own house or in any other place where it does not infringe upon the rights of others, but I have become so exasperated by the selfishness of the average smoker that I begin to sympathize with Lucy Page Gaston.

On the Erie ferryboats there are a number of men who have persisted in smoking even in the women's cabin. They do not merely carry lighted cigars or cigarettes into that cabin, but smoke them.

Another common and highly dangerous practice is for men to light their cigarettes in the crowd standing in the women's cabin, ready to leave as soon as the boat docks. I have spoken twice recently to a man who did this, merely calling attention courteously to the notice displayed, but each time received an impertinent retort.

Another very dangerous practice is that of lighting a smoke in the jam waiting to go on the boat, the match being usually tossed away without any regard for those around. On one occasion my veil was set on fire in this way and I narrowly escaped becoming a burned offering to the goddess Nicotine.

I wish the campaign could be carried far enough to include the Hudson tubes. There are "No Smoking" signs all along the passage from the Erie station, but people persist in smoking there, not only finishing out a smoke but lighting up afresh. Every commuter knows the abominable jam there morning and evening. Let the lights go out suddenly—it has happened—let a careless smoker throw a match or cigarette stub on some woman's inflammable clothes, and there is material for a disaster that would pale the horrors of the Iroquois Theater.

Recently, seeing a young man lighting a cigarette in this tunnel jam, I called his attention politely to the "No Smoking" signs. He responded contemptuously: "I can read, and I'm going to smoke. What are you going to do about it?" He was well dressed and spoke like an educated man.

One result of the insolent selfishness of the tobacco users is that it is converting many formerly tolerant people to the views of Dr. Pease. Anti-tobacco propaganda is greatly strengthened. Prohibition became a fact because the liquor business was regarded as a public nuisance and an economic danger. If a majority of us are in any way convinced that tobacco is a nuisance it will be next in line for the ax.

E. T. R.

NEW YORK, May 27.

The Selfish Smoker's Responsibility in the Fire Loss.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I was much pleased with your editorial comment on the selfishness of smokers on ferryboats, but I believe that something more than sentiment and persuasion is necessary to correct or ameliorate the condition.

The enormous fire loss is a constant subject of comment and discussion, and there is little question that the carelessness of smokers is responsible for a very large share of that loss. The accepted method of disposing of a cigarette or a cigar is to draw it to the highest possible fire and then drop it, without regard to where it falls or what it falls into. The same may be said of the contents of the pipe. Matches are rarely extinguished, but are dropped blazing and allowed to burn out where they fall.

These practices should be prohibited and severely penalized by local ordinance, and the prohibition should be rigidly enforced and the penalty vigorously applied. If smokers were persuaded that such practices would be punished they would soon stop the indiscriminate distribution of live fire and the fire menace would be substantially reduced.

C. S.

NEW YORK, May 27.

Our Unconscious Mind.

From the Ohio State Journal.

The mind exerts such a powerful influence over matter that it can get sicker listening to a lecture on hygiene than it can in disobeying nature's laws.

Point of View.

East, west and north and south I turn
And there is naught to see
Save hills and other hills that rise
Beyond them endlessly.

Like water all my little thoughts
Go seeking for the sea;
They have no peace and no content,
They wander restlessly.

My thoughts are all of tall, green waves
That lift and fall and spill;
I hear them sucking at the sand—
Their tongues are never still.

I see brown sails of fishing boats
Against a metal sky;
I see proud ships that need no sail,
And white gulls dipping by.

But these are dreams—here on the hill
I herd my stupid sheep,
And day runs into endless day;
I work and eat and sleep.

I wonder if some sailor lad,
Who sees but sea and sky,
Looks out across the endless waves
And wishes he were I?

ABIGAIL CRESSON.

The Long Drought Ahead.

Maybe Prohibition Will Become a Habit Before It Is Repealed.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: One of our enthusiastic anti-prohibition friends says that within the next four years "we'll plumb ruin the Volstead act," and that in six years "we'll blow the Eighteenth Amendment clear out of the Constitution."

Which recalls a favorite story of the long ago by Press Eldridge of the tipsy joker who encountered a band of Salvationists parading up lower Broadway. When asked where they were going, the leader replied that they were marching to meet the Lord.

"And you haven't got any further than Houston street!" quoth the inebriated one.

Four years is a long time, a sufficient length of time for the people to forget all about Dr. Volstead and his celebrated act. As for six years, as Artemus Ward would say, "This is a mutch." Which leads to the conclusion that the gentleman does not know what he is talking about.

If those of us who hanker for a glass of wine or a good old stein of beer must wait four long and dreary years before we are able to quench our thirst I am afraid that many of us will be used to the drought. "How use doth breed a habit in a man," said Shakespeare.

QUICK STEP.

NEW YORK, May 27.

Asiatic Seamen.

Complaint That They Are Displacing Citizens on American Ships.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Not so long ago when the cry was heard along the waterfront of "American seamen for American ships" a good number of alien seamen left these shores after taking out intention papers to become citizens and went back to their own countries owing to the fact that first papers were not sufficient for signing on an American vessel.

There are at present in this port something more than a thousand seamen unemployed. A great many of these are married and have families to support. The poverty and misery among them can well be imagined when rents and the price of food are considered.

That the trade depression is affecting seamen the same as all other workers is quite obvious, but the seamen, unlike other workers, are suffering also from another and far worse cause. We are becoming painfully aware of the fact that we are being steadily displaced, both aliens and Americans, by cheap Asiatic labor.

This cheap labor is steadily on the increase in American ships, especially in United States Shipping Board vessels. No one objects to the employment of any American citizen in any American ship, or even an alien who intends to become a citizen, but something ought to be done to prevent the employment of Asiatic labor under conditions which exclude the possibility of the white seamen competing with them. We are steadily being displaced because we have not learned to live on rice.

CHARLES HENDERSON.

NEW YORK, May 27.

Representatives of the Shipping Board deny that American citizens are being supplanted by others in the merchant marine. The United States Shipping Commissioner at New York says that while obviously he cannot act on a generalization, specific complaint of injustice made to him will be sympathetically investigated.

Patent Medicine Frauds.

Some Samples of the Deceits Prepared for the Gullible Sick.

From the Food and Drug Bulletin of the New York City Department of Health.

The division of patent and proprietary medicines of the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the New York city Department of Health was established with a view of preventing the sale of all preparations for which false, fraudulent and misleading claims were made. For this end the division undertook the perusal of all literature accompanying preparations for registration and also of a number that have not been registered for the reason that they complied with the law by having the name of the active ingredients printed on the label or package.

As a consequence a great number of manufacturers were notified of violations and they in most cases revised their labels and literature so as to comply with the law. Others were informed that the preparations which they offered would be analyzed and if the therapeutic action of the ingredients were not such as could relieve the ailments or diseases for which claims were made they must withdraw such preparations or the department would prosecute if sold or offered for sale in New York city. A few cases of particular interest in this connection that came under the supervision of the division are as follows:

Two manufacturers offered preparations for registration that were said to be cures for leprosy. On learning the names of some of the active ingredients this claim was disputed and one of the manufacturers withdrew his medicine, which was, in our opinion, evidence that he doubted the preparation's efficacy. The other, however, maintained it was a positive cure. Therefore, the application for registration was denied and the manufacturer notified that he would be prosecuted if he sold it in New York city.

Another preparation presented consisted of a bag of clay containing a small amount of free sulphur. This bag, weighing from two to nine pounds, was to be applied hot in cases of cancer and other tumors, tuberculosis, appendicitis and various other diseases. A large number of testimonials were submitted to prove the truth of the claims made for it. The analysis and literature lauding its virtue, and testimony given before a Federal Judge to the effect that the witnesses had been permanently relieved of cancer and other diseases, were presented to the patent medicine committee of the Department of Health for its opinion.

This committee pronounced the claims fraudulent, false and exaggerated and recommended prosecution if the preparation was sold or offered for sale in New York city.

Apparently a Partisan View.

White River news in Blytheville Herald-News.

We sure did laugh when we saw the black eye that Charlie Harrington of Blytheville gave Esten Write. He looks like he was wearing a false face.

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