"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." —Proverbs: XX, 27

(The text today is suggested by the Rev. Dr. Wallace Radcliffe, pastor emeritus of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church)

France Can Reduce Army

M. POINCARE has announced there is no Russian military menace.

During the conference here, M. Briand, then the French premier, rose and warned the delegates not to attempt to discuss land disarmament. He said the vast Russian armies were kept from inundating Western civilization only by France's military forces. He said that one day and sailed away home the next day.

Lloyd George recently reported to the House of Commons on the Genoa conference and claimed the threatening Red Army was a reason for his trying to placate Russia and draw her back into the family of nations.

But now M. Poincare, the present French premier, says Lloyd George is quite wrong. French military information is that the Soviet Army is not over 600,000 men, badly equipped, half starved, without a transport system that could move them.

Trotzky has just said that another war is an impossibility. He plans to cut his army in two as a result of the coming Hague conference.

In view of what Poincare has found out, what is to prevent France from cutting down her armed force of 800,000 men, most of them massed on the German border?

By the way, last year Germany's excess of births over deaths was 800,000.

Interesting coincidence.

Two Sides of a Picture

IF you know where to go, what to do and how and when to do it, Greeley's advice is still good.

Some young men who once "went West" to California's Imperial Valley have just won remarkable rewards by growing lettuce for the Eastern market.

On land which they bought for $150 to $250 per acre—some time ago—they realized this winter for less than six months' work as high as $800 net profit per acre and have the other six months in which to grow canteloupes, also highly profitable when the market is right.

It is only fair to add that when the market or the weather isn't right, big profit soon becomes big loss.

Simple Justice.

WHATEVER other arguments may be offered for or against the Bonus and the means of paying it, the demand for justice to our young men is the one unanswerable plea.

Hanford MacNider, National Commander of the American Legion, says on this score:

Congress cannot make promises voluntarily to a whole generation of the nation's defenders and repudiate them. They cannot leave this generation shaken in its faith in government. Congress must pass the Bonus and not capitalize it as a political measure. The Bonus is not a political question and cannot be one. It is a matter of justice.

The country which was glad to pay a bonus to Washington will not question the patriotism of the modern fighter who is ready to accept a bonus from the nation whose cause he made his own. It is a matter of simple justice.

Immigrants in U. S. Ships

A VALUABLE provision in the ship subsidy bill is the clause reserving for American ships 50 per cent of our immigrant traffic. This clause has been removed from the bill by the House Committee on Merchant Marine. It is understood that the immigrant clause will be introduced as a separate bill amending the immigration law.

Nothing will suit the foreign steamship lines better than to have the immigrant clause dropped altogether. The European-owned companies were built largely out of profits made by carrying immigrants to America.

The immigrant traffic is the most lucrative business on the seas. The ruling immigrant fare today is $85. Half of this is profit—so shipping men have testified at the subsidy bill hearings.

The immigration expected under the new 3 per cent immigration law is 220,000. If half of this, or 110,000, come in American ships, their gross earnings from this source alone will be $9,350,000 and their net earnings $4,675,000.

That would be a subsidy of $4,675,000 without costing the taxpayers a cent. Carrying 110,000 immigrants would employ twenty-five regular American passenger ships.

Upon what ground can the British Ambassador protest to the State Department against the requirement that 50 per cent of our immigrants shall be carried by American steamers?

The 50 per cent immigrant clause, thus separated from the shipping bill itself, will bear watching. If the British shipping interests could defeat this measure, they could almost afford to let the shipping bill pass.

In the vital North Atlantic trade the new American lines will need more than the small mail subsidy. They will need traffic, and the immigrant clause gives it to them.

Be Independent, Ladies

IN order to force every American woman to purchase a new outfit of clothes, Paris designers have lengthened skirts almost to the ground.

Periodically they try the same trick on us men—try to put us into knickerbockers for evening wear. We resist. Why not you? Of course, our sense of humor helps us.

You followed the Parisian tyrants up to the knees. Your good sense brought you back to a skirt length that gives you freedom, grace and health. If you give that up for anyone, make him pay you money, don't pay him.

Some day American women will also throw off the European yoke of covering their ears, now unmasked only in the bath. Earhiding not only eclipses two of the stars in the firmament of feminine beauty, but destroys the long lovely line that nature intended to run back of the ear from head to shoulder.

Who Is Next?

HENRY FORD'S neighbors have organized to boom him for President. We second the motion to make Henry Ford President—of the Dearborn Neighborhood Club.

WHO CAN COUNT ITS VICTIMS?

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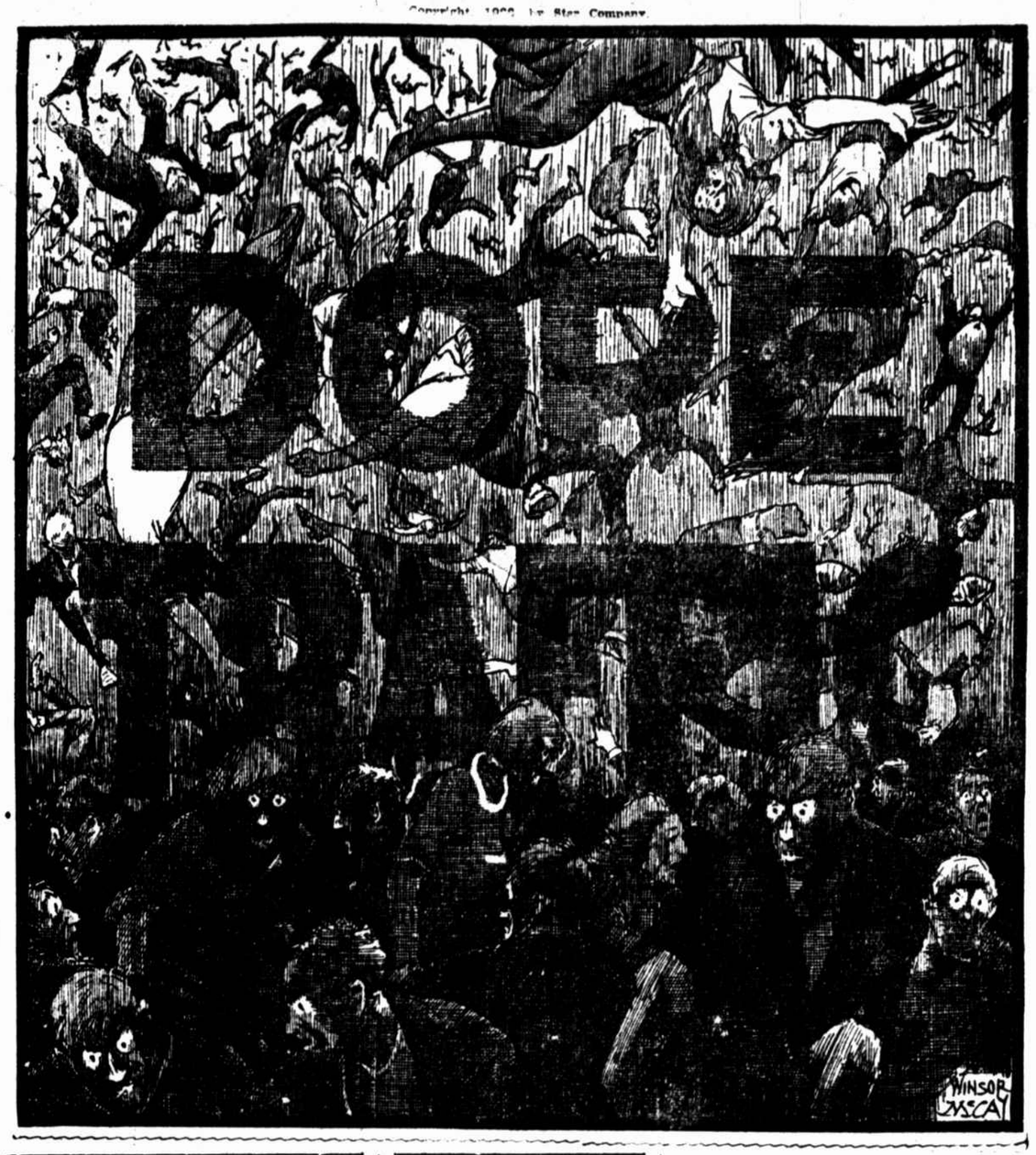

WAYSIDE WISDOM

(Copyright, 1922.)

By S. E. Kiser

The Back-to-Eden Movement.

By S. E. KISER.

"COME, dear," he said, "and let us find
The way that leads from sordid things;
There still are sparkling streams that wind,
And we may quaff at limpid springs;
I have a longing in my breast
For many things I cannot name—
A yearning to be off in quest
Of pleasures you and I may claim."

"I FEAR," she answered with a laugh,
"That I'm compelled to pass it up;
I do not care at all to quaff
Where there is neither spout nor cup.
The streams that wind, I must admit,
Possess a certain sort of lure,
But I was never born to sit
Upon a grassy bank, I'm sure."

"LET those," he said, "who yield to greed
Remain to worry and to plan;
They hurry when there is no need,
But they will end where they began!
They came with nothing; they must leave
With nothing they may call their own;
They strive, they struggle, and they grieve,
And die unhappy and unknown!

"COME, dear, and let us turn from all
The trouble and the toil and care,
Obedient to no master's call,
And free from ills the foolish bear;
There still are Edens to be found,
Where peace prevails and joy is free;
Throw off your shackles, and, unbound,
Come gently hand-in-hand with me."

"YOUR invitation," she replied,
"Is tempting, in a way, and yet
Conditions cause me to decide
To stay and toil, perhaps to fret.
If Adam-like you wish to leave,
I hope you'll find an Eden, dear;
When I adopt the ways of Eve
I'll stay and claim attention here."

Stars and Stripes

Both names "Minnesota" and "Dakota" are Indian words, "Minnesota" meaning "sky-tinted water" and "Dakota" meaning "allies." It refers to the confederation or league of Sioux tribes.

According to the War Department, an honorable discharge is written on white paper, a discharge without honor on blue paper, and a dishonorable discharge on yellow paper.

NATIONAL PROBLEM

By "BUGS" BAER.

ALL great men have their pet trefiens. Napoleon was so afraid of cats that he wouldn't order rabbit stew. Wellington was also scared curly when he piped Persian kittens and Caesar absolutely refused to sleep in same cage with leopards.

MEN of all ages have to pay dearly for pheasants and ostriches while flappers of all ages are frightfully pink when they spot little mice in pantry.

SKEETER picnic is now on. Very few folks know how to protect themselves in clinches with this neck-nibbling cuckoo.

TRYING to slap one of these sock-stingers is like shadow boxing with Conan Doyle's most important spook.

SKEETER is like priceless pearl of tropical seas. Unless he is worn close to some beautiful neck he loses his luster. Nobody wants lavaliere of double-barreled Jersey vultures around his ears, even if they are perfectly matched.

THERE are two methods of delivering reformatory whacks to these ankle cannibals. City and suburban.

CITY slam is blow of inexperience. Usually results in victim knocking himself out with uppercut to point of skeeter's jaw.

FORTUNATELY, even if blow misses skeeter, impact is so terrific that swamp hawk dies of shell shock.

SUBURBAN is more skilled slam in manly art of selfish defense.

SKEETER throttles his engine down when near landing field, shoots his rudder and settles nimbly on rural vertebrae. Suburbanite inhales hum of marsh Zepplin's propeller and raises one hand flirtfully, each finger in its proper place.

SKEETER thinks victim is waving at some girl. Hand comes up rhythmically in classical Greek dancing poses, although some folks employ Egyptian style. Skeeter thinks his prey is rehearsing for tableaux vivants. Fills his emergency tanks. About to buzz off when hand ricochets from its deploying movement and crashes down on spot that skeeter has just left.

THESE reciprocatory calisthenics are continued at regular intervals of one minute for two hours. Skeeter finally gets his load and retreats to his boggy arsenal.

GROGGY suburbanite sounds shrill cry of victory and swoons on his patriotic neck which had given till it hurts.

YE TOWNE GOSSIP

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By K. C. B.

I'D GONE to the country.
FOR AN afternoon.
WITH HAROLD Lloyd.
THE PICTURE star.
AND SOMETHING happened.
TO OUR auto car.
AND THERE we were.
IN A little village.
NOT FAR from home.
AND WE found a man.
IN THE town garage.
AND HE dragged the car.
TO HIS working place.
AND LOOKED at it.
AND SAID to us.
IT WOULD take four hours.
TO FIX it up.
AND IT was late.
AND ALMOST dark.
AND THE trolley station.
A HALF mile off.
AND WE started for that.
AND AHEAD of us.
ON A lonely road.
WERE A couple of girls.
JUST STROLLING along.
AND AFTER a while
WE HEARD the car.
AND STARTED to run.
AND THE girls looked back.
AND STARTED to run.
AND BY that time.
IT WAS nearly dark.
AND THERE we were.
THE FOUR of us.
ON THE lonely road.
WITH THE girls ahead.
AND WE gained a little.
AND THE car came on.
AND WE were close
AND HAROLD yelled
AND BOTH of the girls.
WENT INTO high.
AND WE reached the station.
JUST AT the moment.
THE CAR pulled out.
AND THE girls were crying.
AND TELLING a man.
THAT WE had chased them.
HALF A mile.
AND WE explained.
AND IT was all right.
BUT I didn't dare tell 'em.
WHO HAROLD was.
OR THERE'D have been a scandal.
AND EVERYTHING

I THANK you.

On shipboard, "bells" mark the half hour. Four, 8 and 12 o'clock are marked by eight bells; 4:30, 8:30, and 12:30, by one bell; 1, 5, and 9 by two bells, and so on until eight bells, which marks the end of the ordinary watch.

Strange Ward Killing

TWO men are concerned, one closely, the other remotely, in the killing of an individual named Peters.

Mr. Ward, the young man who did the killing and who admits that he did the killing, is at liberty. He has money to give bail.

Another, wanted as a witness, not accused of any CRIME, is locked up in prison, waiting to answer questions—he couldn't get $5,000 bail.

The difference between money in this case is the difference between jail and liberty, and the curious thing about it is that the man at liberty, because his father has money, admits that he killed another man. And the man in jail is accused of nothing.

More important than that small demonstration of the fact that money counts even in a republic is the extraordinary fact that young Mr. Ward should be at liberty at all.

It is well known that the crime of murder is one which admits of no bail.

It is not, of course, proved or alleged by anyone that the killing of Peters by Ward WAS murder. But it is admitted by Ward himself that he KILLED the man. He gives an explanation that suits him; there is absolutely no proof whatever of his explanation except HIS own words.

He walks up to the authorities, saying: "I killed such-and-such a man, at such a time, because he and his associates were blackmailing me." The authorities bow politely and allow him to go.

If a man ragged and poor had said: "I killed a man because he had done so and so to me," do you think HE would have been allowed to go? Hardly.

Mr. Ward may have had sufficient provocation for the killing of the man that he did kill, although there could be no legally "sufficient" provocation unless the killing were forced upon him suddenly and unexpectedly by an effort to take his own life.

But that a man should kill another, that he should tell the authorities of the killing, that he should say, "He blackmailed me," and then be allowed to go and remain at large, is interesting and extremely difficult to explain to the satisfaction of the general public.

In many other ways the Ward case is complicated. The other complications are the details of a criminal case. They are not important.

What IS important is the fact made clear to the minds of all the people, of all criminals, of all ignorant and unfortunate, that if you have MONEY you can kill, tell your own story and be set free. If you have NO money and are even suspected of knowing something about a killing, you are kept in jail.

That is not a good thought to put into the minds of millions of men in a republic.

Wheelbarrow People

THE wheelbarrow never goes unless it is pushed. There are too many wheelbarrow people.

Too many parents in their very proper desire to do their best for their children coddle them, protect them and help them so much that they make wheelbarrows of them. The wheelbarrow lacks initiative. And initiative only comes from shouldering one's responsibility, bravely meeting dangers, squarely standing on one's own feet and clearly seeing things with one's own eyes.

Too much education is directed toward equipping youth to go only as if pushed, and not enough to developing self-reliance and auto-energy.

And speaking of autos, the kind of person we need more is the automobile person. That is the kind that goes by its own power, that is moved by an internal combustion engine, so to speak.

And the best automobile is equipped with a self-starter.

Every boy's education should include learning how to take care of himself. It should also include training in some kind of business, so that he can do his part in the world's work.

This applies also to girls. Helplessness and weakness are no attraction in a mother. For, if the truth were known, the mainspring of the career of the husband and the destiny of the children is to be found in the woman who rules the home.

Too many women are mere wheelbarrows.

Every human being is created with a certain capacity, and the right training for children consists in discovering and developing that capacity.

A state is great only as its citizens are self-reliant. It is free only under the same conditions.

To seek the righteousness of a people or the general culture or warlike strength of a people by rendering them docile and obedient is a mistake that Old World nations have made.

A nation of automobiles is better than a nation of wheelbarrows.