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ROLLING PIN'S DEFENDER

There is not a housewife in this broad, fair land who has not or will not at some time or other agree with Professor Gault of Northwestern university in advising women to meet the surly conduct of mean and devilish husbands with an instant and practical show of temper.

"Swing on them with whatever is handy," counsels Professor Gault. He recommends a dishpan of soapy or greasy water, a rolling pin of a flatiron (as appropriate weapons).

There are few men who could stand up before such a fusillade. There is something so uncompromising about a rolling pin. It reminds one so much of those first biscuits that impenetrable piécrist which graced the table during the honeymoon. You cannot argue with a rolling pin.

To be sure there are husbands who will not be content to let the little domestic scene end there. They will retaliate, but after all is over and the wife has had the last word, the air will be clearer, the husband far less likely to fall into a grouchy mood again. Professor Gault has raised domestic strife to the level of university lecture. But he has really not told the womenfolk anything they did not know already.

THE HABIT OF ACCUSING

Severe condemnation should be heaped on the practice of many persons, which has almost attained the proportions of a national habit, to make charges against public officials or other prominent persons through the newspapers or in ways that give them no opportunity of defending themselves.

Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, who gave much of his time to the Emergency Fleet corporation during the war, became the victim of an unwarranted attack when Colonel Abadie, former controller of the United States shipping board, charged that Mr. Schwab had collected \$260,000 from the government in a single month. Mr. Schwab promptly went before a congressional committee and produced evidence to show that he had not received a dollar from the government as salary and that he had paid his own personal expenses. Colonel Abadie apologized for his hasty charge, but a grave injustice has been done to Mr. Schwab.

Serious charges are frequently made against officials of the government, usually by persons who are not responsible either in finances or character, and those individuals are permitted to escape the punishment they deserve for their attempts to defame the character of public men. Even though apologies are forthcoming, much harm has been done in the minds of thoughtless persons.

THE METRIC SYSTEM

The metric system, which measures everything in tens, is the logical basis for all human computations and measurements. The reason for this is that all of us are equipped with 10 fingers and 10 toes. From the time we are taught to say "this little pig went to market," our attention is directed to our digits. We normally count in tens.

Thus it would seem reasonable for this country to adopt the metric system and do away with our clumsy measurements of miles, pounds, gallons and bushels. Bills are even now before both houses of congress providing for such a change. All scientific work is done metrically. The system is universally used on the continent of Europe, only England and the United States lag.

To be sure, it would be a difficult thing to accustom people to buy milk by the liter, to weigh goods by the gram and measure distances by the meter. France, when the system was put into effect there in the days of the revolution, suffered some inconvenience for a time. In fact, it was not until the period of the second empire that its use became universal.

Two million Americans who recently took a notable little journey to France are now more or less accustomed to the metric system. If the change is ever to be made in this country, this seems to be a good time. It will not mean that work will be any easier, or that the cost of living will come down. But

it will mean that the arithmetic of business will be greatly simplified. Our money system is already metric. Why not make our measurements of other things conform?

BUSINESS MEN OPTIMISTIC

In the face of continued slump in prices as industrial and trade deflation progresses, it is noticeable that there is an encouraging note of optimism by leading manufacturers and business men. The period the country is now passing through was discounted in advance by men familiar with the operations of economies.

Merchants generally were reluctant to "take a loss," and at once enter upon the lower price levels for merchandising, and it is not surprising that this should have been the case. Most merchants had stocked up heavily with high-priced goods, and unseasonable weather had fallen. But business men now realize that they were guilty of an error of judgment in proceeding on the assumption that the high-level prices would hold up through the present winter. Bitterness against the federal reserve board which followed its action in "tightening up" on money has given way to a realization that this was the only effective way of stopping inflation of prices and of reducing them to the level on which a resumption of industrial and trade activities could be based.

There is yet much to be done in the work of readjustment, but a beginning has been made, and there is reason to believe that recovery is now getting under way. Prediction that workers would refuse to accept new conditions are now seen to have been unfounded. Nothing is to be gained by enlarging on the condition of unemployment, but all should join in the spread of optimism, for a great deal will depend on the state of mind in which the nation approaches solution of the industrial problem. The principle of psychology functioned in bringing present conditions about, it should operate to help in overcoming them.

OBSERVATIONS

Today is grounding day. Rents will come down appreciably when folks are able to find somewhere else to move.

A man fools himself a lot more than he does a woman if he thinks he can make a lie stick.

There is nothing quite so certain as a growing bank account to create a feeling of optimism.

Perhaps the largest number of sighs of relief are breathed by women after the company has gone.

The way civilized peoples are acting these days gives the savage a better standing in history.

The man who makes a mountain out of a molehill has no reason to be proud of his mental inflation.

This is the reason of the year when the backyard gardener seems to have the greatest enthusiasm.

It looks as though all the jail space in the country would be occupied if all the crooks are ever rounded up.

It is no disgrace for a man to be called a crank if he is the kind that keeps turning things around.

Moscow characterizes reports of Lenin's death as "fantastic rumors." The exaggeration is a matter of regret.

The man who decides that cigars are too expensive assures his friends he gets the most satisfaction out of a pipe.

Anyhow, when a poor man dies he is not called on to give up as much as the rich man.

Political virtue is something that functions best with the men who are out of office.

FAMOUS GOLF PLAYERS TO PLAY LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 2.—Players from many parts of the United States are expected to participate in the annual southern California open golf championship over

WOULD ADOPT THE MANILA OFFICIAL

(By Associated Press) MANILA, P. I., Feb. 2.—The city council has adopted a resolution requesting the legislature to pass a law which would make Governor General Francis Burton Harrison an adopted son of the Philippine islands.

The resolution in part says: "The Filipinos, being a people that know how to appreciate whatever is done for the advancement of their country, and Governor General Harrison having labored constantly to this end ever since the memorable day that he stepped for the first time upon our shores, should express in a permanent way their gratitude toward Governor Harrison. The Filipino people desire to have an unflinching memory of his personality, inasmuch as it is not possible for him to stay with us as long as we should like. The best manner to show to Governor General Harrison our appreciation and admiration for him is to make him, by law, an adopted son of the Philippines."

FAMOUS INVENTOR AWARDED MEDAL

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, Feb. 2. Dr. WILLIAM T. WHITNEY, of Schenectady, N. Y., inventor of a detector for giving warning of the approach of submarines, has been awarded the Perkin Gold Medal, one of the highest honors in science, in recognition of his many inventions through which he had applied chemistry to the service of mankind.

The medal is given for the highest achievements in applied science and is named for Sir William Perkin, a distinguished chemist and discoverer of the first processes for the manufacture of aniline dyes from coal tar.

The submarine detector, which was put into practical application during the European war at the Nahant station of the United States, is probably Mr. Whitney's best known invention. As a member of the naval consulting board, he also did much for the development of radio telephony and radio telegraphy, while the conflict with Germany was in progress. He is now director of the research laboratory of the General Electric company at Schenectady, N. Y.

DEDICATE REDWOOD AS A MEMORIAL

(By Associated Press) SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 2.—One of California's groves of big redwoods was dedicated recently as a memorial to Colonel Reynald C. Bolling, said to be the first American officer of high rank to lose his life in the world war. The grove is on the Eel river, 50 miles from Eureka.

Dr. J. C. Phillips, of Wenham, Massachusetts, Colonel Bolling's brother-in-law, purchased the grove for the memorial and will present the deed to the California Save the Redwoods league. A memorial tablet will be placed near the entrance.

The Los Angeles Country club golf course February 6, 7 and 8.

About \$2000 in cash prizes will be given the winning professionals, while cups will be awarded to the successful amateurs.

Clyde Johnson, professional of Loveland, Ohio, now in Los Angeles, has announced his intention of entering and John Black of San Francisco, who won the southern California open title last year, and his brother, Robert, also are expected to enter.

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