

**The Seattle Star**  
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**Silence sweeter is than speech.—Craik.**  
**Coal Is a Basic Necessity, But Nobody Seems to Care**

Coal is a basic necessity of life. Without it, industry and consequently life on this continent would be impossible. Two groups are directly responsible for the production of coal, and a third group, the public, is deeply concerned with it. The coal beds of the earth, which the Creator manufactured out of sunlight and vegetation when the world was very young, are now in the hands of comparatively few men, who own them for a living. A much larger number of men—the coal miners—are permitted to work in the mines which the first group owns, in order that they, too, may make a living. When the first group permits the second to work, the rest of the people—the public—gets coal. If the process efficient? Coal production statistics compiled by the federal trade commission from reports submitted by 1081 mine owners for the month of March indicate an increase in the profit per ton of 13 cents, or 45 per cent. So that the owners, at least, must consider the process efficient. The average cost per ton of mining coal was reduced 4 per cent in March over February, and the output per working day increased 5 per cent.

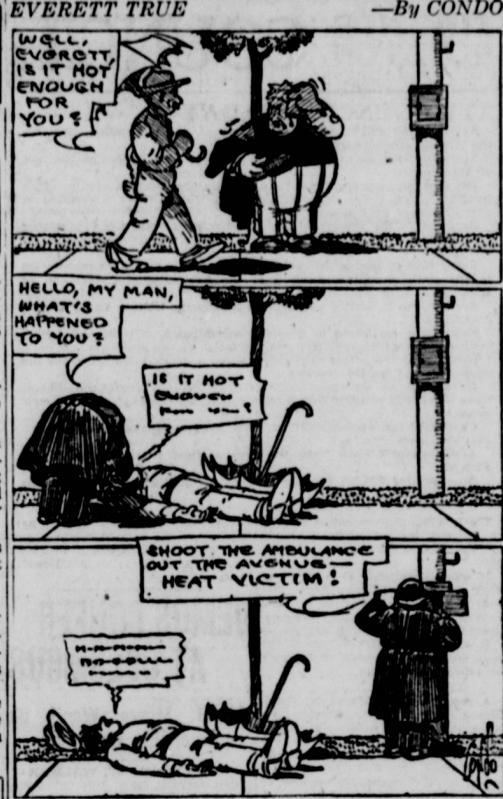
Again the owners, at least, should be satisfied. They get more coal mined per working day, at a less cost per ton in March than in February, with an increased profit of 45 per cent. How about the miners? "The average number of days worked by each miner during March was given as 19 against 17 in February." There were 27 possible working days in March; the miners were permitted to average 19 of them. Eight days of lost time; eight days of no pay; eight days of enforced loafing; eight days when the miner's family had to eat but had no income. That is not satisfactory to the miners. Is it any wonder they wanted a six-hour day at the same rate of pay as for eight hours? And the public? How about it? Eight days of lost production out of every month in the year means 96 days of no production for the entire year. Has that anything to do with the fact that coal profits increased 45 per cent in a single month? Is coal mining as at present conducted the most efficient way for a nation to manage its power resources? It would certainly seem a better way might be devised.

**The Bathing Girl**  
 Which is right—The councilor of the town of Trowbridge, England, who said if young men were to see young girls in the modern bathing suit they would not marry; Or Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, wife of the minister of education, who contends that instead of militating against marriage it "would lead to the best marriages, the marriages which result in real happiness, because they are based on knowledge and understanding as well as true love?" The two views as expressed are the views of two sections of the human race. Does modesty consist in concealment or revelation? There is a fundamental difference in the views of those who believe, with sincerity, no doubt, that the human body is something which should be concealed and those who believe it is a beautiful, beautiful and glorious thing in itself. The view of the first of these schools of thought is that sex is a matter of shame, that it must not be mentioned in public, that knowledge of it must be scrupulously kept from the young; that ignorance constitutes purity. The view of the second is the view that is coming more and more to be held by educators, physicians, sociologists, and those who have given most thought to the question of sex. It is that youth and maiden should grow up together in open, frank and honest comradeship without a sense of secrecy and shame over the facts of sex. It is that boys and girls should admire rightly the handiwork of God as expressed in the human form, taught that healthy, beautiful bodies are to be admired, not regarded with shame, and that love and marriage and children are clean, beautiful, important things which deserve not to be clouded over by mystery, ignorance and superstition, but thought about openly, frankly and sincerely.

**Hurry the Decision**  
 Anti-suffrage bitter-enders have attempted their last possible blow at the doctrine that women equal with men are American citizens, and equally endowed with the same rights and duties. The petition to restrain the secretary of state from performing his obvious duty contains no new argument against suffrage; it raises no undecided constitutional question, and brings up no real problem, moral or legal. It is merely a weak attempt to postpone national suffrage until after the November elections. The petitioners haven't a leg to stand on. Probably no one knows it better than they themselves. And if the District of Columbia court doesn't deny the petition, the supreme court will. But the goal hoped for by these bitter-enders may be achieved. The courts may dilly-dally in this case as they are so prone to do. They may consider a summer vacation more important than immediate suffrage. The district court is in session now. It may decide at once. Then probably the case will be appealed to the federal supreme court. The justices of this court—the highest court in the land—are on their all-summer vacation. They do not return to the bench until October, unless moved by an extraordinary impulse to serve the American public in a critical moment. It isn't often the supreme court has permitted business to interfere with its vacations. That is well known to the bitter-enders who selected the vacation period to hurl the suffrage question into the courts. It would be most regrettable to permit the summer play of nine judges to postpone for four years the presidential vote of millions of American women.

**New Worries**  
 Doctors now think imperfect teeth are a chief source of many ailments. It has come to seem nearly as dangerous to have teeth as once it seemed to have an appendix. Each year those who worry have something new to worry about. As each new case for concern comes to notice the previous worries are forgotten. One year, it was thought dangerous to eat oysters. They gave one typhoid. Maybe they do yet. But few worry about it. The supposed menace of ripe silver is a more fashionable worry in 1926. Man is encompassed by perils. Let him but look at a street car conductor, and the conductor may sneeze. Flu! Man sits down to eat. A fly may have put its foot in his food. His glass of water is full of invisible wrigglers, one of which may cause his death. A dog may bite him in the leg. Or a brick may fall off a roof, and hit him on the head. He may trip over a door-mat and break his neck. He may choke on a fish-bone. Or he may die of blood poisoning from biting his thumb while eating corn-on-the-cob. The man who does not worry has all the best of it. There is no certainty that he will die sooner than the most cautious and fearing. Surely, he won't die more often! Blaine Davis, released from the King county jail Monday that he might file his candidacy for Snohomish county sheriff, is a brave man. It's far easier to linger quietly in jail as a convicted bootlegger than weather a political campaign.

**Might Be Worse**  
 Next time you draw a check to send to the collector of internal revenue for income tax, don't complain of being a Frenchman, and be happy. The French income tax is three times the United States levy. An official estimate of taxes due from a man with an income equivalent to \$50,000, or 240,000 francs, is \$21,823. This is assuming the normal rate of exchange of 3.20 francs to the dollar. If the rate be assumed to be 12 francs to the dollar—the present rate at depreciated exchange—a Frenchman would have to have 600,000 francs income, to equal \$50,000 income in the U. S. A. At this rate, the Frenchman will pay this year \$30,223 income tax to his government. The assumption is made that this Frenchman is married, living with his wife, and has three minor children, and that his income is equally divided between professional or business direct income and income from investments. The citizen of the United States of the same status, pays to the federal government on the same income \$4,497 tax. The Frenchman whose income is 50,000 francs will pay this year a smaller income tax than in 1919. The man whose income is 240,000 francs pays 50 per cent more income tax, while if he has an income of 600,000 francs he will pay 250 per cent more next year than this. France is reducing the tax on the smaller incomes and increasing it on the larger incomes. France believes that taxation should be based on ability to pay. It is a pity that U. S. congressmen do not read the French news and get the suggestion that it gives. A whole lot of people in the U. S. A. believe that ability to pay might profitably be made the basis of U. S. taxation, too. The woman later now rings to remark that all of Russia's troubles can be traced to the "she" in Bolshevik.



**Chairman Colver Writes for The Star Today on Our Car Shortage**

BY WILLIAM B. COLVER  
 Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission  
 HUNDREDS of millions of working capital and credit are tied up in goods and commodities which cannot be moved to market. Prices mount higher and higher, not because there are not goods enough to supply the demand, but because the goods cannot be shipped. Capital is tied up; credit grows tight; business hesitates and coal cars are hauling the 1926 crop of automobiles. So far as I know, there is just one thing upon which both the believers in private ownership and the believers in government ownership of railroads fully agree. It is that maximum efficiency can only be had if these railroads are one operating unit. RICHEST ROADS CAN'T HAVE "PEAK" EQUIPMENT Not even the richest railroad can operate profitably and with reasonable rates if it has to supply itself with rolling stock equipment capable of taking care of its peak load. The great commodities of the country are produced and consumed seasonably and sectionally. There are times when much equipment of each road lies idle and there are other seasons when all its equipment falls far short of the requirements of traffic. If the government is to aid the railroads in obtaining \$200,000,000 worth of new locomotives and cars, it would seem to me that the interest of the public and of the roads would best be served by having this additional, government-supplied equipment handled as a unit so that it may be mobilized in those sections of the country where seasonal movements of freight are on. This does not necessarily mean government ownership or government operation. It means handling this government-supplied equipment just as the Pullman cars are handled. SERPUL'S PULLMANS MOBILIZED SEASONALLY The surplus Pullmans are mobilized seasonally and sectionally to meet extraordinary traffic. Having met it, they are hurried away to meet the next emergency. It is just as possible to handle this proposed new supply of rolling stock and motive power in that way as it is to handle the Pullmans that way. Separate operation of the railroads in private hands utterly broke down when the strain of war was thrown upon them. Five or six boards of railroad executives attempted one after another, unsuccessfully, to meet the war loan and one by one each board failed dismally. At the end of

**Doctor Frank CRANE'S Daily Article**  
 Two Newspapermen. The First Estate. No Thrill in Oratory. Fed Up on Ideals.

The two men running for president, chosen by the delegates of the two political parties, selected by the representatives of the people all over the United States, these final products of our democratic machinery, the normal evolution of the mass will, bowed and unbowed, the result of all our strife and clamor, the answer to our puzzle, the compromise to our deadlock, and hence about the sort of men, by and large, pro and con, and taking one consideration with another, the kind of men, as I was saying, that the great unterrified American people want to rule over them, the two men who make the desired composite photograph of liberal and conservative, Wall street and anarchist, white and black, woolly West and effete East, First Presbyterian socialists and Methodist Tories, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant and infidel, university professor and lively stable hand, horny-handed railway fireman and hilly-fingered coupon clipper, storekeeper and traveling man, English and Irish, Georgia cracker and Maine lumberjack, males and females, old and young, optimists and pessimists, wets and drys, Garish and Gomerish, Palmerish and Deblah, the Episcopalian bishop and the town atheist, the Atlantic Monthly and Vanity Fair, the Rockefeller institute and Christian Science, Newport and Wichita, the kind of people that admire Woodrow Wilson and the kind that vote for Laurence F. Sherman, readers of the Boston Transcript and readers of the Hearst papers, and Tom, Dick and Harry, and our folks and the folks that live the other side of the railroad tracks, and Aunt Sue's family and Uncle Eb's, and the Bogges and McCanns and Ole Glesons and Einsteins and Cohens and Prasemycs and Podedonathets and Vasconcelloses and Haasompiettes and Oransins and the Katzenellenbogen Katzevroukots-garsprechenluftschlossers, and the soldiers and sailors and slackers and pacifists, and you, and me, and all the rest of this hodge-podge, pot-pourri, olla-podrida, Irish stew, New England boiled dinner and wet hash, which we call the U. S. A., and long may it wave, the two men, as I started to say, who, after all is said and done, do represent, show forth and incarnate this complex people, are Newspaper men. Members of the Fourth Estate, which has become the First Estate. Even at the close of our greatest war we did not find a Soldier who could waken enough enthusiasm to get elected. The silver-tongued Orator could not seem to move us. Moneybags likewise appeared to have lost his persuasive touch. We were a bit shy of the Scholar, the Expert, the Business Man, the leader of any Movement, the propon-

**We'll Say So**

Today's Best Bet—Getting up in the middle of the night to skim the foam off the home-brew. (This is one of the late accomplishments of our next-door neighbor.) Well, irrigation made the Yakima valley. And now it's doing the same thing for Vancouver, B. C. One of our lady friends who objected very much to giving her age to the census taker informs us that the first four letters in opus are very, very silent. We herewith nominate our butcher for the high jump in the Olympic games. He's the highest jumper we know about. SHERMAN SAID IT AND IT'S TRUE The shell-shocked victim is the poor boob who buys a war souvenir only to find on turning it upside down that it was manufactured by a souvenir company in New York. ANOTHER FOR THE SCRAP-BOOK It took C. W. Twiss, who always cuts out for me, mentions out and pastes them in a book, just six and a half hours to work three gas stations for eight gallons of gas. In the evening he took his family to the theatre, parking his car outside of our candidate for sheriff inquires, after canvassing the Capitol Hill district. "None of 'em would admit they were old enough to vote." "No, I couldn't sing because I had a frog in my throat." "What kind? Bull?" HOT WEATHER HISTORY Slightly Jazzed Christian Heincken, born in Denmark, 1721—192 years ago—started in to be the smartest Dane who ever was—and kept it up until his intellect got the better of him. Christian was all brains and no physique and could not stand the strain. It is said of him that he spoke an hour or so after he was born, in honor of any Cause, the Martyr to any Faith. We were about fed up on Ideals, Policies, Last Ditches, and all that, and just wanted somebody who could grasp an average, see all sides, see all, know all, feel all and weigh all. And the nearest we could come to it, was Two Newspaper Men. Think what you please about them, as to their individual qualifications and their political affiliations, the point here called to your thoughtful attention is Their job.

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