

EDITORIAL PAGE---Let the Truth Prevail!

It Begins to Look As If Our Government Might Mine Its Own Coal

"Secretary of the Interior Lane is going to finish the new government built and owned Alaska railroad in three years. He's going to complete the first link—as far as the great Matanuska coal fields—next season, and the whole road, from Seward to Fairbanks, in two more years. That is, if congress will let him."

So reads a good-news dispatch to The Times from Washington, D. C., today. The correspondent adds: "Yes," said the secretary, "I am recommending that congress appropriate nine and a half million dollars for next year, and the plan is to ask for the same amount the two succeeding years. This will enable us to complete the road from Seward through to Fairbanks within three years." The secretary explained that the work has so far resulted in a complete survey of the road, and the laying of 38 miles of track.

"We expect to have the road completed as far as the Matanuska coal fields by the end of next season," continued Secretary Lane. "This will make possible the opening of the coal fields and the shipment of coal to the coast, provided lessees can be found to take up coal leases under the Alaskan leasing

law." This led to a still more important proposal; namely, that the government itself might go into the coal mining business in the Matanuska, if private interests do not see fit to begin the mining of coal.

"Under the law as it stands, we have authority to mine coal for the use of the railroad," explained Mr. Lane, "but we cannot mine coal for the navy, or for sale, without an act of congress making the necessary appropriations, and we would not want to do that unless private interests fail to take up leases." Mr. Lane said that he had not consulted with Secretary Daniels on the question of securing coal from the Matanuska for the navy next year, but that he expected lessees to furnish all that would be required for naval use for some time. "We have a number of inquiries on file now," said the secretary, "indicating that leases will be taken up as soon as the regulations are ready, which will be some time this winter."

We do not know how the rest of you feel about this, but as far as we are concerned we are not going to worry about those private coal mine operators. We would be willing, even glad, to see the experiment of government coal mining tried. We have an idea it would be interesting and a great success.

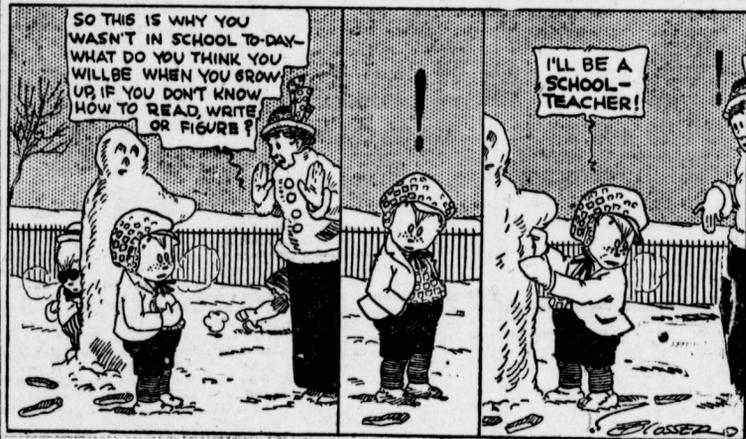
Taking Up the Burdens of the Shirkers

Desertion of families by fathers is one of the persistent social problems. It causes are easy to discover but its cure is difficult. "Desertion is sometimes premeditated, sometimes drifted into by men going out to look for work; it is sometimes due to intemperance or moral weaknesses, sometimes to temperamental infirmities of husband or wife," runs the report of the Springfield Survey, Department of Survey and Exhibits, Russell Sage Foundation.

The report puts particular emphasis upon the social influence exerted by each case of desertion: "The spectacle, for instance, of rewarded desertion—that is, of the husband temporarily relieved of his responsibilities, the family in about as good shape as before he left, or in fairly good shape soon after his departure—may tend toward irresponsibility among men wavering upon the border."

But "social influence" can work in several ways. One form of it can make desertion mighty unpopular. This is the form of pronounced public contempt. The man who deserts his family leaves them to be supported by the other men who make up the community. He makes his family a charge upon the man next door and the man across the street, and upon his neighborhood and town. He throws his responsibility upon all who pay taxes—and no one escapes some form of tax. When the hard working independent citizen realizes that he is bound to assume the burdens of all the shirkers, he will soon see to it that fewer men get the chance to shirk.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS BY BLOSSER (Freckles Evidently Doesn't Think Teachers Know Very Much!)



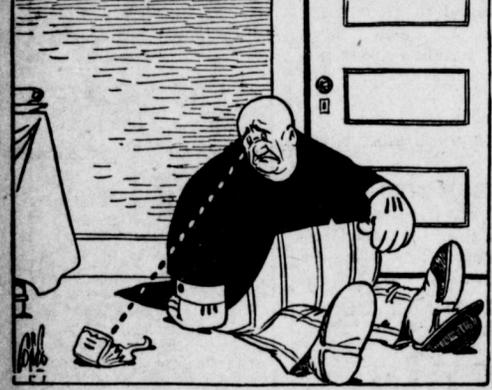
me and we started to fox trot. "Jim, sometimes I just almost love you." Instead of laughing at me, Jim just clasped me a little closer and said with more feeling than he usually put into his jests with me. "Don't do it quite, Margie, for if you did and told me so with that smile on your mouth I am afraid I'd entirely forget that I was anything but the man you were saying you loved." "Say, are you trying to flirt with me, Jim Edie; if you are, you get right out of the notion, for I am not going to have the only real man friend I've got spoiled by his trying to make himself over into a make-believe lover. Why is it that a man wants to spoil it all when he is getting along so fine with a woman by starting in to make love to her if she gives him the least chance?" Jim went back to his old excuse. "You see, Margie, things are all mixed up in this world, but at that, I am not so sure that you would not flirt the tinniest bit, if the right man came along." "You're not the right man, Jim," I said with a sigh, and then as I looked across and saw Eleanor Fairlow with her head almost on Dick's shoulder, the devil whispered to me and I looked up and smiling at him said, "Sometimes I almost wish you were." You see, little book, I am just like any other human being. If a man or woman hurts me I want to hurt back. (Continued Tomorrow.)

THEY THAT CAN GIVE UP ESSENTIAL LIBERTY TO OBTAIN A LITTLE TEMPORARY SAFETY DESERVE NEITHER LIBERTY NOR SAFETY. —BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

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OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



fire insurance agent in Rutland, Va. Sir: Who started the saying that a man's wife is his better half? (Probably some man's wife.—Ed.)

"TOO MUCH MUSTARD" (From the Plummer, Idaho, Reporter.) Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mustard made a trip to Plummer Tuesday. Mrs. Ed Mustard spent Sunday at the Haggard home. Ed Mustard returned from Spokane Monday.

A GOOD REASON Dolly—age 8: Why does the clock start all over again when it gets to 12, Bobby? Bobby: Because 13 is an unlucky number, I suppose.—Chips. Champ Clark went hunting in Missouri last autumn. He approached a village idler near a small station. "Is it worth my time to hunt around here?" asked the speaker. "Wul," drawled the Missourian, "shootin' ain' wuth shucks; but then I don't know what you time is wuth."

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CHINA BOYS' CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

Why does the camera man put a black cover over his head? (Because him see you on glass upside down—allasamee feel slo cheap.) Sir Herbert Tree, the eminent English actor, who recently visited the United States, told this story at a banquet in New York. A Scotch stage manager sent two stage hands up in the wings armed with big brown paper bags full of confetti to create a snow scene. At the climax, the snow dwindled. "Whaur's the snow?" cried the anxious manager. "All the white paper gone," whispered back the stage hands. "Then snow broon, ye idiots!" called the Scotchman, "snaw broon!" Georgia prison camp riot quelled by squirting ice water on the rioters through giant hose. (This mode of warfare might interest those scrapping in Europe!) CRASH! "Can your new cook make fancy dishes?" "Not as easily as she can break them!"

B-R-R! B-R-R!



Wife—The mere thought of the furs you promised me, makes me feel warm! Hubby—And the mere thought of the coat of them makes cold chills run down my back!

IN-"GREEDY"-ENTS! Mrs. Newlywed: John dear, what are the best things to put in a Christmas pudding? J. D.: Teeth, my dear, teeth. F. H. Burnham is a prominent

THE TACOMA TIMES

MEMBER OF THE SCRIPPS NORTHWEST LEAGUE OF NEWSPAPERS. Telegraphic News Service of the United Press Association. Entered at the postoffice, Tacoma, Wash., as second-class matter. Published by the Tacoma Times Pub. Co. Every Evening Except Sunday. Official paper of city of Tacoma. PHONE: All Departments, Main 22.

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