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Now President Wilson says he always accepts a bid to fight. Next thing we know he will have a chip on his shoulder.

The war in Europe will have to bear the burden of all the Democratic party's shortcomings and failures in the administration of our internal affairs.

A cousin of Colonel Roosevelt shot himself the other day in New York after he was told by a doctor that he had only a few more years to live. Precipitation seems to run in the family.

Old John D. Rockefeller gave Henry Ford a couple of paper vests the other day, and now it is announced that gasoline has gone up another cent on the gallon. We wish John D. would put a check on his liberality.

What has become of the Bull Mooser who "Stood at Armageddon and battled for the Lord?" Gone on a strike?—Piedmont Banner.

Battling for the Lord was all right, only the victory turned out contrary to that desired. The Bull Mooser is simply disgusted with the outcome of his fight.

Our note of protest to Great Britain against the holding up and inspection of mail to neutral countries says that the transactionis considered "vexatiously inquisitorial." Is that all? Why, we had the idea all along that it was an interference with the rights of neutral nations under international law. "Vexatiously inquisitorial" is quite on par with "watchful waiting" and "too proud to fight."

We see that Governor Major has notified the head of the various state departments that they must observed the strictest economy. No indebtedness must be incurred, as nothing but their salary accounts will be allowed. Of course, there you are! All the salaries will be taken care of before anything else receives consideration. No mention was made of trying to economize a little by lopping off a few clerks in each department and making the rest do a real day's work. None of the families on the payroll are to be seperated from their regular monthly stipend from the state treasury. That might make somebody mad, who would pay off scores at the primary election. The salaries must go on, no matter how the state schools and eleemosynary institutions may be hampered for the lack of funds. Our terpsichorian Governor is one great little economist all right all right.

"The most successful farmer in the United States," is the title the Government has bestowed upon Arnold Martin, of Pawnee City, Neb. How much land does he farm—120 acres, 80 acres, 40 acres? Nothing to it! Martin's farm is just 20 acres in size, and he says he does not need more land for successful farming. Martin came to this country from Switzerland twenty years ago. He had no capital save his brain and hands, and all he knew was farming. He worked three years as a farm hand and then started out for himself with $272 he had saved. He found his 20 acres, it cost him $12.50 per acre. The land was so rocky that no one else thought it worth farming, so he got it cheap, while "decent" land near by was selling at $50 and $75 an acre. Martin started business with a $150 mortage on his land. Seven years later he was out of debt, had a good home, fine barns, cash in bank, and a standing offer of $2,500 for his twenty acres. The secret of his success is that he does not allow a foot of ground to lie idle and raises two and three crops on every acre each year. The small size of his farm enables him to irrigate it with a small pumping plant in dry seasons. He is not a truck farmer, but raises general crops, including much fruit. It is reported that he has won $5,000 in cash premiums and many pieces of machinery on exhibitions of products from his twenty-acre farm at various fairs and expositions. The Department of Agriculture at Washington was so interested in his method that it sent an expert out to investigate his system, and has issued a bulletin on it, which anyone interested can get by applying to the Agricultural Department.

Prepardness on anything like an adequate basis will cost the American people something like $200,000,000 a year in addition to the present expenditures on the navy and army, it is estimated. As the government finances are managed under the present administration the revenues must be enlarged to the required amount before we can have prepardness, which means that the taxpayer will have to shoulder the burden. This being true, it might be well for the taxpayer to do a little thinking as to whether it would be well for him to leave the management of the government in the hands of the Democratic party. The demand upon the treasury in 1915 was about $200,000,000 greater than in 1912, the last year of the Taft administration, or a hundred million dollars more than the annual estimated outlay for prepardness. Can the American people see where they have derived any benefit from this mounting of the cost of their government? Is the navy any more efficient, is the army, or have they had a more satisfactory administration of national affairs in general? Does this freedom with the revenues appeal to them from any points? So far we have failed to observe any general satisfaction on part of the people for benefits derived from the added cost of three hundred million dollars in running the government. In fact, there is a general conviction that they are not as well off by far as they were when the cost of the government was three hundred million dollars less. Had the present administration managed the finances of the government on the same basis of economy on which they were managed by the last Republican administration, there would, with the present revenues, be funds enough for prepardness in defense of the nation without levying another dollar in taxes. Under the three years of the Wilson administration the cost of the navy alone mounted $122,000,000, and that arm of our defense has deteriorated immensely in that time, instead of improving. What became of the money? What is true of the navy is true of the army also. Under such management, can we possibly expect to acquire the means of making a real military defense on two hundred million dollars a year or any sum, for that matter? There is something wrong with the machine that is running the government now, and until that error is corrected it would be the height of foolishness for the American people to pay out good money for prepardness.

We are in receipt of a circular letter issued by Governor Major in which he undertakes to explain the causes which have involved the state in financial difficulties during his administration. Of course, he makes the presentation with as good a face as possible, to give his party absolution from the responsibility for the distress of the treasury. The Governor admits that the appropriations of the last legislature exceeded the prospective revenues by something like $4,000,000, but makes no mention whatever of the fact that all the appropriation bills were framed and passed by the party in control of the General Assembly—the Democratic party. While all the departments, except the Beer Inspection Department and the Penitentiary have given a greater net return than ever before, still, he says, the increase has not been sufficient to absorb the over-appropriation. The decline in receipts from beer inspection and the Penitentiary the Governor places at $500,000, which must have been pretty well balanced by the increased receipts from the other departments the Governor speaks of. So it will be seen that it has not been from any real loss in revenue over former years that the state is scraping the bottom of the treasury these days. The whole trouble lies in the fact that party in power was reckdessly extravagant in making appropriations. We are told that large additional burdens have been laid upon the treasury, such as $200,000 for pensions for ex-Confederates, $250,000 for replacing the buildings of the Normal School at Warrensburg, destroyed by fire; but even these items could have been taken care of had it not been for the additional burdens the Governor makes no mention of at all—the creation of numerous new offices and increases of salaries in others. The very fact that the Governor has felt himself called upon to issue this explanatory letter should be sufficient proof to the people of Missouri that their state government under the present administration is, to say the least, inefficient and incapable. It convicts the party in power of failing to live up to its promise that it could and would give them an economical and satisfactory government.

Tested Seed Corn Will Save Missouri Millions.

Carefully conducted corn germination tests in Missouri this year, if followed up by an elimination of those ears grade low in vitality, make an increase of $17,000,000 for the 1916 corn crop.

This amount is an estimate of the average annual loss caused by the use of untested seed corn in the state during the last eight years, according to J. C. Hackleman of the College of Agriculture of the University of Missouri at Columbia. The use of tested seed corn may make the difference between an 80 percent stand and a perfect one, or between 2½ and 5 bushels an acre at gathering time.

Last year's wet season, slow maturity and late gathering of the crop resulted in cribbing much corn before it was ripe enough to made good seed. The Missouri farmer who selected seed carefully in the field and stored it properly can make a big return now by his increased crop or by selling the seed to his neighbors who did not take percautions last fall.

The task of testing seed corn for Missouri's 7,282,017 acres is not so great when we remember that the work is divided among more than a quarter of a million farmers. This means that to plant the average man's 26.6 acres only four or five bushels of tested seed are needed. As it takes about two hours to test a bushel of seed corn, ten hours' work by the average Missouri farmer would usually result in a difference of $40 in his income, or about $1.50 an acre net gain for all the corn he plants.

The sand box or sawdust germinator consists of a box about four inches deep and thirty inches square, with about two inches of sand or sawdust in the bottom to hold the moisture or to keep water from standing around the corn. A piece of old sheeting or other cloth that will absorb moisture, but not allow it to stand on the surface, should be stretched over the surface and marked off into two-inch squares. Put six kernels from various parts of the middle of each ear to be tested into one of these squares. Cover the box to prevent drying and keep it at room temperature—about 70 degrees F.—for six days, then find the ears from which kernels failed to germinate, throw them into the feed box and keep those that showed a good strong test.

Huh!

"You seem to be very fond of Brown," remarked Smith.

"I am," replied Jones. "He saved me from a lot of suffering."

"What did he do?" asked Smith.

"He married the girl I was once in love with," replied Jones.

The Wailing Jeremiah.

We hear a great deal now and then about the "downtrodden" and oppressed railroads, particularly when a case comes up before the Interstate Commerce Commission. There has been great rejoicing among the railroads over the fact that the Interstate Commerce Commission recently granted a rate of 2.4 cents per mile in interstate traffic, which eventually means, unless the people wake up, that a 2.4 cent rate or more will be charged on state traffic also. Under these conditions, it may be interesting to quote from a general letter on trade conditions, sent out by a committee of New York bankers, a statement of the railroad business during the month of October, 1915, as follows:

"Gross earnings for all steam railroads for October, 1915, [illegible] as compared with $[illegible] for the same month last year and a decrease of $[illegible], or nearly [illegible] per cent. Net earnings were [illegible] as compared with [illegible] a year ago, a decrease of [illegible] or nearly [illegible] per cent. An increase of [illegible] was shown in [illegible] for the month of November, [illegible] for December, [illegible] for January, [illegible] for February, [illegible] for March, [illegible] for April, [illegible] for May, [illegible] for June, [illegible] for July, [illegible] for August and [illegible] for September. The increase in the month of January was due to a comparison with the extraordinarily low figures of January, 1915, when the railroads were in the hands of receivers. The increase in November and December probably show the influence of better conditions following the conclusion of the European war. The increase in January and February represents to a considerable degree the recovery from the extraordinarily low figures of last year. The increases in March, April, May, June, July, August and September represent the recovery from the depression of the autumn of 1914. The increase in the gross earnings of the railroads in October, 1915, was shared in by all sections of the country, and was accompanied by increases in net earnings in all sections except the Pacific Northwest. An increase of [illegible] per cent in the gross earnings of the roads in the month of October, 1915, was accompanied by a decrease of [illegible] per cent in net earnings, and a decrease of [illegible] per cent in the net earnings in the month of November, 1915, but in January and February there was an increase of [illegible] per cent in net earnings, and in March, April, May, June, July, August and September there was an increase of [illegible] per cent in net earnings, and better still. There is no reason for any business that is thriving in this way, and promising to thrive right along for months, to become a wailing Jeremiah. In fact Jeremiah was not in it as a pessimist as compared with the railroads for the last few years.—Wallace's Farmer.

The Open Air Kiss Safest.

A kiss in the open air is taught with less danger and fully as much pleasure as a kiss indoors.

These grip germs that have been laying siege to Boston and other important American cities are unable to make any frank attacks when a kiss is bestowed in the open air, but when the labial salutation is given in a closed room the microbes are likely to make a "mass attack" and get at least one victim and possibly two. All this according to more or less wise Harvard students.

By the same token, kissing in sunlight is better than kissing at moonlight, for the sun has a knack of dispersing grip germs that the moon has thus far failed to acquire. Therefore, the most healthful kiss of all is the one that is given in the open air during the day time, although it isn't being done very much this season. But if it is has to be done at night, it is better for a swain to snatch a kiss on the veranda than in the parlor.

The cheek has the highest rating among the areas within which a kiss may be properly bestowed. The forehead is second best and the lips take third money. Germs lurk in the least numbers on the cheek.

Kissing should not be done while the kissee is wearing a veil. Science has released the information that germs cling to the silken texture of a veil and they are likely to be readily transferred. Besides, a young woman is likely to strain her voice if she talks while wearing a veil.

The difference between a regular kiss and a soul kiss is two minutes and upwards, the same Harvard authorities assert.—Boston Post.

LEARNED THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Old Charley" Tells How as a Child He Didn't Want To, But His Pappy "Persuaded" Him.

"Yas, praise de Lord, Ah's a good Christian," remarked old Charley to an assemblage of negro children who had gathered around him on the steps of the little shingled country church. "Ah kin say de Lord's Prayer, Ah kin, clean through, an' Ah been able to say it ever since Ah was no bigger'n a grasshopper."

"Honest, Uncle Charley, was you ever as lil ez a grasshopper?" queried a fat little youngster.

"Ah sho was, chile, an den's when mah pappy larn me de Lord's Prayer. Ah wuz a sho 'nuff hard headed chile an' Ah had a pos'tive distaste fo' prayin'. De preacher, he lay me out from de pulpit one day, 'cause he done hear dat Ah dos natcherally wouldn' larn de Lord's Prayer. Gosh ter mighty, how mah pappy done lick me after dat meetin'! He say he gwine larn me dat prayer ef it took de hide off'n me.

"He might' near done 'at, too. He go an' git an ol' piece ob trunk strap an' he take me out on the kitchen steps an' he say de first line of dat holy prayer, 'Oush Father who art in heaben.' Den he say, 'Charley, say dem words.' Ah ain't open mah mouf. Ah tol' you Ah wuz hard-headed. Whack-whew, an' he lay on dat trunk strap! 'Now say it,' he say, and Ah say, right smart like, 'Oush Father who art in heaben.'

"Den he try me on de next line, but Ah ain' goin' say dat neider twell Ah see de strap comin' at me. Den Ah says it real fas'. 'Hallowed be thy name.' We goes through de whole prayer dataway, he sayin' a line, me refusin', den he lickin' an' me sayin' wat he done tole me to.

"Nex' day Ah play possum an' hide in de woods twell nigh on 'bout time for supper. Den Ah get pow'ful hungry an' come home hopin' pappy done remember 'bout dat prayin'. But no, siree—dere he sit on de kitchen steps with dat strap. He done larn me dat night an' de nex' an' de nex' twell finally Ah could say dat prayer from start to finish. Den he larn me once a week after dat, jes to keep me recollectin' and his arm in tewerdes.

"Now Ah sho never start prayin' without Ah feels dat strap on mah back, but Ah sho is glad Ah's a Christian wid de promise ob heaben."—New York Evening Post.

Woman Grocers.

At the Hammersmith (England) Trade School for Girls the education committee has tried the experiment of holding classes for the instruction and training of girls as grocery assistants. Up to the present the classes have been well attended, and they will be continued as long as not fewer than 25 students wish to take the course. Practically every student who has passed through the course has secured a situation in the grocery trade at very satisfactory wages. It is hoped that six courses per year will be conducted, and in future every student will be required to pay a registration fee of 1s on joining the classes, which have hitherto been free. It is reported that among the girls who attend there is, on the whole, a low standard of general education, especially in spelling, grammar and punctuation. A recommendation has, therefore, been made to the council that a test in English should be imposed in the case of girls who do not possess certain qualifications.

How Germany Gets Rid of Rats.

German system has been carried out so far that in most cases it has ceased to be a matter for remark. But how many people know all its ramifications—say, to the extermination of rats, for instance? Yet, thanks to this selfsame system, there are practically no rats in Germany, while here in the United States they do $100,000,000 damage annually.

As soon as rats appear in a building or other place, if ordinary methods fail the police are notified of their existence and at once an official is detailed to exterminate the rodents. So closely is the matter followed until the effort is successful that rats are seldom seen. No charge is made for the services of the official rat catcher. As a consequence, there is little or no market for rat exterminators or traps in Germany.

Gets Wife for Dollar.

Dollar day here drew many shoppers from about the state, but probably the shopper who received the most for his money was Frank Wombacher of Winfred, forty years old, who bought a marriage license for $1 to wed Miss Jennie Nelson, twenty-six years old, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

They were married by Rev. G. D. Brown of the Methodist Episcopal church, who had reduced his official services to $1 for that day, and after the ceremony started on a shopping expedition to pick up dollar bargains for their new home.—Madison (S. D.) Dispatch St. Paul Press.

In Clutches of Giant Clam.

Bert Whaling, baseball star, is recovering his equilibrium after one of the most narrow escapes anybody ever boasted. Whaling was picking abalones, which are abnormal animals that stick to rocks. Bert didn't use a crowbar, as customary, but tried to pry his game off with a bare hand.

The prey shut down on him as a turtle would do, and Whaling was locked firmly to immovable matter. Friends arrived to release him just as the rising tide had given him two or three nerve-racking showers.—Los Angeles Times.

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