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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1920.

From The Argus of March 26, 1920—
The Argus hereafter will be conducted as an independent newspaper, published by the publisher and not by the publisher's agent.

A few men pick a restaurant for its umbrellas.

De Roumanet, French aviator, traveling 192 miles an hour, did not stop to ruminate.

The Japs refuse to regard the senator from California as a phelanthropist.

Maine woodsman ate 46 eggs for supper, which is a better tribute to his bank roll than his appetite.

Bologna is tied up by strikers, say cable dispatches. Some thought it was tied by string every foot or so.

Emma Goldman complains that money's so scarce in Russia she may have to resort to an Uncle—Uncle Sam preferred.

The Whip Hand.

Capital is preparing to carry to the public its fight against the closed shop. Labor will do likewise in defending the closed shop.

Manufacturers, the big employers of labor, have established a press bureau in Chicago. From this bureau there is to be poured out to newspapers and magazines propaganda directed against the closed shop and in support of the open shop, or an even chance for every man and woman worker regardless of whether or not they are affiliated with a trades union.

Simultaneous union labor will endeavor to convince the people that any betterments that the worker has obtained in this country have come as a result of his joining hands with his brother workers and to surrender any of the advantages secured after years of striving would be a step backward and would be a severe blow to the position which labor enjoys in the United States.

The employers say they are not fighting unionism, but that they are opposing dominance by the worker of their private business. The employer declares the present agitation is for the one purpose of restoring to the man who meets the payroll the right to manage his own affairs without interference or dictation of the worker.

The clash that promises to be brought to a head between capital and labor during the next year has long been brewing. The labor union, when wisely administered, is a source of strength both to the employer and the worker. There are some unions that never have difficulties with employers. There are others that are in constant turmoil. The difficulty seems not to be with the union, but with the individuals that comprise its membership. The same deduction applies to capital. There are big employers who never have serious disputes with their workers and whose concerns operate year in and year out without a ripple of discord apparent to the public.

After all, the whole question becomes one of men. Both sides have got to place all the

cards on the table and believe in each other. Strikes and rioting will not solve the problem. Men must come together and be on the square with each other. Professed Christians have but to practice what they preach. If they do the unions will survive and so will industry, and both will get along. The whole trouble is attributable to a desire of both sides to hold the whip hand. There must be a compromise.

Doesn't Help Cause.

Irish independence will not be aided by the riotous demonstration in New York this week when the Union club was attacked because it was flying the British colors. Might as well expect to see a citizen struck with a brick for wearing a shamrock on St. Patrick's day.

The majority of the American people sympathize with Ireland in her desire to be free of British rule, as they would with any other country seeking independence, but the case is one for settlement by Ireland and England and not by England and the United States.

If you are following the testimony being offered at the Washington inquiry you will observe that there are two sides to the question. There has been formed in the United States an organization demanding that the American government recognize the Irish republic. It is unlikely that the request will be acted upon favorably.

If people in a certain section of the United States should rise and refuse to be governed by the national laws, set up their own government, and ask recognition by Great Britain, what would we expect England to do? We would tell England that she must keep her hands out of our affairs.

The United States as a nation has no business interfering in the quarrel between England and Ireland. It is a distressing situation, and it does seem strange that in this advanced and enlightened age a great government like that of England ought to be able to pacify the restless element in one of its possessions.

Persons seeking to arouse support for the cause of Ireland in the United States are merely scattering poison against England. The United States has plenty of home troubles needing attention without increasing the burden through taking a hand in the differences between other countries. If there are to be any riots incident to the fight for Ireland's independence they should be confined to the other side of the ocean. Folks who start throwing things in the United States ought to get the limit of the law. Give the fellow who hurls rocks at the Elberian hall the same dose as the one who shoots a hole in the side of the British club. This is America and not England or Ireland.

Why Not?

Abolition of the "electoral college"; the names of presidential and vice presidential candidates only printed on the ballot, where a few hundred voters' petitions in each state will place them; a direct vote for president and vice president; abolition of party conventions; a chance for nominees other than those approved by politicians—such is the proposal for change in the organic law of the nation which will be pressed by Senator George V. Norris of Nebraska.

In all but name—and expense—the "electoral college" is a dead letter now so far as its original intention is concerned. The original plan of the fathers of the constitution contemplated that the people in each state should choose a number of wise and farsighted men who in turn would get together and, in their wisdom, pick out a man who would make the best president. The thing didn't work. Political parties came along and seized the machinery so elaborately set up and used it for their own purpose. Now, scarcely a voter realizes that he or she is voting for "presidential electors."

But though the machinery is ineffective in carrying out its original purpose, it is effective in giving political conventions and political bosses an opportunity to exclude from a possibility anybody except the choice of a political convention. Norris' plan of abolishing the electoral college, allowing a man to run for president by petition of a reasonable number of voters, and having voters vote directly for their choice for president and vice president is worth careful consideration.

The theory that the further removed government is from the people the better it is is bolshevik theory, unfitted for America. Electing electors, who in turn elect, is not good democratic American practice.



HERE LIES MAN'S ANCIENT ENEMY, DUAL CARE, WHO DISINTERS THE UNLOVED CUSS. BEWARE!

MY PORTRAIT IN FREE VERSE.

My hair is like twisted snags of old yellow confetti caught on a telephone pole. I pin it up with glass diamonds—All that I don't stirle over my ears. One of my eyes is turned a little sour by seaweed.

But together they look like opaline dew-drops on an autumn leaf. My whole face is a rough and farrowed landscape. But I dab it over with talcum, and rouge all the high spots.

And it does very well. No tooth in my mouth quite matches any other. But I draw in my lips when I smile. And nobody knows the difference. The flapping folds of my neck seem to be draped on a frame of wires;

Still, by twisting beads enough around it I can wear a low-necked dress. And I can wear my dress-skirt up to my shoulders.

If I have the shoemaker straighten my heels every other week. I can also wear a little black "tam" with a tassel. What if it does look like a cheerful little cricket sitting on a last year's chrysanthemum—

What if?—

And when I get on a seal-skin coat—O girls! Nobody in this world would guess that I am SIXTY!

But I am not desperate enough yet. To accept an Argus bachelor. Please keep 'em.—ANN NONIMAYE HOUSE.

PERHAPS Ann Nonimaye House (heaven preserve the name!) could show a flare of interest in the "widower of Rock Island" (bang goes Blinbard's record) who "is steadily employed, would like acquaintance of a serious lady. Address No. 12, care Argus." A study of Ann's "portrait" convinces one she is serious—at least she ought to be.

SINCE we had forgotten it ourself perhaps we'd better mention that the "Portrait in Free Verse" is a response to the "Homely Girl Contest." The—contest is still open.

For Example, Such as Lifting Enormous Hot Towels and Strapping Ponderous Razors. (From the Galesburg Republican-Register). Robert Rockwell, who has been in the hospital at Macomb, returned Saturday, but his physician forbids his going to work in his tonsorial parlors for some time to come. Mr. Rockwell was operated on for hernia, and will have to be careful as to how he engages in any labor where there will be heavy exertion.

Variant of a Time-Honored Woe.

(From the Washington Times). I hear that this is how they learn Boston infants nursery rhymes, the one below being "Little Drops of Water":

Infinitesimal particles of saline humectic fluidity. Together with minute corpuscles of noncellular inorganic matter. Cause to exist the immeasurable expanse of aqueous sections. And the resplendent superficial area of dry solidity.—L. N. GILLIS.

ONE can't conceive, however, a Bostonian "learning" infants nursery rhymes.

SORRY, PETE, BUT WE NEVER READ THE DARN THING.

Sir: Wouldst reprimand Peter? He gave YOU credit for knowing your own sheet.—PETER.

"ANYHOW," appends Peter, "whadajumean 'credit'?" That's the point; we didn't mean it. In fact—

We seldom say the thing we mean. Or mean the thing we say. In col. conducting that, we een, is much the better way.

FOR increasing our list of unusual words to five we are indebted to the Aledo Democrat. "Wiseness" and "initiatry" are the additions. Oh, yes; Noah says they're all right.

Some of 'Em DO Sound That Way. (From the Bloomington Panagraph). The lost speaker was Milton O. Newmore of Chicago, who made a brief talk on patriotism.

C. L. EDISON (The Gentle Art of Columning) says: "The qualities that a columnist may have are many, the qualities that he MUST have narrow down to one. He must have good judgment."

YOU'D never have suspected that—now would you? R. E. M'G.

Heart of Home Problems. BY MRS. ELIZABETH THOMPSON

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am 17 years old and have been in this country six months. Needless to say, I love it.

Since being here I have met a boy a little younger than myself. I have been seeing him steady for five months. His feelings towards me are different than mine towards him. He thinks of me as the one and only girl, while to me he is just a friend, no more than any other boy. I am with him so much that all the boys around town are under the impression that we are "steady." I know certain boys who would like a date, but being gentlemen, they decline from asking through their own wrong presumption.

There is one boy whom I know is anxious to meet me. For instance, he was speaking to an elderly lady yesterday, but the whole of the time he was looking and smiling at me, even though my other friend was there. I am very anxious to meet this boy, but cannot see how. I am never alone and dare not go out alone, owing to the fact that wherever I go, no matter day or night, an elderly man follows me. TROUBLED TRISC.

I would advise you to let me guide your destiny. The fact that the young man looked at you and smiled is not an indication that he is eager for your company. He would not be shy about finding a way to meet you, if he were really anxious to.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: There is a certain girl who is jealous and envies everything my friend and I have. She talks about us to other people and then tries to stay with us and get us to talk about them. We try to be as nice to her as possible and it makes us feel badly not to know what else to do. Every new thing we get she says is not pretty and then two or three weeks later she will have one just like it. She makes her dresses like ours. I don't mind that so much, but she copies every lesson we write. What would you advise us to do? A. B. & L. B.

When you know that the girl has been talking about you to other people, go to her and tell her that you do not like her methods of being a friend. It will be a good lesson for her to be called to time for talking behind your back. Do not let her copy your lessons. Tell her you have worked for your information and you want her to work for hers.

As for her copying your clothes, you might ask her if she doesn't think it preferable to be original.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: For some time I have been going with a boy who I have been working in this town. He wrote to me this summer when I was away on a visit and after I returned he asked me to go steady with him. This I refused to do, but I have gone with him quite often just the same. I wrote several letters to him while he was still in town and he was with me just two nights before he left.

He is now working in another town, but I have not heard from him since he left. Do you think it would be all right if I wrote to him, or should the boy always write first? If I do write, do you think it would look as if I were running after him? PUZZLED GIRL.

The boy should write first. You might wait and send him a Christmas greeting. I imagine he still likes you, but has been busy with new interests.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a young lady of 23 years and I am in love with a young man. We are engaged. He has recently left the city. I have been receiving mail from him and he says he does not receive any mail from me. I am sure it is not my fault. He has been angry because he does not hear from me. Please advise me what to do. BLUE EYES.

Always put your return address on the envelope of a letter you are mailing. It may be that the young man has given you a wrong address, in which case it is his fault that he does not hear from you. If the letters you send to him are returned to you, you will have to verify his address in some way.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: Recently I proposed to a young lady with whom I have been keeping company nearly two years. We have had no quarrels during that time and up to the present date, I proposed to her several other times, but she would neither say "yes" or "no." I received a reply to my last proposal, which I quote: "Your proposition deserves condemnation, so without hesitation, I remain your, K. C."

As she lives in another city I have not the chance to ask her what she means, and so I am asking you. CHARLES V.

From the girl's answer to your proposal, it is difficult to know what she does mean. She is probably accepting you and tried to be original in her method.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: We are two sisters of 18. We have been going with two nice boys of about the same age for about eight months. Christmas is coming and we would like your advice as to what would be nice to give them for presents. After going with these boys that length of time how many nights in them to come to see us? SISTERS.

I would say that a book would be as appropriate as anything for a Christmas gift. It would be all right for the young men to call two, or possibly three times a week.

Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am corresponding with my boy friend who is out of town. Won't you please tell me how I can make my letters interesting? THANK YOU.

The best way to make your letters interesting will be to write about what interests you.

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Frederic Haskin's Letter. Don't Have Fires.

San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 25.—Although it is hard for the visitor to imagine a San Francisco more entrancing than the present one, it seems that such a phenomenon did once exist. This was before the fire. Everybody you meet here tells you so. Praise any feature of the city—its gay restaurants; its beautiful park; its marvelous Golden Gate park; its pretty girls; its delicious fish; its charming Presidio or its picturesque Chinatown—and while the praise will be pleasantly welcomed, it will immediately be qualified with "Ah, but you should have seen them—or it—before the fire!"

The term "earthquake" rarely enters into the conversation when discussing the disaster which occurred in 1906. The tactful visitor carefully avoids it, and the San Franciscan ignores it. No one denies that an earthquake did give the city a slight jar in that momentous year, but it was the fire which followed that caused the damage. All that the quake did was to knock over a few lamps and at the same time break the water mains, thus at one blow causing the fire and destroying the means with which to fight it.

In at least one respect, therefore, the new San Francisco, which rose phoenix-like from the ashes of the old, is better than its predecessor. It is practically invulnerable against fire. No second lesson was needed. Everything that could be done has been done to prevent another such catastrophe, and San Francisco today is one of the best fire-protected cities in the world. Another quake may knock over as many lamps as it pleases, but the city will never go up in flame as it did before, because, aside from the fact that most of it is now largely fire-proof, an intricate system of water connecting has been established so that if the water mains are broken or fall at one place, or even at several places, there will still be plenty of other sources to be tapped.

A Complete System. Shortly after the fire in 1906, a bond issue of \$5,000,000 was raised for the construction of this system. In the first place, there is a high-pressure water supply, furnishing 250 pounds water pressure from three storage reservoirs located in the hills of the city—one at an elevation of 325 feet, one at 420 feet and still another at 750 feet. In these reservoirs 12,000,000 gallons of water are stored for fire-fighting. In addition, there are two high-pressure, pumping stations capable of pumping 10,000 gallons of water per minute each from the bay. These stations, housed in strictly fire-proof buildings, are so equipped that they could operate for a stretch of four days, if completely shut off from the rest of the city. The system also has a connection with two steel fire-boats in the harbor, which can pump water into the high-pressure hydrants when the supply of fresh water becomes exhausted.

Furthermore, any section of the city can be cut off from the rest if it becomes necessary to concentrate the water supply. If a pipe should break in any section, this could be immediately shut off by valves. These valves are located at every street crossing, so that the city can be segregated a block at a time.

Located in various sections, moreover, are 100 cisterns containing anywhere from 16,000 to 100,000 gallons of water each, so that if all the water mains should break and every other source of supply become exhausted, the fire department would still have these to fall back upon. But even this is not all. The law requires that every tank in San Francisco holding 5,000 gallons of water must have a special connection with the city water system. In case the fire department should need to use it. Inasmuch as most of the large office buildings have such tanks for supplying running water and drinking water to the various offices, they constitute a valuable reinforcement to all the other water resources.

No city has stricter laws on the subject of fire-protection than San Francisco. Every building of four stories or more must have a fire escape. All two-story buildings operated for public use must be supplied with them, and any building over one story in which ten or more women are employed is required to be so equipped. Every building in which oil is burned must be supplied with an automatic cut-off, or if it hasn't one, the plant must be under the supervision of a competent person, who cannot be absent more than 20 minutes at a time.

Only three types of buildings may be erected: Type "A" which is strictly fire-proof; type "B" of reinforced concrete, and type "C" consisting of heavy timber or steel framework, and mason exterior. In

some sections of the city shingle roofs, which are particularly frowned upon by the fire department, are prohibited.

Fire Prevention. In addition to all these precautions, the city maintains a very efficient fire prevention bureau which deluges the schools with fire prevention literature, and which is now carrying on an astonishingly comprehensive scheme for bringing every residence and building in San Francisco under the immediate supervision of the department. Every city block is now daily investigated by the firemen of the district. On the first visit, a check of the first and second floors of every house and store and building is made and turned into the fire prevention bureau, which is gradually compiling a huge block record. In other words, a diagram of every building in the city is to be on file in the fire department, so that upon the breaking out of a fire in a certain building on Post street, for example, the fire department can turn to this numbers in their files and see exactly what kind of a place it is—where its entrances and doors are, how many people it contains, what it is used for.

With firemen patrolling the city in the cause of fire-prevention, as policemen patrol it in the cause of crime-prevention, life and property in San Francisco are becoming safer and safer. Every little detail about every house—the condition of its walls, the character and its rubbish, the size of its oil supply and the way it is kept (oil being stored almost entirely in the place of coal here)—is reported to the fire prevention bureau, with a lengthy report if there is an existing fire risk.

The owner of the premises is given from two to ten days to remedy any dangerous risk, after which, if he does not comply with the law, he is ordered to appear at the district attorney's office and make his report. If it is not satisfactory concerning another apartment inspector accompanies him back to his store or residence and sees that the department's recommendations are carried out.

Firemen Have Police Power. In enforcing fire regulations, the department possesses police power, as well as the cooperation of the association of fire underwriters. A factory is in serious condition, the industrial accident commission is notified, and it sends its inspector, who has police power. In San Francisco, the fire department's apartment houses must secure permits every year in order to rent their apartments, and in the case of the infringement of fire regulations, these permits are held up until the necessary precautions have been taken. In the same way, the department can order electrical companies to cease supplying electrical power to any plants not complying with the fire laws.

Ninety per cent of the fires which kill thousands of people and destroy millions of dollars worth of property in this country every year are due to carelessness, according to Chief Martin J. Kearns of the San Francisco fire prevention bureau. The most frequent causes of fire, as shown by fire department records, are rubbish and refuse and smokers' carelessness. Thus, the resident of every city as well as those of San Francisco, should be interested in the following list of suggestions written down for the reported by Chief Kearns:

Beginning with the attic, don't pile the stairs with books and boxes, which would obstruct the path of the fireman in case of fire. Don't pile old papers and magazines against the chimney, as they may be generated in these some day and may start a fire, or a crack in the chimney may be developed through which sparks may fall. Don't hang thin electric light cords from nails or over boards. The insulation on these cords will soon wear off, the wires will spark, and if your fuses are not just right, the insulation will start to burn. This is true of every part of the house as well as the attic. Remember that spontaneous combustion also often occurs in piles of old clothes.

Don't leave furniture, rugs and mops soaked in oil in a corner or shelf of a closet. Rags with these oils on them can catch fire by themselves in a warm atmosphere, hence they should always be placed in metal cans. Don't smoke every time you are taking a chance every time you do so. Electric bed warmers are also dangerous unless used with the utmost caution. Some people use an electric light bulb for this purpose, and numerous fires have resulted from this cause. Never throw rubbish and ashes in anything but a metal can or box; and never try to light a fire with kerosene. Always determine at night, before retiring, just what you would do if awakened suddenly, and find the house on fire and the ordinary means of escape cut off.

THE DAILY SHORT STORY

PROMOTED.

By Miss Julia A. Robinson, 108 Hamwell Ave., Newton. (Copyright, 1920, by Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

"You look tired, Maude, what's the matter?" asked Anita, as she looked up from her typewriter and spoke to the girl sitting at a machine next to her.

"Isn't that I'm so very tired," answered Maude, "but I'm worried. I suppose I ought not to be, but I am."

"Worried? What is it?" asked her friend. "Do tell me."

"Oh, about mother—and Bess. Mother isn't well, you know, and Bess had one of her bad attacks last night. She ought not to work. I do wish she could have a rest. I'm dreading the winter. There have raised the rent and I don't see how I can go to pay it, but I can't bear to take them to poorer rooms. They both need all the comfort they can have, but I don't see how we are going to keep warm. There, I ought not to be telling you my troubles."

"Yes, indeed, you ought! I'm glad you did, and I wish I could help you."

"It had taken but a moment for the confidence, and both girls turned back to the work before them, but with troubled faces. Maude was trying to solve the problem before her, and Anita was thinking. She knew but little of the real hardships of life."

home to the city because she wanted to earn her own living and be independent. That her friend who was earning no more than she was must support not only herself, but her mother and an invalid sister, seemed to her an impossibility. She had complained a little sometimes, wishing for more money that she might attend a few more plays, or spend a little more on candy or soda, but now she was thinking of Maude and her difficulty, wishing that she might help, but the little she could give would hardly be noticed in her friend's great need, even if she would accept it.

The thought worried her as she went to her cosy room just outside the noise of the busy city.

Maude worked a little later than usual that night. She had not yet acquired the desired speed, and wanted to finish her work.

"You are late, child," complained her mother, as she entered their apartment. "You must get some more of that medicine for Bess; she has been quite bad, and must have it."

Maude's heart fell. She wanted to do everything for her sister, but the extra dollars every two weeks was a drag, and how could she meet the rent if she took it tonight? Yet it must be done. Patiently she turned back to the drug store and bought the medicine, carefully counting the change. She was used to counting close, but her heart faltered here. She must buy food, too. Would there be enough left?

The next day Anita was sent for

to come into the private office. Her long fluttered. Had she made a mistake in her work? With anxious face she entered the office where the young manager sat. He looked up and smiled.

"I have good news for you, Miss Banks," he announced. "We have been watching your work and are much pleased with it. There isn't another girl who could have done the work you have the past six weeks. I'm going to give you a promotion, and I'm glad to do it."

He paused, and Anita felt her spirits rise. How many times she had coveted that smile that was beaming on her now.

"When Cowley is going to Washington," he went on, "and you are to have her position, it's \$10 more a week. Will you take it?"

Her heart gave a leap. Visions of beautiful things she would buy and the good times she would have danced before her. Take it! Of course she would! She opened her mouth to thank him, but stopped.

"—I—she stammered, "oh, thank you, sir,—but couldn't you give it to Maude instead?"

The young man gazed at her in amazement. "Why?" he asked.

"You see, Anita told him, "I have only myself to take care of, I do very well as I am, but Maude has her mother and a sick sister to take care of and to support. She told me yesterday she didn't see how she was to get along this winter, with coal and everything so high. Oh, if you would only give the position to her, sir! It would help her so much."

The manager whistled. He had long admired this girl, now he felt something rising in his heart that he could not explain. A girl who could give up a raise of \$10 a week for a friend was worth knowing. He must get acquainted with her.

"Do you think Miss Hobbs could all the place?" he asked. "She is not a very quick."

"Oh, but she will be!" cried Anita. "It's only because she's been so worried that she couldn't do her best. Do please let her have it, sir!"

Her brown eyes pleaded, too. "Only do think!" exclaimed Maude, as she left the office that afternoon. "The manager has given me Miss Cowley's place, with a raise of \$10 a week! I'm