Use X-Rays on Steel.

From the London Times.

X-rays, which have hitherto been used only to disclose defects and injuries hidden from sight within the human frame, are now to be used to examine inanimate materials like steel and timber. One obvious application of the X-rays is to the examination of metal castings for defects, such as blowholes, which cannot be revealed by external inspection, and yet mysteriously impair the strength of the finished article. If the castings are not too large, each of them may be subjected to routine testing by the rays, and it may be found that by some alteration in the method of casting, blowholes, that occur regularly at some particular point, can be eliminated. The rays may also be employed to study the effect of adding different quantities of aluminum to steel, and thus to ascertain the proportion most suitable for the production of sound castings.

The method has its limitations, because at present the rays can be made to penetrate only a few inches, about four at the most, of ordinary steel, and a still smaller thickness of special alloy steels. But great improvements have been made in recent years by the aid of the Coolidge X-ray tube and of exciting currents at very high electrical pressures. Further advances may be looked for not only in this portion of the apparatus, but also in the method employed for detecting the rays after their passage through the material under investigation, whether by photographic plate, the fluorescent screen, or the phenomena of ionization.

Across Rhine in 59 Minutes.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Every schoolboy who has got far enough into "Cæsar" to learn that aside from "all Gaul being divided into three parts," Cæsar built a bridge across the Rhine in 10 days, will be interested in the statement that American engineers threw a pontoon bridge across the Rhine recently in 59 minutes. The American feat was done as a part of the preliminary maneuvers which put all the army of occupation on its tiptoes, since the army acted as if it was about to cross the Rhine in force and occupy the interior of Germany in the interest of law and order in case the peace treaty fell through. This bridge building feat, therefore, which beat the German practice by two hours, was not without its immediate effect and was typical of the kind of thing that the American engineers were in the habit of doing during the war.

It will be remembered that while it took Cæsar 10 days to bridge the Rhine, he was actuated by the principle which was observed by our own engineers. That is, he wished to do something which would impress the Germans with the engineering ability of the Roman legionaries and the dignity and the might and power of Rome itself.

Radium Heating.

From the Electrical Experimenter.

To Rent—Ten-room suburban home. Three baths. Sun, sleeping and breakfast porches. Radium heating system (20 pounds) * * *

To find this advertisement, look in the classified columns of any metropolitan newspaper five or six centuries hence. Our great-great-grandchildren 15 times removed will be worrying about paying the rent on some such dwelling. Have you paid your "radium rent" will be a common slogan then.

Twenty pounds of radium gives off an amount of heat in six months equivalent to that secured by burning four and one-half tons of coal of the best Pocahontas or anthracite coal. The 10-room house mentioned above would be adequately heated, however, on 20 pounds, because a radium heating plant would be 100 per cent efficient. Even with hot water and hard coal from 80 to 90 per cent of the heat our plants generate goes up the chimney. A radium system would have no chimney. Every single heat unit would be conserved for the interior of the house and distributed by any ordinary medium, such as register, radiator or the like.

Town of What's-its-Name.

Little Town of What's-its-name!
You've been there I know;
There's a Town of What's-its-name
Everywhere you go.
Sometimes on the mountaintop,
Sometimes in the plain;
See it as you motor through,
See it from the train.
What's-its-name is always found
Set in rustic frame,
And you always, always say:
"Wonder what's its name?"

Little Town of What's-its-name!
All are quite alike;
Now and then they have a fire,
Never have a strike.
Now and then a baby's born,
Then somebody dies;
That is why old What's-its-name
Never grows in size.
Pictures in the albums, too,
Look about the same—
Fact is, things seldom change
Here in What's-its-name.

Little Town of What's-its-name!
In the Weekly Call
Ladies' Aid proclaims a fete
At Odd Fellows' hall.
Sale bills decorate the trees,
You will find one, too,
Near the old postoffice sign:
"Box Rent Now Is Due."
Posters in the windows say
There's to be a game
Friday with the Listown Reds:
Root for What's-its-name!

Little Town of What's-its-name!
Those who glibly run
Through your shaded thoroughfares
Miss a lot of fun.
You, like all the What's-its-names,
Underneath the sky,
Glory in a sweet content
Money can not buy.
Let the cities have the gold,
Selfishness and fame;
You have mostly happiness
Little What's-its-name.

—William Herschell, in Indianapolis News.

The following is a Swiss journalist's description of an American soldier: "They are all alike in their mustard colored khaki, well set up, well fed, well clad, broad shouldered and with powerful hips, their [illegible] shaven faces mostly [illegible] with enormous horn rimmed spectacles, and with their everlasting chewing [illegible] in their mouths. From the humblest [illegible] the general every one is alike [illegible]

[illegible] the American [illegible] are now raising in the [illegible] the boots of the doughboys.

Lack of Confidence.

From the Columbia (S. C.) State.

The teacher was teaching his class in a mental arithmetic lesson. After "tables" had been repeated he commenced giving a series of mental sums, and presently asked an intelligent little Scot:

"How many marbles would you get if I gave 20 to be divided between you and Johnny McGregor?"

"After a moment's hesitation the youngster answered:

"I canna tell, sir."

"How's that?" queried the teacher.

"Well, sir," said he, "ye see, it's a' accordin.' If ye gie 'em when we're both here we'd have 10 each; but if ye gie 'em tae Johnny when I wasna present, I'd only get about five; while if ye gie 'em tae me tae share when Johnny wasna here, I dinna ken whether he'd hae ony at a'!"

Spoke Too Soon.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The following story is told of a greatly beloved judge whose home is at Clarksville, Tenn.

An obstreperous citizen was haled to court, charged with having ridden his horse through a store, with resultant damage to a stock of merchandise. At the end of the trial the judge said, "I will fine the defendant $25."

"Got it right here in my jeans, judge," answered the defendant briskly.

"And 30 days," continued the judge, "have you got that in your jeans?"

It Smacked of Osculation.

From London Tit-Bits.

Inspector—Do you teach observation?

Teacher—Yes.

Inspector—Then I will test the class. Now, children, shut your eyes and sit still. The inspector made a slow whistling sort of noise and followed with, "Now, children, what did I do?"

For some time there was no answer, but ultimately one little boy piped out: "Kissed teacher."

A Floricultural Bug.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star.

"My dear Mrs. Croesus, may I not put your name down for tickets to Professor Pundit's course of lectures on Buddhism?"

"Oh, by all means! You know how passionately fond I am of flowers!"

Lazy Worm.

From London Tit-Bits.

Two miners went on a fishing expedition. But they were novices at the game.

"Hoo are ye gettin' on Jock?" asked one.

"Och, simply rotten!" was the reply. "I don't believe my bloomin' worm's trying."

As Dad Saw 'Em.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Have the Blithersbys named their new twins yet?"

"Yes, but they were not given the names applied to them by Mr. Blithersby when they first arrived."

"What did he call the precious pair?"

"Trouble and More Of It."

Cumulative.

From the Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

A story is told about a citizen whose daughter is about to be married, and who has been trying to get a line on what the expense of the rather elaborate ceremony will be. He approached a friend of his, seeking information.

"Morris," he said, "your oldest daughter was married about five years ago, wasn't she? Would you mind telling me about how much the wedding cost you?"

"Not at all, Sam," was the answer. "Altogether, about $5,000 a year."

Not to Be Hampered.

From the Dallas News.

There was a trial at Coyote Gulch. In the middle of the case a witness had to be sworn. The clerk leaned over and whispered to the judge in a hoarse voice:

"The sheriff's goat done chawed up the bible," he announced.

"Well, I reckon the witness'll have to kiss the goat," he said. "Justice ain't goin' to be hampered by no ex parte happenin's."

Their Prospects.

From Answers, London.

"Propinquity is what brings about marriages," declared the father of three single daughters in didactic mood.

"Yes?" murmured his wife.

"It works this way. From among the men who call most frequently at a house the daughters of the house naturally select husbands."

"In that case," said the mother sadly, "I fear our girls are doomed to marry bill collectors."

Hard on Malaria.

From the Washington Star.

"Never hear much about malaria out this way any more."

"No," answered Uncle Bill Bottletop. "Malaria gets terrible unpopular when there is nothing to cure it with except quinine."

Charles Nelson, of West Hammond, died in St. Margaret's hospital at Hammond, Ind., Monday night after they had just given him a bath. Doctors believe the shock killed him. He had never bathed since his boyhood.

HOW DID HE DO IT?

During the night I had been awakened several times by the coughing of a man sleeping in a berth across the aisle of the sleeping car. I fell to noticing the quality of his cough and speculating as to the cause of it. It was a nervous, dry cough. It brought up nothing and it was clear that it was not intended to do so. Each bark was staccato in type. The barks were in chains of six and eight, each following its predecessor quickly. There was not time enough between the barks to get much air in behind phlegm or to do anything to promote raising. This decided me that the person had a throat cough probably due to smoking.

The next morning I got to the dressing room first. Presently along came my across-the-aisle friend. He proved to be a young boy, say, of 20 years. His eyes were heavy. He deposited his clothing on a seat, took out a cigaret and smoked up, almost dozing during the process. This job finished, he concluded it was time to dress. He lit another cigaret and started dressing. While he was washing his hands there was nothing out of the ordinary. He held his cigaret in his lips. He managed to get his neck and ears washed without disturbing his cigaret. Then he delicately touched the weed with his fingers, deposited it on the edge of the stand, quickly washed his face, resumed smoking and used a towel in the drying process while so engaged.

By this time he was fully awake and he had made up his mind to shave before breakfast. Still smoking, he lathered his face and shaved. To shave his upper lip he drew back his lower jaw, tilted his cigaret downward, lathered the lip and scraped away. When it came to the lower lip he protruded the lower jaw, drew in his upper lip, tilted the cigaret up and kept it dry.

It would not take many generations for this tribe to develop into giant ant eaters, though they would never become prehensile enough with their lips to belong to the elephant tribe.

All the while that he bathed and shaved he smoked and incidently inhaled. He smoked on the way to the diner, but not while he was at the table. Leaving the dining car he lit a cigaret and went after it again. Here my record ends, for soon after my destination was reached.

How much harm was this amount of smoking doing? It was causing the cough, but that is not liable to develop into any lung disease. The cough was disturbing his sleep and preventing him from starting the day fresh. I doubt if any physical examiner would have rejected him on account of any organic defect due to tobacco. If he keeps up his present rate of use of the drug he may expect to feel the effects in his eyes or heart in time.

That he is addicted to the use of the drug was certain. I should say that there was not much pep or push to the boy and probably not much of character. It is just as likely that these qualities were the reasons that he was a cigaret fiend as they were effects of the drug.

No. He did not brush his teeth.

Senator Lodge's "Discovery."

From the New York Post.

In the mysterious copy of the German treaty which Senator Lodge is reported to have discovered appears a sensational "labor addendum" which he says will startle both capital and labor when it becomes known. The public history of this labor section is as follows: It was debated openly by delegates from all the allied nations, and the discussion, with its results, was published in the news cables. Incomplete summaries of the text were cabled and published. The complete official text was printed by the committee on public information and released to American newspapers on April 28; some of them copied it in full. Mr. Gompers, on his return from Paris, commented on it publicly, and an article discussion it appeared in the American Federationist. Brockdorff-Rantzau objected to its terms, and Clemenceau replied to him, both notes being published in the press. The Evening Post, as well as many other dailies, has printed several editorial comments on the matter. Now the "addendum" comes as a surprise to Senator Lodge. If he is as closely informed about other elements of the peace as he was of this, his scholarly leadership will be a beacon light to the republicans.

West Should Unite.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

At a recent meeting of senators from the western states, each senator having first explained the national legislation desired by his constituents, it was agreed by all that western delegations should stand together for the accomplishment of western desires.

If the west does not act as a unit on western questions we shall never get justice from the east. Having a numerical majority in congress, the east insists on settling our problems for us. We accuse none of them of a deliberate desire to be unjust to the west, but their judgment is controlled by their environment, which is of the east, eastern. All our distinctive problems are economic problems, which can be clearly understood only by those in immediate contact with them. It has been a conflict between theoretical conceptions and practical experience, in which theory has had the most votes. Eastern men settle eastern problems in accordance with eastern desires. They have settled western problems from what they imagine to be a lofty conception of the "general welfare," which, as a rule, works out to be contrary to western welfare. They have been able to do this by reason of lack of cohesion in the west.

Burgoyne's Drums.

From the Indianapolis News.

If any one has the drums of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, thought to have been lost in this country in 1776, when that ancient regiment came over on the business of the king, the regiment will very much appreciate news concerning their whereabouts. Officers of the regiment have sought through official channels to learn from the war department to the fate of the drums. Tradition says that the drums were lost when the regiment, then known as the North British Fusiliers, fell a victim to the superior fighting ability of an American colonial force in the revolutionary war.

I. W. W. Against Labor Unions.

In the United States the preachers of discontent say, "All shall share equally." In Russia, it was found that this could not be. Lenine in his speech in April, 1918, published by the seditious Seattle Union Record, said: "At present, when the epoch of the necessity of 'Red Guard' attacks (which means organized assassination) is in the main completed and completed victoriously, it is becoming urgent for the proletarian state authority (Lenine) to make use of bourgeois specialists.

"The specialists are inevitably bourgeoise.

"We have not yet created an environment which would put at our disposal the specialists.

"We were forced now to make use of the old bourgeois method and agreed to a very high remuneration for the services of bourgeois specialists.

"This is a defection of the Paris Commune and of any proletarian rule which demand the reduction of salaries to the standard of remuneration of the average workers.

"Attracting bourgeois specialists by extremely high salaries is a defect.

"Let us assume that these great star specialists must be paid 25,000 rubles each, or perhaps 50,000 rubles, or even made four times as large.

We must have a thousand first class scientists and specialists to direct the work of the people."

This is from Lenine's own speech.

He admits that uniformity of pay is impossible.

He admits that he will not allow free press.

He admits that he has murdered to terrify.

He admits that he does not allow free speech.

He admits that the equality of pay cannot be put into effect.

He recommends hiring at enormous salaries the old managers of business.

He admits the failure of his government.

In other parts of his work he admits that the system of accounting and production is a joke and convicted out of his own mouth on every page, points out unconsciously a warning to the real liberty loving people of the world.

He admits that he is an autocrat; that his government cannot live if the wishes of the whole people are consulted. He admits starvation and suffering and want, and goes on to say:

"No transition without compulsion and dictatorship."

Speaking of the instability of his government he says, "It takes time and an iron hand to get rid of this."

Despite his admission of thousands of murders, he says, "And our rule is too mild, quite frequently resembling jam rather than iron.

"People who believe differently must be combatted by compulsion."

In other words, Russia has no government, but the government of an autocratic murderer. Some of this same crowd of aliens have come to our shores and actually have a dream that the workmen of the United States will join in any such hair brained undertaking.

Of course, a number will, but just as sure as there is a God in heaven, they will be deported; just as sure as this is a real "he man's" country, those who try force and violence, will be incarcerated and punished.

Labor will form the main guard against the red menace in this country, if labor is true to its traditions. Some bolshevist leaders such as a number in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, have proven traitors to the A. F. of L., but over this whole land, of course, these Judases are very few.

The I. W. W.'s are not a labor union. The I. W. W.'s are opposed to all labor unions. Their policy is the destruction of all industries and the overthrow of all government. They do not strike and quit the job; they strike on the job, against the job, and against the employer. If conditions do not suit the union labor man he goes on strike, leaving industry idle until someone takes his place or until he returns to work. The I. W. W. does not strike for better wages or better conditions. The I. W. W. strikes on the job, doing what injury he can, such as putting emery dust in machinery, spikes in logs, etc., in order that industry may be made unprofitable.

The first doctrine a new member is taught, is the doctrine of cowardice. He is taught to destroy what he can; to burn all he can, but to protect himself in all emergencies, and thus it is that [illegible] organization has in its membership, cowardly assassins and destroyers of [illegible] and property.

The I. W. W. decided long ago, after consultation and under the direction of bolshevists from foreign lands, that the best way to overthrow our government was to gain possession of the labor movement in this country. I might say in passing that I am not particularly popular with the I. W. W., but the head of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers, is very much more hated.

Britons' Liberal Leader.

H. H. Asquith, in his recent great speech announcing that the war is over and there is no longer reason for the party truce in England, spoke of the League of Nations in this language:

Finally, as all history shows, there can be no lasting or fruitful peace if it involves the permanent ostracism and impoverishment of any of the nations of the world. Every belligerent on both sides, every belligerent has undergone gigantic suffering and sustained almost immeasurable waste. It is in the interests of all that at the earliest opportunity each of us, under the appropriate safeguards which the new peace will provide, should be able to restart our industries, develop our resources, and to recreate our social and economic life. (Cheers.) What is the condition? What is the conclusion to which these considerations lead? Surely it is to set on foot, without a moment's avoidable delay, and as a living and working machine, the League of Nations. I do not hesitate to say that, in my opinion, by far the greatest achievement of the Paris conference is the elaboration in a practical shape of this great and beneficent conception (cheers), and let me add, by way of parenthesis, that, in that matter, we of the British empire owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the invaluable labors of my noble friend and late colleague, Lord Robert Cecil. (Cheers.)

There is not one of the problems which I enumerated a few moments ago the solution of which does not depend upon the effective authority of the league. The reduction of armaments—not only in one quarter, but everywhere—it is no good reducing it in one place if you do not reduce it all around—to a scale which will put an end to the gamble in competitive force will be one of the first and most urgent of its duties. Hardly less important is the setting up without delay of workable machinery for the anticipation, as well as for the settlement, of internal disputes. The common and collective will must have for its sanction a common and collective force. The door should be open always to any state that is ready in good faith to enter in. There must be that sense of equality of right and of privilege between great and small states which alone can insure confidence and give to a league the breadth, not of a machine, but of a living organization. If that is accomplished, well and good. In my opinion it is the lynch pin of the whole thing. The peace will not become a lasting peace, its provisions will become dead letters, tranquility will, in the future as in the past, be at the mercy of a chapter of accidents, unless as its first and most effective result you see the creation as the living and working and dominating force of this free organization a partnership of all the nations of the world.

The New Spring in Flanders.

The spring that comes to Flanders
Goes by on silent feet,
Lest they should wake, remembering
How once the spring was sweet.

And streams that flow in Flanders
Past poppy field and hill
Are silver streams and shining,
But thoughtful streams and still.

The wind that blows in Flanders
Across the listening air,
Is gentle with the grasses
That bend above them there—
And rain that falls in Flanders
Is tender as a prayer.

—David Morton.

Canada Seeks New Emblem.

From the Christian Science Monitor.

Probably feeling that now is a good time to bring a national symbol up to date, the Canadian government is considering the adoption of a new coat of arms. A committee has been appointed to pass judgment on the designs that may be submitted, and a good deal of study is doubtless going forward to create one which will eventually meet the approval of the English College of Heralds and the final authorization of a royal warrant declaring it the official arms of Canada. The present coat of arms was adopted in 1868, and includes the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. To these provinces the new coat of arms must add Prince Edward Island, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta; so the forthcoming design will provide something of a problem for the designer whose solution of it must be approved by the earl marshal, three kings at arms, six heralds, and three pursuivants, who make up the College of Heralds.

The Lowest Depth.

From the Chicago Tribune.

A dispatch from Fort Leavenworth describing the activities of William D. Haywood and other I. W. W.s now confined there says "the average criminal hates an I. W. W. and a conscientious objector." We think there could hardly be a more striking commentary on the repugnance with which the "C. O." and the I. W. W. are regarded in America. When even our criminals look upon them as traitors there is not much more to be said. After all the average criminal is less subversive of civilization, and he has a right to think there are depths to which he has not fallen.

The National Outlook.

From Forbes Magazine.

A trip to middle western points and talks with all sorts and conditions of people yields the following impressions and conclusions:

First—In most districts, including even the larger cities, work is available for every man who wants a job. Indeed, the almost universal complaint is that capable, steady workers cannot be had.

Second—There is a veritable housing famine in nearly every city, including such diverse centers as Chicago and Indianapolis, a famine as acute as in New York city.

Third—Active preparations are under way to launch what promises to prove an unprecedented building boom, the conclusion having been reached by architects, builders and others that the cost of materials is not likely to drop drastically in the near future.

Fourth—Retail business is reported as quite active, although most manufacturers find that buyers are holding off wherever possible.

Fifth—The country's supply of food animals is the largest in its history, and farmers are waxing rich from the unparalleled prices they are receiving for hogs and cattle, as well as for their wheat and other grains. Everywhere the agricultural communities are evidencing signs of their great prosperity.

An Armenian official begs America to "continue your splendid shipments of food through the American army food mission and the American Red Cross, and send us propaganda written by Americans to be dropped by airplanes in the bolshevist ranks. We must fight ideas with ideas. Our railroad and transport system is a wreck. Send us some of the American railroad men who did such wonderful work in France."