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A considerable reduction in prices by retailers is reported from a number of cities in various sections of the country. Commenting on this trend of the market the Dry Goods Economist says: "Both primary and wholesale markets are somewhat at sea as to the meaning of the general reduction of prices in retail channels. Is it a reflection of a real curtailment in the buying power or inclination of the public? If it is there is no doubt that it will force a corresponding reduction all the way back to the producer."

The decline in the price of liberty bonds is so great that it tends to render the business of the bank robber unprofitable. He soon may find that he can make more money selling sugar.

The strike of the coal miners in the Pittsburg district is attributed to failure of a joint conference to agree on the price of explosives. In other words, the other side would not agree to the miners' terms.

One of the anomalies of world politics is the fact that the soviet government of Russia has extended recognition to the Siberian republic, while making every effort to sovietize the remainder of the world.

Speakers before the convention of the Missouri Federation of Labor urged the formation of an "American party," to be composed of union labor members. Does this mean that the bolshevik minority is to be driven from the ranks?

Human shortcomings are blamed variously on liquor, the dance, the cigar, and the movies by reformers, but it should be remembered that none of these things was in existence in the time of Adam and Eve, yet they were turned out of the garden.

The dispatches indicate that normal conditions again prevail in the Pittsburg coal mining district. A large number of the mines are not working.

There is a general feeling that the series of price reductions sporadically announced in various parts of the country, says a bulletin issued by the Guaranty Trust company of New York, indicates the imminence of a movement that will carry business back to normal conditions. Buying is being curtailed and merchants who are overstocked are beginning to unload at reductions ranging up to 30 per cent, many of them finding that a quick turnover results, and their net profits are maintained. The quick response of buyers to reduced prices is sufficient guarantee against any violent readjustment. The determination to economize is tempered by a gradually widening understanding of the causes of present price levels.

There is no discoverable antipathy to business as such, but the feeling against unconscionable profiteering and speculation in necessities is deepening. These favorable factors in the situation are offset to a large extent by the continuing shortage of transportation facilities.

FALLING PRICES. The railway employees who are asking for a big increase in wages should recognize the fact that prices are starting down. Substantial reductions are already being made by retailers, and index numbers are lower. If the brotherhood press for an increase, says the Wollman Review, the result will once more be reflected in higher prices due to a rise in transportation costs. If they wish to receive permanent benefit, they must aid in reducing the cost of production and distribution. The only way to create transportation is to move cars. Strikes result in freight congestion, and even if the railroads were able to purchase more equipment, they would be powerless to keep their cars moving.

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The three drawbacks to speedy return to normal conditions, continues the Review, are credit strain, reduced production and inadequate transportation facilities. The correction must be applied thru the medium of economy and increased production. This will cut down buying and will result in lower prices, thus relieving the strain on credit. The improvement in transportation must result from the investment of huge sums in equipment and other railroad improvement, a cessation of demands for higher wages and willingness on the part of railway employees to do more work. If these remedies be not voluntarily applied, the situation must work out its own solution in a manner which will leave the impress of its lesson for years to come.

The conviction is becoming general throughout the country that a decline in prices has begun. When this is fully realized, everybody who has anything to sell will become eager to sell it and in this way the downward movement will be accelerated. Lucky will be he who is heavily loaded if he escape being crushed under the avalanche of falling values.

The "Woman's Party," which espoused the Republican cause four years ago, is reported to be flirting with the Democrats this year. Judging by the results of its activities on behalf of Hughes in 1916, it could not do better. The G. O. P. a greater service than by joining the opposition this year.

The government tangled up the transportation business of the country and then turned it back to the owners of the railroads. The owners have been unable to untangle it and the interstate commerce commission seems about to try it's hand.

An accumulation of freight, enormous in the aggregate, is piled up at big industrial centers and at all gateways of transportation east and west. This accumulation is stifling the industrial life of the nation. No estimate can be accurately made of the amount of goods tied up by this railroad congestion, but the value of these goods must run up into hundreds of millions.

To this cause, more than anything else, says the Bache Review, is due the acute situation in money and credit. It is like a cessation of sales over a wide area of country, making it necessary for the producer or jobber to carry abnormal amounts until the current starts again. This is tying up a vast amount—vastly more of his capital than the business agent usually has to devote to goods in transit. The switchmen's strike made an already congested situation acute. The lack of engines and cars already existed. While the strike is officially over, a large number of the workers have remained out, aggravating the situation.

The principal difficulty is the shortage of coal, most of the industries having used up their surplus. In the Chicago district the freight movement is 50 per cent of normal. In New England the tie-up is general, and the number of cars waiting to be moved now exceeds 30,000. The south seems to be the only section free of congestion, the roads reporting a steady flow of southbound freight, with the northbound movement regulated at eastern and western gateways by the ability of connecting roads to accept it.

But the shortage in equipment is still, back of everything, the cause of the congestion. Railroad officials are reported to have appealed to congress for relief thru heretofore measures. They need 25,000 new engines and 100,000 new cars. The result of the appeal was the approval by the senate interstate commerce committee of an amendment to the transportation act, under which the railroads could be given fifteen years, instead of five, to pay back advances under the \$300,000,000 revolving fund.

This, while in the right direction, seems small assistance when the seriousness of the trouble is so great. But it is difficult to see how congress can create equipment over night. The fault lies with government control of the railroads, under which, long ago, adequate equipment, even then sorely needed, should have been provided.

TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL Information Bureau

FREDERIC J. HASKIN, Director, Washington, D. C.

A CITY OF THE FUTURE. Zion City, Ill., May 15.—This little town forty miles from Chicago may fairly be taken as a vision of the future in America. While the nation at large has made only a beginning in the conquest of vice by abolishing alcohol more or less completely, and making a few vague threats against tobacco, Zion City, ever since its foundation, has prohibited not only tobacco and liquor, but also pool rooms, movies, and various other devices which tend to distract the mind of man from righteousness and salvation.

Most of us, who are thirty years old or more, remember the days when John Alexander Dowd, founder of Zion City, and in 1920 the hosts of his faith to New York to regenerate the fallen city. In 1906 Dowd was suspected of having been a spy, and he was charged with misuse of investments, tyranny, polygamous tendencies, and some other things which have since been forgotten. He has heard comparatively little of Zion City, but it still lives and thrives under the leadership of Wilbur Glenn Voliva, a man of iron will and general oversight of Zion. He is regarded as an excellent business man and a powerful exporter with a wide range of general oversight of Zion. He is regarded as an excellent business man and a powerful exporter with a wide range of general oversight of Zion.

The moral perfection of Zion City is generally admitted and admired, but it has a certain physical imperfection which has recently brought it into conflict with many of its neighbors. This imperfection is the mile and a half of highway which passes thru the city. It is a part of the road which was built by the state, which is an excellent road everywhere except along this stretch thru the town of the Golden Rule. This road is a part of a century-old road full of bumps, hollows, and deep and treacherous mud holes.

The motorists who pass thru Zion City are bitterly resentful of this road, which has recently brought it into conflict with many of its neighbors. This imperfection is the mile and a half of highway which passes thru the city. It is a part of the road which was built by the state, which is an excellent road everywhere except along this stretch thru the town of the Golden Rule.

Licked the Legislature. The Saturday afternoon after this triumph of the Zionists of a great celebration. There was a parade thru the streets, with much singing and shouting and waving of American flags and the G. O. P. a greater service than by joining the opposition this year.

Only Chimneys Smoke. If this is the case Zion will probably be visited by a greater number of tourists in the future. These tourists will be accompanied by their wives and children. Zion City had better mind their P's and Q's. If they are caught smoking pipes, cigars or cigarettes, or chewing tobacco, they will be arrested and fined twenty-five dollars each, and the fact that they are American citizens will be no protection. And as for having alcoholic beverages concealed about them—the sad fate of the two trucks from Milwaukee is too well known to be repeated here. But it will be repeated as a warning, nevertheless. These two trucks, careening over the troubled terrain of Zion, caused the suspicions of an officer of the law. They were stopped, their contents were investigated, and beer was found—gallons and gallons of beer bound for wicked Chicagoans of Zion and the devil suffered another knockout blow.

Zion is a town of little frame houses, and a row of small stores. The Home is a hotel, a hardware store, office, and the administration building opposite is of the same hue. The home of the late John Alexander Dowd is a handsome dwelling in the place. It is of bright red brick with many angles and sharp projections. Its beehive and irregular roof of red and yellow tiles is decorated in a zigzag design of brown and yellow. The Shiloh tabernacle is of course the main objective for sightseers. It is a huge white shed and stands a short distance from the village. It was declared and is being used as a generally pretty well filled. It contains one of the largest pipe organs in the world. Its walls are decorated with pictures of crutches, canes, hot water bottles and stretchers which used to belong to invalids and cripples.

The road said to have been healed in the faith. These designs are varied by some swords and guns relinquished by converts to pacifism, and surgical instruments, and some designs are varied by some swords and guns relinquished by converts to pacifism, and surgical instruments, and some designs are varied by some swords and guns relinquished by converts to pacifism, and surgical instruments.

Mary and Gardner came. Little Gerry, named for me, and Bob, they were so happy, so perfectly satisfied with life and with each other that it was a treat to have them where one could look out over the world. "I am so busy I don't have a minute to myself since baby came," Mary declared. "If you were Gerry, I can see where we would all hang out to the shops for our hair just as

very courteously and answer your questions to the best of his ability—and he will not fail to point out to you the advantage of being a convert to the creed of Zion.

Dorothy Dix Talks

By Dorothy Dix, World's Highest Paid Woman Writer.

Our Loved and Lost.—It is the custom to speak of our dead as those whom we have lost. People will tell you with broken voices of friends whom they have lost through death. A stricken-faced woman will go suddenly white as she speaks of the husband she lost on the battle field in France, or thru some dreadful disease. And they will mourn the babe she lost on whose grave the grass has been green for thirty years.

There are no friends closer to us than our dead. Friends we may see their faces no more, but our souls are in constant communion with them, and they are the friends whose love and loyalty we never lose. Does some piece of good fortune come our way? Our first thought is of John and Mary were alive. How they would rejoice in our success. We see how their eyes would shine with joy in our joy. We hear their hearty congratulations as they tell us of the joy of their lives. We call the roll of our living friends with doubt. It is as if we were looking for them in the memory of the dead that we are with us. We should not have asked of John in vain. Mary would not have withheld the helping hand. We should not even have had to ask them for assistance. For their love would have divined our want.

Nothing can come between us and our real friends. We should not have asked of John in vain. Mary would not have withheld the helping hand. We should not even have had to ask them for assistance. For their love would have divined our want.

HEART AND BEAUTY PROBLEMS. BY MRS. ELIZABETH THOMPSON. Dear Mrs. Thompson: I am a girl of 19 and have been in love with a young man for some time. He always seeks to be with me, but he is not so sure of himself as I am. He says he still loves me and I love him. He talks of other girls and I don't like that at all. I speak of boys and he says nothing. He says he is not so sure of himself as I am. He says he still loves me and I love him.

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Evening Story

Romya Rule. BY A. MARIA CRAWFORD.

Everybody in the household was sound asleep when Mellicent quietly unbolted the heavy oaken door, and with her ragged skirt fluttering in the early morning breeze set out for the little wooded copse where old Michael was waiting for her.

"You do look for all the world just like a real gypsy girl, Miss Mellicent. The idea of you wearing that ragged skirt!" he cried. "Whatever will your mother say, child, with me aiding and abetting you in such foolishness?" But she sprang into the wagon and flicked the lines gently over the broad back of the fat old horse. "Mother will never know, Michael. It's a secret between you and me. You've helped me make a lifelong dream come true for me, Michael. Thank you, God bless you!"

"I'll be waiting here for you," warned the old servant as Dobbin started to jog down the leaf-strewn road. "I'll be waiting here for you," warned the old servant as Dobbin started to jog down the leaf-strewn road. "I'll be waiting here for you," warned the old servant as Dobbin started to jog down the leaf-strewn road.

"Morning," said the stranger, halting beside her and smiling down at her. "I wish you were white as milk under your black moustache." "Morning," she replied, hoping that he would drive on and not try any more to tempt her. "Smells good," he said, lazily regarding her.

"Keep Refurbishing Your Life. New things have a fascination all their own. A new broom, a new rug, a new book, a new picture—a new thought." "When these are placed in their new positions as aids and helpers to us in our move thru life, they doubly fascinate and inspire."

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This perfect day with colors that never fade. All too soon the wooded copse came into view, and old Michael, standing there, bareheaded, eagerly watching the road.

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JUST FOLKS

BY EDGAR A. GUEST.

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ON SECOND THOUGHT

BY JAY E. HOUSE. (From Philadelphia Public Ledger.)

Thru the enterprise of our favorite newspaper, we again say it is the New York American, we are enabled to print this morning a partial list of the presents received by the Vanerbilt wedding. The American, printed a complete list, but due to the fact that the chief has several times improved the column for encroaching on the reading matter, we may mention only the rarer articles of vertu: Tonnyson's poems, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Alexander.

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George Matthew Adams Daily Talk

BY GEORGE MATTHEW ADAMS.

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Moulton Musings

BY ROY K. MOULTON.

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Music Is Essential

BY J. W. JENKINS.

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J. W. JENKINS Sons & Music Co. A Truly Great Piano. When seeking for the piano with all the qualifications that go to make an ideal home instrument—consider the Veor. Its tone, action and visible beauty will instantly appeal to you, while its wonderful durability especially recommends it for the hard service given a family piano. Absolutely Yes—We Guarantee the Veor. Let us send one to your home on the Jenkins plan—you enjoy it as you pay.