THE EVENING STAR
With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRIDAY........August 26, 1932

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The Evening Star Newspaper Company
Business Office:
11th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.
New York Office: 110 East 42nd St.
Chicago Office: Lake Michigan Building.
European Office: 14 Regent St., London, England.

Rate by Carrier Within the City.
The Evening Star..............45c per month
The Evening and Sunday Star (when 4 Sundays)..........60c per month
The Evening and Sunday Star (when 5 Sundays)..........65c per month
The Sunday Star..............5c per copy
Collection made at the end of each month. Orders may be sent in by mail or telephone NAtional 5000.

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Daily and Sunday....1 yr., $10.00; 1 mo., 85c
Daily only ....1 yr., $6.00; 1 mo., 50c
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The Problem and the Solution.

Two articles in the current issues of two national magazines come pretty close to stating both the problem and the answer in the matter of relief of suffering and distress this Winter.

The magazine Fortune concludes, as the result of a Nation-wide survey, that fully 25,000,000 persons will require "charity or other relief this Winter." The Federal fund of $300,000,000 made available as loans to the States by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for relief work, would furnish only $12 apiece if distributed equally among those who could be regarded as needy beneficiaries. The article states that relief work heretofore has been wholly inadequate, wasteful and uneconomic and voices some of the blame in the allegation that the "problem was never attacked as a national problem—the facts were never frankly faced as facts."

But this week's Saturday Evening Post contains an amazing statement of fact in the form of an article written by Priscilla Wayne of Des Moines, Iowa. She describes an organization of volunteer women in that city who, during the past Winter, fed some 350,000 persons at the cost of 1 cent a meal. Utilization of food that usually goes to waste in a city, utilization of the unemployed, who were only too willing to give their labor, and utilization of a lot of wholesome common sense solved the problem of feeding the hungry in Des Moines, and another Winter finds the same machinery set up and ready to function again. This work in Des Moines supplemented the regular welfare and relief work of organized charities under the Community Chest. It was an effort in addition to the successfully performed task of filling the local Chest and oversubscribing the Chest quota. Of course the mere provision of soup and bread is not the only requirement in ministering to distress.

Some of the success of the work in Des Moines was doubtless due to conditions that were peculiar to that city. The location there of meat-packing houses, for instance, furnished the volunteer feeding stations with an abundance of meat products for preparing soup. But the mechanics of the experiment in Des Moines are of minor importance compared with the fundamental principle there demonstrated. That principle is that there need be no unmet distress and suffering anywhere this Winter, provided there is the organization and the will to administer relief.

The lack of organiaztion in the communities of the Nation is going to be the real difficulty this Winter. When Wisconsin recently asked for $6,414,865 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the sum finally loaned was cut to $3,000,000. One reason for the cut was that investigation revealed a third of the State's fifty-seven needy counties lacking in any organization whatever for relief administration. Gov. Pinchot's experience with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation emphasized the same general condition. Not only was there inadequate organization, but the State had failed to tap its own sources of revenue for relief. While the larger cities, benefiting from experience, have perfected organizations of long standing, many of the rural communities lack not only the organization to deal with an emergency of this kind, but even the knowledge of how to form them. And once the matter of relief is turned over to State and county and even municipal government, politics and waste and red tape take their toll of available funds.

The problem of organizing the communities for the work next Winter is to be discussed at the White House meeting next month of the recently announced National Citizens' Committee for the Welfare and Relief Mobilization of 1932, under the chairmanship of Newton D. Baker. Success in the work of organization will mean success in the extension of relief next Winter. Money is only one essential. Leadership in the local communities, proper organization and the will to deal with the realities of an unprecedented situation with characteristic American ingenuity and resourcefulness will prevent any man or woman or child from going hungry. Once the communities throw up their hands and ask the Federal Government to take over the job the fight is lost.

It is reported that Al Smith is a constant attendant at the Broadway theaters. If this is the case, the fair and well-phrased criticism so often desired in New York may at last be revealed in the pages of the Outlook.

Lord Inchcape's Will.

A report from London brings the news that the late Lord Inchcape, famous British shipping magnate, who died on May 23 at seventy-nine, has left a total of £30,000 to the captains, chief engineers and chief officers of the vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental and British India Steam Navigation Companies, the two principal organizations of which he long was head.

By the terms of this generous testament each of two hundred captains receives £100, and each of two hundred chief engineers and chief officers £50. But though these sums are large and Lord Inchcape's beneficence thus represents a considerable portion of his estate, it is not the money, but rather the inspiration of the gift that has significance to the world at large.

Lord Inchcape was a great man. Statesman, banker, diplomat and financier, he was known to have accumulated an immense fortune. At the time of his death it was said that he had disposed of his wealth among his relatives. Had the rumor been true there could have been no just complaint. But now it is known that it was false, and instead of private distribution a graceful and widely useful charity is revealed.

It is not difficult to imagine the reaction in the hearts of the four hundred employes thus remembered. They had known Lord Inchcape personally. It was their practice to call upon him when in home port. Now they have lost their friend. They mourn him. But they will never forget him. His gift in departing will be the proudest memory of their lives.

Lord Inchcape's will reasserts the traditional British policy of friendship between master and man, employer and employe. It is evidence that the machine age has not extinguished the sense of fellowship which was a characteristic of the guild system, out of which modern industry evolved. It constitutes a monument of love in tribute to a good, just and benevolent man.

From Coast to Coast by Air.

Having flown across the Atlantic alone, the first woman to accomplish that feat, it was natural that Amelia Earhart should essay a solo flight across the American continent. This she has succeeded in doing, the first woman thus to fly from coast to coast without stop. She made the trip in 19 hours and 5 minutes, from Los Angeles to Newark, a distance of 2,626 miles by the airpath route, which is 202 miles longer than the crow's flight distance. This is not as speedy a crossing as the record flight of Capt. Frank Hawks, who made the distance without stopping in 17 hours 38 minutes and 17 seconds. The fastest continental crossing of all thus far made was that of Maj. James Doolittle, who covered the distance in 11 hours and 16 minutes' flying time, but with stops. The difference between the Hawks and Doolittle performances in point of time is accounted for by the fact that in a non-stop flight gasoline must be carried for the entire trip and speed must be held down to the point of economic consumption, while in a flight with stops the highest speed can be maintained between points, with refueling on the way.

It seems but yesterday when the suggestion of a non-stop continental crossing was viewed as a dream of the aviator without chance for success. The airplane could not withstand the great stress of such long sustained operation. The pilot could not endure the fatigue and strain of continuous flight. In May, 1923, however, Lieuts. Kelly and McCready flew from Roosevelt Field, N. Y., to San Diego, Calif., in 26 hours and 50 minutes. This feat astonished the world, but there remained a greater one when Goebel and Tucker flew from Los Angeles to New York in August, 1928, in 18 hours and 58 minutes. Next came Hawks in his record flight. Meanwhile, Charles Lindbergh had flown from New York to Paris in May, 1927, in 33 hours and 29 minutes. Then the year after Hawks' transcontinental nonstop flight Lindbergh lowered his time with a one-stop flight from Glendale, Calif., to New York, in 14 hours and 45 minutes.

Miss Earhart's achievement in the non-stop flight is now compared with two made by Ruth Nichols, in 1930. She crossed the continent from Los Angeles to New York, with stops, in 13 hours and 21 minutes, having shortly before that made the east-west flight on the same route, with stops, in a shade less than 17 hours.

All these performances have contributed to the development of the airplane to the point at which it is now regarded as a dependable transport agency. Given skill and sufficient fuel, with reasonably good weather conditions, there are practically no limits to the range of flight. Capt. Mollison's recent achievement in flying from east to west across the Atlantic, alone in a small plane, the first to perform this feat, carried this demonstration further. He is now about to return and there is reason to believe he will achieve his objective. He is a skillful pilot with "weather sense," which is the prime essential of a long-distance flyer, and short of meeting extremely adverse conditions, he is likely to reach his goal and thus become the first person to make a round trip by air over the sea.

An eminent entomologist met his death experimenting with hydrocyanic gas. His object, moth destruction, scarcely seems worth the sacrifice. Yet science has made some of its greatest advances through developments of ideas at first addressed to apparently humble purposes.

Denmark is reported to favor a wide-open free trade policy. It is an attitude of confident self-reliance. In spite of some figures of passing perplexity, Hamlet is the only Dane to be described as melancholy.

The Renter's Paradise.

New York City notoriously is a renter's town. The people of the metropolis rent everything—land, houses, apartments, garages, automobiles, yachts, pictures, books, tuxedo jackets, wedding gowns, bathing suits, fishing tackle, even children to beg in the streets. On the East Side there is an establishment which rents slippers and shoes; another which rents furs. In the Bronx it is possible to rent the entire equipment for a social function, all the way from knives and forks to "family portraits" to adorn the walls. The news-stands of the hotels rent umbrellas, opera hats and season tickets to base ball games. In the restaurants the seating, checking and provisioning arrangements are leased, subleased and re-leased day by day. There are several agencies which rent guests for parties, butlers, chauffeurs and detectives. One firm does a considerable business renting jewelry. The apex of renting, however, only recently has been disclosed. A woman has been discovered who rents guns to hold-up men.

Three young bandits appeared in the line-up at police headquarters. The oldest of the group was 20, the youngest 17. They confessed to shooting and wounding a patrolman who surprised them in the act of robbing a taxi driver. They admitted a long list of felonies. Questioned as to where they had obtained their artillery, they said they had an arrangement with a woman to pay her one-quarter of the loot obtained by the display and use of her particular variety of hardware. She did not urge the boys to go out felonizing; no, she merely equipped them for their depredations.

The incident provides an illuminating sidelight on the kind of world we live in and the kind of city it is over the government of which the Hon. James J. Walker presides.

Manhattan's Altered Skyline.

Perhaps it is one form or another of impoliteness to say so, but the far-famed skyline of New York City seems today not quite so lovely as it once was. It has changed. That is conceded by every one. Has the alteration been for good or ill?

In the period of 1925-1931 a large crop of architectural weeds came into existence on the island which the thrifty Dutchmen bought from the Indians for sixty guilders. That many of these additions to the city's complement of skyscrapers are atrocious is the opinion of critics, including eminent members of the profession responsible for their design. They are simply elevated barracks, and their mere bulk and height no more render them beautiful than those characteristics make an elephant graceful.

Of the two most widely advertised and most persistently press-agented structures—the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building—the former is like nothing else in the world so much as a monstrous tube of shaving cream, and the latter is a theatricalism whose loftiness is in part a deceptive trick and whose general semblance is that of a gaudy lead pencil sharpened to an utterly useless extremity. Neither adds to the charm of the skyline, and their presence may be questioned as a blemish.

The older skyscrapers are the more attractive. The Woolworth Building, derived from the Gothic cathedrals of the Middle Ages, is still the best of all. The Italian Renaissance lines of the Metropolitan tower are permanently interesting.

Somehow the skyline of the largest city of the Western Hemisphere belongs to all Americans and is not the exclusive property of a few promoters and real estate moguls. But probably there is nothing that the public can do about it if these dictators should choose to disregard an obvious warning. However, that may be, the people can be discriminating in the government of their enthusiams; they need not admire an ugly thing simply because they are commanded so to do.

Credit is regarded by expert economists as a complicated science. Like litigation or drugs, its habitual use is not considered the best way of attaining a satisfactory working knowledge of the subject.

Bicentennial tribute to George Washington proceeds despite the fact that interest in the President for the next four years overshadows interest in the First President.

Publicity for loans does not involve enough embarrassment to deter anybody really needing one from asking for it.

Midwest farmers are offering no remarks on prohibition. The hip flask is of no importance as compared with the milk bottle.

Campaign orators are now depended on to afford serious relief to the comedy programs presented by radio.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Men and Ideas.

How happy we'd be could we view with content
An election as only a sporting event,
Assured when the great competition was done
That suspense was quite through when they told us WHO won.

But they show us a platform and tell us to note
The theories new which economists quote.
"Who wins?" is no longer the question we ask.
"What wins?" is the governing point of the task.

Heritage.

"Do you see signs of unrest in the rising generation?"

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "And I'm not sure the youngsters' ancestors used to labor to leave the boys and girls large fortunes to be peacefully enjoyed. Now we leave 'em mostly problems to solve and debts to liquidate."

Jud Tunkins says now that it costs three cents to mail a letter, mebbe the additional expense will make people try harder to think up something worth sending.

Change Desired.

The Katydid again is loud.
We wish it would by chance
Give up the tune that sounds so proud
And learn to do a dance.

The Significant Side.

"Did you sit on the right hand of the hostess?"

"No," said the social expert, "but I had the place of honor, though no one realized the fact. The lady is left-handed."

"Owing to pride of personality," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "even small annoyances seem highly important to the one to whom they attach themselves."

Autocratic Attitude.

The cow beside the wheatfield stood,
Her temper was no longer good.
Said she, "however scant the feast,
Folks must have bread and milk, at least."

"De best you kin do," said Uncle Eben, "is to listen to advice politely and den decide foh yohself."

Brief Visit.

From the New York Sun.

Those who don't think much of the stratosphere will notice that the professor didn't stay there long.

Opportunity for Optimists.

From the New York Sun.

One job calling for resourcefulness is that of making gratifying reports daily to presidential candidates.

THIS AND THAT

BY CHARLES E. TRACEWELL.

Can any one be called well read who does not know the novels of Jane Austen?

It is doubtful.

Perfection, in any art, makes its demands upon devotees of that art.

If some one diamond expert cut a gem of such exquisite beauty that it excelled most other gems, no connoisseur of diamonds could regard his education as complete until he had seen it.

It is the same with paintings, with statues, with buildings, with books.

From the large to the small, from the mighty to the miniature, it is perfection which counts, rather than size.

In a book, and especially in the novel, this is attained when the writer indubitably achieves what he sets out to achieve.

He did what he set out to do, and 99 out of a hundred persons competent to judge would agree on it.

This is the case with the stories of the shy Englishwoman who wrote anonymously and well.

It is a rather curious thing to find so many people intent on "keeping up with the new books," who never have read any of Miss Austen, with the exception of "Pride and Prejudice."

The latter, perhaps, was forced on them in school days. They were told that it was the greatest novel by Jane Austen.

As a matter of fact, it isn't.

Both "Emma" and "Mansfield Park" are superior to it.

They may be recommended as superlative examples of the novel of manners wherein the quiet affairs of life occupy the share of attention which they ordinarily receive in real life.

Isn't that one of the main differences between some books and life—that books so often "play up" merely exciting events, whereas the lives of most people ordinarily run along in a humdrum fashion, broken now and then by worry, or grief—but these, even, without excitement, only dull pain and pitiful sorrow?

The novel, therefore, which manages to create an air of real interest out of the ordinary affairs of life, as lived by the majority of human beings in this and perhaps in any other age, has done something which entitles it to a special place in a reader's esteem.

There will always be, of course, a place reserved for the work of fiction pieced together out "of such stuff as dreams are made of"; the world of books is large and readers are many and moods come and go.

In the last analysis, however, the place of esteem, in the recollection of discriminating readers, is given to the work which somehow manages to convey a real sense of life and living, but which also puts into that feeling something of the air of good excitement which belongs so easily to bolder and more swashbuckling types of fiction.

Perhaps no writer ever succeeded better in this than gentle Jane Austen. She was born in the year the American Revolution began; she died in 1817, shortly after the War of 1812.

During 1796 and 1797 Miss Austen wrote "Pride and Prejudice," one of the greatest "first novels" ever penned (and they were literally penned in those days).

The next year she wrote "Sense and Sensibility," a much inferior story, but nevertheless interesting to a "fan" of Jane Austen because it was her first published book.

The curious thing is that neither of these novels saw the light of reader interest until 1811 and 1813, and it was the inferior one of the two which was published first.

Its mild success led a publisher to bring out "Pride and Prejudice," which thus had gone begging for 16 years.

Pause and consider, all ye ambitious ones, who are so downcast because a rejection slip comes back in the next mail!

It must be admitted that Miss Jane Austen, daughter of the rector of the church at Steventon, Hampshire, did not need the money, and that it was only pin money when she did get it. Writing with her was an avocation, not an occupation, an art rather than a business.

She lived in a house remarkably like some being built today, in the so-called Georgian style. It had four windows and a door along the first floor, five windows across the second floor front, and three dormers above, topped by two chimneys.

The lighter novel of manners, so-called, was scarce esteemed as the handiwork of a preacher's daughter, in the last days of the eighteenth century. That was one reason why hers were put out anonymously.

The modesty of the woman was another reason, but there is good cause to believe that the possessor of her exquisite sense of irony knew perfectly well, as well as the most intelligent reader, that she had created eminently readable books.

The three gems, of course, are "Emma," "Mansfield Park" and "Pride and Prejudice." For one reader, at least, they rank in that order.

The greater maturity of "Mansfield Park" and "Emma" partly came about because they were not written until 1814 and 1816, respectively.

Miss Austen, too, had known the feeling of futility which the rejection slips brings with it.

The publication of her two earlier books, however, gave her the old urge to write again, and when she began she was the mistress of her art. "Mansfield Park" followed shortly on the publication of "Pride and Prejudice." "Emma" came two years later.

To all those readers who strive so heartily to "keep up" with the flood of modern fiction, but who have not read "Emma," one may recommend a resting on the reading oars, at least until this jewel of fiction is perused.

For sheer art which takes the little, everyday life of humanity and transforms it, with every slight thing about it, into something vitally interesting and even important, there is scarcely a work of fiction which can equal Jane Austen's "Emma."

Here is genuine interest which carries the reader with it, not with "baited breath," but with that satisfying mental and emotional joy which is the solid reward of a first-class novel. Undoubtedly there is no other type of writing which has exactly this appeal. If there is anything which makes a reader tired, it is this attitude, sometimes displayed, that a work of fiction is somehow less than more "solid" types of reading matter.

The truth seems to be that fiction is life, and life is experience, therefore fiction is experience. If one loves life, he will want to get as much of it as he can, and one of the best ways is to read as many well told stories as he can.

Men have always known this, that is why they have loved a good story in all ages, even from the earliest, and the end will never be in sight, it would seem; always the experience seeker in us will pine for adventure, and always time and fate and circumstance will combine to prevent us from going.

But we may read.

And, if we are wise, we will read good novels of worth, and among them will be, must be, "Emma" and "Mansfield Park," at least.

There should be no taint of snobbery about the "must" in the above sentence. It is not a command, based on some one person's likes and dislikes, but simply a universal acceptance.

Not to know Emma and Mr. Knightly and Mr. Woodhouse is to miss something real out of life. Not to be a member of the house party at Mansfield Park is unthinkable.

The sensible reader will accept these invitations, if he has not done so, and see for himself why one may think that no man can be called well read until he has made the acquaintance of these interesting, charming people.

WASHINGTON OBSERVATIONS

Gov. Roosevelt, speaking Saturday at Sea Girt, N. J., a wet spot in more senses than one—will deal with the prohibition issue. Another slashing attack on the Republican position, this time its wet-dry position, is indicated. Again the Democratic nominee selects a tender spot for his punch. Yet there is little doubt that the President has met with a generous measure of success in his aim to satisfy the wet wing of his party without driving all the drys into rebellion or exile. Bishop Cannon, Hoover ally in 1928, now on the other side of the Atlantic and shorn of his political power, fulminates over what he views as the President's betrayal of prohibition. Deets Pickett, the bishop's understudy in the Methodist Board of Public Morals, makes similar utterance. Here and there have come other bitter protest and denunciation from the Upshaws and the Booles—the fanatical drys. But it is becoming fairly apparent that there is to be no wholesale desertion of the Hoover standard by the drys. The President's declaration for revision of the eighteenth amendment was a bitter pill, but it was heavily sugar coated and for the most part the drys are swallowing it and trying to smile. Those not blinded by passion appear to be able to see that to desert Mr. Hoover now (changing the metaphor) is to jump from the frying pan into the fire.

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The Rev. Dr. Daniel A. Polling, chairman of the Allied Drys, has anounced that by "overwhelming vote" the associates in his organization have agreed to stand by the President and to support him for re-election—that it means that millions of dry votes will remain Republican. Dr. Polling makes public a commendatory letter from Mr. Hoover in which the latter extends his thanks and bespeaks the need of awakening "a sense of national consciousness of the purpose of life itself."

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Theodore Roosevelt was a prolific writer before he became President. As ex-President he became contributing editor of the weekly magazine Outlook. Taft, as ex-President, and prior to his elevation to the headship of the Supreme Court, was a lecturer at Yale. Woodrow Wilson was a historian of distinction prior to his entry into public life. Death robbed him of the chance to return to literary pursuits. Harding, by profession, was an editor and publisher. Coolidge, in political retirement, became a dollar-a-word essayist of wide renown. Hoover translated "De Res Metalica" from the Latin and his discourses on the art of fishing and American individualism have earned him library listing as an author. Alfred Emanuel Smith, though not an ex-President, is in their class in that he has stepped from an elevated popular pedestal into political retirement. Now he is to turn litterateur, for the first time in his life, in the approved ex-presidential manner. By a curious twist of circumstances, it is as editor of the Outlook. This famed periodical, after long decline, suspended publication and was laid to rest a few months ago, but is now to be resurrected as a vehicle for the versatile "Al," as the New Outlook.

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President Hoover changed secretaries this week, but the old and the new both respond to the name of "Ted" and both hail from Massachusetts. There the similarity ends. Edward (Ted) Clark, White House secretary during the Coolidge administration and seasoned veteran of the Washington political world, replaced Theodore (Ted) Joslin. The latter graduated from journalism to a post in the Hoover secretariat when George Akerson graduated from the White House to a motion picture executive. "Ted" Clark's assignment is said to be only temporary. Ostensibly he is pinch hitting during the absence of the other "Ted" (Joslin), to whom Mr. Hoover graciously accorded a vacation, despite the exigencies of the presidential campaign and the present rush of business and of callers and of news at the White House. But it would occasion no surprise if the Coolidge "Ted," whose political acumen and realistic approach to current affairs is highly appreciated at the White House, remains there until Election day.

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Whenever and wherever Mr. Hoover addresses the Nation he speaks primarily not as a candidate for re-election but as President of the United States. That is the public-spirited view of the radio broadcasting systems in extending their radio facilities without charge as a matter of public service. Thus the broadcast of the Hoover acceptance speech on the most gigantic scale in radio history did not cost the Republican National Committee one penny. Gov. Roosevelt, by delivering his acceptance speech at the Chicago convention, likewise obtained Nation-wide radio coverage without charge, since the proceedings of the national conventions were freely broadcast in the public interest and as a super-entertainment feature of the radio programs. Subsequent speeches, past and future, of the Democratic nominee go on the air at regular commercial rates. The same was true of the Topeka, Kans., speech of Vice President Curtis and Secretary of War Hurley's Providence speech this week, and so on.

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Expense accounts of House and Senate are given a salty airing in the latest volume on Capital affairs to come from a Washington writer. In "Washington Swindle Sheet," just published, William P. Helm, veteran newspaper correspondent, details the spendings of Congress for investigations, mileage, stationery and its miscellaneous items during the fiscal year 1931. Mr. Helm goes to the official record for his figures and facts and spares neither names nor amounts. "In bookkeeper's slang," he says, "the expense account is known as the swindle sheet. It is with that meaning in mind that this book is written." The book deals purely with the little-known financial side of Washington affairs and personalities and is a breezily-written revelation of what Congress does with its own expense account.

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The assignment of Secretary Mills to the stump in Maine bespeaks the feverish desire of the Republican high command to make a fine showing in the Maine election September 12 and betrays their apprehension as to this 'barometer' State. Vice President Curtis, Dolly Gann and Secretary Hurley are headliners in the Republican all-star cast, but with Coolidge in retirement and Borah on strike, Ogden Mills in person is the biggest stellar attraction and would ordinarily be held in reserve to be billed only on "big time." From Republican Eastern headquarters in New York comes word that the normal (?) Republican plurality of from 25,000 to 50,000 is expected in Maine.

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Crowding It On.

From the New York Times.

Believe it or not, but it needed a desperate struggle in the Austrian Parliament before that body could be induced, by a vote of 81 to 80, to accept a loan of $42,000,000.

Al and Jack.

From the Roanoke Times.

Jack Garner invaded Al Smith's private office the other day and after three-quarters of an hour the Speaker emerged alive and smiling. This speaks volumes for Al's powers of self-control.

Hard-Boiled Fact.

From the Miami Daily News.

Chicago aldermen are considering an ordinance to ban the sale of fiction based on crime. Up in Chicago crime doesn't come under the head of fiction.

Hitler's Success Faces Germany With Paradox

BY WILLIAM BIRD.

PARIS, August 25.—In the view of observers here, Germany has reached a paradoxical situation. Only a few months ago the question was anxiously asked whether Adolf Hitler would attempt to seize power by unconstitutional means. Today it is realized that constitutional government cannot continue in Germany without placing the power in Hitler's hands.

If President Paul von Hindenburg and Chancellor Franz von Papen attempt to govern without Hitler, they can do so only by arbitrary dictatorial methods.

Such a dictatorship, however, is declared to be in accordance with the Weimar Constitution, which empowers the cabinet to govern without Parliament's approval in case of emergency. Moreover, Von Papen's partisans say it does not violate democratic principles, since it is done by presidential authority and the President was elected by a clear majority of the voters—and thus he has an equal standing, from a democratic viewpoint, with Parliament itself.

* * * *

A rapid comparison of the German situation today with that which existed immediately after the signing of the treaty of Versailles in 1919 shows that enormous changes have taken place and that still greater changes may be expected in the next few years.

Germany at that time was broken and disorganized. There was an intense reaction against militarism, a liberal republican constitution was adopted and a Socialist was elected President. Today nearly half of Germany is marching behind Hitler, and a good share of what is left is praying for the return of the Hohenzollerns. The President, elected by Socialist votes, is the Kaiser's favorite general.

The allied army of occupation, which was to hold the bridgeheads of the Rhine for 15 years, or until Germany had fulfilled the peace conditions, has been withdrawn.

* * * *

After paying $5,000,000,000 of a reparations bill fixed at 33 billions, Germany is to pay about $750,000,000 more and a sponge is to be passed over the slate. France has received in reparations, over a period of 12 years, about twice the amount that was paid to Germany in cash after the short war of 1870. France has spent in repairing material damages caused by the fighting on French territory about twice as much as she has received in indemnities.

It is considered practically certain that before another year elapses there will be a profound modification of Germany's military status. The treaty allows Germany 100,000 professional soldiers, enlisted for 12 years. It seems likely that the period of enlistment will be shortened to about two years. The importance of such a change is that it would provide trained reserves.

Another likelihood is that Germany will regain, in the form of mandates, some of the colonies wrenched from her by the allies, most of which now are in British hands.

* * * *

But by far the most sensational possibilities are in the direction of boundary changes in Europe. Germany wants the Polish Corridor and wants to reunite East Prussia and Danzig to the Reich. Germany wants the coal fields of Upper Silesia returned to her. On the western frontier she wants the villages of Eupen and Malmedy, now Belgian, restored, not to mention the Saar. Alsace-Lorraine is not openly claimed, but is dreamed about.

There is every reason to expect also that the Anschluss, the annexation of Austria to Germany, will be pushed with increasing vigor. France has opposed it. Italy, alarmed at the thought of having Germany instead of harmless Austria for a northern neighbor, was the deciding factor in destroying the customs union proposal, which was regarded as the prelude to a political union. But Italy is now reported to be veering around to the German view, having received assurances that Germany will give undertakings to respect the Tyrolian frontier.

The so-called "confidence pact," signed at Lausanne by England and France and since adhered to by Germany, Italy and many smaller powers, is believed by Germany, and feared by France, to open the door to diplomatic negotiations on all these points. Germany had hoped to make the League of Nations a platform for the discussion of treaty revision. Balked in this, she will turn to the loosely-worded confidence pact.

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Urges Use of Military As White House Guards

To the Editor of The Star.

In the midst of the worst economic depression that this country has ever witnessed various suggestions and methods come forth through prominent men and the press to help our budget and unemployment. The City of Washington, as well as the States, is faced with increasing demands and diminishing revenues. Our city fathers are asking for an appropriation of $258,036, to be expended in satisfaction of the need of 100 more policemen, also clerks, stenographers, radio patrol cars and motor cycles. Undoubtedly they are badly needed. I thought of a saving that could be made right here in the number of policemen asked for. In all foreign countries that I have visited the palaces or residences of sovereigns are guarded by picked royal guards in trim uniforms and side arms. Why could this not be inaugurated here? Transfer the White House squad (35 men) to street duty? Our military posts could be drawn upon for soldiers or Marines. There are plenty of them doing nothing in time of peace, fine-looking men. This is a comparatively small saving, yet it amounts to something in a year. If it has worked for centuries in the old countries, why should it not find favor here? Besides saving the salaries of 35 policemen, a fine-looking military guard would command respect and add color to the residence of our Presidents.

GEORGE P. PLITT.

The Real Proof.

From the Hartford Daily Times.

In the craning for signs of the approach of the upturn in business and industry significance has been attached to every hopeful indication that the country has "turned the corner." Better than any sign is the outright proof as exemplified in the increase of wages voted by the Durham Hosiery Mills in New Hampshire. The addition of 10 per cent to the pay roll of 2,000 employes in those mills speaks louder than any statistics and professional forecast. It is the proverbial proof of the pudding.

The Durham incident may not remain isolated long. The textile industry has been feeling the return of buying activity for several weeks. Several textile centers have reported full-time employment for the normal number of employes. The wage levels were low in most instances. That they should be raised as soon as it appears that there will be good business ahead for several weeks is itself a factor which will help to stimulate confidence and buying activity. No flurry in the stock market nor volumes of hopeful prognostication can compare with a wage raise in a large industry as a means of lifting the Nation out of the doldrums.

Hitler's Aspiration.

From the Rochester Times-Union.

Hitler wants to boss Germany. His enemies my be mean enough to let him have the job.

Vegetarians.

From the Toledo Blade.

If you have ever cultivated a garden you may have observed that most of the bugs and worms keep in perfect health on a vegetable diet.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Did you ever write a letter to Frederic J. Haskin? You can ask him any question of fact and get the answer in a personal letter. Here is a great educational idea introduced into the lives of the most intelligent people in the world—American newspaper readers. It is a part of that best purpose of a newspaper—service. There is no charge except 3 cents in coin (carefully wrapped) for return postage. Address Frederic J. Haskin, Director, The Washington Star Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

Q. What were the receipts of the Olympic games?—N. A.

A. Unofficial estimates on the closing day were that gate receipts amounted to $2,000,000 and that paid attendance would total close to 1,000,000.

Q. How old is the cross as a religious symbol?—A. M.

A. Its use as a Christian religious symbol is probably the most modern adaptation. For thousands of years before the Christian era the cross was of religious significance among widely separated peoples and in different ages. Its origin is lost in antiquity.

Q. Where does the Mohawk trail begin and end?—L. B.

A. The Mohawk trail starts at Boston and ends at Albany, N. Y.

Q. Where is there a monument to wheat?—A. C. R.

A. At Winnipeg a monolith has been erected on the site of the mill where the first shipment of wheat from Western Canada was assembled. The monolith is a 12-ton granite boulder appropriately inscribed to commemorate the shipment which left Winnipeg on October 21, 1876.

Q. Who was the first person to be killed in the Air Service?—W. D.

A. The first fatality in the Army Air Corps was that of First Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge, a passenger in a Wright biplane. He was killed September 17, 1908, at Fort Myer, Va., in a crash.

Q. Please describe the habits of the Iquitos.—E. M.

A. This tribe of South American Indians is divided into many branches, some on the River Tigre, others on the Nanay. Missionary efforts have failed and they remain savages, worshipping figures carved in the shape of birds and beasts. They brew the Indian fermented liquor chicha better than any of the neighboring tribes, flavoring it with the shoots of some plant which has the effect of an opiate.

Q. What temperature should a slow oven be? A hot oven?—M. N.

A. A slow oven means one with a temperature of from 250 to 300 degrees Fahrenheit, a moderate oven one of from 300 to 350 degrees, and a hot oven is from 400 to 450 degrees.

Q. Did Congress provide $2,000,000,000 for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to be lent to private business, banks and railroads?—I. O'H.

A. Congress appropriated only $500,000,000 for this purpose, and this sum is to be repaid. Congress authorized the corporation, itself, to borrow an additional $1,500,000,000 from the public to make such further loans as may seem necessary.

Q. In Shakespeare's day, what were the school hours?—P. R. C.

A. In Summer, from 6 in the morning until 6 at night; in Winter, from daybreak until dusk.

Q. Where should one go to enlist in the Foreign Legion?—M. L. C.

A. A dispatch from Marseille says that Americans are no longer permitted to enlist in the French Foreign Legion.

Q. When was the Hofstadter Committee organized and what is its budget?—S. L.

A. The Hofstadter Committee, which is investigating the New York City administration, was authorized by a joint resolution of the State Legislature on March 23, 1931, and ordered to report not later than February, 1932. In two bills $500,000 was appropriated for its expenses. On January 27, 1932, a bill extending the committee's life until February 1, 1933, was approved, and on March 11, a bill appropriating $250,000 for additional expenses went into effect without the Governor's signature.

Q. Who was Agnes Sorel?—T. T.

A. She was attached to the service of Isabel of Lorraine, Queen of Sicily, wife of Rene of Anjou, the brother-in-law of Charles VII. From 1444 until her death in 1450 she was the acknowledged mistress of the King the first woman to hold that semi-official position which was to be of such great importance in the subsequent history of the old regime.

Q. What is the derivation of the word "steptorian?"—R. S.

A. In the Iliad, Stentor was a herald whose voice was as loud as that of 50 men.

Q. Did Lincoln kneel during the pastoral prayer at Dr. Gurley's Church?—A. J. W.

A. When Dr. Phineas D. Gurley offered the "pastoral prayer," Lincoln always stood. So also did Senator Bradley.

Q. Where was Pearl Buck, who won the Pulitzer prize, educated? Is she married?—K. L. M.

A. Her parents were missionaries from Virginia, who were sent to China, where most of her life has been spent. Her early education was given her by her mother and she attended school at Shanghai. At 17 she was sent first to Europe and then to Randolph Macon College in Virginia. She is married and lives in Nanking.

Q. Why, in referring to foreign rights under a copyright, is it necessary to say, "including the Scandinavian"?—T. T. G.

A. The copyright office says that the phrase "including the Scandinavian" sometimes seen in connection with the copyright notice does not involve any additional protection, since the United States law gives the copyright holder the exclusive right to translate the work into any language. Such restriction, therefore, is entirely unnecessary.

Q. Does a woman sit at the right side or left side of a vehicle when driving with a man?—A. V.

A. In Europe the woman sits at the right. Except in official life, this rule is not closely followed in the United States.

Q. What is the meaning of the word "lagniappe?"—L. A. M.

A. It means a trifling present given to customers by tradesmen, or in a broader sense, a gratuity.

Q. How many Boers were killed in the Transvaal war?—G. H.

A. The Boers' loss in killed was 4,000 and the number taken prisoners, 40,000. These were released on the conclusion of hostilities. The British loss was, killed, 5,774; wounded, 22,829.

Q. Is it necessary to use new rubber rings on glass jars each canning season?—R. B.

A. Rubber deteriorates and it is foolish to use the rings a second time. The cost of them is small compared with the risk of having fruit and vegetables spoil when old ones are used.

Journey Into Stratosphere Stirs Hope for New Air Lanes

While Auguste Piccard's record-breaking journey into the stratosphere to a height of more than 10 miles takes rank as a spectacular and courageous adventure, it is also welcomed as a contribution to scientific research. There is much discussion of cosmic rays as a mysterious force and speculation upon the possibilities of the upper air as a medium of aerial transportation.

It is pointed out by the San Antonio Express that "Prof Piccard's achievements have given him foremost rank, both as a scientist and as an aeronaut," and that this "native of Switzerland, a research worker in Brussels University's Polytechnic Institute, has been seeking fresh data on the origin of cosmic rays, discovered by Dr. Robert A. Millikan of California Institute of Technology." Of the details of the present experiment, the Express states: "Prof. Piccard and an aide, Max Cosyn, have set an altitude record for all aircraft by taking a hydrogen-filled balloon up 16,500 meters (54,134 feet) above sea level. In a specially designed gondola weighing 1,750 pounds, which was attached to a silken bag inflated with 500,000 cubic feet of the lightest gas known, those aeronauts started upon the voyage into the stratosphere from Dubendorf Airdrome, in Northern Switzerland, early last Thursday morning and rapidly ascended several thousand feet. Drifting before the wind, to the southeast, the balloon passed over the Rhine's headwaters and crossed the Engadine region—just north of the Swiss-Italian frontier—at a record-breaking height."

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Stating that "it is only 240,000 miles from the earth to the moon," the Port Huron Times Herald suggests that, in view of Jules Verne's imagination and the thoughts of others, humorous suggestions of the journey to "this satellite of ours" may be taken with the thought that "it is just possible that the first 10 miles—which represent the task of getting started—are the hardest." The Boston Transcript, however, feels that "the dream that a way will be found to sail to the moon or Mars seems, in the light of man's greatest achievements so far, to be beyond any possibility of fulfillment." That paper continues: "If there be Martians and super-Martians in the spacious firmament around us, not one has been able to leave his own celestial abode to visit this grain of sand which we call the earth. The ruined archangel imagined by Milton dropped from the zenith like a fallen star or wandered through space ungoverned by those forces of attraction and repulsion which we disobey at our peril. And even if we become as insubstantial as they we may not enjoy their long flight from star to star, but find ourselves 'imprisoned in the viewless winds, and blown with restless violence round about the pendent world,' still chained to our parent orb by the same power that in some mysterious fashion rules all creation."

"It is being said that one of the more practical results of the study of the stratosphere may be swifter flights across the oceans in planes designed especially for flights at the 10-mile level," says the Oakland Tribune. The Newark Evening News sees the flight as having two aspects. That paper, referring to the scientific conclusion that "the cosmic ray is the mighty force of the universe," points out that in the stratosphere "it may be studied and measured, to increase man's knowledge of the life and forces which surround him," while, as to the second aspect, it concludes: "And there is suggestion of more immediate and practical benefits in Prof. Piccard's declaration that the stratosphere is the only practical element for long-distance aviation."

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It is recalled by the Dayton Daily News that a German savant "has just succeeded in sending a balloon to the altitude of nearly 17½ miles," but "there were no passengers aboard this craft, and it is doubtful that man will soon reach such unprecedented height." The Daily News adds that the current findings as to cosmic rays will interest science. Arguing that ultimate use may be made of the results of the experiment, the Indianapolis News comments: "Immediate lack of applicability means nothing. When Roentgen discovered the X-ray, laymen did not foresee it as the basis of a remarkable advance in medicine and as the precursor of radio, which was employed by Piccard to send messages from the skies in his epochal journey. By demonstrating that one may survive in the stratosphere, if properly safeguarded, the daring Belgian may have helped to give eventual substance to the dream of engineers that planes can be fitted to speed through it at a thousand miles an hour."

"What the scientific significance of this journey is remains undetermined," according to the Atlanta Journal. "After all, his altitude exceeded only by some 3,000 feet the first effort, and it is not likely that 3,000 feet in the stratosphere will reveal an overwhelmingly startling new set of facts; certainly not of the type that will be understandable to the average person. He talks casually now of repeating his exploit over the North Pole, and there will be few to doubt that he can repeat it when and where he will. Presently he may become mayor and first citizen of the stratosphere, and honor our dull earth with but occasional visits in his queer little space-scorning balloon."

Farmers' Strike.

From the Chicago Daily News.

Co-operation by farmers in the production and marketing of crops long has been recognized as the remedy for distress prices of farm products. But large numbers of farmers are, from the point of view of organizers of farm co-operatives, incorrigible individualists. While declining to share the cost and the responsibility attaching to membership in co-operatives, they are ready to participate in any benefits derivable by them from the operations of those organizations. Such so-called independent farmers in many cases are supposed by members of co-operatives to be recipients of special favors from private marketing agencies. Those facts and assumptions may help to explain some of the incidents growing out of farmers' strikes now in progress in Northwestern Iowa, North Dakota and elsewhere. The Iowa strike appears to have developed systematic acts of violence by farmers picketing country roads against other farmers who attempt to market milk, vegetables, fruit and other perishable products.

Desperation in the farming districts because of inadequate returns obtained for marketed crops cannot be viewed with equanimity by city dwellers. The latter have profited through the years of the depression by low prices for food, but they realize that in the long run it is not to their advantage when farmers in large numbers are sold out by the sheriff. Depressed farm prices did much to bring on the present time of closed factories, restricted consumption of all forms of manufactured goods and widespread unemployment. It is conceded that restoration of normal purchasing power to the farms would bring good times to the cities.

Mob law and destruction of property in farming areas is about the worst possible substitute for voluntary limitation of production and orderly marketing of farm products. The farmers' problem is in a sense everybody's problem. The national administration has done much, wisely or unwisely, to assist in the building up of farm co-operatives. It is planning to do more. In so doing and planning, it is not bestowing favors upon a single class of citizens alone, but is working with method to overcome an important element of the depression.

Self-interest of city dwellers should lead them to give encouragement to the extent of their opportunities to legitimate co-operative movements by the farmers.

Indispensable.

From the Omaha Evening World-Herald.

Sioux City man invents mouth-closing device. No home, no political party complete without one.