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Strengthening Liquor Control.

After almost a year's trial under the District's liquor-control law, the tendency of the Alcoholic Beverage Board and of the Commissioners, as exemplified in their proposed amendments to the law, is to strengthen rather than weaken the regulations as they now exist. The amendments would prohibit the practice followed in some establishments of selling enough drinks just before the hour of closing to last patrons through the dry interval which follows two o'clock in the morning; would add stiffer penalties for those convicted of intoxication in public places, and would enable the A. B. C. Board to suspend licenses for some offenses rather than resort to the more drastic procedure of revocation of license or prosecution in Police Court.

These amendments are desirable in strict enforcement of the law and in attempted remedy of some of the evils experienced under the law. The practice, for instance, of selling several drinks to patrons at two o'clock a.m. so they may continue drinking after the legal hour of sale has passed may not be particularly dangerous or vicious in itself. But it represents evasion of the law, and once such loopholes for evasion are established by custom the law itself becomes practically meaningless. Where the law reveals its weaknesses they should be removed by proper amendment.

The power of the liquor board to suspend licenses, without appeal to the Commissioners, would undoubtedly strengthen the hand of the board in dealing with a class of offenders whose violations may not be regarded as serious enough to warrant revocation of licenses—revocation in some cases amounting to forcing the licensees out of business. It is from every standpoint desirable that in imposing penalties on the basis of fact the board be given power to act quickly and in a manner that will make its decisions immediately effective. With the knowledge that offense under the law may bring suspension of his license for thirty days, the licensee will be more zealous in conforming to the letter of the regulations.

Amendments to the law proposed by Representative Dirksen of Illinois also deserve serious consideration. Mr. Dirksen would impose a limitation on the number of "Class A" license holders in the District that would, in effect, confine the number to less than 350. There are now 394 holders of this type of license—which permits the "off-sale" of any kind of intoxicants. And this is the only class of licenses which has shown an increase in the past year. The concentration of liquor stores in some sections of the city, and the number that now exist, suggest the advisability of limiting the total.

Another amendment proposed by Mr. Dirksen would abolish the "hidden bar" for mixing drinks—a development under the new control law that has evoked much criticism. The purpose of the regulation requiring drinks to be mixed out of sight of the customer was presumably to prevent the return of the old saloon. The President, in proclaiming the adoption of the repeal amendment, asked that "no State shall by law or otherwise authorize the return of the saloon either in its old form or in some modern guise." Prevention of the return of the saloon should remain the objective, with or without "hidden bars."

In soliciting funds from the American public Hauptmann betrays a delusion of grandeur, evidently imagining himself some kind of a hero. Such delusions are so common that they entitle him to no especial scientific consideration.

Vaudeville and Crime.

The trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann at Flemington was attended by many features which greatly shocked the country, the crowding of the court room with spectators eager for sensations, the spirit of ballyhoo which pervaded the entire proceedings to the end, the picnic spirit which prevailed on the part of the public. It became a veritable entertainment for thousands.

Now it is proposed by an enterprising amusement agent to engage the members of the jury that convicted Hauptmann to make a vaudeville tour. Offers of $500 a week have been made to the twelve men and women and at latest reports seven of them have indicated their willingness to accept, two having definitely refused and three not yet decided.

There is perhaps no way to stop this thoroughly improper proceeding. The jurors are doubtless at liberty to go forth as a feature of an entertainment program to show themselves and probably to talk about their experiences and reactions during the six weeks of the trial. But surely there should be sufficient public disapproval of this plan to cause them to reconsider, if any of them have actually agreed to prostitute their service as jurors for gain.

The trial of a person for murder is a solemn proceeding and should never be made the occasion of divertisement. The brazen effrontery of the proposer of this plan betrays a total misconception of the function of the law which is invoked for the protection of society, and those citizens who have served the State by sitting in judgment and who then yield to the temptation to capitalize their services in that capacity share in the blame.

The making of the Hauptmann trial an occasion of public entertainment was bad enough, but to send the jury around the vaudeville circuit would be an intolerable outrage against decency. It is to be hoped that all twelve of the jurors will see the utter impropriety of such a proceeding and reject the tender, as have two of them already, and that the proposer of this scheme to make a profit out of the solemn service which has just been rendered, as a result of which a man is to pay the penalty of his life for an abominable crime, will be subjected to a blasting condemnation.

Germany and Peace.

Germany's formal reply to the Anglo-French accord and to its invitation to the Reich to participate in solidifying European peace has now been delivered in London and Paris. It does not go the full length of acceptance, but Fuehrer Hitler agrees in broad principle with the British and French proposals, and to that extent the German answer represents progress toward the desired goal. It specifically leaves the way open for further discussions and proposes that Great Britain and Germany enter upon them forthwith.

Declaring its wish sincerely "to promote the safeguarding of peace," the maintenance of which is described as being in the interest of German security as well as in that of other European states, the Reich concretely is willing for the moment to consider only an air agreement for Western Europe, whereby the signatory states would be pledged to come to the assistance of any victim of an unprovoked air attack. Beyond expressing willingness to join such a pact, Germany is prepared merely to enter into bi-lateral discussions with the British to clear up "basic preliminary questions." There is complete evasion in the Reich's note of the Anglo-French proposals regarding Austrian independence, Germany's return to the League of Nations and an "Eastern Locarno."

The Nazi government feels that a Western European air convention "would be an important step on the road to European solidarity," but Hitler is unmistakably determined to extort positive concessions from the allied powers before committing Germany to collective action for peace purposes. Thus far the Germans have stressed only equality in armaments as a condition, with corresponding recognition of their sovereign status. What else they demand they will possibly reveal in the proposed conversations with Britain. If their aspirations comprehend any far-reaching changes in existing European frontiers, the outlook for an agreement acceptable to Germany is not bright. But Hitler at least leaves the door ajar for negotiation. Developments and results will now depend on whether the Fuehrer or the western powers prove to be the shrewder bargainers. The prospects for a guaranteed peace in Europe cannot be said to have been very substantially advanced by Germany's reply, but they have at any rate not been made darker, and, under all the circumstances, that is something. An agreement on armaments is probably the crux of the situation.

It appears that Germany can make better dirigibles than America can. Fortunately that particular style of craft is something that can be dispensed with under almost any kind of circumstances.

The Emperor of Ethiopia claims an ancestry dating back to King Solomon. If he inherits any extraordinary wisdom, now is the time for him to show it.

Great Books.

It has been more or less commonly agreed that notable institutions of civilization are the lengthened shadows of great personalities, and it would seem that the same principle might be applied in a judgment of books. Those works of literature which have most influence upon the thought and the conduct of their readers are, in sober fact, the fruits of character. They do not come into existence by accident, but rather are governed by the law of cause and effect—they mirror the intelligence, the integrity, the courage and the sympathy of their authors.

John Milton, perhaps, summarized the verdict of all thoughtful lovers of letters in the epigram:

A good book is the precious lifeblood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose, to a life beyond life.

And Charles Kingsley concurred in that point of view when he wrote in homelier language:

Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book!—a message to us from the dead—from human souls whom we never saw, who lived, perhaps, thousands of miles away; and yet these, in those little sheets of paper, speak to us, amuse us, terrify us, teach us, comfort us, open their hearts to us as brothers.

William Ellery Channing, too, lent the power of his eloquent conviction to a like end in the words:

It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds; and these invaluable means of communication are in the reach of all. In the best books great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours. God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levelers. They give to all who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence, of the best and greatest of our race.

Such testimony might be multiplied a thousand times, and yet it happens that there are individuals in high positions so unresponsive to their duty as to begrudge a public library the small means which it requires for its maintenance and operation in the people's service. The pitiful error of their attitude is betrayed in their simultaneous complaint against the prevalence of crime, but the contradiction is one which they do not care to face.

Weakness in the Macon.

Testimony has been given before the naval court which is making inquiry at San Francisco into the circumstances of the Macon's collapse and loss off the Pacific Coast the other day to the effect that the dirigible narrowly escaped crashing last April in Texas because of a structural failure in the same part of the ship that collapsed on Tuesday. The witness, an officer of the Macon, said that he had then recommended investigation of the strength of the entire fin construction, that the Bureau of Aeronautics had made an examination and had ordered the strengthening of the defective girder, but had ruled that the repair work should not be allowed to interfere with the Macon's operating schedule. This work, said the witness, had not been completed when the airship started on her last flight.

This raises a question of vital importance. Unless refuted, the testimony reveals that the Macon was permitted to continue cruising while under suspicion of structural weakness. The responsibility for permitting such a performance is a heavy one. The officer who gave the testimony regarding the structural defect went on to say that he felt that the ship was safe to fly in anything but extremely violent air, which again raises a question of judgment that may bear upon the whole matter of the handling of the dirigible.

It is idle to seek to deduce official responsibility for the disaster from such testimony alone, but the fact remains that the ship's structure was known to be weak and that she was kept in commission. In the light of the wrecking of the Shenandoah and the Akron in stress of weather it would surely seem to have been in order to keep the dirigible on the ground until it was made capable of withstanding the strain of a storm.

Mussolini may make a war in Ethiopia a means of giving employment to the jobless. It will be an easier method than a dole, although it may be more expensive in the end.

Elihi Root, ninety years old, refused to be interviewed, which is to be regretted. No man in the world has a greater fund of information on which to base enlightening comment.

Farmers expect permission to raise larger crops if they can be persuaded that the old plan of collecting for noncultivation was not an easier way to make money.

The danger in an attack on a small country lies in the strategic advantage that may be foreseen by other countries in taking sides.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Same Old Story.

Here's a picture and a pose,
Same old eyes and mouth and nose.
If it's girlish grace and ease,
Same old ankles, calves and knees.

Leaves on trees look all alike,
Yet a difference you'll strike
If you study them with care.
Each is like none other there.

Here's a killing or a theft,
Same old features here are left.
Little changes may amuse,
Different names still make the news.

One Problem Disposed Of.

"Are our problems disappearing?"

"Some of them," answered Senator Sorghum. "At least we can study a time table now without worrying about daylight saving."

Jud Tunkins says the munitions makers can't be held altogether to blame for war. Men were fighting years ago with nothing but sharp sticks and stone axes.

Reign Making.

A war cloud threatening on high
O'er Africa is shown.
In Europe and in Asia nigh
A similar threat is known.
George Washington advised us well
In saying we should try
To hoist the patriot's umbrell
And let the clouds roll by.

Big Figures.

"What is your boy Josh doing at present?" asked the neighbor.

"He's studyin' astronomy," answered Farmer Corntossel.

"Earning anything?"

"No. He's so busy with light years that two bits don't mean a thing to him."

Sense of Humor.

If you a "sense of humor" find
Incipient in your struggling mind,
Don't hesitate! Dismiss it quick
And turn to your arithmetic.
A poet sought in days gone by
To shoot the Follies as they fly,
But now where dignity should be
Some things ridiculous you'll see.
With care you must restrain your chaff,
It might be impolite to laugh.

"What I don't like about hard times," said Uncle Eben, "is dat you can't tell anything but a hard luck story without bein' suspected of untruthfulness."

THIS AND THAT

BY CHARLES E. TRACEWELL.

Severe Winter weather, with its snow and ice, worries many a city dweller.

Yet even amid his growls he feels slightly ashamed of himself.

Would Daniel Boone have complained?

What would Davy Crockett have said?

It is reasonable to believe that these great old pioneers, and hundreds like them, laughed in the face of the gale, mostly because there was no helping it.

There is one thing the modern urban dweller many think, to solace himself, and that is that with all their hardships the pioneers knew nothing of asphalt and concrete streets with ice on them.

The slipping and sliding they may have done was over small hills and depressions in the ground.

If they wanted smoothness, they went out over the ice, and got it.

* * * *

Ice on sidewalks and streets, especially under modern traffic conditions, is a condition pioneers did not have to face.

They faced so much that we must be glad they did not have to encounter this.

No wide, smooth streets for snow and ice to lie on for weeks at a time.

No automobiles!

They had buffalo, of course, but also they had their trusty rifles to offset the brute strength of the bison.

Today one cannot use a rifle on an automobile, although it is a very dangerous thing, in many instances, much more so than a herd of bison.

* * * *

Every age has its dangers.

America gave up the roaming bear and got the hit-and-run driver.

Recently, reading in some papers of the great Audubon, we came to an account of a bear chase at night.

The bears had gotten into a cornfield and were making merry there, filling their furry stomachs with fresh corn.

The owner of the land decided he was losing too much maize.

Promptly he harried out his slaves and they rustled up his friends and the entire party went to the cornfield with torches flaring.

In an hour or so they had dispatcted the animals, but, according to Audubon, had done more damage to the corn in an hour than a whole forest of bears would have done in the entire night.

* * * *

Dangers of icy city streets are very well realized by automobilists, as a class, but if we may judge from the thoughtless actions of pedestrians the latter often disregard them.

There is nothing more common than to see men and women afoot walk directly out over an icy street to a street car without seeming to give a single thought to the fact that passing automobiles might skid directly into their path.

It is a well-known saying among car drivers that you never can tell what another motorist is going to do.

How much more likely this is to be true when streets are covered with ice and snow! Even the most careful driver cannot be sure that his car will not skid. He may be all right as long as he is going directly forward and can keep his speed—argument No. 1 for it—but he is not sure that he will not have to slow down or swerve slightly.

Then he may skid.

First duty of the modern urban pedestrian in an inclement Winter is to try to foresee all the harmful things that might happen to him.

Granted that this is a large task, surely it is worth all the care it takes, because there are two sides to the traffic question, of course, just as there are two sides to most questions.

Crossing streets, either with or without traffic lights, is not all there is to safety in traffic.

A prior consideration must be state of mind, both of pedestrians and motorists.

A good frame of mind for automobilists is that of real concern for those human beings who, deprived of the shell of a car, are just so much flesh, bone and blood before them.

The motorist who keeps this fact plainly in mind as he drives along will not be anywhere near so liable to run down a pedestrian, no matter whose fault it is, as he who harbors any of the other states of mind which the man braced behind the wheel may exhibit.

* * * *

A good prior state of mind, on the part of the walker, is realization of the instability of the human body, and its utter inability to dispute the right of way with a machine made of steel and glass.

The modern pedestrian must keep in mind Hamlet's idea that life can be ended with a bare bodkin, or dagger, very easily and quickly.

How much larger than a dagger is a modern automobile, and especially how much heavier it is!

And when there is a greased slide, as it were, all ready to precipitate the thing just a little harder than usual, and especially at a tangent no one could anticipate, how foolish not to try to be prepared for just such an emergency!

* * * *

So much for the theory of the thing.

The theory is trite, no doubt, but its application is very much to the point in the daily life.

Yet more persons than not utterly fail to look where they are going, in the streets, and particularly do not look what is coming.

They trust too much to the hope that nobody in a car will hit them.

This hope is so large, with some of them, that they honestly do not think any one is going to be so crude as to slide an automobile into them.

Many persons evidently would rather trust to fate in this matter than go to the little extra trouble of look around them.

Evidently many persons would rather take a chance on being run over than miss their street car. We have noticed this thousands of times. People of uncertain ages will run squarely in front of a bus, just after the vehicle has started, when they could as easily have gone across before. Why they do it at the time they do is something of a mystery, unless we realize that they have never thought of the traffic problem as a purely personal one, a problem which each must solve for himself. They have not conceived the idea of the necessity for prior thought in the matter. They wait until they are on the curb, or even in the middle of the street, to think about danger, but then it may be too late. Where they should attempt to do their thinking is elsewhere, and beforehand. Even then they will be taking an awful chance, especially when streets are slippery with snow and ice.

STARS, MEN AND ATOMS

Notebook of Science Progress in Field, Laboratory and Study.

BY THOMAS R. HENRY.

Brain and stomach are associated in a curious partnership.

Some of their strange interrelations were described in a symposium participated in by medical specialists in both fields before the Medical Society of the District of Columbia Wednesday night.

Notable examples cited from the records of St. Elizabeth's Hospital were those of insane patients who, over periods of years, have swallowed all objects they could get into their mouths and which have accumulated for months and years in the stomach. One of these cases was that of the needle eater. She was a woman who spent much of her time in the sewing room. For about 15 years she swallowed needles—literally hundreds of them. X-ray photographs taken from time to time showed these needles in a great mass, which, over an interval of 10 years, increased and decreased in size, as the woman kept constantly on her unappetizing diet. Apparently the body itself eliminated the needles, keeping the accumulation within the limits of endurance, or they were completely oxidized and eliminated as rust. There was no surgery and when the needle eater finally died it was from causes not traceably associated with her strange habit.

Another patient over about 10 years swallowed hundreds of articles—combs, jack-knives, spoons, irontined forks, two fairly large crucifixes, coins of every description, pins and numerous strips of wire. The hospital staff cannot understand how any man could have gotten such articles down his throat. Doubtless many of the objects he swallowed were eliminated, as in the case of the pin-eater, but the larger ones remained in the intestinal tract, forming the strangest junk-heap in history. It finally became so large that it was necessary to operate and 610 articles were removed.

There are many other less striking cases on the hospital records in spite of the precautions taken to keep such material away from the swallowers. These instances were reported by Dr. Alexander Simon of the St Elizabeth's staff. They are usually associated with some form of dementia precox, a psychosis in which the patient tends to drift back to the behavior levels of early childhood. Dr. William A. White, superintendent of the hospital and world famous psychiatrist, presented a tentative explanation of the phenomenon based on this association and on the well-known swallowing of hard objects—stones, safety pins, pennies, etc.—by infants.

The human being comes into the world, Dr. White explained, with a yearning for security. For the infant this comes from the intimate association with the mother. She is its ever present and omnipotent protector. Closely associated with the mother is the act of nursing and, in consequence, the full stomach. Hence a neural association is built up which remains subconsciously through the rest of life.

The nursing period ends and, as the child grows up, the mother is withdrawn more and more into the external world and becomes less and less omnipotent. Still the old yearning for protection and security remains. The individual may try to suppress it, but it comes to the surface in emotional crises. But, due to the babyhood association, one can recall something of the infinite comfort and security of life's earliest days through the sensation of a full stomach. That may be the reason the small boy or girl, just through with the nursing period and beginning to crawl, swallows anything that comes to hand.

This practise is outgrown as it is associated with social disapproval and common sense, with the emergence from early childhood. Then something goes wrong with the brain. It no longer is able to cope with the problems of life on an adult level. The harassed individual goes back to the infallible childhood way of dealing with them—appeal to the omnipotent mother. She is no longer there, in the sense that she was present to the new-born infant. But the patient can get a suggestion of the old sensation of security by the act of swallowing, especially if it produces the very definite feeling of something in the stomach, even though it be a painful feeling. Hence the swallowing of needles and jack-knives.

* * * *

Another curious brain-stomach phenomenon is the morbid hunger associated with tumors of the frontal lobe of the brain. Cases were described by Dr. J. W. Watts of the University of Pennsylvania.

The frontal lobe is the part of the cerebral cortex, or top layer of the brain, which lies behind the forehead. It used to be considered the seat of intelligence—hence the term "highbrow." Evidence for this contention has become quite tenuous in recent years, but it has been shown conclusively that a slender strip of the posterior part of this lobe contains, very specifically, the centers for hand, finger and other movements.

Now, Dr. Watts' surgical experiments with monkeys show, directly in front of this motor strip lies an area which is closely associated with the gastro-intestinal tract and apparently with centers that both activate and inhibit the action of peristalsis, the involuntary contractile wave-like movement of the stomach and alimentary canal, which is responsible for the movement of food through the body.

Lesions in some parts of the frontal lobe apparently serve to activate this peristalsis—or eliminate the inhibition, which would amount to about the same thing—with the result that it proceeds much faster than is normal. Food is hurried through the body without giving the digestive processes sufficient time. The result is that there is little nourishment and the victim needs vastly more food—two or three times as much as would normally be called for—in order to exist. The stomach continually is calling for more—hence this strange pathological hunger. And despite a two-fold or three-fold increase in the diet—two or three pounds of beef and five or six pounds of potatoes at a meal—there is no increase in weight.

Plenty of Cards.

From the New Haven Journal-Courier.

There were enough playing cards manufactured last year to girdle the globe if placed end to end. Perhaps that explains the fervor for new deals.

Sure, They're Guilty!

From the Williamsport (Pa.) Sun.

A saxophone has been stolen from a suburban home, the neighbors naturally coming under suspicion.

THE LIBRARY TABLE

BY SARAH G. BOWERMAN.

THE HEROIC YEARS. Fourteen Years of the Republic. 1801-1815. By Fletcher Pratt. New York: Harrison Smith & Robert Haas.

In February, 1801, the House of Representatives balloted for President, at first without result, but finally elected Jefferson. Fletcher Pratt, whose first book this is and who, we gather, favors the free style of history not too closely bound to documents, reports a conversation between Mr. Bayard of Delaware, Federalist leader of the House, and Mr. Hamilton, as follows: (Mr. Bayard) "What do you think? Shall we approach Burr and offer him continued support in exchange for backing our measures? If we hold him stoutly out there are enough Democrats who will eventually join us to put him in." (Mr. Hamilton) "In Heaven's name, no! Jefferson has principles, even if wrong-headed ones, and pretensions to character. Burr has neither character nor principles, a mere conspirator. I know the rat—he would betray you and the country as he is now betraying Jefferson by refusing to withdraw. Jefferson at all costs." Mr. Pratt's far from sedate historical style is further illustrated by his comments on the retiring President, John Adams, in the chapter entitled, "Death of an Iceberg." He says: "John Adams was dead. By a pardonable oversight they neglected to inter the corpse for another quarter of a century, and for two and a half months a bad-tempered old gentleman remained in the half-finished, imitation renaissance Capitol, signing papers 'John Adams' with such viciousness that the pen was sometimes driven through the parchment. But every one knew that the stiff little figure was only the ghost of a bygone era." The period covered by Mr. Pratt begins with the election of Jefferson and closes with the battle of New Orleans.

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WOMEN WORKERS THROUGH THE DEPRESSION. A Study of White-Collar Employment Made by the American Woman's Association. Edited by Lorine Pruette, Ph. D. New York: The Macmillan Co.

Relief work during the depression, here and abroad, seems to have been concentrated on the manual worker. The white collar worker, whose right to live is equally important, has too often been supposed to be able to get along, through assumed past savings or the aid of relatives. Often his need for work, for his mental health, has been as great as his need for money. In this study of more than a thousand women in 90 different occupations, Dr. Pruette and Dr. Iva Lowther Peters, director of research, have asked and tried to answer from their investigations several crucial questions. What life preserver does the self-supporting woman find most effective in a depression? Is it college education, or special training, or both? Is it long service and loyalty in an old job or adaptability in a new one? Is youth more valuable than long service? Is one's own business better than a salaried position? Which keep one afloat longer, investments or savings accounts? The answers to these questions are important not only to the adults who have been struggling with the present depression but also to all the young people who are coming forward each year, hoping to find a place in the scheme of things. From the individual stories in this book conclusions of general significance may be drawn.

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DESTINY'S MAN. By J. F. Tweed. New York: Farrar & Rinehart.

Johan Zimri, son of a Hungarian plumber, becomes a miracle worker and through some mysterious power performs wonderful cures. The peasants all over Danubia idolize him, but priests and politicians fear him as a menace. He takes no pay for his services and with the physical healing he also imparts a new sense of values. He believes that poverty should be abolished and thus incurs the hostility of those rich people who accept the poor as a necessary, even desirable, part of society. Eventually his influence is felt throughout Europe. Then he is betrayed and becomes the victim of a mob. His friend, Groner, cries, as he falls beside him: "Must truth always be baptized in blood?" The situation is one often repeated in history, even before Socrates, before Christ, before Joan of Arc, and many times since. The innovator is likely to be the martyr, however much he may love humanity. This story, full of allegorical content, by the author of "Gabriel Over the White House," is sincere in theme and simple and powerful in style.

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ODDS ON BLUEFEATHER. By Laurence W. Meynell. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.

In a wild and thrilling tale of international politics, Laurence Meynell tells of another adventure of that clever young man George Stanhope Berkley, friend of the chief of Scotland Yard, who in some unaccountable way has become the only hope of the world for peace. The nations of the world, through their representatives, are about to sign a great peace pact, when Paul Verney, chief peacemaker, who is trusted by all nations (a remarkable man) disappears. Berkley goes in search of him and finally finds him, only to realize that difficulties have just begun. The two men are held captive on a small island by a vicious madman whose symbol is a blue feather and whose aide is a beautiful and dangerous woman. When they finally escape from the house on the island, they are pursued by five armed desperadoes. Paul must be in London in three days or the pact will fail. Of course he gets there. More than the usual amount of suspense marks this story of mystery and adventure and, a pleasant variation from type, it isn't a murder story.

* * * *

SEA LANES. Man's Conquest of the Ocean. By Martin D. Stevers and Capt. Jonas Pendlebury. New York: Minton, Balch & Co.

The authors of this book feel that most romantic stories of the sea, even though authentic, are fuller of romance than of fact. They are likely to assume much more knowledge of the sea and its navigation than the average reader possesses. On the other hand, the books about the sea which are filled with technical explanations are often lacking in the human experiences of the men who master the sea or are defeated by it. Mr. Stevers, author of "Steel Trails" and "The Epic of the Railroads," and Capt. Pendlebury, who has for years been in command of world and West Indian cruises, have attempted to combine a narrative of man's centuries of struggle to master the sea with sufficient explanation of the devices and methods by which he has accomplished it. No stereotyped historical method is followed, but in the course of the rather disconnected narrative the evolution of ships and their navigation is followed, from the ships of the ancient Egyptians and Sumerians to the de luxe cruise steamers commanded by Capt. Pendlebury.

Interesting chapters in the history of seafaring are the fight of England for her sea power when the Armada of Philip II boldly entered the English Channel; the beginning of sea power in Colonial America, American inland water transportation, the clipper ships—"sail's last stand," and the victory of steam—"exit America." The volume abounds in episodes of sea life and the routine on a big ocean-going vessel of the present time. The modern liner receives the major share of space, which is natural, as Capt. Pendlebury's experience has been with its complexities and its curious venturings into the harbors of all lands. More than 30 diagrams and illustrations from photographs accompany the text.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Washington Star Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. Please inclose stamp for reply.

Q. How did Singing Wood, the race horse, get his name?—C. R.

A. Singing Wood's name is derived from the fact that his sire and dam were imported Royal Minstrel and Glade.

Q. Where is the noisiest street corner in the world?—B. C.

A. Dr. E. E. Free says that Thirty-fourth street and Eighth avenue, New York City, is the noisiest corner in the world.

Q. Did some American citizens vote in the Saar plebiscite?—S. A.

A. There were about 387 American citizens who went to Germany to vote in the Saar plebiscite. In all, 539,541 persons who were residents of the territory on June 28, 1919, when the Saar first went out of German custody, were entitled to vote regardless of sex, race or present nationality. Of these, 528,005 voted.

Q. In what year was John D. Rockefeller born?—F. J.

A. He was born on July 8, 1839.

Q. How much does the rocking stone of Tandil weigh?—N. S.

A. This stone in Argentina weighs over 700 tons, and is so nicely poised that it rocks gently in the wind and can be made to crack a walnut.

Q. How did fox hunting become such a popular sport in England?—T. W.

A. It originated in a very real need to reduce the number of foxes, since they preyed upon chickens and other small animals. Bounties were paid for their extermination.

Q. Who invented the railroad ticket?—S. C.

A. Thomas Edmondson of Lancaster, England, in 1836. He was a station master and booking clerk on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway. He also invented a ticket case which remained in use without improvement until the invention of an American ticket case in 1874.

Q. How many pensions have been granted to teachers by the Carnegie Foundation?—F. T. M.

A. All told, 2,201 allowances and pensions have been granted to teachers in 41 different States, six Canadian provinces and Newfoundland by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Q. What is the word that means the condition of having unusually large ears?—B. R. G.

A. The word is macrotia.

Q. What is the American Veterans' Association?—L. V. B.

A. It is a newly-organized corporation of about 1,000 veterans who are against the payment of the soldiers' bonus.

Q. When was rapid transit introduced in New York City?—L. H.

A. It began in 1832, when horse cars were first used. In 1885 cable cars were added and in 1893 underground current was introduced. In 1900 the first contract was awarded for a subway.

Q. When was the Royal Military College established at Sandhurst, England?—B. L.

A. The school was founded at Great Marlow in 1802 and removed to Sandhurst in 1812.

Q. What is the derivation of the word sarcophagus?—R. S. J.

A. It is from a Greek word which means flesh eater. The name originated in the alleged property of a certain limestone of consuming the whole body, except the teeth, within 40 days.

Q. Who was the leader of the German Flying Circus after Richthofen was shot down?—C. R. W.

A. Herman Goering, Hitler's air minister, was its flight commander.

Q. Is the Suez Canal controlled by the British government?—A. E.

A. Although the British government holds seven-sixteenths of the shares, the Suez Canal Co. is, as a matter of fact, predominantly French for purposes of administration. On the board of management there are 1 Dutch, 10 British and 21 French directors, who work in closest harmony. Of the 10 British directors, 3 represent the British government in respect to their large holding of shares and 7 represent the shipping and commercial interests of Great Britain, which now supplies about 57 per cent of the total traffic through the canal.

Q. How many Japanese are there in California?—R. M.

A. In 1930 the number of Japanese in California was 97,456.

Q. Does the Forest Service have an air patrol to detect forest fires?—J. L. M.

A. The Forest Service says that there is no continuous air patrol operating at the present time. There was started in 1920 such a patrol as a continuous service, but it was found that it would not pay. The airplanes could not compete successfully with the several lookout stations on mountain tops maintained by the Forest Service. Now planes are used to observe large fires especially and in transporting men from place to place, in both cases of which days or even weeks are saved, only a few hours being required to cover the space. The work is done by contract with commercial plane companies, since the Forest Service does not own planes used.

Q. How many stripes do zebras have as a rule?—K. F.

A. Animal experts have found that ordinary zebras have but from ninety to ninety-nine discernible stripes from nose to tail tip. An African zebra born in Fleishhacker Zoo, San Francisco, recently has been found to have one hundred stripes.

Q. In what magazine did "Rain" appear as a story under some other title?—K. L.

A. The story from which the play was made was called "Miss Thompson," by Somerset Maughan, and came out in the Smart set.

Q. Who are the two other figures with Susan B. Anthony in the statuary group in the Capitol?—A. W. H.

A. The two other are Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. The statuary group—"Three Pioneer Women in Suffrage"—is in a crypt on the floor below Statuary Hall.

Q. Is the construction of a glider similar to that of an airplane?—J. W. G.

A. The modern glider is a soaring plane. It is for all practical purposes an extremely light airplane without an engine, while the construction is greatly simplified, all parts being made as light as consistent with strength and the lifting surface so designed and set as to give high lift at low speeds.

Dictatorship in Louisiana Debated as Federal Problem

Appeals of the anti-Long forces in Louisana for Federal intervention have turned the eyes of the country upon the political situation in that State and aroused national interest in the methods of Senator Huey Long and his "share-the-wealth" plans.

"Even if the redoubtable Huey had not taken a large part of the wind out of the sails of Dr. Townsend, when he advocated a maximum potential limit to an individual fortune of $3,000,000, together with a mandatory minimum of $15,000," says the New York Herald Tribune, "it would be hard not to feel that of the two the good doctor is the more humanitarian. In fact, his heart is so big and his sympathy for the ecoromic yearnings of his people so vast that his testimony before the House Committee on Ways and Means was on an equally generous scale. Our Huey is a materialist. He is thinking of cash in the voters' pockets as translated into votes for Huey. The good doctor, on the other hand, is thinking of money to be spent so as to bring peace, prosperity and plenty to every one." The Herald Tribune concludes that "so open-handed are the spenders that it becomes a joke."

The Macon (Ga.) Telegraph declares the "share-the-wealth" plan is "absurd," pointing out that about 87 per cent of the entire national income goes into wages, and the remaining 13 per cent goes to the rent of capital. The Telegraph argues: "It is high time to explode some of these myths to the effect that 2 per cent of the people own 80 per cent of the wealth and that things would be a great deal better if this wealth were redistributed. Time and again it has been pointed out that if we took from every man in this country all income over $10,000 a year and distributed it among those who toil it would only amount to a few hundred dollars apiece."

"He makes no secret of his desire to be President," declares the Providence Journal, "and there is no doubt that he has a following beyond the borders of his home State of Louisiana." The Davenport (Iowa) Times concludes that "his program will not carry a popular appeal when there is associated with it the peril to the liberty and freedom which the Nation has prized so highly."

Viewing the Long ambitions as a factor in national affairs, the Birmingham (Ala.) Age-Herald argues: "Regardless of all other considerations, it remains true that the Democratic landslide of 1932 came as a result of the promise of 'action,' which was taken to be the same thing as a promise of a return to prosperity. In case the expectations of foot-loose voters are not realized by 1936 it is not too much to hint that they might find themselves fascinated at that time by the words of a leader whose promises extend far beyond those of Mr. Roosevelt. With such considerations in mind, it is no wonder that the balanced Democrats have already come to the conclusion that it is now incumbent upon them to do everything possible to stop the mad rush of the Louisiana Kingfish. It is inconceivable that he could ever become President. But—under conditions favorable to him—it is not unthinkable that he might open the way for a Republican opponent of Mr. Roosevelt."

Referring to the attack upon a newspaper photographer by a Long follower, the Kansas City Times remarks, "There you have the temper of the true dictator." The Tulsa (Okla.) World calls the conditions "absurd" under the Senator's control, and the St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press describes his Legislature as "incredible." Lack of freedom in Louisiana is emphasized by the Okalomha News, and the Charleston (S. C.) Evening Post predicts that the "people of the State will get rid of him," while the Brooklyn Times-Union is convinced that "he will be shorn of his power."

"It is a State problem," say the Cleveland News and the Huntington (W. Va.) Herald-Dispatch, but the Helena (Mont.) Independent advises: "This is a situation that vitally concerns every other State. The National Government should recognize the emergency and take appropriate action—before it is too late."

Russia Rebukes Japan.

From the Rock Island Argus.

There are some who think that Russia and Japan will inevitably go to war. Premier Molotoff of Russia has rejected the suggestion made in the Japanese Diet that the Soviet Union should demilitarize the Manchurian border. The premier charges the Japanese with violating the treaty of Portsmouth by their presence in Manchuria. Japan, he affirmed, has forgotten the treaty requirement that both Russia and Japan evacuate Manchuria, whereas Russia has lived up to the treaty.

It appears that Outer Mongolia is an independent people's republic, according to the Soviet government. It has close economic and political relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but is not a part of the U. S. S. R. It is claimed that not one Soviet soldier is in Outer Mongolia. No prophecy that the Soviet Union would consider a Japanese invasion of Outer Mongolia as a cause of war is available.

Jeers greeted mention of Japan's activities in Manchuria when the Soviet Congress convened. The newspaper Pravda said: "History is working in our favor, and know ye, Mister Imperialist, that if you impose war on us, we will fight not on our territory, but on yours." Glorifying the red army on the basis of revelations of its strength, this newspaper adds the statement: "Woe to any who attack us!" While the relations between the two countries are strained, financial considerations, it is thought, will delay hostile outbreaks.

Drink and Traffic.

From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Motion pictures are used in Utah and Michigan to prove charges of drunken driving. But there are some who hold that a man capable of motion is not intoxicated.