

The Meaning of Thanksgiving Day

Mary Graham Bonner

TWO turkeys in the barnyard were gobbling, and if we had been able to understand their language this is what we would have heard them saying, several days before the last Thursday in November:

"My father was at one of the merriest of scenes last year," said Mr. Gobbler. "He was kept for our own jolly farmer, his wife and their four fine children. The farmer's wife dressed him up so well, cooked him until he was brown and tender, and then she served him on a big platter as the principal part of the meal. To be sure, she had many other goodies, such as soup, stewed corn, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, squash, pumpkin pie, nuts and apple cider, but he was the main thing! He was the center of at-



"My Father Was at One of the Merriest of Scenes Last Year"

traction, and when he was brought in on the platter, piping hot, the rosy-faced children screamed with delight and said:

"Oh, isn't he a beauty!" The two boys ate as much as they could, so did the two little girls with the blue eyes and the soft brown hair. And so did the mother and daddy. But even then my father had not entirely vanished, and with one accord they said that they had never had such a Thanksgiving dinner."

The turkeys, as well as the other creatures in the barnyard, had gathered around to listen. "You are so proud of being eaten," said the pigs and ducks, "and how can you enjoy being proud—your joy is so soon over? Why do you want to be fed so much when it only means that soon you can have no more to eat, because a hungry family has eaten you?"

"That's because you don't understand turkeys," said handsome Miss Turkey. "We consider it such a splendid honor to be eaten on such a notable day. We are not eaten any time at all, like some creatures I know of."

The other barnyard animals hung their heads. They knew of whom she spoke, and they were suddenly much quieter, clucking, quacking, grunting and squealing in low voices.

Mr. Gobbie, cousin of Mr. Gobbler, had begun to speak: "Your father was very fortunate in being the one



Mr. Gobbie, Cousin of Mr. Gobbler, Had Begun to Speak.

saved for the farmer's family. And a great treat he was. But listen to my tale of a greater treat." They all drew nearer. "Gobbie, gobbie, gobbie," repeating his own name and the call of Turkey-land, "my father served a far better purpose.

"The farmer knew of a family in the city, far from here, where there are no barnyards and where there are streets and houses everywhere, instead of hayfields and meadows and woods. The daddy of the family had once been a school friend of the farmer, but he had gone to the city to live, and he had had a very hard time. He, too, had four children, but their faces were pale, and often, often they had not quite as much to eat as they needed. My father turkey was sent to this family."

The turkey paused, gobbled three times, then began to talk again. "Ah, when my father arrived, there was such joy! The four children looked at the feet pecking out of the box, and there were some feathers left on his handsome legs and around his neck. He has fur boots, they shouted, and a fur collar. Oh, what a rich bird he must have been! Isn't he too rich to eat?"

"They called him a rich bird—they didn't know he was still greater than

a rich bird—one of the turkeys of the great Thanksgiving day. But their daddy told them how Mr. Turkey had come from the country, and that he would be cooked and would be eaten that day for their dinner—as soon as he was nice and brown and while he floated in a little pond of gravy!

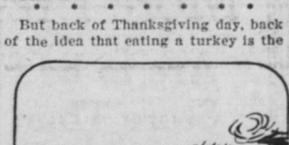
"Now, wasn't my father the lucky one? He was used for children who had never known a Thanksgiving dinner before. And weren't they thankful? Oh, weren't they happy! Such a surprise as my father gave them, such a meal as he made for them, and how happy the little pale children were that there was a day in the three hundred and sixty-five set aside for Thanksgiving—and for turkey!

"While you creatures in the barnyard got so many of the goodies left from the Thanksgiving table, so did old Dan, the dog, get the bones from my father—such bones as he had never before tasted. Even Dan knew the meaning of the day!"

"We were both right," said Mr. Gobbler. "My father's children were thankful because they knew they never had to long for food. They always had enough. They never needed to long for fresh air and a place for playing. And they did not wish for something they did not have. So were the family to whom your father went thankful. They were happy they had each other and they were delighted to share your father and to have such a meal and treat. For them, too, there was Thanksgiving turkey. And they talked of better days ahead."

"Yes," said Mr. Gobbler proudly, "Thanksgiving day is well named—a holiday of giving thanks because we are eaten. Our fathers were eaten in both those homes—the poor and the rich, and in both made happiness equally great. And so will we make happiness in a very few days."

But back of Thanksgiving day, back of the idea that eating a turkey is the



Even Dan Knew the Meaning of the Day.

great and important event of the day, there is something else. In 1621 the Plymouth colony in New England set aside one day of thankfulness—thankfulness for what they had; not for what they thought they should have. They had known hard days of self-denial and struggle. Yet they were thankful, for in a new land they saw great things ahead, and it is our duty to see that their hopes were not in vain.

Thanksgiving day—the day to give thanks. But are we to be thankful on one day only, and then return to three hundred and sixty-four days of grumbling and of regret for what we don't possess? No! Let us have one day as simply the first day of many, many others in which we are thankful for all we have. Not only for Mr. Turkey, who is growing to be an expensive luxury these days, but for those many things upon which all the hard times in the world will have no effect. Those things which riches can never buy—the old, old gifts of health and laughter, with the stars smiling upon us by night and the great warm sun beaming down upon us by day—trying so hard to reach our hearts to keep them warm and sunny on all the days of the year beginning with Thanksgiving day.

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Remember the Unfortunate. In the midst of our feasting let us not forget those who have been unfortunate. No one should sit down to a good Thanksgiving dinner with out having done something to relieve the wants of someone in need.

It will not mean much of a sacrifice to provide a fat goose or a turkey, a ton of coal or some clothes or shoes for children, but to many families such a donation would be a godsend.

Take Heart. A fair comparison of the past with the present is very apt to disperse the clouds of despondency. Temporary appearances are often deceptive, but the larger experience of life is the more it goes to confirm the watchful care of Providence.—Buffalo Times.

NO COMPENSATION BAR IN JAIL TERM

State Board Makes Two Important Rulings Involving Liquor.

FERTILE FIELD FOR FRAUD

Board Reaffirms Its Declaration That Men Who Are Recovering From Injuries Should Seek Some Easy Temporary Employment.

Harrisburg.

The State Compensation Board, in an opinion by Commissioner Scott, declines to accept the plea that, because a man was arrested and placed in jail after an accident, it affected the award. The case is that of Henigan vs. Moshannon Coal Company, Clearfield county. The man was hurt and given an award, being later arrested. The opinion says: "There is evidence to support the finding and conclusions of the referee that alcoholism, after the happening of the accident, did not extend or prolong the period of disability. It has been contended by the claimants that because he was confined in jail he had no earning power. If this could in any event be treated as a valid defense, it is certainly immaterial when it is shown that the disability continued during the time he was in jail, as he has been found by the referee."

In the case of Dainty vs. Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, Beaver county, it was declared that a man killed came to work "more or less intoxicated," and "possibly not in the best condition to continue in charge of his engine." However, he remained on the premises and was held to have been in the course of his employment when hurt. The board finds that, notwithstanding there is a report that a foreman dismissed him for the night, the facts warrant an award being sustained.

The board awarded a new hearing in the case of Allivato vs. Cambria Steel Company, Cambria, because the referee did not take into sufficient account testimony of medical men that a hernia was not due to accident. "Hernia," says the opinion, "presents a fertile field for the unscrupulous and great care must be exercised in dealing with cases of this character."

A new hearing is refused in Adams vs. American Express Company, Luzerne, but granted in Prybilien vs. Hudson Coal Company, Lackawanna. In the case of Scanlon vs. Mt. Jessup Coal Company, Lackawanna, compensation refusal is affirmed because it is not shown that an employee went off premises on business for the employer, although alleged that he had done so to answer an outside inquiry about a discrepancy in working time. The board reaffirms its declaration that men who are recovering from injuries should seek some employment, so as to do what work they are able, in ruling a Pittsburgh case.

Prepare to Equip Militia.

The uniforms for the new Pennsylvania Reserve Militia have been ordered and are expected within a month. They will be both cotton and woolen, and, with the new overcoats, of the new forestry green color.

Colonel Jere M. Leaman, deputy adjutant general, accompanied by Capt. Lee Lutringer, has been sent to New York to select rifles for the new militia. The new arm for the infantry will be a 50-calibre Remington rifle, and the cavalry will be supplied with a 50-calibre Remington.

Arrangements are now being made for the purchase of the horse equipments for the cavalry, and it is hoped to have the entire force fully organized by the first of January next, and armory work started by that time.

May Change Highway Policy.

The State Highway Department may let contracts next year for grading work separately from regular road construction, owing to the advance in materials, the difficulty in obtaining labor and the car service interruptions caused by the priority order of the government.

Something like 26 counties have agreed to co-operate with the state in road work on a "50-50" basis and 16 boroughs have accepted invitations to unite in improvement of streets which are on the line of state highways.

State Gains in Potatoes.

The average yield of potatoes in Pennsylvania this year is given by the State Highway Department as 99.5 bushels an acre, this estimate being made from reports from every county, which show a production of 30,652,909 bushels, exclusive of "war gardens" and not counting potatoes in the ground on November 1.

Willing to Sell Toll Roads.

Officials of the Harbor and Warminister Turnpike Company, controlling the "upper stretch" of Old York road from Willow Grove to a point north of Hatboro, at the annual meeting, expressed themselves as in favor of the sale of the road and elimination of tolls "provided a fair price is obtainable for the highway." The State Highway Department is said to have offered \$125,000 for the road from City Line to Hatboro, a trifle more than ten miles.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS

Frank B. Holmes of Stroudsburg was appointed a member of District Appeal Board No. 1 of the Middle District to succeed A. Mitchell Palmer, who has been made a custodian of alien property.

The fifth class in ordnance stores keeping, established at the Pennsylvania State College by the War Department, will begin training 40 men December 12, continuing for six weeks. The government has detailed Serg. E. L. Mack as instructor.

Engineers and medical inspectors were dispatched to Enola by the State Health Department to co-operate with the Pennsylvania railroad officials in ascertaining the cause of the typhoid outbreak in the railroad town. The patients are mostly school children.

In hard luck for labor, James Rees, who farms near Bridgeport, complained at Montgomery engine house, Norristown, and was surprised Sunday when a truckload of men and women drew up and husked his corn. The 30 acre farm of the late Joseph M. Griesemer at Hereford was sold for \$9,075.

A carload of cows sold at Trappe by John Fisher, drover, brought \$98 to \$170 each.

Bismarck, Lebanon county, wants to change its name to West Cornwall.

The State Highway Department has hung out a service flag at the state capitol showing 33 stars. Banks represented in the Scranton Clearing House Association decided to issue script good for a cent each to help solve the shortage of pennies now being felt very seriously owing to war taxes. Banks reported that none had over \$20 in pennies in their vaults, and it was thereupon decided to issue the script, redeemable now and July 1.

Charles T. Cornman of Carlisle, known throughout the state as a poultry expert, received a commission from the food administration as poultry husbandman, in charge of a new department for increasing the raising of poultry throughout the country.

A strange disease resembling cholera is puzzling Vermont veterinarians and causing the death of many hogs.

A service flag with 24 stars was raised in front of St. Paul's Reformed Church, Reading.

Pearl McGee, fifteen, fatally burned when her clothing caught fire as she was lighting a kerosene lamp at her home in Claysburg, died at a Roaring Spring hospital. Before her screams brought help her clothing was burned from her body and her flesh from neck to knees was seared.

William Yanchsky, sixty-nine years old, was squeezed to death between nine cars at St. Nicholas colliery, Shenandoah, after thirty-eight years' work in the mine without an injury before.

Oliver Rothert has been elected president of the Altoona Chamber of Commerce.

Government agents are combing the Hazleton coal region for possible illegal radio outfits.

Cumberland Fire Company, Carlisle, has unfurled a service flag with 32 stars, the address being made by Rev. A. R. Steck.

Although eighty-eight years old, Mrs. Michael Spangler of West Cornwall township, Lebanon county, is daily putting in her time in husking corn on the Spangler homestead.

A service flag containing 21 stars has been purchased by the Altoona Elks.

Governor Brumbaugh appointed volunteer policemen for McKean and Luzerne counties.

At the close of the Hazleton food and public welfare exhibit needy persons were given most of the produce and fruit.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Greenburg of Huntingdon has condemned 16 Altoona buildings as "fire traps" and has ordered they be razed immediately.

Steps to round up between 40,000 and 50,000 men who have not complied with draft regulations, some of whom are classed by people at state draft headquarters as out-and-out slackers, are about to be taken by the officials in charge of the enforcement of the draft in Pennsylvania.

Turkeys are dying of sleeping sickness in the Juniata valley.

Governor Brumbaugh formally placed L. R. Palmer, chief inspector of the Department of Labor and Industry, in charge of that department during the absence of Commissioner Jackson as a major of engineers.

Rupturing an artery in trying to lift a heavy basket of cabbage, Calvin C. Miller, aged sixty-seven, a retired Pennsylvania railroad engineer, is dead at Camp Hill.

The body of Alonzo Shafer, aged seventy-seven, of Berwick was found by hunters in the mountains near Ashley.

Birch R. Ober, farm bureau superintendent of lower Luzerne county, has been appointed to the Clinton county bureau at Lock Haven.

Main Line big houses are being considered by the government for transformation into convalescent hospitals.

Potatoes raised on the Red Cross plats at Doylestown were sold in the armory as low as 63 cents a bushel and as high as \$1.10.

Walter Fries, who disappeared from Skippack four years ago, has written his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Fries, from Cuba that he is in the navy.

WAR DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD GIFTS

Christmas Packages for Soldiers in France Must Be in Hoboken December 5.

REGULATIONS ARE EXPLAINED

Washington. — Confusion in the minds of the people as to just how they may send parcels to the members of the American expeditionary forces in France has been caused by the fact that the instructions prepared by the post office department have been given out in fragmentary form, and that some of the early rules have since been amended. To make the matter entirely clear, the following official statement has been given out by Otto Praeger, second assistant postmaster general:

Parcel post for soldiers and civilians connected with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, when carefully packed and properly addressed, will be accepted by all postmasters for direct transmission through the mails. Such parcels may weigh up to seven pounds. Parcels for the soldiers and civilians connected with the American Expeditionary Forces may contain anything that is admissible to the domestic parcel post except perishables which may spoil on the long journey to Europe.

Parcel post for the American Expeditionary Forces need not be packed in wooden boxes, but should be carefully packed in the strongest kind of pasteboard box to assure its safe arrival at the front.

In addition to this parcel post service to the troops, the war department will undertake to carry Christmas parcels for the American Expeditionary Forces provided such parcels are sent "care of the Commanding General, Port of Embarkation, Pier 1, Hoboken, New Jersey," and are packed in wooden boxes not more than two cubic feet in volume, well strapped, and with a hinged or screw top. Such Christmas boxes may be sent to the Commanding Officer, Port of Embarkation, either by express or through the mails and must not exceed 20 pounds in weight. The army will inspect the contents of each box and undertake its delivery from Hoboken to the addressee. The war department will receive Christmas packages up to December 5th.

Parcel Post Limit Seven Pounds. It will be noted that parcels weighing seven pounds but no more can be sent through the post office department all the way to France.

The twenty-pound parcels which are intended for Christmas gifts and which are to be delivered on Christmas day are sent by the war department from its port of embarkation at Hoboken, N. J.

Again in order to clear up previous misunderstandings let it be said that the parcel post packages up to seven pounds in weight can be sent at any time of the year to the soldiers in France. The packages which the war department will undertake to send are Christmas packages only and they must be at the port of embarkation at Hoboken, N. J., by December 5.

Of course the post office department has been handling the smaller Christmas packages all the way through to France, but in order to insure their delivery on Christmas morning it was necessary to mail them by November 15. However, the fact that the mailing was too late for delivery on Christmas day does not mean that packages cannot still be sent by parcel post. They can be sent any day in the year at the rate of 12 cents for each pound sent, and this rate holds from whatever point in the United States the package is sent.

How Packages Must Be Addressed. Packages for the soldiers must be addressed to the individual, with his company and his regiment and then must be added the words "American Expeditionary Forces." It is not necessary to add the name of the country.

It will be noted that in the instructions given above and prepared in the second assistant postmaster general's office nothing is said specifically concerning the kind of things which may be sent to the soldiers and civilians connected with the expeditionary forces. It is perfectly proper to send sugar, provided it is properly wrapped. Matches must not be sent in any circumstances. Neither must anything inflammable, except, of course, ordinary packing material, be included, nor must there be any chemical or fresh fruit in the packages. Candy can go if properly protected from melting up and ruining other things in the mail. Jars of fruit properly sealed and protected against breakage can be sent. Nothing of an explosive nature must be put into the parcels.

It is necessary that the parcel post packages weighing up to seven pounds shall be wrapped so that the post office authorities may examine their contents. The rules for the packages which the war department sends are given explicitly in the above official communication. It is desired to accentuate the fact that parcels up to seven pounds in weight can be sent by ordinary parcel post at any time of the year, but that Christmas boxes which are to go by the way of the war department at the address given above will not be forwarded if they are received at Hoboken later than December 5.

Abraham's Chair.

The origin of chairs is lost in the dim past. The Jewish legends declare that Abraham made a chair with his own hands from a tooth that fell out of the mouth of Og, a huge giant in his employ.

Expansion of Concrete.

Concrete roads expand most in winter and contract most in summer, according to the United States bureau of standards, because of increases or decreases in the moisture they contain.

Nerves All Unstrung?

Nervousness and nerve pains often come from weak kidneys. Many a person who worries over trifles and is troubled with neuralgia, rheumatic pains and backache would find relief through a good kidney remedy. If you have nervous attacks, with headaches, backaches, dizzy spells and shirpy, shooting pains, try Doan's Kidney Pills. They have brought quick benefit in thousands of such cases.

A Virginia Case

"Every Picture Tells a Story" Mrs. J. E. Parsons, 821 Poole St., Norfolk, Va., says: "I suffered all one winter with pains in my back. My feet and ankles swelled twice normal size and the doctor said I would never be able to walk. Nothing seemed to help me and it was thought I would die. When some one advised me to take Doan's Kidney Pills, I did, and they made a complete cure. I have never had any trouble since."

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Boom in African Trade.

"The wrist watch has done much for our trade."

"Where is your trade?" "It is mainly in Africa. Formerly we couldn't sell a native a watch because he wore no pockets to carry it in."

Another Suggestion.

"I hope there won't be any shortage of fuel."

"So do I," returned Miss Cayenne. "If there is, I am going to suggest that baseball be played the year round. Nobody seems to pay the slightest attention to the climate when he can stand out in the street and watch a score-board."

War Behind the Lines.

In the house of commons the statement was made some time ago that it needs a man and a half behind the line to keep one man in the trenches; and that is only at the front. How many men, women and children at home are needed to keep going the man with the rifle and hand grenade we can only conjecture, but if we say ten civilians to every fighting man we shall not exaggerate.—Simon Strunsky in the Yale Review.

The Straight Tip.

He—Are you sentimental? She—It depends. He—On what? She—On the restaurant and the dancer.—Passing Show.

Breaks the News.

Silence gives consent, but no girl who consented ever kept silent long about it.



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