The Centre Democrar. MELLEFONTS, PENNSYLVANIA

A. C. DERR......Editor
PAUL M. DUBBS.....Associate Editor
CECIL A. WALKER...Business Manager

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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

"The church is a human institution, no more perfect or infallible than man himself."

John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Tragedy of Good Friday.

The world's greatest tragedy occurred on some unknown date commemorated on Good Friday. On this day was sacrificed one who was ready to give his life for the benefit of humanity, who never injured a soul, who uplifted all with whom he came in contact, who was abandoned to the blind clamor of a mob, incited by selfish political and religious leaders. Does anything like it happen in our time?

The followers of various personalities are often sugresting that this or that hero of theirs is like Christ. But it will be hard to point out any of them that do not show up human failings in which he was wholly lacking. For one thing, Jesus never sacrificed any of his principles to win a victory over his opponents.

In our political life today, it often seems to be nececcary to give up some important principle for the time being, in order to obtain success in some other direction. No one can have his own way wholly.

What Christ would do today if he came to earth, and had to engage in our politics, is very much of a mystery. He would not be put to death, but his party would not carry many elections. His doctrines are supposed to be accepted theoretically, yet few people live up to them.

The people of his day acclaimed him as thrir coming king one day, they heaped palm branches in his path to do him honor, and then a little later they houted for him to be crucified. The people are not as "iolent is that now, but they are capable of changing their minds with equal speed.

The world showed up its cheap and sordid qualities on the day he was crucified, and in the main those qualities still exist. If the political and business and popular leaders would do less listening with their ears to the ground and pay more attention to the loving words of Jesus, life would be better worth living.

A Nation Horrified.

A horrified nation reads of the scenes surrounding the calamity that befell the consolidated school at New London, Texas, in which hundreds of children were killed and mangled.

Half the faculty of 54 teachers and nearly a third of the 1,500 pupils seem to have been victims. The imagination is staggered at the state of mind of a community where hundreds of families have been plunged in deepest mourning by the catastrophe.

The sheer horror can scarcely be pictured. Hours of frantic work to release torn bodies from the heap of wreckage that had been one of Texas' finest school buildings; the frantle rush for physicians, nurses and improvised hospital facilities; bodies so mangled by the fury of the blast that identification was difficult.

Unlike the second greatest school catastrophe, the Collingswood fire, which brought changes in school architecture and laid emphasis on fire drills, there seems to have been no negligence or careless practices responsible for the New London affair,

Whether the gas pocket was due to leaking natural gas or fumes from the oil deposits that underlie the whole section, no one can say. Nor can one blame the gas heating system because heat of another type would have fired the deadly gases as easily.

The whole affair is just one of those disasters, apperently unavoidable, which occurs one knows not why. Any oil country pays for its wealth with certain hazards from the explosive nature of the gas and oil which make the area rich. All the nation can do is extend its deep eyinpathy to the sorrowing families, struck by this heavy blow of destiny,

Richard Pearson Hobson.

Memories of the Spanish-American war and one of the most gallantly brave and heroic feats ever accredited to American soldiers and sailors were brought back to mind last Tue-day in the death of Rear Admiral Richard Pearson Hobson.

On the night of June 3, 1898, Hobson, then a lieutenant in the navy, volunteered with a crew of eight to run a collier into the entrance to Santiago harbor and sink it to bottle up the Spanish fleet of Admiral Severa. The deed was done under the fire of guns from Spanish ships and shore defenses. Hobson and his mates were picked up from the water by Spanish sailors and treated most courteously and gentlemanly by the Spanish officers. As a matter of fact, Admiral Cevera wrote a note to the American fleet commander commending the bravery of Hobson,

Later the heroic young lieutenant was named a rear admiral because of his exploits. He retired to private life, became a congressman from Alabama and all through his years carried on a vigorous fight against narcotics and alcohol.

Death Stalks the Highways.

Last year 38,500 persons were killed by motor vehicle accident.

Out of every hundred fatal accidents 85 occurred in fair weather.

Out of every hundred fatalities 77 were on dry roads. Only 7 per cent of the drivers and 9 per cent of the pedestrians involved had been drinking.

Only 2 per cent of the cars had bad brakes, What is the trouble?

Out of 533,240 accidents, 116,780 were caused by speeding; 87,450 by being on the wrong side of the road and 124,250 by ignoring the rights of way.

In addition to those killed in 1936, there were 110,000 permanently injured and 1,230,000 temporally injured. The above facts, from the report of the National Safety Council, indicate that the American people have a few problems to solve that are not connected with partisan politics. Certainly the death of 417,936 people since 1922 indicates that something is wrong on the highways.

America, "Dangerous."

Sir Phillip Gibbs, famous war correspondent, some years ago told an English audience that "America is the most dangerous nation in the world today because it is too highly organized and volatile, so that over night a passion of pity or hate could sweep the country and rouse it to action which would be either beneficial or

detrimental to the world." The Centre Democrat believes that this English writer spoke the truth. This country is "highly organized and volatile." Its opinions are often formed overnight and great sympathy or furious rage could easily sweep over its broad acres in a night. Following that surge of emotion there would be clamors for action, which as he says "would be either beneficial or detri-

mental to the world." This is the reason why we attempt from time to time to call the attention of our readers to some of the perplexing situations existing in world politics. There are many newspaper editors who believe that their readers do not care for what is called .'foreign affairs" and while this may be true, we believe that there are many intelligent readers of The Centre Democrat who will try to be honest and just when international matters are considered, and desire information about them,

One of the surest sources of peace in the future is a better understanding among the people of one nation of the problems and worries of their brothers, in other nations. In this country, where newspapers are everywhere read, we believe it is the duty of all editors to do what they can, in an honest way, to present such facts as might tend to prevent our people from being suddenly overwhelmed by unexpected occurrences, and thus led to precipitate and ill-advised action.

A Few Lessons.

There are several lessons to be drawn from the killing of three or four persons in Denver, Colorado, by a Negro, disgruntled over failure to get back on relief rolls. The man, formerly a minister, invaded the office for relief clients, calmly drew a revolver and started shooting. He had been on relief but was laid off and subsequently refused other work

Where is the lesson? Here: He had been acquitted of a manslaughter charge in Omaha in 1929 and, in 1924, he engaged in a gun fight with police after making captive a detective sent to arrest him. He was not prosecuted. He must have had some pull somewhere!

The minister after being arrested for his multiple slaying, mumbled, "The Lord will take care of me," and admitted he had planned to slay one white man and two Negro women who, he believed, were preventing him from securing employment,

The next lesson is that this affair illustrates the ill feeling that is often present when a worker loses what he thinks is due him and gives an idea of what is in store when the government terminates relief employment. There will be bad tempers in that day, or we miss our guess.

A National Dilemma.

The trouble that Congressmen are having in attempting to determine a neutrality policy for the United States indicates that it is virtually impossible to be in the world and out of it at the same time,

While we understand that the politics of our day and generation have apparently decreed that the United States shall have as little to do with the affairs of other nations as possible we are not misled into believing that

it is possible for this great, powerful nation to live alone. Being a part of the earth and a nation of great prestige it is inevitable that the policies of the United States affect every other nation. Even a do-nothing policy has a transcendant effect upon world politics. A cash and carry neutrality law, for example, practially allies us he nation that happens to control the sea. A polky to protect our commerce involves the risk of conflict, which everybody is anxious to avoid. The dilemma exists in almost every sphere of action. It cannot be

Here Are Some Opinions.

Every man is entitled to his own opinion. While we may not agree with what we read, the views expressed are often interesting. With this in mind, we call your attention to some recent observations by Sir Arthur Willert, British journalist, who is visiting in the United

He doesn't think that any European country wants war. Germany is bluffing, Italy recuperating from the Ethiopian adventure and Russia not prepared to fight. Mussolini, says he, has slipped, although he is a firstclass driver trying to steer a second-class vehicle." Hitler is a "second-class driver in a very good vehicle." Prance is making remarkable progress under the Blum program of democracy in practice as well as theory and all democratic countries are regaining prestige.

Why You Can't Believe All.

One bright boy rises to remark that "you can't believe all that you see in the newspapers," and no newspaperman refutes the statement. Truth of the matter, most of the news in a newspaper is based on what some member of the vast public says, and the fact that people sometimes twist the truth, and fool newspapermen, explains the remark.

Another common remark that one hears is "I see where The Centre Democrat says . . . " and the speaker will go to narrate some news article that has been printed, never stopping to think that a vast majority of the items that appear in print are merely reports of what others say or claim, which the newspaper presents to intelligent readers leaving them to pass their own judg-

Too Many Lawyers.

The number of lawyers in the United States amazes anyone who gives some study to the question. According to Dean Smith, of the Columbia School of Law, "There is one lawyer for every 763 persons" in the United States, including infants. Average earnings of the legal brethren are very low and, in New York county, according to the same authority, "nearly ten per cent of

the bar has attained the status of paupers.' The flood of law students has apparently reached a new high all over the United States and the bars of almost every county are over-crowded. As a result of this condition, the standards of the profession have been seriously impaired and, no doubt, the principles of jus-

Some Russians Vote.

Russia, it seems, is taking a first step in the art of popular self-government and some future year may see the Soviet ranked among the real democracies of the

By a recent order all lower party officials will be elected by secret vote in yearly elections. Members of the party will have the full right to criticise and to remove any candidate from the list that they disapprove

Of course, the reform affects only the Communist party but it introduces democracy and the elective system. Later on evolution of events will keep the process developing toward more complete democratic goals.

Have Good Health.

Citizens of Bellefonte who have survived the winter will soon have the opportunity of taking advantage of spring weather and building up bodily resources depleted by the confinement that accompanies our coldest weather. There can hardly be too much emphasis placed upon the importance of outdoor activity in the health of peo-Fresh air, sunshine and the exercise that one obtains in the open are best medicine that is available and

Reasonable exercise, moderation in appetite and amsleep are within reach of us all, thus making good health, with few exceptions, waiting our will. Take time to be healthy. Besides saving money your life will be more satisfactory and enjoyable.

The Office Cat ...

Erin Go Bragh!

Although a little late for St. Patrick's Day, we publish the following poem sent in by a friend of this column;

> When Erin was a little isle, A mile or so across,

The Irish had a civil war To settle who was boss; They fought the war with dornicks, They had neither spear nor bow, But they could throw a stone a mile

And hit a flying crow. The Great O'Neill, he won the war, And they proclaimed him king; He then declared a festival

When all should dance and sing; Somebody brought some whisky And the people, great and small Took to it like a cat to milk,

The birds quit flying overhead, There was no safety there. For stones and sticks and darby-clods Completely filled the air; They fell into the ocean, Filled in along the shore Till the island was extended out A hundred miles or more.

And they had a free-for-all.

They then divided Erin up, To multiply the thing, A king for every county, And a war for every king; They'd fight with anybody And with any kind of tools,

On any provocation and By any sort of rules. Those Micks of old are dead and gone; Their sons are over here; There's revolutions in their hooch And riots in their beer;

They want to fight for freedom's cause, And freedom, in their light, Consists, as in the olden times, In being free to fight.

They work and drink like sturdy sons Beneath our kindly sky; They raise a sturdy family, They age, and then they die; And if they go to heaven where They cannot find a fray, They'll all play hookey down to hades, Sure, on Saint Patrick's Day!

Tombstone Ticklers.

It seems that a hammer-and-tongs evangelist who had been a drunken bum before he hit the sawdust trail, gave it as his dying wish that he be buried in the cemetery of his home village, close by the street, and that a white stone be set up and the following verse engraved thereon in large letters:

> Pause, drunkard, as you stagger past, And think where you'll wind up at last, If you don't reform before too late You'll go to H--- as sure as fate!

His wishes were carried out, and just after the stone had been erected a small merchant of the town, who had been driven to drink by the depression, came by that way. Aware that it was something new, he stopped and sagged against the fence to steady himself while he read the inscription. On finishing it he took out his pencil and scrawled underneath:

> That's where I'll have to go, you slob, If I'm to get back on the job; I can't stay here and make a cent Because that's where my business went!

Apology.

A negro preacher got up one Sunday morning and said, "There is twelve chicken thieves in this congregation this mawnin'-including Brother Johnson. Brother Johnson did not like it much, naturally. After services he called on the preacher and told him he could not bawl him out in public that way, e would have to take that back at the night services. The preacher promised to do it. At the night services he said: "Brethern, at this mawnin's services I said

there was twelve chicken thieves in the congregation including Brother Johnson. But I want to take that statement back and apologize to Brother Johnson. I say now that there were eleven chicken thieves in the congregation this mawnin' not counting Brother Johnson!"

An absented-minded country doctor is one who sets a farmer's tooth and pulls the hired girl's leg.

Her Kind Word.

A stranger entered a certain eating place the other evening. "May I take your order?" the sprightly waitress inquired.

"Yes," he replied. "Two eggs and a kind word"."

The waitress brought the eggs and was moving away when the fellow topped her. "What about the kind word?" he said.

The waitress leaned over and whispered, "Don't eat the eggs."

A Disquieting Thought.

During a recent St. Patrick's Day banquet, the meal had progressed to the stage where conversation turned to general topics.

"Isn't it too bad about the Pope?" inquired one of the diners. "I understand he is so ill that he may pass away any day."

"Yes, it is a matter of regret," spoke up another diner across the table. But if the Pope should happen to die, there'll be another to take his place." "That's just what is worrying me," went on the first speaker.

'Well, what is there about that to worry you or anyone else?" came the "There're plenty, I'm telling you," was the answer, "Don't you know that

if the Pope dies, that d-d Roosevelt is liable to appoint a Protestant."

Doughboy Special.

The following letter is supposed to have been discovered in the Washington files toward the end of the World War. Although a little old, and no doubt copied several times in its transmission, there is little reason to believe that the contents have been altered greatly. Picture now, if you will, a lonesome soldier's wife sitting down and penning this epistle to the protecting force she knows as Government. Here's the missive:

Mr. Headquarters, U. S. Armory, George Washington, D. C. Dear Mr. Headquarters:

My husband was induced into the surface long months ago and I dident receive no pay from him sense he was gone. Please send me my elopement as I have a four months old baby and he is my only support and I kneed it every day to buy food and keep us inclosed. I am a poor woman and all that I have is at the front. Both sides of my parents are very old and I can't suspect anything from them as my mother has been in bed for thirteen years with one doctor and she won't take no other. My husband is in charge of a spittoon. Do I get more than I am going to get. Please send me a letter and tell me if my husband has made application for a wife and child form to fill out. I adopted have all ready wrote to Mr. Wilson and I dident get no answer and if I don't hear from you I will write Uncle Sam about the whole thing and him too.

Very truly, MRS. W---P. S. My husband says he sets in the YMCA every night with the plano

playing in his uniform. I think you can find him there,

She Misunderstood.

A Joosh woman excitedly informed her husband one day that her doctor had just told her that she had "tuberculosis and would die in two week."

Abie, her husband, did not know his wife even had been ill and doubted her words. She became hysterical and finally, to quiet her, Abie went to the phone, called up the doctor and asked him what he meant by telling his wife came a territory in 1900, and entertain she had tuberculosis and would die in two weeks.

"I did not say she had tuberculosis," said the medico. "I said she had too big a tokus and must dlet a few weeks."

That's all folks. Yours till one of the Slamese twins has a blessed event courts.

Query and Answer Column

L. A .- How much financial loss was caused by the depression?

Ans.—The International Labor Office at Geneva has estimated that, for all countries involved, the loss was \$776,000,000,000.

E. M .- Is the new Queen of England a musician?

Ans.—Queen Elizabeth is an accomplished planist and has a lovely singing voice.

M. W .- Why was the date of George Washington's birth changed from February 11, 1731, to February 22, 1732, when the calendar was changed 11 Ans.-When the Gregorian calendar was adopted in this country in 1751,

not only were the eleven days added, but New Year's Day was changed from March 25 to January 1. Thus February 1731 became February 1732. Mrs. T .- Can you tell me the reason why cats have fits?

Ans .- They are usually caused by intestinal worms. Brain or heart weaknesses may be the cause, but these attacks are usually fatal.

H. W .- Who wrote, on the eve of battle: "If I survive, I shall soon be with those I love; if I fail, I shall soon be those I have loved"? Ans,-This sentiment was contained in a letter written home by Sir Charles

Napier, a distinguished British general. S. S .- Why were the catacombs of Paris evacuated?

Ans.-They were subterranean quarries which furnished building material for the city. Later, they were arranged to contain corpses removed from other burial grounds, and probably contain the bones of at least six million dead.

H. M. G .- Who is supposed to be the leading authority on the World Court? Ans .- Judge Manley O. Hudson, American member of the World Court bench, is regarded as such. The League Assembly gave Judge Hudson the sec-

ond highest vote-forty eight out of a possible fifty-three, ever received by a World Court candidate. Judge Mineitciro Adatci of Japan is the only member who has surpassed this record.

I. T .- How many lives were lost in building the first bridge across San Francisco Bay?

Ans,-Twenty-three men were killed in the construction of the first bridge. W. J .- Why did Charles Stewart Parnell, the Irish Nationalist leader, hate England so?

Ans.-He was much influenced by his mother, who inherited a hatred of England from her father.

M. H. R .- Does Germany have a sterilization law?

Ans .- A law for the prevention of inherited disease in posterity was promulgated, effective January 1, 1934. It provides that persons suffering from hereditary disease may by surgical operation be rendered sterile if the experience of medical science shows it probable that their offspring would suffer from bodily or mental defects. It applies to cases of congenital feeblemindedness, insanity, epilepsy, St. Vitus's dance, hereditary blindness and deafness, serious hereditary bodily alcoholism. Compulsory emasculation of dangerous sexual criminals is also ordered.

S. W .- How long was Edward VIII a King? Ans.-He reigned from the death of his father until his own abdication. The exact time was 325 days 13 hours and 57 minutes.

D. V.-Will you please answer what makes ocean waters salty? Ans .- The oceans became salty because the salt from the soil was carried into them by the rivers. Pure water only leaves the seas in the form of vapor,

and thus the salt remains. For this reason also, the oceans are constantly becoming saltier. H. A .- What is the nickname and motto of the Philippine Islands? Ans.-The Philippine Islands, considered in the singular number, has neith-

er a nickname or motto.

R. W .- Can you say who are the three greatest Americans? Ans.-This is a mooted question. It is purely a matter of opinion. However, a well-known socialogist of New York has classed the three leading Americans in the order named as follows: Franklin D. Roosevelt, president of the United States; Rev. Father Charles E. Coughlin, exponent of the money

system; Norman Thomas, socialist politician.

P. E.-What are woodpeckers good for? Ans .- Woodpeckers are especially valuable as natural guardians of the forests. They keep trees practically free of burrowing bugs and worms on

L. V .- Why is it that in some States a woman is considered of age when she becomes 18 instead of 21-same as men?

Ans.-Each State regulates its own laws with reference to the age of maturity. Those holding to the minimum of 18 years presume that the female attains physical maturity at an age two or three years younger than the male, Unless there is a law to the contrary, men and women alike do not become of age until they are 21.

O. T .- Did Congress ever meet at any place other than in Philadelphia and Washington? Ans.-Yes. The Continental Congress was shifted about Philadelphia, Bal-

timore, Lancaster, Pa., York, Pa., Princeton, Annapolis, Trenton and New York City. However, Congress under the present Constitution held its first session in New York in 1789. A year later it moved to Philadelphia, its meeting place until 1800, after which it took up its permanent home in Washing-

Reader-What is done about drilling soldiers who are left-handed and

shoot left-handed? Ans .- All movements in military drills and firing must be uniform. Therefore soldiers are taught to use their guns and drill right-handed. At first it's awkward, but they soon learn.

N. E .- Are the people of Tibet of Chinese?

Ans .- Yes. However, because they are semi-civilized, non-progressive as a result of strict religious traditions, they are under British domination but as part of the Chinese Republic.

M. C .- Can you tell me if "renovize" is a proper word? What does it mean? Ans.—"Renovize" is considered proper. It is a new word coined about 1931. It is a form of "renovate," taken from the Latin "renovatus," meaning literally to make new. H. V .- Is Vatican City an independent State from Italy?

Ans .- Yes. It has the title of Monarchic State of Vatican City. The ruler is the Pope. They have their own postage stamps and coinage of money. However, they are under Italian law, but no commercial activity is carried on in the State. F. P .- What is President Roosevelt's religion, and is he a Mason? Also

was Theorodre Roosevelt of the same religion and a Mason? Ans.-President Roosevelt is an Episcopalian and also a Mason. Theodore Roosevelt was a member of the Dutch Reformed shurch, and was also a Mason

DO YOU KNOW

1. Is Marlene Deitrich an American

citizen? 2. What is a "strip tease" act? 3. Are the Hawaiian Islands a pos-

session of the United States?

4. Can a municipality exact a business license from a peddler? 5. Is President Roosevelt's proposal in regards to the Supreme Court con-

stitutional? 6. What is the fastest air time across the continent?

7. Does the average family in the United States own its home 8. How large was the House of Representatives when the Constitution was

9. How many states have ratified the child labor amendment?

10. Was there ever an English pope? THE ANSWERS

1. The actress, whose real name is Maria Magdalene Sieber, has filed her ever, believe that a woman should mar-2. One in which a female performer

gradually disrobes. 3. The islands, annexed in 1898, be-

the thought of statehood some day. 4. Not if the peddler is engaged in inter-state commerce, which has heretofore been very liberally defined by the

5. Yes; the Constitution gives Con- that the car had been ste

gress the power to determine the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

6. 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds, made by Howard Hughes on January 19th.

7. Less than half of the families in this country own their homes. 8. The House had 65 members as compared with 435 today.

9. Twenty-seven. 10. Yes; Adrian IV in 1154.

COLLEGE FRESHMEN VOTE

FOR MARRIAGE BEFORE 25 At a debate on whether a college graduate earning \$1500 a year should marry before 25, freshmen at the Pennsylvania State College voted that women should marry before that age

but they were not so certain about the men. They suggested ages ranging from 20 to 35 as the proper time for men to wed, but only 54 per cent think that a man should undertake mariage before 25. The average suggested for men was 24.7. Ninety-two per cent, how-

ry before 25, the average age suggested being 22.5 years. The debate was sponsored by the Forensic Council and the Penn State Christian Association.

Finds Auto Stolen Again

Arriving in Buffalo to claim his aumobile which had been stolen from Washington and found here, John M. Carter, of Lynchburg, Va., discovered