

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Issued weekly, every Thursday morning. Entered in the postoffice at Bellefonte, Pa., as second class matter.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: \$1.50 per year, if paid in advance; \$2.00 per year, if not paid in advance

The date your subscription expires is plainly printed on the label bearing your name. All credits are given by a change on the date of label the first issue of each month.

Matters for publication, whether news or advertising, must reach the Centre Democrat office not later than Tuesday noon to insure publication that week.

All reading notices marked (*) are advertisements. Legal notices and all real estate advertisements 10 cents per line each issue.

Subscribers changing postoffice address, and not notifying us, are liable for same.

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THE PENSION DRIVE HAS STARTED

What is described as a "first step" in a drive, which if it succeeds, will cost the Country \$20,000,000,000 a year has been taken by lobbyists for the organized war veterans.

The opening wedge is in the form of a proposal to pay Federal pensions to widows and orphans, not to the wives who have been widowed or the children who have been orphaned because husband and father died in the war or of infirmities therefrom.

The New York Times, one of the country's leading Independent Republican newspapers, on Monday published the following editorial on the proposed pension drive:

Three years ago, when he vetoed the Soldiers Bonus Bill—only to have it adopted over his veto a year later—President Roosevelt made this prediction:

I do not need to be a prophet to assert that if these certificates, due in 1945, are paid in full today, every candidate for election in the Senate or the House of Representatives will in the near future be called upon in the name of patriotism to support general pension legislation for all veterans, regardless of need or age.

This prophecy is now in process of fulfillment. And the visible evidence that this is true is supplied by the fact that there appeared before a committee of Congress last week representatives of three veterans' organizations, led by the American Legion, to urge the immediate enactment of general pensions for widows and orphans of all World War veterans.

It must be noted that this proposal is not intended to apply only to the widows and orphans of veterans who lost their lives in the service of their country. Pensions are already being paid in such cases. Plainly they should be paid, for these families have a direct and compelling claim upon the country. A strong argument can be made, in fact, for increasing pensions in these cases, on the ground that present payments are inadequate.

The bill whose enactment is now being urged is a bad bill, not only because it proposes to establish as a specially favored class the families of ex-soldiers who die in time of peace of wholly peace-time causes, and not only because it is a repudiation of the principles of the War Risk Insurance Act of 1917, which was intended to do away for all time with the old pension system, and not only because its present cost would be \$84,000,000 annually and its future cost still larger, but most of all because experience has plainly shown that the adoption of legislation of this kind is merely one step in a series of steps leading on remorselessly—once we begin to travel down this road—to the enactment of that general pension plan of which President Roosevelt has given warning.

On the basis of experience with earlier legislation, and considering in this case the enormous number of individuals involved, the Veterans Administration has estimated that the cost of a \$60-a-month pension for World War veterans would eventually amount to twenty billion dollars. That is the gigantic sum which a general pension plan involves—a sum ten times as large as that involved in the pre-payment of the soldiers' bonus.

HELP THE CHINESE

The appeal of President Roosevelt, asking the American people to contribute not less than one million dollars, to be expended by the American Red Cross in the aid of suffering civilians in war-torn China, should meet with a responsive outpouring by the people of this great nation.

No one can read the dispatches that come from the Far East without sympathy for Chinese civilians, particularly women and children, suffering from the ravages of war that apparently know no bounds. The behavior of the Japanese soldiers at Nanking, where raping and looting has been practically continuous for more than a month, is but a reported example of what has probably happened on a scale larger than many suspect.

The war that devastates China today is not of her seeking. It is a war waged in defiance of a pledged word and in disregard of covenants with other powers which stand idly by while Japan takes advantage of China's defenseless condition and seeks that which the Mikado's government promised not to seek in the treaties that limited naval construction.

There was a time when nations went to war over broken treaties. There was a day when strong and self-reliant powers, having given protection to weaker people, were resolute enough to force other nations to stick to their word. That day, it seems, is not to be found in 1938. The Japanese strike the Chinese countryside from the air and death-dealing bombs leave millions of people in dire distress and woeful want.

The people of Centre County no doubt find it hard to realize that men, women and children are being murdered in China. Families are being destroyed. The innocent suffer with the victims and the fortunate are those killed by the bombs that drop almost unheralded from the sky.

Any reader of this newspaper, who wishes to participate in a work of mercy, may do so by making a contribution through the Red Cross. Similar societies in other nations are also seeking funds with which this experienced dispenser of relief can give aid to suffering human beings in a far off land.

NOBODY KNOWS

No man can be certain of the intentions of another man; all that the individual can do is to be sure of his own intentions.

The same rule applies to nations. The United States may be ever so sure of its peaceful intentions of other powers. In fact, in the light of recent events, it can be reasonably certain that there are nations in the world today which would not hesitate to attack this country if such an attack promised profitable results.

As the richest nation in the world this country offers the greatest spoils to a successful freebooter. It could give up much wealth and pay an indemnity sufficient to cover all war costs to an attacker. It is the ideal prey for attack.

There are only two factors that will deter other powers from making war on the United States. The first is the knowledge that such an attack will be met by an overwhelming counter-attack, launched by overwhelming strength in the implements of war. The other is the knowledge that, while the United States is unable to defend herself, there are other nations that will.

The same observation applies to Mexico, Brazil, Great Britain and France, as well as Australia, the Philippines and China.

PUTTING BRAKES ON THE BUSES

Travel by bus is going to be a great deal slower through Pennsylvania as a result of the announcement by the State that the 35-mile-per-hour law is going to be enforced against the drivers.

Schedules which are adopted by the companies require drivers to push their cars to speeds in excess of the legal rate. But that higher speed is considered inimical to the safety of bus passengers and to general traffic which is encountered on the highways.

This safety Pennsylvania has determined must be preserved and the great mass of the motoring public will be in hearty accord. If the bus lines were using private highways no complaint could be made. Inasmuch as they use the public's highways, the public has a lot to say and it is saying it through its governmental agencies.

THE OFFICE CAT

"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

VERY WELL!

I said she'd made with me a hit— Very well. Perhaps I was a trifle lit— Very well. I told her that she was divine. She let me hold her hand in mine. In short—I handed out my line Very well.

I whispered softly in her ear— Very well. 'Twas, how appropriately, dear— Very well. I drew her snugly to my breast. While she, not daring to protest. Cleaned out the pockets of my vest. Very well.

No Sah! No Indeedy!

The big fat brother was dozing peacefully through the opening ceremonies of a ladies' and gentlemen's lodge. His trousers, already rolled up quite high, climbed ever farther as he slouched down in his seat.

Finally about a half yard of red flannel was exposed. A few of the men snickered, but the women were indignant.

"Brother Peabody," said the master of ceremonies, "the ladies of the lodge would like to have you pull down your trousers."

Brother Peabody awoke with a start. "What!" he yelled. "Not on your life. Not in a public place like this."

Spring, Spring, Beautiful Spring

Flit, little birdie, in the tree, Sing your melodious springtime sonnet. You're a joy, providing you Don't flit on my new Easter bonnet.

A Cold Weather Suggestion

For two hours he had been a pest of the party. His imitations were terrible, ranging anywhere from George Arliss to a hummingbird. In the far corner had been sitting a man with a screwed-up face.

"What would you like to see me imitate now?" asked the bore. The man moved. He spoke: "How about a ground hog that's seen its shadow?"

Our Looney Lyric

Girls who wear flannels The whole year through, Itch to get married, But never do.

Not a Ghost of a Chance

The ventriloquist of a vaudeville troupe that was stranded in a small southern community chanced to be walking past a cemetery while a Negro funeral was in progress and decided to attend.

An hour or so later while he was resting on the hotel verandah two colored boys met in front of him.

"Listen, Joe," said one excitedly, "when dey was a looverin' Mose in de grave he says, 'Lemme down easy, boys!'"

"He did!" "Yas, sah! He says, 'Lemme down easy boys!'" "Ma goodness! Did dey bury him aftah dat?"

"How de h— do ah know!"

Sounds Like the Stroud Twins

"So your brother is a painter, eh?" "Yep." "Paints houses, I presume?" "Nope, paints men and women."

"Oh, I see. He's an artist." "Nope, just paints women on one door and men on the other."

She Had a Reason

A party of tourists came upon an Indian brave riding a pony. A heavily burdened squaw walked beside him.

"Why doesn't the squaw ride?" asked the tourist. "Ugh," said the Indian, "She's got no pony."

She Knew There Was Something

A hostess, when serving wine, remarked to one gentleman: "I should not be offering you wine. You are the head of the Temperance League."

"Oh, no," he replied, "I am the head of the Vice League." "Well," said she, "I knew there was something I should not offer you."

A New Office

Hastus—"Brothah President, we need a cuspidor." President of the Eight Ball Club—"That's a good idea. I appointe Brothah Brown as cuspidor."

Of course you've heard that times are so tough the girls are making their old coat of tan do another year.

That's all, folks. We can't understand if all the horses say "Nay," where do little horses come from? —SCAT.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—There was a pole in a well which was ten feet deep. How much of the pole was sticking out? Some of the pole was sticking out, of course, but we can't tell you if you would guess the problem at once. Now, the problem is: How much of that pole was sticking out? (This one will stick you so look for the answer elsewhere in this column.)

R. H.—Why do airplanes seem noisier to people on the ground at some time than others?

Ans.—Airplane noise heard on the ground varies with the wind. A person to windward of a plane in a strong breeze will scarcely hear a sound although the machine is fairly close, while a person to leeward will be annoyed by the loud roar even though the plane may be half a mile distant.

T. McK.—How many patents were issued in this Country in 1936 and in 1937?

Ans.—In 1936, 39,793 patents were issued; in 1937, 37,696 patents were issued.

W. R. H.—At a formal dinner should one turn back long white gloves or remove them?

Ans.—They should be taken off. It is not correct to leave them on the arms and turn back the hands.

I. E. S.—Who was the Salmon for whom the Navy's new submarine is named?

Ans.—It is now the policy of the United States Navy Department to name submarines for fish in the ocean. The submarine, Salmon, is named after the fish and not after an individual.

S. R.—What are the leading agricultural products of the United States?

Ans.—At present they are, in the following order: Corn, cotton, wheat, white potatoes, oats and tobacco.

W. H.—What is the name of the disappearing creek in Kentucky?

Ans.—Sinking Creek, in Breckinridge county, suddenly disappears and traverses an underground course for several miles, reappearing as a large spring flowing from under a hill.

C. N.—Are colts ever white when they are born?

Ans.—Not unless they are albino. White horses were dark at foaling time; shedding off to a dark gray, then light grey, then white.

J. S.—How is aerial machine gun practice managed?

Ans.—It is conducted by firing at a sleeve (cylindrical cloth) target, towed at the end of a long wire by an airplane.

N. D.—How large do lobsters grow?

Ans.—Sometimes lobsters are caught weighing fifteen pounds and a few have been known to reach twenty-eight pounds. Lobsters sold in markets are usually from one to two pounds in weight.

R. C.—In making cotton curtains, how much should be allowed for shrinkage?

Ans.—About one inch to the yard, if the material is loosely woven.

S. J.—Who coined the expression, I'm from Missouri?

Ans.—The late Congressman Vandiver of Cape Girardeau, Missouri coined the expression. I'm from Missouri—you must show me.

M. R.—If the highest mountain in the world were placed in the deepest part of the ocean, would its top show above the surface of the water?

Ans.—Since Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, is 29,141 feet above sea level, and the greatest ocean depth sounded is 35,400 feet, the mountain top would be 6,259 feet below the surface of the water.

C. A. L.—Did Leopold Stokowski resign from the Philadelphia Orchestra, and did he ever walk out on an audience during a performance?

Ans.—While conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra in a program of ultra-modern music in the Academy of Music, Philadelphia, October 24, 1931, Stokowski left the platform when he was disturbed by a sneeze. He resigned in December, 1934, after twenty-two years of service, but later returned as guest conductor.

Reader—Should a wife introduce her husband by his given name?

Ans.—She should introduce him or speak of him as "Mr. Brown" to mere acquaintances; but to close friends she may use his given name. It is correct to introduce him, or speak about him as, "my husband."

E. Y.—Will you be kind enough to answer what was the date and day of the week Oliver Goldsmith was born? Also his nationality?

Ans.—Oliver Goldsmith, the writer of prose and poetry, was born on Wednesday, November 10, 1730. He was a North Ireland Irishman.

V. R.—What is the difference between German silver and regular silver?

Ans.—German silver has no silver in it at all. It is an alloy of nickel, zinc and copper, having 12 1/2 percent nickel, 12 1/2 percent zinc and 50 percent copper. It is whiter and harder than regular silver and takes a high polish.

D. S.—When and where did James J. Corbett knock out John L. Sullivan? And what was the number of rounds?

Ans.—James J. Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan in 21 rounds at New Orleans, La., on Sept. 7, 1892, under London prize ring rules.

G. A.—Was there once a race war in Atlanta, Ga.?

Ans.—Yes. There was a series of race riots in Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 22 to Sept. 25, 1906, in which 18 negroes and one white man were killed. The cause was alleged attacking of white women by colored men.

F. N.—What three States in the Union suffered the greatest number of casualties in the World War?

Ans.—The casualties for the first three States in the World War were as follows: New York 40,222; Pennsylvania, 35,042; Illinois, 18,264.

C. B.—When did Chauncey M. Depew die, and where?

Ans.—Chauncey M. Depew, a former United States Senator, died at his home in New York City on April 5, 1928, aged 93 years.

M. M.—Can you answer what the salary is for the Librarian of Congress?

Ans.—The salary of the Librarian of Congress is now \$10,000 per year. A bill in Congress stipulating this amount went into effect on July 1, 1928.

T. S.—What form of government does Austria have?

Ans.—Since the termination of the World War Austria has been a republic. The official name of that country now is "Republic of Austria."

L. T.—What kind of an animal is a "gnu"?

Ans.—A gnu is a kind of antelope found in small herds in South Africa. The hair is black-and-brown and bristly.

Tea Hee—If you know so much, just tell us what's new in the movie colony of California, will you?

Ans.—Nothing much, except the gang of husbands.

Baseball Fan—I have heard that Babe Ruth once caught a baseball dropped from a flying airplane. Is that true?

Ans.—Ruth caught a regulation baseball dropped from a plane flying at a speed of about 100 miles an hour at an altitude of about 250 feet, over Mitchell Field, New York, July 22, 1926. The catch was made on the seventh attempt and the ball was dropped from the plane 300 feet before it was over Ruth's head. It was sucked along by the plane which could not reduce speed below 100 miles an hour, and Ruth, wearing a fielder's glove, caught it after a hard run.

Answer to Problem—The pole was sticking out 6 1/2 feet. If you remember your arithmetic you will know that a pole, perch or rod is 16 1/2 feet.

OLD PINE TREE FURNISHES HISTORY

(Continued from page one)

tained no outstanding specimens. The late W. C. Pentz "cruised" the DuBois lands on Sandy Creek but found no extraordinarily large white pines such as had been used to erect the first skyscraper in the United States, at DuBois, in 1883. In its construction, as previously alluded to in this column, ninety foot sticks placed upright were used in the frame work. But Mr. Woodward wanted girth more than height to represent the Pennsylvania white pine at the World's Fair. The trail then led back to Mr. Martz, the discoverer of the mammoth pine of 1887, after it was learned that the disastrous fire of 1891, in the Philadelphia zoo at Fairmount park, consumed the pavilion where the giant log was exhibited. The tree located by Mr. Martz was near the head of Soldiers' Run, only a few miles from where the big tree was cut in 1887, and while it was not of sufficient height to cut a 60 foot stick, a 32-foot log was made between the stump—cut eight feet—and the forks. The diameter, including the bark, was almost 13 feet while a fir tree from the state of Washington shown at the Fair was only one foot wider. The tree was first shorn of its six forks and the log saved to fall on a bed of boughs so that its terrific weight would not shatter or loosen the plates of the bark, some of which were four feet long and eight inches thick. It is said that the giant log made the journey to Chicago and back in safety and was a marvel of the Exposition.

One wonders where it is now? Commissioner Woodward, commenting on the specimens at the time said, "True, other states will show sections of larger trees but Dr. J. T. Rothrock on inspecting the log remarked to me that none can show sections of larger specimens of white pine."

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