

The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Bombing Civilization

Warfare now being waged in China and Spain demonstrates the destructive power of aircraft but, at the same time, the impotency of aerial superiority to win decisive battles.

The alarming feature of the lesson in ruin is that much of the damage occurs behind the battleline and many of the sufferers are helpless women, children and men, not engaged in fighting.

The fact that homes of non-combatants are wrecked, that cities are blown to bits and that cultural structures are destroyed along with minor advantages in the way of military centers blasted to pieces indicates the danger that civilization faces when war begins.

In Spain, we hear of new bombs with time fuses, that do not explode upon contact, but only after going through a roof and penetrating into the lower stories of buildings.

The meanest feature of this bomb is the evident fact that it is designed primarily to destroy structures that are a non-military type. Naturally, vital structures are protected with armor, which will prevent a bomb from penetrating into vital sections.

So we face a situation in modern war where airplanes can deal death and destruction far behind the battlefront, indiscriminately striking down innocent people and destroying national organization for social and economic life.

Take for example, the United States and consider what enemy planes could do if they got close enough to fly over the country. What could we do? Apparently, little but retaliate by wreaking vengeance in kind upon the land of the enemy.

Looks Like More Pensions

The proposal that the Government pay pensions to all widows and orphans of World War veterans, even if the death of the veteran was not the result of war experience, is probably the opening wedge of a drive for pensions that will eventually include all who got their names on the military rolls, by draft or otherwise.

We certainly join with all Americans in the hope that the people of the United States, who will pay this bill, have no objection to the payment of generous sums to the orphans and widows of the men who gave up their lives for the nation.

The past history of pensions in the United States has not been a record in which national pride can be taken. To avoid such a condition the government, at the beginning of the World War, installed the insurance system in the hope that the pension problem could be avoided.

IRONPANTS' IDEA (Lock Haven Express)

One of the most satisfying avenues of expression open to the human spirit is the privilege, often exercised by all of us but especially by General Hugh S. Johnson, of leaning back in a chair, hooking one thumb over a gullus, and launching forth into a monologue telling somebody else how to do it.

General Ironpants says if he were president of the United States, he would get rid of all the cockeyed nitwits in the administration, repeal all taxes not primarily for revenue, return relief to the states, take a billion dollars off government expenditures, and "ask simple legislation for wages and hours."

That is a fine and forthright platform and ought to be enough to get any man elected president of the United States, except that the general seems a little weak-kneed about his last proposal. He would merely "ask" for simple legislation for wages and hours, while he gives no indication that he would bother to get anybody else's helping hand on the other reforms he suggests.

Of course, he lists a strenuous program and anybody who has performed the single-handed feat of chasing all the "cock-eyed nitwits" out of Washington, stopping all punitive taxes, putting the relief baby back on the state's doorstep, and hacking a billion dollars off the government's yearly bills, would be so worn down by the effort that about the most he could expect to do, in addition, would be to lean back, gasping, in his chair and ask the nearest White House

messenger to run over and get the neighbors, down the avenue, under the capitol dome, to take over the rest of the chores.

Teacher's Tough Task

A newspaper wisecracker remarks that many parents who can't exercise any control over one or two children, will blame the teacher if she can't keep 40 to 50 of them in perfect order.

Every child has much resistance power. A kid can make himself so very disagreeable that weak parents often find it more comfortable to yield to him. When a whole bunch of such children gather in one group, they can create chaos if they start in making trouble at the same time.

It takes diplomacy, knowledge of child nature, a firm will, and a winsome personal manner, to curb such revolts before they gain the ascendancy. If parents would cultivate these qualities in dealing with their children, the youngsters would constitute less of a problem in their school life.

Why The Groundhog's Fame?

You have to go back many centuries to find the origin of that old fable that the groundhog comes out of his hole February 2 to look at the weather.

The people of our present age would never invent any such sign. They are not as a rule students of nature, they do not know the ways of animals or plants. Their eyes are on the speedometer of their cars rather than on the skies or the fields. In primitive times, when there were no automobiles, no radios, and no shows, the beasts of the field and barnyard constituted the only show on earth.

Small Businesses Need Capital

The conference of "small" business men in Washington last week seemed to have some difficulty in putting a finger on just exactly what may be the main problem of their economic struggle but there was some consensus of opinion that one of the main needs is a source of capital.

This means a source of loans, we presume, as well as a supply of capital investments. Larger corporations, when they need funds, issue bonds or stock, which are sold throughout the nation. Very often the purchasers get nothing except a pain in the neck because of losses that involve the big business they have put their money into.

It's Total Pay That Counts

An hourly wage schedule is not, after all, so hot. You know it is always possible for the boss to hand the men an increase in the hourly rate—and then close the shop. When that happens the men say, "Well, they cut the time but they didn't cut the rate." What good is an hourly rate—if there aren't any hours?

Modern Etiquette

- 1. Should a guest partake of every course that is served during a meal?
2. How far in advance should the bride and her attendants arrive at the church for the wedding?
3. When gifts are brought to a birthday party, should they be opened at once, or left in their wrappers until after the party?
4. Is it required that hotel reservations be made by letter or telephone in advance?
5. Should a brunette with dark skin wear pure white?
6. When a young woman is seated and is introduced to an elderly man, should she rise?
7. When invited to a bridge party, where one knows the others are skilled, but one does not play well, should the invitation be accepted?
8. Should one in conversation speak of a group of women, or a group of ladies?
9. When cutting grapefruit into halves for serving, should the core be removed?
10. What are the duties of a maid of honor during the ceremony?
11. What does a "cover" mean, as pertains to the dinner table?
12. If a man holds open a door for a woman who is behind him, should she thank him?

Answers at bottom of column.

STATE COLLEGE

The Lady State Rebekah Lodge will hold a round and square dance including a card party in the I. O. O. F. Hall, Saturday, February 12, 8:30 to 12:00.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Henricks of East College avenue, had as recent week-end guests Mrs. Henricks' parents, Mr. and Mrs. El Hoover, of Martinsburg.

Mr. William Spotts, of East Beaver avenue, is visiting with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Wilmer, of South Williamsport.

Mr. Isaac Garner, of Zion, visited recently at the home of Mrs. Margaret Garner, of East College avenue.

Mrs. Eva Luce, daughter Edna and Irvin Luce, of Bernard street, made a business trip to Millheim Saturday evening.

Mrs. Sarah Erb of Heister street, returned recently from a visit with her daughter and son-in-law in Harrisburg.

Mr. and Mrs. George Gearhart, of Millbrook, left Sunday for Jersey City, N. J., where Mr. Gearhart has secured employment.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kern, of West Beaver avenue, visited with friends in Williamsport over the week-end.

Mrs. Hannah Hicks, of West Beaver avenue, spent the week-end at the home of Mrs. Hubert Williams, of Martinsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Parsons, of Heister street, and Mrs. Clara Lynch, of Atherton street, visited in Bellefonte Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gackenbach visited at the home of Mrs. Gackenbach's parents in Lewis-ton over the week-end.

Miss Lillian Miles, dean of girls at the High School, is undergoing treatment in the Geisinger Hospital in Danville.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Musser, of Gill street, spent the week-end in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Carl Dossin, of East Fairmount avenue, left Friday for Meridian, Conn.

Miss Sara Clemons, of West College avenue, returned recently from New York City, where she has been studying music.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Parsons, of East Beaver avenue, visited in Lewistown on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Behrer, of North Burrows street, attended the Pennsylvania Atlantic Seaboard Hardware Association convention in Philadelphia recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Esterbrook spent the week-end visiting Mrs. Esterbrook's parents in Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Parsons, daughter Veda, of Heister street, and Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Parsons, of East Beaver avenue, visited with relatives in Claysburg on Sunday.

Mr. S. M. Hess, of State College, R. D., was a recent visitor at the home of Mrs. Jennie Fortney, of Boalsburg.

Mrs. E. K. Gackenbach spent Wednesday evening at the home of her sister, Mrs. John Gilliland, of Oak Hill.

The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard De Vany, of East College avenue, is quite ill at this writing.

The many friends of John Spicer will be sorry to hear he is not improving as rapidly as expected. His many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

Answers to Modern Etiquette

- 1. No. However, it must be added that the most popular guest is the one who seems to enjoy every course. A sensitive hostess sometimes secretly resents it when a guest appears to be squeamish.
2. They should time it exactly so that they will arrive at the church just as the minute the ceremony is to begin.
3. Each gift should be opened immediately.
4. Hotels do not require it, but the seasoned traveler finds it often a great advantage to do so, rather than arrive at his favorite hotel and find all accommodations taken.
5. No. It is inclined to give a sallow effect. Eggshell and oyster white would be better.
6. Yes, it is the courteous thing to do.
7. It would be far better to decline than to accept and then apologize for one's poor playing.
8. A group of women is correct; we must presume that the women are ladies.
9. Yes, it is nice to do so if one has the time.
10. She stands nearest the bride, takes her bouquet or prayer-book while the ring is put on, returning them at the proper time, and arranges the bride's train when she turns from the altar.
11. It includes the china, silver, glassware, and linen that is placed on the table for each person.
12. Certainly.

THE OFFICE CAT. A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men.

THE SANITARY FARM. We've bathed the bossie's tooties, we've cleaned the rooster's ears. We've trimmed the turkey's wattles with antiseptic shears; With talcum all the guinea hens are beautiful and bright.

Musta Been a Couple Other Guys. At a recent shindig the liquor was plentiful and powerful with the result that when Fanny came home in the early morning she was somewhat under the weather.

Salty Yarn. At a fashionable dinner party a young girl, noted for her cleverness in repartee, sat next to a Bishop. The girl provoked much laughter from her venerable partner during the meal.

A Wee Bit O' Scotch. Three blood transfusions were necessary to save a lady patient's life at a hospital not so long ago and a brassy young Scotchman offered his blood. The patient gave him \$50 for the first pint, \$25 for the second pint—but the third time she had so much Scotch blood in her she only thanked him.

What a Bride Idea! During a court trial in which a colorful couple were suing for divorce it was necessary for the old person who had married them to testify.

To Whom It May Concern. The editor of a country weekly quite unintentionally hit up on a novel scheme to increase circulation. He placed the following paragraph on the front page of his weekly anaesthetic:

Blacksmithing Up to Date. Under the spreading chestnut tree The village smithy stands; The smith—a mighty man is he— Coins money on all hands.

That's Telling 'Em. Answer received by the credit department of a Chicago firm: "I don't expect to beat you out of any money. But I am going to say one thing, I am not working so I don't make anything and until I go to work I can't pay you anything. So keep your shirt on and as soon as I start to work I will send some money. But if you don't keep it on, well just take it off and hold it until after I get a job."

Thought She Lost Him. Dining in a restaurant with her husband, a woman misad her gloves when she was on her way out.

Playing Safe. According to the way a friend of the Office Cat tells it, a neighbor of his has a family of ten to support and has been out of work for several months. To make the burden harder to bear his wife has been presenting him with a child each year.

Slips That Pass in the News. (From the Marshall, Kans. News) Jim Parsons is looking for a new waitress for his lunch room, as Miss Grace Cruth who has been working for him left a note in the cash register Saturday night with words to the effect that she was leaving for other pants (parts) and wouldn't be back.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—How's your history? When Napoleon was exiled to the island of Elba he escaped, and tradition has it that he sent a terse note of seven words to King George III of England written in English. The seven words, when read either forward or backward, were identically the same. What was that sentence? (Answer elsewhere in this column.)

D. G.—Is the sun larger than the earth? Ans.—Yes. The sun is one and one-quarter million times larger. In other words, think of the sun as being the size of a balloon that carries passengers. In comparison the earth would be about the size of a marble.

J. S.—Can you answer what causes quicksand? Ans.—If a deep bed of sand on the seashore or in a river bed is completely saturated with water—especially if there is a spring of water seeping upward through it, the sand is likely to be loose and soupy, so that a person getting into it, will sink. This condition, however, is not common; it exists chiefly in fiction.

S. H.—I would like to know if it is possible to make a perfect vacuum? Ans.—It may be possible, but none has ever been made. The most perfect vacuum ever made still contains about eight billion molecules per cubic inch.

W. R.—To settle an argument will you please state if the boll-woolly is an insect or a worm? Ans.—Both. It is an insect that lays eggs in the cotton plant. The larvae is a worm from the egg that eats the cotton bud.

E. M.—Was Patrick Francis Moran a cardinal in Ireland? Ans.—No. Patrick Francis Moran was educated at the college of St. Agatha in Rome. Later he was made bishop of Ossory, serving from 1872 until 1884, when he was made Archbishop of Sydney, Australia. The following year he was created a Cardinal. He died August 16, 1911.

C. R.—Will you explain briefly what the Monroe Doctrine is? Ans.—The Monroe Doctrine is a policy announced by President Monroe in a message to Congress in 1823. It commits the United States to the doctrine that any interference of European powers in the political affairs of North and South America will be an unfriendly act to the countries of the New World.

N. B.—What kind of fish are minnows? Do they grow to be some species of large fish, such as herring, perch, etc.? Ans.—Minnows are a class of fish allied to the carp family. They grow to an average length of three inches, but some attain nearly five inches. The common minnow has a brown color, a protractile mouth, and small transverse bands of a darker shade of brown along its side.

T. K.—I wish to ask you what the female of the wild boar is called? Ans.—"Boar" is applied to either sex of the wild swine found in Africa, Asia and Europe. We have no record of a different term for the females.

L. P.—How deep was the river where the U. S. Panay sank? Ans.—The Yangtze was 180 feet deep where the man-of-war sank after bombing.

B. A. B.—Has the Washington Monument ever been cleaned on the outside? Ans.—It was cleaned for the first time in 1934-35 by PWA. The substance used was sand mixed with water. It was applied with steel bristled brushes. The work took five months.

J. F.—Where do pomegranates grow wild? Ans.—They grow wild in Afghanistan and northwest India and districts south and southwest of the Caspian Sea. They have a refreshing acid juice.