

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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BACK WHERE WE WERE BEFORE THE WAR

One melancholy feature of the Hitler grab of Austria is that it seems to shove the world back to just about where it was prior to 1914 when the Kaiser and his "Mitteleuropa" and "On to Bagdad" lunacy produced the makings of the World War.

Now that Hitler has Austria, everybody feels certain that he will but bide his time until he grabs or tries to grab Czechoslovakia. And if he does, then the fat is in the fire, for France is as likely to defend her ally as she did Belgium.

More and more it becomes apparent that the World War, as all wars, settled nothing permanently. Germany's "weltmacht" was frustrated and her empire chopped into territorial hash.

Knowing this, it is doubtful if President Wilson would have agreed to the terms except for his faith in the League of Nations covenant to adjust treaty matters from time to time to meet changing conditions.

As Germany began to recover her national strength, she took the bit in her own teeth. The Rhineland, the Saar and now the "anschluss" with Austria, all forbidden at Versailles, have become realities and even more audacious ventures are in sight.

The picture is not a pretty one, looking forward or backward. A world that could create the automobile, the radio and other marvels is not great enough to prevent war and live in peace.

PISTOLS EASY TO GET

Men with criminal records easily got pistols by permission of the Philadelphia city police, the Ruth legislative commission was informed. These criminals walked the streets heavily armed.

Somebody ought to impress that upon Attorney General Cummings who wants to have a law passed further restricting the ownership of revolvers, pistols, shot guns, rifles and other firearms by sportsmen and other honest citizens of the land.

Mr. Cummings says the law is designed to make it impossible for criminals to obtain firearms.

This newspaper long has contended guns could not be legislated out of the hands of crooks and criminals.

When crooks and criminals can obtain firearms so easily as has been shown in Philadelphia, when firearms can be obtained by criminals through "bootlegging," when they can easily manufacture them with a few pieces of scrap metal why should it be necessary to pass additional restrictive legislation that would only play into the hands of the lawless?

Every move made to curtail the ownership of firearms by sportsmen and other citizens only makes the pathway of the crook and criminal that much easier.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

It was an insignificant item that appeared recently in a newspaper, but, as is often the case with such items, it told a powerful story, a story of undying affection and loyalty, and self sacrifice.

It told how a Shamokin woman, desirous of seeing her son become a musician and a member of his school band, had overcome the limitations of poverty by canvassing business men of the town, soliciting loans of one dollar each to purchase an instrument for the lad.

The devotion of his mother should be the greatest inspiration possible to the young musician whose career was made possible by her humble efforts.

RAILROADS, RATES AND FINANCES

The freight rate increase, granted the railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission, is not what the carriers wanted. The rail executives agree that the increases are not sufficient and that revenue will not be augmented in volume sufficient to settle the financial problems that confront the roads.

There is another side. The increased rates may not bring in extra revenue. Greater increases may have resulted in the loss of business and consequently in a shrinkage of revenue. Motor vehicles get help every time the freight rates go up.

The basic trouble with the nation's railroads, however, seems to have been touched by Senator Truman, of Missouri, a member of the Senate Committee that has been investigating railroad financing.

Senator Truman points out that the railroads have a "raw structure and a classification for the Northeastern section of the country, an entirely different one for the Southeastern States and when they come to the Mississippi and Missouri rivers they start all over and really tangle things up on a grand scale."

Basing his remarks on testimony brought out before the committee the Missouri senator remarks that certain railroads are "terrible examples of what can happen when the financiers manipulate them in the name of consolidation."

We are sympathetic toward the railroads in their present plight but not too sure that basic stability can be gained without drastic steps to establish them on sound financial structures. This may mean squeezing some water out of the stocks and bonds but in the long run it might be the best course.

NEW LAW MADE BY JUDGES

There was some new law made in the United States last week and it did not result from any act of Congress, any State legislative body or other minor agency enjoying some powers in the field of legislation.

The new law came into being because the United States Supreme Court, in a decision, overruled previous decisions as being "out of harmony with correct principle."

In earlier years the State of Oklahoma attempted to tax the income of one who had leased oil and gas lands from the Federal government. This was prevented by the Supreme Court's construction of basic legal principles, which we will not go into.

These cases and what the lawyers call a "long line of decisions" established as law the principle that one leasing such lands from a State could not be taxed on the income by the Federal government, and vice versa.

We do not criticize the decision of the Supreme Court which brought from Justice Butler the tart assertion that there is no "real reason for so sweeping a change in the construction of the Constitution" and the declaration that "no one can foresee" the effect of the majority decision on the principle that a State may not tax Federal instrumentalities and vice versa.

The new law that the majority made is, we think, sustained by the common sense, well expressed in the opinion rendered by Chief Justice Hughes. At the same time, one must admit that the old law, as expressed in previous opinions and now repealed by the new decision, is condemned.

There has been, however, no change in either law or Constitution. What has been changed is the Court's interpretation of the law and the Constitution. If the new interpretation is wise, then the older one was foolish.

Either way one looks at the matter the conclusion is evident that much of the law of the land today is based upon nothing more solid than the interpretation of the law by those who sit as judges. We do not ignore the necessity of such changes but, in view of their occurrence, it seems utterly foolish for anybody to get the idea that there is anything sacred about the opinion of a court.

BLAMES COUNTY JAILS FOR CRIME.

There are many causes of crime. It would require great wisdom to select any one cause. Experts on criminology differ in the emphasis that they place upon various contributing causes.

The cost of crime to the people of the United States is enormous. Naturally, we should be interested in reducing crime. For that reason it is proper to consider all of the factors which are listed among the causes of crime.

Recently, James V. Bennett, director of the United States Bureau of Prisons, told the Connecticut Prison Association that the county jail could be blamed for much of the spread of crime. He described most county jails as "filthy beyond description. Out of 3,700 jails in this country, he declared, inspectors have found that 70 per cent of them "ought not to be used for Federal prisoners."

Mr. Bennett pointed out that little or no attempt is made to employ prisoners or to provide them with a constructive program and that medical facilities are "at a premium."

This is not a report that should cause pleasure. Neither is it one that the reader should take as a reflection upon local jails. Mr. Bennett speaks from a national point of view. He knows, we presume, that there are reasons why local jails, as a rule, are not ideal penal institutions.

Probably because of a recognition of the inherent difficulties that confront local institutions and local officials, Mr. Bennett advocates the abandonment of the local jail and the substitution of a regional institution, work farm or camp, under State direction. Here, he thinks, there would be better opportunity for constructive work with prisoners through a system of individualized effort.

POMONA GRANGE NEWS

The Regional Conference at Lamar, last Thursday, was a day of profit to all attending. Our State leader, Worthy Master J. A. Boak, and Mrs. Boak, Worthy Lecturer Mrs. Gross, with L. E. Biddle, State Deputy and Worthy Pomona Master, and Mrs. Biddle, Juvenile Master, were with us and led conferences of inspiration and real help to the masters, lecturers and other patrons attending.

The afternoon session was devoted to a masters' conference led by State Master Boak and a lecturers' conference with State Lecturer Mrs. Gross presiding. These conferences consisted of open discussions with all present participating to the benefit of everyone. Not a dull moment to close the meeting of the day.

The particulars of the last Neighbor Night meeting were not secured in detail as was hoped, but we do know the play on the farm home address on "Leadership" and all other features of the program presented by the Spring Mills grange was much appreciated as a worth while program for that evening and from which could be gathered much good.

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

AT THE TINT FAIR. Two mosquitoes once lit on the features of two fair and peroxidized creatures. When asked by what right they replied, "We're not tight! We're just zeeling the same from the bleachers."

Our Toast To The Ladies. Here's to the girl who steals, lies and swears. (Now, hold on, wait till we finish) ... Steals into your arms. Lies there. And swears she'll never love another.

The Right Answer. A Centre county youth applying for WPA was filling out the application. He managed to get his name written properly in the first blank. Also, age 23, and color white were simple.

A Story That's Hot. A school miss when asked to spell yacht, Most saucily said, "I will yacht;" So the teacher in wrath, Took a section of lath And warmed her up well on the spacht.

Joke On Charlie. Joe--(to Judge)--"I want to change my name, your honor." Judge--"What is your name?" Joe--"Joe Stinks."

He'd Need a Mint of Money. The Girl's Father--"Work your way up, my boy, and when you own the place where you're working, you can have Betty." Harold--"But good heavens, I work in the mint."

Lightweight Charity. The clergyman of a poor parish, was showing a rich lady around hoping to touch her heart and so receive a big check for his people. "We are now passing through the poorest slums," he said, as the car turned into a side street. "These people have little to brighten their lives."

Post-Graduate Course. Daughter--"Yes, I've graduated but now I must inform myself in psychology, philosophy, bibl--" Practical Mother--"Stop! I have arranged for you a thorough course in roasting, boiling, stitchoing, darnology, patchology and general domestic hutzology. Now get on your working clothesology."

I TIN, TIN YOU? I bought a wooden whistle but it wooden whistle, So I bought a steel whistle, But steel it wooden whistle, So I bought a lead whistle, Still they wooden lead me whistle, So I bought a tin whistle, And now I tin whistle.

Love Has Its Rounds. "Now," said the enthusiastic youth to his father, at the college boxing meet, "you'll see more excitement for two dollars than you ever saw before."

What's Hers Is Hers. Judge--"Where is your husband?" Defendant--"I ain't got no husband. He has been dead onto ten years." Judge--"Are those all your children?" Defendant--"Yes, suh. Dey's mine."

So Time Marched On. I had a little dog. I called him August. August was fond of jumping at conclusions, especially at the wrong conclusion. One day he jumped at a mule's conclusion. The next day was the first of September.

Play Ball--Batter Up. Now that the baseball season will soon be with us, we insert a baseball story here. It seems that in a small town down South, two Negro baseball teams, surrounded by their dusty devotees, were engaged in a very important baseball game.

Strip Tease Tale. "Of course I love you," and she took off her stockings. "We will have the sweetest little bungalow," and she took off her sports sweater. "We will have a lot of little flower beds," and she took off her skirt.

Tom, dear, why can't we be married in the spring when all the world is filled with laughter?" and she took off her brassiere. "If you prefer the fall, I prefer it too, because we are as one sweet-heart," and she took off her petticoat, because she was an old-fashioned girl.

Tom, dear, tell me once more that you love me," and she removed her last vestige of clothing. "Tom, honey, I better say good-night for I have to get up early in the morning." And she hung up the receiver.

That's all, folks. When a man makes money hand over fist, it's his wife's job to make that fist hand over money. "SCAT."

Gross presiding. These conferences consisted of open discussions with all present participating to the benefit of everyone. Not a dull moment to close the meeting of the day. We shall soon be taking up the projects, in our granges, which are being promoted all over the state--but more of that later. We were much gratified with the good crowd attending and the active interest shown and feel sure our granges will reap worth-while benefits in the months to come.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM--A horse trader visits three fairs in one day. At each fair it cost him a horse to get in. While in the fair he sells half of his horses, and it cost him a horse to get out. After visiting the three fairs and returning home, he has one horse left. How many horses had he to start with?

G. E.--Is a mastodon and an elephant the same? Ans.--Not exactly. The mastodon is an extinct animal, but remains found indicate that they attain height from 12 to 15 feet, and a length from 18 to 20 feet.

S. P.--What do mosquitoes live on where there are no animals or humans for them to suck their blood? Ans.--Blood is the choice food for the mosquitoes, especially for the males. But the absence of any blood for them to feed on, they suck the juices of plants.

H. M.--If a female turkey is called a hen, what is a male turkey called? Ans.--A male turkey is usually referred to as a gobbler, because of the peculiar noise he makes which is characteristic of his sex. However, the correct names for them is "hen turkey" for the females and "tom turkey" for the males.

W. H.--Where was St. Patrick born? And how did he get to Ireland? Ans.--It is not known definitely when or where St. Patrick was born. When he was approximately 16 years of age he was seized by a band of pirates in 430 A. D., and sold as a slave to an Irish chieftain. After six years as a cattle herder he escaped to France where he entered a monastery at Tours. Then he visited Rome in 431 A. D., and was sent by Pope Celestine I as a missionary to Ireland, which was in a semi-savage state at that time.

W. A.--What is meant by "pasteurizing"? Ans.--The word is derived from Dr. Louis Pasteur who was born in France, Dec. 27, 1822, and died Sept. 28, 1895. He was a noted chemist and discoverer of the process of treating milk, wine, etc., to destroy the bacilli and germs for safe human consumption. When this is done, it is known as "pasteurizing."

T. B.--To settle an argument will you please answer which are the three largest rivers in the world? Ans.--The three largest rivers in the world are in the order named as follows: Amazon in South America, the Mississippi in the United States and the Parana in South America.

G. M.--Is a parable a fact? Ans.--No. A parable is a short narrative intended to illustrate some principle in moral or religious teaching, such as the Good Samaritan, the Talents, the Tares, the Ten Virgins, the Prodigal Son, the Mustard Seed, the Rich Man and Lazarus, etc.

G. J.--Can you answer in your question column where Oahu is? Ans.--Oahu is one of the islands of the Hawaiian group. Honolulu is located on this island.

D. O.--Can you tell me what religion did George Washington embrace? Ans.--George Washington was an Episcopalian.

K. L.--What is the most nutritious food in the vegetable kingdom? Ans.--The most nutritious of all vegetables is boiled beans.

W. C. G.--Who invented the electric clock? Ans.--The electric clock that operates from an outlet supplied by alternating current was invented by Henry E. Warren, of Ashland, Mass., who also invented the Warren master clock used in power houses.

S. H. A.--How should fur coats be cared for? Ans.--Heat, moisture, friction and moths are the principle enemies. Keep furs away from radiators, do not wear them in the rain very often, and avoid friction from carrying purses in same position or leaning against automobile parts. Put furs in cold storage for the summer.

M. K.--What causes some silk dresses or slips to be full of electricity? Ans.--Silk, when dry, is an excellent insulator of electricity. The rubbing of the dress against other garments produces electric charges by friction which cannot leak off, and produces the effects noted. Silk is much more likely to show these effects than rayon, linen, or cotton. Such effects are not noted in summer because the normal humid air makes even silk a partial conductor of electricity. The air of a heated house is very dry in winter.

L. L.--What does President Roosevelt eat for breakfast? Ans.--His breakfast usually consists of cereal with milk and sugar, buttered whole-wheat toast, boiled eggs with bacon cubes and toasted croutons, and coffee.

E. W. H.--Has the summit of Mt. Everest ever been reached by climbers? Ans.--It has not. Several attempts have been made, but each has had to be abandoned before the top of the mountain could be attained.

W. M.--Of what is the catgut used in musical strings made? Ans.--Catgut is made from the muscular coat of the intestines of a sheep. These are steeped, scoured, fermented and inflated, then cut into strips, if large, and twisted. The finest quality of strings is made in Rome and Naples.

C. E. K.--Why was Lake George so named? Ans.--Lake George was discovered by a French explorer and was called the Lake of the Blessed Sacrament. On August 28, 1755, General William Johnson changed its name to Lake George after George II of England.

E. S.--What was the origin of the domestic dog? Ans.--The origin of the domestic dog is unknown but it is thought to be of composite descent from wild dogs, and perhaps some now extinct species of animal.

E. O. B.--How did the term Golden Gate originate? Ans.--The entrance to the harbor of San Francisco between the two headlands was given the name Golden Gate by the explorer Drake in 1578. As the sun sinks into the Pacific there is a peculiar brilliant golden effect cast upon this strait, which doubtless suggested the name.

A. R.--Do goldfish sleep? Ans.--They do not sleep. They have periods of rest in which they are perfectly quiet, but they are unable to close their eyes and do not sleep in the correct sense of the word.

C. D. J.--How many Negroes are there in this country? Ans.--According to the census of 1930, there are 11,891,148 Negroes in the United States.

W. H.--Are most of the people involved in bad automobile accidents inexperienced drivers? Ans.--An analysis of traffic accidents in 1937 shows that 97 per cent of drivers involved in fatal accidents had one or more years' driving experience.

K. H. B.--How much do the newspapers spend for pictures? Ans.--The daily newspaper publishers of the United States and Canada spend more than \$8,000,000 a year for pictures.

E. C. N.--Is "all right" always written as two words? Ans.--Almost, although, altogether and already are spelled as single words, but all right is written as two words.

N. T.--Was George Washington a regular church-goer? Ans.--It was his custom to attend church services on Sunday morning.

L. R. C.--Where is the River of No Return? Ans.--The Salmon River of Central Idaho is so called.

Answer to Problem--The horse trader had twenty-nine horses when he entered the first fair. If any of our readers, unable to work the problem, will let us know, we will publish the solution next week.

farm subject of the evening, which was "beans," and was also carried out in the refreshments which consisted of sandwiches, baked beans and coffee. The Master of this grange is Charles Hackenberg, Bellefonte, R. D. For the convening of the evening ribbons were presented on which were printed, "Leadership" and "Bald Eagle Grange No. 151."

From all reports this was the kind of meeting which gives us something to think about and makes us anxious for the next one, two good tests of the type of Neighbor Night meetings which we desire. We are confident all will enjoy the meeting which is given at Penn State Grange, Tuesday evening of this week. Be sure, too, to attend all on your program, watch your dates, another one is listed for next week.

A good meal often changes an individual's entire viewpoint of life and its problems.

The man willing to contribute liberally can be a "power" in almost any organization.

Correct this sentence: "My husband insists upon putting me on an allowance, and I wouldn't mind, but he wants to give me too much money."

The popular pastime in Washington, nowadays, is talking about building warships.