

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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EDITORIAL

PROTECTION WITHOUT TYRANNY

The people of the United States want peace; they are shocked by the happenings in Spain and China and they find it difficult to believe that a nation would deliberately prepare to wage war to take territory from another nation.

The property destroyed and the lives lost in modern warfare appals our peace loving folk and, for this reason, they abhor war. In their determination to avoid war they tend to turn away from warlike things and show a disposition to believe that the way to avoid war lies in not being prepared to fight.

The government of the United States reflects the sentiment of its people in doing everything possible to continue friendly relations with other powers. It has, in the past, followed the theory that disarmament promotes peace and, for many years, our navy and army were allowed to drift into a condition that was anything but reassuring to officers who had to face the problem of dealing with potential enemies.

Today, facing a menacing combination of aggressive powers, whose rulers exercise absolute sway over their peoples, the government contemplates an armament program that will guarantee the safety of the United States and afford protection to whatever we may later conclude is the national interest. This program is much larger than it would be if the United States had allied itself with other nations; as it is, we must pay for our isolation by being strong enough to take care of ourselves without assistance.

We are not jingoistic but we would like to see this country prepared to defend itself and to play a nation's part in the drama of the world. We would do this without giving up our democratic ideals and it so happens that we can do so. By constructing and maintaining a navy equal to that of any other power, and strong enough to face any combination of aggressors, the land of the United States will be safe from invasion and the people of the United States will give up no part of their liberties.

It is only in nations where conscript armies are used that the rights of the people are sacrificed to the military machine. Great Britain, with its long history of empire, based almost entirely upon sea power, has not surrendered individual liberty. It is easy to understand that a fleet of battleships, riding the waves, is not in a position to coerce citizens and to realize that a huge army, bestride a people, can and will dominate them.

The military situation in which the United States finds itself fits in with national desire. We do not need a tremendous army but we must have better than the "second best" fleet. It will afford protection without any threat of tyranny.

FIERCE STRUGGLE IN CHINA

Winter weather is beginning to fight for the Chinese, according to reports from the Far East, where Japanese armies have been slowed down after their sweeping advances of a few months ago.

Just exactly what is the condition of affairs in China is uncertain. That guerrilla tactics of the Chinese have troubled the invader is well established. The Japanese control strategic lines of communications, key cities and seaports but the evidence is conclusive that, after nightfall, few Japanese care to venture beyond the protection of their guns.

How long the Chinese will maintain their spirit of resistance is a question counter-balanced by the theory as to how long Japan can fight without receiving adequate economic profits out of the conquests reported. So far, the Chinese venture has been a net loss to Japan of men, munitions, money and material. Can the island empire keep up her armed advance longer than the Chinese population maintains its dogged resistance? Upon the answer to this question, which time alone will reveal, depends the outcome of the Japanese gamble for empire on a huge scale.

Meanwhile, the Chinese, it is reported, are beginning to lose hope of any assistance from the Western Powers and becoming more willing to deal with Russia. Great Britain, France and the United States have lost, or are rapidly losing, much of their prestige as the Japanese military rides roughshod over their neutral rights.

GERMANY FIGHTS THE WORLD

Following up the peace of Munich the German government has increased the Reich standing army to one million men, making it the largest peacetime army in the world, with the exception of Russia.

Moreover, the German government is using half of its expenditures for the purpose of rearmament and the nation is regimented for a single purpose, that is, to make effective warfare.

Of course, the economic situation in Germany is bad. It has reverted to a barter system in international trade, not because of preference, but because it cannot finance trade any other way. Even Dr. Schacht, financial wizard, admits this and calls upon other nations to make it possible for Germany to go back to former trading methods. He says the new system was forced upon Germany by "American and British tariff increases and the French quota system."

Every sensible person knows that Germany is dissatisfied with its lot in the world and that its rulers have determined to use force to secure advantages whenever possible. As a result other nations are rearming in order to make sure Hitler and his minions, including allies, will not be able to take by force what they possess.

WHAT \$2 A DAY MEANS

It is interesting to observe that Dr. Isador Lubin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, in his statement opening the monopoly inquiry at Washington, called attention to the 5,200,000 families in the United States, who in 1935-36 had incomes of less than \$1,250 a year.

Next, asked the Commissioner, what could these families buy if their income could be raised an average of \$2 a day, or about \$600 a year? His answer arouses the interest of business men:

With such an increase in income these 5,200,000 families would spend, every year, an additional \$800,000,000 for food, \$416,000,000 for clothing, \$613,000,000 for housing, \$213,000,000 for fuel, light and refrigeration, \$224,000,000 for house furnishings, \$385,000,000 for transportation, \$73,000,000 for personal care, \$254,000,000 for recreation, and \$208,000,000 for medical care.

The stock objection to such an increase is that there would be corresponding increase in costs and that family buying power would remain constant, or nearly so. To answer this comes the objective of industry to produce more goods at lower prices while paying higher wages.

The truth of the matter is that the feat is possible but, just now, nobody seems to have the necessary information upon which to proceed. One of the purposes of the "monopoly" investigation is to secure the data upon which to base positive action, designed to definitely lift the standard of living for all Americans.

GOOSEBONE WEATHER

After that November blizzard there are many people who find it difficult not to believe the goosebone prophet who averred the other day that we are going to have a mild winter. It is easy to believe any theory or prognosis that rings in with something that we want. Therefore that gooseboner likely will hear a lot of amens as he circulates his forecasts that on the whole the coming winter is going to be as mild as a devout Quaker's conversation. Although skiing and bob-sledding have more players than ever before in the history of this county, snow is disliked by more U. S. A. citizens than ever before. The automobile furnishes the reason for this dislike. Despite all the gadgets—and sales talks—snow and ice do not pal up well with motor cars. (It cost New York City over a million dollars to remove the November blizzard's snow from its streets.) In the country the fact that from so many farms milk cans have to be moved every day has made snow less popular than it used to be. Yet snow is the best mulch for living plants that man knows of and it is still preeminent as the poor man's fertilizer. Snow and automobiles have formed one more dilemma to worry man's brain.

LOOKS HOPELESS

Those who would like to see the merit system flourish under the forthcoming James administration and spread through all departments of the State government are due for disappointment, according to all pre-inauguration indications.

Although the poll of Republican leaders is by no means complete, there is little or no indication at this point that civil service legislation will be included in the program now being whipped into shape for the 1939 session of the General Assembly. It is safe to say that a constitutional amendment providing for civil service in every branch of the government will be introduced in the next Legislature, but whether it will get any more support than formerly is quite another matter.

Senator George Woodward, the oldest member of the present Senate, both actually and in point of service, has introduced many such amendments in the past but never got much support. He undoubtedly will press for such a change in the constitution in the next Legislature, but how far he will get remains to be seen.

THE REALLY JOBLESS

(From Johnstown Democrat)

The C. I. O. News says: "We demand that the government continue to employ every jobless worker until he is actually employed at decent wages in private industry." What is a "jobless worker"? Is a man who has earned \$2,400 or even \$1,800 during the course of nine months and who is out of work for three months a "jobless worker"? And are "snowbirds" and "canned heaters" who toil not and neither do they spin—even in good times—"jobless workers"? Are young women who never worked prior to the organization of the WPA "jobless workers"?

Quite likely, one of the first things that should be done by those who believe the WPA is a useful organization is to make an analysis of personnel for the purpose of ascertaining just who would work and who wouldn't work back in the days when jobs were "plenty." The man who has a good record as a worker is the chap who should be given preference. As for the loafer who was always up against it when times were good—well, there isn't any reason why he should be kotowed to now.

AN EVER-GROWING PROBLEM

Fifteen or twenty years ago the problem of improved highways was attacked upon the theory that, with a given road mileage, the simple way to complete the construction of a highway system, was to build a given number of miles a year for a definite number of years.

Two facts have upset the idea. First, new mileage has been added to every highway system and the need for additional highways is pressing. Second, highways built fifteen, or even ten years ago, are unable to meet modern traffic needs and must be relocated, rebuilt or enlarged.

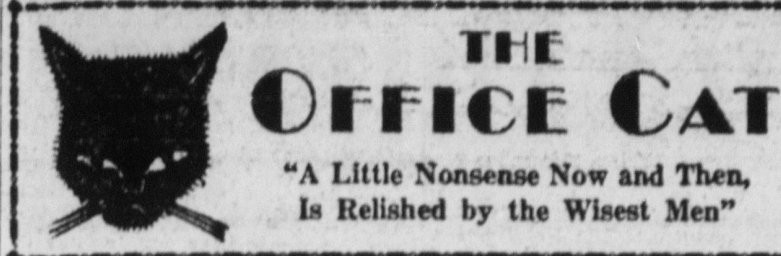
Two decades ago very few highway engineers, or automobile manufacturers, had any clear conception of the speeds that would be commonplace today. "A mile a minute" used to win speedway contests but now it is the accepted pace of many motorists who travel long distances. Highways graded for forty miles-an-hour speeds are not safe for the seventy-miles-an-hour that some sane drivers attain. The same observation applies to sight-distances that safety requires.

BIG INAUGURAL CROWD

Notwithstanding the plans of Governor-Elect Arthur H. James and Republican State Chairman James F. Torrance for a simple unostentatious inaugural January 17, there is evidence from all parts of the State of a tremendous turning out for the occasion. Even though they will go to Harrisburg with the knowledge that no big show is being planned, the Republicans from all of the counties are so enthusiastic over the November victory that they want to be present and join in the rejoicing.

Evidence to this effect is prevalent in Centre county by the number of inquiries made with regard to a special train for the inaugural. Harrisburg hotels are already sold out and the Chamber of Commerce there is interesting itself to see that the visitors for the inauguration have a place to sleep, even if they have to go to private homes.

Only the President has sufficient rank to entertain King George and Queen Elizabeth if they come to the United States next summer. That news should relieve a lot of wives who are worried about the loose plaster in the spare room.



Diary of a Brand New Baby

12:30 P. M.—Dear Diary: Just arrived a few minutes ago, and I'm mad clear through. There I was, mind you, in the midst of a flock of handsome doctors and pretty nurses, and me without a stitch of clothes on. Was my eye—face red. Really, I was so humiliated I just held my breath, and then the doctor whacked me, the big brute. Cry? Say, I simply bawled. A nurse took me into another room and gave me a shower, a shampoo, a facial and a rubdown. I began to feel a little better until she insisted upon taking my footprint. Ye Gods, she must feel I'm sort of a super-criminal because she gave me a number instead of a name, and fastened a chain about my ankle. I wouldn't have been one bit surprised to have been tossed into a padded cell. Next she took my measurements—my hips, my bust, my—well, just about every square inch of me. After such exciting measurements I fully expected a form-fitting gown, but after all that—she goes and sticks a gown on me than hangs like a potato sack. It doesn't make sense.

2:00 A. M.—Dear Diary: Took a little nap, and when I woke up found that I have been moved in with a bunch of other girls and boys about my age.

2:40 A. M.—Dear Diary: A nurse just led "Pop" up to the window for me to see. I was truly disappointed to tell the truth—I had sorta planned on his being tall, dark and handsome. Well, maybe he will look better after he combs his hair and gets that wild look out of his eyes.

3:00 A. M.—Dear Diary: Nurse just took me into see "Mom." She's a darling—just what I ordered. She kept asking if I was all right, and even had a nurse unwrap my feet so she could see with her own eyes if I sure had all my toes.

3:30 A. M.—Dear Diary: Just had a visit from that homely guy I've got to call "Pop." He came sailing in, with a droopy bunch of carnations clutched in his hand. He stuck his hat in the flower vase on the table, and slung the flowers upon the bed. He didn't even see me lying there and nearly sunk his elbow into my belt—stomach, as he bent to kiss "Mom." "Isn't she beautiful?" asked Mom. "Yeh, but she's kinda scrawney looking," gulped "Pop," with a "why couldn't it have been a ten pound boy!" expression on his face. Just wait until I get on that old meany's lap.

Call Your Shots

It seems that two boxers were fighting the main bout at a small club.

At the end of the first round, the kid who was taking a bad beating limped back to the corner and was ready to call it a night. His manager shouted, "Don't be a fool. He ain't laid a glove on you."

The same thing happened in the second round and the soft-hearted manager repeated his speech. "That's swell. See, I told you he ain't laying a glove on you."

In the third, the blows bounced off the poor kid's head like a ball around a roulette table, and he managed to stagger to his corner. He looked up at his manager and roared, "Don't tell me, I know. He ain't laid a glove on me. Well, watch the referee then, because somebody in that ring is giving me a helluva beating."

OUR NUTTY POME

Little Willie—such a dupe— Passed his Pa a bowl of soup. Mama laughed till her face was red; "You're passing soup to nuts," she said.

Technical, Me Eye

Lady Motorist (explaining accident to traffic officer)—Then I stepped on this little gadget and it seemed to do something to the what-you-call-it. I hope I'm not being too technical for you.

There was a young lady from France Who got on a train just by chance The firemen necked her— The engineer wrecked her— As the train jumped over the fence!

Smooth Little Wife

Wife—"I've bought you a beautiful surprise for your Christmas gift—it has just arrived." Hubby—"I'm curious to see it." Wife—"Wait a minute and I'll put it on."

A Saving Woman

A Bellefonte man has confided to us that his wife is getting more economical every year. She had only twenty-four candles on her thirty-sixth birthday cake the other night.

Everything's Normal

"Your wife has been delirious all day," said the nurse, in a worried tone, "calling for you and crying for money." "Hah," snorted the husband. "Delirious, hell."

Needed Rejuvenation

A young man took his girl for an automobile ride, when somewhere along a road the engine refused to go. While waiting for help the young man began to make love and said: "My kisses will put new life into you." "Then, for goodness sake," she responded, "Give the engine a couple of kisses and let's get home."

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN

"Listen, dad. That's Schnetclady." A radio fan was little Bee. But daddy wanted to read, so he remarked: "Well, dischoectady."

The Modern Way

A man entered a saloon with his wife and three-year-old boy. He ordered two straight whiskies. "Hey, Pop," the kid asked, "ain't Mom drinking?"

Must Have Been Hot

A fiery-tempered old business man received a letter which enraged him. This was the reply:

"Sir—My stenographer, being a lady, cannot type what I think of you. I, being a gentleman, cannot think of it. But you, being neither, will understand what I mean."

The bottle of perfume that Willie sent Was very displeasing to Millicent. Her thanks were so cold That they quarreled, I'm told. Through the silly scent Willie sent Millicent.

What! No Prescriptions?

"So Mary threw over that young doctor she was engaged to?" "Yes, and what do you think? He not only requested her to return his presents, but sent her a bill for forty-eight visits!"

By a Different Name

Doctor—"You are suffering from indigestion. Drink a glass of hot water every morning." Patient (star boarder)—"I have been doing that for months, doctor, only my landlady calls it coffee."

Did you hear about the mechanical engineer who wanted to take his nose apart to see what made it run?

That's all, folks. Better to have loved a short girl and lost than never to have loved a tall. —"SCAT!"

Choose Editor of Handbook: Arthur William Engel, Jr., of Seewickley, a junior in Journalism at Penn State, has been chosen editor of the student handbook published by the Christian Association at the Pennsylvania State College. Fred Linsinger of Shick College, was named business manager. Snake Venom Injected: Doctors are using injections of venom from the cotton-mouth water moccasin to tone up and strengthen the walls of the capillaries and restore health to three-year-old Donald Richardson, of Kansas City, who is suffering from a rare ailment that causes hemorrhages among the tiny blood capillaries. Donald showed improvement after the very first injection and it is hoped that continued treatment will result in his permanent cure. If everybody agreed with everybody else the world would stop twirling.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—John Smith asked a friend to give him change for a dollar bill. The friend obligingly drew from his pocket all the money he had, which was exactly six coins that amounted to \$1.15. But still he could not change the dollar. What was the denomination of each of the six coins? (Answer elsewhere in this department).

J. B.—Can you tell me if there is any difference between a husband and a husband? Ans.—Husbandry is either thrift or farming; and a husband is a man who has a wife.

S. G.—Will you please tell me how to figure batting averages in baseball? Ans.—Add two ciphers (0) to the total number of base hits, and divide this by the number of times at bat, using a decimal point before the result. Remember, home runs, three-base hits and two-base hits count only as "hits."

M. W.—Will you please answer in your good paper what Oliver Wendell Holmes did before he became known as a poet? Ans.—The early profession of Oliver Wendell Holmes was that of a medical doctor.

D. P.—What is a "philanderer"? Ans.—A philanderer is a male flirt.

N. V.—What makes a dog go mad? Ans.—Madness in dogs is caused by what is known as rabies. Rabies is caused by a germ that attacks the brain. It can be communicated to other dogs by the bite, and also to a human.

H. M.—Where does the sand on the seashore come from? Ans.—The waves wear down the rocks and break them up. The silt that is produced is carried out to sea by the water and is deposited on the bottom, but the coarser particles stay on the beach and forms what is known as "sand."

D. C.—Does Franklin D. Roosevelt have any official title other than that of President of the United States? Ans.—Yes. He is also Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army and Navy.

K. F.—What test can I use to tell the difference between platinum and silver? Ans.—Dip a toothpick or a thin match into nitric acid and touch the metal with it. If it is platinum, it will have no effect whatever; if it is silver, it will boil and turn brown. Wash off the acid at once or it will eat into the silver.

N. F.—What causes tires on an automobile to blow out more often on hot days? Ans.—Heat increases pressure, as well as pressure increases heat. If a tire gets hot, the air pressure inside it will increase. And if this pressure increases too much, or if the tire is weak anywhere, it is liable to blow out. If tires are not in the best condition, it is best to deflate them a little in making long runs on very hot days.

B. H.—Why do flowers have bright colors? Ans.—Because this helps to attract nectar-extracting bees, the same as the perfume of the flower does.

D. K.—Before the drainage began, what was the extent of the Everglades? Is the water fresh or salt? Ans.—This marsh lake in Southern Florida was about 110 miles long and about forty-five miles wide. The water is fresh and is comparatively sweet and pure. Its depth varies from one to six feet.

M. S.—Is Spanish moss a parasite? Ans.—It is not. It depends upon the tree or post to which it clings for support but not for food.

K. D. W.—What State has passed a law which makes it impossible to sue for monetary compensation for alienation of affections, breach of promise to marry, etc.? Ans.—Indiana was the first to pass such a law, but New York State has now done so. Several other States are considering similar legislation.

C. F.—What disease did Napoleon die of? Ans.—A post mortem examination proved he died of cancer of the stomach.

T. N.—Is there a building in Rome which has been perfectly preserved from ancient times? Ans.—The Pantheon is the only one.

H. B. A.—How is the fruit picked from the cherry trees in public parks and on roadways in the District of Columbia; also what disposition is made of the fruit? Ans.—None of the species of the Japanese flowering cherries in Washington, D. C., bears fruit.

S. S.—How wide is the face of the Sphinx? Ans.—The countenance is carved out of limestone and measures thirteen feet seven inches from ear to ear. The nose is five feet ten inches long.

S. M.—What does wergild mean? Ans.—By early Teutonic custom or law, it was the money equivalent of a man's life. It was a price which, when paid to the relative of a man murdered or killed accidentally, absolved the culprit.

P. L.—What is the population of India? Ans.—It is about 352,000,000. Its area is 1,895,252 square miles. This may be compared with Continental United States with a population of about 125,000,000 and an area of 3,026,789 square miles.

E. J. H.—What is the short name for a female swan? Ans.—A female swan is called a pen.

H. L. K.—What is the meaning of the name Poland? Ans.—It means land of the fields.

L. S. E.—What is the religious affiliation of Thomas E. Dewey? Ans.—Mr. Dewey is an Episcopalian.

J. L. K.—When did women first color their fingernails and wear them long? Ans.—In the days of Salome and Cleopatra, women stained their nails with henna. Under the social regime of the Chinese Empire, finger nails worn several inches long and covered with gold cases were a symbol of the aristocracy who did not have to work with their hands.

J. H. M.—What is the name of the college hitchhikers club? Ans.—It is called the Registered Collegiate Thumbers and was organized by Stanley Fiese of St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa.

H. W. G.—How fast can a fur seal swim? Ans.—A fur seal can swim for a considerable distance at the sustained rate of sixty miles an hour.

J. E. G.—Are Jewish travelers barred from Italy? Ans.—There are no restrictions on Jewish tourists in Italy. The only requirements are individual or collective passports, which are the documents ordinarily requested.

N. P.—Under whose administration was the national debt at its lowest? Ans.—Our national debt reached its lowest level during President Andrew Jackson's term, when it amounted to \$37,515,06 in 1835.

C. H. M.—How far could Sammy Baugh, of the Washington Redskins throw a football on a baseball diamond? Ans.—Baugh has thrown a football 228 feet. It is estimated that if he stood at the home plate on a regulation baseball diamond, he could throw the ball past the second baseman and almost to the center fielder standing in his usual position.

E. L. K.—Please give some information about the Negro writer who won second prize in the O. Henry Memorial Award.

Ans.—Richard Wright, whose story, Fire and Cloud, won the \$200 prize, was born thirty years ago in Natchez, Mississippi. He left home to live in the North where he has studied and worked at various jobs. He is correspondent for a newspaper in Harlem and is the author of a number of short stories.

A. G.—How long did Huey Long once talk in Congress? Ans.—On June 12-13, 1935, the late Senator Huey P. Long began a filibuster which lasted fifteen and one-half hours.

H. G.—Who was the wealthy Philadelphian who assumed an entire Government loan in the War of 1812? Ans.—Stephen Girard, philanthropist, merchant and banker of Philadelphia, who took an entire Government loan of \$5,000,000 at that time.

W. J. H.—What is the origin of the Christmas tuberculosis seal? Ans.—It was originated by Einar Holboell to fight tuberculosis in Denmark. The first Christmas seal sale there was held in 1904. In an article in the Outlook Magazine, published July 6, 1907, Jacob Riis, urged its adoption in this country. Miss Emily P. Bissell, then secretary of the Delaware branch of the American Red Cross, read Mr. Riis' article and determined to try the scheme in Delaware. She designed a seal with a holly wreath and obtained enough money for the printing of 50,000 stamps. These were placed on sale December 9, 1907, in the Wilmington Post Office. The following year the Christmas Seal sale became nation-wide.

K. H.—What is the name of Germany's new low priced automobile? Ans.—It is the Volkswagen which is to be sold for the basic price of 900 marks or \$390.

Answer to problem: The six coins were: One-half dollar, one quarter and four dimes.