

The Centre Democrat

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EDITORIAL

You will find it is usually the little man who is afraid of competition.

You may say one thing for F. D. R.—he is a glutton for accepting responsibility.

Both Great Britain and Germany say that they will win the war. Surely, both can't be right.

The government, in its defense program, is largely letting private initiative demonstrate what it can do.

Every fifteen minutes an American citizen dies in a traffic accident but you wouldn't think this has anything to do with you.

You can better understand Congress when you realize that every member represents a small territorial district, or State, and nobody represents the nation.

An American army of 1,418,097 men will be in camp by June 1st, fully hulled, with all personal equipment and with basic weapons for training purposes, according to present plans.

In order to keep up with developments in naval warfare, the Navy now has five destroyers with the British fleet in the Mediterranean. Data gathered will be of great value in planning our own naval program.

Income tax blanks have been distributed to 15,000,000 Americans and 3,500,000 corporations. Midnight, March 15, is the deadline for filing reports. Due to the defense revenue act, which reduces exemptions to \$800 for single persons and to \$2,300 for married persons, it is expected that the number of returns will double.

While the production of airplanes is not what officials desire, William S. Knudsen last week expressed some encouragement, reporting that the "production" is getting a little better. He said he hoped that 33,000 military planes would be turned out by July of next year, although "we were slow getting underway" and that of these, 14,000 would go to Great Britain.

It is interesting that the Southern States show a greater willingness to take the gamble of a possible war resulting from aid to England than any other section of the United States. The South, it should be recalled, did not have the moral support of the British government in our Civil War, but, by contrast, the British have the full measure of Southern support at the present time.

Japan is taking an interest in defense against air raids, with much emphasis upon anti-aircraft defenses for important establishments. Whether the Japs are looking ahead to a possible clash with the United States, or concerned lest the Chinese acquire long-distance bombers, we do not know, although it has been our idea, for some time, that the United States ought to release a few flying fortresses to China, in whose hands they could become potent instruments for the peace of the Far East.

State Senator Bartless, Northumberland, is on the right track when he proposes a State law which would "reward" the careful automobile driver. Why not some such plan—and why not make the reward a substantial one? And at the same time clamp increasingly heavier penalties on the careless driver; the one who habitually is figuring in accidents. While they are about it, Pennsylvania legislators could well spend some of their time this session on highway safety, even if they have to sacrifice a few nouns from political maneuvering to do it. The State's highway toll last year was a scandal—and it didn't just happen. There is a reason and there is a cure. Let those lawmakers who give lip service to saving dollars give some attention to saving lives. There's big dividends in it, too, in cash and in votes.

PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIDE

Pennsylvanians who attended the State Farm Show can be intensely proud of the exhibition, truthfully comments the Allentown Call. To think of it to be with and to see 100,000 people under one roof is in itself an experience that no one is apt to soon forget.

For those who have not seen it imagination may be stirred to picture the Allentown Fair, minus the race track, grandstand and sideshows assembled in one building where spectators can wander hour after hour throughout the day without thought of unfavorable weather conditions outside, if they exist. But the exhibition is made up almost entirely of offerings by Pennsylvanians and the attendance is confined almost exclusively to people from this State.

Here are the finest products of the men, women, girls and boys of the farms of Pennsylvania and it is a grand show that demonstrates the solidity and the progressiveness of Pennsylvania agriculture and the people responsible for it.

Even more significant to visitors at the show are the crowds themselves. These come from all parts of the state in the greatest variety of motor cars of all vintage. They come in great buses with their children, under the supervision of their teachers, come in the buses that they use daily in travels to and from school.

These crowds are a cross-section of the agricul-

ture population of the state. They are good to look at for they are a sound, determined, hard-working people who are asking favors of no one and diligently are hoeing their own row. They are well but not modishly dressed. They are frugal, not spenders. They are builders and not destroyers. They are seeking to accumulate more than they use. They are the very backbone of the people who make up the producers of this State, worthy heirs of the Commonwealth that their forefathers wrested from the wilderness that was Penn's Forest. They are seeking to do things better than their fathers before did them and better than they presently are doing them. With keen, observant eyes they study the exhibits of all sorts, particularly those in which they themselves are working on their farms. They carry home with them new ideas that are responsible for the continuing advance of Pennsylvania agriculture, now as in all the history of the state the most important single business in which Pennsylvanians are engaged for a livelihood.

CHURCHILL PRAISES HALIFAX

That Lord Halifax, newly appointed ambassador to the United States, has the full confidence of the British government is apparent in the remarks of Winston Churchill before the Pilgrims in London. Mr. Churchill refers to him as a man of "light and learning" and says he has always respected him and his actions, knowing that "courage and fidelity are the essence of his being. Like all other members of the British government he has vowed himself to prosecute this war against Nazi tyranny, at whatever cost, until its last vestiges are destroyed."

Referring to the collaboration of the United States and Great Britain, the great war leader of the British people said that "the future of the whole world and the hopes of civilization, founded upon Christian ethics, depend upon the relations between the British Empire, or Commonwealth of Nations, and the United States of America." The identity of purpose, he said, would determine the way of life open to generations which follow our own, and while there might be a chance for the British empire to "hew its way through" and gain a truce until the conflict is renewed "on sea terms" the chance of "setting the march of mankind clearly and surely along the high roads of human progress would be lost and might never return."

AIRPLANES VERSUS WARSHIPS

The argument about the relative usefulness of the plane and warship is raging vociferously since the dive-bombers attacked the British convoy in the narrow sea lane between Sicily and North Africa.

The damage done to the aircraft carrier Illustrious, the cruiser Southampton and a British destroyer represents some proof that these ships are certainly liable to aerial attacks. The injuries to the cruiser, most heavily armored of the damaged ships, are impressive. The aircraft carrier, with its broad deck is a target made to order for bombs and the thin hull of the destroyer makes it extremely vulnerable.

There is no use for the warship-advocates to point out that the attack was delivered in a narrow channel, close to the Italian base. After all warships must operate where they are needed. The question has some interesting angles, however. British aerial torpedoes played havoc with the Italian seapower at Taranto but, so far, no similar success has crowned German efforts to destroy the British fleet. If airplanes can sink heavy warships and dominate the waters of the world, why haven't German planes gained control of the vital English Channel?

There is no ready answer. The plain truth is that airplanes, under favorable circumstances, can inflict serious injury upon ships but there is nothing to indicate that any nation can expect to maintain sea control without warships. Consequently, it will behoove the United States to have both in ample quantities in order to assure safety regardless of what the course of battle reveals.

WHERE CIVILIZATION HAS DIS-

APPEARED

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Yosuke Matsuoka, gave the United States a broad hint the other day that it might as well mind its own business lest world civilization collapse.

The eminent statesman in Tokyo seems not to understand that modern civilization has already broken down in his own capital, in Berlin and Rome. He talks about the "United States placing its 'first line of national defense' 'even as far as China and the South Seas.' He forgets that this country seeks nothing that belongs to any nation anywhere in the world and that it seeks only to preserve its right to trade with all peoples upon terms of equality.

This concept of modern civilization carries no meaning in Tokyo, Berlin and Rome, where aggressive plans to seize territory that belongs to nations not sufficiently armed to protect themselves. The Japanese have joined Berlin and Rome in an unholy alliance to plunder the world. At present, because they fear the power of the American republic, while engaged in other wars, they indicate a willingness to share the spoils with us, intimating that, if we are good, we may hold and plunder the western hemisphere.

No civilization worth saving could exist if the world is to become the prey of four or five great nations, even if the United States is among them. No sooner than the partition is made, the thieves would fall out and seek to despoil their weaker partner and, in time, if the process went on to its logical development, there would be only one super-power. It is Mr. Hitler's idea that Germany will be that power.

CAMP COMFORTS

(From Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader-Evening News) The government is acting wisely in providing adequate recreation facilities at Indianstown Gap where our own 109th Field Artillery will train and at camps throughout the country where draftees will spend a year.

The fact that each regiment will have its own center is evidence that it is not going to be all work and no play during the next twelve months for the men in service. Camp routine gives plenty of time for leisure and it is well to have it in suitable surroundings. Men are entitled to that consideration, and it is reassuring to learn those in charge of the defense program have not neglected this important item in the rush to provide housing and other essentials for the troops.

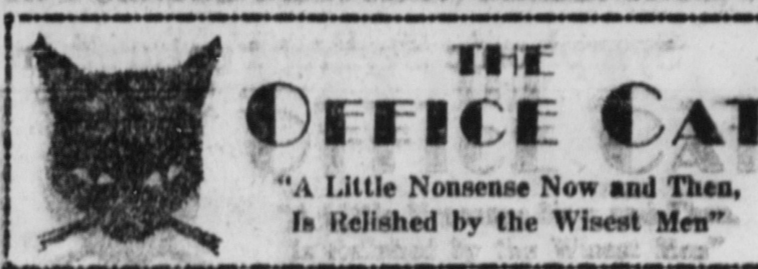
Life at Indianstown Gap should not be unpleasant, as barracks will be modern and ample for all needs. Since the soldiers are close to home, it is reasonable also to assume they will get frequent leaves and it will be possible for local relatives to call on them Sundays. Although they will be away, they scarcely will be out of touch with home. The life of a soldier today is a far cry from what it was in World War days when the confusion and haste took a heavy toll in comfort. Uncle Sam has learned a great deal and the soldiers are the beneficiaries.

CHECKING UP ON CHISELERS

(From Williamsport Gazette) The taxpayers of Pennsylvania should, and we believe they do, appreciate the efficiency of the Department of Public Assistance in detecting and thwarting chiselers. The "chiseled" amounts represent less than one per cent of the annual disbursement.

From the 1835 prosecuted last year in Pennsylvania the state collected a total of \$904,500, and reimbursements of \$522,500 were made under the law which holds a property-owner receiving relief liable for eventual repayment. Effectiveness of the work of recovery is reflected in a sharp decline of the number of complaints.

Detection jobs are often distasteful, but they are necessary, if the state is to be safeguarded from the machinations of undeserving persons seeking to gain relief money through illegal processes.



Ain't It the Truth?

I've seen brave desperadoes die-a-fightin', I've witnessed snow-blind men go ravin' mad. But I've never seen a girl who, quick as lightning, Wouldn't say, "Oh, don't," the good ones or the bad.

I've seen the bear and lion don't battle— I've seen a husky blacksmith lift a horse, But I've yet to see a girl who wouldn't prattle. "No, now don't"—at times involving gentle force.

No, I've never seen a girl in all creation, (And the odds are one to fifty that I won't) Who, no matter what might be her inclination, Failed to say at times, "Oh, no, please don't!"

Case Dismissed

In a near-by county court the other day a meek little man covered under the accusations of his wife's lawyer while the complaining wife grew more and more puzzled. Finally, in a wild burst of oratory, the lawyer pointed his accusing finger at the husband and cried:

"There he sits, your Honor, the man who wrecked this sweet little woman's life. That is the deceiver, the home-wrecker, that is the wolf in sheep's clothing, who preys upon the innocent and trusting, who breaks tender hearts. There he sits, your Honor, with his greedy passions, his—"

"Hey, wait, Mister," the wife called out. "Just hold onto your shirt-tail a minute, if that shrimp's as good a man as all that, I reckon I don't want no divorce at all."

Too Many Nibbles

Panny and Red were indulging in a bitter quarrel after going together all winter.

"You're not so hot," scoffed Panny. "They're as good fish in the sea as I have been caught."

"Yeah, I guess that's right," admitted Red. "But don't forget, baby, the bait's not what it once was."

Correct, Sit Down

"Now, children," said the teacher, "tell me the opposite of the word misery."

"Happiness," came the answer.

"And of sadness?"

"Gladness!"

"And of woe?"

"Giddap!"

One on the Deacon

"Brother Brown, I see a collecter" for de benefit of our worthy parish, explicated one of the Deacons as he called on one of the brethren. "You all know our rector am leavin' dis church and we all am goin' to git together and gib him a little momentum."

Very Truthful

"Guilty or not guilty of this theft," queried His Honor.

"Not guilty, judge," came the reply.

"Have you ever been in jail?"

"No, indeed, sir," came the indignant reply. "This is the first time I have ever swiped anything."

Knows Her Radio

Aunt Fannie—"Aren't you going to say the blessing, dearie?"

Up-to-Date Child—"This food is coming to you through the courtesy of God Almighty."

Didn't Know the Answer

Jones had heard a good riddle at the office, so he decided to try it on his wife.

"Why," he said, the minute he opened the door. "Why am I like a mule?"

"I don't know," said Mrs. Jones. "I know you are, but I don't know why."

Tell This to the G-Men

Sherlock Holmes—"Ah, Watson, I see you have on your winter underwear."

Watson—"Marvelous, Holmes, marvelous. How did you ever deduce that?"

Sherlock—"Well, you have forgotten to put on your trousers."

The Grafters

One evening after a large dinner, three doctors began boasting of their prize accomplishments.

"I grafted a leg on a man, and he later became a champion runner," boasted the first.

"That's nothing," ventured the second. "I grafted an arm on a man and he became a champion prize fighter."

The third doctor thought for a minute. "Hell, I have you all beat," said he. "I grafted a smile on a jackass and made him governor."

Mistaken Identity

Head Clerk—"I'm very sorry to hear of your partner's death. Would you like me to take his place?"

Manager—"Very much, if you can get the undertaker to arrange it."

Horse Sense

Farmer's Wife—(to druggist)—"Now be sure and write plain on them bottles, which is for the horse and which is for the old man. I don't want nothin' to happen to that horse before the spring plowin'."

The Scotchman Again

Tramp—"Could you spare me something for a cup of coffee?"

Scotchman—"Hoot, mon. Do ye think I entry lumps of sugar around in my pockets?"

Libel on the Ladies

Willie—"Did Edison make the first talking machine, Pa?"

Pa—"No, son. God made the first one, but Edison made the first one that could be shut off."

True or False?

If the night clerk in a Niagara Falls hotel told the other employes not to bother the couple in 904, what would the bride's name be?

Answer—Letta Malone.

Slips That Pass in the News

(Newfalls, Idaho, Press) Mary Tarsell, the hired girl, said they were clearing away the tall grass in the back yard. Jim was using the old-fashioned tickle (sickle) when suddenly it flew off the handle.

(Millville, Pa., Recorder) After tearing a fender off Pete's Ford on the turn, the strange young lady checked her car, came back and much to Pete's surprise, gave him her cheek (check) for the full amount of the damage.

(Margill, Ill., Press) Totland stated to police officials that his bride had been hissing (missing) for almost a week.

(Trux, Texas, Tribune) Bill Zuck is on the sick list again. This time with three galls (balls) on his neck.

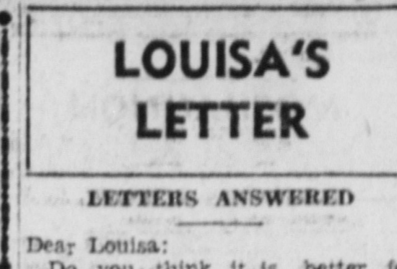
(Ailo, N. M., News) Miss Alice Grants returned last week from a cruise to Egypt and the Holy Land. She had the privilege, she said, of viewing a number of rare Egyptian tumblers (nummies).

That's all, folks. Sarsaparilla Soprano Sophie will now render that little ditty entitled, "When It's Springtime in the Rockies, It's Three Hours Before Noon Over Here."

To Move Post-Office Orders have been received from Washington by Postmaster Luke Binder to move into the Remova Post Office by Jan. 31 at 6 p. m. Work has been progressing rapidly, considering that materials have

been late in arriving, because of defense orders receiving priority. No special ceremonies have been planned for the opening.

Some women mistake long for a mail ticket for love at first sight.



LETTERS ANSWERED

Dear Louisa: Do you think it is better for school girls to go with boys their own age or with older men? My sister says that she allows her daughters to go with older men because they are better able to take care of her than younger boys, but I don't agree with her, do you? I think she is safer with boys of her own age.

MRS. J. E. M.

ANSWER: About the only time your daughter will be safer with older men is in case they are attacked by gunmen or under similar circumstances. Otherwise I would greatly prefer a daughter of mine to be associating with some one of her own age.

To begin with, school girls and boys fall in and out of love, as a natural thing, every few months. They go madly on their way and in the usual course of events meet someone they truly love and settle down. They are as old mentally and emotionally as their associates and able to hold their own ideals, whatever the opinions of others may be.

But an older man, unless he is of fine character, has an advantage over a school girl. She will more readily accept his way of thinking as she feels that he knows so much more than she does.

Unfortunately, most of the older men who choose to go with school girls rather than their sisters, do so because they consider them easy marks. Occasionally, of course, there are good men who are attracted by the youthful appeal of school girls and have no evil intentions toward them. However, even that is bad in a way, for they induce these girls to get married before they are ready for marriage and before the girl's ideas of love are definitely formed. It is a pathetic sight to me to see little girls who should be getting their education and enjoying parties and dances with other young folks, tied down to the business of baby tending and drudgery before they know what it is all about.

By all means encourage your daughter to go with boys of her own age and make your home an inviting place for them to visit.

LOUISA.

Dear Louisa: My child has always made the highest marks in her grade but this year she has come second every term. I think the teacher has a spite against her and I have a good mind to go to see her and tell her what I think of her. Do you think it would do any good or be worse for my daughter?

MRS. D. W. L.

ANSWER: I think it would be bad for both you and your daughter, should you approach the teacher in your present frame of mind and with such an attitude.

Have you ever realized that it isn't the marks your child gets at school, but what she gets out of her books and retains in her mind that matters?

The trouble with you is vanity. You want your child to get the highest marks in the grade, not because it shows that she has learned a great deal, but because you can have the pleasure of boasting about it.

If you are worried because you think your child is not getting what she should out of her books, go to the teacher and have a good co-operative talk with her and try to find out how you can help, but don't make a spectacle of yourself by having a row with the teacher because some other child has probably studied a little harder than yours has.

WHO KNOWS?

1. Who is the President of the Chinese Republic?

2. When was the neutrality law passed?

3. What is the extent of British war purchases in this country?

4. When did Germany construct her great naval base at Wilhelmshaven?

5. How many presidents have been inaugurated on Jan. 20th.

6. Has U. S. trade with Russia increased during the war?

7. How many states have Prussia and Germany waged in the past century?

8. How many counties are there in the United States?

9. Is the chief crop of Peru cotton, nitrate, rubber or coffee?

10. How many workers are employed on defense contracts?

The Answers

1. Lin Sen.

2. In 1935.

3. Bought: \$1,200,000,000; ordered: \$3,019,000,000.

4. It was opened in 1669.

5. President Roosevelt, in 1937 and 1941.

6. Yes; exports to Russia in 1940 almost doubled 1939 figures.

7. Five; Denmark 1864; Austria 1866; France 1870-71; World War 1914-18, and the present struggle.

8. 3,072.

9. Cotton.

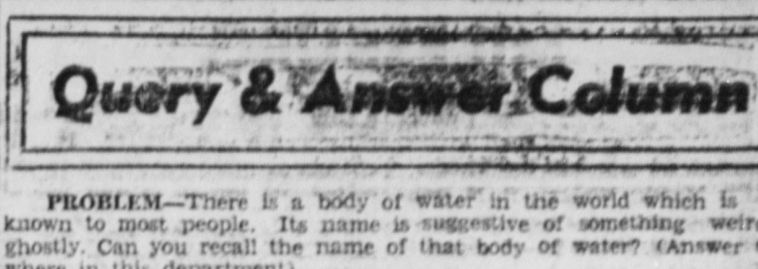
10. Estimated employment: 9,000,000 men, 40 hours a week, for a year.

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A. G. Luckert, P. O. Coatsville, Pa.



PROBLEM—There is a body of water in the world which is well known to most people. Its name is suggestive of something weird or ghostly. Can you recall the name of that body of water? (Answer elsewhere in this department.)

S. S.—Was Ingersoll converted on his deathbed? Ans.—Biographers of Robert C. Ingersoll are agreed that he did not in any way retract his atheistic views, either before or at the time of his death.

G. S.—What makes vinegar sour? Ans.—The characteristic sharp sour taste of vinegar is due to acid.

C. P.—From what kind of plant does henna come? Ans.—Henna is an ornamental shrub or small tree, Lawsonia inermis, a native of Africa and Asia. It bears fragrant flowers ranging from white to red. In California, Florida and England it is cultivated for ornament and is called Egyptian privet. The dye is obtained from the leaves.

E. P.—What was the gunpowder plot? Ans.—Guy Fawkes entered into a conspiracy to blow up the king, his ministers, and the members of both Houses of Parliament on November 5, 1605. His plans were discovered after he had placed barrels of gunpowder in the building and prepared them for ignition. He was tried, tortured, and publicly executed in 1606. Parliament set aside November 5 as a day of thanksgiving which continues to be celebrated in some parts of England.

M. K.—On what ship did the King and Queen of England come to this country? Ans.—They sailed for Quebec on the merchant liner Empress of Australia which was accompanied at sea by the war cruisers, Southampton and Glasgow, and the battleship Repulse.

H. W.—What is the coldest temperature ever recorded in the United States? Ans.—The lowest winter temperature recorded in the United States is 66 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, at Riverside-Ranger Station, Yellowstone Park, on February 9, 1933.

F. R.—Is rice native to the United States or this hemisphere? Ans.—Neither. Rice is native to China, but it found its way to Madagascar, where all conditions were excellent for rice growing. In 1694 a vessel with a cargo of rice bound from Madagascar to Liverpool was driven by bad weather to America and took refuge in the harbor at Charleston, S. C. In return for the "southern hospitality" accorded the crew the captain presented the settlers with many bags of rice. This was the beginning of the rice industry in the United States.

W. F.—Is there a man in the moon, and if not, why is the moon always pictured with a human face? Ans.—No. The moon's surface is made up chiefly of mountains and valleys, and the reflection of the sun, strange as it may seem, causes these formations to resemble a human face. Astronomers use these markings to distinguish the different phases of the moon.

T. F.—Is it true that the Pope contributed to the Washington Monument in Washington, D. C. and how much was his gift? Ans.—Yes, but he did not contribute financially. The Pope contributed a block of African marble from the Temple of Concord at Rome as his gift to the monument, with the inscription "Rome to America." In 1834, during the Know-Nothing excitement when anti-Catholicism was rampant, the place where the blocks were kept was forcibly entered and the Papal stone was carried away. A reward was offered for its recovery, but its whereabouts remains a secret to the present time. No doubt this marble stone some day will be found at the bottom of the Potomac river.

C. H.—Does a woman lose her citizenship in the United States when she marries an alien that has not been naturalized? Ans.—No. Under the present law the citizenship of a woman does not shift when she marries an alien. Formerly a woman's citizenship was the same as that of her husband.

R. M.—What is the meaning of the letters "D. F." used after the word "Mexico," the capital of our southern republic? Ans.—They are the abbreviations of "Distrito Federal," meaning Federal District. The capital of Mexico, like the capital of the United States, is located in a federal district governed by the central government.

J. L.—How much radium is there in the United States? Ans.—The United States has produced about 350 grams of radium. It is impossible to estimate just how much is available at present but the original 350 grams is equivalent to 1232 ounces.

M. H.—Do tree frogs sleep in trees? Ans.—Tree frogs like to take cat-naps. They flatten themselves on some object with colors that match their own so well that they may be taken for a dab of puff, bit of lichen or a knot on a tree.