

HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH

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WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 27.

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands, even as we charged you.—II. THESS. 4:11.

THE WEATHER

SMILING skies make smiling faces. It is easy to be pleasant when the sun shines brightly, even though a wintry breeze is snapping uncomfortably at the ears and nose, but the test of good nature comes on a day like this when, as Dickens said of one like it, "the ice it isn't water, and the water isn't free, and you cannot say that anything is what it ought to be."

The man who can sit down suddenly on a slippery pavement coated with about an eighth of an inch of what he discovers to be the wettest kind of water, and can get up smiling without saying anything that he would be ashamed to have repeated in Sunday school, is a man to tie to in any emergency.

Anybody can get mad when the weather behaves as though it has been especially designed to produce a maximum of profanity in a given period of time, but it is the man who can grin when everything is going at sixes and sevens, including his feet, who is a genuine ray of light in a gloomy world, and he gets his reward.

This applies also to the subscriber who greets the Telegraph carrier with a word of sympathy and appreciation for his faithful service, instead of scolding him when he comes slipping and sliding up the front walk ten minutes or so behind schedule on a night like this.

There are indications that the Kaiser has a better opinion of President Wilson than formerly, but he is not avowed for all that to putting one over on our Uncle Sam.

IMPORTATIONS INCREASE

IMPORTATIONS of manufactures for further use in manufacturing and manufactures ready for consumption totaled \$624,000,000 during the first ten months of the current year. This is \$12,000,000 greater than the total for the first ten months of 1915 (nine of which was under the Republican protective tariff law) despite the fact that imports from Germany, Austria Hungary and Belgium have practically ceased, and France, England, Russia and Italy are using a large portion of their productive energy in the manufacture of war supplies.

This increase in imports of foreign commodities which compete with domestic manufactures, the product of our highly paid mill operators, is due principally to two causes: First, the tariff-for-less-than-revenue rates in the Wilson-Underwood law, and, second, the tremendous industrial efficiency of Europe growing out of the war. If these countries can increase their hold on the American market at the same time that they are carrying on the bloodiest and costliest war in the history of mankind, what is the prospect after the war has ceased and hundreds of thousands of the impoverished swell the ranks of the mill operatives, whilst benign governments lend their financial support to industries which may need assistance to extend their markets, give employment to a tax-crushed populace and rehabilitate their respective nations? Under the Democratic tariff policy foreign goods will pour into the United States as long as we have the money to buy.

Those who arrived late at work this morning had a perfectly lovely excuse.

THIS YEAR AND NEXT

TELEGRAPH reporters interviewing the heads of industrial establishments in Harrisburg receive nothing but the most glowing accounts of business conditions for the year past and most optimistic forecasts for the future. Business has been good, it is good and the promise of the future is fair. But it is not wise always to accept appearances at their face value. Always a glance beneath the surface is advisable. Nor need one be classed as a calamity howler because he declines to be hypnotized into a state of false security by conditions that are so abnormal that they may be upset by even so slight a disturbance as the possibility of early peace in Europe.

Let England, France or Russia reply favorably to the note of the President, and the whole loosely built industrial structure erected upon the foundation of war necessities will come tumbling down around our ears. The United

States is no more prepared for peace to-day than it was for war when Europe took fire more than two years ago.

One need look no farther than Steelton for proof of this. E. G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Company and one of the greatest steel authorities in the world, said in New York last week:

As soon as the war ends this country has got to have tariff protection, or the iron and steel industry will be ruined. This means that the hundreds of millions paid out in wages now to Americans will be paid out to workers living abroad.

Under the tariff now existing in this country no man in the iron or steel industry could live, if he could not pay his workmen, to say nothing of earning a profit.

Before the war it was bad enough with Germany, the only important competitor in the iron and steel business in this country with the tariff that we have.

But since the war began France and England have devoted all their energies to iron and steel production, and they know how to compete as well as Germany.

We have no such protection. Nor are we likely to have soon. It is not within probabilities that the slow-moving, free-trade believers in Washington will repudiate their Underwood tariff schedules before they must. The country will be on the verge of ruin before they will wake up fully to the falsity of their tariff beliefs, although here and there signs indicate that some Democrats are beginning to understand the peril confronting the nation.

So it behooves every business man to trim his ship as to be ready for any gale that may beset. Nothing could be more disastrous than that a period of sudden contraction of trade should find us with an incompleting program of expansion upon our hands.

Don't be mum when you're asked for a subscription to the Mummies' parade.

BOOZE BILL CUT \$3,500,000

ALTHOUGH bootleggers have worked diligently since the State of Washington went dry, January 1, 1916, the city of Spokane figures that it has reduced its booze bill \$3,500,000 in the first year of prohibition, as compared with the days when the saloons and breweries thrived in the State, according to an analysis of the situation made by the Spokane Chronicle.

About \$500,000 has been expended for liquor by citizens of Spokane since the saloons were closed. Of this amount \$150,000 went for the purchase of liquor on permits issued by the county auditor under provisions of the State law. The police estimate that \$350,000 went into illegal liquor purchases. The amount of liquor shipped into Spokane and other Washington cities, the Chronicle says, is expected to be cut materially when Montana's saloons are closed.

Spokane has expended \$3,500,000 for good things of life that formerly went to wreck the health of the drinkers and the happiness of their homes. Business is better for that amount of money; so are the people. The only sufferers are the saloonkeepers, and since as a class these no longer exist, there is small room for worry on their account—especially since they are now engaged in lines of business which in time will teach them the folly of legalized booze.

REJOICING IN CANADA

THE reason for Canada's ob-joyful spirit as a result of a November election has a little meaning all its own, and that meaning is not at all hard to find. During the first 10 months of the current year our imports from Canada totaled nearly \$187,000,000, or more than twice our imports from that country for the first 10 months of 1915, nine months of which were under the protective tariff policy, our Canadian imports for that period totaling \$92,000,000.

Canada has a right to feel elated for she has a fat market for four more years, while goods produced in the United States and seeking the markets of Canada are subjected to high protective duties.

ALAN SEEGER

THE Telegraph takes pleasure in replying to the following letter: To the Editor of the Telegraph: Who is, or was, Alan Seeger? There appeared in the columns of your paper, a few days since, a really remarkable bit of verse by him, called "I Have a Rendezvous With Death"—and after his name the words "Killed in France." Was he a poet of some note, or was this little poem one of those single, insipid verses that war and daily association with death so often bring from the heart of a man never suspected of any literary abilities? I confess my ignorance. I never saw Seeger's name before.

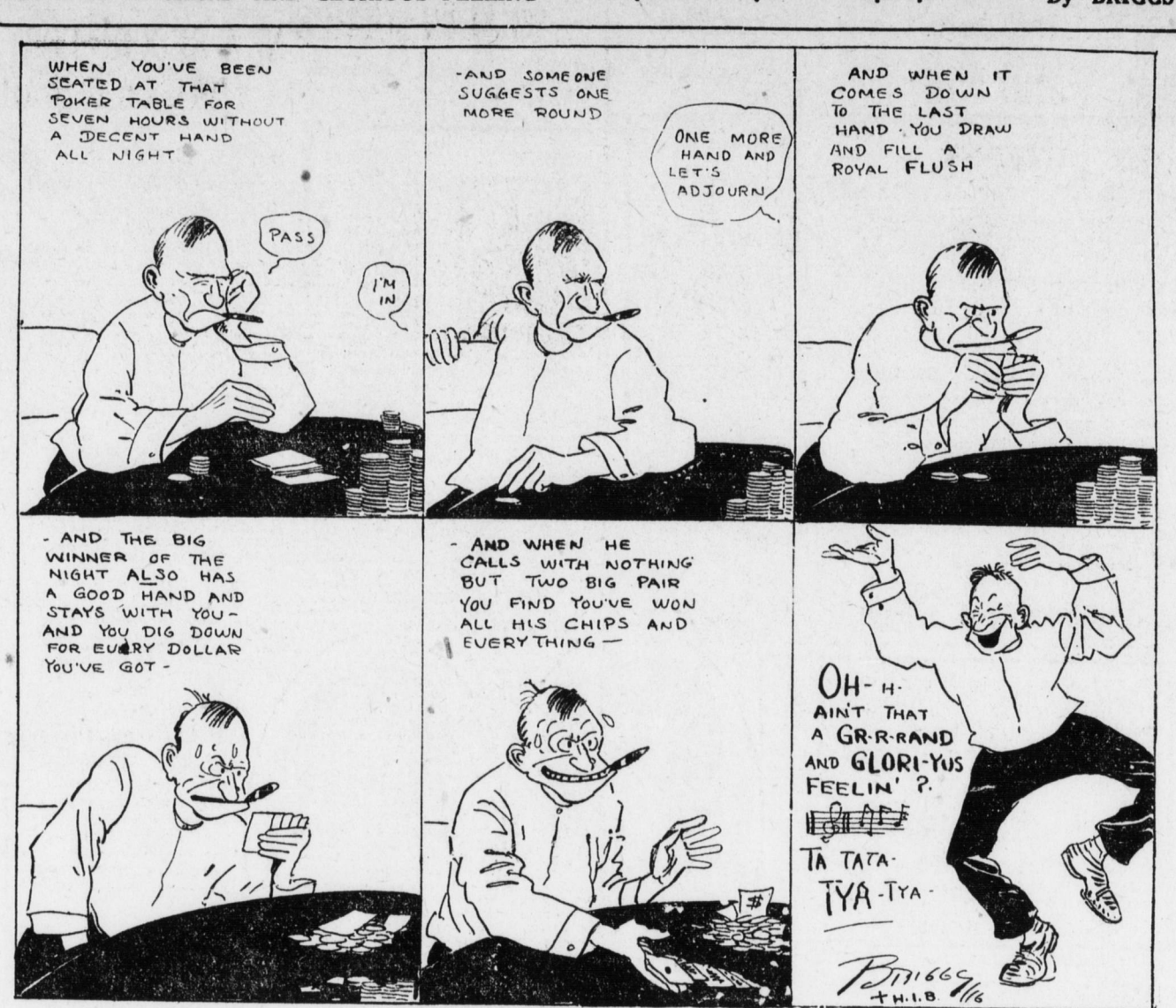
INQUIRER.

This is the third letter of the kind received since the "Rendezvous with Death" was published. Seeger's collected poems have just been issued by Scribner's. His "Rendezvous with Death" is included. He was a young American writer of great promise and he fulfilled his rendezvous before the German trenches in the face of a withering machine gun fire as he charged in the ranks of the French Foreign Legion.

From early youth Seeger had written poetry, and it was his passionate quest of beauty, so faithfully mirrored in his verse, which was primarily responsible for his presence in France at the outbreak of the war, and thus, indirectly, for his enlistment in the Foreign Legion. The reason for his voluntary service is set forth by the poet himself in a letter written from the Alsine trenches to "The New Republic" during the Spring of last year.

He said he had chosen Paris as his abiding place from all the cities of the world—he and his comrades. Paris was in danger, his friends went to her rescue; he went with them. How much literature lost thereby nobody can tell, but it has been enriched by one of the most remarkable pieces of prophetic verse ever penned. Seeger foresaw his doom, railed against it, wrote his protest in lasting lines—and then went forth to his fate

AIN'T IT A GRAND AND GLORIOUS FEELING



Politics in Pennsylvania

By the Ex-Committeeman

Headquarters for the speakership boom of Representative Edwin R. Cox, of Philadelphia, opened last night with a fire of verbal shrapnel, aided by some big gun firing from Capitol Hill, against Representative Richard J. Baldwin, rival candidate for Speaker, and the men behind him. It was the noisiest opening of a speakership campaign known in Harrisburg years, and the closest approach to it was the John R. K. Scott boom in 1913, following which Scott took to the warpath and is still going.

No less than three statements were sent out from the Cox headquarters and one was made by Attorney General Brown, the latter as an answer to Senator William C. Sprull. The Cox shrapnel burst about the bastions of the Baldwin boom, but drew no reply. The man from Delaware sat in his headquarters all evening, while the Philadelphia men who came with it and the Capitol Hill people who joined in the throng, loneliness did not bother Baldwin, who remarked that as far as he knew there were less than half a dozen legislators in the city. The Cox people put out pictures and placards galore and let everyone know that the Philadelphia was strictly in the fight to win.

The essence of the statements issued by the rival headquarters last night amounts to a claim by Baldwin that he has 114 sure, with 2 in sight, and he said that he thought he would have 120 in the caucus, and a flat contradiction by Scott, who said that Baldwin could not muster sixty votes and knew it. Scott also made the statement that if by any misfortune Baldwin should be elected, it would be a slap at the Progressives and would mean Democratic victory.

The Cox headquarters staff was augmented by Director of Public Safety W. H. Wilson, City Commissioner George F. Holmes and others allied with the Vire wing of the party and they spent most of the evening and most of this morning conferring with W. H. Wilson, who appeared every now and then to give out a statement. A. Nevin Detrich was also there and a list of men who are going to help the Cox boom was issued.

James H. Maurer, president of the State Federation of Labor, who is very strongly advocating the election of Cox last night issued the statement which he had been discussing most of the day in answer to the letter of J. J. McDevitt, a vice-president of the State Federation, who had attacked Cox's labor record. Attacking Baldwin's labor record is a favorite diversion of the Cox boomers and when McDevitt turned the vice-auxiliary issued a statement that McDevitt should have issued his letter on stationery of the Bar-tenders' Union and not use the State Federation's.

Presence of ex-Representative Daniel J. Shern, of Philadelphia, at the Cox headquarters surprised many men, as for years Shern and the forces back of Cox were antagonistic.

Senator Vire joined in the statement firing from the Philadelphia end and in a bitter series attacked his opponents.

The Attorney General Brown's answer to Senator Sprull was read with much interest, as Mr. Brown charges that the fees he drew were as counsel for the legislative commission to revise the revenue and corporation laws. He says: "Senator Sprull was chairman of the Senate finance committee during all this time and could, if he would, have added some of these beneficial measures to adoption, but he refused, notwithstanding my repeated and urgent requests to do so. The reason was that he was financially interested in the subjects which in the reports he had recommended to be passed and personal interest tied his hands and silenced his voice. During the last session he was a member of the steering committee of the Senate and House to confer from time to time with the Governor in aid of good legislation. He was the constant opponent of all measures providing for additional revenue, even though part of it was to build roads which he had bound the State to construct and for which there

COMMUNITY CENTERS AND THE GROWTH OF A CITY

A GREAT many people are apt to think that the recent widespread movement in the cities of this country toward the establishment of social centers, playgrounds and institutions of like nature is representative of an innovation in human affairs. In reality, however, there is nothing new in the impulse, nor, when the full fruition of all these efforts is realized, will there then exist any condition which has not been experienced by the people of this country before.

There was a time, before the rapid growth of cities, with their limiting and confining tendencies, had set in, when the community center—although not called by that name—was as pervasive an institution as it is now a rare one. The original social centers were the corner grocery, the church bazaar, the town square, the public market and the schoolhouse. These performed completely all the functions which we now demand a social center shall perform, but their service in this respect was a gratuitous one; in

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Washington Herald—There is no evidence yet that the threatened egg boycott will cause the hens to go on strike or even ask for an eight-hour day.

Washington Post—Those Valley Forge patriots may have been experienced looters, but the cold storage output suggests they overlooked quite a number of fresh eggs in their day.

Curious Condensations

[Taken From Exchanges] One out of four Australians has a substantial bank account. Many ostriches in South Africa are hatched in incubators. A six-mile bore under James Peak, in the Rockies will cut 73 miles off the trans-continental trip. Bessie Arnel, a Chicago nurse, recently received a \$500,000 bequest in the will of an aged woman she once nursed.

The gasoline consumed in the United States this year has been estimated as equivalent to a stream six feet wide and a foot deep flowing at a speed of a mile an hour.

French chemists have discovered that coating the interior of containers with aluminum paint will prevent the accumulation of deposits that often come from hard water.

Swedish scientists are producing a new fertilizer by treating feldspar or another mineral base of potassium with a suitable amount of carbon and iron in an electric furnace.

To obtain a powerful searchlight with a comparatively weak current a Frenchman has mounted a number of incandescent lamps on a revolving circle, each in turn being illuminated briefly and their combined rays being collected by a reflector.

Secretary of Labor Wilson began his career as a coal digger.

China yearly imports \$4,000,000 worth of various kinds of leather.

The Venezuelan Government has decided to build a highway across the Republic that will be 633 miles long.

The world's best cork comes from Spanish and Portuguese trees that are allowed to become 40 years old before the bark is cut, and then it is removed only every eight or ten years.

Ireland has \$4,869 land holders having plots not exceeding an acre, 61,739 who had more than one acre and not more than five acres, 152,229 under 15 and 136,053 not exceeding 30.

To permit the miners to work longer shifts the owners of a German coal mine compress air at the surface of the ground and pipe it to the deepest workings to cool and dry the atmosphere the men breathe.

Mrs. John McDonough of Gorham, Me., roused by the shouting of the telephone operator in an opposite block, who first saw a big fire there recently at once shot her automatic revolver out of the window and ran down the street, pulling doorbells and shouting fire, until she reached the church, where, with aid, the bell was rung.

Foundations of God

Nevertheless the foundations of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.—II Timothy II, 19.

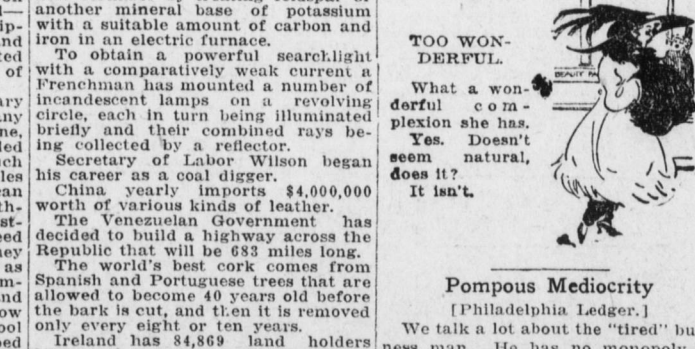
OUR DAILY LAUGH

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. The Christmas spirit, No mistake, Looks like a game Of give and take.



HOPE SHE'LL CATCH HIM.

Where are you going, my pretty maid? I'm going a hunting sir, she said. What are you hunting, my pretty maid? The chump who wrote this rhyme, she said.



Pompous Mediocrity

[Philadelphia Ledger.] We talk a lot about the "tired" business man. He has no monopoly of weariness. In various callings men grow tired, and for various reasons. One of the most fatiguing experiences of this mortal existence is to meet the man whose head is much too large for his brains, whose vanity extends to every pore, whose sensitiveness is ever the chip on the shoulder ready to be knocked off, the tail of the coat dragging on the ground ready to be trodden upon.

Approval of a Modest Man

[From La Follette's Magazine.] Senator La Follette's re-election has been hailed with joy by true Progressives everywhere in the nation.

Evening Chat

Just as an instance of the necessity of getting outdoor work done it may be stated that there are several contracts under way about Harrisburg where the men have to build fires in order to thaw out the ground. This work is going ahead almost day and night, and the stern demands of business, which know no abatement because of the present conditions, are forcing constant effort to get ahead in spite of the weather. In the Reading Railway's track extension work between the city line and Boyd the workmen are digging daily to big fires near them, and the additional track, which is badly needed because of the constant growth of Reading traffic, is being put down in the face of the severest weather. The other day the workmen went to work in a snowstorm, but they made fine progress, and by night-fall had lots of track made. They were probably the only men engaged on outdoor work that day. The work on the new bridge over the Reading tracks at Poorhouse lane is also being hurried along, fires being built to help the men and the road roller goes over frosted ground. In the Pennsylvania yard improvement work is also going ahead, although not favorable on many days for the presentation of outdoor work. The work about the Pennsylvania and Central yards there has been no cessation on the improvements and repairs. The huge furnaces are being constructed at Steelton without any regard for weather conditions.

A good story is being told by persons who traveled on a Pennsylvania Railroad train going to Philadelphia a few days ago. On the train were a number of men active in politics and a game of clench or something like that was played all the way to Philadelphia by Richard J. Baldwin, candidate for Speaker; William H. Ball, secretary to the Governor, and W. Harry Baker, Reading's committee secretary. The man who was playing the clench was with some others sitting in the smoking car with Baldwin won most of the gubernatorial secretary's cards.

"We have sold more chocolates than I ever knew before," was the remark of a confectioner yesterday. "The demand has been tremendous and I think there is something in the contention that there is more candy and less whisky given at Christmas time. The demand for high grade goods has been growing constantly and this year the presentation of candy had in stock. I think we could have sold more. A shipment we got three days before Christmas melted away. The factors, without any regard for keeping up the supply."

The Harrisburg and Valley railways met the biggest strain in their history on Saturday. The travel got in early and continued until late and standing room only was the rule. Both companies had every car in service and the men who ordinarily kicks when a car is crowded, were in a peculiar frame of mind. There was no other alternative. The situation was summed up by the remark of one of the railway men at Market Square in the height of the rush. A querulous citizen was growling about lack of cars and the man replied: "Well, we haven't any more. Every one is out except the summer cars. Want one of those?"

Strange as it may seem there were numerous sleds on the last week and one man who handles such a business declared that he had sold an unusual number of canoes. As a matter of fact interest in river sports has been growing rapidly and the presentation of a canoe or some paddles or some boat seats or cushions is as common as baseball bats and gloves or a tennis racket. But it does seem strange to think of canoes for Christmas when the wide branching Susquehanna is frozen solid.

Major J. C. Kirk, of New Cumberland, who is at the soldiers' home at Washington, where the soldiers occupy the old summer home of President Lincoln, has just had a fine Christmas dinner. Judging from the menu cards sent home. There was a band concert by the band of the home and the veterans enjoyed roast Rhode Island turkey with all the trimmings from oyster cocktails to cigars. There were doubtless some tall stories told. The major is getting ready for his annual march down Pennsylvania avenue.

Captain F. S. Leisenring, who will be in charge of the muster out of the Eighteenth Infantry at Pittsburgh, is a regular army officer who started his career as a soldier in the Chambersburg company of the Eighth Infantry. He went through the Spanish War and won a commission in the regulars afterward. At Camp Brumbaugh he was in charge of muster-in work and is well known to many residents of this city and the Cumberland Valley.

Congressman J. R. K. Scott, of Philadelphia, who is the guiding spirit at the Cox headquarters, is a former legislator and was a candidate himself in 1915. Mr. Scott is vigorous and resourceful and his campaign in the campaign is being watched with interest here.

WELL KNOWN PEOPLE

The Rev. Robert MacGowan, of Lancaster, is spending the week at the seashore.

J. B. McMichael, prominent in Carbon county affairs, has been made head of the Jersey Central engineering corps.

Colonel E. L. Kennas, commander of the Eighteenth Infantry, says that talk about trouble among his men at the border is all nonsense and officers back him up.

S. L. Parkes, secretary of the Berks County Conservation Association, is leading in the movement to disperse grain for the birds in the mountain district of his county.

Dr. J. N. Jacobs, former county controller of Montgomery, who is strong on controversies with officials, is just seventy-eight.

DO YOU KNOW

That Harrisburg plants are making many constituent parts of munitions?

HISTORIC HARRISBURG In old days the bells used to ring in Harrisburg on Christmas Day.

Prohibition Prohibits

The sneer of the liquor interests, that prohibition does not prohibit, has already been answered by several of the prohibition States in the enactment of laws which will make it next to impossible for the liquor interests to invade those States, on any pretext, without the risk of involving themselves in serious difficulty. States that have been "dry" that is are now becoming "bone dry." The latest accessions to the "bone dry" ranks are Arizona, Idaho, and Oregon. Kansas, of course, led the movement. The liquor interests said that Kansas could not keep them wholly out. Kansas accepted the challenge, and does keep them out, as nearly as it is, at this stage, possible to exclude any kind of bootleggers.—Christian Science Monitor.