

The Indianapolis Times

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A LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA

"DON'T take those farmers too seriously," a political leader advises our Washington correspondent. "They planted too much wheat this year and they can't sell it—that's what's the matter with them."

All right, Political Leader, but how about this letter which just came in from a friend out in California? He says:

"Farmers are sore, even in California, this year. It's a canners' year, with canners' prices. The bumper crops are having hard going. One man in Hanford advertised he would not pick his apricots at all. He said the public was welcome to come and get them, but please don't break the trees."

"The hell of it is that with a market price of \$25 a ton for apricots and some selling for less, apricots in this town cost 15 cents for half-green, undersized fruit. Something's wrong!"

Do you take that seriously, Political Leader?

DODGING—MORNING, NOON, NIGHT

In 1917 there were 2,076 automobile accidents in this country; 1,083 persons killed and 3,000 hurt. In 1921 the killed were 1,259, injured 3,976. So far in 1923 some 978 killed and 3,011 injured in 2,221 accidents. If the average is maintained, there will be 700 persons killed in 1,400 additional accidents before the year ends.

During last May, the New York Central Railway—just one road, mind you, loaded 21,244 freight cars with motor vehicles numbering 106,120—an average of 817 carloads a day.

There are 12,588,949 motor vehicles in the world and 10,500,000 are in the United States.

No wonder we are dodging, morning, noon and night.

The situation seems to be growing beyond traffic law control. It is going to be more difficult of modification in the future than now, as the above figures indicate. Thus it is up to the mere plodding pedestrian to save himself in one way or another, if he can do so. He may be compelled to buy a flivver himself on the theory that that would be the best gamble for life he could make. Or he may think of another plan for safety, but he will be gambling just the same. It has come to that.

It may be a crude and impossible proposition, but fortune surely awaits the genius who will invent suitable armored apparel for pedestrians. These suits, of necessity, must be strong and yet light and airy, and they must be capable of protecting the bodies of wearers when knocked down and run over by automobiles. Such or similar suits would secure to pedestrians the privilege of the last and best laughs, which they do not live to enjoy now. Come, genius, the world is honking for you!

BIG FAMILIES BECOME FEWER

THE Ormsby quadruplets, who became nationally famous as a dime museum attraction in 1902, still are living. It is said by authorities that this is the only case of all four members of a quadruplet birth surviving into maturity.

Their mother, Mrs. Josephine K. Ormsby, is farming at the outskirts of Chicago.

She was 26 years old when she married Charles Ormsby, plumber, in 1894. Her children came as follows:

1895—A boy.
1896—Twins.
1897—A girl.
1898—Twins.
1899—Triplets.
1900—A boy.
1901—Quadruplets.

Fourteen children in seven years! The quadruplets consisted of three sons and a daughter. They packed the dime museums for a couple of years and thereby brought considerable wealth to their mother.

The birth of a baby girl to Mrs. Mary J. Barton of Kellyville, N. H., recently made her the mother of twenty children at the age of 45.

You don't often hear of such big families in our generation. In grandfather's day, a family of twenty children would not have attracted much attention, for a perusal of the average family Bible will disclose that five or six children were considered a small family in Civil War times and, while offspring totaled twenty only occasionally, twelve to seventeen children were not at all uncommon.

Big families are getting fewer as the years slip by. The mother of twenty children is almost as much of a curiosity in 1923 as the Ormsby quadruplets were in 1901.

There'd be plenty of twenty-children families, however, if the economic pinch were not quite so tight, though Lemuel R. Barton, farmer-father of the big New England family, says he finds it as easy to take care of twenty as of five.

Proudly he points out that if every family had twenty children our communities would have a great increase in population. They certainly would. There are about twenty million families in America and if each had twenty children our population would be around 440 millions—four times as big as it is now. However, we'll have that population, and more, in time.

TEACHERS WANT the minutest dance back. It will never do. They dance hours, not minutes.

OSHKOSH, (Wis.) man raises about a million frogs a year; not, however, to get the hops.

THESE ARE the days when it is time to go home just before you get settled down to work.

OUR MARRIAGE rate is increasing, perhaps because bow-legged girls are wearing long skirts.

GOSHEN (Ind.) man traveled 2,997,000 miles. He was a mail clerk, instead of hunting a drink.

DOCTORS THINK a Toledo (Ohio) man is crazy because he likes to work too much. We think so, too.

WHAT'S IN a name? Professor Schmack of Paris has invented a machine to measure kisses.

DES MOINES (Iowa) safe blowers made \$3,000 in a few minutes, but it isn't steady work.

AMERICAN WOMEN use 10,000 tons of talcum powder every year, but less gun powder.

WHO REMEMBERS last winter when the ice man was a total stranger?

C. W. SOCIETY OF ENGLAND SPANS GLOBE

Nothing in America Compares in Scope to Cooperative of Britain.

By MILTON BRONNER
NEA Service Writer

LONDON, July 28.—In America we think we know something about big business enterprises, but it is doubtful whether we have anything in our country which exceeds or even approaches the far-reaching activities of the Cooperative Wholesale Society.

In the first instance they at once established buying agencies all over the world. Today the C. W. S. studs England with its plants.

The first factories were very small. Today the C. W. S. studs England with its plants.

It has nine flour mills with an annual output worth over forty-five million dollars. The other things it manufactures for its retail societies are confectionery and oil cake biscuits, crackers, candy, cheese, margarine, lard, bacon, preserves, pickles, vinegar, yeast, cocoa, and chocolate.

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