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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Bank Banditry

Once more the gunmen are after the banks. It has been several months since the local institutions have been raided.

There is a cause for every effect. To find the cause is very often to avoid the undesirable result.

After the gunmen and bandits had run wild months ago a severe policy was adopted by the police department concerning public gambling.

It may have been a coincidence, but it is certainly true that when the big crap games were closed, the number of bold holdups decreased and almost stopped.

That may have been significant. It may have just happened, but very few things in this world "just happen."

For the past few weeks, for some unexplained cause, the gamblers are again bold and open in their operations.

There are a number of such places, run by the same old gang, which now invite customers.

Apparently every one but the police know exactly where these places are to be found.

The same old debate between the police and the courts starts, but the gamblers finish. They finish with the funds stolen from cash registers. They finish with the dollars that should be taken home.

The police explain that the city judges always turn the gamblers loose and scold the officers for daring to make arrests. The judges complain that the police never have the proper sort of search warrants. If warrants are obtained, the gamblers get the tip in advance.

But the sure phenomenon is that whenever there is wide open gambling, there are bank robberies, hold-ups, banditry of all sorts.

Bankers who object to the visits of gunmen might find it interesting to impress the police with the necessity of closing these schools for banditry, as well as catching the bandits.

Juries Are Important

When the President's commission of inquiry gets under way it is certain to hear a lot about the jury system. Many persons are apt to consider the jury an obstruction to American justice and, no doubt, at times it is. Certainly with the spectacle of juries refusing to convict persons arraigned under the Jones law, there is bound to be an outcry against the jury system by the hundred per cent prohibitionists.

Yet the jury remains important to the people. It continues to protect against oppression.

Consider its history: Judges and other agents of the kings had acquired the habit of hanging people for petty theft. The people were unable to change the judges or kings, but they did obtain the right to be tried by their peers—meaning their neighbors, and folks who knew them and had the same interests and feelings as themselves. They knew that juries so made up would hesitate to hang a man for stealing a sheep; they would find "not guilty" instead.

That is what happened.

In the course of time the makers and enforcers of laws learned that less drastic penalties and surer and swifter enforcement is the answer to crime. The too drastic laws were nullified, though many remained long on the books.

It was so with the blue laws. Ducking for gossip and drowning for witchcraft had to be nullified. There are hundreds of such silly laws still on the books today, but no one thinks of enforcing them and no one should think of enforcing them.

There is nothing sacred about the statutes. All are man-made; some are even fool-made.

The Busy Housewife

The government's bureau of home economics just has upset another popular belief, and one which we suspect was cherished by some husbands.

We were quite sure, having been told so often, that home life was disappearing and that ancient virtues were being forgotten. The whole race, in fact, was imperiled by the growth of a generation of cigarette-smoking, card-playing women, who spent their time going to the movies or gadding about when they should have been at home darning papa's socks or minding little Jimmie. They fed the family out of cans instead of bothering to cook. And so on—you know the story.

Now the bureau through survey has discovered that despite changed conditions and all the labor-saving devices, the average American housewife still has as many working hours as her husband.

The average working time of the women studied was fifty-one hours a week. Wives in small towns worked fifty-one hours, and in cities a little more than the forty-eight hours which has been established by union labor. Farm wives worked sixty-three hours a week.

The bureau concludes that the time spent by married women in housekeeping must be reduced to a reasonable full-time job for those now overworked, and to a leisure time job for those who are better adapted to some other kind of work, but are prevented by home duties.

The worst is yet to come. The survey is being extended to find out the money value of a housewife's time.

The Pan-American Highway

A number of important things happened in the closing days of the last congressional session that most of us lost sight of in the press and more sensational news.

Among these was the action of congress authorizing the appropriation of \$50,000 with which the United States government can co-operate with Latin-American nations in a study and survey of the proposed Pan-American highway.

This roadway, projected to link all the nations in the new world, is as deserving a project as has been suggested in years. It would bring incalculable benefits to every nation on the continent, from Canada to Chile—and the United States would probably benefit most of all. It is to be hoped that the new congress will speedily vote the money that the last congress authorized. The sooner this job is started, the better.

Murder Parked Four Days

The average American, it is to be suspected, minds his own business pretty well, after all.

In a Detroit residential district an automobile was left parked at a curb four days. No one went near it. Its presence was highly unusual, of course, but the people living nearby didn't give it a thought.

Finally a policeman investigated. Looking inside the car, he found the lifeless body of a woman. In-

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

"Wall Street Has Put a Definite Crimp in That Most Popular Topic of Conservation—Hooch."

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 28.—Investigation showed that she had been murdered, and that the murderer had disposed of her body by the simple expedient of leaving it in the car and abandoning the car.

It is surprising to learn that that auto, with its ghastly freight, could have stayed at a curb for four days unnoticed. But the American city dweller has a way of minding his own business. He doesn't get nosy when something a little out of the way happens in his neighborhood.

The Homicide Rate

It is something of a surprise to learn that figures compiled by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, statistician for the Prudential Insurance Company, show that Chicago does not have the highest homicide rate in the country.

The distinction, whatever it may be, is held by Detroit, where in 1928 there were 165 homicidal deaths for every 100,000 of population, as compared with Chicago's 15.8.

Chicago, of course, led the country in total homicides—498. New York, second in totals with 401, was fifth in the actual homicide rate, being surpassed by Cleveland and Philadelphia as well as Detroit and Chicago.

These are dubious honors for all of these cities. It is to be hoped that publication of the figures will spur citizens to a new realization of the seriousness of the situation.

Farming

Despite all the talk of agricultural depression, farming continues to be one of the major industries of the country.

The department of agriculture has issued some enlightening figures on the matter.

In 1928 the total value of United States farm products reached the amazing total of \$9,093,000,000. Texas, as might be expected, leads the individual states with a production worth \$783,000,000. Iowa ranks second, with \$545,000,000, and California comes third with \$528,000,000.

When you see those figures you begin to understand the importance of agriculture in our national economy. It is easy to see the boost that general prosperity would receive if improved conditions should enable the farmers to add 15 or 20 per cent to their gross cash income.

A New York critic says the talkies, in bringing to every Main Street the music shows of Broadway, will give the small towns a new kind of civilization. They may be able to overcome it, however.

Today's question: "Why do they call so many of the cities along the Florida coast line 'watering places'?"

The Massachusetts legislature has a bill that would permit deer hunting with bow and arrow. Probably a conservative measure.

The saying that women's work is never done is becoming nearly true these days, with so many labor-saving devices to keep working.

Etiquette Note: The young man asking a father for his daughter's hand has to be prepared to answer the question of whether or not he can furnish alimony sufficient to support the girl in the style to which she has been accustomed.

A manufacturer proposes that used cars be shipped to Germany. But aren't the Germans having it hard enough as it is?

Warden Snook of Atlanta resigned after objecting to the practice of sending federal spies to prisons.

But to date we haven't seen anywhere the headline, "Snook Scores Snooks and Cops Sneak."

David Dietz on Science

50 Miles of Atmosphere

No. 315

THE force of gravitation is responsible for the earth retaining an atmosphere. The tendency of the atmosphere is to fly off into space. But gravity holds it in place.

The atmosphere is thickest or densest—closest to the earth's surface. As one ascends above the surface of the earth, the atmosphere grows thinner and thinner.

If the atmosphere had a uniform density from top to bottom, it would extend upward only five miles above the earth's surface.

But the atmosphere extends to a much greater height and the density falls off very rapidly.

At a height of thirty miles, the air is only one-hundredth as dense as it is at the surface of the earth.

At a height of fifty miles, the air has become so thin that it does not exert any measurable pressure.

There is some air at this height, however. This is proved by the fact that at twilight there is some reflection or bending of the sun's rays at this height, and also by the fact that meteors "or shooting stars" become visible at this height.

Meteors are small chunks of rock coming in from outer space which become luminous because they are heated to incandescence by friction against the earth's atmosphere.

Just how much farther the atmosphere may exist is a problem. Dr. Willis Luther Moore, former chief of the United States weather bureau, is of the opinion that the atmosphere gives out somewhere between fifty and 100 miles above the surface of the earth.

Meteorologists and physicists are very much interested in studying the upper reaches of the earth's atmosphere because they think that many of the weather conditions near the surface of the earth may be connected in some way with what is going on at high altitudes.

Studies have been made of the upper reaches by sending aloft balloons to which scientific instruments are attached.

These instruments are of the recording type so that their records can be read after the balloon has been recovered.

Balloons are also used to study air currents. A small balloon is released. Its movements are then followed with a small range-finding telescope.

Interesting data also has been collected recently by airplane flights, though it is impossible for a plane to attain the same heights that the small balloons do.

Not Bad for Business

ON this journey across the United States and back again to warrant the belief that the nation's business structure will be seriously shaken, no matter what happens.

It is true that something like \$20,000,000 worth of water has been forced into the capital investment by one of the most protracted, if not spectacular, bull markets in history.

All of it were to be squeezed out, we should have lost but little more than it takes to buy and operate our autos each year and most of that goes for joy riding.

If the cash involved were lost, there might be more cause for alarm, but in the majority of cases, it merely has changed hands.

In the majority of cases there is little to show for all the whoop-la and commotion, except a mass of paper contracts.

Changing Pockets

THE bulk of the so-called for

lives of the I'm Alone was her little signal flag which cried out, "No" above the gale until the waves sucked her down and the gallant negative nailed to the mast.

Navy Wins Another

OF course, the victory lies with our American arms, and yet I doubt whether the admirals and the ensigns will talk much in the long nights about this fight as they might sometimes discuss even yet the Monitor and the Merrimac.

Nor will school children be asked each one to give a penny to save the Dexter from the junkyard. Oh, yes, we won, but let's not talk about it.

We got the ship and one of the sailors, but we never got the skipper's "Yes." We salted down good liquor, but not the soul of John T. Randell.

To my surprise, on going below after supper, I was told that I did not consider that I was a prisoner of war and had no intention of doing anything rash. But he assured me that it was his orders, and as

such I told him that I could only submit to force."

I am, also, surprised. It would be interesting to know just who issued the order. There were ships and seas before there was a Volstead and the tradition of deep sea sailors has always been that a gallant fight deserves fair words and courtesy after you have conquered him.

Well, Mr. Adams?

WHAT would have happened, I wonder, if, by any chance, Charles Francis Adams, the secretary of the navy, had been aboard the cutter Dexter. Adams is a skipper himself and a good one, too, though he has done his sailing without benefit of auxiliary engines.

If he had felt it was his duty to sink the spunky I'm Alone, no doubt he would have done so, but sinking a good fast ship seems to sailors almost as much a profession as burning an orphanage would seem to us on land.

But whatever the course of events as they might have been taken in the terms of Charles Francis Adams, I feel certain that he would have extended a hand of fellowship to the Canadian skipper and said, "That was quite a run you gave us."

Leg irons are hardly fitting for a man who has signaled, "You may fire when you wish," and then faced the fusilade.

It never has been prohibited

which I objected to so much as the things which go with it. The I'm Alone was sunk in the same week which saw a recommendation from the Methodists that any foreign diplomat be handed his papers if he refused to take on American abstinen-

ce. All letters are confidential, they are normally invited to make use of this service.

What is the National Vaudeville Artists, Inc.?

AN organization which extends its

fraternal and benevolent care to

about 15,000 members and between 2,000 to 3,000 artists in other branches of the theater who are or

have been engaged in vaudeville.

It was started in May, 1916. The bene-

fits to the members include a paid-up life insurance policy, sick bene-

fits, a pension for members and their dependents and aid of any

kind that can be given to the mem-

bers in time of emergency or need.

What is the origin of the state names Wyoming and Wisconsin?

Wyoming is an Indian name meaning "extensive plain." Wis-

consin is also an Indian name meaning "wild rushing channel."

Who holds the record for the

junior one-mile run?

George C. Ashton of the Pitts-

burgh Athletic Association. The

record is one mile in 4 minutes, 23

and one-fifth seconds.

What is natural history?

In the