

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM AND SUN-TELEGRAM

Published Every Evening Except Sunday by
Palladium Printing Co.
Palladium Building, North Ninth and Saffor Streets,
Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Indiana, as
Second-Class Mail Matter.

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The Farmers' New Year Song

From one of the rich farming districts of the United States comes the appended article. It is based on a quotation from the Bible, to which the Kansas City Star has added a commentary. It follows in its entirety:

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks,
And look well to thy herds,
For riches are not forever,
And doth the crown endure to all generations?
The hay is carried and the tender grass showeth itself,
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,
The lambs are for thy clothing,
And the goats are the price of the field;
And there will be goats' milk enough for thy food,
For the food of thy household,
And the maintenance of thy maidens.

"This brief and beautiful song from the Ancient Book of Proverbs is a gladdening New Year's message for the farmer. This is a time when we need music, poetry, religion and optimism. It is an hour that calls for faith, idealism and courage.

"The ancient song begins with the ever old and yet new demand to be diligent. The farmer realizes this and knows from experience that he must know the state of his flocks and all the business connected therewith. And the farmer

does not despise his work, nor think mainly of the burden of his duties in raising pigs, nursing sick lambs, grooming horses or brightening the machinery for spring use. They are to him but details of a great undertaking—feeding and clothing the world.

"Still the poem is written in a minor key. Life is uncertain and full of change. 'For riches are not forever'—'Prosperity is a winged bird'—who knows the truthfulness of this better than the farmer?

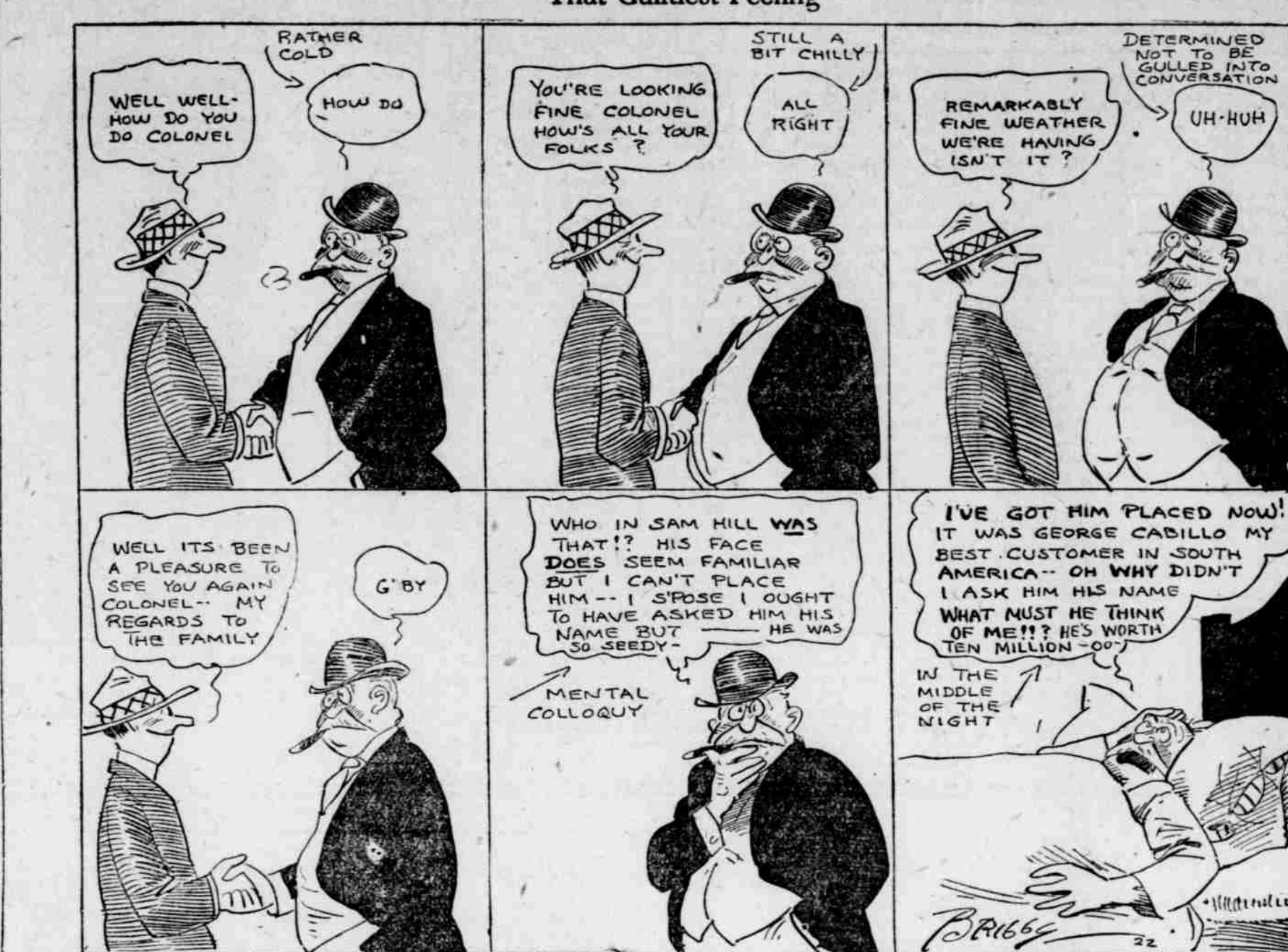
"Storms come, harvests linger, droughts visit, army worms destroy, thieves break through, rust corrodes, markets fluctuate, and wealth decays."

"A return to the old-time virtues of thrift, industry, economy and frugal living, the farmer better than anyone else knows is the way back to safety and prosperity. Then the farmer understands that Mother Earth will care for her children, for the spring will come again when 'tender grass growth itself.' There are better days ahead.

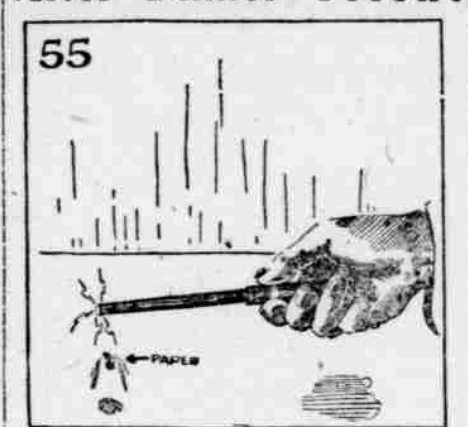
"After all, we are faring better than crowned kings. We can come back, they cannot. For 'Truly the crown' as a symbol of power and security 'doth not endure.' But agricultural resources are as secure as the treasures of the hills. The farmer is the embodiment of the spirit of this song of faith and assurance. He trusts in the future and knows it will provide.

"As we face the New Year, this song is a challenge in these distracted times to live calmly and confidently; to live above the fret that poisons the body and embitters the soul; to exercise a militant and triumphant faith and a bold, progressive optimism as we enter this new era of world development."

That Guiltiest Feeling



After Dinner Tricks



No. 55—The Magnetic Fountain Pen
Here is a simple experiment in physics, which is not known to most people, and, as a result, makes an effective little trick.
Take a fountain pen and rub it on the coat sleeve, very quickly, under the edge of the table. Lay a very tiny bit of paper on the table, and approach it with the fountain pen. The electricity rubbed in the pen will attract the paper just as a magnet attracts soft iron, and will lift it clear of the table.

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Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason

THE OLD BOYS
I live where many old boys come, to spend their years declining; no more for them the busy hum of commerce, they're opining. The heat and burden of the day they've borne, it seems, for ages, and now it's up to them to play, like birds released from cages. When they arrive they're all so glad to do the good to view them; but soon I see them looking sad, and fancies come and chew them. This is the life they thought would please, in years of stern endeavor, long days of play and restful ease, and hard work gone forever. This is the life of which they dreamed in years of busy mulling, where trolleys clanged and whistles screamed and weary crowds were tolling. And now they wish they might be back amid the wild commotion; they walk along the sandy track, and rubber at the ocean. They gaze upon the views sublime, their faces split with yawning, and spend large portions of their time dodgast and doggoning. Soon, soon they tire of luscious ease.

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Memories of Old Days

In This Paper Ten Years Ago Today

Will W. Reller was elected president of the Young Men's Business club for the ensuing year, at a meeting of that organization at the club rooms in the Colonial building. Other officers were elected, reports on the past year were read, and plans for the ensuing year were discussed. Statements made by the retiring officers showed that the hustling organization had forged ahead rapidly during 1911, and had aided in securing many new public conveniences for Richmond, and had fostered most of the leading civic improvement projects. The new officers, in addition to President Reller, were elected as follows: Fred H. Lemon, vice-president; Raymond B. Mather, secretary; Walker Land, treasurer.

A war on dogs was being staged by the police force during a scare which led many people to believe that the pets were becoming vicious. Mayor Zimmerman ordered all dogs muzzled.

James J. Montagu's favorite story is that of the cow-puncher who married the school teacher in a small Wyoming town. Immediately after the wedding they left town on horseback to take up their residence in a ranch house some forty miles away in a wild cow country.

A year later one of the wedding guests met the bridegroom in the same town.

"Hello, Bill," the wedding guest said. "How's the wife?"

"Ain't you heard?" the cow-puncher asked.

Heard what?" his friend inquired in return.

"Why you know that day we got married and started to ride out to the ranch house," the cow-puncher explained, "my wife fell off her horse and broke her leg. We were twenty miles from a doctor, too."

"Ain't that terrible!" the friend exclaimed.

"You bet your life is was terrible," the cow-puncher said sadly.

"What did you do?" the friend asked.

"What could I do?" the cow-puncher replied. "I shot her."

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TODAY'S TALK

By George Matthews Adams, Author of "You Can," "Take It," "Up"

THE RICHNESS OF FRIENDSHIP

Lincoln once said that God must have loved the common people a great deal for he made so many of them.

In thinking of the richness of human companionship and friendship, I have had the same thought in mind—that God must have thought wonderfully of it, or He wouldn't have made it so very beautiful. And He wouldn't have made such a wonderful world, filled with beauties of so many kinds, had He not meant that this friendship should remain as the one cementing power to life.

Picture yourself with not a friend on earth, and you feel so lonely that you do not want to live at all—even though you were to possess the world!

With very little in material things, we may be rich indeed if we have friends.

And if we would build a life more than worth while, we must ourselves know all that it takes to make up a friend.

I think that the first thing in friendship is loyalty. The charm and loveliness of friendship lies in the fact that our friends have most of the faults and virtues common to us. Or else we couldn't warm to them and love them—in their mistakes as well as in their near-perfections.

The sunsets hover about the good and bad in Nature—and give of their inimitable colorings as though everything they touch was perfect. I feel that the greatest happiness of my life lies in these unpretentious little Talks to you from day to day—for I think of you as one of my friends. And I am thrilled with warm joy at the many expressions of kindness that come to me from many of you.

God bless you and give you a larger appreciation of the richness of friendship as you work out your particular tasks through the years. Every time you feel a desire to be a better human being and more helpful in the world, that minute the entire world grows better!

We are small units in a very great whole. Our responsibility starts within us. And then it is possible for our influence to radiate—to only God knows where. He takes what we start and finishes it as only His perfect fashioning can.

Let us, therefore, never falter in our striving.

Who's Who in the Day's News

KARL LANG

Karl Lang, new German charge d'affaires to the States, has assumed new duties in Washington, succeeding Baron Edmund Von Thurman.

Lang is thoroughly conversant with Germany's diplomatic policies. He has been in the service 24 years. He is about 50 years of age. He began his career as general vice consul at Hong Kong. Before the world war he was stationed in Montreal as consul general. He returned to Germany and was taken into the German foreign office. During the war he was in charge of the trade relations of Germany and neutral countries.

It is understood that when Germany names an ambassador to the United States, Lang will become consul general at New York.

Baron von Thurman remains in Washington as counselor to the German embassy.

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