

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

One Human Shipload
A Floating Microcosm
Intelligent Mrs. Widener
Mrs. Astor and Dr. Carrel

On Board the Normandie.—The ancient writer made this admission:



Arthur Brisbane

There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

What would that inspired writer say of this modern ship in the midst of the sea? The biggest ship he ever saw could be hung from the ceiling of the dining salon on this boat or tucked away in a corner of the sun deck, disturbing no one.

A modern ocean liner, Queen Mary, Normandie, Rex or Europa, as it crosses the ocean indifferent to waves and winds, is a small world in itself, a microcosm, with this little earth playing the role of "Cosmos." If this ship should sail to some new, uninhabited island of Utopia, it might supply everything necessary to start a new civilization better than the one invented by Sir Thomas More, who has been made a saint since he wrote "Utopia" to amuse himself and had his head cut off for his Catholic faith.

On board, with his friend, George Bacon, is Myron Taylor, head of the United States Steel company, biggest industrial unit on earth. He would supply the material for skyscrapers, ships, railroads and machinery, plus organization.

Simon Guggenheim would tell them how to make corporations profitable, by "holding on."

Various newspaper workers on the boat would be ready to start "the New Utopia Gazette"; Floyd Gibbons for war correspondent, plus members of the Edward H. Butler family, that own the Buffalo News, and the able Abraham Cahan, known to more New Yorkers than any editor in America, with one exception. And, most important to newspaper prosperity, the ship carries Mrs. George D. Widener of Philadelphia, who has traveled up and down in every corner of the earth and says to your narrator:

"Mr. Brisbane, I have always wanted to meet you, because I read your articles every day."

There spoke the nucleus of a highly intelligent reading public.

Mrs. Vincent Astor, on her way back from a grouse moor in Scotland, would resume her real job of promoting deep music, finding co-operators in the passenger list—Madame Flagstad, the admirable Norwegian singer, a deep soprano able to make Isolde more impressive than Wagner ever imagined her. On board also is Arthur Bodanzky, ready to conduct the "New Utopia orchestra." Mayor LaGuardia of New York will tell you how earnestly Mrs. Astor talks to him about her plans for a great musical center. But Mr. LaGuardia will never know what shudders would sweep from Ward McAllister's pineal gland to his Achilles tendon if he could hear Mayor LaGuardia say of the young lady in question, "That Mrs. Astor is a nice, serious girl, thoroughly in earnest."

To make this list complete, P. G. Wodehouse is on board, one who could and should describe this shipload of "important humanity" going nowhere in particular, for no reason in particular, some in the steerage, some "tourist" and some, with cabins on the sundeck, whose names break up passenger list continuity to make room for the magic words "maid, valet and chauffeur."

The contest between modern ships for the "Atlantic blue ribbon," or ocean championship, held at this moment by the British Queen Mary, supplies most amazing proof of modern engineering efficiency. Consider that, in a race across 3,000 miles of water, the Queen Mary, after being beaten several times by the French liner Normandie, beat the latter and took the Atlantic blue ribbon by a margin of less than half a mile, across 3,000 miles of ocean.

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Current Events

IN REVIEW

by Edward W. Pickard

France Devalues Franc; Gold Standard Dropped

FRANCE at last came to the conclusion that it could no longer support the franc and Premier Leon Blum's government decided to abandon the gold standard and devalue the franc to between 4½ and 5 cents. The Netherlands, Latvia and Switzerland immediately determined to follow suit. To save the world from a currency war, the United States, Great Britain and France entered into a "gentlemen's agreement." The exact nature of this agreement was not revealed, but the United States promised to employ its \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund to head off the feared struggle. Certain it is that each of the three nations reserves the right to depart from the pact if and when its own interests require such a course. An expected outcome of the now general dropping of the gold standard may be an international conference for stabilization of world currencies. This might be held in Washington.

Blum called a special session of the French parliament to pass the necessary legislation, and his plan was given grudging approval by the chamber of deputies. Its adoption by the chamber, where the "popular front" has a big majority, was taken for granted, but a fight was expected in the senate. The general project was divided into five sections, as follows:

1. Fixes the new gold content of the franc at a point between 43 and 49 milligrams of gold, prohibits the export or import of gold, and creates an equalization fund.
2. Permits the requisition of gold by the government, obliges individual citizens to declare their gold holdings, creates a tax on profits made from devaluation of the franc, and obliges market traders to reveal their operations in foreign exchange since September 2.
3. Creates a movable salary scale and makes various readjustments in the civil service, pension rates, etc.
4. Provides for readjustment of certain specific taxes such as those on oil, coffee, pepper, tea and sugar.
5. Makes certain changes in the debt structure of such public institutions as cities and communes necessitated by devaluation.

From the Chicago Journal of Commerce is taken this plain statement as to what France's action means to the ordinary American citizen:

"Reducing the amount of gold represented by one franc will mean that the average American will be able to travel cheaper in France than for the last two years. French wines should be cheaper in this country and women should be able to buy French perfume for less. That should be true of nearly everything else that France exports to the United States—unless this country hikes the tariff on French exports or French prices boom out of proportion to devaluation. Indirectly, franc devaluation may keep Americans from war as the act may be a wedge for currency stabilization the world over and more brotherly relations between all nations. But don't lose any sleep over it unless you are getting an income from someone in France."

Russia Hotly Denies Morgenthau's Charge

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU excitedly told the correspondents that soviet Russia attempted to upset the "gentlemen's agreement" between the United States, Great Britain and France. The state bank of Russia, he said, moved to drive down the price of the pound sterling by ordering the sale in New York of 1,000,000 pounds sterling "at any price." He said he frustrated this scheme by buying the pounds offered with money from the Treasury's stabilization fund.

The Soviet State bank declared Morgenthau's assertion as to the bank's purpose was without foundation and a nonsensical invention; that the transaction was an ordinary banking operation. The secretary's statement, the bank continued, "appears to be an undignified anti-soviet attack which is not based on defense of international currency

equilibrium and the value of sterling, but had some other aims."

Harry Woodring Named Secretary of War

HARRY H. WOODRING was named by President Roosevelt to be secretary of war, filling the vacancy caused by the death of George H. Dern. This is a recess appointment, for the place had to be filled within thirty days. It may be the President will submit the name of another man to be permanent secretary early in the next session of congress. Those most often mentioned for the place are Gov. Paul V. McNutt of Indiana and Frank Murphy, commissioner to the Philippines, who is running for governor of Michigan.

Spanish Fascists Capture City of Toledo

GEN. FRANCISCO FRANCO'S furious Spanish Fascists reached the ancient city of Toledo and drove out the government troops with shell and bayonet. The rebels fought their way through strong defense and as they reached the center of the city there was a great shout from the Alcazar. Out of that battered citadel rushed the ragged, battered and half-starved cadets who had withstood a terrific siege for almost ten weeks. This heroic garrison joined the insurgents in charging the defenders and finally the Socialist troops scattered and fled southward over the Tagus river. Their way to Madrid was blocked by Franco's columns.

Fascist bombing planes made several destructive raids on Bilbao, killing a large number of the citizens, smashing innumerable buildings and damaging two warships in the harbor. The enraged government sympathizers demanded that Fascist hostages held in the city be executed in reprisal, and finally a mob of anarchist amazons swarmed aboard a vessel on which many hostages were kept and brutally slaughtered 210 of them after putting them to the torture.

That the Spanish government realizes its precarious situation is evidenced by its proclamation ordering Madrid to prepare for a siege, followed by a manifesto calling on everyone, women as well as men, to rally to the defense of the capital.

Spain Warns Nations Not to Interfere

SPAIN'S representative in the League of Nations, Foreign Minister Julio Alvarez del Vayo, solemnly warned other nations members of that body that they must not interfere with the Spanish civil war, which he said forbode a future war, not between states but between political concepts.

"The bloodstained soil of Spain already is the battlefield of world war," he contended in what other delegates construed as an attack on Germany, Italy and Portugal for allegedly arming the Spanish Fascist insurgents. He assailed the European nonintervention agreement as "direct and positive intervention in behalf of the rebels" and as a "blockade of the lawful Spanish government."

British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, in a rather pessimistic address, said his government stood for an amendment to the league covenant to enable the league to intervene in the early stages of a dispute. He also proposed: Negotiation of regional pacts, separation of the league covenant from post-war treaties, measures to restore international trade; inquiry, under league auspices, into the question of access to raw materials, and reduction and limitation of armaments and publicity for armament expenditures.

Minneapolis Strike of Mill Workers Ends

ABOUT 1,800 mill workers of Minneapolis returned to their jobs, their strike having been settled. It had lasted for a month and had paralyzed the great milling industry of the city. The mill owners agreed to recognize the right of collective bargaining and to permit employees to choose their own representatives.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for October 11 BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

LESSON TEXT—Acts 16:22-34, Philippians 2:7-16.
GOLDEN TEXT—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.—Acts 16:31.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Two Happy Prisoners.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Heroes in Prison.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—How May I Become a Christian.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How to Become a Christian.

The conversion of Lydia and her gracious growth into usefulness as a Christian is in striking contrast with the experience that Paul had with the demon-possessed damsel (Acts 16:16-18). A satanic power of divination had made her profitable to unscrupulous men. Such men have not perished from the earth, and there are still those who make merchandise of silly and sinful women.

Paul commands the demon to come out of her and at once the issue is drawn.

I. Christianity versus Crooked Business (Acts 16:22-24).

As long as the missionaries were at the place of prayer and in the home of Lydia they were not disturbed. But as soon as they touched the illegitimate gain of these "business" men who were making money from the misfortune of the poor damsel, bitter opposition arose. Cunningly combining the plea of false patriotism and anti-Semitism with the ever-potent argument that business was being hindered, they raised a hue and cry which resulted in the beating and imprisonment of Paul and Silas (Acts 16:21).

We live in another century, but men are the same. Let the church and its members only go through the motions of formal service and present a powerless religious philosophy, and the world will applaud and possibly support its activities. But let the pungent power of the gospel go out through its life and ministry, and deliver devil-possessed men and women, let its God-given grace expose the hypocrisy and wickedness of men and there will soon be opposition.

II. Down, but not defeated (vv. 25, 26).

The preachers landed in jail, beaten, bloody, and chained to the stocks. What a disgrace it would have been if they had come there because of their misdeeds. How ashamed we are when professed Christian leaders sin and fall into the hands of the law.

But "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake" (Matt. 5:10). Little wonder that they forgot their bruises and their chains and began to sing and pray, even at midnight.

Note that "the prisoners were listening to them." The words we speak, the songs we sing, our every action, speak either for God or against Him. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

As they pray God speaks, chains fall away, prison doors open. Men can lock doors; God shakes them open.

The jailer, cruel and bold when he put them into prison, but now in fear, is about to kill himself. But God has better thoughts concerning him. Paul cries out, "Do thyself no harm" and he experiences

III. Salvation Instead of Suicide (vv. 27-34).

Thank God for the earthquakes in our lives which bring us to him.

The jailer, being rightly exercised by God's dealings with him, asks the greatest and most important question that can ever come out of the heart of unregenerate man—"What must I do to be saved?" Reader, have you asked this question? Then you, too, are ready for the answer, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

The closing verses of our lesson present the personal testimony of Paul that he had surrendered

IV. All for Christ (Phil. 3:7-14). All was but loss to him compared with what he gained in Christ. We speak of surrendering all for Christ, but as a matter of fact we lose only what is of no real value and make infinite gain.

Paul, as are all great followers of Jesus Christ, was a "one thing" man. All that he had or was or hoped to be, every ounce of energy and love, went into his pressing "toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

It's hard for me to sit and knit Or sew up endless seams. I'd rather sit in idleness Just weaving little dreams.



WNU Service.

Letters on Airplanes

The letter "C" preceding the number on an airplane is used for commercially licensed aircraft not used solely for governmental purposes or belonging to states or their subdivisions, nor engaged in racing or experimental work or specially licensed for other purposes. The letter "N" must precede the license symbol and number on licensed aircraft engaged in foreign air commerce and, at the option of the owner, may precede it on other licensed aircraft, provided that aircraft licensed for experimental purposes shall not display the letter "N."—Detroit News.

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Watch Your Kidneys!

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YOUR kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as nature intended—fail to remove impurities that poison the system when retained. Then you may suffer nagging backache, dizziness, scanty or too frequent urination, getting up at night, puffiness under the eyes; feel nervous, miserable—all upset.

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