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The volcano Popocatepetl, 26 miles west of Puebla, Mex., is active again. Its eruptions are throwing hot ashes 60 miles away, according to advices reaching Mexico City. It is seen here puffing like a locomotive.

BUSINESS AND THE-OUTLOOK.

Philadelphia Record. The opening weeks of the new year show a further broadening of business on the same conservative lines indicated in the closing weeks of the old year. So far there are no signs that Wall Street's remarkable upward swing, sustained for so long a period, is a forerunner of a similar movement in industry and trade. It has been noted that the steel market appears to be in a between-seasons period. The transactions of November and December, looking forward to the present quarter, took care of buyers' requirements and furnished the basis for mill operations, which have been supplemented by purchases for the railroads and for fabricated steel in building operations. Steel mill operations are believed to be in excess of 85 per cent. of capacity, which compares very favorably with the average of 68 per cent. in 1925 and 80 per cent. in 1923. Notwithstanding this great increase in production over the dull midsummer, when the average fell to 41 per cent., the steel market continues relatively quiet. This is in pursuance of the pretty well established practice of piecemeal buying, with frequent replenishments as needed instead of making larger and longer commitments. With the mills producing at a high average and the railroads functioning splendidly on deliveries there seems to be no occasion for carrying large stocks on hand. The automobile industry, for instance, which used to carry large supplies, now holds limited stocks of materials and gets its steel as needed. Advice from Detroit indicate that the automobile manufacturers are not looking forward to a larger output this year than in 1924 and that with price-cutting competition is likely to be severe. The commercial reports show general progress. Dun's says that developments of a constructive nature still predominate, and various statistical records bear out the other evidences of a forward trend in both domestic business and in foreign trade. Preliminary figures show that the foreign commerce of the United States last year, measured in terms of value, was the third largest on record. Only in 1920 and 1919 were higher totals reached, and the so-called favorable trade balance in 1924 exceeded \$375,000,000. This represents the excess of merchandise exports over imports, the former approximating \$4,588,000,000 and the latter, \$3,611,000,000. Wage adjustments in the New England cotton industry were completed last week with the decision of the New Bedford union to accept the 10 per cent. reduction, effective today. The sentiment in favor of rejecting the terms offered by the mill managers was unexpectedly strong. The threat of strikes, however, passed over, and whatever steps are taken to bring about progress in the industry will be worked out peaceably. Cotton prices declined somewhat in the two American markets on Saturday, following the report of the Census Bureau on domestic consumption, while Liverpool operators resisted the selling pressure. The domestic wool market was reported rather irregular and slow, although on the whole there are no signs of weakness, in spite of some indications of yielding in the foreign markets. Auction sales of colonial wools are to be held in London, beginning tomorrow. Speculation continues as to the openings for the next heavy-wool season in wools, due within the next few weeks. It is certain that there will be some price advances, the extent of which seems to be anybody's guess. The hide markets, both domestic and foreign, have recently developed renewed activity and strength. All deliveries of wheat and corn sold at a new high on the 1924 crop in the Chicago market at the weekend and closed within a fraction of the best prices. Wheat made a gain of nearly 4 cents.

A FAITHFUL PASTOR HONORED IN SONG

Written by H. C. Hoop, December 6, 1924. Tune: "Only Waiting."

We have met here in December, On this Holy Sabbath day, Met to thank our faithful pastor, Ere from us he goes away.

(Chorus for Soprano). Let's keep singing, sweetly singing, Singing praises every one, Singing praises to our Saviour, For the good that Pastor Brown has done.

(Chorus for Bass, Alto and Tenor). Let's keep singing, singing, Singing praises, singing, singing, Singing praises, singing praises every one, every one.

Singing praises to our Saviour, singing praises to our Saviour, For the good that Pastor Brown has done.

(2) He has preached God's word with gladness Preached for us for seventeen years, Now our hearts are filled with sadness, Many eyes are filled with tears.

(3) He has been a faithful pastor, Faithful in the Sunday School, Telling us his Lord and Master, Teaching us the Golden Rule.

(4) He has preached for us in Winter, Preached in Springtime, Summer, Fall Told us that our blessed Saviour, Suffered, died to save us all.

(5) He preached for us in sunshine, Preached for us on rainy days, Told us of a Saviour Divine, Joined with us in songs of praise.

(6) Many little children here he baptized, Many young children catechised, When the truth of God's word they learned, Then by him they were confirmed.

(7) When our boys were in the army, In the camps, or over seas, Pastor Brown prayed for their safety, Prayed for them so earnestly.

(8) Now our faithful pastor leaves us, Let us pray for his success, That he brings many souls to Jesus, To eternal happiness.

(9) When our life on earth is over, When we part with those we love, May we all be reunited, In that glorious church above.

(10) Are we ready for the dawning? For that blessed joy to come? For the resurrection morning? When God calls His children home?

(Chorus for Soprano, last verse). Oh, be ready for His coming, May each heart be cleansed within, May we hear the welcome plaudit, Well done good and faithful, enter in.

(Chorus for Bass, Alto and Tenor, last verse). Oh, be ready for His coming, Oh, be ready for His coming, May each heart here today be cleansed within, May we hear the welcome plaudit, Well done good and faithful enter in.

Sung by the Singsong Quartet, Dec. 28, 1924, at Pastor Brown's last service.

Frieda Hempel Given Great Ovation in London.

Literary Digest. An amusing postwar conflict has just ended in an armistice in England. Two American singers, on born in Germany, the other in Italy, recently took Great Britain as a battleground, and with their notes stirred up the British sidelines into a veritable conflict of bitter judgment. Which was the better singer, they asked themselves, Galli Curci or Frieda Hempel? Sides were taken, tongues wagged, pens flowed, until Mr. Punch stepped in to try to settle the matter. To stolid outsiders it might seem no more solvable than to decide which was better, a peach or a pear. The critic of The Daily Mail thought Madame Hempel "the more finished singer" with a "greater musical range." Madame Galli Curci is described as "the more typically Italian singer," with her "crystal clear, 'whitish tones.'" Outside London, where concerts are perhaps less frequent and various, the battle took on more fervor. Thus the Liverpool Post:

"To hear on consecutive Sundays two singers of the foremost rank and representative of one of the broad divisions of the world of song, has been of more than common interest. This afternoon Frieda Hempel was singing at the Albert Hall, where Madame Galli Curci sang a week ago, and sang better than on her first appearance. The latter represents not merely Italy but the whole art of the south, whilst the coloring of Frieda Hempel's voice has the melower coloring of the north. Of the two she is the richer in those emotional, not to say sentimental, inflections which to our taste constitute the human as distinct from the purely instrumental aspect of singing. 'Very few Italian singers could compare as much by coloring alone as Frieda Hempel did today, especially in Loewe's charming song. Each line of the playful poem claimed its own shading, and the whole giving had an iridescent which is very different from the hard brilliance of Italian singing. At the same time this wonderful singer is at least technically quite at home when invading Italian territory as in 'Ernani Involami.' There, perhaps, one misses that peculiar soulless metallic luster that belongs to the south, but musically this kind of performance does not compare with the other for interest and Miss Hempel would lose none of her hold upon us if she dropped it altogether. Still, she elects to do it, and does it with vastly more success than the Italian could achieve upon a counter invasion."

Such is the inborn love of New Zealand for football, that players frequently ride miles on horseback, fording rivers and crossing mountains, to play in a match. Every little hamlet, whose total inhabitants in many cases do not number more than two hundred, has its Rugby football club.

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland, founded in 1838, is recognized in all parts of the world as the mother club and legislative body in regard to curling.

The national championship, four Pacific Coast first honors, and one Northwest Conference titles were won last year by athletes representing the University of Washington, Seattle.

THE RURAL MAIL SERVICE

Few institutions in the history of American progress can be credited with a more salutary effect upon the march of that progress than the rural mail services of the post office department.

No other single instrumentality has done more than the rural mail service toward "bringing the city to the country," and relieving the prosaic existence of farm life, or has been as effective in establishing closer contact between the farmer and his markets. It has been the most important factor in making agriculture an exacting business instead of its one-time precarious classification, which conveyed no broader meaning than "tilling the soil."

Twenty-nine years ago the farmer and his wife and children led an existence of almost complete isolation, living upon widely scattered farms, some of them miles apart. They had comparatively little communication with their neighbors or the outside world, except that derived from weekly trips to the adjacent village. More often than not the farmer lost a full day's work and his crops were neglected in order to obtain expected mail at the village post office.

In those days the farmers' mail consisted largely of communications from relatives and friends. Today the daily mail includes, usually on the very date of publication, the metropolitan newspaper, containing market reports and agricultural news; the weekly and monthly farm journals and magazines, and business letters from the village merchant and the more pretentious establishment in the distant city. All of these are now brought to his door or to the box a few yards away.

The rural carrier is the farmer's post office and his agent. Through him he conducts transactions for the sale of his livestock, grain, and other farm produce. From him he buys stamps and pays his bills by postal money order. In short, the letter carrier is the medium that has transformed the once secluded habitant of the rural district into a cosmopolitan citizen, conversant with current affairs and occupying a larger place in the destinies of a great nation.

Another Jonah Story.

There is no story in the Bible which gives rise to more popular speculation and discussion than the story of Jonah and the whale. Every few weeks somebody comes along with some new "facts" which he claims either prove or disprove the Jonah story. The latest story of this kind comes from Rev. John R. Stratton, the famous New York fundamentalist and enemy of evolution. Rev. Stratton says he has discovered a man who, like Jonah, was swallowed by a whale and who lives to tell the story.

The man, according to the fundamentalist, is James Bartley, an English seaman who served as a member of a whaling crew off the coast of Labrador. Bartley was in a whale boat when a gigantic sperm whale struck the boat with its tail, causing the boat to capsize. All the men were immediately saved except two who the others thought were drowned. The whale was killed and tied to the ship. The second day after this adventure the

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members of the crew proceeded to cut up the whale. To their astonishment they found Bartley in the stomach of the sea monster and alive. Although the seaman was unconscious when taken from the whale he later completely recovered in an English hospital. This case, according to Mr. Stratton, was carefully investigated and all the statements verified by M. de Parville, one of the leading journalists of Europe. Bartley's comrades, it is said, are of the opinion that he survived because his head was near the whale's throat.

"Cheap Kisses" will be shown at the Pastime Wednesday and Thursday of this week. And there will be a kiss for each patron on these two days. Three hundred years ago it was a common practice of the British parliament to hold Sunday sessions.

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