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SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1921.

A Mind Without A Set Idea

Senator Knox makes his contribution to Mr. Harding's "meeting of minds." Having brought a warning from the Irreconcilables that they will not suffer the new association of nations to be tainted, even in the least degree, by the existing covenant, he declares after a lengthy conference with the President-elect:

I never credited reports that he would use the League machinery as a basis for the proposed association. I could not imagine how he could misconstrue the mandate of the American people or back-track on speeches delivered during the campaign.

After talking with him I am more than ever confident that he will do no such thing. I am assured that he has no set idea in mind, and I am convinced that he is going to work out something that will be entirely satisfactory not only to the Senate, but to the country.

Mr. Knox therefore agrees with Mr. Oscar Straus that Warren G. Harding is a "harmonizer." He must be, if to be all things to all men, is the way to harmony. Mr. Knox, the enemy of the League, is convinced that he will work out something satisfactory to the Senate, meaning his own group of bitter-enders.

Mr. Straus, the consistent supporter of the League, after Mr. Harding had cast the light of his countenance upon him, reported that he is "the man we need, above all, for constructive work, for making realities."

Only one hint is offered us as to the manner in which Mr. Harding accomplishes his necromancy. Senator Knox, it will be observed, is sure that Mr. Harding has no set idea in mind. Mr. Straus, it appears, reached the same conclusion.

Asked by a reporter, "Does Mr. Harding's mind run along with yours on the international situation?" he replied, "I could not presume to interpret his mind."

We have two excellent authorities, then, for the belief that Mr. Harding is still up in the air, that the vagueness which afflicted him during the campaign has not been relieved, and that a multitude of wise men have only helped to addle an already bewildered mind.

We wish to register this New Year's wish: That the man who is to be our President for the next four years may somehow cast off his intellectual timidity and stand out as a robust, self-dependent figure endowed with sufficient zeal and strength and vision to restore America to her deserted place in the councils of the world.

Becoming An American... Professor Michael Pupin, of Columbia University, one of the most distinguished of living physicists and an inventor of note, is one of the immigrants whose greatest contribution to us is his analysis of national traits and ideals.

working of that democracy was expressed in the country's acceptance of Hayes' election in the hotly contested presidential election of 1876. The seventeen-year-old boy who could grasp all this was not content to work as a laborer. He read and studied the speeches of the great statesmen; he studied English by going to see the best theatre had to offer; he went to Cooper Institute to study drawing, physics and chemistry.

By the time he was twenty-one, he had saved \$311, and was ready to enter Columbia University. It was through one of his professors there that he "learned what America was by coming to know real Americans and their life at home. It made me feel that I was no longer an utter outsider, a Serb among Americans; in one real American home I had been taken in, accepted. Only the man who has felt himself a stranger, an alien in a great country, knows what a little social warmth does for his soul."

Is it not possible that the great mass of the inarticulate newcomers, who have not the power to analyze their feelings, or reason themselves into content, or understand the principles on which the country is based, feel the same way? So far, their only chance for "social warmth" has been through cleaving to their own people, in little groups far removed from the influences of every day American life.

So on down the list, with attention to Sunday laws ranging from New York's fairly good enforcement of very liberal laws regarding amusements and the sale of food, to Georgia's twenty-year neglect of strict laws, with, as a result, a Sunday observance very like New York.

In this field of legislation, as in most others, the goal to be sought seems to be, not more laws, but the enforcement of existing ones which are adapted to modern life, and the repeal of those whose absurdity makes law breaking a joke.

There would be a greater respect for laws if there were fewer of them, and those enforceable and enforced. After all, the desecration of the Sabbath can not be legislated away unless there is a moral force in the people who live under the laws.

Let's Have The Resolutions

We are not of those who regard with indifference or supercilious scorn the formulation of resolutions for the New Year. We have unbounded admiration for the man who swears off smoking just after dinner on the seventh of September or the thirteenth of December while there are yet three cigarettes in his silver case or a couple of mild Cubanos protruding invitingly from his outside pocket.

Most of us are enslaved by the clean-slate philosophy which first took hold of us in the "rhythmic days. We like to block our allotment of time off into installments of fairly moderate duration, to compare the performances recorded within the succeeding blocks; and we extract a blessed consolation from the knowledge that there will be another following the one of which we have just made a mess. It is not of our will or bent to view life as a single span of time or course of action, continuous and undivided from the cradle to the grave.

Perhaps there are some for whom the alternate method of driving on and on, unmindful of the clock and the calendar, is better. They are strong souls, peculiarly gifted in purpose and courage, who formulate their New Year resolutions shortly after emergence from swaddling clothes and thereafter proceed toward the goal of life without recourse to our beloved psychological trick of sorting out months and years. But they are few and the race they run is not for the rest of us. Like Nature, we are seasoned, and there is comfort in knowing that Nature is on our side.

The life that is about us conforms strikingly to our own chosen course. It is continually being renewed, falling in the struggle here and there and building season after season upon that Heaven-sent new chance.

We can not permit the cynic or the superman to destroy for us the beneficent symbolism of the New Year. It is a new page in our book—the beginning of a new chapter, if we please to make it so. Let us regard it solemnly and hopefully before we begin to write. Let us cast up a balance sheet and see wherein we have fallen short in our performance for the twelve-month which at midnight was ushered out. Let us resolve in honesty and courage upon the course that we know to be better, the course that will take us nearer those stations of Good-Wishes which our friends have been mentioning so generously and earnestly upon the approach of this new starting point.

Some Facts About Blue Laws

Most people know that "blue laws" are so called because of the blue paper on which they were printed and distributed; probably few realize that there are enough of them in existence today to make Sunday a day of absolute calm, if they were enforced. Connecticut, home of the blue laws, made no changes at all in the laws until 1866. Until 1902, there was a statute which forbade the operation of trains between sunrise and sunset on Sunday "except for necessity of mercy, or for the carriage of mails or preservation of freight."

Street railways did carry passengers, however, and were not prosecuted, though the law worked the other way in preventing the payment of damages in case of accident on the Sabbath. In 1885, the last prosecution under the Connecticut blue laws was made, when two men were arrested for riding in a horseless carriage for pleasure on the Sabbath; since then millions of automobiles have passed over state highways on Sunday.

New Jersey's "Vice and Immorality Act" remains practically as it was revised in 1846. In 1882 a man was arrested and fined \$2 for taking a surf bath on Sunday, but since then, though the law against all kinds of "playing, sports, pastimes or diversions on the Sabbath day" has been amended only to permit walking, riding, and driving for pleasure, the surf is in constant use on Sunday.

laws whose enforcement will be more probable because of less severity of the provisions. The New York Herald states:

If the laws were strictly enforced in Delaware, the whole machinery of civilization in that state would come to a practical standstill. Under the present statutes it is an offense to engage in any occupation, to sell any kind of goods or travel on railroad or trolley or to ride for pleasure in an automobile. There would be nowhere much to go except to church. Even the houses of worship would be prevented from having paid singers, and the preacher who might serve one of them as a "supply," could not get his check from the deacons after the service.

Pennsylvania has a record for aged laws, dating back to 1705, some of which are enforced, while others have long since been forgotten. The act of April, 1794, still unchanged, prohibits worldly employment and amusement, and permits only works of charity and necessity. Time and again efforts have been made to legalize Sunday baseball, fishing, concerts, and moving pictures, but the law has resisted all of them, and is enforced. Yet no one would attempt to enforce the law that the hitching of a horse to a carriage is legal on Sunday only if the owner and his family are going to church, and illegal if the drive is for pleasure only. There is a law against the Sunday sale of newspapers, also, though papers are sold on week-days.

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Letters to the Editor

THE OUTLOOK

To the Editor of THE STAR: There is no infallible rule to determine the course of human events, or to accurately assess the forces of social and business development. In a general way, and on broad lines, a few fundamentals are sufficiently known to forecast probable events, but even then unfathomable influences may operate to postpone or diminish these results.

That deflation must eventually follow inflation, is an economic law as sound as the law of gravity itself; but when the inflation has reached its apex; when deflation has permanently set in; when the pendulum has reached its lowest sweep, are elements which no amount of business acumen or experience can reckon with so effectually as to provide by anticipation adequate measures of safety and relief. It is economically sound to inculcate the practice of constant economy and reservation of profits and earnings, but this preaching is confronted with the frailties of human nature. Prudence is woefully limited, the disposition to self-indulgence distressingly strong, the cycle of responsibility restricted to the day. Yet on the whole the world makes progress.

The propaganda against high prices, long unavailing, finally culminated in such an avalanche of falling prices as to practically wipe out all accumulated profits for a number of years. And while government initiated the movement, it was unable either to modify its severity or limit its duration when once it was fairly under way. There is actually no over-production in any of the great staple lines. A large part of the world is on short rations, and a considerable part starving. But when consumption is artificially restricted, when apprehension of the unknown abounds, the condition of bare sufficiency is converted into an oppressive surplus. This is the condition that confronts us.

Remedy—Investment capital is the margin of savings over expenditures. Recent savings have been wiped out, and investment capital proportionately diminished. Investment capital is accumulated either through expanded profits or increased efficiency of production. The era of expanded profits has for the time passed, and the only remaining resource is savings from increased efficiency. Profoundly as to practically wipe out all accumulated profits for a number of years. And while government initiated the movement, it was unable either to modify its severity or limit its duration when once it was fairly under way.

As respects the farmers, they should curtail acreage with the view of (a) measuring production against supply for two years instead of one, and (b) of commanding a sufficiency of labor to practice intensified cultivation.

All theories apart, this is the remedy.

Wilmington, Dec. 31, 1920. J. A. TAYLOR.

FORGOTTEN?

EDITOR OF THE STAR: Surely the attendance of only about one hundred people, the majority of them ex-service men, at the funeral of the first ex-service man to be returned from overseas to this community, is a fitting memorial to the memory of those whose actions have always proven them to be patriotic. Has the time been so long since these men trod the bloody fields and muddy roads of a foreign soil that you cannot pause for an hour to do homage to one who fell?

Shrouded in his bit of red, white and blue, this man who died upon the field of honor for you, represents all that is best in America and yet from a population of thirty-five thousand a hundred paid him tribute—the others, well, perhaps they were too busy watching the dying year to bury one who gave his life to make their new year peaceful and more blessed; perhaps they did not know the soldier and yet he died for millions that he did not know.

It seemed to me as the last sad note of taps sounded over the grave prepared by his comrades there was a lilt in the tone as though the bugler were reaching out for the opening note of reveille—a reveille to awaken a great people to a sense of their obligation to those who gave their all for their country. May they not let the busy din of commercial life, the strident voice of their own selfish interests, close their ears to its appeal.

CYRUS D. HOGUE, Department Commander, American Legion.

THE FRONT STREET GALLERY

What is Wilmington coming to when we allow such things as that shooting gallery between the bank building and the Bijou? I am a resident here and certainly do hate to see Front street messed up like that. Let's get together and see if we can't do something to keep Front street looking better. Kindly publish this if possible so we can try and do something. Mrs. E. C. MURPHY.

Home Of Models By Frederic J. Haskin

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 31.—To have the artists' model taken seriously is the purpose of an interesting club which has its headquarters in an old-fashioned house on West Fifty-eighth street here. Pass this house at any hour during the day, and you are lucky, you are apt to see its ancient door creak open and the original of your favorite magazine-cover-girl trip sedately down the steps. For the house is full of them. It has about 150 such enchanting damsels on its membership list.

But they are to be taken seriously. Don't forget that. The other day Broadway Don Juan, bewitched at the sight of his favorite bathing girl picture actually walking down Seventh avenue—not in a bathing suit, you understand, but recognizable nevertheless—proceeded to accompany her at a discreet distance as she turned down Fifty-eighth street. When she left the pavement and ran up a pair of steps he stopped in his tracks and stared in deep pre-occupation at the door where she had vanished.

Suddenly, the door opened a second time, and a grey-haired, sweet-faced matron came out. "Young man, what do you mean by following one of our girls?" demanded the matron. "I'm a firm," "Now suppose you just run along back to Broadway where you belong. The girls in this club are nice, quiet, refined and they don't want to be annoyed, and furthermore, we are not going to have a lot of idle, gaping men standing out here in front of our house."

Thus did the secretary of the club, as she later explained to the reporter, nip in the bud a movement on the part of the male population of New York to give the club its enthusiastic endorsement.

"The attitude of the public, especially the masculine public, toward the artist's model," said the secretary, "is much the same as it is toward the chorus girl—entirely frivolous. It is also incurably romantic. People seem to have an idea that an artist's model is a gay young thing, and that she is to be treated as such, living by posing for fascinating artists with long hair, or Oriental fesses, if they have bald heads. Now, as a matter of fact, posing is hard work, and until recently the average artist's model has been poorly paid and has been given about as much consideration as a table or chair."

Getting Jobs For Models. Here the secretary of the club's desk burst noisily into her confidante, and she grabbed a notebook and pencil. "Excuse me just a minute," she said, taking up the instrument. "Yes, I think we have just the girl you need, Miss B. You know her? Too thin? I don't believe we have anybody plumper. We consider her one of the girls in the best. About 150 pounds, I should say, but tall and well proportioned. Yes, I think you might be able to use her face, too. She's a good Spanish type. Well, she lives right up in your neighborhood—say, I propose I have her come in and see you anyway. If she doesn't suit, perhaps we can get you some one else. Miss B. was here before, will be back from Havana Friday."

The secretary then explained that the club runs an employment bureau for its members, who are all registered with the types. Posing is something like private nursing; a girl knows how long her job is going to last or how much money it is going to pay her. Some artists take a long time to complete their work, and others work very fast. Some can afford to pay a high rate for a model, and others can scarcely afford to employ one at all. Conditions in this respect are better for posers than they have ever been before, thanks to the persistent mercenary efforts of the club. A good model can now demand a dollar an hour for her work, at which rate some of them make as much as eight dollars a day.

Besides its employment bureau, the Art Workers' club, as it is called, operates a restaurant on the first floor of the house, which serves excellent meals at cost, while 5 o'clock tea is served every afternoon absolutely free. To this end the club has a fund of \$100,000, which is divided into two factions: one for the provision of a restaurant, and the other for the provision of a club. The chief object of the club is to bring about a better understanding of the art. Thus, on a rainy afternoon, the big club room is filled with models draped about the furniture in graceful attitudes, while they chat and drink tea with the members of the club. The room, with its artistic draperies and comfortable couches and easy chairs, looks more like a drawing-room than a club. The casual stranger would never guess from the frivolous and engaging manner of its guests that serious business was being transacted. Yet it is at these times that many New York artists find their various types of models.

The Costumes. On the third floor of its large, old-fashioned home, the club maintains a separate department, which contains costumes of every period and nationality. These are often rented at a nominal fee with the model. For instance, when the reporter was visiting the club the other day, a wealthy artist, who lives in a suburb of New York, came in and told the secretary he was in search of a Dutch type and a Dutch costume of the kind worn by a certain group of peasants living on an island in the Zuider Zee. The artist was told to go up to the club room and make himself at home while the secretary found him a remarkably good type, a short time, a flaxen-haired girl with broad cheek bones and a robust figure came in from the front door in answer to the secretary's telephone summons, and was rushed up to the third floor to be fitted for the said peasant costume. The same afternoon she was out at the artist's suburban studio, ready to take her period job.

Once, every February, the club has a models' review, which is considered one of the most important events in artistic circles. To this review all of the known artists in the city are invited. The club room is turned into a small auditorium, with rows of chairs to accommodate a large-sized artist audience, while in the center of the room is an elevated platform for the exhibition of the models. The girls appear in the most beautiful costumes of the past, and the artist is capable of turning out—costume after costume—sentencing everything from the early Greek and the Italian Renaissance periods to the latest frock and chapeau coming from one of the Paris modistes. By reviewing these models, the artist often gets the inspiration of his life, so we are told, while the model gets a well-paid job.

Fashions in Models. Not all of the models in greatest demand are beautiful, but all of them are distinctive. Types are what the artist wants—not necessarily pretty faces. This year girls of the Spanish type are much in demand, while last year there seemed to be a general preference for French girls. A few of the models, who are kept very busy posing for mural decorations and character (Continued on Page Seven).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Which speaker of the house served longest? D. D. S.

A. This distinction is divided between J. G. Cannon, who served from 1893-1911; and Champ Clark, who served from 1911-1919.

Q. What wood will resist decay most successfully? R. M.

A. The forest service says that this cannot be determined, since various species of different tropical and temperate climates. Lignum vitae probably comes nearer to living up to this term than any wood in the world. Generally speaking the following woods may be classed as very durable: black locust, cypress, green-heart, lignum vitae, mesquite, teak and the cedars.

Q. Can Indians own property, and can they vote? A. A. M.

A. The great many Indians are very wealthy and own a great deal of both real and personal property. A large number of them are fully enfranchised citizens of the United States. The chief of the Indian affairs says that every effort is made to induce the Indian settlers on the reservations to improve themselves and make use of the opportunity America offers them to become citizens.

Q. When did music notes first come into use? Z. W. K.

A. It is not known exactly when music notes came into use, in the first half of the 13th century notes of definite length were introduced. The first real school of composition was in Paderborn, William Du Fay being the first of the composers of this school. He was born shortly before 1400, and died in 1474.

Q. How can the corduroy lining to a go-cart be cleaned without removing? W. J. V.

A. Clean the corduroy with gasoline or benzine. Apply with a brush, wipe off with cloth dipped in clean gasoline, and place in sun to dry.

Q. Please explain just what "proof" means when used in regard to spirits and liquor. Such as "whiskey 100 proof." F. W. L.

A. "Proof" or "proof spirit" is alcohol. Pure alcohol which has specific gravity of 0.8184, as compared with water of which 0.845 of its weight, or 0.5727 of its volume is absolute alcohol. Liquors having a greater alcoholic strength are said to be above proof, those having less to be below proof.

Q. What is an accolade? C. H.

A. An accolade is literally an embrace. The term is generally applied to a ceremony or salutation which marks the conferring of a knighthood or similar distinction.

Q. Please give me a quotation of the Spartans. L. S.

A. Probably the most famous quotation attributed to the Spartans is the laconic sentence of the Spartan mother who said: "Either this, or upon this!" when she handed her son his shield.

Q. How did gypsies get their name? F. T.

A. The name "gypsy" is probably derived from "Egyptian," by which the English gypsies were known in the English language.

Q. Where is the Long Bridge? R. A. G.

A. This name is applied to a bridge over the Potomac river, connecting Washington and Virginia shores. During the Civil war it was the chief line of communication with the Army of the Potomac, and was strongly fortified.

Q. What is a pheasant shell? I. M. C.

A. This name is given to the shells of a gastropod mollusk of the family Turbinidae, which are much valued for their beauty, suggesting by their gorgeous metallic tints the plumage of pheasants.

EIGHTH ROBBERY COMMITTED IN THE TOWN OF OLD FORT (Special to The Star) ASHEVILLE, Dec. 31.—Barley's store at Old Fort was entered and robbed last night. The robbers took \$100 and goods valued at many dollars. This is the eighth robbery that has occurred at Old Fort within the past few months and the authorities here are contemplating hiring a private detective, it is understood.

That it is sometimes dangerous to stand for law and order in this section is the experience of members of the law and order league of Fletcher. At this village, just across the Henderson county line, a meeting of the league was held in a room where a number of persons were in session when a shot rang out and a window was shattered. A careful search failed to reveal any clues.

MISTRIAL IN MURDER CASE OF JUDGE W. H. MCGANNON CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 31.—The jury in the case of William H. McGannon, charged with the murder of Judge Harold C. Kagy on May 8, was unable to agree on a verdict at 5:45 o'clock tonight and was discharged by Judge Maurice Bernon. The jury received the case at 6:15 p. m. on Wednesday and had been deadlocked ever since.

CARD OF THANKS We desire to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our friends for their many loyal acts of kindness and sympathy to ourselves and family since the death of our beloved son. It has been indeed a source of strength and comfort to us and we humbly pray for God's blessing on every one. MR. AND MRS. G. R. NELSON, (Adv.) 1-1-21.

Daily Health Talks By William Brady, M. D.

CATARACT AND VISION Every eye is provided by nature with a lens of crystalline clearness and perfect focus. Sometimes this natural lens becomes cloudy or opaque. This is called cataract. The ancient Greeks agreed that the impairment or loss of eyesight in such a condition was caused by an opaque substance which had fallen down over the front of the crystalline lens, hence they called it "cataract."

But cataract is not a skin or membrane growing upon the eyeball, as many people imagine. It is an opacity within the eye, a clouding of the lens through which we see. This crystalline lens is essential for all vision, any more than are spectacles used by an elderly person. It is an opacity within the eye, a clouding of the lens through which we see. This crystalline lens is essential for all vision, any more than are spectacles used by an elderly person.

Therefore, victims of cataract must submit to the only curative treatment, operation, in which the opaque or clouded lens is removed, with every expectation of clear, comfortable vision through proper glasses, after such operation the individual cannot expect to have clear vision, for any near objects without which the natural lens which has been destroyed by the disease and removed by the oculist.

In its early stage cataract is perceptible to the ordinary observer, though the natural lens has not yet reached the interior of the eye, the surgeon or oculist. Only in an advanced stage does the black pupil of the eye (the window) become noticeably grayish or cloudy in appearance.

Cataracts occur both in infancy and in old age. Some infants are born in consequence of cataract, it seems that cataract is directly inherited in some families. In childhood cataract is usually incomplete, involving only part of the lens, so that some degree of vision is retained. Untreated, the opacity gradually increases, and is susceptible of cure by operation, but associated disease or degeneration of other parts of the affected eye.

Blindness is by no means the inevitable fate of the elderly victim of cataract. In a great many instances, even though no treatment is given, the opacity or haze reaches a certain degree and then remains stationary throughout life—vision much impaired but not lost.

Sometimes the opacity occurs in the center of the pupil or window and seriously interferes with vision from its early beginning, long before cataract would be suspected from the outward appearance of the eye. But in most instances the opacity starts near the border or circumference of the lens and gradually extends toward the center, seriously troubling about vision.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Ains, a Loss, a Lass Please don't say you don't know any formula that will stop me from growing any taller, or that if you could it would harm me. If you say so I never write to you again. I am 15, weigh 102 pounds and I am 61 inches tall. (E. L.)

Answer—Wont my child not be the world. The average weight and height of girls 15 years old are 115 pounds and 61 to 62 inches. Well developed before the cataract and include a neatly designed envelope with a stamp on the proper one and I'll tell you how to bring your weight up to proper proportion.

I have always had the habit of scrubbing my tongue mornings when I brush my teeth, but a woman friend noticed me doing it and said it is very harmful. (G. H. C.) Answer—No harm in it if you are gentle and use no sharp-edged implement.

Oats When I was a child, I was fond of getting raw wheat and oats. I still like to chew them, but am told that it will cause worms, and that oats do not cook at least half an hour as bad as I am in the stomach. Please give your advice. (J. G.)

Answer—It is all right to eat wheat or oats raw. As for cooking oats for normal adults, the shorter the time of cooking the more laxative the oats are. It is only for infants and certain feeble invalids that oats require prolonged cooking. Indeed, it has been urged that oats cooked but a few minutes are preferable for persons with intestinal putrefaction, because the residue which reaches the colon favors the whole some lactic fermentation and that opposes the activity of putrefactive organisms here.

GIANT SEAPLANE WRECK IS FOUND OFF FLORIDA COAST JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 21.—According to information reaching here late today from Melbourne, Fla., on the east coast, the wreck of a giant seaplane, No. P-5 L. A. 4212, lies in the ocean five miles off the north beach of Melbourne.

The wreck was discovered at night by Dudley A. Johnson and Edward Campbell. There was no trace of the occupants of the machine. It is known how long the wreck had been in the water.

It is stated that only the engine can be salvaged and in this connection prompt action is necessary. The owners of the craft are unknown here.

January 1st—3rd Deposits made on or before January 3 bear interest from January 1. Number "Systematic Saving" among your New Year's Resolutions. The Wilmington Savings & Trust Co. "Oldest and Largest Savings Bank in North Carolina"