

The Morning Star

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1921.

Own Your Home

The man who owns his own home is not the victim of the landlord, his life is not embittered by the search for a place to live in these times of shortage of houses, he and his family have a place in the community which the renter can not have.

Now, however, there is evidence of legislation by Congress to help the home-builder help himself. During the past month two bills designed to relieve the serious housing condition in this country were discussed, with builders and real estate men in attendance to give their views on the necessity of relief.

The large cities are getting at the problem in a direct way, without legislation, and with the "show me" idea of interesting builders. They are working toward "Own Your Home" Expositions, following the plan worked out by the committee in charge of National Thrift Week, January 17-25, 1921.

You heard all of those whistles blowing, didn't you? Well, it's time to go to work.

"Monk" Eastman came through the Western front's storm of steel and lead unscathed, but full citizenship in New York proved too much for him.

Says Mr. Harding: "The cabinet is now pretty well in hand. It is just a matter of fitting the pegs into the holes." And that, of course, is no task worth mentioning for a great harmonizer who would think nothing of making a square hole round in order to make things agreeable for a desired peg.

A German war office official admits that there is a most warlike spirit in the schools of his country, but he does not "fear that this will lead to an untoward event."

A Neglected Science

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has just learned through one of its observant members that the earth is lying in a huge magnetic field, of an origin unknown, but foreign to the planet itself.

Without any thought of derogation, we must confess that our own celebration of complete scientific conquest will be deferred, at any rate, until we have had a more re-assuring report from the men who are trying to establish fairer relations between the cotton growers of Columbus county and the ragged, shivering children of Central and Southeastern Europe.

There are signs that something is going to be done. Some expedients, at any rate, have been undertaken. We are beginning to do some quick thinking now because necessity has administered the prod that was inevitable.

The cold fact is pressed upon us that we are, in fact, as yet a race of blundering provincials unable to remember for the space of two years that within our several national bounds we have few problems or aspirations that are not of direct and vital concern to the whole of mankind.

No Gifts From Chance "What is so rare as a day in June?" the poet Lowell asked. We have our answer: a day in January such as that with which Wilmington began the New Year, a day bright of sky and comforting in its warmth but with a hint of far-off cold, the spur to effort and achievement.

If we are to have happiness in the twelve-month which is ahead of us, it will be a joy flowing not from a stroke of good fortune but from zealous labor. If we are ever to lift ourselves out of the valley of the shadow of economic and industrial desolation, it will be through consistent, well-aimed, unwearying work.

Is there reason to be disheartened? None that wise and courageous men and women can envisage. A colossal task awaits our performance. It can be done if we are capable of dedicating all that we are and have to our salvation.

If the Republicans try to make too much campaign capital out of their so-called economy program, the Democrats may at last reply that it has been several years since a dollar was worth saving.

England's chief problems just now, according to a London correspondent, are Ireland and unemployment. We don't believe the combination is possible.

In connection with this talk about having a real farmer for Secretary of Agriculture it may be stated that there are quite a number of real farmers who are entirely willing to try something new for a spell.

Having declared his unwillingness to die for Italy, D'Annunzio is now, according to the latest Venetian gossip, suing his wife for divorce. That ought to be sufficient to meet the most extreme ideas of self-determination.

Reading that King Alfonso has just been in London dividing his time between dancing lessons and vague speculations concerning the development of pleasure resorts along the coast of his country, we wonder if he has ever read or heard about the Spanish Main or Sir Francis Drake.

Contemporary Views

WILSON'S CHOICE Knoxville Sentinel: It may strike some as strange that Mr. Wilson should choose to be the first of the presidents to make his home in Washington after retirement to private life, in view of the fact that the community life of the capital has not been especially friendly and hospitable to him.

A FRIENDLESS STRANGER New York Sun: An endearing classic must be slightly altered to be made to read "What is the Constitution between members of Congress?" as this brief colloquy in the house reveals: "Mr. Huddleston—Will the gentleman tell us what constitutional warrants there is for this kind of legislation?"

MAN THE PYGMY New York Tribune: Man, the pygmy, ought to be accustomed by this time to the discovery of his own importance. He has done so often since science arrived upon the terrestrial scene to blast his conceits!

Those ingenious speculators, the modern psychologists are fond of reducing man to three main desiderata. The first was man's discovery that, so far from being the center of everything and living on the only patch of ground anywhere, that patch was only a small bit of a very large globe, which in turn was but one revolving unit in a vast cosmos of earths and stars.

We have all known, in a sense, that we carried our past around with us; and the past of our ancestors, as well. The new psychology discloses the detailed fashion in which this is true—by delving into the subconscious—and thus giving a stream and a reality to our unseen ego that it never had before.

At least, so stands psychology today. A century hence it will doubtless jolt man again, or if psychology does not some other science will, which suggests, we submit, the real reason man is able to withstand so cheerfully these "shocks" of discovery; each one, when seen in perspective, only increases the amazement of the universe and of man. For the more science learns the more it discovers to lie beyond.

UNCLE SAM LOSES A GOOD MAN New York Herald: Rear Admiral Samuel McGowan, paymaster general of the navy and chief of the bureau of supplies and accounts, has resigned from the service and will end his official activities for Uncle Sam today.

Before the United States entered the conflict against the Teutonic empires Rear Admiral McGowan was a member of that small but foresighted body of American citizens who had the courage to recognize the inevitable and the energy to do everything which lay in their power in time of peace to prepare for war.

It will not be asserted that under the immediate chieftainship of Josephus Daniels as secretary of the navy Paymaster General McGowan was able to do everything which he wanted to do or by any means everything which on April 6, 1917, the nation wished had been done to prepare the fighting ships for their task; but it is a matter of record that his energy and his pre-visualization had accomplished so much toward the preparedness intelligent men longed for that he had earned the gratitude of all patriotic Americans.

AN ABUSE OF THE TELEPHONE New York World: Letters to The World by citizens who complain that stock salesmen and others solicit them over the telephone raise an interesting question of personal rights. Has a telephone subscriber any defense of privacy which people who do not have his acquaintance are bound to respect? Is it anybody's privilege to call up anybody else in the city on the telephone and beg for a charity or expatiate on the merits of a particular make of automobile or a particular issue of bonds?

The increasing reliance on this form of personal appeal, whether or not it may be called a nuisance and an abuse of telephone service, has reached a point where at least it may be characterized as an abuse of courtesy and a violation of the ethics of ordinary life. Salesmen and solicitors who would hesitate to invade a citizen's home in person show no scruple about invading it by the proxy of a telephone call.

Perhaps the practice had an excuse during the war, when the necessity of obtaining subscriptions for liberty bonds and relief funds gave it some justification. But it is since the war that it has attained its worst development. Burglars have made it impossible for any New Yorker to call his home his castle, but his telephone ought not to be a new means of unwarranted intrusion.

Wild Pigeons

By Frederic J. Haskin

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—That there is no such thing as a wild pigeon in the United States any more is an idea which seems to be widely entertained in this country, and which is wholly erroneous, according to the ornithologist.

The fact of the matter is that the passenger pigeon, which was once phenomenally abundant in the western United States, is extinct; but there are at least three species of wild pigeon found today within the United States. All three of them are little known, despite the fact that one of them is distributed in a sparse and scattering manner over a good part of the west.

Another Wild Pigeon The most important of these is the band-tailed pigeon, which occurs in a scattered and unaccountable way all over the Rocky mountain country and west to the Pacific coast. The center of abundance is said to be at the mouth of the Columbia river and people who live in that section are probably familiar with the birds, but most persons, even in states where they are found, never saw one.

Down in the Keys of Florida they have a wild pigeon known as the white-crowned pigeon. It is rare and extremely shy, the reason being that it is one of the most toothsome of birds. A native in Key West told us last winter that during the tourist season as high as three dollars each is paid for the birds. It probably has a hard life.

RUSSIANS HAVE KILLED OFF 13,000 PERSONS IN CRIMEA LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Bolsheviks in the Crimea have shot 13,000 persons, according to the latest reports from Russia, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Berlin, dated Thursday.

ANNOUNCE CLOTHING REDUCTION A general reduction sale of all men's clothing and accessories was announced yesterday by the A. David company, North Front street. A large stock of H. P. Schaffner & Marx clothing will feature this sale.

DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM (Special to The Star) GOLDSBORO, Jan. 1.—Some of the mob who on the night of December 2 attacked the courthouse here, breaking down the doors, firing through the windows and doing other damage, who are now out on \$1,000 bond, realizing the seriousness of the charge, now say that they did not want to lynch the negroes.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By William Brady, M. D.

Q. I understand that the senior senator accompanies and introduces a new senator, when he is sworn in. Who performs this office for representatives?—B. A. T. A. Since all representatives are elected for two years only, the entire membership of the house has to be sworn in at the beginning of a new session.

Q. What are some of the new fruits and grains that the department of agriculture is importing from Africa?—G. O. E. A. Many new kafir, corns and sorghums, some varieties of grasses, some dry-land rice, mangoes and a gourd, which is filled with seeds that resemble the butternut in taste, are among the many specimens of African vegetable life which are being examined and experimented with by the United States department of agriculture.

Q. How many people are drawing Spanish-American war pensions?—The pension bureau says that the number of pensioners of the Spanish-American war on the rolls now is 22,814.

Q. Please explain the use of ammonia in making ice. Is it used in the brine only or in the ice itself?—D. W. S. A. The bureau of standards says ammonia is used as a refrigerant. It is not placed in either the brine or the ice. In fact, after ammonia gets into either the brine or the ice, it is a sign that something is badly wrong with the plant. Ammonia gas is compressed and is then cooled, usually by water flowing over the pipes through which the ammonia is passed.

Q. Where were postage stamps first used?—S. F. G. The history of postage stamps begins with the issues made by Great Britain in 1840 under the administration of Sir Rowland Hill. The successful use of stamps in the postal service of Great Britain resulted in the adoption of stamps by Brazil, France, Switzerland and the United States before 1850.

Q. In the game of 500, what value does the joker have in a "no trump hand"?—D. C. A. According to Hoyle, in a no-trump bid at "five hundred" the joker is a suit by itself, and is a trump; but when he is in the holder's hand he is a trump while he is able to follow suit. If the holder of the joker leads it, he has the privilege of naming the suit that shall be played to it, regardless of his previous play.

CONSUMPTION NOT INHERITED Is consumption inherited? (A. S. F.) Answer: No. That notion arose from the frequent occurrence of several cases of the disease in a family, but the truth is that one infected the other through the contact between parent and child.

DEATH OF A. L. DAWSON (Special to The Star) KINSTON, Jan. 1.—A. L. Dawson, aged 56, a prominent LaGrange man, is dead following a long illness. Dawson was well known in this section. His death occurred at the residence of a daughter near LaGrange. He was the son of the late Thomas Dawson of Moseley Hall. He is survived by the following sons and daughters: Mrs. F. J. Spencer and Mrs. James Burris, Fairfield; Mrs. Thomas L. Gillikin, New Bern; Mrs. Thomas Aldridge, Lenoir; and Mrs. Virginia Dawson, Lenoir county, and Thomas Dawson, who is in the navy.

FOURTEEN FALSE ALARMS (Special to The Star) GOLDSBORO, Jan. 1.—Fourteen false alarms of fire were sent in from various places in the city last night which kept the department on the job all night. One genuine alarm came in at 7:45 a. m., a small dwelling at Charles street being partly destroyed.

Daily Health Talks

By William Brady, M. D.

HEALTH IS A FUNNY THING Health is a funny thing, really, you've got it you keep quietly clinging to yourself all the time—something tickles you inside. I made some allusion to this delightful sensation that goes with health in one of my talks, and some said I took me severely to task for it. I told me it was most unbecoming of me and betrayed a very selfish nature, and furthermore it was cruel and wicked of me to crow and chuckle over my health, and so many thousands of people with such poor health that they would give almost anything for a short day of relief.

Do you suppose they have separate compartments in heaven, and assign extras to their proper compartment? I hope so. I want to go to that section of heaven where a fellow can't make hell's happy. I hope they will make any mistake and put me in with the angels whose happiness is spoiled by the knowledge that some other angels may not be so happy as they are. Rather than that I'd prefer to go to hell. From what I've seen of him, the latter citizen of the hereafter seems to be a cheerful fellow, any rate.

There is a fine distinction which should be made between health and disease. Health, an exceedingly rare state, is a perfect functioning of the body. Disease is any impairment of this perfect functioning. Disease is something of an all-arounder, it is everywhere, at all, except a few instances among the neighbors. The great trouble with disease is that it inevitably produces symptoms. Symptoms are the manifestations of disease.

Now I say health is a very rare state. Ninety-nine out of a hundred who have ordinary, fair health, as the saying is, really have some disease, nothing serious, you understand, just some functional impairment that keeps them from enjoying that funny feeling mentioned at the beginning. You see what I'm getting at, don't you? Sure. They have some symptoms.

Some people set out in life to relieve symptoms, and sooner or later they are plenty of them. They carry banners inscribed with huge figures signifying pessimists. They have a lot of blood stagnating in their splenic veins. They are great readers of manuals and testimonials; both former literature are replete with symptoms. Other people go out after good health and select for their banners pessimists. They're optimists. If they have anything to be happy about they get glad on and save their long faces for rainy days.

The symptom propaganda, so industriously conducted by the quacks and the patent medicine sharks in America and Canada in the past century or more, accounts for a good half of all the health of the people today. Answer me this? Have you ever known a nostrum hound who wasn't a pessimist?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS A Popular Misunderstanding I was aware that you do not subscribe for readers. But I did not ask you to prescribe for me. I merely asked you to suggest one for my condition and any exercise you might deem helpful. It seems to me that you let backward in your attempt to be ethical. (Mrs. P. B. A.)

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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"