

The Morning Star

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1921.

Beware the Garbage Can

Makers of home brew have another enemy to face. Note the following report from Auburn, N. Y., published in the New York Herald:

The humble, battered garbage pail has been raised to a post of dignity. It is now the ally of the Volstead enforcers. Auburn garbage collectors now are trailed by revenue sleuths who keep to leeward of the wagons and note the contents of all pails dumped.

Here in Wilmington the open pail or barrel used for the reception of refuse has been a witness to a lack of civic pride, of regard for sanitation, and of a sense of beauty, but we have not yet had it revealed as a witness to the presence of home brew.

The Auburn story seems probable, though we wonder why trailing the wagons is necessary, since the smell of sour mash is usually sufficiently strong to be observed without close examination. There may be few garbage pails in Wilmington receiving such burdens, and Volstead enforcers may not think it necessary to use such methods of induction, but one can not but wish that the garbage pail could be raised in dignity of appearance to keep pace with its dignity of function.

Now that the "humble, battered garbage pail" has been brought before the public, we should let the whitelight of publicity beat upon it and its place in society.

Willard Aspires

Jess Willard wants to come back.

At forty he pretends to believe that he can defeat Jack Dempsey, the greatest piece of fighting machinery in the history of the ring. He has even advanced an alibi for the terrible trouncing he received at the hands of this same opponent less than two years ago.

There are several reasons why Willard should not be allowed to face Dempsey again. Not the least important is the fact that boxing is steadily becoming humanized. After degenerating into a most brutal pastime, it is gradually being raised to a higher level.

Another reason is a more personal one. Every other American ever fortunate enough to annex a world's fighting championship died fighting when the better man came along.

The President Getting On His Feet

The appearance of President Wilson at a Washington theatre is accepted as another token of his gradual return to good health. It is said to have been his first visit to the play-houses in nearly eighteen months. He gave evidence of being fairly capable of handling himself, requiring only the "slightest assistance on leaving his car" and leaning without noticeable weight upon a walking cane.

The Good Roads Bill

The fate of the proposed State system of modern highways has not yet been sealed, favorably or otherwise, but the news from the Capital is of the kind to inspire confidence among the men who have labored so unceasingly to bring this blessing to the people of North Carolina.

The Doughton-Connor bill has been reviewed in the news columns of The Star. It now seems to have the right of way. The proposed serial issue of fifty million dollars worth of bonds has fully met the demands of the State's good roads workers generally.

Mr. Kramer's Little Story

John F. Kramer, Prohibition Commissioner, has returned to Washington with a refreshing little story illustrating the naivete of one of our Western Carolina "moonshine" authorities.

Mr. Kramer's story would have been more delightful if he had not proceeded to violate one of the elementary principles of story-telling by his effort to make it argumentative.

A factor in housing little considered in most discussions of the question is the instability of American residence sections. Because of the rapid growth of most of our towns and cities, and the lack of foresight existent when the towns were planned, or sprang up, a section that was desirable for homes five or ten years past may be utterly unfit today.

Shifting Residential Areas

The President of the United States, or at least who will shortly sit in the chair of the chief executive of this great nation, honored a number of small cities on the east coast with a visit because they had golf links.

Wilmington, whose growth has been comparatively of an even pace, has suffered less from this condition than have other cities. Now, however, faced with an increasing population, an enlarging industrial life, and a housing shortage, it will be well for the city to take thought of the morrow in the necessary extension of the areas in which homes are to be built, and in protecting them as building goes on.

Contemporary Views

Asheville Citizen: The United States leads the world in the total gross tons of merchant vessels launched in 1920, but the real test will come later when we will be forced to compete with the cheaper wages and the government subsidies of the merchant marine industry of other nations.

Charlotte Observer: One thing Mr. Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway, may safely count on, and that is, there is going to be a lively revival in the passenger business of his line just as soon as the patronage-dispersing machine of the new administration is put into workable order.

"KNIGHTS OF THE ROAD"

New Bern Sun-Journal: The professional tramp is with us again. Railroads running out of the larger centers report a steadily increasing number of "bums" riding "the blinds."

The "bums" drift in, hang around for a day or two, and then take "the blinds" again, as is their immemorial custom. They are very adept too, in dodging inquisitive policemen, and to the kind-hearted housewife they tell tales of wondrous hard luck, embracing everything from fortunes lost in oil speculation to the hard-hearted step-father who drove them from home.

The fall in prices and the increasing number of unemployed in industry has started these gentry, who had mysteriously disappeared during the stirring days of the great war, upon their annual peregrinations. What became of them during the war no man knows. It is hardly conceivable that they were induced by soaring wages to take a job of work.

FARMING IN SAMPSON

Sampson Democrat: While the farmers of Sampson county will make no mistake in reducing acreage, yet if a sensible course were pursued by the farmers of other sections of the south, cotton would be, indeed, a money crop for all the growers. Sampson county raises its food supplies—more corn and bacon than its population requires.

LEADING OUT OF DARKNESS

Columbia State: If all of the enlightened and educated people of South Carolina were aware of the work that the commission for the elimination of adult illiteracy is carrying on in South Carolina, if they knew of the keen wish and effort that have been shown by thousands of middle aged and some venerable men and women to learn to read and write, there would be no lack of generous support for it.

Every oddly enough, although nearly every average Englishman is convinced that England must keep the lead in the naval race, there is practically no popular apprehension of a struggle with America. The American building program is believed by the English to be directed against Japan, and although Japan and England have a naval alliance it is not considered as operative against America.

WHAT GOLF DOES FOR THE TOWNS

Jacksonville Times-Union: Some of the larger cities and many of the smaller places have scouted the idea that golf was of any benefit, but a practical demonstration has been given during the last week of the value of golf, especially to the smaller cities.

Kinston Free Press: There seems to be a tendency on the part of some States to alter their prohibition legislation to conform to the Volstead act as passed Congress. Should this course become universal throughout the nation it would simplify matters and strengthen prohibition enforcement.

Daily Editorial Digest

Princeton University is in the main supported by the press for its recently announced policy of limiting student enrollment. Such criticism as appears is directed not at Princeton's particular problem, but at the effect upon educational facilities as a whole if the Princeton plan should become a general tendency.

But this "higher education by wholesale" it does not meet with unqualified endorsement. "A university, like a city, can become too big for its own good," the Journal continues, and while "students who want advanced education are not to be denied the privilege," still "it is probable that several medium sized institutions of learning are better both for the student and the state."

The doctrine of personal attention and training in education is upheld by the Standard, which maintains that it should be the permanent policy of every university. It classes shall not be so large that every student shall not have personal attention from men qualified by experience and training in education to teach them. And the New York Herald adds that "perhaps graduates of the popular universities, where classmen not only do not become acquainted with all their fellows but scarcely see them, may agree with Princeton that it is making no mistake."

But the Princeton plan, it is contended, offers no solution of the problems presented by the "growing demand for higher education," which, the Baltimore American believes, are pressing for solution. "If it is valid for Princeton it is valid for every university in the country," and the restriction policy "altogether fails to meet the point that... the number of those who wish to share in the benefits of higher education has enormously increased, and the facilities of American colleges that 'as this is one of the most hopeful tendencies of the time, it would be nothing short of a calamity if, when so many are genuinely eager to receive college education, insufficient facilities to satisfy their needs'."

European News and Views

By WILLIAM IVY

PARIS—Practically the only foreign question in which the English people are interested just now is naval armaments. A controversy is raging in the press as to the relative merits of submarines and other smaller craft including flying machines.

I had made a resolution not to permit myself to be annoyed by the American impressions of one Louis Thomas, who is now making a second trip in the United States and writing his experiences for a French weekly. (At least I supposed that the previous trip was his first, for some of his comments were excusable only on the plea of unfamiliarity with the country and its language.)

But M. Thomas continues his absurdities, and one's hopes that longer acquaintance might teach him something go glimmering. In a new article now under my eye he describes the discomforts of kitchenette life in New York "which the New Yorkers endure, along with many other trials, for the pleasure of living in New York, which seems to them the liveliest of all the world's cities, and the one where are found the men who have the most money, and where women find the greatest luxuries and amusements."

Colonies and dominions might, of course, be lost, but their mere possession, in the absence of a merchant marine, would be to exploit their resources and to be of small advantage to the victor. It is ships, and more particularly sailors, that make a world empire.

figure and say no more shall enter. Virtually the only limitation possible is insistence upon a fair standard of preparation; and the better our secondary schools become, the greater will be the number of those who can meet this standard.

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GOLF PLAYERS HELD UP AND ROBBED IN JERSEY

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 6.—Eight men and women, including golf club members from the Hattuson Golf club of Jersey field, where they had been invited as guests of Thomas Debevoise, finance councilman at large of Summit, were held up and robbed by three masked men who blocked the road, cut down trees, branch, stones and other obstructions.

Police automobile patrols were out from Newark and Elizabeth, but news of the holdup spread, and the trace of the robbers could be found in the car. Two got in with her and the stood on the running board, shouting a final warning to the other women to make no attempt to move. They were out of sight, Thomas says, his car containing the robbers and his wife when Jess jumped into this machine and tried to start it. The bandit riding on it, the bullet striking him at him, the bullet striking his mark.

Thomas increased his speed in the teeth of the robbers until near North street, when he was ordered to stop. The bandits then got out, but he whispered consultation and disappeared in the darkness. Police automobile patrols were out from Newark and Elizabeth, but news of the holdup spread, and the trace of the robbers could be found in the car.

HARBORS AND RIVERS BILL IN THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The harbors and rivers authorization bill was formally presented in the House today. The House then took up the bill which authorizes preliminary surveys and carrying out of certain projects which appropriations are not available. Under the new bill the provision for new projects, which it is the first committee which formally had such control to report legislative bills.

lack of bathrooms, I feel sure Mr. Thomas would quickly point out that a tub with running water had nothing to do with the ultimate question of bodily cleanliness. A clean person will keep clean even under the most difficult circumstances. It is not a matter of hygiene, but of the ability to do things. Mr. Thomas thinks that hygiene is made practically unimportant by indulgence in it. Like that of the stevedore steward shifted to the first class. "These people are as dirty—they're always washing," Mr. Thomas thinks we transport our automobiles, because we have a few cemeteries are placed in grassy suburbs instead of in the heart of the city, close by our homes because we don't go into deep mourning for years after a death in the family, and not.

Propos, I happen to have met five months ago a young French girl who came to Paris, somewhat against her family's convictions, largely to see a grandmother of an aged and crowded family in a convent. Her father, a ruined her various chances of matrimony and for a business career, the old lady was in fact the despair of the whole family, and I gathered from her demerit would be greeted with a deep relief.

Well, the grandmother suddenly died. "There was nothing more, perhaps—but the grandmothers never go outward since of it," returned from the funeral early in the head to foot in the deepest black crepe veil hanging down her face and looking fifteen years older than she was. She had been to the convalescence, dances, theatres and other amusements for a year at least.

Let not Mr. Thomas pretend that such sacrifice evinces a fine feeling; it is purely a rational, unemotional act, which is outside rational egotism. To berate an American girl daughter who did not actually marry no more, rather than for a change to complain of this French girl because she failed to put a bowl of soup on the grave.

Really, the first rule of one who writes of other nations is to recognize that what is done in France is necessarily inferior. Mr. Thomas' constant assumption that what is done in France is barbaric and that America is better is a social conceit until it imitates the social conditions of his country is unworthy of his undoubted talent and his admirable earnestness and industry.

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