

The Morning Star

"THE OLDEST DAILY IN NORTH CAROLINA"
Published Every Morning in the Year by The WILMINGTON STAR COMPANY, Inc., 109 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, North Carolina

Entered at the Postoffice at Wilmington, N. C. as Second Class Matter.

Telephones: No. 61
Editorial Office No. 61
Business Office No. 51

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER	
One Year	\$7.00
Six Months	\$4.00
Three Months	\$2.50
One Month	.45

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL	
Postage Prepaid	
Daily only	\$7.00
Sunday only	\$7.00
One Year	\$14.00
Six Months	\$8.00
Three Months	\$4.50
One Month	.45

Subscriptions Not Accepted for Sunday Only Edition

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BRYANT, GRIFFITH & BRUNSON.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1921.

Rats and Waste

There is one part of our population which we can, and should, eliminate. That is the rat population, now numbering at least 100,000,000, or one rat for every human being. The Biological Survey Bureau, which compiled the figures, has computed their annual consumption of foodstuffs as being at least \$200,000,000, or two dollars a head. That is no small food bill, especially when one recalls that "Ten dollars will save a child's life" was, and is, the slogan of those working for the children of Eastern and Central Europe.

For their "keep" the rats make return chiefly in the form of disease. They are credited with a high degree of efficiency in the insidious business of transporting the black death and other plagues. They make some return also in the way of property destruction and general annoyance. Because of this, a campaign of "starve and slay" is urged upon the American people. The two means of destroying the pest lie within the power of every housewife, farmer, storekeeper, wholesale dealer, railroad station officers, and so on down the list of people whose business is endangered by rats.

The toleration which has permitted the growth of our enormous rat population is the child of our national sin of waste. It is safe to say that starving millions could be fed from the food wasted in homes in this country, even with the pressure of the high costs. The same mental attitude which results in the thought that one can do what he likes with food, if he pays for it, has caused us to ignore the steady dribbling from the nation's grain bins. During the war, the determined effort of the Food Administration brought about the most widespread attention to real food economy the country had ever had; the war against the rat will make that economy function on a peace basis.

The War Saving Certificate was urged as a "thrill medium," as it encouraged the saving of small sums which would otherwise be frittered away. Today the government has outstanding \$800,000,000 in War Saving Certificates—a monument to the power of the small investment. Within four years time, or less, at their present rate of increase, the ordinary brown rats of the United States will have destroyed \$800,000,000 in foodstuffs. The situation suggests the old story of the man who labored at pouring water through a basket. In one year's time, the grocery bill of the rats will be twice as great as the appropriation asked under the Smith-Towner bill, which would provide \$100,000,000 annually for the educational systems of those states which would raise proportionate sums in their own borders.

The burghers of Hamelin town found that their penalty served them ill, for, though rid of the rats, they lost their children, too. We may find that our extravagance will serve to maintain the rats, while it destroys our children's chance. Our Pied Piper is at hand, and, unlike the magician of Hamelin, he pays himself. He wears the sober garb of thrift, but he will be none the less efficacious for all that.

The Red Cross in Action

In the succession of headlines, when disaster befalls an American community, there is always to be obtained a glimpse of the effective relief service which the Red Cross holds at the command of those in distress. The headlines Friday morning told of a Georgia village laid in ruins by a tornado, of more than a score dead, many injured and homes swept away. Saturday's headlines brought the story of "Red Cross Tents" set up where Storm Wiped Out a Village. Within a period of less than twenty-four hours, the homeless residents of storm-stricken Gardner found new shelters erected upon their home sites, trained and sympathetic workers in their midst on the mission of emergency aid, and a carload of relief supplies from Atlanta on the most accessible railway siding. It is not the first or the second time within quite recent years that the Southern Division headquarters of the Red Cross has been the best and readiest friend of storm sufferers within the bounds of Georgia; and we suppose there is not a Southern State that has not learned, through experience, to look with comfort upon the same source of aid. Community distress of the extent that calls the emergency service of the Red Cross fully into play is, happily, not of everyday occurrence; but when the emergency arises, the Red Cross does not respond tardily or without the means and spirit essential to the most-effective treatment.

Few of us are prepared to assert offhand whether Germany's reparations account has been set too high or too low. We believe it is somewhat excessive, if Germany is to get only Bergdolt.

Lift the Embargo

The movement to raise the contract interest rate from six to eight per cent does not originate in the selfish designs of a bankers' cabal. The proposal, on the contrary, is clearly in the interest of the farmer and the worker. The former benefits through the larger credits which can be released to him. The latter finds his services at a premium by reason of the building operations which are certain to spring up with an influx of capital.

To raise the interest rate is equivalent to bringing North Carolina into the main current of investment. Already we are feeling the pinch of a steady withdrawal of outside capital. The time may come when the situation will assume the form of an emergency. The time will come if the drain continues, if foreign investors, finding that their money brings larger returns in most of the states, make a definite point of avoiding our own state. Capital seeks the highest level. That is a law which can not be legislated away.

Men who know how steadily insurance companies and other lenders are avoiding North Carolina are becoming alarmed over the prospect of restricted funds for the development of our resources. They have reason to be disturbed. Such a blockade means stagnation, means retrogression. Men who know how much North Carolina money is going to other states where a higher interest rate prevails appreciate the injury implicit in this fact. North Carolina money should be invested in North Carolina projects. It is a pity that vitalizing capital should be flowing away from us.

We should be placed upon a parity with the other Southern states. Six per cent is not enough to attract the money the lack of which will seriously retard our progress. Eight per cent would not be burdensome. It would accelerate the forward-going of North Carolina business and enterprise in a fashion utterly overshadowing any apparent discomfort which it might bring. The embargo should be lifted.

A Word to Mr. Harding

The Springfield Republican warns Mr. Harding to beware of choosing Mr. Hughes to be secretary of state, reserving for Senator Fall the direction of our relations with Mexico. It warns Mr. Harding to think twice before he makes Mr. Hughes "premier," with the expectation that Senator Hiram Johnson will have charge of Japanese affairs. "The very thought," it declares, "of Mr. Hughes suffering his job to be divided into preferred shares and distributed around among other cabinet officers and United States Senators . . . has humorous implications. It sounds as funny as if that man of strange oaths, Charles E. Dawes of Chicago, were to be invited to accept the secretaryship of the treasury with the understanding that Senator Penrose, chairman of the Senate finance committee, was to issue a weekly bulletin for his guidance in the performance of his duties."

Mr. Hughes is so clearly and manifestly a man who stands on his own feet, a man so little inclined to take orders or to permit some one else to look after his job, that there would be scant harmony in a cabinet in which he would be compelled to insist upon his rights. The prospect of his appointment has greatly disturbed the Senators who desire to run the United States for the next four years. They know him to be very much a man of his own mind. That he has always been, that he is certain to remain. As secretary of state, he would be anything but a kneaded clod, and his business would not be that of a looker-on in Washington.

We are not at all sensitive to small slights, but we get sort of lonesome when we reflect on the fact that nearly everybody else in the country has been invited to call on the President-elect.

There has been some comment on the news that Eastern cities are in receipt of a large shipment of eggs from China. Our own interest in the matter is heightened by our recollection of several eggs which apparently had been to China and back.

A committee of the Netherlands parliament has suggested to the government that the former German Crown Prince hereafter be required to pay for the use of his quarters at Wieringen. The way Frederick William beats his rent bill beats the Dutch.

The Louisiana sheriff, who got the State into a legal tangle by forgetting to carry out a death sentence in the case of one of his prisoners, is likely to make matters still worse some of these days by suddenly remembering the hanging and forgetting who was to hang.

We are informed by correspondents that the so-called Ku Klux Klan is going to have a big public meeting at Raleigh and lay its cards on the table. The display will be of little value, however, unless the Klansmen produce their calling cards along with the rest of the assortment.

Figures from the Bureau of Internal Revenue are taken to show that Mr. Rockefeller's income is not as large as it was two or three years ago. Happily, however, John D.'s tastes have always been simple, and he ought to be able, by the practice of rigid economy, to weather the present slump.

A London liquor merchant says he is still filling orders from American patrons, and that, hearing nothing to the contrary, he assumes they're getting the stuff o. k. If his brands are anything like our home brew goods, he should attend a table-walking seance and inquire how his patrons are getting along.

Good roads advocates will be interested in the announcement by the American Road Builders' Association in session at Chicago that it is planning a stiff fight before the Interstate Commerce commission for immediately reduced freight rates on gravel, sand, cement, stone, brick and other road materials, when consigned to officials or to contractors who are engaged in road construction. And while asking the commission to make a reduction to encourage road construction, they also ask the producers and contractors to lower costs of material and construction to a point "which will permit of the greatest road building era in the history of America." Certainly lower rates and lower prices will be an encouragement to the building this year of roads and streets.

Contemporary Views

A JINGO NAVAL POLICY

New York Evening Post: "It is the opinion of your committee that this country should maintain a navy at least equal to that of any other Power." Such is the startling reply of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs to the resolution directing it to determine what constitutes a modern fighting navy and to consider the advisability of our suspending building for six months. The report goes far beyond what was asked. The committee was not directed to lay down a general naval policy. But it has seized the opportunity afforded it by a resolution drawn in the interest of peace to advocate an old-fashioned jingo programme. "The lessons of history," warns the report, "teach us with indisputable truth that we cannot afford to depend for the maintenance of our rights and the defence of the lives and commerce of our citizens upon the mercy, generosity, or good-will of other Powers with rival and conflicting interests or ambitions." Would any one suppose from this oracular utterance that we have existed for a century and a quarter without the protection that the committee deems indispensable and that, although we have never had the largest navy afloat, we have in some way become one of the great Powers?

What is the quarter from which we are menaced? The committee gives this hint: "For one nation to leave itself exposed to attack while another is preparing all the engines of war would be not only folly but the greatest danger to the peace of the world that could be imagined." What is the nation which "is preparing all the engines of war"? Why, it is the United States! Our naval programme is the most ambitious naval programme now being executed or even considered by any country. It is so ambitious that within four-years it will enable us to overtake the hitherto unapproached navy of Great Britain. If the reasoning of the Senate Committee is sound, Great Britain must at once begin to strengthen her fleet. Otherwise she will commit the folly of leaving herself exposed to attack and incidentally bring on "the greatest danger to the peace of the world that could be imagined." And if she should start increasing her fleet, we should be compelled to do the same. Thus, the time and the money, as seen by the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs!

Sensors who are in the habit of sounding the alarm over Japan's alleged militaristic designs are left looking foolish by this jingoistic report. If they make any such speeches hereafter, their words will fly back in their faces. On the other hand, Japanese who have been opposing the course of Japan's military party will be greatly handicapped. All that a Japanese jingo needs to do now in order to justify the hugest military and naval establishment is to read from the report of the Naval Affairs Committee of the United States Senate, which condemns anything less as foolish and dangerous. What is foolish and dangerous for the United States, will be foolish and dangerous for Japan. And who can gainsay him? This report simply places a weapon in the hands of the militarists everywhere.

Fortunately it does not represent the sentiment of the country. The vote on it will show whether it represents the sentiment of the Senate, and consequently whether the Senate in this matter is representative. The committee professes itself to be "as anxious to bring about a reduction of armaments and relief from the burdens which those armaments impose upon the nations of the earth as any one can be." But it holds that "no disarmament would be of any value unless it was general and in the case of the great maritime Powers universal." This, it continues, is unhappily not the case at the present time. It would be much nearer the case if the committee would strike a higher note than that of a jingo naval policy. At a moment when the world is looking to us to take the lead in limitation of armaments we propose to build the largest navy afloat! It is an anachronism. The action of the Senate upon this report will be a test of its sanity. It is unthinkable that the report should not be riddled in debate and overwhelmingly rejected.

THE IRREPRESSIBLE MOONEY CASE

New York World: Abundant evidence has been produced that Thomas J. Mooney, the San Francisco labor leader, did not have a fair trial. The confession of John McDonald, one of the witnesses on whose testimony he was convicted, which was printed in The World Tuesday, gives additional confirmation to what had already been revealed. Less than four months ago Draper Hand, the detective, confessed that he was the chief agent in securing and drilling the witnesses who swore away the lives of Mooney and his companions. The stories of these two men absolutely agree in pointing to a conspiracy to build up a case against Mooney through worthless and perjured testimony. The cattle-man Oxman, who rendered the prosecution invaluable assistance at the trial, beyond a doubt, perjured himself.

When the Supreme Court of California in a lame decision denied that it had power to afford Mooney relief, the only means of saving his life was through an act of clemency by Gov. Stephens, who commuted Mooney's sentence to life imprisonment. He is still in the penitentiary, though every circumstance today strengthens the belief that he was the victim of a sinister miscarriage of justice.

If ever there was a case where the law has failed to afford a remedy for its own gross misuse, it is that of Mooney. That he had a guilty part in the bomb outrage on Preparedness Day in 1915 was never credibly established. That the prosecution employed methods to justify his conviction at the time, dishonorable and corrupt, is shown in the sworn statements of men once at its service. Judges and Assistant District Attorneys connected with the case have since declared that on the evidence presented against him Mooney should not have been convicted.

Nothing is done to rectify a wrong which strikes at the very foundations of the administration of justice. Charlotte Observer: Governor Coolidge finds that he will not be able to accept the invitation of the North Carolina Legislature to make an address before it. Our secret belief is that he might have found no obstacle in the way if the Legislature had specified what it wanted to hear him talk about, or if there was anything particular on his own mind he wanted occasion to get rid of. In short, Coolidge, having nothing to say, decided not to say it.

Raleigh News and Observer: Tariff duties of 40 cents a bushel on wheat and 2 cents a pound on meats do not look as if the Republicans who are controlling the Senate care whether the poor man has a chance or not.

Asheville Citizen: The advice which Charles G. Dawes gave to the House war investigating committee is pertinent, if not pleasing: "There is no there to know conditions." Congress is now acting on the belief that the further you get from events the more qualified you are to besmirch the reputations of the responsible persons.

A contemporary refers to it as a "\$4,000,000,000 Congress." And apparently in the hands of a lot of thirty-cent Congressmen.

Daily Editorial Digest

Keeping Justice Blindfolded

The supreme court decision which threw out the Berger case because an affidavit of prejudice had been filed against Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who presided, split press opinion as well as the court itself. The majority of writers, it is true, feel that the step was a triumph answer to the socialistic charge of unfairness of "capitalistic institutions" but there are those who complain that annulling a judge's decision on the charge of prejudice puts the judiciary on a level with the common law courts and that respect for the law but its posture as well. A number of newspapers, disagreeing with the supreme court's decision, declare that no man can be free from prejudice. "All we can ask," says the Chicago Post (Ind.), "is that it be on the right side. This being so we hate to see even an implied rebuke of a man whose prejudice, if any, is on the side of his country and against those who bring aid and comfort to the enemy." The Flint (Mich.) Journal (Ind.) adds that "so far as can be learned the only 'prejudice' attributed to Judge Landis was his patriotism and his devotion to the cause of the United States." Expressing the opinion that most people will view the decision with "utter amazement," the Tulsa Tribune (Dem.) takes it as "a rebuke of a patriot, and the only case of the kind since the coming of Justice McReynolds' dissenting opinion remarks:

"To carry Justice McReynolds' reasoning to its logical conclusion would be that no patriotic judge could preside in the trial of a person accused of destroying the institutions of the United States—that is if he had ever expressed these patriotic opinions as Judge Landis did. From the aspect of its legal significance many view the decision 'with alarm.' It will result in 'legal delay' in the case of the Janesville (Wis.) Gazette (Rep.) which, it observes, 'is the foundation cause of lynchings.' It is 'unfortunate,' asserts the Columbus Dispatch (Ind.), for it tends 'to weaken the respect for the law and its methods of procedure.' With this precedent before them, the Worcester Gazette (Ind.) fears that 'many criminals will feel encouraged to attack the fitness of the judge who happens to preside, though the exact part of the allegation of prejudice may disqualify a federal judge under the law. The Lynchburg News (Dem.) makes the statement which is typical of many of its contemporaries, that 'nevertheless it appears to run counter to common sense' for 'it is calculated to interfere with prompt dispatch of criminal cases.' It is 'plainly susceptible of abuse' and invites 'obstructive tactics.' It is only a step from this attitude, the Reno Gazette (Rep.) believes, to subjecting the judge 'to examination by the defendant's attorney, and to further, by acquaintance with the facts, be by any chance predisposed personally against the man over whose trial he is to preside.' 'The hand there is a strong feeling among many editorial writers that the supreme court acted wisely; it was, indeed, 'a wonderful object lesson,' says the Minneapolis Journal (Ind.) for it 'proved conclusively that the United States government

believed in a square deal to each and every citizen' and thus as the Syracuse Herald (Ind.) remarks, 'refuted' the socialist theory, 'that our judicial system does not safeguard this principle. The platform of the radicals' the Albany Times Union (Ind.) declares, 'is based on the contention that the machinery of justice is organized against their rights and that it operates for the benefit of private interests' has been 'completely cut out from beneath their feet' by the decision. Says the New York Times (Ind. Dem.): 'It shows the highest court eager to remedy the slightest shadow or suspicion of unfairness, to protect to the utmost rights of defendants, to take advantage in their favor of the smallest cloud of doubt, to give even to the foes of our institutions the fullest measure of their privileges and liberties under the laws and the courts which they condemn.' But whatever the defendants' beliefs, 'like any other American citizen,' the Deseret Salt Lake News (Ind.) points out, Berger and his associates 'are clearly entitled to trial before a fair and impartial court,' and further the decision without bringing Judge Landis 'as biased and prejudiced' simply states that 'when the defendants attested solemnly their belief that he was not fair to them, he should have conceded to them the right to sit on a case instead of getting another, conceded to be unprejudiced, to sit in his place. This is the fact that he is prejudiced and intends to convict the accused if possible. A defendant has a right to a trial before an unprejudiced judge and it is a travesty on justice to have a judge whose fairness is in dispute decide the dispute.' It is interesting to note the similarity in the comment of the Non Partisan League Courier News of Fargo, N. D., in reference to the supreme court's action and that of the Republican Sioux City (Ia.) Journal; both consider it a step in the right direction. The former finds it 'refreshing' that the highest tribunal is moving 'to restore Americanism' and the latter considers it 'keeping with American standards and a fair play' since it 'practically allows the defendants to select his own judge.' In the words of the Norfolk Virginian Pilot (Ind. Dem.) it is a triumph for 'American democracy and democratic justice' and it shows that— 'American justice as jealously guards the rights of socialists as those of any and every other element, that America's law is no respecter of persons' and that the government at which the socialists level their bitterest attacks 'can be relied upon to protect them and give them a fair deal.' For the defendant to be tried, without wishing to express sympathy for those who have benefited by it, the Houston Chronicle (Ind.) states the case in what it calls 'commonplace terms': 'This country is safer,' it says, 'with five men at large who ought to be in jail than it would be with them in jail under circumstances which might expose many persons to the perils of prejudged judges in the future.'

European News and Views

Two Views of the New "Association"

One reason why Europe may hesitate to adopt the Harding "Association" plan is pure pride. Essentially, one plan may be as good as another in European eyes, but being sensitive people the Europeans are likely to choose the subject of an international combination at America's best.

The British press, as a whole, is more sympathetic in its tone, but under the title "Mr. Harding's Initiative" the "Daily Express" writes somewhat disparagingly, perhaps—in Paris-Midi as follows:

"We hear that Harding, the new President of the United States has the intention of calling together shortly representatives of the powers at Washington to consider his plan of international arbitration. 'Scarcely arrived, if they do arrive, these representatives of the civilized world, but in hand, will hear something like this:

"Gentlemen, an American President called Wilson (Woodrow) persuaded you to accept the American initiative in an international organization called the League of Nations. America, having now changed her President, it is only proper that we should also change the name of the organization. I am sure that you will agree with me in replacing it by another institution which I will tell you about. But remember of course that if in four years' time by chance a Democratic president should come into power, he would have to have to decide to change once more."

"In other words," says the writer, "we must make up our minds henceforth to sneeze as the title of the League of Nations is not all for the plan of international organization which Mr. Harding is going to present, even if it really came into existence, would have a extraordinary consequence."

"His idea appears to be to form the nations into groups according to continents. On one side there would be the American nations, on the other the European nations, and the court of arbitration or justice would dominate all the other groups. 'In this way the United States, you understand, would not be obliged to intervene in political affairs in Europe, at the same time would not cut all communications with the old continent. It is an artful trick, but will it please everybody?"

"We may cheerfully bet our heads that rather than accept such a plan the South American nations would prefer an alliance with China. The Monroe Doctrine has always seemed to them an agreeable excuse for the United States to devour them with nothing but salt. To consent to take part in a purely American group, where the United States would necessarily be all-powerful, would be a disaster for the South Americans to throw themselves willingly into the lion's mouth. 'And what will the Washington people say,' continues the writer, 'when Japan proposes in her turn to form a group of nations in the Far East? Of course, it would be understood, that neither the United States nor any European state would form part of the group. But who would henceforth dominate the Far East? And what would become of the American policy of the open door in China?"

"The more we think about it, the more we are convinced, that Harding's plan, if this is really final, will come ridiculously to grief. Moreover the League of Nations exists already. Af-

has oozed into action even while formal attitude has been that of Europe to its own device of America has all along been repudiating a very practical fashion those formal ideas of isolation which have formed in her political thought. 'For all the language that has been times sounded priestly and leveling America has all the time been paying the good Samaritan by 30-60-90 the claim of the weak upon the strong. The impulse to help is there, but the pulse which makes the machinery of the people's air, having passed the instrument through the hands of the men of the globe. We cannot read the purpose of the President, but other than to unleash the strength, and, with that strength, the ascendant, we are not aware of any fundamental disagreement. Howsoever the agreement should be constructed."

WOMEN AND "DOPE"

Drug-taking among young women is a very practical increasing in all large cities, says the London Daily Mail.

Psycho-analysis ascribes the cause of the drug habit to the conflict in the unconscious mind. The conscious suffering is often of a chronic nature. The woman has a sense of general unhappiness, which she attributes to nervous worry or disappointment, but howsoever the craving is to be quenched and obscure. Chronic alcoholism is said to arise from the same source, but alcohol intolerance and the resulting "dope" are in some cases symptoms of mental conflicts, and that the distress returns in a more acute form when there is a temporary abstinence from the drug. So long as the tendency to excessive narcotic indulgence are concealed from consciousness the habit remains incurable. Abstinence will cure the habit, but the method frequently fails in the advanced forms of drug-taking and in dependence on the drug.

The vice commission of Chicago made a searching inquiry into the question of the cocaine and morphine habit among women. In one district of the city four stores "sell at least four pounds of morphine and six ounces of cocaine each month." Two women have been known to buy on an average 500 pills per week of morphine sulphate. Another woman has been known to buy three grains of morphine and cocaine daily.

DUTCH EAST INDIES DEMAND THEIR INDEPENDENCE

THE HAGUE, Feb. 12.—Details of Mohammedan agitation for independence in some of the outlying islands of the Dutch East Indies are revealed by a report of the government of the Netherlands. The report states that the controller, De Kat Angello, of the island of Toll Toll, in Middle Celebes, 1919.

According to the report, the murder of a Dutch official by a native named Moes, who advised the natives not to obey the Dutch government but to join the Sarekat Islam movement. The Dutch press is now clamoring for the punishment of Abdur Moes and other strong measures to protect government officials particularly at isolated posts.

The report says the official Sarekat Islam movement is more or less harmless, but that the real movement is working secretly and is exceeding dangerous.

TRINITY PHYSICAL DIRECTOR STATE CHAIRMAN OF A. P. E.

(Special to The Star) TRINITY COLLEGE, Durham, Feb. 12.—(Ap) The address by the physical education for Trinity, has been notified of his election as chairman of the American Physical Education association. The object of this association is to raise the physical education of the nation.

As state chairman, Captain had charge of furthering the purposes of the association among the members of the state. He will make an annual report to the national headquarters of the organization concerning the progress in physical education noted in the state. This report, with that of the other states of the union, will be published in the American Physical Education Review.

MAKES DRY CELL BATTERY LAST FOR MANY A YEAR

(Special to The Star) TRINITY COLLEGE, Durham, Feb. 12.—(Ap) The use of a new type of cell battery for your electric bell, three months when by a simple rearrangement the ordinary cell will last three years," asks Dr. C. W. Edwards, Trinity. The way the physics will do it is to suspend the battery from the air by means of a wire. Thus placed on a shelf or in a box, the cell does not "leak" so rapidly. Dr. Edwards has a cell which has been operating from suspended batteries for three years, and the bell rings just as well as when the batteries were first purchased.

An electric light that is supposed to illuminate an automobile step, the door is opened has been patented by an English inventor.

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