

# What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Prehistoric Lore.

**DEL RIO, TEXAS.**—According to the scientists, who have a great way of naming earthly phenomena without inquiring into the wishes of the phenomena, we are now living in a terrestrial era known as the Holocene period.

This will be news to a lot of people who rather suspected we were living through a stage which might be called Chaos.

Still, it's no wonder that the word hasn't got around generally yet, because this present era is quite a young era as eras go. It's merely a few million years old, which, to our true geologist, is the same as yesterday. Mention a few million years to him and he'll say "phew!" and just snap his fingers—like that.



Irvin S. Cobb

I wonder if the authorities would pardon a suggestion from a poor ignoramus whose acquaintance with geology is largely limited to two of its surface phases, namely: Regular paved roads and those derved detours. When we consider most of the humorous illustrations and the bulk of the humorous text printed in the average smart magazine of today, and the even spicier lines heard in smart modern plays, wouldn't it be more fitting to call it, not the Holocene, but the Obscene period?

### The Law's Long Arm.

**THE** long arm of the law—it's a grand phrase, isn't it? So mouth-filling, so satisfying to the honest citizen's soul!

It conjures up visions of unrelenting warfare against crime, inevitable punishment for the guilty. It's the bunk!

It's the bunk because of crooked lawyers; venal policemen; complacent prosecutors; soft-hearted or corrupted jurors; witnesses, bribed or intimidated; the law's delays; reversals of fair verdicts on foolish technicalities; a false sentimentality which forgets the widow and orphan of the victim and thinks only of the family of the killer; most often of all, abuse of the powers to commute and to pardon and to parole.

### The Passing Years.

**EVERY** newborn year is a rosy prospect just as nearly every dying year is a dun-colored disappointment. But without revived hope what could we look forward to except being measured for a shroud?

It seems only yesterday when 1937 was busting in, a radiant, bouncing baby-child, his arms burdened with promises, bless his little soul! After several false starts, happy days were here again. Nobody was aiming to remodel the Supreme court. Senator Ashurst told us so, and didn't he know? He didn't.

Secretary Wallace, slightly assisted by Divine Providence, would immediately have the crop situation well in hand. Grass would grow only in the street leading to the almshouse. The Wall Street boys were expecting two suckers in every pot. And the song of the Bulbul was heard in the land—ah, the bull-bull!

### Gambling Houses.

**A** ONCE famous card-sharp—not reformed, but retired—said to me:

"Show me a professional gambling house where the roulette wheel isn't crooked, where any other mechanical device is on the square, where the operatives from the bosses on down won't skin a customer—call him a sucker, if you want to; the terms are interchangeable—and I'll drop dead from shock, because no such outfit ever existed nor ever will, not so long as games can be tricked, as all of them can, and gamblers are out for the coin, as they naturally are, and the hand is quicker than the eye, which it is."

"But how about the mathematical percentage in favor of the bank—isn't that enough?" I asked.

"How about the mathematical percentage of crooked law-enforcement officers who have to be bribed?" he countered. "There's never enough coming in to satisfy those babies."

IRVIN S. COBB

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## FARM TOPICS

### POULTRY OUTLOOK FOUND FAVORABLE

### Government Bureau Predicts Higher Egg Prices.

Supplied by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

Somewhat higher prices of eggs next year as compared with this year are foreseen by the bureau of agricultural economics in a review of the poultry and egg situation. This conclusion is drawn from the smaller number of layers which will be in farm flocks next year and the expectation that the rate of egg production will be somewhat lower.

The larger supply of feed this year is expected to have a material effect on the poultry situation. The total production of the four feed grains, corn, oats, barley, and grain sorghum, this fall will be the largest since 1932. And the wheat supply for poultry feeding will be larger than in recent years. With the number of grain-eating animals at a low point, there will be unusually ample supplies of grain for poultry, especially in some of the Corn Belt states. In other words, the bureau says, the feed situation next spring will be much more favorable to producers than in 1937.

Largely as a result of the ample feed supply, it is expected that the hatch of chicks next spring will be larger than the small hatch this year. This leads to the conclusion that while poultry supplies will be smaller in the first half, they will be larger in the last half of 1938 than in the corresponding periods of 1937. Higher prices of chickens are looked for in early 1938, whereas lower prices may be the rule a year from now.

Stocks of eggs in cold storage which will affect egg prices next year are likely to be much less than they were in 1937, because of smaller marketings.

While the production of fall and winter broilers this year is expected to be heavy, the price is not likely to be depressed correspondingly because the general meat supply is smaller.

Turkey production this year is estimated at 10 per cent less than it was in 1936. With prices expected to be higher than they were last year and possibly higher than in 1935, the hatch and production of turkeys in 1938 probably will be increased over this year.

### Fast-Growing Pigs Are the Best as Breeders

The best swine breeding stock usually comes from the heaviest pigs, said H. W. Taylor, extension swine specialist at North Carolina State college.

So a good way to select breeding stock, he added, is to weigh the litters at weaning time.

If all sows and litters have had the same care and feeding, the litters which are heaviest at weaning time will be those from the best sows.

The boar and sow pigs selected for breeding purposes should be taken from these heaviest litters.

Boar pigs to be raised for pork should be treated when four to five weeks old, Taylor continued. At this age the treatment does not shock the pig as much as it will later, and the young pigs recover more rapidly.

He also pointed out that sanitation and balanced rations are two of the most important factors in hog production. "If you have not tried farrowing and raising pigs on clean land, give it a trial," he said.

### Semi-Scalding Poultry

The water for semi-scalding broilers should be 126 to 128 degrees Fahrenheit, roasting chickens 128 degrees, fowl 128 to 130 degrees, young turkeys 125 to 127 degrees, old turkeys 128 degrees. The thermometer should be carefully checked for accuracy. The time that birds should be left in the water is 30 seconds. Birds should be killed by bleeding through the mouth and by sticking the brain.

### Agricultural Notes

The flesh of sharks is a source of poultry food.

Duck eggs have a greater fat content than hen eggs.

If vegetables sprout and grow in the cellar storage, it indicates that the temperature is too high.

Turkeys reach a marketing size only after 24 to 28 weeks of even, rapid growth from the start.

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

### Lesson for December 19

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS

LESSON TEXT—Luke 2:8-20. GOLDEN TEXT—For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.

PRIMARY TOPIC—When Jesus Came. JUNIOR TOPIC—When Jesus Came. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Birth of Our Saviour. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—God's Gift of a Saviour.

Few indeed are the stories that will bear retelling or the books that are worth re-reading. Rare is the song that we care to hear more than once. How significant then that we come to the observance of Christmas each year with hearts full of delight in the story of the birth of Jesus, eager again to hear the account from God's Word, and to listen with attentive souls for the sound of the angel's song in the Christmas music.

The birth of our Lord as the incarnate Saviour of men is still front page, headline news, even in 1937. The glad tidings of his coming still color the thinking and living of a world that has gone far from him, that lives today in hatred and enmity, even while outwardly recalling the coming of the One who was to bring peace on earth. We have even gone so far that men feel that the way to promote peace is to use the sword. Until the Prince of Peace himself shall reign there may be no other way. But let us be certain at this Christmas time that the tender baby hand from the cradle at Bethlehem has reached our hearts and lives, bringing us peace with God and good will toward men.

The first seven verses of our chapter relate the coming of Mary with Joseph to God's appointed place at his appointed time, for the entrance into this world of the Son of God as the "Word" that "was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Our lesson opens with the proclamation of the blessed good news to the shepherds in the field.

#### I. "Unto You Is Born . . . a Saviour" (vv. 8-14).

Christ was a great teacher, one whom the common people heard gladly, "for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes" (Mark 1:22). He was a leader among men, and lived a life which was an example beyond that of any man. But mark it well, this was not the central and essential purpose of his coming. He came as a Saviour. His mother was told before his birth that she should "call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

It is not enough to be among the countless thousands who superficially observe Christmas with greetings and gifts. We must with the shepherds go and present ourselves in personal devotion to him. If you have not met the Lord Jesus as your own personal Saviour do it now. And if you know him, make this a Christmas in which Christ is supreme.

#### II. "Let Us Now Go . . . and See" (vv. 15, 16).

Their fear changed to assurance by the words of the angel, the shepherds at once "go" and "see." Would that all those who heard today did likewise. The shepherds might well have found all manner of excuses for not going. They had sheep to care for, they were not prepared for a journey. No, the urge was upon them "and they came with haste . . . and found" Jesus.

#### III. "When They Had Seen . . . They Made Known" (vv. 17-20).

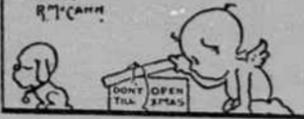
Mary the mother of Jesus had special reason to ponder these things in her heart. But the shepherds "returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen."

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so" (Ps. 107:2). When we have found the Lord Jesus we must not simply rejoice in the satisfaction and peace that has come to our own souls. We are saved to serve. The normal expression of the new life in Christ is the proclamation of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Only in that spirit do we truly keep Christmas!

To every one that sees these lines—whether editor, typesetter, or proofreader—whether a reader in the midst of the clamor of the great city or in the quiet of a distant countryside, whether old or young, whether well or on a sickbed, whether alone, far from family and friends, or in the bosom of your family, the writer of these lines extends in the name of Christ a most hearty good wish for a blessed Christmas.

## THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

A constant new surprise  
My changing days unfold.  
My interest never dies—  
I love this growing old.



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### Seeking Your Will

You are seeking your own will. You are seeking some good other than the law you are bound to obey. But how long will you find good? It is not a thing of choice. It is a river that flows by the path of obedience. I say, again, man cannot choose his duties. You may choose to forsake your duties, and choose not to have the sorrow they bring. But you will go forth; and what will you find? Sorrow without duty—bitter herbs, and no bread with them.—George Eliot.

### National Prosperity

What constitutes national prosperity? Not wealth or commerce simply, or military achievements, but the greatest possible number of happy, noble and graceful homes, where the purest flame burns brightest on the altar of Family Love, and Woman, with her piety, forbearance, and kindness of soul, is permitted to officiate as High Priestess.

### HER VICTIM



"Madam, I am just out of the hospital, and—" "Don't tell me any such story as that. You're the man I gave a piece of pie to not two weeks ago." "Yes'm, dat was just fore I went to de hospital."

### Here and There

Egyptian Guide—And the stones I'm about to show you are covered with hieroglyphics. American Tourist—Oh, isn't that too bad. At home we're bothered by grasshoppers.

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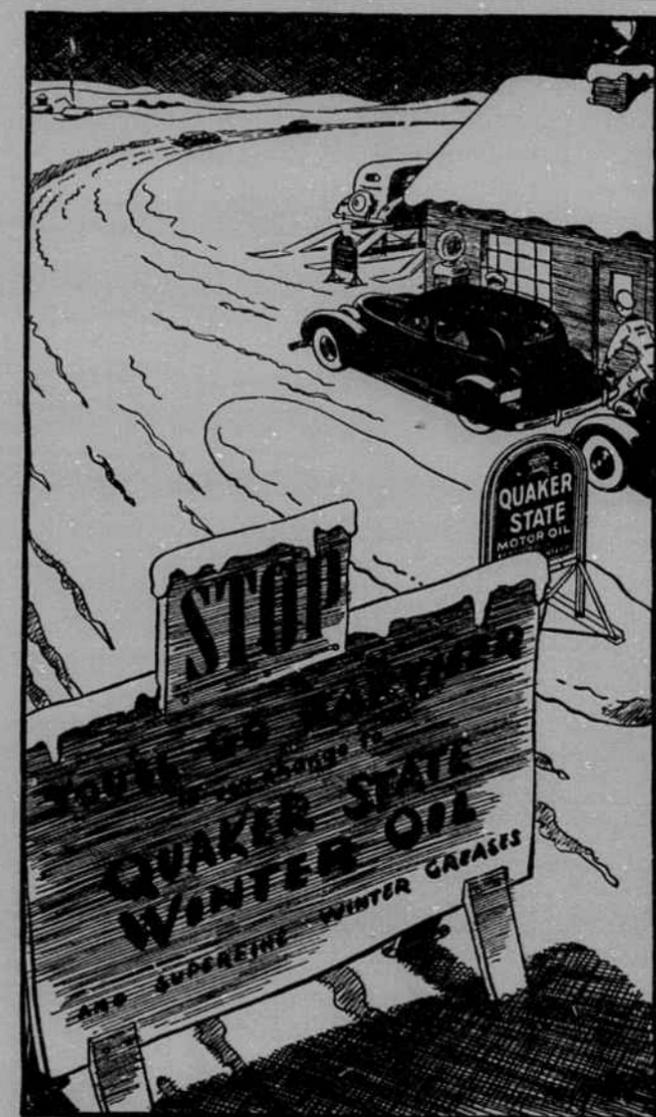
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**For a Happy Life** Remember this—that very little is needed to make a happy life.—Marcus Aurelius.

**Belief Necessary** You have to believe in happiness or happiness never comes.—Douglas Malloch.

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