

THE GAZETTE-NEWS

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Wednesday, January 27, 1915.

SEEING SOUTH AMERICA.

The Red Star liner Kronland (memorable as the ship that saved most of the crew and passengers of the Volturno when that vessel burned at sea) has started on a historic voyage. She is going to circumnavigate South America with 300 passengers on an eighty-two days' cruise.

The steamer, the first to encircle the great South American continent, opens a new era of travel and trade. For many years we have had "circular tours" to Europe, and even around the world. Now, with Europe barred to pleasure-seekers and the Far East less hospitable, the southern hemisphere beckons.

Those 300 passengers of the Kronland are pioneers of a great stream of tourists who will visit the southern lands and people and return full of enthusiasm. They will be warmly welcomed by our Spanish and Portuguese neighbors. They will be ambassadors of good will and harbingers of trade. They will be interpreters between the Latin-Americans and the North Americans.

Meanwhile, by judicious expenditures in constructive work, those who have the money cannot only get more for it but can relieve unemployment and hasten the good times.

THE DECAY OF LYNCHING.

Lynchings fell off in 1914. There were only 52 cases in the United States, the smallest number in any year since the records have been kept. Aside from this general indication of a growing respect for law and order, a scrutiny of the records develops some less gratifying facts.

First of all, it should be noted that if "the usual crime" were ever regarded as a blanket justification for the institution of lynching, it must now be definitely discarded. Relentless statistics declare that only seven lynchings out of the 52 came within the category of chivalric murders for the protection of womanhood, and only five of the victims in these cases were colored.

Looking into the motives for the other 45 killings, we find that men and women—three women—were lynched for murder, for assault and battery, for robbery, for stealing mules, for burning barns, for assisting other men to escape and for being discovered under a house. Booker T. Washington points out a growing tendency "to lynch for any cause, however trivial."

We are forced to the conclusion that in a typical modern lynching the original crime is the factor of least importance. The chief cause appears to be a criminal desire for blood on the part of an inflamed mob. Nearly any offense will serve for a pretext.

TURNING ENERGY INTO WEALTH.

The Oregon Conservation Commission reports that there is 20,000,000 potential horse-power in the Columbia river basin, one-third of all the "white coal" in the United States—and nearly all of it going to waste.

How can this power be utilized? A very small part of it will suffice for the needs of the local population. Electricity generated there cannot be made of direct use to far distant centers of population as the power of Niagara Falls, for example, is available for Buffalo.

The solution, it is pointed out, consists in "finding commodities which can be produced in the electric furnace at such low cost that the markets of the world can be entered." The commission therefore suggests that the state investigate opportunities for the manufacture of fertilizers. There are plenty of materials available for the production of potash, nitrate from the air. The big element of cost is the power, and there is almost limitless power waiting to be harnessed. The present war demand for nitrates to make explosives, and the increased call for fertilizers in the domestic market as a result of curtailed imports, create unusual opportunities in these industries.

Eventually, no doubt, the nation will learn to use most of the great, wasted forces of nature in some such way—to make products of high value and world-wide use whose manufacture requires a vast amount of cheap power. Not only the water power can be used thus, but the fuel deposits whose transportation is difficult (such as the immense lignite coal beds of North Dakota and Montana), the wind and wave power at convenient places, and possibly the interior heat of the earth in such regions as the Yellowstone Park, where the cold outer crust is easily pierced.

"BUILD NOW."

The firms engaged in the building trades in Augusta, Ga., have adopted a practical and sensible method of stimulating business. They need employment for their men and their money, and the city needs houses and business structures. But everybody has been holding back because—well, because everybody else was holding back. The problem faced by the builders is simply the overcoming of their fellow citizens' inertia. So they have all joined in an appeal to the public of Augusta, pointing out the advantages of "building now" instead of after a while.

The firms explain that they can build today for \$2,000 a house that in ordinary times would cost \$4,700. They show that reductions for construction work range from 10 to 25 per cent compared with the prices that prevailed before the business depression came. They are not cutting under market prices for such work; they are simply pointing out the great economy of building now, while market prices are low.

The situation is much the same in most other cities. Not for many years have building materials been so cheap. It is the strategic time to erect houses and stores and factories and public buildings. With the inevitable wave of prosperity, prices will rise again and the money won't go so far.

Meanwhile, by judicious expenditures in constructive work, those who have the money cannot only get more for it but can relieve unemployment and hasten the good times.

A New York manufacturing firm has paid the city \$750 by way of compensation for the extinction of a fire for which the company was held responsible because of neglect to obey a fire department order. If this method were applied generally, after a while there would either be mighty few fires or the fire departments would be self-sustaining. The idea is recommended to all other cities.

Two thousand persons stood in line nearly all night to pay several dollars apiece for tickets to one of Caruso's farewell performances in the Metropolitan Opera house. Just another evidence of hard times in New York.

This war is just one name after another. No sooner do we begin to get used to Prentiss Doda, the Albanian rebel chief, than we are confronted by B. Koker Jan, burgomaster of Krimpen-on-the-Yeer.

PRESS COMMENT.

Mythological Cancer Houses. There has been considerable discussion recently of the old question of "cancer houses" and "cancer streets." Statements by eminent investigators, which have been given wide currency, have tended to strengthen the impression that there are houses and streets where the disease occurs with unusual frequency, the implication being that a relation of some kind exists and that cancer is in some way an infectious disease. This view and the alleged evidence to support it were vigorously attacked by Dr. E. P. Bashford, the general director of the work of the Imperial Cancer Research fund, held in London in July. According to Dr. Bashford, cancer houses, in the sense that people living in them become infected, are as much of a myth as "cancer cures" in the case of animals, and he hopes that these fancied dangers will cease alike to alarm the public and divert the energies of investigators from fruitful lines of inquiry. According to Dr. Bashford, the public is misled by statements based on simple enumeration of houses in which one, two, or three, or more

cases of cancer had occurred. Such an inquiry can be only preliminary to an accurate determination of whether cancer is really more frequent in one house than in another. To reach the true conclusion it would be necessary to consider all the details of the population, not only of the "cancer houses" but also of the other houses in the same neighborhood as to sex, age, nature and site of the disease, duration of stay, occupation and habits. Some houses might be sought after by old people because of low rental or a house might be let to couples without children or it might be frequented by aged lodgers. Even if it were scientifically established that cancer is more frequent in certain houses, it would be fallacious to jump to the conclusion that cancer is infectious. In all such inquiries we must not overlook the great frequency of the disease, especially in adult life, and the part which ordinary chance would play in counting up cases in certain houses and certain localities. As Dr. Bashford points out, the British statistics for 1911 show that out of a total of 145,703 deaths of males over 35 years of age, 14,923 died of cancer, and out of 145,370 deaths of females over 35 years of age, 13,232 died of cancer. It is easy to calculate therefrom that the chance that a man over 35 will die from cancer is one in 9.7, and for a woman over 35 one in 7.4. It would indeed be strange if this large number of deaths from cancer were distributed evenly and it is perfectly natural to suppose that some houses and some families would exhibit more cases, and might even by the laws of chance continue to exhibit a high rate over long periods of time. The conclusion that cancer is either infectious or hereditary would on such evidence, be unwarranted. Sir Thomas Oliver in a recent address referred to one street in which between 1833 and 1908, nineteen persons and one dog had died of cancer. Careful examination shows that the death rate of this street was only a little above the average for the whole country.—Journal of American Medical Association.

RIPPLING RHYMES

SLUMBER.

For all your worry and your weeping, for all your pain and woe, just try some good old-fashioned sleeping—the finest cure I know. "Ah, yes," you say, "such talk is easy, well men may hand it out; but when with asthma one is wheezy, or when he has the gout, or when black care with him is drilling, all sleepless are his eyes, he cannot slumber for a shilling, no matter how he tries." So speaks the timid human rabbit, filled with forebodings dire; yet sleep, like kicking, is a habit that sick folks may acquire. When I am sick I travel backward, and lock my chamber door, and say, "So help me Albert Edward, I'll sleep or bust a snore!" I count some sheep imaginatively, counting over a stile; such animals are flip and merry, and always make me smile; I watch those nutcrackers, soiled and frowny, their long procession keep, and pretty soon I'm feeling drowsy, and then I am asleep. At first I counted seven billion before I got repose, but now, when I reach half a million, I nearly always doze. You watch your ewes and lambskin mounting the stile, a deluge deep; you keep on counting, counting, counting, until you fall asleep.

WALT MASON. Copyright, 1915, by The Adams Newspaper Service.

A MODEST GREAT MAN.

Henry Ford, the automobile man, may be reckoned some day as one of the greatest benefactors of the race. The fact that this modest mechanic-millionaire doesn't know he is a great man makes him all the greater. The man himself is lost in his work. He is not a dominant or compelling personality he is one of the most shrinking persons I have ever met, embarrassed almost to speechlessness by a word of praise. But his amazing work is a sort of industrial force, working out automatically along new lines, rather than a person. He represents a new industrial age. And the ideas with which he recently startled the world of industry may soon seem as natural and inevitable as steam and electricity.

I talked with Mr. Ford a year ago, just after he had announced his great profit-sharing plan, by which the humblest laborer in his factories was to get a minimum wage of \$5 a day. Other captains of industry were dubious of its success, but Ford had no doubts.

"Of course it'll work," he said. "I don't know anything about economics and socialism and such things, but I know that the men who earn the money for us ought to get more of the profits than they're getting, and that they'll make good use of all the money we pay them. And we can afford to double their wages. Most industries could, if they'd do as we have done, and standardize their output and systematize everything, and treat their employees as individual human beings."



Speaking of Horse Shows—how's this for horse sense?

You need a new evening suit for to-night. Your tailor is out of the question. You've known that our fabrics are identical with those of the highest priced tailors. You determine to drop into one of our stores. You see the fit before you order. You find that our prices are about half your first-rate tailor's. Need we say more? Our smartest young men's dress suits are shapely, with soft rolling lapels, silk faces—some with edges silk piped all around.

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no thought of benefitting under the new system. But the figures seem to show that you can't pay workmen more wages without getting back more than you pay them in increased efficiency. Anyhow, the Ford employees in the past year have turned out from 15 to 20 per cent more work, in spite of a reduction of their working time from nine hours to eight.

"We have to hold the men back," says Ford. Formerly 10 per cent of the employees were absent every day for some cause or other. During the past year that idleness was reduced to three-tenths of one per cent. And yet there are those who say that the working classes won't work unless they're hard up and need the money for immediate purposes!

In March, 1913, the company had to discharge 1,275 men; in March, 1914, it only had to discharge 166 out of its 18,000. In March, 1913, 870 employees quit; in the same month last year only 115 quit. The same stimulating profit-sharing arrangement decreased the "floaters," or "five day men," in the same period of time, from 5,156 to 166.

Evidently those employees have worked for their money. But what have they done with it? Squandered it in riotous living, as many prophesied they would. Ford reports these facts: 8,000 families, in one year, have

Daddy's Goodnight Story.

My Dear Readers:—While I was writing the story about why a cat has whiskers our dear old cat Boul Boul came and walked over my desk and I wanted to ask if your cat came and walked over your desk while you were writing a story about the same thing?

I want to tell you a secret about cats and dogs. A cat will always be a friend to whoever feeds it, while a dog always loves his master! Ask some of your friends if they know this. Tomorrow night there will be a story for my boy readers. Of course girls may read it too. Here is my story for tonight: Why the Cat Has Whiskers. "Daddy, before I go to sleep will you tell me why the cat has whiskers?" asked little Ethel as her father tucked her in. "Yes, my dear. It happened this way. "Many years ago cats could run about in the woods and then they had to need for whiskers. But there came a flood upon the earth and Mr. and Mrs. Noah took all the animals into the ark to keep them from being drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Cat went along with the elephants, the monkeys, bears, ostriches, horses, and

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moved out of their old homes into better ones. The bank accounts carried by employees increased 130 per cent in six months. The life insurance carried increased 85 per cent in six months. Homes owned outright by employees gained 87 per cent in six months, and building lots gained 88 per cent. Police justices say that, although Ford employees appeared often in the prisoners' dock formerly, since January, 1914, they have been conspicuously absent. Apparently they don't need to get drunk now to have a good time.

Mr. Ford sums up his theory in these few words: "No man can bring up a family and hope to own a home on the ordinary rates of wages. I do not think that any man can do good work mentally and physically for more than eight hours a day. In my judgment the other factors are not so very important."

Turn About. Mr. Kipling, while on a visit to Mr. Hardy, went to see a house which the author of "Life's Little Ironies" thought would suit him. When Mr. Kipling moved out of earshot, Mr. Hardy observed to the occupant: "I may mention to you that this gentleman is no other than Mr. Rudyard Kipling."

"Is that so?" she replied. "I never heard the name before." Presently Mr. Kipling, in turn, found himself alone with the lady and remarked: "Possibly you may not be aware that the gentleman who brought me here today is Mr. Hardy, the eminent author."

"Oh, indeed," was her reply. "I don't know his name."—London Express.

WHY HAIR FALLS OUT. Dandruff causes a feverish irritation of the scalp, the hair roots shrink, loosen and then the hair comes out fast. To stop falling hair at once and rid the scalp of every particle of dandruff, get a 25-cent bottle of Danderine at any drug store, pour a little in your hand and rub into the scalp. After a few applications all dandruff disappears and the hair stops coming out.

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