



RAGSON LETTERS

Folks: The money that I throw away on things that didn't count, would, if I had it all today, be quite a snug amount. I don't remember where it went, or why or when or how, I only know that it was spent—I wish I had it now.

Where are you going, my pretty maid? I'm going to the library, sir, she said. And why to the library, pretty maid? To look up the name of a Zulu chieftain of the eighteenth century whose name had six letters and ended in "zi," sir, she said.

The only sure way to command a good price is never to cheapen one's stock in trade.

A Charlotte justice of the peace received an inquiry from a neighboring city attorney in regard to a judgment that had been entered against a certain client. He inclosed a stamped envelope for reply. Some few days later the inquirer received a postcard bearing this information: "Your inquiry duly received. I beg to inform you that my time is highly valuable just now. Hay cutting is most nigh here, politics is sizzling hot, and automobilism is mighty fine. If you would inclose a dollar bill it might stimulate me some. I paid two dollars once to a lawyer for answering a question and all he said was 'No.'"

One way to store the straw hat helpfully, is to wrap it carefully in paper and place it where you will be sure not to find it next summer.

New "weeks" are: "Shut up your office week, Eat more garlic week, Trade in your old alarm clock week, Stand for your mother-in-law (six weeks), Amend the constitution week, Take out five times as much insurance as you can pay for week, Walk a mile for a Camel week, Native son week, Cuss the government week, Buy more booze week, Hit a pedestrian week, and Give 'till it hurts week. All week stuff.

Most of us worry because the river doesn't flow our way, and a few learn to go the way the river goes.

A Prophecy—I look for the near-future passing of the correspondence school, with radio as its successor. A step-up in education, I believe. Consider the nationalizing effect, for instance, of a New Yorker, residing in Pittsburgh, taking a course in Latin from a Russian at the University of California; at the same time listening in on a colored quartet from Memphis singing, "My Wild Irish Rose" at a Klan convention in Indiana.

Windy Wolf is noted for his thriftiness, but several days ago he let a storekeeper talk him into buying a pair of socks.

A goose came winging from the north; he cast a wary glance upon a big, inviting pond. I cannot take a chance, lest I be potted, quoth the goose. Look at that cornstalk blind; I'll just continue on my way; I'm not the silly kind. I can't afford to risk my neck my life is mine alone; to light upon that pond, I fear, would be a costly 'bone. Sufficient unto every day the evil is thereof; knowing these hunters, and their skill I can't afford to scoff. Some man will get me in the end, but this fact I declare; the hunter that would cook this goose, the man must be a bear.

Many a time when you think some girl is looking at you through a window her gaze extends no further than her own reflection in the glass.

The poorest dime's worth in the world is a Sunday paper that was printed in a metropolitan center on the preceding Tuesday.

WHY, CERTAINLY!

Pinehurst, N. C., Dec. 11.—The federal child labor amendment was denounced as un-American and a blow at freedom by the North Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association at its semi-annual meeting here. These employers of child labor stood as one man to voice their enraged protest against the proposal. A committee was appointed to raise funds to fight the amendment.

OPPOSE NIGHT BAKING.

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 11.—Organized bakers are urging the abolishment of night bakeries in this state. The Wisconsin Federation of Labor is supporting a bill that will be introduced in the legislature to end this evil.

Asked and --- Answered

(This is a valuable educational feature in The Herald. Send in your questions, and address them to United States Press Association, 1343 H Street, Washington, D. C. Mention this paper when you write. Enclose two cents in stamps for reply. Do not include trivial matter or questions requiring extensive research.)

Q. Who was the author of the Missionary Hymn, and have the Buddhists formerly repudiated it?

The "Missionary Hymn" is recognized by the familiar line, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains." Its author was Reginald Heber, who lived between 1782-1826. It is said that a formal protest was recently made by an influential group of Buddhists in Ceylon against the continued singing, in its present form, of the famous Missionary Hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains." The hymn, as everybody knows, regrets that "Ceylon's Isle" is a spot where "though every prospect pleases, and only man is vile." Naturally the Cingalese do not relish being sung about through the centuries in an immensely popular hymn as "vile."

Q. How many civil service employees in the federal government have been retired on pay?

At the end of the last fiscal year the number retired employees at the above time, totaled 10,548, of whom 9,706 were male employees and 842 were female employees.

Q. Is the operation of stone quarries in the United States diminishing, and how many people are employed in the industry?

According to the United States Bureau of Mines, there were 99,455 men employed in stone quarries last year and this, the bureau states, was a larger number than has been employed in this capacity since 1915.

Q. How many ships have been scrapped under the four power treaty by the United States, Great Britain and Japan?

The United States has scrapped 17 old ships, totaling 268,770 tons; Great Britain, 24, aggregating 500,000 tons, and Japan, ten, totaling 163,312 tons. The United States seems to be the only nation that has scrapped any new ships, unless two of the Japanese ships might be so classed. Great Britain has not given up any new ships. In addition to the above the United States has sent eleven new capital ships to the scrap heap.

Q. Can an Italian subject who has received the degree of doctor in civil engineering at Padova, Italy, practice in the United States without taking the degrees in this country?

The right of such a person to practice would not be questioned in the District of Columbia, but would likely be challenged in Pennsylvania. Laws of states differ and before attempting to practice the local state conditions should be investigated.

Q. Is Houdini, the magician, an American, and how long has he been on the stage?

Harry Houdini was born at Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1874. He was the son of Rev. Dr. Mayer Samuel Weiss, but he had his name legally changed in after years to Houdini. He was educated in the public schools, and upon losing his job as a clerk in a store in Appleton, he turned in desperation to work as a trapeze performer, in 1882. Houdini is perhaps the greatest magician on the American stage. Among numerous books of which he is author are the following: Handcuff Secrets, Miracle Mergers, Paper Prestidigitation, Spooks and Spiritualism, Rope Ties and Escapades.

Q. Do all people who snore in their sleep do it in the same key?

To quote an eminent authority on the subject it may be said in answer to the above that William Jenkins has been a Pullman car conductor out of New York for twenty-four years. He says that women are apt to snore louder than men, but that he is thankful that most folk do not snore at all. He adds that portly men and buxom women who snore produce a mellow noise, somewhat on the order of saxophone tones; the lean, slender types, emit a wheezy, whistling note, like a cheap cornet. According to Jenkins the big ones are more likely to snore than the little ones.

Q. When and how was the Liberty Bell cracked?

There is a popular misunderstanding that the Liberty Bell was cracked when the continental congress, on July 4, 1776, declared the independence of the American colonies from Great Britain, and when the old bellman, in his ecstasy and enthusiasm, is said to have rung the bell for two hours. The facts are, however, that the bell was not cracked until 1835, when it was cracked under a stroke of the hammer.

Q. I recently read reference to Franklin's toast to Washington in Asked and Answered. I am enclosing such a toast, believing it to be the one considered "famous," and which was delivered by Franklin.

The toast referred to above may properly be considered as one of Franklin's most "famous" utterances. It is published below in the manner

in which it was received by this department from Bethel, Maine.

Benjamin Franklin's Toast: First published in 1797. At the conclusion of the war, Dr. Franklin, the English ambassador, and the French minister, Vergehnnes, dining together, at Versailles, a toast from each was called for, and agreed to. The British minister began with: "George the Third, who, like the sun in its meridian, spreads a luster throughout, and enlightens the world." The French minister followed with: "The illustrious Louis XVII, who, like the moon, sheds his mild and benignant rays on, and influences the globe." Our American, Franklin then gave: "George Washington, commander of the American armies; who, like Joshua of old, commanded the sun and the moon to stand still, and they obeyed him."

Q. How long has M. Jusserand been the minister of France?

M. Jusserand has the rank of ambassador and he will leave this country this year after having given faithful service to France at the Washington capital for twenty-two years. He is the dean of the ambassadors.

Q. What city in Europe is called the Venice of the North?

Stockholm, Sweden. It is on an arm of the Baltic and the waterways are constantly filled with small

boats plying between different parts of the city.

Q. What is the average working day in the coal mines?

At the present time miners do not average 200 days work a year.

Q. Is there any process where dustless dust cloths can be made at home?

Take a large square of new clean cheesecloth, dip in kerosene and hang in sun until dry.

Q. Is it true that George Washington was disfigured from a sickness of smallpox?

He had the disease and was quite badly pockmarked in consequence.

MINERS OF SOFT COAL WORK FOR SAFETY LAWS

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 11.—Organized miners over the bituminous coal region are giving more attention to the enactment of adequate mine safety laws than usual, following the various mine accidents that have taken toll of hundreds of lives within the last year.

Indiana miners are interested in an amendment to the state mining laws whereby booster fans operated by electricity and located inside the workings would be eliminated and steam operated fans installed. The amendment includes taking authority

away from the state mine inspector in regard to issuing permits for the installation of booster fans.

Another amendment which will be offered to the general assembly will make it incumbent on all mine owners, quarries, plants and factories to establish a weekly pay day instead of paying twice a month.

INJUNCTION DENIED BY JUDGE ANDERSON

Indianapolis, Dec. 11.—Federal Judge Anderson has rejected the injunction plea of a score of cut stone contracting firms in the Bedford-Bloomington limestone district of this state. These employers wanted their organized stone cutters enjoined from ceasing work. The Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association has attempted for more than three years to affect a settlement with these concerns.

One of the amusing incidents of the hearing before Judge Anderson was the admission by attorneys for the employers that they organized "independent unions." The employees included in their plea a demand for \$5,000 damages for each of the complainants. Judge Anderson dismissed the plea without comment.

There are 110 furniture factories in North Carolina, representing an investment of more than \$10,000,000.

SOUTHERN IMPROVES ITS LINES

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—Contracts have just been let by the Southern Railway system for fifty-five thousand tons of new rail for delivery in first half of the year 1925 according to announcement just made.

The new rail is to be fabricated as follows: Forty-five thousand, seven hundred tons by the Tennessee Coal Iron and Railway Company.

Six thousand five hundred tons by the Bethlehem Steel Co., and two thousand eight hundred tons by the Illinois Steel Company.

MEAT CUTTERS ADVANCE

Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 11.—Organized meat cutters and employers have signed a new agreement. A weekly half holiday is a feature of the contract.

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 11.—A reduction of six hours in the work week and wage increases of from 8 to 12 per cent has been secured by Meat Cutters' Union No. 141.

Peacocks eaten by the Romans sometimes cost \$10 apiece.

Between 1910 and 1920 the South lost 363,916 negro workers.

WASHINGTON'S NEWEST STATUE

Lord Bryce in his book describing the beauties of the city of Washington remarked that it was not in need of any more equestrian statues—that there were enough of them. But Washington has a new equestrian statue of which, in the words of the famous writer "it rejoices." It is the statue of Methodist Bishop Francis Asbury, who rode the circuit in Pennsylvania before the Declaration of Independence. It is a wonderful piece of work by an English sculptor, Augustus Lukema who has succeeded in evolving an equestrian bronze that looks like a horse. The great mass of the statue throughout Washington are of war veterans. Appreciation of these fighting men has been very much overdone, and this places the statue of the good Man of God in a contrast that adds to its popular approval.

TAX PUBLI CITY UPHELD

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 11.—Federal Judge Reeves has discharged the owner and manager of the Kansas City Journal-Post, who were indicted for publishing the federal income tax returns. Judge Reeves said that the law holding publication of tax returns illegal is in violation of the first amendment to the federal constitution.

Advertisement for Belk Brothers Company Great Holiday Sale. Features include: Beautiful Gift Towels (15c to 85c), Extra Quality Bath Towels, Colored Border Bath Towels, \$1.00 Quality Bath Towels, Fine Linen Towels, Our Toy-Land, Stevens Silk Quilts, The Beautiful Wamsutta Sheets and Cases, and Special Wrapping Service. The ad is framed with illustrations of Santa Claus and Christmas trees.