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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1921.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

Eternal Protection:—The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.—Psalm 121. 8.

THEY CAN SING.

We make no boast of knowing a great deal about music, but anybody who can make destinction beaween melody and machinery can estimate at least that in few cities of the country has there been gathered together a group of singers such as constitute the octet of the Goodfellow's Club.

We were among those who sat Wednesday at the Goodfellows luncheon and listened to that organization as it charmed the 600 men present and made them believe, as we verily believe, that never has Charlotte heard any finer singing than that.

One doesn't have to go out of Charlotte any more for an exposition of talent in any of the finer airs. Since the organization of this body of singers, that is notably true of music.

The octet sang but two selections on the occasion to which we have immediate reference, both Christmos carols, one striking a gloriously triumphant note and the other a soft, appealing harmony that was altogether enchanting.

A gentleman from Chicago who was a visitor at the club luncheon declared himself slow to believe that the octet was made up of local singers, "for" he declared, "it is so much better than the professional traveling organizations I have heard."

Like a great many other American cities, Charlotte has had to stand a great deal of criticism from the artistic uplifters because of our lack of musical culture, but the day now is past when this community can be pointed to as one lacking in appreciation of the finer things in musical expression.

The great artists who come here are invariably singing to large and understanding audiences, while the choral work being done by Mrs. Baker and others in like capacity are receiving a large amount of commendation.

The octette is composed of: Miss Gertrude Gower, soprano and director Miss Ruth Chapman, soprano, Miss Ina Harrison, contralto, Miss Rachel Summerrow, contralto, J. C. Harley, tenor, Flynn Wolfe, tenor, E. H. Bell, baritone, W. H. Neal, baritone, and L. R. Anschutz bass.

THE PEOPLE ARE STILL FUNCTIONING.

If the people of Charlotte have a desire to bring about a vital change in the constitution of their government, it is their privilege. They certainly ought to be regarded as competent to accomplish such a task. Theey created the charter as it now stands. If it has any points of weakness, it is their business to remedy it. The creator is always regarded as more powerful and important than the creature, at least it is generally credited with having supervision and control over the creature. It was by a popular vote of the citizens of this whole city that the present charter was accepted and became the municipal law. If any further changes are to be made in it, such, obviously, fall within the scope of the jurisdiction of the same people.

The citizens have not yet decided to turn the entire job over to a couple of young attorneys and invest them with complete authority to give the city whatever may occur to them as necessary in the premises, to make any corrections in the charter which seem expedient to them, to increase the powers of one officer and decrease the powers of others according only to their whims and caprices. The citizens have not done that yet. They are still in authority in Charlotte and will continue to be. When the people determine that they should like to engage the services of one lawyer or two or a dozen to re-construct their charter in all of its more vital phases, they will notify such attorneys and may, in such an event, be able to utilize their readiness and forwardness in serving their fellow-citizens.

If that moment should come, however, the proposition would be laid plainly before the intelligences of the people and the reform would be brought about in the good, old-fashioned way of being done decently and in order and aboveboard and not through the secrecy of the nightfall. For the present, however, the sovereign citizens of Charlotte are abundantly capable of attending to their business without the necessity of relying exclusively upon a couple of young and inexperienced attorneys and without any idea of turning over to them the task of concocting their governmental schemes in clandestine and attempting to execute them after the same contemptible, intriguish fashion.

WHAT WE SPEND FOR TOYS.

You couldn't tell that this has been a hard year with the people of this country from the money they have been spending for toys during the holidays. They have spent more than $100,000,000 for such articles during the year 1921, according to the Trade Record published by the National City Bank of New York. The factory value of toys manufactured in the United States went up more than three times when the war with Germany cut us off from the supply furnished by that country, and the value of the "toys and games" turned out by our factories in 1919, the latest census year, is officially stated at $46,000,000 against $14,000,000 in the preceding census year 1914. Meantime the imports of toys which fell from $8,000,000 in the year prior to the war to a little more than $1,000,000 in the year of its close, quickly advanced to $6,000,000 in 1920 and $10,000,000 in 1921, so that the imports of toys in the fiscal year 1921 were actually greater in value than in any year preceding the war.

While this unexpectedly prompt inflow of toys from foreign countries has somewhat reduced the outturn of the toy factories of the United States in the current year, the fact that the capital engaged in the industry advanced from over $10,000,000 in 1914 to probably $25,000,000 in 1919 in which year the number of employes exceeded 10,000, suggests that the outturn of our own factories in 1920-21, plus that of the doll factories which are not included in the group entitled "toys and games," plus the importation in 1921 of $10,000,000 worth of dolls and toys from abroad, with an aggregate factory valuation of considerably over $50,000,000, must have cost the "ultimate purchaser" fully $100,000,000 in 1921, despite the tendency toward economies which has characterized trade conditions during the year.

In one particular line of the toy industry and trade, the holiday season finds a distinct shortage, namely that of dolls. The number of doll factories in the United States greatly increased following the opening of the war, upon the assumption that the absence of the supply formerly drawn from Germany would greatly intensify the demands of the home market, but with the close of the war and the prospect of big imports from Germany and other countries of Europe as well as from Japan which had developed a considerable toy trade during the war, many of the doll factories in the United States closed down, while the expected increase in importation of dolls did not materialize as rapidly as had been anticipated, and as a consequence the holiday trade finds an extreme shortage in this particular class of goods, developing an actual "famine" in dolls despite the fact that the children of the United States are "crying for them."

The happenings of the war period above referred to, the shortage in toy supplies turned out in Europe and the big increase in those from our own factories, have resulted in a large growth in our toy exports meantime, which advanced from three-quarters of a million dollars in the year immediately preceding the war to over $4,000,000 in the calendar year 1920, and today the children of over fifty countries and colonies of the world are hugging American dolls, while the exports of other classes of American toys in 1920 were distributed to nearly one hundred countries and colonies as against approximately half that number in the year preceding the war.

SOMEBODY RAKES IT IN.

Some time ago somebody who probably didn't have very much to do except deal with the problems of arithmetical progression figured out about how much money somebody made dealing in cotton between the time it left the hands of the producer and entered the mill of the manufacturer. He estimated, according to the figures as to prices received by farmers and paid by manufacturers, that there were hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars which neither the producer nor the manufacturer got in their handling of cotton.

It would be interesting to know also about what is the size of the pile raked in from cotton by those who handle it after it has left the finishing plant, after the manufacturer is through with it, and before it comes back to clothe the human body.

Robert Babson, the noted statistician, has been making a round of the country, experimenting a little in this direction and from what he observed by actual experience, he has indicated that somebody needs to take hold of our production and distribution problem in this country and give it a sound threshing.

He told 800 business men of Pittsburg that he had bought a cotton waist in a Cleveland store and paid $6.95 for it. He took it to a lapidary's scale and weighed it, finding that it weighed four ounces; that the raw cotton in it was worth four cents and that the mill making the material out of which the waist was fabricated got about 10 cents for the goods, all of the materials in it costing the enormous sum of 15 cents. A merchant told him that the difference between the ultimate cost of the garment and the cost of the materials in it represented the price for style. He took a cotton handkerchief, held it up before his audience and told the crowd that it had less than one-half of one cent's worth of cotton in the mill making it got 3 to 3 and one-half cents out of it, but he paid 35 cents for ot.

Another point Mr. Babson stressed was that the great loss in seasonal buying, return of goods and the expense of deliveries, etc., cannot be eliminated so long as wives and children whine as they do for the things they want.

He contended that the purpose of life is to make men rather than goods and to make men strong rather than comfortable; that what we need today is to raise the standard of citizenship because the world does not owe us a living, since we all own the world alike.

The real difficulty with the credit situation, he said, was that we are putting work into things that are gone in a moment, instead of building up on something definite. If the public would only consider the responsibility of spending a dollar, much would be accomplished, Mr. Babson insisted.

He said, in conclusion, that we should think in terms of commodities rather than in terms of dollars, and advocated putting back religion in the schools and teaching boys and girls principles, rather than so many facts.

GETTING INTO DEEP WATER.

Under certain conditions of warfare one submarine is the fighting equal of the great battleship. The British seem satisfied with their battleship tonnage allotted by the Washington conference, but want the submarine scrapped wholly and forever. On the other hand, the French are not entirely pleased with the fighting tonnage acorded them by the decision on reduction of armaments, and are insisting upon the conference assuming a liberal attitude toward France in the matter of submarine tonnage allowances. This attitude on the part of the French is impelled by the fact that, to their way of thinking, they have lost in their first line naval defenses, and now are forced to make a stand on the question of auxiliary tonnage.

Thus the conference is brought to face another particularly delicate problem—that of determining upon the auxiliary tonnage question without widening the breach which seems to have been slowly but steadily developing between Britain and France. Really, it seems that the conference has at last gotten itself really in the midst of things.

SHORT FREEDOM FOR BLOCKADERS

Take Shot at Officers Digging Up Pipe Line and Land in Jail.

Asheville, Dec. 27.—Merrimon and Baird Whittemore, two men released from the county jail yesterday on $1,000 bond each on charges of manufacturing whiskey, followed the capture by deputies Thursday morning of five men in a dugout shielding a 60-gallon still, are back in jail. Guy Metcalf, a neighbor also living in the Barnardsville section where the men were captured, is also behind the bars.

While John Bunn, a county officer and two other men were digging up the pipe line which ran nearly a quarter of a mile from a spring to the dugout, near the Whittemore home, Thursday night, they were fired upon by one of the three men now in jail.

A pistol duel between Bunn and the three men objecting to the removal of the pipe line resulted in the retirement of the attacking party. Deputies of Sheriff John A. Lyerly's department Sunday night located the three men and landed them in jail where they are to be arraigned on charges of resisting an officer, carrying concealed weapons and assault.

Furtner investigation of the dugout reveals the fact that it is one of the most complete still sites ever discovered by the officers in this section. Entrance to the 12 by 12-foot room carved out of the mountain side was had by means of a tunnel about 30 feet long.

Heavy timber supports braced the sides and roof of the underground room. Running water, piped from a spring a quarter of a mile from the dugout, made it possible for persons to carry on distilling without going out of the cavern.

HARSELL'S BODY IS FOUND IN MITCHELL

Asheville, Dec. 27.—Mystery which for months, surrounded the disappearance of B. L Harsell, wealthy clubman and sportsman of New York, who has been missing since last April, is believed to have been solved with the identification of a body found in the woods of Mitchell county, North Carolina, as that of the missing clubman.

Detective Elmo W. Brim, of Galax, Va., reports having tracked the clubman over 1,500 miles, 240 of which he made on foot through the Appalachian mountains, and claims to have information that Harsell was murdered by parties in the Pigeon Roost Creek section of Mitchell county.

Upon leaving New York, Mr. Harsell announced he would walk from Roanoke, Va., to North Georgia for the purpose of hardening his muscles and preparing for a big game hunt in a foreign country, which he contemplated with other New York clubmen. He was to write his brother each 30 days of his whereabouts, and after more than a month had elapsed and no word had been received, a hunt was started.

Detectives arrived here about six weeks ago and began work upon a new clue which led them over Mount Mitchell, highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains, through the mountainous sections of Yancey county and into a remote section of Mitchell, where the body was found.

MANY POILUS KILLED BY OWN ARTILLERY

Paris, Dec. 27.—General Percin, in a book describing more than 200 battles in France and Belgium during the late war, concludes from data collected by him that 75,000 French soldiers were killed by their own artillery through defective liaison.

The losses, he says, were higher by 50 per cent in the French army than in the German army. The losses of the French infantry, he finds, were comparatively four times greater than the losses of the artillery. He fixes the French losses from the enemy's fire at 5,000,000 killed and wounded.

General Percin was military governor of the fortress of Lille just after the outbreak of the war. He evacuated the fortress on orders received from the Government when the Germans approached the frontier and was, for a long time, supposed by the general public to have evacuated the place of his own volition. A lively controversy between his friends and adversaries has been going on ever since as to whether he was badly treated by the General Staff. He has severely criticised the conduct of the war in the field by the French staff.

DINOSAUR TRAIL TOBE PRESERVED

Three-toed Prints and Tail Marks in Connecticut Valley.

Holyoke, Mass., Dec. 27.—The trail of the dinosaur in the Connecticut valley is to be preserved if present plans are carried out. In the red sandstone of "Dinosaur Ledge" at Smith's Ferry, on the bank of the Connecticut River, are the three toed prints and the tail marks of the mammoth reptile that lived millions of years ago. The chambers of commerce of Holyoke and Northampton are working on a petition for legislative action looking to preservation of the ledge, by its inclusion in the Mount Tom State Reservation.

Dr. Edward Hitchcock, late president of Amherst College, discovered the ledge, with its two acres or more of reptilian footprints, nearly 50 years ago. Some of the finest specimens were removed and placed in the college museum. Easily accessible from the State highway, the ledge has been visited by thousands and it is desired to protect its markings from damage by vandals and souvenir hunters.

Prof. W. J. Miller, of Smith College, says that the three-toed footmarks, varying from three and four to 13 and 16 inches in length, were made in flood-covered mud that hardened when the water receded. This was overlaid perhaps thousands of feet deep by successive deposits during the Triassic period. In succeeding geological ages erosion of the overlying strata exposed the tracks again to the light. So perfect were the impressions taken by the mud that ripple marks left by the receding waters are clearly visible.

Dr. W. D. Matthew, curator of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, believes the Connecticut Valley dinosaur footprints date back to the beginning of the age of reptiles. During the whole of this age, estimated at ten million years or more, the dinosaurs were the dominant land animals, as the higher quadruples had not appeared in force. The dinosaurs are supposed to have disappeared eight million years ago.

Relatively few remains have been found of the animals that made these footprints. Part of a skeleton is preserved in the Yale Museum and complete skeletons have been found in Germany. Remains of the dinosaurs of the later Creaceous period, larger and stranger looking than those of the Triassic, are less rare.

There were numerous species of the Triassic dinosaurs. Some reached a height of 25 feet according to geologists. Some walked nearly erect on the hind feet, using their long tail as a support. In appearance they are supposed to have resembled gigantic lizards.

The climate of the Connecticut Valley when these monsters roamed the earth is said by Prof. Loomis of Amherst College to have been something like that of Arizona today, hot and dry, though not tropical. Some of the dinosaurs are supposed to have been carnivorous, while other species subsisted upon plant life.

TOO POOR TO MARRY, TWO DEATHS RESULT

Passaic, N. J., Dec. 27.—Too poor to marry.

That was the reason that impelled Thomas Brands, 18, and his sweetheart, Matilda Rist, 17, to take their lives by poison here early today, the boy told the police at the General Hospital, where he died.

Because of their youth and the fact that Brands was just starting on his career and was not making enough money, they had not planned an early marriage. Last Saturday, however, the girl confided to her sweetheart that she felt they should marry soon. They talked it over and decided that this was out of the question for financial reasons. Then came the resolve to die. They planned to make it Christmas day, but, loath to bring grief to their families on such a holiday, they waited until this morning. A visit to a corner drug store, purchase of poison with which to "kill a dog" and they went to the girl's home. They were alone in the sitting room most of the evening and it was shortly after midnight that the girl staggered into her mother's room, suffering from convulsions. While an ambulance surgeon was working on her, young Brands entered in a similar condition. They were taken in the same ambulance to the hospital, where they died within two hours.

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