



A Wisconsin city has adopted the pay as you go system and will pay cash for everything it buys and demand the same discounts that would be allowed to any private firm or corporation.

Mrs. Warren Johnson, of Michigan, aged 82 years is probably the oldest newspaper reporter in the country. She has been reporting for 40 years and still writes good stories.

Bill Sunday insists that before he will begin his evangelistic meetings in Chicago he must be assured that a \$250,000 stock company be organized and incorporated to finance his religious meetings.

The fight for prohibition in the national house of representatives was not successful. It would have required a two-thirds vote to propose the prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Evidence of extraordinary advance in trans-Atlantic freight rates since the outbreak of the European war, amounting in some instances to 900 and even 1,100 per cent, are presented in the joint report from Secretaries McAdoo and Redfield to the Senate. The increases in rates on grain are said to be 900 per cent; on flour 500 per cent; and on cotton 700 per cent.

In giving reasons for new contacts with central American countries Secretary of State Bryan suggested that it was not unlikely that the United States some day would build another interoceanic waterway to supplement the Panama Canal, and explained that he regarded it as a wise precaution for the American government to negotiate treaties with Nicaragua and Costa Rica giving this country an option on a canal route across that section of central America.

Red gamecocks thrive on diamond diet according to Walter A. Kiefer, secretary of the National Capitol Poultry and Pigeon Association, who lost a gem valued at \$125. The diamond dropped from Mr. Kiefer's ring into a coop, and was gobbled up by a prize winner. The bird is valued at \$500, and although Mr. Kiefer wanted to have it killed at once, he and the owner agreed that Prof. Roy H. White, of the agriculture experiment station, at College Park, Md., should operate on it in an attempt to recover the diamond.

The flying visit to the National capital of Rev. William A. Sunday, a former professional baseball player, popularly known as 'Billy Sunday' is over. In the address that he made before a Washington audience of more than 5,000, which included members of Congress, government officials, diplomats, and prominent society folk, he let loose a battery of invective against sinners. The pastor of a local church declares that he was captivated with Sunday's marvelous gymnastic mannerisms and enthusiasm, and although his language was often crude it was sometimes eloquent and beautiful.

The president's grandson, born at the White House on Sunday January 17th, is the object of most absorbing interest there, both in the executive mansion and in the vicinity of the President's office, where all who called on official and political business made a point of inquiring after the latest addition to the

family. This is the first baby born in the White House since the birth of Esther Cleveland's daughter of President and Mrs. Cleveland, and who was the only child of a President born there. There have been 11 children born in the White House since its construction.

The government has received \$99.40 in settlement for a single sugar pine tree which was cut in trespass in the Stanislaus National Forest, in California, and which yielded more than enough actual lumber to build a good-sized suburban frame house. The tree scaled 18,933 board feet and valued at \$5.25 per thousand feet.

Not many trees contain enough lumber to build a two-foot board walk nearly two miles long, and this is believed to be the first case on record in which a single tree felled in a national forest was valued at almost \$100 on the stump, although national forest timber is frequently sold at considerably higher rates.

At a recent meeting held under the auspices of the International Peace Forum, over which Senator Sherman presided, John Hayes Hammond urged that after peace is concluded in Europe, the Congress of the United States should call a peace conference which should formulate a plan for international amity, to include an agreement for concerted and permanent disarmament; the organization of a Supreme Court of nations, whose findings shall be accepted as conclusive and final by all; and an international police force, consisting of an army and navy only large enough to enforce the decrees of the international court. The plan is to have such a court supplement, not supplant the court of arbitration at The Hague.

The Women's Democratic club of the second ward of Chicago, advertised in the newspapers for an aldermanic candidate. It was announced in the advertisement that to receive the indorsement of the club the successful applicant would have to be:

- A clean, respectable citizen.
 - A possessor of horse sense, not necessarily a college graduate.
 - A friend of woman suffrage.
 - An advocate of subways.
 - A voter for bathing benches and playgrounds.
 - A leader, not a follower.
 - A man of conservative ability.
- Six replies were received. The applicants were a machinist, a broker, a clergyman, a manufacturer, a physician, and a saloonkeeper. The saloonkeeper won. He is Al Russell, proprietor of a saloon at 3459 South State Street, and he met every requirement.

WHERE EARTH QUAKED

The National Geographic Society has prepared the following description of the region in Italy just devastated by the great earthquake.

*In the Abruzzi district of east central Italy, where the recent earthquake shock have worked in seconds a destruction equal to weeks of war, there are no great cities and no monuments of the country's brilliant history or its more famous works of art. Abruzzi is a grazing, vine-growing, farming district. It is a mountainous and hilly land, comprising the wild, rugged portion of the Apennines. Some of Italy's most picturesque scenery is to be enjoyed here, although travelers from America seldom seek it, as the railway connections are bad and the inn accommodations, for the most part very primitive and severe.

"The district contains some 6,380 square miles, or is about equal in size to the States of Rhode Island and Connecticut. It supports some two million people most of whom make their livings in farming, orchard and vine culture, and in cattle, sheep and swine raising. There is considerable unimportant manufacturing within the district but little or no industry. Rarely beautiful tapestries and hand-made laces are worked in the hilly villages as home work. Many of the Abruzzi peasantry, untaught in the methods of design and unaided by any but the simplest mechanical contrivances, display the highest order of artistic appreciation in their hand-lace productions.

"Vast forests of oak, beech, and pine cover the jagged mountain groups, and their area serves as a feeding place for large herds of swine. The raising of swine and the preparation of their meat is one of the important endeavors of this country, and, among the masterworks of Italy, the vivacious, seductive, thrilling Abruzzi sausage deserves honorable mention. These sausages were formerly—this is, before the war—even imported occasionally into Germany, where to be a foreign sausage and to compete successfully, means to be a sausage of distinctly superior sort.

"There is little flat land within Abruzzi, beyond a narrow strip along 100 miles of coast. The uplands and the hills are used for pasture lands, the valleys are fruitful, and are farmed for olives, rice, almonds, grains and wine. Nature has contributed most to the backward state of Abruzzi region's industries; for its hills and valleys lie within the trough of ever-recurring earthquakes, while the small rivers and creeks which irrigate its valleys do a regular damage by their sudden floods. The rivers are mostly very short, with a considerable fall to the sea. Many of them have been harnessed in the last few years to electric installations.

"Four provinces are contained within the division Abruzzi, Teramo, Chieti, Aquila and Campobasso, and there are about twenty medium-sized towns scattered throughout them. A sample of every superstition that has ever flourished in European land since the founding of Rome is to be found still flourishing in harpy strength somewhere among the people of Abruzzi, who are ultra-conservative in matters of belief and in their devotion to custom.

"The present Duke of Abruzzi is well known to Americans. It was several times reported in this country that he was engaged to Miss Katherine Elkins—now, Mrs. William Hitt,—the daughter of the late Senator Elkins of West Virginia. This report was each time denied. The young duke was the son of ex-King Amadeus of Spain. He won distinction as a geographer; making the first ascent of Mt. St. Elias in 1897; determining the northern coast of Franz-Josef land in his arctic explorations of 1899-1900, and setting a mountain-climbing record in 1909 by ascending Mt. Austen in India to a height of 24,600 feet.

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