

Washington Sidelights

Progress and Tax Exempt Securities

WASHINGTON — A bill of the House of Representatives in behalf of a constitutional amendment prohibiting the issuance of tax exempt securities is reported.

The House Committee on Finance, under the leadership of Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Clegg, while continuing to study the amendment, have reported that there is no immediate prospect of action and will offer no recommendation to the House.

The House committee on Finance has also reported that it is investigating the possibility of offering a level of interest on municipal bonds to attract investment in tax exempt securities.

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Pearl Harbor Needs Improving

WASHINGTON — A bill of the House of Representatives designed to make the Pearl Harbor military reservation the largest in the world will be offered to Congress in December.

The bill, introduced by Representative Thomas W. Blanton, chairman of the House naval committee, would increase the size of the Pearl Harbor reservation to include the entire island.

Mr. Blanton said that the present reservation is too small and that the larger reservation would provide for the future expansion of the harbor.

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Good Old Summer Time to Be Cool?

WASHINGTON — A forecast of the weather for the summer of 1928 is being made by the Weather Bureau.

The forecast is based on the weather conditions of the summer of 1927, which was a very hot and dry year.

The forecast predicts that the summer of 1928 will be a normal year, with temperatures ranging from 60 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

The forecast also predicts that there will be a normal amount of rainfall during the summer months.

Lady of the Land Likes to Walk

WASHINGTON — Mrs. Coolidge, the first lady of the United States, is reported to be a great lover of walking.

She is reported to walk several miles each day, and she is reported to be in excellent health.

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Babies Far Healthier Than Boys

WASHINGTON — A report from the Bureau of Census shows that the death rate for babies is much lower than for boys.

The report shows that the death rate for babies is 1.5 per cent, while the death rate for boys is 2.5 per cent.

The report also shows that the death rate for girls is 1.5 per cent, which is the same as for babies.

The report is based on data from 1927, and it shows that the death rate for babies has been declining for several years.

EXCURSIONS IN CORRESPONDENCE

By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

What to Write About

I HAD a letter from Walton this morning that seemed to me a good one. He is young, while I am past middle age, and yet, he assumes the liveliest interest in me and my affairs. Am I working hard, he asks. I usually do work too hard he thinks. Am I writing anything, and what is it about? When do I go on my vacation, and what part of the globe do I intend to visit during the summer? It is a sympathetic letter, which leaves me with the feeling that he is really giving me and my affairs more than ordinary consideration, and I am pleased.

Then he elicits my interest by telling me of his work, his love affairs, his plans for next year, and flatters me again by asking my advice relative to the difficulties in which he finds himself. His letter is natural, humorous, genuine. It is like talking to him to read it.

When people of approximately the same age and position in life write each other in friendly correspondence, their interests are likely to be similar, if not identical, but if the work in which they are engaged is different, procedure is more difficult. When I write to Henley, whom I knew as a boy on a farm, I cannot dwell much on educational matters. Henley has never even been to high school, though he writes a clever letter. He has been on a farm all his life, and he has not traveled far. But he has an interesting family, and he hunts, and enjoys sports of various sorts, and politics, and there is always the weather, and the state of his health, and the condition of the crops, to fall back upon. And I, too, if I am to interest him, must keep away from books and college administration, and the things about which he knows little. I must find a ground of mutual interest, as it is not difficult to do, if I am to write an interesting letter to him. His own particular business interests appeal to him most, and so I try to confine my remarks largely to these.

Children are interested most in adventure, in that which involves danger, and tests of courage. If I write to my young nephews during the summer, I know they will like to hear of my experience when I climbed Long's peak, or visited Hallett's glacier, or caught fish in Lost lake, or slept on the ground with only the sky and an army blanket for covering. They will listen with interest to my adventures in Devil's gulch, and thrill when I tell how we were caught in a storm, and were for a time lost on Specimen mountain. Dogs, bears, bear-cats, and wild animals of all sorts, and escapes from danger, interest them immensely. A child never tires of hearing what has happened. Events must be the stock in trade of letters to him.

Young people like romance, and the accounts of social activity. Boat rides by moonlight, dances, automobile journeys, the gossip of summer resorts, make a great appeal to them. Sentimental things are pleasing to young girls. What he said to me, and how I answered back, can make up the major part of the correspondence between young people. Youth is the time of romance, and the friendly letter of youth should be full of it. Love affairs, engagements made or broken, marriages, house parties—these are the things which we should expect to hear about in the letters of the high school, or college student.

Women are fond of personal gossip; they are concerned mostly with things in the home—children, the neighbors, housekeeping affairs, dress, and books, sometimes. Intimate things are of most interest to them.

People who are past their youth are fond of reminiscences—the people with whom they associated, the roads they used to travel, the adventures they were a part of. They live over again old memories, and old experiences.

"Do you ever go out to Carmel Center?" Ellsworth Dawson writes me. We were boys together, and I have not seen him for many years. "I suppose the old church is gone, and everyone whom we used to know is dead, or has moved away. Are any of the old boys still living there? What a high old time we used to have chasing around!" And so he goes on, filling the pages with one reminiscence after another.

It is best, before beginning to write the friendly letter, to visualize the individual to whom we are to write, and his surroundings. We are starting a conversation with him, as it were, and we should give some consideration to what his interests are, what he likes and dislikes. We should not write what is most pleasing to us, but what is most likely to be interesting to him.

Condensations

Canada is building up a big butter trade with Japan.

The first feminine chess tournament was held in France recently.

Coins dating back to 600 B. C. were shown in New York at a recent exhibition.

More than \$3,000,000,000 worth of milk is produced in the United States in a single year.

Australia is slightly larger than the United States in size, but has a population of only 5,500,000.

All the lighthouses on the coast of Great Britain are to be fitted with wireless transmitting sets.

A scholarship fund has been set aside by the Rockefeller foundation for work in mental hygiene.

Dr. A. Kottzarsky and L. Weyl, of Paris, have developed a method of locating internal cancers by means of radium emanation introduced into the blood.

Though in the torrid zone, Peru possesses such diversity of elevations and climatic peculiarities as to be able to grow almost any product that is known to man.

Approximately 20 per cent of the girl students attending the University of Washington in Seattle, support themselves entirely, while another 25 per cent partly support themselves.

MY FAVORITE STORIES

By IRVIN S. COBB

Speaking of Carrier Pigeons

Speaking of carrier pigeons—although no one has done so lately—reminds me of a yarn that may or may not be true—it sounds almost too good to be true—that was related at the front in 1918. The version most frequently told had it that a half company of a regiment in the Rainbow division, on going forward early one morning in a heavy fog for a raid across No Man's land, carried along with the rest of the customary equipment a homing pigeon. The pigeon in its wicker cage swung on the arm of a private, who likewise was burdened with his rifle, his extra rounds of ammunition, his trenching tool, his pair of wire cutters, his steel helmet, his gas mask, his emergency ration and quite a number of other more or less cumbersome items.

It was to be a surprise attack behind a cloak of the fog, so there was no artillery preparation beforehand, nor barrage fire as the squads climbed over the top and advanced into the mist-hidden beyond. Behind, in the post of observation and in the post of command—"P. O." and "P. C.," those were called in the algebraic terminology of the war—the colonel and his aides and his intelligence officers waited for the sound of firing. When after some minutes the distant rattle of the rifle fire came to their ears they began calculating how long reasonably it might be before word reached them by one or another medium of communication touching on the results of the foray. But the ground telephone remained mute, and no runner returned through the fog with tidings. The suspense increased as time passed.

Suddenly a pigeon sped into view, flying close to the earth. With eager eyes following it in its course the winged messenger circled until it located its portable cote just behind the colonel's position and fluttering down it entered its familiar shelter.

An athletic member of the staff hustled up the ladder. In half a minute he was tumbling down again, clutching in one hand the little scroll of paper that he had found fastened about the pigeon's leg. With fingers that trembled in anxiety the colonel unrolled the paper and read aloud what was written upon it.

What he read, in the hurried chirography of a kid private, was the following succinct statement: "I'm tired of carrying this f---n bird."

The Pride of a Creative Genius

A colored person of a formidable aspect was arraigned in a South Carolina court of justice on a charge of mayhem. As Exhibit A, for the case of the prosecution, the mutilated victim of his wrath was presented for the jurors' sympathetic eyes. The face of the victim was but little more than a recent site—a place where a face had been, but was no longer.

When the jury very promptly and very properly had returned a verdict of guilty, his honor, the presiding judge, pointing to the chief complaining witness and addressing the defendant, said:

"This is the most lamentable example of brutality I have ever seen in a long experience on the criminal bench. Surely no human being, unless he were inspired by infernal influences and hellborn suggestions, could deliberately work such wreckage as you have worked upon the countenance of a defenseless and helpless fellow creature. Demons from below surely must have prompted you in what you did. It must have been the devil himself who urged you on and on."

"Well, judge," said the prisoner, "come to think it over, I ain't shore but what you're right. As I look back on it now it do seem lak to me 'at w'en I wuz cuttin' his nose loose from his face wid a razor, the devil was right behind me sayin' 'Tha's right, separate him frum his nose.' An' I 'spects it must a been dem demons you mentioned w'ich suggested to me stompin' out his front teeth."

"But judge, bitin' off his ear was strictly my own idea!"

When the Dawn of Understanding Came

The caller was undeniably large. When he walked he rippled and one had the feeling that should he sit down suddenly he'd splash.

Dressed in the simple overalls of a husbandman, he wallowed into the office of a lawyer in the foothills of the Tennessee mountains.

Having given his name and his post office address, he stated that he desired to bring suit against a neighbor for \$10,000 damages on account of libel.

"How did he libel you?" asked the lawyer.

"Well, suh," stated the aggrieved party, "he up and called me a hippopotamus—that's wut he done, consarn his picture!"

"When did he call you this name?"

"It's a goin' on two years ago."

"When did you first hear about it?"

"That very day."

"Indeed," said the lawyer; "then why did you wait nearly two years to begin taking steps to bring suit against him?"

"Well, suh," stated the prospective plaintiff, "ontil that there Ringling Brothers' circus showed yistiddy in Knoxville an' I went down fur to see it I'd thought, all the time, that he wuz payin' me a compliment."

Interesting Items

Butternut and walnut trees produce a sweet sap much like that of the sugar maple.

Three cleanings of seed are necessary to remove all of the parasites that cause plant disease.

If a cloth dipped in soapuds is used to mop up milk which has boiled over the stove, no stain will be left.

A nine-hole golf course, laid out on the roof of a building in Atlanta, Ga., is said to be of great aid to practicing players.

These College Girls Prefer Long Hair



Here is a group of long-haired girls at William Woods college, Fulton, Mo. Each of them has some good reason for not following the prevailing style and bobbing her locks.

Workers of Japan Object to Manhood Suffrage



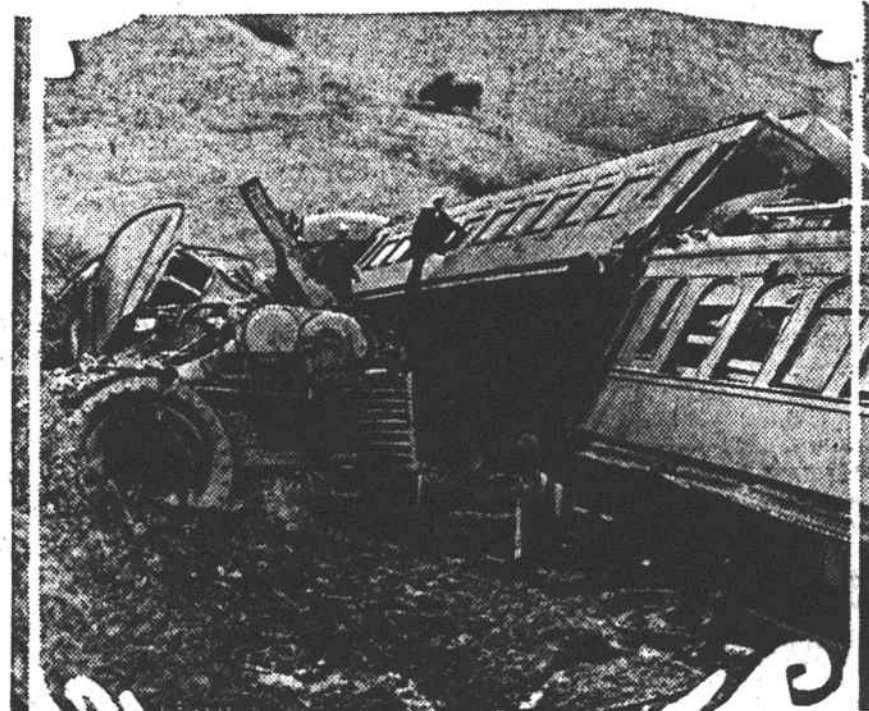
A group of the members of the "Sekishin" Labor league, who started an anti-universal manhood suffrage movement, seen storming the imperial diet in Tokyo, where the suffrage bill was being debated.

Trinidad's Memorial to Perry



Charles E. Pierre, mayor of the city of Port of Spain, Trinidad, officially opening the Perry Memorial gateway with the key presented to him by the American consul. The gateway is a memorial to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry.

Only One Killed in This Wreck



The wreck of the Santa Fe passenger train running between San Diego and Los Angeles which was derailed on a curve at the foot of a steep grade. The engineer was the only one killed.

ARRESTED LAWYER



Rush Meadows, prominent Los Angeles and Hollywood attorney, was arrested by city and federal officers with other members of an alleged narcotic and bond theft gang. Liberty bonds totaling \$16,000, part of a large amount taken from a Nebraska bank, were recovered.

PRINCE HER SUITOR



The youthful countess of Seinfeld, only nineteen years old and heiress to the thirty-million-dollar estate left by her father, the late earl of Seinfeld. She is being sought as the bride for Prince Nicholas of Rumania.

Unknown to Science

There is no scientific definition for what is called "astral color." It is a term used in palmistry and fortune telling, meaning the effect of the color of heavenly bodies on the lives of individuals.

Recalled Old Days

While excavating in Seattle recently, workmen uncovered a pipe line of bored fir logs, a relic of pioneer days. It was part of the city's first water system, laid in 1863.

OF INTEREST TO EVERYBODY

The United States has 52,304 retail drug stores.

Chicago has more telephones than all of France.

Ten dozen pies were recently made from a monster pumpkin.

Port Said, in Egypt, gets on an average only two inches of rain yearly.

Athens, Greece, in 1896, saw the first Olympic meeting of the athletes of the modern world.

Better a little well kept, than a great deal forgotten.—Latimer.

It's a wise woman who knows her husband at a masquerade ball.

Dogwood owes its name to its similarity of sound and writing to dagger-wood; so called because it was formerly used to make daggers or sticks to hold together meat roasted over an open fire.