

Lights of New York
by L. L. STEVENSON

Unsavory was the old city penitentiary now being demolished by WPA workers on Welfare Island. Built almost a century ago, with cells only three feet wide and the only light that from a small hole in the door of each, through the years it gathered grime and germs. It held only petty offenders but the walls are of limestone four and five feet thick and the stone partitions between cells are two feet thick while the bars and grill works are set firmly. So the workmen are having a tough time in demolishing it. They are razing the south wing now. That south wing figured largely in the news several years ago. Prisoners with political connections ruled the penitentiary. Austin H. McCormack, appointed commissioner of corrections under the Fusion administration, staged a "raid" and the city thus "recaptured" its own prison. The south wing was the dwelling place of the prison aristocracy. The cells had silk curtains. There were pieces of fine furniture and curtained wardrobes contained outfits of evening clothes.

Black as is the old prison, its history is still blacker. Within its walls have been unspeakable cruelties and many crimes of violence. There have been rebellions in which blood was shed. How many lives were wrecked completely because of it is beyond computation. Hardened, professional criminals, caught in some minor offense, were sent there. So were desperate men to whom law or human life meant nothing. Drug addicts and degenerates formed part of the motley, ugly company of felons. With them were young boys convicted of their first offenses—and ripe for further instruction in crime. The prison became obsolete as a penal institution 30 years ago. Engineers condemned the interior as unfit for human beings 15 years ago.

The island on which the prison stands is in East river. The Indians called it Minnahonock, or Long Island. Capt. John Manning acquired it in 1664 and the name became Manning's Island. His stepdaughter married William Blackwell and lived on the island and in time, it became Blackwell's Island. The Blackwell mansion still stands, being used as quarters for doctors connected with the hospital on the island. When the city bought the island for \$25,000 in 1828, one of the provisions was that the Blackwell mansion, built in 1709 or 1798—there is conflict as to the date—be allowed to stand. To take away some of the blackness of the prison on the island, the name was changed to Welfare in 1921.

Prisoners formerly confined in the Welfare Island prison have been sent to the new penitentiary on Rikers Island. Rikers Island for years was a city dump. In fact, the island was practically built from city refuse. Occasionally, it catches fire and the smoke is no perfume. Also Rikers Island is the home of the biggest rats known to mankind—rats that chase bull dogs into East river. But the new penitentiary is far superior to the old.

That recent survey which shows that the well-known "Boston accent" seems to be on the road to extinction brings to mind the fact that "Brooklynese" is heard less frequently in New York than it was when I first arrived. In those days it seemed as if most of New York believed that "world" was spelled "wold," and that "oil" was "erl." One night at graduation exercises of one of the uptown public schools, I heard a Supreme court justice say "foist" and a little later, he used the word "molder." That one of the members of that graduating class should remark to another, "Don't do that, Holby, you make me noivus," seemed perfectly proper after such an example. "Avenue" also had a peculiar pronunciation, which I can't reproduce and in many instances, "voice" was "verse." Christopher Morley's rhyme about "Anne stirred an erater 'stew" was an excellent example.

With the passing of the years, I thought my ear had become dulled to the idiom. But after consulting various sources, I have reached the conclusion that there is less "Brooklynese" than there was in those years past. It crops out occasionally even in the utterances of Alfred E. Smith, however. Then, at Christmas time, a young woman in a Forty-second street drug store, directed me to the "tarlet goods counter." With many, "Pennsylvania" is still "Pennyvanter" and "idea" is given a final "r." Oh, yes, the man in a change booth of the municipal subway Forty-second street station last night turned back a quarter on the ground that it was a "mutilated"—he made the first syllable rhyme with "but"—"kera." Brooklynese hasn't really passed but is passing.

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Canada Boils Currency, Then Sells Pulp Paper

Ottawa, Ont.—The Canadian government now "boils" its old bank notes instead of burning them. Last year \$50,000,000 in common bank notes were dumped into a huge vat and boiled to a pulp, which was sold to papermakers. Burning of old bills was abandoned as "wasteful" and because of the possibility of scraps of notes, partially burned, being carried through chimneys to the outdoors.

INSPECTS OLD LIVING ROOM



Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors Corporation, as he inspected the living room of yesterday, which together with the living room of today, is a part of the General Motors Parade of Progress, now showing in the South.

Winning Jersey Bull Is Nature's Favorite

The last National Dairy Show in St. Louis, Mo., brought out an amazing Jersey bull. He swept through the field of contestants and emerged the 1935 grand champion. This bull, which the judges agreed, "had everything," is featured in the current natural Chilean nitrate of soda advertisement.

This series of announcements appears regularly in this newspaper as part of the all-South program of educational publicity which the natural nitrate people are conducting. The featured bull is Foremost High Flyer, owned by A. H. Goss, the Oaklands, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Throughout the entire series of announcements, the natural nitrate people use special photographs of outstanding animals as illustrations. The point is made that these blue ribbon creatures outstrip others of this kind because of a special gift of nature—a natural balance of the vital elements—the same natural gift that made Jack Dempsey the greatest fighter of his day. And, they point out, Chilean nitrate is likewise favored by mother nature.

Centuries ago, when this nitrogen fertilizer was created, nature endowed it not only with a high percentage of quick-acting nitrogen, but also a long list of other elements—such elements as magnesium, manganese, boron, iodine, calcium, potassium and many others. In natural nitrate, these are called the vital impurities and it is the natural balance and blend of these vital im-

purities in this fertilizer, coupled with its nitrogen, that make it so important to the healthy growth and development of crops.

Timely Questions On Farm Answered

Question: How long after males have been removed from the poultry flock will fertile eggs be produced?

Answer: In exceptional cases, fertility has been known to persist for a period of four weeks. In general, however, the bulk of eggs are infertile in from two to three weeks after the males have been removed.

Question: What are the soil-depleting crops which can be replaced with soil-conserving or soil-building crops to qualify for grants under the new farm program?

Answer: The soil-depleting crops are as follows: corn cotton, tobacco, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, rice sugarcane, sugar beets, cultivated sun flowers, commercial truck and canning crops including melons and strawberries, peanuts when harvested as nuts, grain sorghums and sweet sorghums, small grains when harvested for grain or when seeded alone and harvested for hay.

Question: If I do not grow any cotton at all this year, would I be paid for replacing all of my cotton with soil improving crops?

Answer: You can reduce up to 35 per cent of your base cotton acreage and be paid at the rate of 5 cents a pound on the average yield. This is the soil conserving payment. However, you would qualify for the soil building payment if you planted soil improving crops in place of cotton on all your cotton land. This would be at a lesser rate, however, and not to exceed \$1 an acre for the acreage so planted.

Say New Farm Program Is Best Ever Devised

Agricultural authorities say the new soil-improvement program is the best plan ever undertaken for the all-around development of North Carolina farming.

If farmers cooperate whole-heartedly with the program said Dean I. O. Schaub, of State college, it will elevate agriculture in this state to a higher plane than ever before.

The new program embodies many of the fundamental principles advocated by the extension service for years, he said, but it is much more comprehensive and far-reaching than anything that has gone before.

The nature of the new program makes it applicable to every farm in the state, said the dean in urging all farmers to take part in it so they can share in its benefits.

The program will give the farmers direct financial aid in the form of payments for liming their production of soil-depleting crops and for carrying out various soil-building and conserving practices.

From \$5 to 25 million dollars will be available for distribution this year in soil-conservation grants to North Carolina farmers.

Indirectly, it will aid them financially by preventing the production of price-raising surpluses, by increasing the efficiency of farming, and by stimulating the live-at-home movement.

The soil-building practices, if followed generally, will greatly increase the fertility of the soil within the next few years, the dean pointed out, and this will make possible a more economic and efficient production of crops.

By checking erosion in the mountain and Piedmont areas and by re-

claiming worn-out land, he continued, the program will reverse the soil-ravaging processes that have been going on for years. This will help safeguard the future of agriculture and the nation.

The program will encourage balanced farming so as to avoid the over-production of certain crops to the neglect of others. It will also encourage the farmers to produce at home as much as possible, the things needed on the farm.

By stimulating the production of forage and feed crops, the program will give an impetus to dairying and the production of beef cattle, the dean pointed out.

The state needs more dairy and beef cattle, he emphasized.

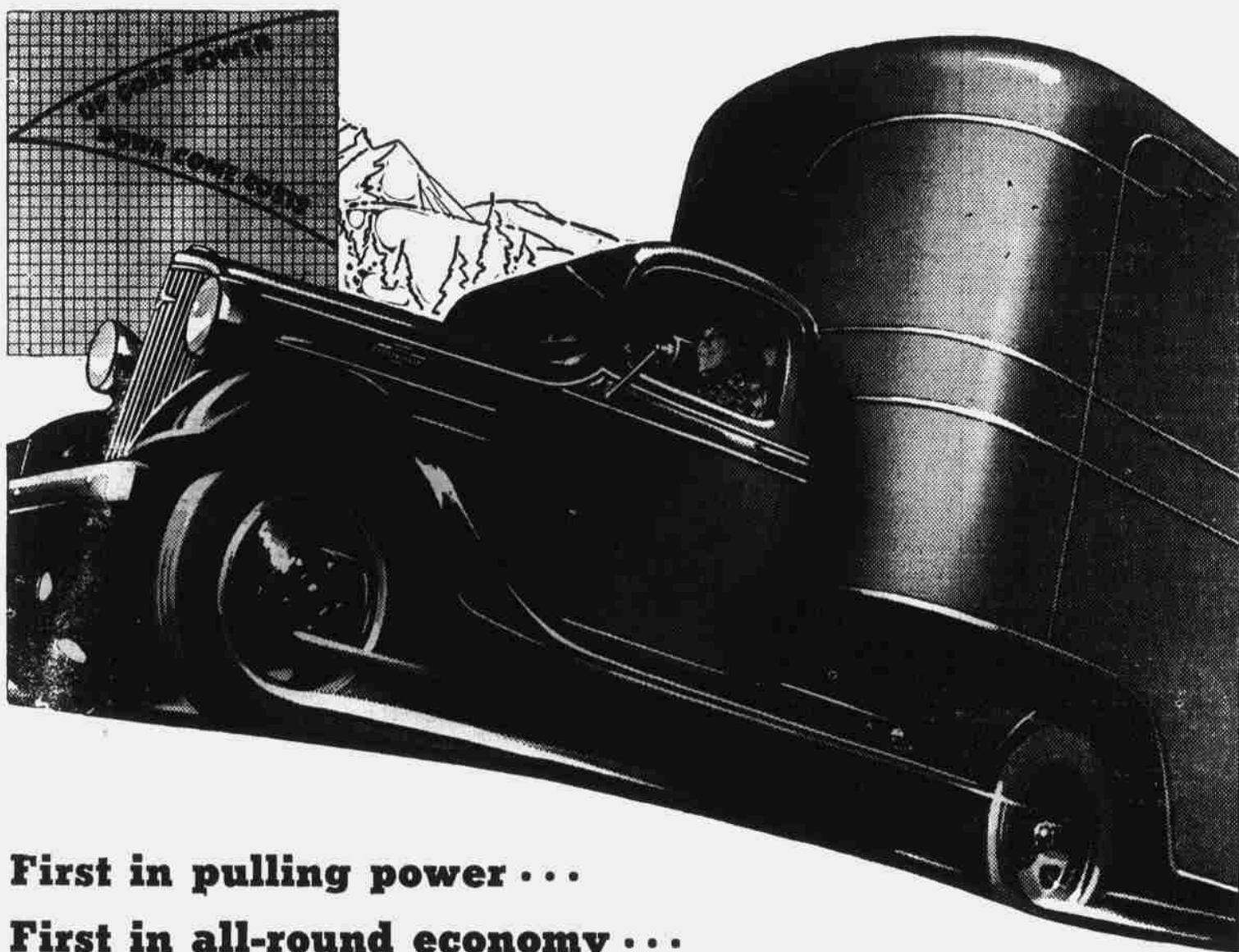
An increase in timber production and land reclamation through reforestation will also follow. This year forestation of fields which have been in cultivation will probably count as a soil-building practice for which payments will be made.

The dean also announced that secretary of agriculture, Henry A. Wallace has appointed a state committee of representative farmers to help determine certain policies of the new program.

Among the matters to come before the committee are: the rate of payment for various soil-building practices, which practices will be considered soil-building, and the rate of payment for reducing the acreage of soil-building crops other than cotton, tobacco, and peanuts.

He said too, that work sheets which farmers will need in connection with the program will soon be in the hands of every county agent for general distribution.

To remove egg stains from a linen tablecloth soak it in cold water before putting it into hot soapsuds.



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Romance that will haunt you—music that will thrill you—a story you will never forget. Don't miss it!

Saturday—

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