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America's Transportation Crisis.

Crisis follows crisis in the transportation industry with such rapidity that it is apparent that no part of the railroad problem is definitely and permanently settled. This is not the usual American way, for muddling through, relying on the drift of time alone to answer pressing questions has not been part of our public policy.

Success of the Interstate Commerce commission in adjusting rates is denied from many quarters. Radical critics, noting that while some roads are operating at a loss others are netting handsome and perhaps excessive profits, have called for a return to unregulated competition. There are some business men who also favor this, the secretary of the treasury, Mr. Mellon, being among their number. An organization of traveling salesmen is among the groups proposing a return of powers to state railway commissions and a limitation of federal regulation.

The Railroad Labor board is just as much under fire as the Interstate Commerce commission. First its decrees were flouted by the employers, and now that it has issued orders for a reduction of wages its authority is questioned by the employees. In an industry so essential as transportation, there should be no paralyzing labor conflict, and yet a strike would affect something like 1,000,000 workers is now being taken.

What reduction in freight costs has been granted has met with small enthusiasm, and a cut in passenger fares is still awaited. A survey of editorial opinion in Nebraska has revealed little rejoicing at the lowered wage scale. In Iowa, the home of one of the authors of the Esch-Cummings law, the republicans have nominated a senatorial candidate who advocates the repeal of this entire measure.

No sign of the approach of order in this chaos is to be seen. Sentiment for government ownership of the railroads quite possibly may be gaining strength, and in the background lies the Plumb plan for joint administration by the government, the stockholders and the workers under a sort of guild socialism. Attempts to hasten the consolidation of strong and weak systems into about 15 great groups under the railroad act of 1920 have not been welcomed by the rail executives, although some great economists urge this as the remedy.

So the situation now stands. Neither compromise nor force may be depended upon to solve the many difficulties involved. Propaganda and mere partisan jockeying for votes will not help. The need is for open minds and constructive thinking. No suggestion should be condemned unheard. A nation-wide conference of shippers, rail interests and consumers on the lines of the National Agricultural conference might serve to clarify the issues involved.

Power From the Corn Belt.

What may well become an epoch-making discovery is announced in casual fashion by the United States Department of Agriculture. This is nothing less than that corn cobs can be turned into a number of highly useful products by an inexpensive chemical process.

The middle west hopes to become more intimately acquainted with this magic compound called "furfural." It is said that this product of the cob has actually furnished power for driving an automobile. If its practicability is thoroughly proven, the farmers of Nebraska, nor motorists anywhere else in the nation, need worry no longer over predictions of the failure of the oil supply. The price of gasoline no more will provide matter for denunciation.

Out of the cobs can also be obtained low-priced substitutes for certain kinds of hard rubber and synthetic resin products, according to this revelation. But the public is modest in its requests—it does not ask for automobile tires from the corn fields and will be content with a cheap substitute for gasoline.

If this discovery had fallen into the hands of private interests, it is possible that not much of the benefit would have been passed on to consumers. One of the best features is that it is the property of the public. It has been said that the invention of the internal combustion engine created more than enough wealth to pay the whole cost of the great war. This later invention, if successful, will add immeasurably more to the world's wealth, turning waste into what is one of the prime requisites of this mechanical age, power.

Unfair to the Schoolma'ams.

There are such things as vested interests, and they are not all incorporated, either. This is brought to mind by the opposition of British schoolmasters to what is called the feminization of the school system. Put in plain words, the men teachers there maintain that their sex should have an educational monopoly.

"It is the man's privilege to train men for the nation," declared a speaker at a conference in Manchester. "Let woman keep her privilege of training women."

America was held up as a horrible example of a country where the schoolma'ams has demoralized the youth. A university professor maintained that certain characteristics of Americans, which he defined as selfishness, lack of co-operation and concentration on individual gain, are due to their training by women. It was unanimously decided that if many virtues are

to be developed boys over 8 years old should be taught by men. These are 9,000 women teachers in English schools for boys only.

All this constitutes a selfish slander on the great army of American women who carry the torch of knowledge from the country schoolhouse to the city high schools and even the universities. Educational ability is not a matter of sex. If it were, then it is extremely probable that girls would learn more easily from men and boys from those of the other sex.

There is none of this, for more character training in the American school system. This is a matter of educational policy, which still is controlled by men. Many of the teachers are in their teens and without the full equipment for imparting knowledge to their pupils. This, however, is due to the poor remuneration, which in the rural districts especially, does not enable an instructor to expand her ability. There are many reasons why people should think seriously about their schools, but there is no reason to question the ability of women teachers.

More Steam in the Courts.

Eleven days after a bank robbery at Decatur, Neb., the three men charged with the crime will be on trial before Judge Charles A. Goss in Burt county district court.

That is fast time in the administration of justice, for this country. There is still opportunity for months of delay by appeal to higher courts, but a good beginning has been made. The significant thing is that the incident is worthy of remark, that it is unusual. In England, where Chief Justice Taft is going to inspect court procedure, a criminal frequently is tried within a few days of the commission of a crime and it is not unusual that a murderer be executed within a few weeks.

The United States takes pride in the basic principle of its courts, and no man is considered guilty until positively proven so, with strong accent on the "proven." That has been the excuse for creating a maze of technicality which had a purpose at one time, but which today is chiefly valuable in the opportunity given a clever lawyer to delay and obstruct justice. Judge Taft may find some "tricks of the trade" abroad which will hasten the clearing of American court dockets, bring speedier justice and cheapen its cost. Let us hope so.

Who'll Head the Federal Reserve?

Opposition to W. P. G. Harding's reappointment as head of the Federal Reserve system is not unexpected. Several powerful farm organizations have been gunning for him ever since the beginning of the policy of deflation which hit agriculture so hard. Party lines fail to hold in this case. Governor Harding is a democrat, and was first appointed by President Wilson. His most active foe is a democrat from his home state of Alabama, Senator Heflin. The farm bloc, which includes many republicans, has agreed to fight confirmation if the president sends Governor Harding's name in for reappointment.

Contrary to the general impression, the Federal Reserve system is not a governmental body. It is a bankers' bank, controlled by bankers, having been so established under the Wilson administration. Through a recent provision in congress one member of the board is to be chosen to represent the agricultural interests. This is part of the movement to bring the Federal Reserve system into closer touch with the farming industry. This arrangement for a "dirt farmer," however, does not completely satisfy the militant farm organizations.

It would, of course, be as unwise to elect the head of the banking system by popular vote as to decide by ballot who should be a general or an admiral. Some discretion must be left to the president, for he is in closer touch with the national needs involved. Much the same sort of dispute is brewing in the affairs of the Federal Land banks, where some advocates of co-operative principles claim that these are threatened by prospective changes in that federal board.

The duty of President Harding in both these cases is to weigh the evidence presented on each side and to act in such a way as neither to upset any sound policy or to continue any mistakes.

Seamy Side Out.

Jury service, like virtue, has its own reward—thankless job though it be.

"I wouldn't do it again for a million if I could help it, but I wouldn't take a million for the experience," say they who have been stuck in the vernacular used by the doughboy.

Good and bad—how closely they are mixed in the human heart, the jurymen learn.

A box car thief sat in criminal court the other day. His wife and little girl sat near him through the long trial.

Every few minutes the sunny-haired child would rush up to its father, climb on his knee, cling to him with her chubby arms, then pillow her little head on his breast.

Criminal is he? Or yet entirely bad, when a child can love him so?

A jury finds it hard business to believe he is—even with the most damaging testimony in evidence.

"Good stage business," says the cynic.

But is it?

Does he not love his child as much as the twelve of his peers do their little ones? Or mayhap the criminal instinct in him is greater than the character of the love he feels and does not know how to truly show.

Another youth wept when the judge pronounced sentence on him. A woman in the court room—his woman—sobbed aloud. The court room was touched. While she pleaded for her lover, he took the chance when no one was looking to slip out of the court room and flee.

A rapid change in feeling sweeps the court. Verily, a juror has much to learn.

It's about time for some keen-eyed observer to report whether any of the nations represented in the disarmament conference has moved to fulfill the agreements. That one concerning poison gas, for example.

While some claim that the tariff will boost prices in America, along comes David Friday, an economist of considerable reputation, complaining that it will cause a further falling in prices.

What Council Bluffs started to do to the billboards was mild compared to the intention of county authorities at Minneapolis to oust unsightly signs from the country highways.

It is evident that the man who named the Pullman cars had nothing to do with race horses. Witness Ikeby T., Motor Cop, Non Suit, Bill Spivins and Old Coin.

From State and Nation

American Trade Policy.

From the Review of Reviews.
All the markets of the world are of slight use to the United States as compared with our own domestic market. Europe is far richer and better developed than the United States. Every European country is devoted to its own interests, and all of them look upon the United States as an enemy.

Our best service to the world lies in maintaining our national life and character. One way of doing this is to refuse firmly to open the floodgates to fresh millions of undesirable immigrants. Another way to do it is to refuse to break down our industries and our home markets by opening trade doors to floods of cheap foreign commodities while in turn we are forcing down wages and despoiling our farms in the attempt to export increasing food surpluses to pay for foreign goods. We shall not collect the sums that European governments owe us by the mere process of opening the bars to foreign manufactures.

Some of the most mistaken leaders at the present moment are not generation bankers in New York, or European agents seeking American capital. No leaders could be more honest, while at the same time mistaken, than some of those in the middle west who are continuing to pursue the ignis fatuus of vanishing and illusive foreign markets for western farm products.

What our middle western states chiefly need is a policy of their own states and to consume more of their own products and to consume more of the products of their own states. They have had much land and relatively few people. They invited settlers and opened up farm lands. Their local markets were small, and they had immense quantities of grain, wheat, beef, pork, and other things, which they had to sell. They fought the railroads to a finish and secured low freight rates on long hauls. They broke down the established markets of New York, New England, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and demoralized that of Ohio and Kentucky. They flooded Ireland and England with their food products and made it impossible for them to export within so short a period as ten years.

The western states will import manufacturing populations, and create profitable local markets for their food.

The tariff makers at Washington are threatening to raise duties on wheat and other agricultural products. This time the general preference for home development.

International Loans.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.
About every nation in Europe wants to borrow money. Some can do so if they do not want too much and want it too quick. Others can not borrow at all until they can give better security than they can offer now. A committee representing the great national banks of issue and groups of influential bankers is now in session in Paris, to discuss the only American present. This meeting is expected to lead to a more formal official or semi-official gathering later. Several plans have been submitted, but their nature is not disclosed.

By an international loan does not mean a loan to any government from the proceeds of taxation. Neither is there meant a loan by bankers out of their pockets. They are writing the money. What is meant is a loan which bankers can buy or underwrite for immediate resale to individual investors. And that is a question of security. It will be so far as they are not in this country, a gold loan, and the lenders will want assurance of getting gold back precisely on the due date. The countries which need most help are those which in present conditions, can not give such assurance. To enable them to do so will require new legislation, changes in fiscal practice and in some cases international agreements.

For example, Germany can not borrow a dollar unless the bonds are made a lien on the proceeds of reparations. In every case there must be assurance that the money loaned be for productive use and distributed to investment, and not a dollar for the payment of any other obligation. It is such things which make the problem difficult and will require in the end political action. The bankers of the most nations upon what the different countries will have to do if they desire to sell their bonds to the investing public.

Killing of Bandits.

From the Cleveland News.
The slaying of two bandits of four that robbed a bank in the small town of Metamora, Mich., is excellent work. One of the others is wounded and in prison. The fourth surrendered before a bullet came his way. All of the loot of the raiders, Detroit thugs, it seems, was recovered.

This is not quite up to the Cantor record, where all four of the bandits in the gang were killed on the spot, or so wounded that they have since died. But the Michigan percentage of fatalities is higher than the one established at our own suburb of Bedford, where the Losteiner gang was broken up.

In two fights with officers and citizens, within a few weeks, six outlaws, professional robbers, have been killed, not more than 150 miles, by air, from Cleveland. In other encounters crooks have been shot and killed. In the last few months, one at a time, in this section of the country, and that picking off of the criminals goes on all the while.

It beats the slow and uncertain work of the courts as a means of putting the fear of death into dangerous lawbreakers. It is worth much to decent folk to have a gang of robbers and killers wiped out of the Midwest by the Cantor or half-destroyed as one has been dealt with in Michigan.

World and College.

George Eastman in the Dial.
"I wish reformers, instead of trying to make the college more useful and professional, would try to make the world more like the colleges. The things that the world might find worth doing for their own sake would perhaps be nobler than those that appeal to the undergraduate, though I am far from confident of that; but in any case, means would no longer be pursued as ends. The world would then shine with what is called in the world as 'allegiance to what one knows one loves.'"

Too Effeminate.

From the Toronto Mail and Empire.
The usual advice not to sit over a fire, but to harden one's self in the open air, bears fruit when there is a cold snap.

One of the advocates of the hardening method was the coach of a boy's school. When uninvited with some boys in the depths of winter, he noticed a boy had rolled a snowball to make a pillow for himself. Immediately he kicked it away. "No effeminate boy," he commanded sternly.

Dangerous Precedent.

From Gapper's Weekly.
A 6-year-old Pennsylvania girl swallowed a campaign button of one of Pennsylvania's re-elected candidates for governor and he has been asked to defray the expense of an operation. This looks like a dangerous precedent if voters should take to suing candidates because they had swallowed some of their campaign dope.

Senators With Memories.

From the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.
The senate of the United States of America omitted a session so that the pages could take in a circus. It is a wise statesman who remembers that at one time he was a boy who liked fun.

A Small Return.

From the Toronto Mail and Empire.
De Valera is the father of twins—a mere drop in the bucket when one considers what he has done to reduce the population of Ireland.

If You Lecture, Read This.

From the Erie County Times.
A lecture should not be so long that the man in the middle of the audience regrets that he is not conveniently on the edge.

Race Not Always to the Swift.
From the New York Tribune.
The speeder who fancies that not even justice can overtake him should be convinced of his error.

How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered personally, subject to proper limitation, where a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make a diagnosis nor prescribe for individual diseases. Address letters in care of The Bee.

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THE ALCOHOL SLAUGHTER.

A correspondent sends me a statement relative to the decrease in the death rate from alcoholism in New York City from 1916 to 1921 inclusive. This shows a decline in the number of deaths from this cause from 687 in 1916 to 35 in 1921, and a rise to 119 in 1921.

I am very much impressed by this table. Statistics as to the deaths from alcoholism are notoriously inaccurate and undependable.

The deceased must be mighty friendly before any one would turn in a death certificate assigning alcoholism as the cause of death. Especially is this true now that procuring alcohol for beverage purposes is an illegal transaction on one side or both.

My death rates from cirrhosis of the liver, certain forms of pneumonia, certain kinds of accidents—are these falling? What do the alienists say about the prevalence of alcoholic insanity?

The answers to these questions would be more to the point.

My correspondent suggested that this was due to the fact that many of the Irish were whisky drinkers.

Senate document No. 645 on causes of death of cotton mill operators in 1905, 1906 and 1907 indicated that the Irish drank more than did the average person in the industry, and that this contributed to the development of consumption among them, saying:

"There is at least grounds for suspecting that intemperance may account for some portion of the high mortality from tuberculosis among the Irish males."

Let the Irish, on the one hand, and the friends of distilled beverages, on the other, feel that somebody is picking on them, the article on "Health of the Foreign Born" in "The World" had more than their share of Bright's disease, and suggested that less beer drinking would help them in those spheres of weakness.

The great authority on insanity, Bleuler, says alcoholism is on the increase in Switzerland since the government relaxed the wartime restrictions and began allowing the brewing of a stronger beer.

He says that specialists in insanity should take the lead in the fight

Against alcohol, declaring that those who favor the use of alcoholic beverages in moderation must be prepared for a return of all the misery which goes with alcoholism.

Dr. Peter Bassoe, in commenting on Bleuler's article in the Practical Medicine Series, says:

"It is only fair to state that, contrary to what one might expect, the psychiatrists of the German speaking countries, led by Florel of Switzerland and Kraepelin of Germany, have been the most active supporters of the campaign against alcoholism."

Kraepelin, Florel and Bleuler are great names among the German speaking people. If their advice is listened to, there should be lower death rates from some of the diseases which are commonly called degenerative.

His Unruly Big Toe.

H. E. C. writes: "What can be done to straighten the great toe on a boy of 14? It looks as if a bunion was forming and the big toe is drawn towards the other toe almost at an angle of 45 degrees. There is no pain or lameness. We have used tincture of iodine. Will that alone cure it?"

REPLY.

It is possible that wearing broad-toed shoes will do the trick. Some stores sell pads to go between the toes, straightening them.

I strongly suspect that when the condition develops in so young a child that the bones of the foot are being pushed apart by sesamoid bones or bony spurs. If so, these might be removed by operation.

What does the X-ray show?

Listen, O Victims!

M. C. W. writes: "I read the pathetic 'Victim of Cold Feet.' Having frequently suffered from that awful malady—chilblains—I give the benefit of my cure to almost at an angle of 45 degrees. There is no pain or lameness. We have used tincture of iodine. Will that alone cure it?"

I always wash my feet in cold water, and when I take a hot bath I let the cold water run on them.

Then I take equal parts of chloroform and olive oil and rub in. I used this frequently during the winter, and if the weather is very cold I cut paper insoles and put them in my shoes.

"My feet are naturally sensitive, but with this attention I am comfortable and able to take long walks in any kind of weather."

Cancer Not Contagious.

Mrs. F. F. writes: "Is cancer contagious?"

REPLY.

No.

There IS a difference in Bread



Here is the Reason:

EVERY one of the **BETSY ROSS** ingredients grouped above is the finest that can be obtained.

They have been selected because every ingredient and the particular grade of every ingredient contributes something of value to the loaf.

A single substitute introduced into this quality group would have a deteriorating effect on the food value of BETSY ROSS.

What opportunity there is to substitute—especially when the use of a cheaper ingredient may mean increased profit or a lower price.

This is the risk you run in buying ordinary bread. You are so seldom certain.

But when you say BETSY ROSS to your grocer, you have sealed our guarantee that quality products alone have been used in its baking.

THE JAY BURNS BAKING CO.

Betsy Ross