

## THE COST OF A QUARREL

**Pathetic Story of the Strike in the Westmoreland Coal Fields.**  
In Westmoreland county, Pa., the longest strike on record still drags on. A. S. Crapsey has just finished a complete investigation and makes a thrilling report in the August American Magazine.

It is a coal strike, and it has been going steadily on since March 10, 1910. On one side are the operators, and on the other side are the United Mine Workers of America. The operators are organized, but they object to the unionizing of the men. The quarrel really started over that point. Then questions of pay, conditions of labor, and so on, became involved.

But it is the cost of the quarrel that is most interesting now. The United Mine Workers have actually paid out a million dollars in cash to the men who are on strike. The operators have spent half a million for extra police protection. Untold millions are the loss through limitation of output and increased expenses.

Twenty lives have been lost and unspeakable suffering incurred. Babies have been born in the open fields where the strikers have camped out. Sickness has abounded. Drinking has increased. Moral degeneration has set in. Physical weakening of the men has taken place. It is a terrible story.

The war is coming to a close because the miners have exhausted their resources and must give up. Mr. Crapsey, who writes in great fairness, says, in conclusion:

"No one could be with these men for any length of time without feeling for them a pathetic admiration. They were sacrificing their immediate comfort for a future good. They were fighting for a cause. They were convinced that they were battling for two primitive rights of man—the right of a man to own himself and the right of a man to own his job. Most of them had come from eastern Europe allured by promises of freedom and plenty. They found slavery and starvation awaiting them. One Italian said to me, drawing his hand across his neck, 'I canna live like a man; I cutta a throat.'

"These men were living on starvation allowances. The union gave each man \$2.50 a week, with a small additional sum for each child. They were limited to the simplest food. Bread and molasses was a luxury. They would march every afternoon a distance of five miles to and from the mines and go supperless to bed, and yet they hold on. There is a wistful look in their faces as if they didn't understand, as if they were asking of this great country: 'Where is the freedom you promised me? Where is the plenty?'

"The condition of the women and children in the shacks that the labor unions have built to shelter them will not bear description. They are herded without any regard for comfort or decency; they live in their own filth; they are eaten of vermin; they are half starved; they are clothed in the castoff rags of others; they are the innocent victims of a great social wrong.

"The strikers are beaten, but only for a time. In my judgment, we are on the eve of a great industrial struggle in the coal fields upon the issue of which the existence of organized labor will depend."

### Menace to Unionism.

The A. F. of L. executive council was in session in Washington the other day, and apparently it has dawned on its members that the jurisdictional quarrels in affiliated unions have become a serious menace to the movement. It was given out during the session that "the absurdity of unions warring among themselves to determine whose members shall do this or do that long since has been apparent to even the most superficial observer. This foolishness must stop, and stop it will." It is to be hoped the executive council is not bluffing.—Brooklyn Eagle.

### Dislikes Convict Labor.

"I have visited several large penal institutions in the United States where goods are manufactured, and I think our Australian law barring prison made goods is a good one," said W. H. Barkley of the high commissioner's office of the commonwealth of Australia.

### Trade Union Notes.

Members of the Minnesota state board of barbers' examiners receive \$3 per day.

Within the past forty years the number of women workers in France has nearly doubled.

Painters of Wheaton, Ill., secured increase to 45 cents per hour, eight hour day and Saturday half holiday.

At Hot Springs, Ark., the painters have gained an increase from \$3.20 to \$3.60 per day, carpenters from \$3.60 to \$4.

Brewery workers of Lancaster, Pa., won their strike for \$1 per week increase, and engineers got \$2 per week increase.

The city council of Barre, Vt., granted street and water department employees a forty-eight hour week, reducing hours from fifty-four, without reduction in wages.

"I believe in a uniform five hour working day for five days a week, the wages to be \$5 a day," said Henry Abraham, secretary of the Boston Central Labor union.

After twenty years of service all postmasters and clerks in Germany receive a pension from the government and after forty years a full pension, in addition to the regular salary.

## FOR UNIONISM.

The next great day in the labor calendar is Labor day, which will fall on Monday, Sept. 4. The eyes of the whole world are at this time fixed on organized labor with close and critical inspection, and it behooves all adherents of the movement to do their best to make a creditable showing on the day of its annual public display.

Now let us all get to work and prepare such a celebration of the approaching holiday of labor as has never been seen. It will well reward the effort in the enjoyment of the day, in the self satisfaction that will follow attention to this great duty, and in the result in public appreciation of the strength, vitality and high purposes of the labor movement. Who can hang back when the greatness of what is at stake is considered? By all means let us begin at once a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together for the good of organized labor.

## UNIQUE GAS DETECTOR.

**Mechanical Device Gives Warning of Fire Damp in Mines.**

A new device for detecting fire damp in mines has just been designed by two young chemists, junior teachers in the Technical college in Sydney, Australia. The new detector is a simple and portable apparatus designed for the purpose of detecting and indicating the presence of fire damp and other dangerous gases in coal and other mines. Its warning is given either by a loud sounding alarm bell or by the flashing into view of a red glow light.

The makers of this simple contrivance have based their procedure upon Gratham's law of the diffusion of gases—namely, "all gases tend to diffuse into one another at a definite rate, which varies in an inverse ratio to the square root of the density of the gases." Taking also Ansell's fire damp detector as an additional starting point, the inventors have succeeded in procuring an efficient instrument which an inspector or miner may carry in his hand and test with ease and certainty the air in any heading or at any working face.

The apparatus consists merely of a piece of glass tubing bent into U shape, with the lower curve flattened. One leg of the U has an ordinary shell funnel at its upper end, and the open mouth of this is covered by a thin disk of plaster of paris, mixed thin, so that in drying it remains porous. The other leg is crowned by a small reservoir containing additional mercury, with a little glass tap to allow the metal to be run into the bent tube below as and when required. Through each lower leg there is passed a fine platinum wire, that of the funnel crowned one being about half an inch below the level of the other, and immersed in mercury, which fills the bend of the U up to its level. Each wire is connected to the poles of an ordinary battery cell, and thence effective connection is made with either an alarm bell or colored light. When the detector is brought into the presence of an admixture of gas and air the foreign gas permeates the plaster of paris shield and depresses the mercury column below. This naturally causes the mercury in the other leg of the U to rise, and its rise brings it into contact with the platinum wire just above it. This slight contact is sufficient to complete the circuit and set either bell or danger light to work. So sensitive is the apparatus, as shown by tests during a recent exhibition, it can be adjusted to give warning of the presence of such a small proportion as 2 per cent or even less of an undesirable gas.

## LABOR IN SWITZERLAND.

It is said that labor conditions in Switzerland are somewhat better than anywhere on the European continent and the organized workmen relatively greater. The trade union movement, however, is not thoroughly united, political and religious questions precluding a complete unification. Beneficial associations and other organizations based on religion are common in Switzerland. Out of a total of 113,800 organized workmen in 1910 only 67,348 were affiliated with the general federation of that country, the Trade Union Association. The railway workers have an 82 per cent organization. Membership is on the increase.

## COOPERS IN FINE SHAPE.

Information has come to hand from the secretary-treasurer of the Coopers' International union that business in the coöperage trade throughout the country is exceedingly good and that there are no idle men—in fact, there is a dearth of men. This organization has signed up numerous contracts recently, every one of which gives a substantial increase in wages and the shortening of the workday to eight hours. These agreements have all been secured without strike except in one instance, that in Chicago, which lasted only five days.

## LABOR FEDERATION IN BAVARIA.

A federation of transport workers has recently been formed in Bulgaria. There are now affiliated the unions of railway men, post, telegraph, telephone and tramway servants, dockers, teamsters, motor drivers and all other laborers employed in any branch of the traffic and transport trade of the country.

## EARTH WEARS DUST BLANKET

**Increases Temperature in Daytime and Checks Fall of Temperature at Night.**

When the air is very thick and hazy it may contain floating dust particles to the number of from 10,000 to 20,000 in every cubic centimeter, while a cubic centimeter of very clear air may contain only from a dozen to a few hundred particles.

An English observer's data indicates that there is a relation between the quantity of dust and the temperature of the air. A great amount of dust, it is thought, increases the temperature in the daytime and checks the fall of temperature at night.

The reason is that the presence of dust serves as an obstruction to the free radiation of heat through the air. The sunbeams pass through very pure, clear air without lending much heat to it, and at night the heat received by the ground during the day readily escapes through the same air; but if the atmosphere is heavily laden with dust, the sun's rays are partially arrested by the particles which, becoming heated, in turn warm the air, and in like manner heat radiated from the earth at night is retained in the hazy layers of air in contact with its surface.

Without its atmosphere, which serves as a coverlet to protect it against the fearful cold of space, the surface of the earth would be frozen like that of the airless moon. But the data gathered by reliable observers show that the atmospheric blanket wrapped around our planet varies in its power to retain heat in proportion to the amount of dust particles that it contains.—Harper's Weekly.

## EXTRA ALLOWANCE FOR KIDS

**Wise Housekeeper Lays Down Safe Rule for the Entertainment of Children.**

They just had received a telephone message that Mr. and Mrs. Rankin were over in town with little Bennie, and would drop in for luncheon if it would be convenient, and they had said of course it would be. Then they hastily examined the contents of the larder.

"We seem to be rather low on chocolate," announced Jessica, "but probably there is enough if we are careful. We can give Bennie a little cup."

"Don't ever think it," warned mother, hastily. "Pick out the biggest cup for Bennie and be prepared to refill it a few times. You and I will take little cup or none, but don't ever think a child—especially a growing boy—isn't going to want the most of everything. If you make such a mistake you are likely to come face to face with the most terrible embarrassments. A much safer rule is to allow double, at least, for each child."

## WOMAN'S WAY THE SUREST

**Gets Quick Action Where Man Would Have Argued for Half an Hour.**

A writer in the New York Globe tells of a young woman who, he believes, is not inferior to any man in the management of the affairs of life. She bought a small farm, and was busy overseeing the work on it.

The other day she ordered a telephone installed, and the company's workmen started in. Presently the "boss" called her out to the lawn.

"We can't run the wire in without damaging that tree," he said, pointing to a fine old elm near the piazza. "It can't be done."

"Very well," replied the young woman smiling, "then you needn't put in the phone," and she re-entered the house.

"Did the electricians go away?" asked the correspondent, who assuredly believes that a man should think twice before insisting upon his boasted mental superiority to the other sex.

"No, sir. They put in the phone—and without harming the tree."

## UNREDEEMED PARIS PLEDGE.

An incident not without pathos occurred toward the end of last week at a sale of unredeemed pledges at the Mont de Piete. There were sold by auction a child's drinking cup, plate, spoon and knife and fork. Fifty-one years ago these souvenirs were deposited in the Paris municipal pawn shop. Every year since the interest has been paid regularly and the right of redemption secured, but the family never seem to have possessed the necessary 15 or 20 francs to resume possession.

Evidently the poor people are either dead or have become more needy. Two years ago the interest ceased to be paid, but the department to their credit, abstained from selling these "lars and penates." Several letters were addressed at the last known residence and to other places where the pawners have lived, but they have come back marked "Inconnu." The sands of the glass have run out and the objects so carefully guarded for half a century have been sold.

## SAME OLD HUMAN NATURE.

From the fresco paintings of women in Cretan palaces of the period about 2000 B. C. it is learned that the women of that time pinched in their waists, had flounced or accordion plaited skirts, wore an elaborate coiffure on their heads, shoes with high heels and hats which might have come from a Parisian hat shop, while one woman might be described as wearing a jupe culotte.

## FACTS ABOUT THE SHAMROCK

**Is an Entirely Different Plant in Various Sections of the Emerald Isle.**

A rose by any other name would be as sweet, and the fact that the shamrock of old Ireland is an entirely different plant in various sections of the Emerald Isle in no wise affects the romance that attaches to the name. The plant generally exported from Ireland under that name is one of the hop clovers, *Trifolium minus*. It is a mistake to think that this plant will grow only in Ireland. It will grow and thrive in any temperate climate when properly cultivated. In fact, there is no plant known as shamrock which is peculiar to Ireland. White clover, for instance, known in various sections of Ireland as shamrock, grows in the United States in great abundance. Black medic and wood sorrel are designated as shamrock in certain localities. The wood sorrel may, in fact, be the shamrock of song and story. Ordinary red clover is sometimes called shamrock in the United States.

But, after all, a pretty sentiment should not be interfered with by botanical experts—what matters their Latin names, so long as the three-leaved bit of green grew near the cottage of the fathers in the old country?

## CURIOUS PHASE OF IDIOCY

**Man Will Lie in Bed and Shiver Rather Than Get Up for Extra Wraps.**

Perhaps a man never realizes so surely what a fool he is as when he wakes up on a cold night with the feeling that there is not enough covering on the bed. While he is perfectly aware that he is shivering, all his powers of action seem to have deserted him. He will no doubt draw his knees up close to his chin, but that is about all he will do to relieve his suffering.

All this time, strange to say, his mind is just as capable of thinking as if he were not in a half daze. He realizes fully that in his wardrobe, within a few feet of him, are enough extra wraps to laugh the cold to scorn and make him the happiest man in the world. Yet he will huddle himself into a cramped position, and lie awake to hear his teeth chatter rather than get out of bed and walk a few feet. All this time he recognizes the fact that he is a fool, and though he inwardly curses himself for his timidity, some strange spell seems to be cast over him that prevents his doing what he should do. There he shivers until sleep comes to his aid. In the morning he will vow never again to be such a coward, though he knows in his heart that when the thing occurs again he will be just as big a fool as before.

## STRENGTH OF SPIDER'S WEB

**Single Thread Supports Weight Seventy-Four Times Weight of Spider Himself.**

The strength of the spider, and of the materials it employs, is something almost incomprehensible, when the size of the insect and the thickness of his thread are taken into account. Recent experiments have shown that a single thread of a web made by a spider which weighed 54 milligrams supported endwise a weight of four grams, or 74 times the weight of the spider itself.

When, therefore, a spider spins a web to let himself down from the ceiling, or from the branch of a tree, and we see him descending without perceiving his thread at all, we may be perfectly sure that he is not only in no danger of falling, but that he could carry 73 other spiders down with him on his invisible rope. Knowing this fact with reference to a single thread, we need not be surprised that the threads of a web, interwoven and reinforced one by another, have a very considerable strength, and are able to hold bees and wasps, themselves very powerful in proportion to their size, and to bend without breaking under a weight of dew or rain.

## TO READ COIN INSCRIPTIONS

**Numismatist Shows Test That Seldom Falls to Reveal Dates on Worn Coins.**

Lying on the table in front of a numismatist was an old copper coin. It had experienced hard usage.

"Can you read the date and the inscription?" inquired the collector.

The visitor inspected the specimen, but, although he had the aid of a magnifying glass, he confessed that the words and figures were illegible.

"Let me assist you," the collector remarked. Going to the kitchen range he thrust an ordinary coal shovel into the fire and permitted it to remain there until red hot. Withdrawing it, he dropped the coin on the utensil, and it speedily became as red hot as the shovel itself. Immediately the date, 1794, shone brightly in glowing figures on the obverse side of the coin, and similar treatment revealed the words United States of America—one cent—on the reverse. This test, according to the numismatist, seldom fails with any coin, even when the inscriptions have been worn so perfectly smooth that they are invisible to the naked eye.

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS.

Women are now engaged in all but two of the 303 gainful occupations of the men of this country.

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### Preserve for Salt Water Fish.

Bermuda will soon have a salt water fishing preserve covering an area of about five square miles. It will be made by constructing a sill of concrete across the single narrow opening which unites Harrington sound with the ocean, and fixing a screen to prevent the exit of fish.

### Queer Physical Facts.

Matters in geography and physics appear to get a little mixed at times. The mouth of the Mississippi is several miles farther from the center of the earth than its source, so that it actually runs uphill. Also the eastern end of the Panama canal is further west than the western end. It sounds like a "bull," to be sure, but for all that it is a fact.

### Will Raise Opossums.

One farm exclusively for opossums has been started in Gippsland, Victoria, which comprises two thousand acres of eucalyptus bush land. Another farm comprising five hundred acres has been started in southern Tasmania and another of 150 acres in New South Wales.