

Today

**Air Free, Says Coolidge.
Piracy Breeds Piracy.
What Ails the Church?
Feel Your Head on Top.
By ARTHUR BRISBANE**

President Coolidge notifies the world in general, including would-be monopolists of radio privileges, that nobody will be "allowed to monopolize the air."

That's welcome. Ordinary monopolies the people recognize as national American institutions—electric light, railroads and other things. But they would like the air to remain free. If possible. Even in front of gasoline stations you see the sign "free air." The president should be congratulated on having put that up outside the White House.

Thirty Chinese "passengers" boarded a ship at Shanghai. A little later, as pirates, they took possession of the ship, made the captain steer to a little island, and took \$300,000 in Chinese currency.

A young Japanese of "good family," smiling defiantly at the court, is accused of committing as many murders as a pirate of the high seas. He admits that he set sail with some followers in a small vessel, seized a Russian ship, killed the entire crew, threw them overboard and then went on his way, a gay pirate. This, he says, was Japanese patriotism, to avenge certain crimes of the bolsheviks.

When big nations set the example in piracy, individuals quickly follow it.

What is the matter with the church? Many old-fashioned preachers ask that question. Clergymen, secure in their pulpits, like the distinguished Dean Inge, of St. Paul's in London, calmly tell you that one of the great apostles was not inspired; he only knew epileptic fits. All this isn't new.

Aristophanes, in his comedy, "The Clouds," written 400 years before Christ, satirizing "modernists" of his time, declared that they would drive out Zeus and put Ver-tex in his place. In other words, Zeus or Jupiter, ruler of the universe, was to be replaced by a scientific explanation showing that the earth wasn't created at all, but came out of a whirling vortex.

Clergymen are making every effort to restore religious enthusiasm.

In New York's cathedral of St. John the Divine yesterday, 60 bishops, magnificently robed in brilliant colors, accompanied by "honorary

canons," the clergy of the cathedral, the choir, etc., paraded in a building that cost millions of dollars. That was impressive.

But perhaps half a dozen fishermen, sitting in a rowboat that cost less than \$2, discussing religion earnestly, might do more for faith than any \$10,000,000 cathedral.

Edward Mayerle was hit on the head by holdup men. That caused a dent in his skull, and the dent in his skull, so the doctors say, ruined Mayerle's character and made a forger of him.

Now, in the Los Angeles hospital, they have operated on Mayerle's skull, taking the pressure off his brain, and he expects to turn honest again.

There is no doubt that in future human skulls will be examined in youth and depressions removed, just as an automobile service station takes the dent out of the back of a limousine.

Many a man's career has been ruined because, as a baby, the top of his head closed the wrong way, making a depression, where there ought to be a well rounded surface. Feel the top of your head. If it sinks in, watch yourself closely.

Senator La Follette says the republicans will try to buy this election. He sees a slush fund of millions. That will be good news to some worried republican managers.

They don't need any slush fund. Even small sums are refused by those that would like to help the republican party. Gentlemen with plenty of money say, "Thanks, I would like to help you, but I don't like to have Borah call me up and ask me about it later. Then I don't want to make enemies. Who knows who might be elected?"

The French are about to recognize the Russian government that they may do business with Russia, get their share of the oil, wheat, platinum, etc. This will interest the United States, which won't have anything to do with Russia, because foolish American financiers, eager for usurious interest and big commissions, lent American millions to the czar, when a baby in arms ought to have known that czars were doomed.

For every dollar that Russia owes to American investors she owes \$10 to France. But the French know enough to go ahead and do business. They have some statesmen.

(Copyright, 1924.)

Thousands at Barbecue.

Atlantic, Ia., Oct. 9.—Thousands of Pottawattamie residents were on the Avoca fair grounds Wednesday, the first day of the fall festival and barbecue sponsored by the fair association. Races, a corn show and free dinners featured the program, which was concluded Thursday.

Fire Prevention Week and Its Purposes

THE object of Fire Prevention Week is to impress upon the community at large the necessity of conserving the resources of the nation by preventing fires. It is hoped Fire Prevention Week will become the starting point for permanent fire prevention campaigns in all municipalities.

According to the National Board of Fire Underwriters, fires kill 15,000 Americans annually and injure thousands of others.

The national fire loss last year was more than \$500,000,000, an amount equal to the total cost of the Panama Canal. This represents an average loss of \$4.50 for every citizen of the country.

The total monetary loss including fire waste, cost of fire protection, loss of business due to fire, etc., is estimated as more than \$1,000,000,000 annually.

The average per capita fire loss in Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany and other European nations is less than \$1.00. Some reasons for our high loss figure are traditional carelessness, type of construction and lack of personal liability for negligence in causing fires.

Carelessness is the underlying cause of most fires. It is estimated that 75% of them are avoidable if ample precautions are taken.

The five leading causes of fire are all in the preventable or partially preventable class. In order of importance, they are:

1. **Matches and smoking** caused a loss of nearly \$26,000,000 in 1922. These fires could have been prevented if care had been taken in extinguishing matches, ashes and butts before disposing of them.
2. **Defective flues and chimneys** destroyed property valued at \$18,550,000 in 1922. This is an increase of \$3,750,000 over the preceding year.
3. **Fire loss from stoves, furnaces, boilers** and their pipes totaled nearly \$17,000,000 in 1922. Most of this waste was caused by improper installation or overheating.
4. Proper disposal of **oily rags, waste and rubbish** will prevent many of the fires caused by spontaneous combustion. Loss from this source was \$14,500,000 in 1922.
5. **Electricity** caused the destruction of almost \$12,000,000 worth of property in 1922. The use of **improper fuses and fuse substitutes** and the improper care of **electric pressing irons** are two leading sources of electrical fires. All electrical installations should be inspected and approved before the current is connected.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Industrial plants, mercantile establishments and homes should be thoroughly inspected by their owners to determine whether dangerous conditions exist.
2. General cleanliness should be a large contributing factor in reducing losses. Preventable fires seldom start in clean places.
3. Many fires in dwellings would result in little or no damage if first aid apparatus such as extinguishers and water pails were kept handy and in readiness for service.
4. Every citizen should know the location of the fire alarm box nearest to his home, place of business or school and should learn how to turn in an alarm.
5. In giving a fire alarm by telephone, one should immediately ask the operator for the Fire Department instead of taking time to look up a number. It is important that the exact location of the fire be described in order that the apparatus may lose no time in responding.

Prepared by P. K. Walsh, Vice Pres.
Of the National Security Fire Insurance Co.
Of Omaha, Neb.

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53 years ago the proverbial cow kicked over a lantern, causing the disastrous \$158,000,000.00 Chicago fire.

Nowadays cows don't cause so many fires, but every year our fire loss amounts to \$500,000,000.00.

A large portion of this loss is due to carelessness and indeed is a reflection on the American public.

Let us all do our part in helping to reduce this great economic waste—and for the carelessness of "the other fellow"—

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