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You should know that
The Board of Public Welfare maintains a free legal aid department at the City Hall, open to all seeking advice.

Wireless to the world? Why not?
The weather man cooked up a cold reception for St. Valentine.

"Father and Son" week is next in line. It's a good thing to qualify in.

Omaha needs a lot of things more than it does a machinists' strike.

"Made-in-Omaha" dinners ought to be celebrated seven times a week in the homes.

The labor court idea is gaining ground. It affords a way to secure justice without violence.

Plumb says his railroad "plan" is applied democracy. Gone crazy, he might have added.

Idaho's ratification puts the suffrage amendment within six votes of the goal. These will come.

A rush for oil and gas lands is reported to impend in Alaska. Have gold and coal been exhausted?

Chicago predicts a slump in meat prices. The consumers will watch this slide with grim complacency.

The railroad men found President Wilson looking well and with his mind made up. The case is back with them now.

Omaha is generously boosting the fund to feed the starving babies in the Near East. That is one appeal none can resist.

Butter and eggs are getting down to where the ordinary man may almost look at the breakfast table without shuddering.

Count Hohenzollern disapproves of his son's offer to be the goat. He wouldn't let the boys get into danger during the war, either.

Section men and other railroad laborers say they will be satisfied with any "fair" proposition. But who is to determine what is fair?

Admiral Sims wants a "standardized" navy. One with automatic self-cocking medal distributors might meet approval at Washington.

The New York Stock exchange is to have a new twenty-two-story home, if you want to know whether business is good on Wall Street.

The gentle bolsheviki take no chances on a defeated opponent ever renewing his effort. They simply kill him as soon as he is captured.

John F. Shafroth is to have the chairmanship of the Shipping Board as a sort of consolation prize. He would have graced the cabin well, at that.

William C. Redfield is made president of the "American-Russian" Chamber of Commerce. Have we or are we going to renew relations with the bolsheviki?

John Bull's two-billion-dollar booze bill is giving him more worry just now than the presence of "Pussyfoot" Johnson. Expressed in l-a-d, the nation can understand what drink costs.

Elihu Root has been invited by the supreme council of the League of Nations to become a member of the committee to arrange for an international court of justice. The visitor's card issued to the United States must have been renewed.

Mark Twain's French
When the great humorist was a young reporter, working on The San Francisco Call, he determined to take up the study of the French language. He did not want to go to the expense of a teacher, and so he bought a grammar and conversation book and set to work. Before breakfast he pored over the lessons; late in the evening he was at it again; and every available moment of the day he employed with equal assiduity.

PLUMB PROPOSES REPUDIATION.
The author of the wondrous Plumb plan for remedying all the ills the transportation system of the country is heir to comes forward with another panacea, this time to heal our financial difficulties. He would now enforce a "capital levy" in order that the bonded debt of the land may be immediately reduced. Overlooking the fact that the bonded debt of the country is less than twenty billions instead of the thirty billions, which Mr. Plumb says is "admitted," and that the net cost of the war to the United States is only about twenty-two billions, instead of the forty-odd that loose speakers and writers refer to, it is interesting to note some of the other assertions.

Mr. Plumb resorts to the well-worn soapbox argument that 2 per cent of the people own 60 per cent of the wealth of the country. He would lay on these the burden of the confiscation, for that is what the so-called capital levy amounts to. Twenty-one million Americans subscribed to the Liberty bond issues, and made the best investment money ever went into. Millions of wage earners put part of their wages into these bonds, for they were to support the government. And now Mr. Plumb suggests repudiation as a method for meeting the debt!

For the year 1919 the family group income of the United States, calculated on the basis of wages paid and income tax returns, was estimated at \$52,850,000,000. This sum was divided between 23,500,000 family groups. In the group having incomes of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 were 21,375,000, with \$40,615,063,500 as its share of the total income. In the next group, between \$2,001 and \$3,000, were 1,375,000 families with \$3,850,000,000 for its portion. The significance of these figures can scarcely be escaped, even by the most ardent socialist. If they mean anything, they mean that this still is a poor man's country.

However that may be, we can not believe that the United States is ready to join with bolshevist Russia and socialist Germany in committing an act of national bankruptcy by repudiating any part of its indebtedness.

Nebraska in the National Arena.
Always vigorous, energetic and forward-looking, the people of Nebraska have had a great share in directing the destinies of the nation during the last half-century or longer. One man after another has come up from our prairies into national prominence, and new ideas have had their birth or found their growth here.

At least three possible candidates for president on the republican ticket have bid for the support of the state. One of these is a Nebraska man in all respects, save that of birth. General John J. Pershing is thoroughly identified with the state through his residence here, and his wide acquaintance makes him peculiarly attractive to the people.

On the democratic ticket Nebraska now presents the senior senator, Gilbert Monell Hitchcock, whose candidacy is being zealously pushed by his supporters, and who will be a figure in the San Francisco convention. Republicans can contemplate with complacency the family fuss this is sure to engender in the opposition ranks, for it is hardly conceivable that Mr. Bryan, even for expediency, will assent to the Hitchcock aspirations. No question can be raised as to Bryan's prestige as a national leader, nor can Hitchcock's prominence be denied. The outcome of this home affair is of interest far beyond the confines of the state.

While the primary election comes during the planting season, it is of such momentous character this time that the voters will very likely give it great attention. Nebraska is occupying a bigger space on the political map at the moment than any state in the union, and deservedly so because of the caliber of its men who are really making history.

Best Time to Get Married.
A California speaker at the women's meeting in Chicago advocates early marriages. She argues that 21 for the man and 18 for the woman is the ideal age, and holds that from fruitful marriage at this period will come lusty progeny as well as happy and harmonious homes. Perhaps she is right. It was the custom in early days, when life was less complex, but it may hold some difficulty now.

Define Value and Valuation.
In passing on another attack on the legality of the court house repair bonds, Judge Sears stated that he, as a member of the legislature, had assisted in writing the law and therefore he knew that the "actual value" mentioned in the law and the "valuation" mentioned in the constitution mean the same. Reasonable men will admit this, but those who care to may always quibble over it. The easy way out of the disputed definition is to abandon the present subterfuge of levying taxes on one-fifth of the valuation. To bring this about will necessitate some care in the revision of laws that permit mill levies for specific purposes, but it can be done, and the state will benefit. The present practice is confusing, frequently embarrassing, and contains some elements of danger. A revision of the law is almost imperative.

Most of us will agree with Edison that the human medium "is too d-d uncertain" for spirit communications. But it is that uncertainty that intrigues the investigator, for it keeps him in the state of betwixt and between that is so pleasant to the great majority of people.

Modern methods of grading are causing a lot of grief on Dodge street, but if it were not hot cinders from the locomotives, kicks could be predicated on loose boards in the dump wagon.

Industrial Consumption of Gold

From the Mining Congress Journal.
The actual sale of gold bars to the trades during the year ended on Jan. 1 by the New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver offices of the United States mint service, totaled \$76,837,600. To this amount has been added \$3,500,000 to allow for the gold coin used for manufacturing purposes, thus making a total of \$80,337,600, an increase of \$27,927,800, or 53.2 per cent over the 1918 trade consumption. For the first time in the history of the country gold was exported to Europe for manufacturing purposes by \$21,848,800, or 37.4 per cent. In 1915, \$63,215,675 was the highest amount produced in excess of that consumed in the trades for the past decade, which amount has declined progressively until, in 1918, the surplus was but \$16,269,900, due entirely to a decline in production, since the amount of gold consumed in the trades are practically equal for the years 1916, 1917 and 1918. This last year, however, due to a continued decline in the gold production, coupled with a still greater increase in the consumption of gold in the arts, a shortage has occurred for the first time in the history of the country.

It is evident that the conditions which have produced the economic pressure which will force and will continue to force a decline in the gold output will, on the other hand, be in favor of an expansion in the jewelry trade and the volume of gold consumed therein, and that, therefore, with the same economic conditions continuing, the amount of gold consumed in the arts probably will be more rather than less than that of 1919. With the same consumption in the arts, the estimate of \$40,000,000 as the production for 1920 will leave a deficiency in excess of \$40,000,000 this year.

To safeguard the monetary gold reserve from the heavy depletion by industrial use, the excise and premium proposal will soon be suggested for consideration of congress. The bill merely creates the machinery by which the consumers of gold in manufactures and the arts may be supplied with sufficient gold to meet their requirements without drawing upon the monetary reserves which sustain the country's credit. This is to be accomplished by an excise which will enable the gold producer to increase the output to satisfy the anticipated trade requirements.

A Big Heart as the Saving Grace of Mediocrity

Literary people often affect to prefer their own inspired and blessed state of ignorance to the lopsidedness and the mediocrity of the learned. It is painfully true that dead erudition takes too often the place of true inspiration. We are breeding a race of pedants overburdened by their libraries and their card indexes. A constant equilibrium must be maintained between a man's mental capacity, his formal and experimental knowledge, and his craftsmanship. If he takes in more than he can assimilate, he becomes self-centered and stupid. As most men are very quickly taught up to the saturation point, one cannot lay too much emphasis on the danger of undigested learning unsupported by practical experience. The mathematician Whitehead once very aptly said: "The second-handness of the learned world is the secret of its mediocrity. It is tame because it has never been scared by facts." It is only fair to add, however, that some people have been scared by hard facts their whole life long and have never ceased to be dull.

Science can neither produce nor efface mediocrity, for this is essentially a condition of the heart. Have you ever asked yourself why some men appear small however much they accomplish? Is it due to the blind injustice of fate, or would the reason rather be that their hearts are small, that they lack imagination and sympathy, that they are too self-centered, too cunning, too jealous? (Of all the symptoms of mediocrity, jealousy is perhaps the one that goes deepest.) On the contrary, a warm heart, a ready sympathy, will save any one, however small, from mediocrity. When a man has a big heart everything that he does is bigger and is likely to receive the credit for his smallest achievements; when his heart is shallow he manages to spoil everything, even his accidents of generosity.—From "Secret History" by George Sarton, in the February Scribner.

British Political Situation

The last of the labor representatives has left the British cabinet. In this case we are not afforded another exemplification of the theme, the dropping of the pilot, once made so pictorially famous by Punch; rather, we see the pilot, of his own volition, abandoning the doomed ship to her fate. The coalition government has, as a whole, been faring badly. Not only has it lost by-election after by-election and thereby suffered in prestige, but it has also laid itself open to attack on the grounds of inefficiency and wasteful spending. It has made desperate spasmodic attempts to conciliate the labor element, but has always failed. Sometimes, indeed, it has been in direct conflict with labor and seldom without receiving a knock-down blow.

A great deal of the future politics of Britain hinges on the pending election in Paisley. This venerable Renfrewshire city, which dates back to the days of the Roman occupation of the country, and became a "free burgh" in 1488 and a parliamentary burgh in 1832, is considered of great importance in indicating the drift of public opinion. "Keep your eye on Paisley" has been a well-known watchword ever since the late Lord Salisbury once made use of that cryptic expression in the heat of a hard-fought general election some 30 years ago.—Washington Post.

TODAY

The Day We Celebrate.
John A. M. McKenize, attorney, born 1878.
Henry Hiller, retired, born 1854.
Rudolph Dietz, grocer, born 1884.
George A. Roberts, grain dealer, born 1884.
Israel Zangwill, celebrated author and playwright, born in London 56 years ago.
Florence Roberts, a popular actress of the American stage, born in New York City 49 years ago.
William Shaw, for many years a noted leader and official of the Christian Endeavor societies, born at Ballardville, Mass., 60 years ago.
Charles Rann Kennedy, successful American dramatist, born in England 49 years ago.
Thirty Years Ago in Omaha.
General and Miss Cowin gave a supper party at the Paxton hotel for 41 guests. The benefit ball given by Typographical union No. 190, cleared for the union the sum of \$400.
The Coliseum Co., completed negotiations with Henry E. Abbey securing Adeline Patti and her opera company for an engagement in March.
Judge J. W. Fitzgerald and son, Mr. C. W. Fitzgerald and wife of St. Marys Kan., were the guests of Mayor Cushing.
Mr. C. Warrington, editor of the Mason City, Ia., Transcript, was here.

Little Folks' Corner

What Shall I Be?
Answered for Girls
Restaurant Manager.
By ELIZABETH MATHER.
From manager of a Y. W. C. A. luncheon room to proprietor of one of the best catereries in the city and overseer of another is the record of Miss Grace Smith of Toledo, O.



By persuading the Y. W. C. A. management to admit men to their luncheon room she was able at the end of a year to pay off the old deficit and put the luncheon room on a good paying basis for the first time. The men who had patronized the

The Bee's Letter Box
"Cost Plus" Contracts.
Edgar, Neb., Feb. 10.—To the Editor of The Bee: What was the cost plus system of contracting for the construction of public work used by the government during the world war? Who is Barney Bartuch? Was he a government contractor?

Questions About Sugar.
Somewhere in Iowa, Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Bee: Has the government set a price on sugar at which all merchants, wholesale and retail, will be obliged to sell in lots of 100 pounds or less? Is there a different price set on cane and beet sugar? Is the price to be the same in Iowa and Nebraska? Is there any law against private parties sending sugar from Iowa to Nebraska, or vice versa? What is the freight charge on sugar? Does it go first or second class? AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

How to Remedy It.
The list of stolen automobiles may be shortened by lengthening the prison term of the convicted thieves.—Boston Transcript.
Dempsey's Service Record.
About all there seems to be any hope of finding out is whether Jack Dempsey was a slacker with or without reservations.—Kansas City Star.

DOT PUZZLE.
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What Shall I Be?
Answered for Boys
Forester.
By R. S. ALEXANDER.
Because Boy Andrews was interested in trees his father suggested that he become a Forester. Accordingly, Boy set about obtaining information on the subject. He wrote to the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. From this service he received many bulletins and circulars. Some of these were sent him free; others he had to buy from the Bureau of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. Among the latter was Circular 207 of the forest service on the subject of "The Profession of a Forester." This told Bob just what he wanted to know about the opportunities in the profession.

He found out that he could enter the service as a ranger after a brief course in forestry in a school and a civil service examination in the subject. Or he could take a four year course and become a professional forester. Bob chose the latter. He completed his course in the school which from government re-

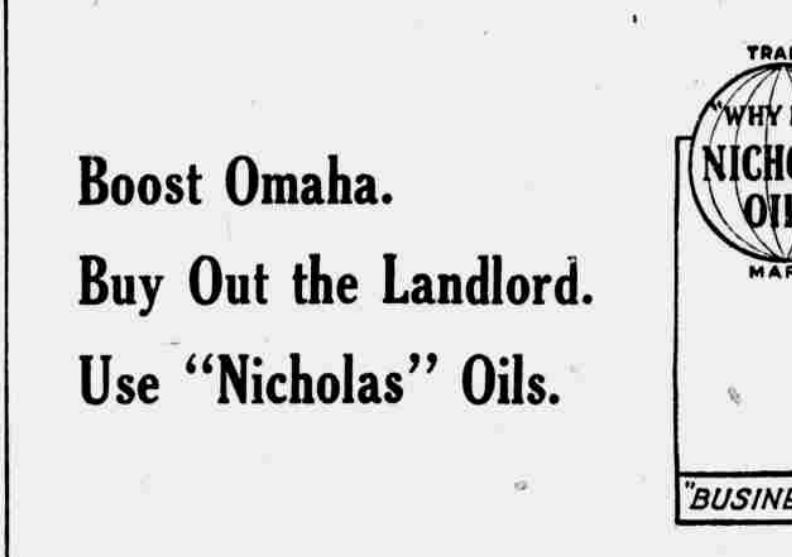
ports seemed to be doing the best work in the subject. When he finished, he found five possibilities open to him. He could pass an examination and go into the government forest service. Here he would be engaged in the conservation and care of millions of acres of forest owned by the government. He could go into the forest service of some state. Here he would educate the people of the state to take proper care of their forests and would work for laws protecting them. He could work for a lumber company, developing plans for the care and use of its standing timber and for the reforestation of its waste lands. Again he might set up as a consulting forester—that is, have an office in a large city and do forestry work for private parties when needed, much in the manner of a lawyer or doctor. Or finally he might teach or do research work in a school of forestry.

Boys and Girls' Newspaper Service. Copyright, 1920, by J. H. Miller.

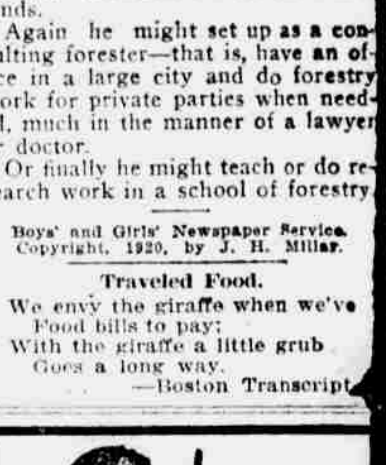
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