

UNUSUAL PARAGRAPHS

A political speaker, warning the public against the imposition of heavier tariffs on imports, said: "If you don't stop shearing the wool off the sheep that lays the golden egg, you'll pump it dry."

The department of agriculture reports that the world's supply of cattle is approximately what it was at the outbreak of the war. Herds in western Europe have diminished but this has been made up by gains in other countries. Experts are of the opinion that because of lack of money in European countries exports of meat from America will not exceed pre-war figures.

It is announced officially that the cost of the war in man power to the United States, including losses to army and marine units on all fronts up to Sept. 1, is now estimated in round numbers as 116,500 dead and 205,600 wounded, or a total of over 322,100. Of these 35,585 were killed in action, 14,742 died of disease and 8,092 of accidents and other causes, it is stated. None are reported missing.

The revenue act states that any article ornamented with precious metals or imitation thereof is subject to a tax. Fountain pens are thus taxable because the pen point is made of gold. Complaints have been received by the bureau of internal revenue that tobacco and stationery stores were selling cigarette cases, pencils, buckles, purses, watches, opera glasses, etc., without collecting the tax. The bureau gives warning that these articles are taxable.

Illiteracy in rural sections of Kentucky is rapidly disappearing as a result mainly of moonlight schools which have been conducted in various parts of the state during the past few years. According to the 1910 census Kentucky ranked fourth in the union in illiteracy. Today illiteracy in the state is nearing the zero point. The first moonlight school started in Rowan county in 1912. Over 1200 adults attended the opening session. Since then the movement has spread into other states with benefit to many thousands of grown people.

Nearly a year ago the steamship Port Hunter, carrying about \$5,000,000 worth of army supplies, was sunk off the coast of Massachusetts in vineyard sound. When salvaging operations began it was discovered that only about \$3,000,000 worth of the supplies could be found. A congressional committee was appointed to investigate the loss. The officer in charge was examined but he declared that no-one knew where the missing goods had gone. The only solution he had to offer was that practically everyone in the vicinity had visited the wreck and it might be that some of these people could shed a little light on the matter.

KITE-FLYING DANGEROUS

The newspapers several weeks ago told about a man at Scranton, Pa., who was killed by a current of atmospheric electricity while flying a kite. The bolt shot down over the wet string of the kite and struck him in the head, causing instant death.

As every school boy knows, Benjamin Franklin, pioneer American scientist, in the course of an experimental investigation of electrical phenomena sent a kite up into the clouds of an approaching storm. He then brought his knuckle into contact with a key attached to the kite's string. There was a spark from the key and a current passed through his body to the ground.

Though Franklin did not know it at the time, he was taking his life in his hands in making this experiment as the upper layers of the atmosphere are always more or less charged with electricity, even at times when none of the familiar thunder-storm conditions are noted by observers on the ground. This electricity may be readily collected by the kite string which will then conduct it downward.

Sometimes this is so strong that the fine piano wire used for sending large meteorological kites to great altitudes is burned up if no provision is made for conducting it safely into the ground. The men engaged at such work are well aware of the danger and to make their kite-flying safe they always connect the reel carrying the wire to some metallic body buried deep in the earth where the soil is always moist. They also avoid getting wet while doing such work and are constantly on their guard against touching the wire. Usually there is a constant flow of current over the wire to the earth; even on fair, cloudless days high voltage currents are not unusual.

In the light of present knowledge of atmospheric electricity it seems almost a miracle that Franklin escaped unhurt. Ordinarily there is little danger in flying the little kites such as boys make for themselves but these are extremely dangerous during electrical storms, especially if the string is wet. Whether one flies a kite for amusement or in the interest of science he should always keep on dry ground and avoid touching a wet string. Where a wire is used for the kite it is imperative that provisions be made for grounding it properly.

"It gives me great pleasure, O'Connor, to pin this medal on your breast," said the commander, "and tell you that I am also placing \$25 to your credit in the bank."

"Thank ye, sorr," said the private. "But, sorr—" "Yes?"

"If ye wouldn't mind now, sorr," asked O'Connor, "couldn't ye pin the \$25 on me breast and put the medal in the bank?"