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**"THE SUNBEAM"**. Biograph  
Truly a splendid picture. It reaches corners in human experience which no other form of art can follow.

## THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS  
EDITOR AND OWNER.

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### THE TITANIC DISASTER.

The whole world is helplessly a-wail this week because of the loss of the Titanic's fated male passengers and hardy crew. Since the sinking of that great Pacific liner just outside the Golden Gate but a few years ago there has not been so terrible a pelagic tragedy. Despite the successes of sharp-eyed science, there are yet to be discovered means by which the presence of the boreal giants of the north seas can be located by the marginer. The stealthy iceberg betrays his hateful presence by no sound and creeps on through the friendly fog unseen and unheralded till the floating city of happy and home-expectant people rush headlong upon it. Yet how much more awful would the wreck have been had there been no wireless! Even this, awful as it is, could have been so much worse. But, as it is, the death list is bewildering, so many of prominence having gone down.

The Titanic was 882½ feet long and it stood on end beside the highest American structure, the new Wool-

worth building in New York, itself 750 feet high, would have overtopped it 132½ feet. Besides her crew of 800, she had 1,470 passengers.

There never comes such a disaster as this but we remember the trapped laborers who toll at the furnaces 13 or more stories under the gay and palatial saloon-decks, far from the knowledge of the doings of the world above them. Hundreds of them are there for the whole of the voyage and are the surest victims when wrecks occur. Sweaty giants they are, obeying the orders of their superiors, asking no questions, sweating on. Like the chained galley slave of the Roman triremes they are at the mercy of the merciless elements of their hard circumstances. Caged and drowned like rats in a box, they go to their untimely doom.

Like mountains the bollocks tumultuously swell;  
In vain the lost wretch calls on mercy to save;  
Unseen hands of spirits are ringing his knell,  
And the death-angel flaps his broad wing o'er the wave.

O sailor boy! sailor boy! never again  
Shall home, love or kindred thy wishes repay;  
Unblessed and unhonored down deep in the main  
Full many a score fathom thy frame shall decay.

On a bed of green sea-flowers thy limbs shall be laid;  
Around thy white bones, the red coral shall glow;  
Of thy fair yellow locks threads of amber be made,  
And every part suit to thy mansion below.

### "A PINT OF HORSE POWER."

Oliver Wendell Holmes once asked a scientific friend how soon it would be possible for him to "buy a pint of horse power at the corner grocery." This conceit of the genial philosopher does not seem such a mirage when we reflect upon the new revelation in physical science—radium—the enormous energy and nearly everlasting potentiality that are stored in so small a space. If the energy that radium is calculated to exert in 100,000 years could be concentrated in a few days, an ounce of radium would drive a 50 horse power motor car around the world at 30 miles per hour; or, a gram (less than 1-30th of an ounce), would raise 500 tons a mile high. Charles Allen Hunn, editor of the Scientific American, says, "Radium is destined to disturb the equipoise of our leaders of science and shake our whole system of chemical physics to its very foundation."

Prof. Patty brings apparatus and several tubes of this remarkable mineral to show our people next Friday night at the high school auditorium and will provide an evening of experimentation long to be remembered; he will also demonstrate the wonders of liquid air and wireless telegraphy the same evening. La Grande people who are interested in this subject will see it demonstrated Friday night at the high school auditorium. It is an educational treat that few can afford to miss.

A Massachusetts conductor after 52 years' service, during which time he traveled 1,000,000 miles on the same run has retired. It is perfectly natural to presume that he has retired with a competence.

A Boston woman named Swift has 129 nieces, 79 great nephews, 52 great great nieces, six grand children, four sisters, three children and three sisters-in-law. There's much in a name surely.

An Iowa farmer is being sued for \$10,000 breach of promise because a girl proposed to him. She should propose to another. She might have better luck.

It is declared that the most successful suffragettes at the Lansing (Michigan) legislative session were not the window breaking but the heart breaking kind.

An Oregon girl with two wooden legs is to be married, but she didn't run her legs off trying to catch a husband.

The Kaiser is afraid the Panama canal will not be large enough. It certainly will not be if he and John Bull try to get through at the same time.

Kipling gets \$1 a word for everything he writes. It is a good thing he doesn't get \$2 a word or he would be wanting to run for president.

Honduras is a great country which can accommodate two revolutions revolving in different directions at the same time.

Every little suffragette movement has a brickbat all its own.

### THIS DATE IN HISTORY.

- April 17.  
1689—Governor Andros fled to the castle, Boston, for safety.  
1754—The French captured the Virginians, erected a stronger fort and called it Fort Du Quesne. (Pittsburg.)  
1763—First newspaper in Georgia, the Georgia Gazette, issued at Savannah.  
1786—Walter Forward, secretary of the treasury in President Tyler's cabinet, born in Connecticut. Died in Pittsburg, Nov. 24, 1852.  
1790—Benjamin Franklin died in Philadelphia. Born in Boston, Jan. 17, 1706.  
1837—Joseph Anderson, revolutionary soldier and United States senator from Tennessee, died in Washington, D. C. Born in New Jersey, Nov. 5, 1757.  
1856—Quebec became the capital of Upper and Lower Canada.  
1892—Alexander Mackenzie, former Canadian premier, died. Born Jan. 28, 1882.  
1907—William J. Bryan declared in favor of the initiative and referendum.  
1911—France rushed troops to Morocco to quell a rebellion among the tribesmen.

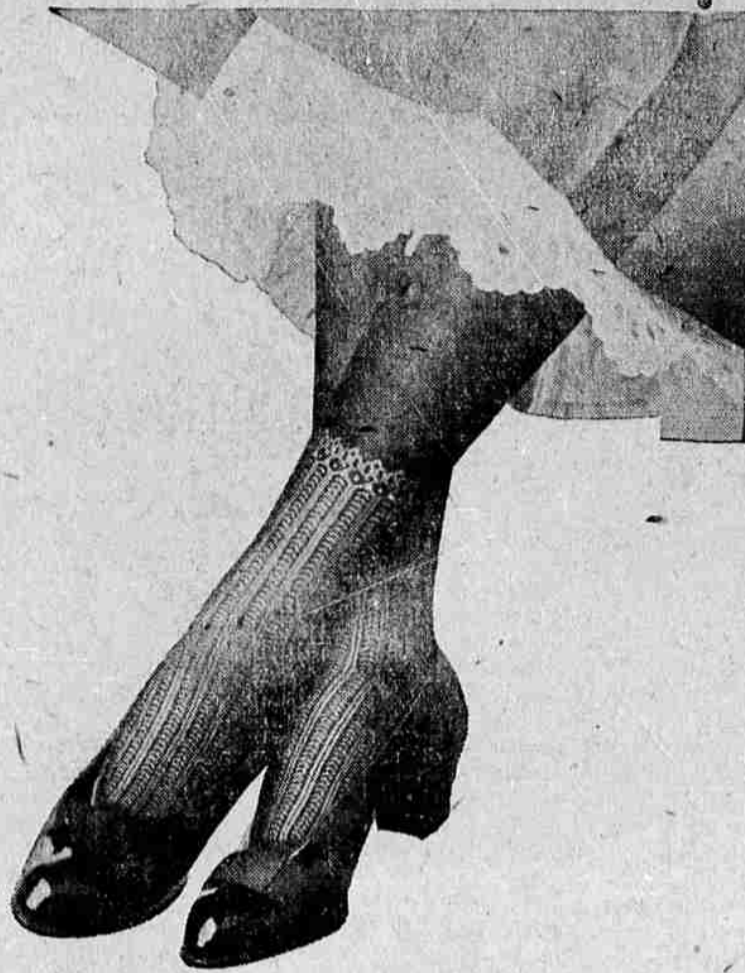
### "THIS IS MY 4TH BIRTHDAY."

John D. Prince,  
John D. Prince, professor of Semitic languages at Columbia university and one of the foremost philologists of America, was born in New York City, April 17, 1868. He is a great grandson of the late Reverend Johnson, the Maryland jurist and at one time United States minister to Great Britain. Professor Prince was educated by private tutors and later took a course in Semitic languages at the University of Berlin. Prior to joining the faculty of Columbia university he had been attached to Johns Hopkins university and New York university. In 1888 he was the representative of Columbia university on the expedition to Southern Babylonia sent out by the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to his reputation as an educator Professor Prince is well known for his interest in public affairs.

### Fight for Nebraska Vote Ends (Continued from page 1)

the presidential preference vote in either the Republican or Democratic party. The names of Taft, Roosevelt, and La Follette will appear on the Republican ballot and those of Wilson, Harmon and Clark on the Democratic ballot. Nebraska is a strongly progressive

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state and the Taft people, while hopeful, are not making any definite claims. Their chief reliance rests on the possibility that the strength of Senator LaFollette may draw heavily from the Roosevelt vote. The Roosevelt managers, on the other hand, are confident that neither Taft nor LaFollette will head off a solid delegation for the former President.

On the Democratic side there is also little basis for a clearcut and readily defensible forecast on the presidency. The Clark managers appear to be the most optimistic. One interesting phase of the situation is the position of William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan is named as a delegate on all the tickets, as a special honor, but his friends are a little apprehensive that with all the radical strength split between Clark and Wilson and the conservative Democratic vote banked solidly behind Harmon, the Ohio man may possibly win on plurality and thus give to a smiling political world the spectacle of Mr. Bryan going to Baltimore instructed for Harmon, whom he bitterly opposes.

The contest for the United States senatorship is arousing considerable interest. Senator Norris Brown, republican, whose term will expire next March, is a candidate for re-election. His opponent on the republican side is Congressman George W. Norris of the Fifth district. The contest between the two is closely connected with the republican presidential race. Congressman Norris is one of the recognized leaders of the Republican "insurgents" in the House and an outspoken opponent of President Taft and his policies, while Senator Brown is on friendly terms with the president. The Democratic aspirants for Senator Brown's toga are former Governor Ashton C. Shallenberger, W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island and Willis E. Noed of Madison.

All the present representatives in Congress are candidates for renomination with the exception of Norris of the Fifth district, who is a candidate

for the senate. S. R. Barton and W. A. Prince, both of Grand Island, are the Republican aspirants for the Fifth district nomination, and R. D. Sutherland is the Democratic candidate.

Governor Chester H. Aldrich is a candidate for renomination. Two Democrats are contesting for the gubernatorial nomination.

In addition to the governorship the state offices for which nominations will be made are those of lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, state treasurer, state superintendent of public instruction, attorney general, land commissioner and railroad commissioner.

To add to the complex political situation in Nebraska, the Socialists of the state are planning this year to wage the most aggressive campaign

they have ever made. They are planning to nominate a full state ticket, candidates for United States senator and congressmen and candidates for the state legislature in many of the districts.

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