

The Observer

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INAUGURAL THRIFT

Whatever specific appropriation Congress may make for the presidential inauguration is only a beginning. After that, an elaborate ceremony is planned, will come demands for money to pay the expense of bringing soldiers, sailors and marines to Washington for the parade, for preparing the Treasury building for the inaugural ball, if a ball is to be held, and for many other expensive items. The total public expense, one senator estimates, may run up to a million or more. Along with this, there may be millions spent by individuals.

The president-elect is said not to seek any such glorious induction into office as some of his friends desire. If he yields, it will be in order not to deprive others of their day of pleasure and of triumph.

Congress is much concerned. It should be, with the propriety of inviting any particularly lavish display at a time when business is dull and so much serious effort, public and private, is centered on the task of practicing and preaching sober economy for the present year. The new administration could, in no way, make a more favorable impression than by setting an example of thrifty simplicity on its opening day.

BETTER POSTAL SERVICE

One of the compensating benefits of the business slump is the improvement in the postal service. That improvement is noticeable almost everywhere, especially since the first of the year. The holiday rush was taken care of better than the public expected. Now the service in many cities is said to be approximating the efficiency of several years ago. Mail matter is collected and transmitted more promptly. There is less delay particularly with letters.

The main cause of this improvement is found in the fact that postmasters are able to obtain more competent help. During the war they were deprived of many of their best men by the draft. When the army was demobilized most of these men stayed away, and others joined them, because of the lure of higher wages in industry. It was necessary to employ large numbers of "temporary" clerks and carriers without special qualification. Naturally the service suffered. Now the old employees are drifting back, and good raw material is seeking postoffice jobs again, so that it is possible to apply the civil service rules normally and discharge those who cannot meet its requirements. Congress promises to help the situation still more by granting additional money for the work next year.

Better postal service, needless to say, will help to make better business. It will also help the public psychology. This may turn out to be a year of efficiency as well as profit, in public and private affairs alike.

THE SEA FOR WOMEN

"What of the sea for women?" asks a newspaper writer after interviewing a woman who has served as stewardess for years on transatlantic steamers. To this the woman herself answers that, for the experienced woman, especially the widow, there is nothing like it.

This woman, whose name is Stevens, is 24 years old. For 18 years she has followed the sea. She is beloved and respected by all the passengers who have come in contact with her, and by her fellow-workers on board ship. Her great specialty is gathering little folk around her and telling them sea tales and fairy stories.

In advocating this line for the woman of responsible years, she says: "Here a woman learns courage—not only to face disaster to family and friends, for this any woman must do, but courage to face perilous adventure, even death. She learns to trust her God. No land folk know quite such a trust. And she knows how to talk to children."

So the "sea mother," who undertook her job at the age of 50, when many a woman is languidly announcing that she is too old to work as she does, swings wide another door through which the sturdily independent woman of today may pass to livelihood and experience.

THE GREATEST BANQUET
Surely, never was there a more remarkable dinner party than one held recently at the Hotel Commodore, New York City. At that dinner the lives of 201,000 children were saved. It was a party given by Herbert Hoover and Gen. Pershing.

Usually a great dinner party may be said to take children's lives, because the waste represented there

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

YEP, JUST KEEP ON READING IT—WE DON'T EXPECT TO STOP IT.

Dear Office Cat:
The Office Cat is something that says a lot of rot, and like an egg, some of it's true. Yes, some of it is really wit. Part is all right. While some's a fright. Yet we read it.

Man naturally don't know much are is usually wrong. But what we started out to say was that some women must have an impression that they are not well dressed unless they are half-dressed.

AND NOBODY WANTS TO
Lou Hoyt, a farmer residing 7 miles north of La Grande, brought some fresh eggs to the G. J. Holm grocery store to sell last Tuesday. While counting them J. F. Heasty said, "Is it correct to see a hen 'sit' or 'set'?" Mr. Hoyt replied, "I don't care whether she 'sits' or 'sets.' What I want to know is, when she cackles does she 'say' or 'set'?"

Some people size their shoes carefully who have not had a bath for several years.

CAN YOU BELIEVE?

Why is it that a fellow will take such terrible chances?
Why is it he runs the risk of police courts, divorce courts, newspaper scandals?
Why is it he sallies forth and gets himself shot through the left lung?
Just to kiss some other fellow's wife?

When all the time his own wife sits at home waiting to be kissed, and kissing her wouldn't cost him a cent?

H. R. Huron—Do you understand women?
Loe French—Yes, I know, they can't be understood.

"The Cruel, Christmas Eve Murder of His Transient Subtenant," is the title of a Sunday magazine story in a Chicago newspaper. The story is that she gave him a sort of military brushes. What? You say? Scientist say there are many reasons for insanity. A couple of these selected at random, are the piece of pork chops and the wife's hammering for a car.

ROCK HOUSE FOR 8000
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SO HUMB
The title of one of the new books is "Holly Henny's." Not yet decided whether it makes it or can be postponed for another 450,000,000,000,000,000 years.

REGARD

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ENTIRE STOCK

Boys' Clothing

Half Price

Less Than Prices for Spring—Regardless of Cost

Think what this means—to be able to select from such a varied stock of the finest boys' clothing. Such makes Xtragood and Hart Schaffner & Marx suits of the finest all-wool quality. Think what it means—half price means less than prices for next spring.

We are taking a loss of course, a loss of hundreds of dollars, but as we have said we are making this the greatest of all our 26 annual clearance sales, and it is our aim to clear our stocks, regardless of cost or replacement costs.

Clothing is approximately 33 1/2% cheaper today than 6 months ago, and on that basis, prices are being booked for spring delivery. Hence this sale offers more than a mere season's end reduction; it means a saving of over 25% under the present market value. See one of our windows displaying these suits at

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Chinese Family Relations.
There is no such species as the "old maid" in China. The lot of the concubine is not, generally speaking, hard, and the position is respectable. A concubine is ordinarily taken in default of the wife. The children of concubines are legitimate. A man would not dare to brook public opinion or the wrath of his wife and her relations by taking a concubine against his wife's wishes. Father and mother are equally venerable in the eyes of the child; the father is the "stern one" and the mother "the gentle one," but both are notoriously indulgent to their children.

The Lake Poets.
The Lake Poets, the Lake School, the Lakists, were named, given by British critics about the beginning of the past century, to a certain brotherhood of poets, who flourished for some years about the lakes of Cumberland, England, and who were erroneously thought to have united upon some settled theory or principles of composition and style. Wordsworth, Southey and Coleridge were regarded as the chief representatives of this so-called school, but Lamb, Keats and Wilson were also included under the same designation.

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