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## Bible Thought For Today

ABOUT THROWING STONES:—Master, this woman was taken in adultery. Moses commanded us that such should be stoned; but what sayest thou? . . . He said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. John 8: 4, 5, 7.

## Lower Freight Rates

There is nothing but praise from newspapers and business organizations for the action of the Interstate Commerce Commission in reducing freight rates on grain, grain products and hay in the territory between the Mississippi river and the Pacific coast. It is felt that even so limited a number of reductions in so limited a section is sure to have a stimulating effect on business and to benefit the country as a whole. Every section naturally wants sweeping reductions for its own shipments, but it is realized that any such cut helps along the general process.

Everybody seems to realize this but the railroads themselves. They wait over every cent as if it meant disaster, and cannot conceive of any general downward revision of rates except through additional wage cuts.

The railroad executives seem to act on the principle that there is a fixed volume of freight traffic, which will come to them regardless of rates. If that were true, their attitude would be reasonable. Every economist, every practical student of business conditions, knows that it is not true—that the volume of traffic swells or shrinks according as the cost of shipments is low or high.

The "law of diminishing returns" works in transportation as elsewhere. If rates were made higher than they are now, the roads would probably get less out of them. By making them reasonably lower, they are almost sure to get more, from the stimulation of patronage. They will find, as countless merchants have found in the last year or two, that they can make more on a large turnover with a small rate of profit than they can on a small turn-over with a large rate of profit.

For the railroads' own benefit, as well as that of the public, the Interstate Commerce Commission should go ahead and extend this policy to cover a wide range of products for the whole country. Such action is sure to have a good psychological effect on the railroad unions, but it would be wise regardless of any temporary labor situation. Nothing else would do more to improve national business.

## The Dead Crime Case

Investigation of all "dead" or inactive crime cases before they are rolled is recommended by a group of judges honestly concerned in cleaner courts.

The "dead" crime case is one in which, in spite of indictment, there has been no final trial. Sometimes the accused has escaped and capture seems unlikely. Sometimes he has died. In other instances the chief prosecuting witnesses have either died or cannot be located and prosecution is made difficult or impossible.

It is customary in most courts to let such cases drift along and then to bring in a bunch of them before the court for holiness. A blanket, note without question or investigation has been known to be issued for 100 cases at a time. Sometimes there are included cases which should be reopened and prosecuted.

No case should be allowed to remain inactive for an indefinite period. Good justice is swift and sure. And in no instance should any note be granted for cases singly or in groups without careful inquiry. Laxity in this matter leaves notorious criminals at large, sets the stage for bribery and makes a mock of law.

## Another German Gun

France at arms conference will seek assurance of safety and certain latitude in regard to her armament. Her attitude is not without foundation.

A French gunner has been sentenced to prison for the manufacture of a machine gun. The gun was found in his workshop and was a perfect model of a machine gun.



A SHOE DRUMMER GAVE A PAIR OF SAMMY SHOES TO THE PORTER AT THE CENTRAL HOTEL.

## complete circle.

The gun is electrically controlled, can be operated by a man half a mile away and weighs but 22 pounds, so that its transportation is an easy matter.

Besides this instance of German activity in war engines, her chemists are said to be busy with poison gas and high explosives. It is whispered that the Oppan explosion was the result of such experiments. This formation of armies under the cloak of civilian guards is reported as continuing.

Even if the correspondent overestimates the case, there is sufficient ground for caution. But rather than continuous armament against Germany by France or the other countries, cannot Germany herself be brought to real disarmament?

## A Rediculous Monarch

Karl, late emperor of Austria, Hungary, making a second attempt to set up his throne in Budapest, has made himself more ridiculous than ever, but with this difference. After his first attempt he was a laughing stock. Now he is regarded as a nuisance. The Allies will find some nice little St. Helena for him, where the fallen monarch can end his days without doing any harm in the world of reality.

It is surely a strange anachronism, in this stage of human development, that any man should dream of imposing as a ruler upon a nation that does not want him, or should dream that any nation could still want a monarch of the old Hapsburg type, or that the overwhelming majority of civilized mankind which rose up to stamp out Hapsburgism and Hohenzollernism would tolerate such a political throw-back under any circumstances.

Monarchy as an institution is grown supremely ridiculous. There are no monarchs left except among barbarous tribes. Those who keep the name of king nowadays are no more than pretending officers of demagogues.

## Loans and Illumination

The prize for complete and revealing questioning should probably go to the Federal Reserve Bank Statement Form. In filling it out the business man or concern finds that honesty is not merely the "best policy." It is the only policy which can get by when a loan is sought from the Federal Reserve.

The form inquiries start with a request for a "statement of all assets, liabilities and other material information for the purpose of obtaining advances on notes and bills bearing our signature or endorsement, and for obtaining credit generally."

Then they become more explicit. Under "assets" certain facts are demanded about cash on hand and in banks, bills and notes receivable, merchandise, land and buildings, machinery and fixtures. Assets in the form of merchandise must be described still further as to basis of value, cost or market; how much is finished goods, how much unfinished, how much raw material. All this is a mere beginning. The methods by which accounts are handled, various practices of the company in regard to trade discounts and other transactions, and whether the books are audited by public or certified accountants are asked for.

In the fact of all this, evasion and deceit become too complicated for comfort. Furthermore, this detailed questionnaire sets the business man to thinking about his affairs and makes him face facts squarely. If anything is going wrong in any of these places in his business it comes to light, and he is enabled to do something about it promptly.

The Portland Oregonian is printing many columns of Ex-President Wilson's life sketches. Just what is the ex-official contemplating running for this time?

If the fate of La Grande water bonds blazes the trail for all Oregon bond elections, opponents should have been sleeping.

Most of the deer hunters have returned without the deer.

Yucca's revenue increased to \$1,000,000 this year over \$1,000,000 last year.

## THE OFFICE CAT

—By JUNIUS—



Oh, Gee, I'm glad that I'm a cat.

Since I live in La Grande. This water situation can't be changed I understand. But I'm a cat and I can drink milk from the Bowsy-cow.

No bugs and worms and other squirmies. Will cause an awful row. I do not have to drink the dope. All covered o'er with scum. That makes your tummy all upset. And makes you feel real bum.

Some folks are very fussy 'bout what on their outside goes. But do not care a peevyone. What on their inside flows. So here's to many years to come. Hurrah for frog pond drinks. Atomic reservoir, hang on. You patched pipes, play no jokes. Perhaps in twenty years or more. You may build something new. Don't hurry folks, just think it o'er. Be careful what you do. You can't complain, my dear good friends.

You wanted it, you see. But thank the Lord, that I'm a cat. It does not bother me.

—Junius—

"Gee, I am sick and tired of hearing you men talk about yourselves and tell how much you are worth. According to scientific investigation the ingredients of a man are as follows:

"Fat enough for seven bars of soap.

"Iron enough for a medium-sized nail.

"Sugar enough to fill a shaker.

"Lime to whitewash a chicken-coop.

"Phosphorus enough to make 2,200 matches.

"Magnesium enough for a dose of magnesia.

"Potassium enough to explode a toy cannon.

"Sulphur enough to rid a dog of fleas.

"This whole collection of junk is worth ninety-eight cents, and that in a day when things were twice as high as they are now."

—AMUSED—

"Why are you laughing? No, over that Chinese paper? You can't read it."

—WELL, the characters look funny."

—FOMES OF HATE.

To the gallows.

With Juvenile Fox.

He put burnt mules.

In the box.

—New York Tribune.

## Fame



Photo of Oliver Island, is shown. A set she has been taken to with the Metropolitan Opera. She is considered one of the best "fame" in years.

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