The Observer

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Bible Thought For Today

BEGIN THE DAY RIGHT:—Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.—Psalm 143:8.

The Genoa Conference

It is considered inevitable that the United States will accept the invitation to be represented officially at the economic confgrence in Genoa Italy.

At the Cannes conference of the Supreme Allied Council, our government has merely had an observer. The Genoa gathering is going to be much larger and broader in scope. It will include not only the Allies but practically all civilization. Even Germany and Russia have been invited and will attend. The Allies realize that any genuine settlement of the world's industrial, commercial and financial affairs is impossible without those countries.

Any genuine international business settlement is impossible, too, without the United States. And it is possible that a proper settlement would benefit the United States no less than the rest of civilization. Business men, at least, have come to recognize that economically the whole world is so bound up together that when any part of it stops functioning the rest suffers.

The suggestion is put forward, too, with general support, that there could be no more fitting representative of the United States at that conference than Herbert Hoover. He is regarded as knowing more about foreign business conditions than any other American.

The Discovery of Literature

A man of humorous turn of mind wrote a letter to the New York Times the other day prophesying the "discovery of literature" in the near future by a host of people who hitherto had hardly known that such a thing existed.

He based his prediction on a letter from another contributor who had written in with joy to tell the Times what amazingly interesting reading he had found an old author named Gibbon. There was also the testimony of a movie stary who had bought a book for his little niece, and having peeped between the covers confided to the humorous one with great astonishment, "Say, that "Alice in Wonderland" is an awful cute book!"

Anyway, the increasing interest in books is a good omen. Many of the more exciting pastimes are losing their hold, and this gives the wholesome claim of the bookshelf an added chance. Not all the adventurers will actually discover literature, but many of them will end by preferring it.

There is nothing which grows upon its victim more surely than the reading habit. In fact, it is fairly scandalous how one book leads to another. There is an opportunity here for all those agencies which have to do with setting books before the public. How extensively literature shall be discovered depends largely upon them.

Brazil at League's Head

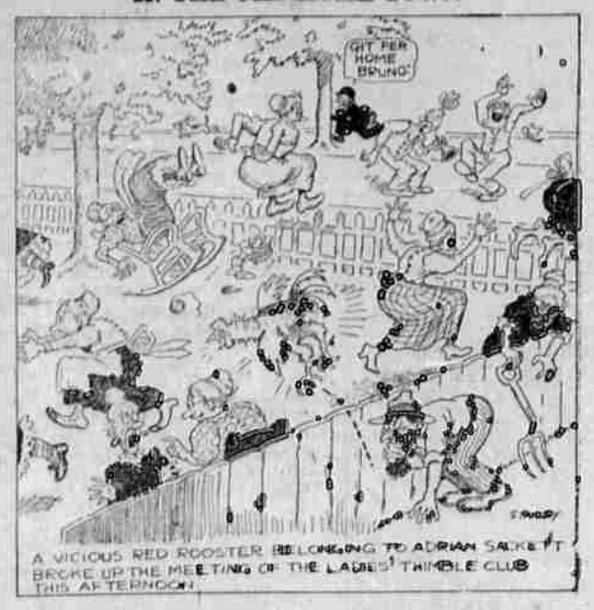
Unusually interesting is the election of Dr. Gaston da Cunha of Brazil as president of the League of Nations. Here is recognition of Latin-America which comes to Anglo-Saxon North Americans with a shock of surprise. It evidences and promotes respect for our sister republics to the south. It suggests the important part they may play hereafter in world affairs.

Brazil is not a great nation yet in population or wealth, according to our standards, but it is a nation of fine, progressive spirit. Its friendship for the United States is well known. It has vast territory and resources that will undoubtedly make it great in time, despite the inconveniences of its equatorial climate.

This choice shows the growing European tendency to look to Americans for leadership and inspiration in the handling of world problems. The Brazilians, it should hardly be necessary to remind ourselves, are regarded abroad as "Americans," even if they lack the restless energy that characterizes the North Temperate Zone.

Anyway, the men who lost money last year will now take a sardonic satisfaction in sending in their income tax returns.

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



Working Things Out

The 40 men who faced death in a submarine, with only an hour of life left, proved themselves heroes and real men. An electrician of the crew rallied them with the words, "We've got an hour to live; let's work it out."

That is what they proceeded to do. They solved their problem and saved their lives.

Perhaps nothing but the certainty of approaching death could have inspired those men to make the final, heroic effort which led to safety. Yet how many far simpler problems in daily living, in business, in education, in the establishment of international peace, could be solved if the responsible parties acted in the same spirit and said to each other, "Let's work it out."

The Dail Eireann would do the world a favor if it would take a minute's time and explain how it is pronounced.

Everything's "synthetic" nowadays even peace will be, when we get it.

The Forum

COLD IN BAKERSFIELD.

BAKERSFIELD, Calif., Jan. 22.—Editor Observer: We left Sacramento this morning for Bakersfied, arriving here at 10:30 in the evening. The weather is about as cold here as at Sacramento. On our way down all the low places were filled with water and frozen over. We saw one place where two men were on the ice and had cut some and thrown it on the bank and it was about four inches thick.

There are signs all along the rail road track telling of land for sale, including the Miller 30,000-acre farm. While C. C. Welch was away on a trip he saw a man who had sold all his turkeys excepting 1500. He saved that many to raise another flock for next year. But I won't vouch for this as I didn't see the flock. Tell Harry Meyer that one beats all grasshopper stories to pieces. C. C. Welch is going on another trip from here to visit old school chums and will not be with me for three or four days. We were out over the oil fields today and will leave for Los Angeles tomorrow evening.

S. L. BROOKS.

OIL CITY IS GIVEN SETBACK

(By Associated Press)

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Jan. 28.—This oil city on the Caspain sea, formerly a trading mart of the Caucasus, is suffering severely from the destructive financial and political changes brought by the world war.

Its customers in Bokhara, Merv, Khiva, Samarkand and Tashkent, cities rich in property, culture and glory for a thousand years, also have been struck by the present-day cyclone.

No longer do these trading cities send to Baku their cotton, silk, food and deftly-woven carpets to find their way into the salons of central and western Europe.

In consequence, business is bad. The old order is changed. The old classes which once made these cities prosperous have been cast down and their places have been taken by soviet revolutionary committees.

Principalities formerly well ordered have been dragged down in the oblivion of social anarchy. The Prince Tarkovsky, who once owned large tracts of land along the Caucasus side of the Caspian sea and several hundred square miles of the sea itself, formerly made whole cities prosperous by their fishing industry. Today they are either dead or have fled abroad.

MANY JOBLESS.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—The worst unemployment situation of the winter has descended on New York, Byrd S. Colver, commissioner of public welfare, told directors of the welfare bureau at a conference today.

A census of the jobless, taken by the industrial aid bureau and the American Legion, he said, reveals more than 200,000 unemployed in the city.

THE OFFICE CAT

By Ahern

WE ARE CURIOUS TO KNOW

Who picked the flavor of the mucilage now used on satmps?

What flavor is it?

Why can't we have chocolate, vanilla or strawberry?

Who figures out the numbers on dollar bills?

And freight cars?

Who first started calling dogs "Rover?"

Who is the unknown genius who composes the sentiments on rubber stamps?

Such as "Return for better address!"

And "Party unknown!"

"N. S. F.?"

"Fragile, Do Not Crush?"

"This side up?"

"Handle with care?"

"Rush?"

Is it true that these last two were written by a great humorist?

Who names all the streets that have no cedar trees on them, "Cedar street?"

And streets that never saw an elm, "Elm street?"

Why do women always wear out the toes of their shoes before men do?

Why do people dash across the street in front of street cars and then turn around and watch them go by?

Who invented Ruxoll?

What is it made of?

Who designs the animal crackers?

Who regulates the length of spaghetti?

Why do banks have so many vice presidents?

Why are there so many commodores around the yacht club?

What does the government do with all our money?

When are they going to reduce the income taxes?

The reason business conditions are unsettled is because so many accounts are.

One way to prevent yourself from walking lop-sided is to carry half the salary in one trouser's pocket and half in the other.

Two Scotchmen were arguing about the proper way to mix a hot whiskey.

"MacTavish, you're no using ony judgment; it's no the richt way tae dee it. Never pour the whusky fairst; you make your drink weaker when you put the wather in it. But pour your water in fairst and the whusky on top, and the more you pour you're making your drink stronger and stronger."

A SERIOUS MATTER

Birmingham Age-Herald: "I suppose," said the cross-examining lawyer, in his snappiest manner, "that you remember the date of your birth?"

"Certainly," said the witness with a pitying air. "Every man remembers his birthday."

"A newly born infant has no memory. Now, sir, how do you know that it wasn't a day sooner or a day later," or a week, or a month, or a year than the day you have in mind?"

"Why-er-ahem-I've been told—"

"Exactly. You've been told, but you don't know. Step down, gentlemen of the jury this is the kind of witness who has testified against the unimpeachable character of my client."

THE NAVVY'S MISTAKE

London Tit-Bits: A clergyman was a geologist and always carried his specimens about in a red handkerchief such as navvies use to carry their dinners in. One day as he was going home with a full set specimens he saw a navvy at the top of a well using violent language because the windlass refused to work.

"My friend," said the parson, "do you know Satan?"

"No," replied the man, "but I'll ask my mate. Bill," he cried, "do you know Satan?"

"No," came the answer from the bottom of the well. "Why?"

"Well, there's a bloke up here wot's got 'is dinner."

A PNEUMATIC CUSHION

Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins had expectations from their rich old Uncle Edward. So when he came to them on a few days' visit they prepared to do all they could to make a good impression and began by meeting him at the station.

On the way home in the train they encouraged their only child, also named Edward, to sit on the old gentleman's knee, or, as he was stout, as much of it as was available.

Presently the small boy slipped from his perch and sidled over to his mother.

"I don't want to sit on uncle's knee any more," he said in his clear treble voice.

"Oh, Teddy, why?" said mother in shocked tones.

Teddy eyed his great uncle aggrievedly. "Because every time he breathes he pushes me off!" he complained.

It takes sixty-four muscles of the face to make a frown and only thirteen to make a smile. Why work overtime?

A NOVEL MOTION

Harper's Magazine—The committee had assembled in a small country town to discuss whether the librarian in charge of the town library should be retained in office. Those desirous of getting rid of him used as their argument against him that he was untidy about himself and the books which he handled. One woman arose and emphatically declared him to be a dirty man, whereupon a second sister on the committee arose and said:

"But he is beautiful and clean within."

The opposing lady arose and said in her most parliamentary manner: "I move that we turn him inside out immediately."

This recalls the story of the late Thomas Lowry of Minneapolis. On the death of a close friend one of the inquisitive citizens called on Tom, and after a tribute to the departed, asked in a confidential whisper: "How much did he leave?" Tom's reply came promptly: "Every damn cent. He didn't take any of it with him."

Golf balls lost during one month at a well-known club are estimated at 1,000. Dogs are being trained to search for them.

N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

Last Two Days of West's 27th ANNUAL JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

In which every article in the store is Reduced—You may save on your needs for months to come

The one great event of the year, the most important sales event of all the seasons combined, comes to an end when our doors close Tuesday, January 31st. In the meanwhile a great many remarkable bargains are offered. All remaining odd lots have been priced for final clearance before we take inventory. Prices on every article you purchase are lower than they have been in many years, and the savings available to every housewife in her every-day needs are worthy of careful consideration.

Consider that there are hundreds of articles now reduced for the only time during the year—not only the seasonable merchandise, but EVERY ARTICLE.

Some lines we have sold out entirely, others are greatly reduced through the great savings offered. Don't miss this last chance to buy the needs for the family at great savings.

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1-2 Price

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—A very new pattern in a material that promises to be a great favorite during the spring and summer seasons. This is very new—green, red, lavendar, blue and pink checks over white.
—Sale price 48c yard.

Men's SUITS
Just Two Days More to Buy at
1-3 off

SOVIET WOMEN ARE SHUNNED

MOSCOW, Jan. 27.—Madame Alexandra Kollanty, one of the leaders of the Russian feminist movement, charges, in an article she has written in the Pravda, that petty bourgeoisie narrowness and superstition are preventing woman having the voice they merit in the Soviet government.

She says that no woman was a voting delegate at the Communist conference preceding the Ninth All-Russian Soviet Congress held here and that only 24 women were included among the 2,000 voters at the Congress, despite the fact that 50 per cent of Russian voters are women.

She alleges that women are very active in politics but less than three per cent of the membership of town Soviets is represented by women, and in the village Soviets they have only two-tenths of one per cent of the membership.

Furthermore, she states there are only five women members in the Central Executive Committee of 300, which is Russia's chief governing body.

Madame Kollanty declares that such discrimination against women greatly retards the re-establishment of agriculture in which peasant women play an important part.

Shoes Wear Out—So Do Batteries!

When a pair of shoes wear out you have been notified in advance by the thinness of soles or cracking of the uppers—or some other easily recognized sign.

But when a battery wears out you may be taken by surprise, because batteries often go strong until the last minute.

The way—and the only way—to cut trouble and worry and cost to the limit is to buy the best battery—the Willard Threaded Rubber Battery. Its Threaded Rubber Insulation gives you the most miles of uninterrupted service per dollar.

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