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Sible Thought For Today

A VERY NEEDFUL PRAYER—
Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I will not forsake them.—Psalm 25:4, 21.

THE BOY'S GOOD TURN.

The doorbell rang violently. The housewife who was expecting a mechanic to make some needed repairs hastened to answer it. On the threshold stood a small boy. Compared with the tall and husky mechanic she awaited, he seemed very small indeed. But in his eyes glowed the light of mighty purpose.

"Lady, I'm a Scout, and I came to see if you wanted anything done."

The woman hesitated a moment while her mind roved swiftly over lawn-mowing (too small a boy), porch-scrubbing (don't need it today), etc. She was accustomed to the fact that on days when a particularly good movie was on, the supply of labor was ample in her neighborhood. She knew Scouts had to earn their uniforms, too—but she didn't seem to need anything.

"I don't believe so," she said, still hesitating.

"I don't want any money for it, you know. I just want to do somebody a good turn. Wouldn't you like to have men go to the store for you?"

She smiled and said she had three little folks of her own to do errands, but she thanked him just the same—and returned to the breakfast table.

"That's it!" said her husband brusquely. "The world is getting so good that pretty soon people will all be advertising for the chance to do something for somebody. Do you remember that story that had a Scout in it who was always bothering people to death with his good turns—putting their drawers in order or something?"

They laughed—but somehow the very small boy with the very big glow in his eyes had done them a good turn unknowingly. He had cheered their day and added to their faith.

Portland ministers have begun a fight on "news stand trash" and it is a justifiable fight. It would be a good thing if parents would look over and inspect a lot of the filthy literature that is flooding the country today.

The fact that Oregon's governor alleges he spent nothing in order to be re-nominated is another indication that the last salary raise was hardly justified.

Lillian did not live a hundred years, as her lecture taught, but she lived a long time and retained her charm and beauty all the while.

Brookhart won in Iowa. Is he another Pinchot or Beveridge?

Is It Time to Build Houses?

(Boise Statesman)

What the high price era and the house shortage did to the cost of houses was scandalous. Statistics prepared last month by investigators for the Chemical National bank of New York, show this vividly. Starting out to discover the relation of present-day building costs to those of 1920, the "peak year," these investigators found that houses had more than doubled in cost during the period of rising prices, but had dropped back about half way to the pre-war level during the period of falling prices since.

Here, for illustration, is the result of their investigation on one type of house, a 7-room frame building, size 30 feet by 34 feet.

Excavation now costs \$120 compared with \$240 in 1914. Foundations and cement cost \$1,167 compared with \$470 in 1914 and \$1,459 in 1920. Carpentry rose from \$2,520 in 1914 to \$8,629 in 1920 and is now down to \$3,845. The painting bill was \$220 in 1914 compared with a peak level of \$305 in 1920 and a present cost of \$260. Other items entering into the construction being the cost at present to \$9,502 compared with \$5,529 in 1914 and \$12,815 in 1920 when the highest level was reached.

Most of the other studies seem to have resulted in similar findings. Another building which cost \$4000 in 1914 could not be duplicated for less than \$9000 in 1920, but can be built for \$7000 now.

The Chemical bank found that building materials have made sharp declines since 1920. Portland cement, which jumped 130 per cent above 1914 figures has dropped back to a point only about 50 per cent higher. Yellow pine has dropped

ped from a 170 per cent advance to a 75 per cent advance over the pre-war level. Brick, which soared to a point more than three times the 1914 figure is now selling for one and three-fourths times its 1914 price. And a 1914 dollar's worth of steel beams which cost \$3.50 in 1920 is for sale at \$1.40 today.

One is interested in the comment of the bank's investigators. They blame the distortion of cost to the house shortage and the high price wave, of course, and they set forth that the problem of residential building is of immediate interest to the citizen. This is obvious. Answering the question whether now labor is not the time for building, they present their figures which show the sharp declines in prices since the peak period, and then they meet the unspoken query, "Will the cost of building drop still further?" with this:

The prospective builder is, of course, interested in knowing whether he may look for further declines, for which he should wait. It would be beyond the scope of this article to attempt to forecast the course of building costs in the future. General wholesale prices, as measured by the index number of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, seem to be stabilized at a level about 50 per cent above that of the pre-war period. Building costs are above this level, but many of the elements which bulk large in building costs such as freight rates and wage rates, are less susceptible to downward revision than are commodity prices in general. The general housing shortage, and the increasing volume of building at present price levels are factors which serve to strengthen building material prices. While it is entirely possible therefore, that building costs may decline still further, it is not probable that drastic declines will occur.

What do we gather from this, then? Three things. First, that today is a far better time to build than was 1920. Second, that tomorrow may not be any better than today. Third, that further price reductions in the building field will be a result of gradual settling out of sharp declines, and may not be worth waiting for.

Every man must decide for himself—out, if the New York investigators (who took the whole nation into consideration in their study) were right in their findings, it is time to set out the blueprints and the old slab of a pencil and get the building fever, isn't it?

ASK DAD!

Marion—George was the goal of my ambitions, but—
Mildred—But what?
Marion—Father kicked the goal.

A lot of birds are already worrying about their vacations and most of their employers are wondering why they want vacations.

Every man has his price and every woman has her figure.

HAD THE GRIT

"Dar am one t'ing Ah like 'bout the Prodigal Son," said the negro preacher; "de boy had de grit ter walk home 'stead er telegraphin' fer money."

Out in Des Moines, Ia., another woman has pulled that bone about discovering after living with her husband for eighteen months that she is a woman. Heinz preserve us: Do your own commenting.

WHY WILL THEY DO IT?

She cannot dance the toddle. For she is much too fat. But you should see her waddle; She shakes the floor at that.

A Kansas paper says the definition of a mugwump is a man sitting on a rail fence—with his mug on one side and his wump on the other.

We are morally responsible. Palmistry teaches us that we have our lives in our hands.

BOOTLEGGING IN NORWAY GREAT

(By Associated Press)

STOCKHOLM, June 12.—The smuggling of alcohol into Norway has become a well organized and growing trade, and this in spite of the extension of Norway's territorial waters for a distance seawards of 10 miles. Over 100 vessels were waiting recently outside the Norwegian fjords for customers to take liquor already purchased. Light wines and beer only are legal in Norway, drinks containing more than 15 per cent of alcohol being barred.

Stromsta, a small place in Sweden near the Norwegian border is an important center for the smuggling flotillas which are composed mostly of German and Danish vessels. These boats enter port and have their cargoes sealed by the Swedish customs people. The skippers meet their Norwegian customers in the town and arrange for the sale of the liquor, after which they put to sea outside the nationality limit and break the seals. The Norwegian buyers meet at a rendezvous and the transactions are completed.

In this way enormous quantities of liquor are brought into Norway and prices are steadily declining. Also there has been an increase in the number of cases of drunkenness, which in Christiania is reported to be twice as large as in Stockholm.

The Norwegian government derived an annual revenue of about 45,000,000 kroner from liquor before the establishment of prohibition, but today this has been reduced to virtually nothing.

THE OFFICE CAT



SWAT 'EM EARLY

The early fly's the one to swat. It comes before the weather's hot And sits around and flies its legs And lays at least a million eggs And every egg will bring a fly To drive us crazy by and by."

Of course women wear some awfully funny looking things, but a celluloid collar is not one of them.

COMFORTING

Old Lady—"Oh, sir, please stop the train. I've dropped my wig out the window."
Pellow Passenger—"Never mind, madam! There is a switch just this side of the next station."

Some things to ponder o'er—Why is it that the principal rivers always run by large cities—The fortune of Washington, Lincoln and Uncle Sam to have been born on National holidays?

CAUSE FOR WONDER

"What are those things?"
"Life buoys. They will keep you from drowning if you go overboard."

"Uh, I wondered what they were doing with spate fires on a motor boat."

The ideal hammock should be just large enough for one, but strong enough for two.

RABBIT DEPARTMENT

Our Program—AR
Attorney General Daugherty—
Some, entitled, "Troubles, Troubles, Everywhere."

As usual, lots of people will be getting married this month. The honeymoon will work overtime, just as it did last June and other June before that. Then will come July, August, Contemplation, September, October, Realization, November, Indignation, December, Restoration, after which the year will begin to roll over with everything appreciated already.

"Wizard" System of Foot Correction

New Fashions in Footwear

STRAP MODELS FOR DRESS OR SPORTS WEAR

We take pleasure in announcing that we are showing a very interesting assortment of smart new footwear from some of the most famed makers in America, among them D. ARMSTRONG & CO.

Every pair of them is a product of strictly first-class shoe making—and needless to say, the acme of style perfection.

Brown Calf and Beige Suede in a Strap Combination \$10.00

"Armstrong" Make

Admirably combining comfort with extreme smartness, this two-strap pump has a very low, broad heel, in keeping with the trend of fashion. It is of dark brown calf-skin and trimmed beige colored suede and has brass buckles. It combines all the fitting qualities and wear of the Armstrong shoe with the newest in pattern. In all sizes and widths. Priced at \$10.00 pair.

White Buck Black Patent Trimming \$10.00

"Armstrong" Make

A beautiful sport shoe, you will say of this two-strap, low heeled pump of fine white buck, with black patent trimming and buckle buckles. It fits admirably well to the foot requiring a high arch. It is of ARMSTRONG make which assures its quality, fit and wear. In all sizes and widths. Priced at \$10.00.

Brown Kid STRAP PUMP \$9.50

"ARMSTRONG" make of course. A very dressy pump; plain with wide instep strap, military heel and welt sole. Women who like the Armstrong shoe and desire something for general wear will find this an ideal pump. Fit, wear and quality assured. In all sizes and widths. Priced at \$9.50. The same pump in black, \$9.00.

Black or Brown KID OXFORDS \$5.00

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