

## Opium Smugglers Are Foiled



Fifty cans of opium were found under the flooring of the S. S. Gothic Prince by port officials when the steamer docked at New York. Photograph shows Agent Jack Sterling, who directed the search, with his aides, Kilduff and Steffel.

## Forty Millions Asked for Forests

### New Bill Sets Forth Program for Ten Years.

Washington.—A ten-year program under which \$40,000,000 would be authorized for the purchase of national forest lands in the eastern half of the United States is contained in a bill just introduced by Senator Charles L. McNary (Rep., Ore.) as S. 3736, and by Congressman Roy O. Woodruff (Rep., Mich.), as H. R. 11034. According to the American Forestry association which is sponsoring the bill the fiscal program outlined is the next essential step in forestry legislation. It would make possible the completion of forest land purchases in the White and Appalachian mountains authorized by the Weeks law of 1911 and the acquiring of 2,500,000 acres in the southern pine regions and a similar area in the lake states. The purchases in the lake states and in the South are made possible by the Clarke-McNary law, passed in June, 1924, which authorizes the acquiring of land for the purpose of timber production on the watersheds of navigable streams, as well as for protection of stream flow. Much of the land may be secured at prices consistent with the government policy of national forest purchases.

#### Purchase of Forests.

Officials of the American Forestry association point out that 3,000,000 acres additional should be purchased in the White and Appalachian mountains in order to extend and consolidate present government holdings in practicable administrative units and to complete the group of national forests planned under the Weeks law. During the past 13 years only a little over 2,500,000 acres have been purchased. The 1 1/2 lands available for national forest purposes in the South are especially suited to the production of timber. A similar condition exists in the lake states. This region has contributed most of the timber for the development of the great agricultural belt of the Middle West, and it is stated by friends of the new bill that this region, under wise management, can be made to do its part in forest restoration. A system of national forests encircling the larger centers of population and utilizing areas adapted only for the production of timber should be effective as demonstra-

tions in the practice of forestry. This would result eventually in putting under forest management through private ownership a much larger acreage than that purchased by the government. Furthermore, this group of forests could be made to furnish recreation spaces for three-fourths of the nation's population, besides producing timber and pulpwood and protecting stream flow.

#### Cigarettes and Forest Fires.

The increasing use of cigarettes and the increasing number of forest fires chargeable to the cigarette butt should suggest to the manufacturer of "fags" a responsibility on their part to keep before their customers the public menace attached to carelessness in the use of their products. According to figures issued by the United States Treasury department, the total number of cigarettes consumed annually in the country is now approaching the astounding figure of

27,000,000,000. In the United States the consumption of cigarettes in 1924 increased 20 per cent. This year the manufacturers are expected to be turning them out at the rate of three a day for each man and woman in the country over twenty-one years of age.

Eighty per cent of the forest fires in the United States are man-caused. During the last season smokers were responsible for 40 per cent of man-caused fires in the woods.

## WATCH BACK AFTER STRANGE TRAVELS

### Maryland Man's Lost Timepiece Is Returned.

Baltimore.—Wade G. Bounds of Allen, Md., looked at his watch just before retiring at 11:30 p. m., on December 23, at Chestertown, Md. He did not see it again for more than a month and then only when he identified it for a stranger who had been trying to find its owner.

Meanwhile the watch had traveled far, although the only point it is positively known to have reached is Three Oaks, Mich. It came back to its owner from the Michigan city.

Some 15 or 20 days ago Mrs. Charlotte Frank of Baltimore received from a drygoods firm in Three Oaks a parcel post package containing a donation for a lodge to which she belongs. On opening the bundle she discovered in addition to the expected goods, a smaller package containing a watch on the chain of which was suspended a key and as a charm a miniature gold baseball engraved "W. G. B." with the inscription "Washington, L. F., Captain, 1922."

No left fielder of the Washington American league club possessed such initials as inquiry showed. Further search for an owner led to the discovery that W. G. Bounds had been captain and left fielder on the baseball nine at Washington college, Chestertown, Md., that year. When he was located in Baltimore he was able to give a convincing description of the watch and establish his title to it.

Mrs. Frank wrote to the Three Oaks drygoods company from whom she received the parcel and had a reply saying that no one there knows anything about the watch. Bounds says he forgot about putting it under the pillow until the night after he did so when he had gone away from Chestertown and on writing a friend there was informed it could not be found

## Winter Sports Health Builders

### Parents Urged to Turn Children Loose in Snow.

Albany, N. Y.—The advantages for children of outdoor play in winter were discussed by Dr. H. L. K. Shaw, consulting pediatrician of the state department of health, in a talk broadcast recently from Station WGY at Schenectady. Doctor Shaw believes that children need to get outdoors in winter even more than in summer owing to the fact that they spend so much time in crowded schoolrooms and overheated homes.

"There was a widespread belief not so many years ago," said Dr. Shaw, "that cold air and night air were injurious to health and were to be avoided. Many people used to follow the example of the bear and the woodchuck, who crawl into their holes and sleep all winter without fresh air.

This was bad enough for the adults but, worse still, it sets a bad example to their children.

"The change of popular opinion in regard to fresh air and ventilation came when it was found that fresh air, which in the northern states during winter is often cold air, is the best and surest cure for tuberculosis. Now this fresh air sentiment has extended beyond the needs of the consumptive to the homes and to the schools. School authorities recognize the need for fresh air, but unfortunately on account of lack of space in the city schools only a relatively few children are afforded the advantages of open-air classes. These are generally restricted to children who are undernourished, debilitated or diseased. It has been definitely proved that children who attend these open-air classes or who study in well-ventilated school rooms are better scholars, more alert and show better powers of concentration.

"You should urge your child by example and precept to love the open air in winter. Outdoors in winter offers just as much fun as in summer and is just as comfortable for the child, provided he is dressed for the part. In the cold weather it is not necessary to be overclothed and overburdened with outside coverings. Do not dress your child as though he were going to the Arctic regions in search of the North pole. Comfortable mittens for the hands, ears protected and feet kept warm and dry are the essential points for winter outdoor dress. Exercise, whether playing, running or walking, keeps the body warm and brings a healthy glow to the skin. Rain or snow will not harm your child, provided he is properly dressed and protected. There is a real exhilaration in walking in a rainstorm, the raindrops striking the face and wonderful tonic for the complexion. Walking briskly in the winter is excellent exercise, but it is not popular with the ordinary school child; it is too much like work and he sees no fun in it. Do not let your child be a 'silly-by-the-fire.'"

### Many Japs in Hawaii

Honolulu.—A total of 1,265 American citizens of Japanese ancestry registered as voters in the territorial election in the last fiscal year, according to Gov. Farrington's report. Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work. The number of American citizens of Chinese ancestry who registered was 1,840.

Of the Japanese population of 125,308 in the territory, 66,647 were born in the islands, and are, therefore, American citizens, Governor Farrington said.

## Asphalt Supply Is Inexhaustible

### Interesting Facts About "Devil's Pool" in Trinidad.

Washington, D. C.—"The pavements of city streets cry to the cloop of horses' hoofs and the whir of automobile tires, 'Trinidad,' in tribute to the island's asphalt deposits. Radio and telephone wires reverberate the refrain. Even the walls of houses shut out these sounds, as well as the cold, with the world-famous product of this emerald island of the southern Caribbean," says a bulletin from the Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society.

"The most southerly island of the West Indies and the largest of the British islands in the Caribbean with the exception of Jamaica, lying just a few hundred feet from the Venezuela coast, Trinidad ships yearly to the United States more asphalt and bitumen than all the other countries of the world combined. Our 80,000-ton importation from Trinidad, however, is only about one-fourth of the quantity used in the United States. Much of our road material is a by-product of the petroleum and coal tar industries.

#### Supply Seems Inexhaustible.

"When Sir Walter Raleigh stopped on the shores of Trinidad to 'pay' his vessels with pitch from the famous 'lake,' he declared that there was enough of the substance for all the vessels of the world for centuries to come, and even the demand which modern civilization has put upon the supply has scarcely changed the truth of his statement.

"About a mile from the shore, near La Brea, the peculiar phenomenon, which has been variously termed an 'inferno,' a 'Stygian pool,' and 'the fountain of Styx,' is located. Had Dante known of its existence, it probably would have served to stimulate his imagination to still more fantastic flights. However, the lake about which so many interesting stories have been told does not deserve its reputation. A man who contemplated suicide in its black depths would die of starvation before the ooze dragged him in above his knees.

"The situation produced by walking over its surface is much like that of treading upon some great beast whose flesh gives beneath the feet—it is soft, blood-warm, and the wrinkles over its surface in the blinding light of the sun seem to rise and fall with his breathing and the water which gathers in the furrows suggests that the animal is perspiring.

"It is said that the area of the pitch-bearing lake is 110 acres and no one knows how deep it is. There is an almost uncanny feature connected with the removal of the asphalt from the area. Rails and sleepers have been built out into the lake and each day the laborers dig up chunks of the pitch, which break off with dry, blue-flintlike fractures, and throw them into a car which runs on rails. Each day they make a trough along the sides of the track with their picks and when they return the next morning the trough is filled again level and solid for them to dig up—a furrow that is never finished.

#### Scars "Heal" by Night.

"Like the Burning Bush, the lake seems never to be consumed, and like the daughters of Danaus, who had to catch water in a sieve, the men never see the results of their labors. At night a great gully runs across the

horizon, and at dawn the surface is level again.

"About every three days, however, the pitch swallows up the rails and the sleepers and they must be raised and readjusted on the surface.

"The subtle movements of this queer pool have produced some 'spooky' effects—Islands wander like lonely ghosts from shore to shore; sometimes a tree trunk sticks up out of the surface like the arm clothed in white samite which bore 'Excalibur,' points its warning finger, and again is drawn back into the Cimmerian depths.

"One writer has estimated that at least 10,000,000 tons of the mixture have been churned into asphalt by gas during the ages in Pitch lake, which is known as Devil's cauldron among the natives. About 4,000,000 tons have already been removed, and by 1920 the surface of the lake had fallen 15 feet below its former level. Once during its history the viscous fluid overflowed its banks and made its way to the sea near La Brea. Now the world's supply is shipped from Brighton, which fairly reeks of its stock in trade. Asphalt boulders stick up out of the sand along the shore like mysterious black sea

worms, the piles of the piers are caked with pitch, the pavements are of the same material, and the black children of the island play with dolls whose little black faces and bodies are made of pitch.

#### Columbus Saw Island Peaks.

"The island is really a beautiful resort, its roads are excellent, and it is easy to reach from the Venezuela shore, its green trees towering on the sky line from far out at sea. On his third voyage Columbus saw its three mountain peaks, which gave it its name, rise out of the sea on July 31, 1498. At the foot of these hills clusters the group of buildings which forms the capital city, Port of Spain, a rather nondescript modern town which has grown up on the charred ruins of the old Spanish city.

"Though the island has been British since 1797, it is as polyglot as Zanzibar; negroes, mulattoes from high yellow to ginger, French Spaniards, Venezuelans, Chinamen, East Indians, Tamils, Americans and English loiter in its streets or hang over its balconies."

#### Have Poor Sight

New York.—Of approximately 12,000 children undergoing vision tests conducted by the United States public health service, 37 per cent were found to have defective vision, according to a statement by the Eyesight Conservation Council of America, which, analyzing the results, calls such conditions deplorable as constituting neglect of eyesight in the nation's schools.

## Farming in New York City



Right in the Bronx, New York city, surrounded by a population of about one million, Frank Zavistoski of 664 Sherman avenue makes his living by real dirt farming as he has for the past 20 years. All about him are lofty apartment houses, but he refuses to move from his farm of four acres, which is a part of the Astor estate. He is shown above with his family and his horse.

## Youth Hid Money While in a Daze

### Messenger, Who Lost Memory, Faked Robbery.

Memphis.—Police, as the public prints have it, stay in a continual state of perplexity from pondering over the dark mysteries of crime, but members of the Memphis force have an extra wrinkle or two in their brows while puzzling out the strange case of Steve Ralph, twenty, bank messenger.

Ralph, a messenger for the East Memphis Bank and Trust company,

was sent to another bank with checks and money. He failed to put in an appearance at his destination and a search was instituted. The messenger was found in an outlying portion of the city several hours later. He was suffering from exposure and incoherently told a tale of being drugged and robbed by three bandits in a motor car. An old man, a woman and a youth, according to Ralph, were the bandits.

#### Story Stood Up.

Police investigated and could find nothing to discredit the story told. An investigation into his habits and associates only confirmed the belief that he never drank, smoked, gambled or kept late hours. They accepted the statement.

A detective, in the rather far-fetched hope that the youth might see and recognize his abductors, had been riding the messenger through the city in a motor car, and, growing discouraged, was taking him to his home, when Ralph requested to be driven to a certain street intersection. The motor car stopped at a vacant lot not many blocks from the city's principal business section. Alighting from the machine Ralph, walking as a man in his sleep, according to the detective, went to a little patch of weeds and picked up a little bundle that had been in plain view of the hundreds who passed the place every day. In the bundle was the missing \$10,000.

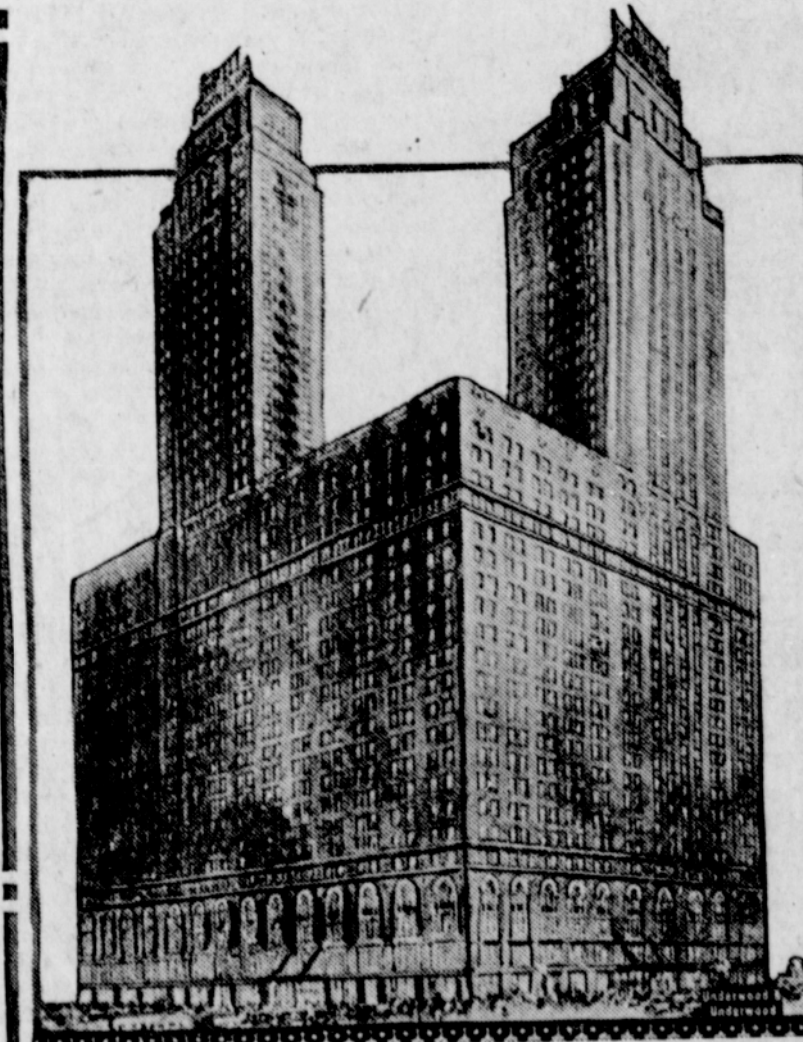
#### Has Dizzy Spell.

To police officials after the recovery of the securities the boy said he was seized with a sudden dizziness after leaving the bank and that his memory left him when he boarded a street car. He remembered nothing more, he said, until he found himself in the outskirts of the city some hours later, minus the money and securities entrusted to him by the bank. He frankly told the authorities he fabricated the story of the holdup because he could not remember what he did with the funds in his care.

"All at once what I did with the money came to me when I was riding in the motor car," he said. "I told the detective to drive me there for I was afraid they were gone, and when I found that they weren't, I told the truth."

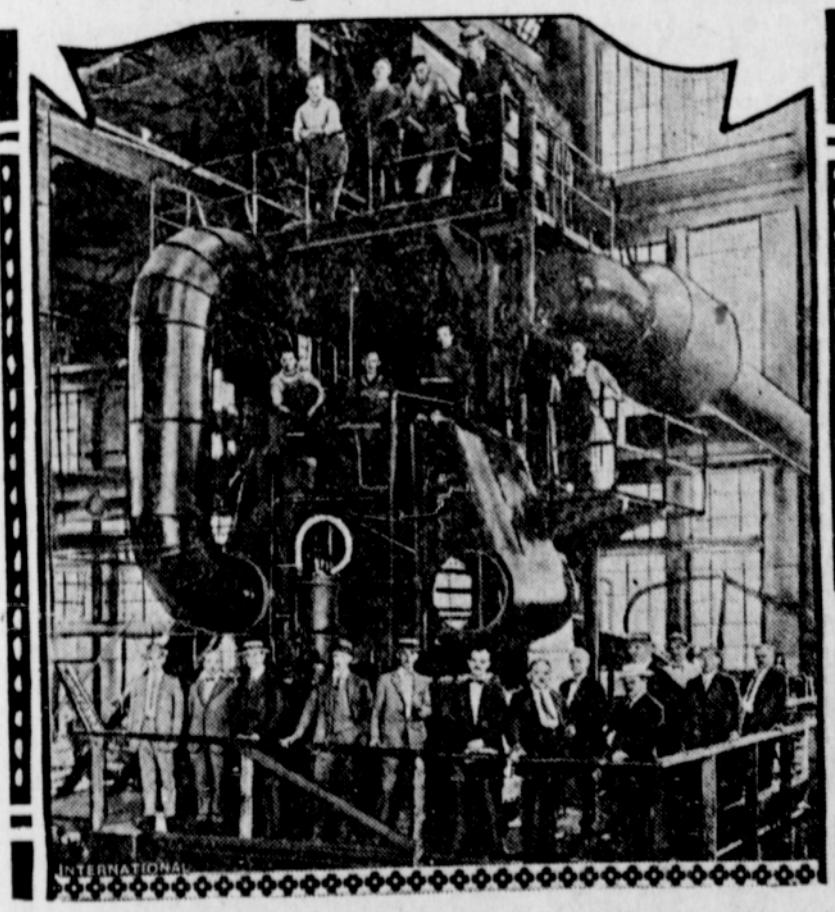
Members of Ralph's family confirmed his story he was subject to seizures, resulting in fainting attacks and loss of memory. Bank officials and an insurance firm accepted the messenger's tale, and apparently there will be no prosecution.

## Will Be Highest Hotel in World



Architect's sketch of the Morrison hotel, Chicago, as it will be when the annex about to be erected is completed. It will be 503 feet high, the tallest hotel in the world. There will be 850 rooms in the new part and on the roof will be a steel and concrete bungalow for Henry C. Moir, president of the hotel company.

## Diesel Engine Does Great Work



Here is shown the new Worthington double-acting two-cycle Diesel engine, described at a recent meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as one of the most advanced steps in modern engine construction. It has just completed a 30-day test and is said to hold revolutionary possibilities for American merchant ships by giving perfect performance with a weight reduction of almost 100 per cent per volume of horse power delivered.