

Mr Scott Herald

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THE BUZZARD'S SERVICE.

How many times in your life have you found a dead bird, mouse, snake or some other form of wild life? Maybe half a dozen times, hardly more than that, unless your eyes are unusually bright or you spend a considerable part of your time in just rambling about. And yet there are millions of birds, millions of snakes and no doubt billions of mice. Why don't we pick up these dead creatures every day? They cannot all be the victims of the rapacity of some larger creature. A considerable number of them must die a natural death. Where do they go? Ask Mr. Buzzard if he knows, and see him blink a tell-tale eye, says Ohio State Journal. Don't you know that is what he is for—to keep the earth cleaned up of carrion? He doesn't sail and sail, hour after hour, just to keep you wondering if he never flaps a wing. No; he is keeping a watchful eye on the whole countryside for carrion. With his telescopic eye he sees the dead animal, or when he rises far into the storm clouds out of human sight, he is keeping an eye on the neighboring buzzards to see that they do not have a feast without his presence. The buzzard in flight is a noble sight, and his status in nature is a useful and important one, but, like the pariah, he is neither admired nor respected.

The part of the United States that lies east of the Mississippi river had a diminishing fraction of the farm and range cattle of the United States until soon after 1900, on account of the growing number of farms and the increasing utilization of ranges west of that river. The country east of the river had 44 per cent of the farm cattle in 1880, 30 per cent in 1890, and 26 per cent in 1900. By 1910 the tendency toward relative loss of cattle east of the river was reversed, and by 1919 the increasing fraction had reached 31 per cent of the total farm cattle of the whole country.

If there is no law properly to punish the spreading of seditious and lawless literature, there ought to be, and congress is strangely remiss in its duty of protecting the public if this omission is not promptly repaired, says Baltimore American. It is unspeakable that the lawmaking powers of the nation should be paralyzed with inertia, while so dangerous a poison is working its way into the nation's vitals and threatening its peaceful existence.

First-class diamonds are now rated at \$1,000 a karat, which reminds us that we have managed to connect with a great deal of happiness during our journey through this vale of tears without having to dazzle the visual organs of our friends with a blazing shirt front, says Houston Post. While bacon descends, let the cost of diamonds soar, say we.

When a few individuals or groups of men through the accretion of power that vested wealth gives come into a position where they are able to control the necessities of life, the food, the fuel, the clothes, then government to be of the people and for the people must become more autocratic that it may be more utopian.

The first thing William Hohenzollern did when he took possession of his estate at Doorn, Holland, was to raise the wages of the gardener from \$5.00 to \$6. He should have a care or the government may get after the gardener for profiteering.

The new Austrian republic has closed its first year with a big deficit. Running a new republic on the ruins of an old empire is not the cheapest of experiments, but the empire was even more expensive, as it proved.

Army officers are said to be wearing corsets to give them a rounded and beautiful figure and we just wonder what some of those doughboys would say if they suddenly came upon a dashing captain adjusting his stays.

The house of lords has rejected the proposal to admit woman peers, but this will not affect those whom the supporters of Lloyd George during the war on the dukes described as "the old women" in the upper chamber.

Dandelion leaves are commended by a physician as a means of prolonging life. Scientists are often absent-minded. The suggestion comes at a time when dandelions are hopelessly out of season.

LURE OF THE CITY.

Among the many things responsible for the unrest and disturbed condition of affairs in this country the lure of the city, which has been effectively working upon the men of the emergency army and navy and their families, is responsible for a very considerable portion. The men who left the farms and rural sections for the war camps and later went to France or at least spent a year or two in the vicinity of some large city got a taste of city life and formed ideas about what was necessary and what desirable that could not be altogether forgotten when they went back home, says Florida Times-Union. Lots of the farm and country folks did not go back to the country, and the result is a scarcity of people on the farms and in the small towns, and an over-supply of people in the cities. War department records show that the majority of the men from the rural districts went home it is true, but a whole lot of them decided not to stay; and the cities have gained in numbers but not always in just the normal and reasonable increase that comes from the demand for various kinds of workers. It is likely that in the course of a year or two thousands who are now making a scanty living in the cities, contrasting the excitement of surroundings with much less comfort than they had enjoyed in the small towns or on the farms, will return to the life they left when the war called them into the service of their country.

A Japanese province has placed a tax upon a great variety of articles called luxuries, among them being walking sticks, gold-rimmed eyeglasses and even the bridal couple's extra suitcase. The Japanese may have heard of America's tax on children's soda water and ice cream cones, and received inspiration therefrom, says Detroit Journal. At any rate, those of us who felt rather cockily that all the tax-levying geniuses of the world were concentrated in our country will have to admit that Japan has a few wizards of her own.

It seems altogether unlikely that Austria, Italy, Hungary, Bohemia, Poland, and the Balkans will be able to quiet down until spring. Lack of food, fuel, and clothes must lead to intense dissatisfaction with all governments yet, and strikes, insurrections, possibly revolutions, will be the order of the day everywhere.

When a person comes into your office to bust up your business you kick him out without much ceremony, says Philadelphia Press. When an anarchist comes into this country to bust up the government there ought to be no uncertainty about what to do with him, or hesitation in doing it. Kick him out.

A marine corps quartermaster is authority for the statement that the size of the marine foot has been increased a whole size on the average as a result of pursuit work in France. But it is to be observed that there has been no change in the average size of the caps worn by the corps.

The French now have time to build barracks to accommodate the flood of tourists who wish to visit the battle area, but of course the doughboys understand that most of the tourists are people who made enough money out of the war to buy better shelter than is afforded by a mudhole.

Brorsen's comet, not due until 1922, has wandered back into mortal ken three years ahead of its schedule. If the heavenly bodies have caught the fever of trying for new records, there's no telling where we're going to land.

Five German officers accused of looting in France and Belgium during the German occupation have been arrested to be held for trial. At last, retribution is beginning for the criminals of the war.

French scientists have organized an international institute of metaphysics in an effort to solve the mystery of death. The rest of us will go along, however, trying to solve the mystery of how to live.

Offhand—just like that—it is more or less puzzling how Europeans who must be fed by other nations find a desire to carry on a war a full year after they might have quit and gone back to work.

Champagne, says Paris, will be a thing of the past owing to the war's effect on French soil. In this country that can be scheduled under the head of useless information.

The proposition of turning your old suit inside out is a joke, say the tailors. Not always. We knew a man who found a \$2 bill that way once.

A dentist says entirely too many teeth are being pulled out. Well, just what would be the proper number, doc?

AN OLD STANDER.

An average good Missouri mule sells for \$300. This sturdy animal keeps on its sure-footed way regardless of multiplying automobiles and tractors. The steady demand for mules is mainly from the farms, a good sign of speeding up production where most needed. In horse breeding also the situation is favorable, but choice animals are wanted. Predictions of a horseless era are no longer heard. The menace seemed most serious nearly thirty years ago when prices generally were at the lowest ebb. In some places in the Northwest horses were turned adrift as not worth feeding through the winter. At farm sales a sheep might bring but 25 cents. An alleged remedy widely supported, and defeated several times politically, was silver inflation. Prices have certainly advanced without regard to nostrums of that kind. Twenty-five years ago it was charged that gold had been cornered in Europe. We have now the largest stock of gold on record. There is clearly a sound business expansion when the demand grows for mules and horses as well as all kinds of motor vehicles and improved farm machinery. More production is the cry, and it is heeded. Breeders of all farm animals have accepted a new and higher standard. A thousand-dollar hog is no longer a curiosity. The price of bacon suggests it.

It should be noted that the ranks of the armed companies which parade the streets of Berlin with rifles, grenades and machine guns are filled with former noncommissioned officers of the German army. These men, having tasted of a little authority, are reluctant to turn to useful productive labor. The former privates, on the contrary, seem to have had enough. There are said to be some 700,000 men now under arms in Germany. At the same time the cry of hunger and the plea for succor grow louder, says Boston Post. The first fact undoubtedly helps explain the second. Germany has yet to learn the lesson that a nation that will not work shall not eat.

Soy beans are growing in favor as a crop in this country, as their oil and oil cake are in imports. The crop of 1917, as estimated by the bureau of crop estimates, was 2,245,000 bushels of threshed beans, and that of 1918 was 3,041,000 bushels. Soy-bean oil was imported to the extent of 163,000,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1917, 337,000,000 pounds in 1918, and 237,000,000 pounds in 1919. Soy-bean oil cake, left after the extraction of most of the oil, is a feeding stuff practically appreciated enough to cause the importation of considerable and increasing quantities.

The frequency of fires just now calls attention to the greater need of caution in this respect. As the weather becomes colder, the danger increases, but it could be reduced to a minimum if ordinary prudence is observed. The education of the public in fire prevention is not yet as thorough as could be wished, though ordinary common sense ought to suggest many of its principles.

How long it seems to take it to get around to the ears of the retail meat dealers when the market drops \$10 a hundredweight, as it has in the case of pork. When the market goes up \$10 a hundredweight, the news travels much faster.

HARD-TIMES SOCIAL AT THE MILLARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The hard-times social at the Millard Avenue Presbyterian church Tuesday, January 27, was a positive success. Most of the guests came representing some song or book and some were especially remarkable. George Colvey and Charles Demetier were handsome ladies, Mr. Colvey in a tan creation of lace and silky fabric with a striking yellow trimmed hat, and Mr. Demetier in white middy suit and green-colored headgear, both representing a popular melody called "Jazz Baby." The fairy story "Snow-white and Rose-red" was impersonated by Mrs. O. H. Gilbert in snowy widdly suit and snowy hair bow, and Mrs. W. D. Eastwood in a rich, brilliant red frock, and with two wonderful black braids. W. Lee Gray, the pastor, in flannel shirt and work trousers, with rake and hoe, made a fine looking "Harvester" (Gene Stratton Porter), and Mrs. Gray in bright red skirt, lavender house-jacket, red shoulder shawl and red head-dress, with double-loop, gold colored ear drops, made a handsome "Foreigner" (Ralph Connor). One of the most puzzling of the book symbols was that of a loose heel ("Lucille," by Meredith) worn by Mrs. Frank Price. Others were very attractive and entertaining but space forbids individual mention.

Laurelwood Congregational Church At the Laurelwood Congregational church last Sunday morning a Christian Endeavor service was held in honor of the general C. E. work. The meeting was conducted by Hazel Wells, president, assisted by Mark Bradford, vice-president. Miss Norma Bicknell, accompanied by Miss Lois Handshker, sang. The county workers, including Miss Edna Rehwalt and Ned Erwin, and Franklin Roberts, of the flying squadron, were visiting speakers. Millard Avenue Presbyterian Church Rev. W. Lee Gray, pastor, will speak at 11 a. m. on "Temptation," and at 7:30 on "Lincoln's Religion."

NONCOMMITTAL



"There are dozens of preparations on druggists' shelves that contain a higher percentage of alcohol than whisky, if a person only knew what they were."
 "Maybe you are right," replied the citizen with a thirt, "but I seem to be out of luck. I drop in to see my favorite druggist every day and engage him in casual conversation, but he never tells me anything."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

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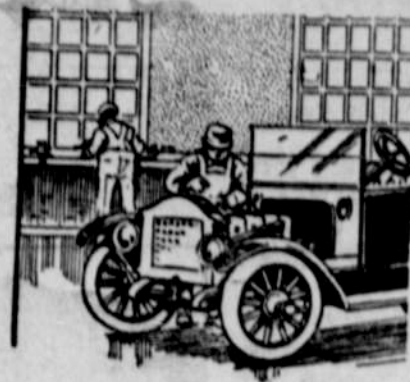
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