

If we do our best; if we do not magnify trifling troubles; if we look resolutely, I will not say at the bright side of things, but at things as they really are; if we avail ourselves of the manifold blessings which surround us, we can not but feel that life is indeed a glorious inheritance.—John Lubbock.

Historic Wage Struggles

AMERICA has always paid exorbitant wages to tradesmen and common laborers, according to people interested in keeping such wages at a low level. Some comparisons with historic struggles in this field are interesting.

Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts once complained that "scarcity of workers caused them to raise their wages to an excessive rate."

Governor Dobbs of North Carolina at a much later period reaffirmed the complaint, saying that American wages were two to three times as high as in Europe, being anywhere from 2 to 5 shillings per day owing to extortion practiced by the laborers. A shilling is about the price of a gallon of gasoline.

The colonies being sure that they "could legislate prosperity and well being for every one, rich and poor," according to one historian, proceeded to regulate wages by law, and it was decreed that both payer and receiver should be penalized if carpenters, thatchers and the like were paid more than 2 shillings a day. That price being within the reach of all, the colony enacting the legislation should have prospered—

All of which goes to show that there is an eternal struggle between those who labor and the people for whom the work is performed—

And two hundred years have not obliterated the idea that the government can legislate prosperity, and the merry chase for that elusive state still continues—

And will likely go on till the break of day on the morning of the millennium.

Why Children Marry

AN exchange reports that the Women's City club of New York wanted to find out why girls under 16 years of age got married and what became of them afterward.

So they investigated and apparently found that most of them married because they did not know much about the men who were to become their husbands. More than half had known their husbands less than two months; some only a few days and others a few hours. Probably another strong reason for the matches was that those girls either had no parents at all or parents that were worse than none.

Only a minority of the brides were of foreign birth, which prevents placing the blame for an undesirable situation where Americans are fond of placing the blame. Few of the marriages were "boy and girl" affairs; most of the men were old enough to be the fathers of their brides, which again leads to embarrassment in fixing blame. If foreigners and young men can't be blamed for such a situation where can we look for a scapegoat? The period of marriage lasts about as long as the period of prior acquaintance—anywhere from an hour or two to a few weeks. One hundred years ago in the country as a whole, and 50 to 75 years ago in Oregon, marriages of 16-year-old girls were more common proportionately than now; the distinction being that they stayed married and settled down to the business of being housewives. That makes a lot of difference.

Compulsory Insurance

MANY people have for two years been watching Massachusetts, hoping that the great commonwealth would lead the way in solving the problem of automobile insurance for the protection of the public—

And those hopes are more or less shattered by the many evils that have befallen the state through the attempt to bring about compulsory insurance. From reports it would seem that the operation of the plan has destroyed the morale of the physicians, stultified the lawyers, corrupted the politicians and nearly put some insurance companies into bankruptcy—

In short, it is the same old story of the government entering the field of private business, requiring impossible conditions of those engaged in a private matter, and meddling with regulations impossible to enforce.

It was the sincere hope of many good people that the Massachusetts law would work; they now turn to the automobile associations to devise a better plan.

Unemployment Dole

ENGLAND, which since the war has been paying an unemployment dole, or pension, has a total of a million and a half out of work—

Contrasting sharply with Germany, where idleness has been practically wiped out, and France and Italy, where most laborers are busy, and where there is no dole.

It is a matter of cause and effect. Human beings are prone to follow the lines of least resistance. When they find they can live without work, the less ambitious of them are apt to remain idle. The dole in England tends to kill industry and throttle initiative. That is dangerous to the future state.

Proposing Worse for Bad Enough

THE Yakima Republic reports that State Senator Charles W. Hall of Clark county proposes to change the primary law of Washington so that two candidates receiving the largest vote would go on the final ballot regardless of their party affiliations—

And that newspaper interposes objections, as follows: "Such a measure would do away with the last vestige of party lines. The primary election would be merely a preliminary skirmish and might result in the minority party having no representation whatever on the general ballot."

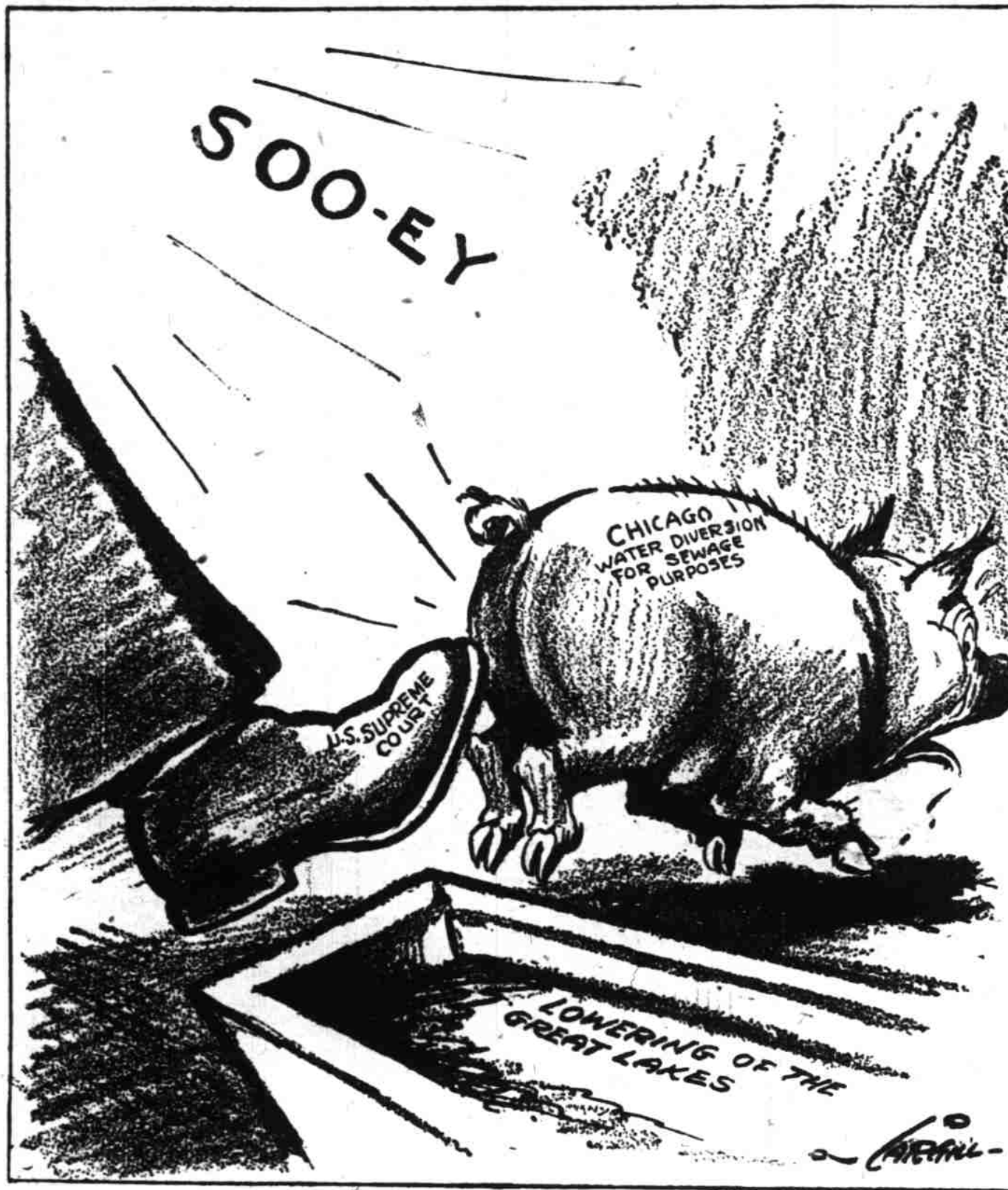
"Party activities have been thoroughly devitalized under existing primary laws but it is doubtful whether the people are willing to do away altogether with those organizations which have filled a useful place in American political life. No minority party could long withstand the effects of not even having a look-in on the finale and soon there would be neither minority or majority parties but merely individuals responsible to no party organization, answerable to the people through no intermediary. The inevitable result would be bloc organized either to promote the fortunes of individuals or to put over some scheme for the interests of the members of that particular bloc."

"The primary system is bad enough now and has led to worse evils than those it was expected to cure. The same would be true of the new plan—it would result in greater weakness in the election machinery, would lead itself more thoroughly to unscrupulous manipulators and would lose what little is left of the advantages of the party system."

We doff our hat to this Dallet D. Wilson of New York whose wife is on trial charged with assault with attempt to kill. She shot Mr. Wilson with a revolver several months ago in his office. He lingered between life and death for weeks. They had separated. She was arrested and expected to be tried for murder. The estranged husband finally recovered and she is now on trial as stated. The ex-husband was a reluctant witness for the state and, as we think, lied like a gentleman. He declared that he had picked up a paper-weight with which to hit his ex-wife and she shot. He swore he thinks it was an accident. His testimony will probably save her, but he did the proper thing. He would have been a cad not to have lied about it.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Noting that President-elect Hoover, arriving in Florida, inquires into the future prospects of the republican party of the south, a writer in an exchange opines that "any reasonably well informed citizen, who is careful to keep his mind free from undue partisan prejudice, can answer his inquiry, explaining that if the republican party will 'treat the south as an integral part of the United States, ... forgetting wholly that there was once an unpleasantness between these two great sections,' its future will be bright. But if it continues to ally itself, in its local southern organizations, with carpet-baggers and negro politicians, the gains it made in the south last November will be lost at the next election."

Also Qualifying As a Hog Caller



Three Senators Hop to Big Pond

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Washington Correspondent for
Central Press and the Statesman
WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—

Senators Nye and Frazier of North Dakota and Brookhart of Iowa have been toads in so small a puddle heretofore that they looked large. Henceforward they are to mingle with all the other toads in the new company. How big will they look in this new company? So far as they themselves are concerned, they may never realize any difference. Others may see it, however.

The senate, as the whole country knows, has consisted in recent years of an extensive republican pond, a smaller democratic pond and two puddles, of republican and democratic "progressive" toads. Henrik Shipstead, farmer-labor senator, has also had a puddle all his own, but that's immaterial for purposes of the present argument. We may likewise dismiss from our minds any consideration of the Jeffersonian pond and puddle insofar as they relate to this case. Only the O. O. P. pond and its allateral puddle—especially the

puddle—are germane to the question in hand.

The puddle, for the better part of the last four years, has been the recognized habitation of six senatorial toads—"Uncle George" Norris of Nebraska, "young Bob" LaFollette and John J. Blaine of Wisconsin and the trio mentioned above, Brookhart, Frazier and Nye. Other toads often squatted on the puddle's edge and occasionally hopped in and out again. The toad named really called that mudhole home. The others?—no.

Uncle George Norris is a whale of a toad in any society. Young Bob and John J. Blaine are forsythias, but that's immaterial for purposes of the present argument. As for the remaining three there was room for differences of opinion. True, they looked small along side Uncle George. Young Bob and John J., but that was recognized as hardly a fair comparison, the old Nebraskan and the two Wisconsinans being such unusually husky toads.

The problem was: How would Nye, Frazier and

Brookhart stack up against the main pond's average?

Nobody ever could have answered that question while the three remained in their original puddle, but in the last presidential campaign out they hopped and "regularized" themselves by supporting their party's regular nominee.

This means they are eligible to the big pond. More, even if they want to return to the old puddle again later, it is doubtful if Uncle George, Young Bob and John J. will let them in. These three faithful toads are pretty sore.

As yet it is a trifle over-early to estimate Nye's, Frazier's and Brookhart's actual size.

The regular toads in the big pond are welcoming them just now, and they are jumping around mightily lively, considerably swelled up and perhaps appearing larger than they really are. Presumably they must begin to deflate, and then we can draw some more dependable conclusions.

They took risks jumping into the big pond, anyway.

The Grab Bag

January 26, 1929



Who am I? To what position was I appointed during the latter part of 1917? When was I eligible for retirement?

What sculptor executed "The Thinker?"

What is Rotten Row?

What islands in the North Sea are famous for their ponies?

"Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner is destroyeth much good." Where is this passage found in the Bible?

Today in the Past
Michigan was admitted to the Union in 1837.

Horoscope for Sunday
Persons born on this day worry too much over trifles. They allow little things to make them miserable. The cares of others make them unhappy. It is good to be sympathetic, but they are prone to go to extremes in their sympathy.

A Daily Thought
"It is sometimes expedient to forget what you know."—Syrrus.

Answers to Forgetting Questions
1. Brevet General Tasker H. Bliss; chief of staff; in 1917.
2. Auguste Rodin.
3. A fashionable bridge path in London.
4. Ecclesiastes ix, 18.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

Following an inspection made by engineers from Portland, there is possibility a modern electric light plant may be installed in the old brick mill building near Mill street.

Painters' local Union elected the following officers for the new year: Frank Willman, reelected president; C. F. W. Brown, vice-president; J. M. Ringo, financial secretary; E. V. Rider, treasurer. President Willman, William Wicke and Secretary Brown were chosen delegates to the central council.

Fifty years ago Brexte Gibson and his brother George embedded a stone in an oak sapling on a farm in the Eola hills, agreeing to return 50 years later to see what happened to the stone. They have just made the 50-year inspection, finding the tree a foot over the stone, and the mud around the stone turned to stone.

WORDS OF THE WISE

"Everything unknown is magnified."—Tacitus.

"Light is the task when many share the toll."—Horace.

"What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."—Gellius.

"Fortune truly helps those who are of good judgment."—Euripides.

"To the man who himself strives earnestly, God also lends a helping hand."—Aeschylus.

THE ONE MINUTE PULPIT

Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.

As for such as turn aside into their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity; but peace shall be upon Israel.—Psalms, cxv, 4, 5.

Who's Who & Timely Views

By ETHELBERT STEWART

(Ethelbert Stewart was born at Chicago, Ill., April 23, 1857. He was educated in the public and high schools of Illinois. He became affiliated with the United States bureau of labor in 1887 after having been editor of several newspapers. He has been United States commissioner of labor statistics since 1920. I have urged the necessity for a census of the employed and unemployed as a fundamental basis from which to begin the solution of the problems hereby presented.

With a census of unemployment, the bureau could apply the index of the volume of unemployment and ascertain the number of unemployed at any given time. With the information now at hand, all the bureau of labor statistics can do is estimate shrinkages in employment in established industries.

On January 1, 1929, 79,000 more people were employed in those established industries than on January 1, 1928, reduction shrinkage of 4.2 per cent.

An unemployed person, usually employed, at present out of work and seeking a job. This definition,

cuts out the unemployable who present a sociological problem and for whom industry is not immediately responsible at that time. That the question is local or for the states does not appeal to me. Unemployment is a world problem. Avenue A in New York City, one-half mile from Fifth avenue, is the most densely populated district in the world, including India and China, with 500,000 persons to the square mile.

While the condition may present a problem for New York alone at least it is for the federal government to provide the basic information from which to make a start. Consider the analogy between the situation in New York City and a cancer on the lip of a man if he leaves it for the lip to take care of.

While the cause for unemployment might be local, the absorption of that unemployment was national. Take the case of a copper company which increased production of copper per man from 610 pounds to 2,005 pounds, hence reducing employment from over 800 to less than 200. At the same time the output was increased from 9,000,000 to 15,315,000 pounds per month.

Who absorbed the men? Only a census can aid us in determining what has become of them.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

More terrible tolls—

From automobile accidents—

And there would not be any if every one observed all the rules of the road and the caution of the careful driver.

J. B. T. Tuthill, dead in California, was once one of the most prominent citizens of Salem. Old timers will note his passing with regret.

Among the distances shortened by the automobile is the one between the introduction and the altar.

Galahad had his good points, but only our higher civilization could produce a drug clerk who says "Thank you" after selling a postage stamp.

So live that you won't care a rap if there isn't any aspirin in the house.

Americanism: Trading in, at half price, a car as good as new, to get a shiny new one that will be a half-price used car next week.

As an emblem of prohibition, the camel is an unfortunate choice. He drinks great quantities because drinks are far apart.

Brisbane says great elevation would cause us to swell—perhaps to burst. You've noticed how a little elevation can effect the head.

You can travel abroad without knowing other languages. Just learn the French, Italian and so on for the words: "How much in real money?"

And some people keep right on

spending money for beef roasts when they had a new decade record in six months.

If he talks too much about the duty of the state, you can't help wondering which of his relatives is in the poorhouse.

One reason why peace treaties aren't effective is because crutches don't last as long as monuments.

A great man never seems so mortal as when he demands correction of an interview that didn't say anything worth two whoops in the first place.

It probably doesn't please Mr. Hoover to hear that he was elected merely as a reproof of the wicked.

Correct this sentence: "My electric bill is 68 cents higher," said he. "And I know we didn't use any more juice than usual."

DINNER STORIES

WELL, ISN'T IT?

A new 5 and 10-cent store had been opened by a man named Cohen. A woman came in one day and selected a toy for which she handed the proprietor a dime.

"Excuse, lady," said Cohen. "But these toys are 15 cents."

"But I thought this was a 5 and 10-cent store," protested the customer.

"Well, I leave it to you," came the reply. "How much is it—5 and 10 cents?"

Police Use Clever Ruse To Nab "Ace" Pendleton

EL PASO, Jan. 25.—(AP)—A victim of a ruse played by two police officials, posing as prohibition agents, Asa O. (Ace) Pendleton, accused ringleader of a notorious band of bank robbers, tonight faced the end of a long trail of alleged lawlessness.

More than 20 bank robberies and eight killings are attributed by police to the "Ace" and his band. Admitting his identity but denying he had ever robbed a bank, Pendleton tonight complied with the capture by the officials who took him into custody under the pretense of investigation as to whether he had violated the prohibition law and operated a "bunco" game.

"I've been accused of every bank robbery in the United States since I got out of jail last October. They can't hang that Lamar, Colo. job on me because I was in jail at Okemah, Okla., when it happened. I never pulled a bank job in my life, but I've been accused of a dozen."

Hardly had Pendleton, a man of 31, made this statement when headquarters received a telegram saying he was wanted for murder and bank robbery at Purcell, Okla. Shortly after came another with the same charge from Pampa, Texas.

Police Recognize Suspect
Pendleton's arrest was brought

about by Chief of Police L. T. Rydman and Detective Sergeant J. W. Fitzgerald who saw the resemblance to a photograph of Pendleton sent out in a police circular from Butte, Mont., where he is wanted for a \$1500 bank robbery.

Pendleton, another man and two women, were arrested by the officers as they emerged from an alleged "speak-easy" last night. Officers searched the party for liquor and then informed the four that they would have to go to police headquarters for further investigation. The women were released, but Pendleton and the other man were held.

Frank Powers, head of the identification bureau, announced this afternoon that the fingerprints of Pendleton definitely established his identity.

"I have never been in Montana in my life and I know nothing about the Purcell robbery," said Pendleton when questioned concerning the charges against him from those places.

Pendleton has twice before been arrested in Texas and once was released after being cleared of a charge of murder when no state laid claim to him for any crime. About three weeks ago he was arrested at Wink, near El Paso, and taken to El Dorado, Ark., to stand trial for the robbery of a Junction City, Ark. bank.

High Pressure Pete

