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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—Byron

German Alchemy

Under instruction of the German Reich and under official but skeptical supervision of Professor Max Bodenstern, head of the physical and chemical institute of research of Berlin university, Ernst A. Krause, physicist and master chemist has begun an experiment by which he hopes to manufacture gold from cheap raw materials in commercial quantities. Germany needs 80 tons of gold to restore prosperity and 100 tons of mica slate is being processed chemically for transmutation into gold, in a special laboratory which includes an electrical furnace capable of producing an extraordinary high temperature.

Transmuting of gold from baser metals has always been the dream of the alchemist from earliest recorded civilization. To efforts along this line we owe much that we know of chemistry, but the artificial production of gold has ever eluded alchemist and chemist alike. Alchemy originated in Egypt and the dominant theory of the alchemists was that any of the baser metals contain the same constituents as gold—mixed with impurities—and when they are removed, the transmutation is effected. At first the "philosophers stone" was sought for removal, later was added the search for the "alkalhest" or universal solvent; then the "magisterium" a substance that could convert all metals into gold.

The efforts to produce gold absorbed the energies of the ancients. Caligula conducted extensive experiments and by the time of Diocletian the passion for this pursuit, conjoined with the magical arts became so prevalent in the Roman empire that the emperor ordered the destruction of all Egyptian works on the subject. But alchemy was taken up by the Arabs, from whom it found its way through Spain into Europe generally, principally practiced in medieval times by the monks. Roger Bacon and Albertus Magnus both were believers in the convertibility of inferior metals into gold—the "perfect metal."

In the resultant division between chemists and alchemists the latter took up the fantastical and visionary side of the older alchemy and compiled mystical trash into books that had a great vogue. Their language is a farago of mystical metaphors and absurd nonsense, but despite the explosion of their doctrines by modern chemistry, the German effort shows the dream of transmutation still persists.

There are some facts in connection with allotropy to countenance the transmutability of other metals into gold, from the proof that the emanation of radium is transformed into helium, and that probably radium itself is a transformation from uranium; perhaps lead is what remains of the radium emanation when helium is removed and cognate speculations point to the production of gold from the baser metals as not quite impossible—though not yet demonstrated.

Though it seems like a harking back to the dark ages for modern Germany to seriously pursue the ancient alchemist's will-o-the-wisp, it must be remembered that we are comparatively ignorant of the chemistry of the cosmos, and the Germans the world's most advanced chemists and the experiment will add to human knowledge if not to the world's supply of gold. As long as the gold standard obtains in finance, such efforts will be made. It is more sensible to try to create gold for relief purposes than it is to spend it as we are doing. When gold can be manufactured cheaply synthetically, we will get some more sensible monetary system.

Indiana Cuts Taxes

Ninety two counties in Indiana have reduced taxes for 1933. The revision downward involves every one of the 1,592 taxing units of the state and the average saving is 30.3 percent. This reduction will be applied to assessible property which has been reduced 21 percent in value. The saving to real and personal taxpayers will total \$42,545,086. Taxes next year will be \$97,524,506 as compared with \$140,069,591 this year. The leader in reduction is Orange county in southwestern Indiana, with 73.9 percent slash. Marion county, Indianapolis, shows the least reduction, 16 percent.

Assessible property this year was \$5,073,341,146. Next year it will be \$3,995,843,838 a reduction of \$1,077,387,208. Reduction in valuation was forced because property to be sold for delinquent taxes would not bring nearly the assessed price. Appeals for relief to the legislature at the regular session fell on deaf ears. The situation continued to grow worse and the governor called a special 40 day session last July.

On the fortieth day, when almost everyone had despaired of the emergency session accomplishing anything, the legislature enacted a law limiting the total tax levy to \$1.50 on each \$100 of taxable property. The state's share was fixed at 15 cents, which meant drastic slashes in state administrative budgets. County, township, municipal and school taxing units were to get the remaining \$1.35. But many of these units were carrying such a heavy burden that their share of the \$1.35 would not begin to pay interest on bond issues or to retire those falling due immediately. And government bonds are supported by the Indiana constitution as preferential liens on tax revenues. So the legislature decreed that "in cases of emergency" the State Board of Tax Commissioners could authorize a levy higher than \$1.50. Many of the counties and municipal units cut budgets sufficiently to get within the \$1.50 limit.

The legislature voted a blanket cut of all government salaries. It ordered a moratorium on bond issues for township and county road improvements, and assigned to counties and municipalities in which the tax is collected 2 cents, instead of 1 cent as formerly, of the state 4-cent-gallon gasoline tax. It ordered the state highway system to take over the important county roads and maintain them by utilizing labor receiving a legal minimum wage instead of whatever unscrupulous contractors chose to pay. It gave to municipal governments several minor fees heretofore supporting only a state bureaucracy. It discussed a state income tax which the incoming legislature is pledged to enact. It authorized consolidation of townships and counties.

All these economies were forced by an aroused citizenship upon a reluctant legislature, against the embattled forces of the bureaucracy. Indiana has pointed the way for Oregon.

PAPER COMPANY DEMURRER TO MINTO UPHELD

Circuit Judge Wellington yesterday afternoon sustained a demurrer of the plaintiff to the defendant's answer in one particular in the case of D. C. Minto against Oregon Pulp & Paper company but overruled demurrer as to other defenses.

The particular matter sustained in the demurrer was a defense set up by the paper company that the plaintiff ought not to be permitted to offer proof that the premises are damaged for the reason that when the water receded in 1931 the defendant at the instance of the plaintiff raked up and burned waste materials from the paper mill. The case is one in which Minto asks for damages alleged to have been sustained by waste paper from the mill piling up on Minto Island. Under the ruling this one defense of the paper company is overturned but the balance of the defenses set up in its answer are sustained as far as their legal effect is concerned.

In another damage action of similar purport, that the Edward R. Hougham against the city of Mt. Angel. Judge Wellington ordered stricken from the amended complaint a number of paragraphs. These paragraphs in question, the court held, pertained to matters which happened or existed before a contract was entered into between the city and the Houghams. Hougham alleges that a sewer of the city on his ranch has damaged the property. The court ruled that the matters arising before the contract was entered into had no place in the allegations of the complaint. The court also overruled all objections to the cost bill in case of John H. Will against George P. Burnett and overruled a demurrer to the complaint in the case of Capitol Securities corporation against Alton E. Nottingham.

The National Whirligig

News Behind the News

By Paul Mallon

Washington—Some eastern republican wets are organizing a sub-rosa insurrection against their party floor leader Bert Snell. They have been quietly buttonholing their brethren in dark corners sounding out the chances of Representative James W. Wadsworth for Snell's job. So far they have met with a fairly good response.

If they get far enough along with their movement they will pit Wadsworth against Snell when leaders of the new congress are chosen after March 4.

The wets seem to feel Snell has not given the republican party in the house the kind of leadership it ought to have. He voted for the Garner repeal resolution but he did not try to push the resolution through. Up to this time he has always been considered a dry.

Back in their minds also is the idea of pushing Wadsworth forward as a presidential candidate in 1936. They think they can build him up to that prominence if they can only get the leadership.

Wadsworth is thoroughly capable. There is no doubt about that. He was in the senate for many years. He lost out when republican dries in his state rebelled against his wet stand. Now the times seem made for him.

Snell got the leadership two years ago by kicking out Tillson. He has been very successful. Both he and Wadsworth are conservative.

Snell has not heard about the movement against him but when he does the fur will fly.

Mister Stinson was peeved about the New York Times saying that laughter came from the room where he and Treasury Secretary Mills

were writing the second debt note to the British.

The secretary of state let it be known that he thought such a trivial thing should not appear in newspapers. He declined to indicate what the laughter was about.

Rumor has it that the unseemly laughter was provoked when Mr. Mills made an observation about two Scotchmen in this debt situation—MacDonald and Herriot with Herriot more Scotch than MacDonald.

It was a new Bishop Cannon who appeared here early in the week. His familiar crutches were gone. So was the cane. He strode erect. His dictatorial manner of drier days was nowhere in evidence. He spoke persuasively before the house beer committee. One of the tricky questions was: "If the supreme court agreed 2.75 percent beer was not a violation of the constitution, would your church punish its members for drinking that beer?"

The bishop's ready answer was: "If a member of my church drank 2.75 percent beer and became drunk, the supreme court would be overruled and the church would act accordingly."

There is no other dry leader here with anything near the bishop's political ability. Evidences are increasing that he seeks return to prominence in the movement. His prospects are not good.

Nobody is paying attention now to the trouble brewing below the Rio Grande. They will within the next few months when it becomes first page news.

The work of Senator Morrow is being undone bit by bit. The latest trivial incident is the protest of Mexico against a flight of American planes over the border November 22. Flares were dropped and ignited forests. That is piled atop a series of other trivialities—the murder of two Mexican boys in the midwest, troubles of consuls with prohibition agents. They make a formidable obstacle to friendliness, all together.

Gov. Roosevelt is keeping in close contact with democratic senators. He sent his economic adviser, Prof. Moley down to see a certain senator last week. Moley was told the senator was busy. His name was not recognized. Nearly two hours later the senate got a long distance telephone call from Albany explaining the Moley visit. The senator sent out scouts to bring Prof. Moley in. They finally found him waiting patiently in the auto chamber, hat in hand. Profuse apologies were delivered.

Bernard Baruch, the New York democratic angel, is wielding a big influence behind the scenes in congress. He manages to keep his name out of the newspapers while doing it. From the best sources comes news that he may be chairman of the American delegation to the proposed world economic conference. If not, he will have a lot to do with naming the delegates.

Strong inside pressure is being exerted in both parties to make Senator Smoot a republican member of the delegation. He would represent the silver states.

The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Research has just reported to the German federal ministry of agriculture the development of a new brand of wheat. It will yield twice as many bushels per acre as the one now planted and is not subject to the law of the diminishing return. If generally adopted this wheat would make Germany independent of imports after 1934. The basis for this discovery was laid in the work of the late Luther Burbank.

The democrats are getting ready to ditch one of their own party members, Atlee Pomerene on the R. F. C. They plan to refuse confirmation of his nomination in the senate and that will put him out March 4. The Texas Jesse Jones, another democrat on the corporation board, is planning to retire then. So is Gardner Cowles, the Des Moines publisher. That means complete reorganization of the R.F.C. by Roosevelt.

A former bartender, Congressman Palmisano of Baltimore, gave the most authentic wet testimony in the beer hearings. With all this argument over the question whether 3



SYNOPSIS: A woods fairy sees a dwarf alive some days he had stolen from Santa to his friends, the toads. She discovers that Ina and Pinocchio, two dolls from Torland, are in the woods hunting the dwarf and the keys. They must find a whistle which calls the toads together.

Chapter XV
GETTING THE WHISTLE
The woods fairy and Inga and Pinocchio walked up the mountain.



The little brown elves worked and worked trying to push a big rock in front of the dwarf's cave to lock him in.

tain to the dwarf's cave trying to think of some way to get from him that whistle with which he called all his toad friends together.

The dwarf meanwhile thought he had fixed everything so well that he just went to sleep in his underground home.

"This dwarf is so strong and so ugly in his nature," explained the fairy to the two dolls, "that I can't send my little wood elves against him."

There didn't seem to be a thing to do. But suddenly Pinocchio looked up above the cave-like door to the dwarf's home and saw several huge rocks hanging on the mountain side.

"Why, if we could push one of those down in front of his door, he couldn't get out," said Pinocchio. "That's a fine idea," said the fairy.

percent beer can make a person drunk, none of the legislators has tried to decide from personal experience. A simple solution would be for each member of congress to drink all the 3 percent beer he can hold and then determine for himself whether he is tight. Maybe the supreme court will do it that way.

"I'll call all my elves together and we'll try to push one of those rocks." She knelt down and tapped three times on the ground and from every tree and bush around there tumbled cunning, little brown men. "Come with us," she said. "We want help to push one of those rocks down here in front of the dwarf's door." So the whole group of them tooped up to a huge, gray rock and started pushing. But not an inch did it move.

"Why, how stupid of me," said Inga. "Here's the basket that is never empty. I'll just pull out a whole bunch of little donkeys. They're very strong."

How the only thing about that basket is that it produces objects in keeping with the size of the person who uses it. And Inga, after all, was only a little doll. So the donkeys were about the size of so many puppies. But she pulled out fifty and they all started pushing with their hard little heads.

They pushed and pushed, and suddenly the rock moved an inch. Then it moved another inch. Then "crash!" and it went rolling down the hill and ended up "smack" against the dwarf's door. There wasn't an inch for him to squeeze through.

Then the whole company ran down the hill to the dwarf crying out inside: "Let me out! Help! I'm all shut in!"

"Not this time," cried Pinocchio. "You're locked up until we get that whistle."

"What whistle?" shouted the dwarf. "I don't know what you mean."

"Yes, you do," cried the woods fairy. "I know about it." And when the dwarf knew she was out there he changed his tune. "If I give it to you, will you help me get out?" he whined.

"Right away, but you must give it to us first."

"All right, here it is. I'm pushing it through this little crack," he called.

Sure enough, there was a tiny silver whistle. Inga grabbed it quickly. But then they had to get that big rock away from the door.

Tomorrow: Getting The Keys

FUSSY WILLOWS BLOOM
Silverton—T. P. Heidenstrom who lives on McClaine street has several trees of pussy willows in full blossom. The trees grow along Silver creek and make an unusual showing at this time of year. Heidenstrom has some cuttings of twigs on display in show windows about town.

Silverton—The baby boy of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Riveness of Marquam is reported critically ill from pneumonia. The family formerly lived here. Mrs. Riveness is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Corehouse.

Mt. Angel—Raymond Fisher is spending a two weeks' Christmas vacation at the home of his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Schwab. Fisher is attending the university at Pullman, Wash.

TRUCKS URGED TO KEEP FROM GRAVELED ROADS

An appeal went out from county court members to truck users not to use county graveled roads for the next few days until they have a chance to settle from the badly softened conditions into which they have relaxed due to thawing of the ground which was frozen from eight to 10 inches deep in the recent spell of sharp weather. The freeze is not all out of the ground yet, they say, regardless of the balmy air.

Reports are now coming in from many sections as to the softened conditions of the county roads.

Some court members went up the Abiqua today on the new market road where bad damage was reported being done by wood trucks hauling over the softened grade. They also expected to inspect a slide reported on the market road above the Silverton power house.

From Broadacre came the report that the new grade there over the railroad track at the Whitney store was so soft that any cars running into it had to be pulled out and it is likely this road will be closed for a few days with traffic routed around the old road.

Bad washes were also reported on a new fill near the Catholic cemetery just north of Woodburn.

Numerous other reports were coming in of minor damage, cut up roads and sloughing on fills. Court members stated that they expected the roads would be back in shape in a few days but there was nothing to do about it but to allow nature to take its course and for heavy trucks to keep off of them. School buses, milk wagons and similar conveyances of necessity must be allowed on the roads but it was intimated if other heavy haulers did not obey the request to keep off that action might be taken toward a temporary closing of the gravel roads until they were again in shape to handle the traffic.

Nearly 1,500 tractors for farm use were imported in South Africa last year.

Methodist Primary Pupils Celebrate

Silverton—The primary department of the Methodist church held a Christmas program Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour. Mrs. S. J. Constock directed the recitations and Miss Diana Moore had charge of music. Mrs. Edson Constock is primary superintendent. Mrs. Ferns Davenport played the piano accompaniment. About 65 little boys and girls took part in the chorus numbers.

Those taking special parts in the affair were Donna Claire Porter, John Cooper, Beverly Davenport, Ruth Melby, Margaret Scott, Louise Ryan, Jean McCleary, Kathleen Ryan, Marian Hubbs, Betty Zetterberg, LaVon Thomas, Jean Campbell, Patricia Hedges, Zephne Givens, Arlene Barker, Louise Bahrke, Agnes Naegli, June Busil, Marjorie Baker, Lloyd Naegli, Donald Chandler and Wallace Adams.

Silverton—The choir of the Methodist church held a Christmas party following practice Monday evening at the church. Bert Day and W. K. Cain were in charge.

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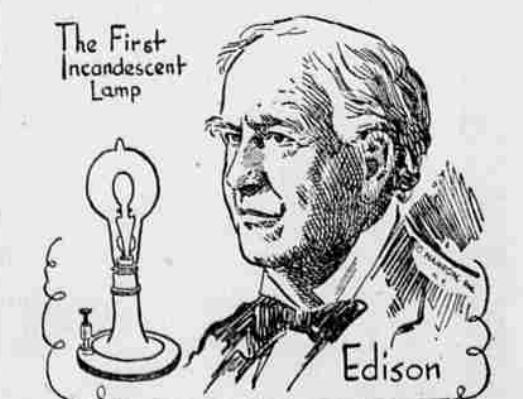
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