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Selective Draft

May Have Loopholes

Many Ways by Which the "Patriot" Might Escape Service

In brewing the Selective Draft bill the dear public was assured that it was the only equitable plan of raising an army; that the rich man's son would find himself in the same pen with his less fortunate brother. That for one time in history this would be the peoples' war. Now comes an intimation from Washington that they are apprehensive that it may be evaded through political or other undue influence whereby so might escape.

South Carolina is giving the department much concern; feudists are particularly active. The Mannings are much interested in getting the Blease faction drafted while they remain at home, while the Blease contingent are equally active in getting the Mannings to the front.

Anyone found aiding in the evasion of the draft law will be given a short shrift. However distasteful the whole thing may be to you it won't bring you any relief to protest.

OBJECT TO LIBERTY LOAN BONDS

Bank Depositors Threaten to Withdraw Funds Because of Investing in Liberty Loan Bonds

Lincoln, Neb.—Reports are being circulated that pro-German sympathizers threaten to withdraw their accounts from banks investing in liberty bonds, and has caused the Nebraska State Council of Defense to instruct county councils to investigate all such cases, which are termed "distinctly acts of treason."

Action will be taken against such persons, according to a letter sent to county councils by the state council.

The Real Issue

The President's apparent change of his conception of why we went to war with Germany is incomprehensible to Congressman Edwin E. Robbins of Pennsylvania. Mr. Robbins thoroughly approved the words of the President when he declared before Congress "We will not choose the path of submission and suffer the most sacred rights of our Nation and our people to be ignored and violated." But we are now treated to an entirely different view of the war. Mr. Wilson proclaiming that we are fighting for humanity and the establishment of democracies. Mr. Robbins asserts that the war will never be popularized with American people if they are told that it is our purpose to go to Europe and overturn established governments; to cast down the German autocracy while re-establishing the monarchy of Belgium, or to drive out the dual monarchy of Austria Hungary while loaning money to the kingdom of Italy. We are fighting Germany because she has attacked our rights on the high seas, and it is the opinion of Mr. Robbins the President is making a fatal mistake when he attempts to alter the principle.

LESE-MAJESTE

San Angelo, Texas.—C. P. Morris of San Antonio, Texas was arrested here last night on charge of having made improper remarks about President Wilson. Other arrests are expected.

SMOKELESS POWDER.

Perils the Workers Who Make This Explosive Must Face.

Smokeless powder is made in sticks, something like macaroni. It goes through a number of processes, and for the sake of safety these processes are conducted in small buildings remote from one another.

In a New Jersey plant the powder is conveyed from one building to another on flat cars drawn by electric motor cars. Six 100 pound open boxes are loaded on each flat car. The wheel trucks have to be blocked by a wooden bar, which the brakeman adjusts before the motor starts.

One day last spring a brakeman failed to adjust his wooden bar properly. The car was derailed, and the powder was spilled down an embankment. No guard happened to be near, and as quickly as possible the brakeman and the motorman shoveled up the powder and put it back on the car. In a few minutes the load was delivered at the grinding house, and no one except the two men knew of the accident. Unfortunately, they had shoveled up some gravel with the powder. The three men in the grinding house heard the harsh crunching of the small stones as they passed through the rollers.

Every powder mill employee receives minute instructions about what to do when anything goes wrong, and one of the three, following instructions, threw open the door to make a way of escape.

The crunching continued. One of the gravel stones emitted a spark as the rollers crushed it. In an instant there was a great flash and a roar, and the building disappeared. Three blackened and mangled corpses were picked up. In order to save themselves from rebuke and perhaps from discharge two workmen had sacrificed the lives of three other faithful men and placed the lives of thousands in jeopardy.

In a Delaware plant a young man operating a cutting machine, in which long sticks of smokeless powder are cut into shorter pieces, saw an iron nail coming down with the powder. He did not have time to stop the machine before the knives struck the nail. If he tried to snatch it out he might lose a hand. If he let it go nothing but a miracle could prevent an explosion, for the nail would be sure to give off a spark if struck by the knife.

There was only the fraction of a second in which to decide. With the coolness that characterizes those who spend their days in the presence of danger, he snatched the nail from under the knife and put it into his pocket. So quickly did he move that not even the skin of his hand was broken.—Youth's Companion.

Another Conspiracy.

The two landladies were comparing notes. "I find it pays, now things are so awfully dear, to serve the breakfast piping hot," said one. "Except on Sundays. Then I serve it cold."

"Why do you do that?" asked the other.

"Well, on weekdays my boarders have to eat breakfast in a hurry, and if it is hot they don't have time to wait for it to cool, and so they eat very little. Sundays they eat less because it is cold. I assure you, Mrs. Jones, but for this discovery I should have lost money these last twelve months."—Exchange.

The Fly and the Matches.

One would be inclined to say that for a fly to empty a box of matches is utterly impossible, yet it can be made to accomplish this feat. Catch an ordinary housefly alive and, taking hold of it carefully by the wings, let it touch a match in an uncovered box with its legs. It will at once grip the match in its endeavors to walk, and on lifting the fly the insect will in turn lift the match. Pull the match away from the fly, and the same maneuver can be repeated time after time until the box is empty.

A Surprised Justice.

In a New England town a local celebrity was brought up before the justice for stealing chickens. The prisoner was noted for never telling the truth when he could help it and consequently there was general surprise when he pleaded guilty. He evidently staggered the justice. He rubbed his glasses and then scratched his head. "I guess—I'm afraid—

Well, Hiram," said he, after a thoughtful pause. "I guess I'll have to have more evidence before I sentence you."

A Boomerang Rebuke.

A certain high school professor, who at times is rather blunt in speech, remarked to his class of boys at the beginning of a lesson. "I don't know why it is—every time I get up to speak some fool talks." Then he wondered why the boys burst out into a roar of laughter.

ODD TRICK OF A BADGER.

The Animal is Able to Turn Almost Around in Its Hide.

It appears that the pelt of an adult badger is extremely thick and difficult for a biting adversary to penetrate, and so loosely does the skin cover the body that the animal is, so to speak, able to turn around in its hide.

Should a dog acquire a hold on the throat the badger turns himself so that the dog's grip is on the back of the badger's neck, without having loosened his first hold. Then the badger secures a viselike grip upon some vulnerable portion of his enemy, and while his long tusks penetrate to the limit he digs and scratches with his front feet, that are furnished with claws almost as formidable and deadly as might be expected from an anteater of the dark continent.

He who has removed the pelt of a badger and is at all observing does not wonder at this animal being sharp bitten and that he is able to hang with bulldog tenacity when the formation and adjustment of its claws are noted. Neither is it much of a mystery how he manages to bore through the soil so rapidly that half a dozen men with shovels cannot overtake him, for he is a mass of cords and muscles, particularly in the neck, chest and shoulders, very similar in physical construction to the ground mole.

The badger toes inward sharply when traveling and always on the walk, twisting here and there very much like the movements of a skunk, while if it be in winter he makes a business of hunting buried dormant woodchucks.

He is a fur bearer of rather coarse quality, and there is a great range of value in the pelts taken, all the way from 10 cents to \$2 or more, depending upon the length of the coat. A badger is chiefly valuable when it has a long coat, so that the guard hairs can be plucked and used to make shaving brushes.—Los Angeles Times.

Burning of the Vanities.

Savonarola once marked his strong condemnation of luxury by collecting a large number of articles which he regarded as vanities during the carnival to be burnt in the Piazza della Signoria, Florence, on Shrove Tuesday, 1497. In this "burning of the vanities" were included fancy costumes, carnival masks, false hair and rouge pots, cards and dice boxes, books and pictures, together with casts and valuable sculptures of questionable character. Built up into a pyramid of seven stages—signifying the seven deadly sins—the pile was burnt by lighting fagots placed in the center, while children standing round sang hymns before the assembled crowds.

Coined in Bedlam.

The phrase "to sham Abraham" was coined in Bedlam, or Bethlehem hospital, where there was at one time an Abraham ward, the inmates of which upon certain days were permitted to go out as licensed beggars on behalf of the hospital. These mendicant lunatics were known as "Abraham men," and their success in invoking the pity of the charitable was such that they had many unlicensed imitators, who, when discovered, were said "to have shammed Abraham."

Wanted to Convert Utopia.

When the "Utopia" was first published it occasioned a pleasant mistake. This political romance represents a perfect but visionary republic in an island supposed to have been somewhere in the Atlantic, near these western shores.

"As this was the age of discovery," says Granger, "the learned Budaeus and others took it for genuine history and deemed it expedient to send missionaries thither to convert the people."—"Book of Queer Things."

FORCES OF ATTRACTION.

Two Perfectly Smooth Surfaces Will Adhere to Each Other.

The ultimate particles or molecules of matter we believe to be held together by powerful forces, known variously as cohesion and adhesion, but being in any case forces of attraction these forces tend to prevent any expansion of the matter, be it solid or liquid. It might be thought that these forces would cause two bodies in contact to adhere to each other, but particles have to be so near together to be acted upon by them that it is difficult to bring bodies into such close contact that an appreciable area of one is within this distance of the other.

However, two clean pieces of lead can readily be pressed so closely together that they will adhere, and a set of copper cubes was once made with such true faces that when a dozen of them were piled one on top of the other the series adhered together so well that the whole could be lifted from the top one. But the best example is furnished by pieces of optical glass whose surfaces have been worked so plane that when pressed together they will as readily break at some other spot as at this plane.

Perhaps it is unfortunate that these useful forces, which hold all matter together and keep it from collapsing into impalpable dust, are confined in their action to such a limited range. If this were not so, a break of any sort could be fixed by merely bringing together the broken ends. Glue of any kind would be unnecessary.

But even this state of affairs would have its drawbacks. A book laid on a table would have to be pried off with a wedge, and the same instrument would be required to open it. Everything would stick to everything else, and the pleasure of walking would be lost in the tedious process of prying first one foot and then the other from the viselike grip of the sidewalk or the floor.

The Original Lovers' Leap.

Sappho's Leap was the name given to a white cliff or promontory anciently called Leucadia, now Cape Ducato, at the southern extremity of Santa Maura, one of the Ionian islands. It was so called because Sappho, the poetess, is reported to have thrown herself from this height into the sea. A criminal, with birds attached to him to break his fall, was thrown from the cliff at the annual festival of Apollo, and if he reached the water unhurt he was picked up by a boat placed there for that purpose. This is the rock from which, according to the story, lovers throw themselves in order to be free from the pangs of love.

Finding His Place.

"The best workmen sometimes make the worst foremen," says Dean Herman Schneider in the American Magazine. "There is the case of a drayman for a big jobbing house who was promoted to foreman because of unusually faithful and loyal work. Forthwith he grew fretful and worried, then his health began to fail. He proved to be one of the most incompetent foremen ever employed by the firm. One day he asked for his old job and became once more happy and efficient."

The Tarantula.

The sting of the tarantula (a name derived from Taranto, a town in Italy), the most venomous of spiders, was popularly supposed to produce a disease called tarantism, which could be cured only by music or dancing, and the dance which cured it was called tarantella. You can see the peasants dance the tarantella now, but without waiting for spider bites.

A Bird Mystery.

After years of study devoted to the topic Professor Alfred Newton of Cambridge stated that without doubt bird migration is the greatest mystery in the entire animal kingdom, "a mystery," he added, "that can be no more explained by the modern man of science than by the simple minded savage of antiquity."

One Day.

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in. Forget them as soon as you can.—Emerson.

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BANK OF FALLS CITY.

Y. M. C. A. ARMY WORK

Up to May 28th Dallas has subscribed \$409.10 for the Army Y. M. C. A. Work for this year. The committee is still busy. Reports are not in for the other towns in the County.

All who wish to contribute and who are not seen by a member of the committee are requested to send their pledge or contribution to Eugene Hayter, Treas.

M. G. Ellis, Secy.

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