

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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BANKRUPTING THEMSELVES

Some time since, we began to read how Union soft coal miners in the east were "hanging on by their eyelids," getting only one or two days work a week, but the coal business has since been all shot to pieces, to judge from an article in a recent number of the Outlook by William Helm, from which we quote as follows:

"Not long ago I ran across a coal man whom I had last seen in the prosperous days of the fall of 1922. At that time he confided to me in a burst of good spirits that he was making more than \$5,000 a day, 'with hardly a turn of the hand—simply getting coal for people who've got to have it.' In addition, he was making a fat profit from his own coal operations.

But when I saw him the other day he was different. He needed a shave, for one thing, and, for another, his natty attire of other days had outlived its nativeness. It was evident, just to look at him, that his prosperity picture had been painted in colors that fade.

"Well, how's everything?" I asked.
"Not so good," he replied. "Fact is, it isn't good at all in the coal industry any more. Shot to pieces—that's the word. And more trouble in sight."

"What's the matter?"
"Same old story—labor trouble. Only this time we haven't got a strike on our hands. We've got what's worse, a war-time wage scale. It's taking the life out of the industry and it's sending almost every operator in the country onto the junk pile."

A contrast, indeed, this talk, with the independence and cocksureness of the industry during the profitable period just after the last big strike, so I pressed him for details.

"How about the non-union operators?" I asked. "They haven't any war-time wage scale. What's wrong with them?"

"No," he said, "you're right. They haven't got high wages to bother them. They're mining more coal and going broke faster than ever in their lives before. They're paying 1917 wages now, from what I hear—they don't publish their figures, you know—digging coal cheaply and running away with all the union markets."

"They've got almost all the business they can handle, and there it ends. There isn't one in a hundred that's making a dollar a week. The trouble is, they've cut one another's throats—blashed 'em from ear to ear—to get the business. Coal is a drug on the market, and to get the business these non-union fellows not only had to bid against union coal but had to outbid one another."

"They are making their selling prices down to cost, just to keep the mines going until the turn comes. And generally when they go back over their figures they find that, instead of exact cost, they've marked their prices down below cost. They're losing money—nearly all of them."

Indings had dripped into the press from time to time, but never so clean-cut a statement as this of conditions in the coal industry today. My acquaintance's gloomy picture seemed worth looking at more closely. Perhaps the Government bureaus dealing with coal could shed more light on conditions. So I decided to check him up, expressing the hope as we said goodbye that his troubles would be relieved.

"So far as I'm concerned," was his parting shot, "that's unlikely. My company went into bankruptcy a few days ago, and I guess I'm pretty well cleaned out for some time to come. Even so, I've got plenty of good coal men to keep me company. And there are plenty more on the way. Lots of 'em will be along soon."

Unfortunately for the soft-coal industry (as distinguished from anthracite, to which incidental reference will be made further) and for the general prosperity of the country, the coal man's picture seemed fully justified in the light of reports to various Governmental agencies at

Washington. Purged of non-essentials, conditions were found to be without a recent parallel in our industrial life.

The coal industry, one high official of the Government told me, is undergoing the pains of contraction at the present time. It has long been recognized as a sufferer from over-development. For years we have had half as many mines again as we needed, half as many workmen again as were necessary to meet our average normal demands.

We are now getting rid of the excess mines and workmen, as this official saw it, by the simple though painful process of eliminating the undesirable. In a pack of hungry and savage animals it might be called the survival of the fittest. In the coal industry it is the long-awaited deflation, overdue for years, that inevitably comes to every business after a great war.

Every other large industry in the country has already readjusted its affairs. The coal industry alone has not. Too many mines, too many men, a wage scale still up in the clouds—these were the outward and visible signs seen by my mentor as the symptoms of the violent internal disturbance, a disturbance which seems destined either to make or break the \$3,000,000,000 soft-coal industry of the United States.

Take the factor of too many mines first. Everybody in the industry recognizes now that it is over-developed. Some of the leading men have recognized this basic trouble for years. Lately the knowledge has become general in the trade.

What has been the result? The natural one, of course; everywhere mines have closed down. In some fields literally hundreds of coal mines have been shut down with a permanency that looks as if it were made for years. Voluntarily and as a self-sacrifice for the good of the industry? Certainly not; in response to the ruthless working of the economic law against waste.

They have been closing down all winter, these soft-coal mines, with a regularity that has chilled the blood of the tens of thousands of workers to whom they have meant a livelihood. And they are still closing down. Hundreds closed down, many of them for years, it is thought, on April 1, the beginning of the new coal year. And still others are to close down in the near future.

AGRICULTURE HONORED

The various bureaus of the department of Agriculture at Washington are now scattered through forty-six cities in the United States. It is now one of the largest departments of the government, with more than 5,000 people employed in that city. It is estimated that when the federal building to house this department is completed it will have cost over seven millions of dollars.

And yet such a thing as the department of agriculture didn't exist forty years ago. It was, we believe until then merely one of the bureaus of the Interior department, which itself is not so old as the writer of these lines.

In fact the only departments of the government we had when Washington was president 135 years ago, were those of the State, Treasury, War and the legal department. Now we question whether a dozen readers can tell off hand how many heads of departments have seats in President Coolidge's cabinet. The war department was divided in President John Adams' time into the two departments of war and navy; but the seventh department, that of the interior, was created in 1849. Three new departments have been established since that date, those of agriculture, commerce and labor, and the first of the three promises to become eventually the greatest of all.

SOON TO BE FINISHED

The Director of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey told the radio audience of the United States that the work of making a complete triangular survey of the United States, begun half a century ago and, now less than one-fourth completed, is to be finished in twenty years or less by the aid of the airplane. No thoroughly accurate map can ever be made until this continent-covering net of triangles is complete.

Fifty Million in Fifty Years
A forecast of New York half a century hence was ventured by Mr. Harvey W. Corbett, President of the Agricultural League of New York. He pictured the city, if its present rate of growth continues, as "fifty miles across, with a dense population of 50,000,000," and with motor traffic impossible, and said that we might then see in this "Babylonian nightmare".....

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

There is no mistaking the sentiment of the people of the United States. A vast majority—an overwhelming majority—favors prohibition. Some persons have thoughtlessly or carelessly aided in making enforcement of the law difficult because they have been influenced by propagandists to believe that enforcement is unpopular. With the organized forces of the Government arrayed on the side of law and order, not today and tomorrow, merely, but henceforth until the last rum ship and the last bootlegger are run to cover, sentiment will as courageously support enforcement as it has seemed, at times in the past, to encourage lawlessness.—Christian Science Monitor.

An extremely violent earthquake will be felt in the northern Pacific ocean on the night of May 20-21, followed by another of equal intensity on May 23, probably in North America, Professor Bendandi, distinguished Italian seismologist, predicted to the United Press the first of this week.

Prof. Bendandi has demonstrated remarkable accuracy in forecasting earthquakes, occasionally a month in advance. His prophecies, made through the United Press, have been borne out in many instances.

Governor Walter M. Pierce has addressed a letter to Governor George W. P. Hunt, Arizona, signifying his intention to join in a request that all public lands, against which no entry has been filed be turned over to the respective states for the latter's benefit. Governor Hunt suggested that the lands be used by the states for maintaining schools, highways, state buildings and public institutions. Oregon, like Arizona, has much land tied up under government control.

That in the life time of millions of people now living in the United States, New York City will have half as many inhabitants as the whole country, now has—fifty millions of people where there are now five or six millions, and where in the times of the writer's grandfather there were only thirteen thousand—is the opinion now expressed by the president of the Architectural League of that city. He foresees 50 million inhabitants for that city in 1975.

Rum ships, driven off American shores by the coast guard blockade, are jamming Halifax harbor as a result of the administration's determination to enforce prohibition to the limit, says a recent press dispatch. Thirteen steamers and schooners are tied up at Halifax. Five arrived Tuesday. They don't know where to turn. Some intend discharging their cargoes and returning to legitimate freight traffic.

William J. Bryan, having secured the passage of the law he asked to prevent the teaching of evolution in Tennessee, is going to assist in the first prosecution under that law. Clarence Darrow, of Chicago, and Dudley Malone, of New York, have also volunteered to appear for the defense. The attempt to settle the truth of the doctrine of evolution by laws and legal proceedings looks silly to us.

Included in the cargo of the West Jessup, which arrived at Portland May 4th with a miscellaneous cargo from China and the Philippine Islands were over eight tons of human hair contained in 50 bales which two days later was placed aboard the steamer Katrina Luckenbach for delivery in Galveston where the hair will be split and cleaned and sent back to China for further manufacture.

Policeman Earl Bell, of Ventura, California, claims the biggest catch of the season to date. Bell, while fishing in the surf there, hooked such a "big one" that it took half an hour to land it. When it was brought to shore it turned out to be a case of bonded Scotch whiskey tied in a tow sack.

At O. A. C. May 30

A spectacular parachute jump from an airplane at an altitude of 5,000 feet will be one of the features of the annual military tournament of the Oregon Agricultural college on May 30. A squadron of airplanes will be present under the leadership of Lieutenant Oakley G. Kelley, the famous army aviator who made the first and only non-stop flight across the American continent in 1922. The Southern Pacific railroad makes a special rate of one fare and a half from every station in the state for this date.

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Is This the Missing Link?

Speaking of a recent discovery of the skull of a fossil of an anthropoid ape in a lime cliff at Buxton, in Bechuanaland, South Africa, Prof. R. A. Dart of the Witwatersrand University of Johannesburg, South Africa, says in Sunday's Portland Oregonian:

One of these pieces of stone I immediately recognized as the cast of the cranial cavity of a creature which was closely related to the largest living anthropoid apes, but more intelligent than they. This cast in stone of the creature's brain case was found to fit accurately by its front end into one of the larger rock fragments, so one recognized that the facial skeleton of the creature must be present in this solid block of limestone.

A month of steady work first with hammer, chisel and saw, and later with sharpened knitting needles and meat skewers, proved this to be the case. Then there stood revealed, intact and uncrushed, virtually the entire face of a baby—the first record of a group of creatures long since extinct, but which were more human in features and in brain power than any anthropoid apes now living on the face of the earth.

Why is it that so simple and so apparently haphazard a discovery is of interest to scientist and layman alike? Why is it that amongst numerous and seemingly more vital scientific discoveries the imagination of all humanity, skeptical or believing, is gripped by the Taungs infant? It is because every thinking man and woman has weighed through many hours the perplexing problems of "Whence have I come? What am I doing? Whither am I going?" and it is because, amidst a myriad of philosophical hypotheses, science provides concrete and tangible evidence in answer to the first of this fundamental trinity of inquiry, that youth and man alike eagerly scan the writing in the rocks.

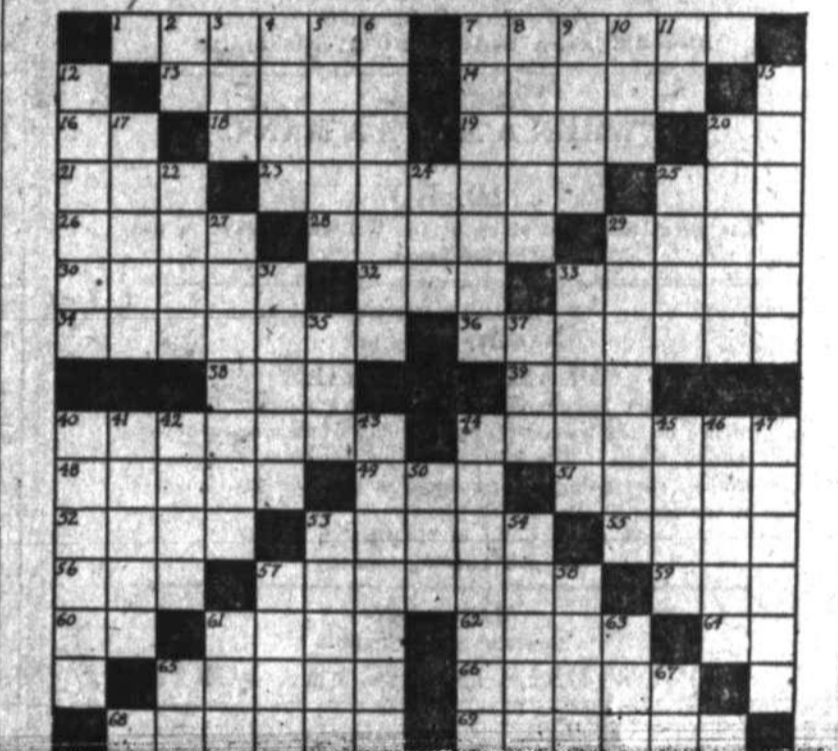
Just a century ago Charles Darwin entered Edinburgh as a medical student and began those studies which were destined to have a greater repercussion upon humanity than the work of any man within historical memory, by bringing mankind to the recognition of their evolution by the operation of natural laws. It is fitting that the centenary of his entry upon a medical career in one of the older universities of the far north should be commemorated in a medical school of one of the youngest universities of the far south by the discovery of an object presenting crucial evidence, so far as mankind is concerned, in support of his staggering assumption.

It is most fortunate, says Dr. William Matthew, of the American Museum of National History, that this discovery came to the hands of Professor Dart, who has made a special study of human and comparative anatomy, especially of the brain. His observations and conclusions are accepted as of the highest authority by those who know him.

This new link between man and the higher apes will require most careful and detailed research before its true position can be exactly determined. Any opinions at present are more or less provisional. There is, however, as Dr. Dart points out, more evidence to go on than in almost any of the previously discovered "missing links."

An important point which has not been fully discussed as yet is the geological age of the specimen. If it belongs to the Miocene or Pliocene period it might be regarded as a common ancestor or near-ancestor of man and the higher apes. If, on the other hand, it belongs to the Pleistocene

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 19



- Horizontal:
- Where Easter eggs are alleged to come from
 - Rhetorical interpretation of the scriptures among Jewish rabbis
 - Dig
 - Make happy
 - Conjunction
 - Friday
 - Absence of anything
 - Note of musical scale
 - Deface
 - Half inch
 - Father (Cell.)
 - Ship's prison
 - Belonging to you
 - Part of the ear
 - Parcellet of oats
 - One (French)
 - Courage
 - Lattice work
 - Wood lice
 - Unusually small part of matter
 - Native metal
 - Mar
 - Brewery
 - Whistles
 - Same as 29 horizontal
 - Overhasty in action
 - Sacred song or poem
 - Shakespearean king
 - Beverage
 - Clattered
 - One of the words you use when singing a song of which you don't know all the words
 - Addition to a letter
 - Threw
 - News article one paragraph long
 - Roadway (abbr.)
 - Painting dealing with everyday life
 - Foot
 - One who makes a sacrifice to a principle
 - Meeting place
- Vertical:
- Commercial notice (abbr.)
 - Nickname of famous printer
 - Stain
 - Device composing elephant's tusk
 - Thin, slender
 - Place in the middle (var. sp.)
 - Wood of the agalloch
 - Fetter
 - Consumed
 - French article
 - Fight
 - Profess
 - Sixteen
 - Work
 - Go up
 - Source of heat
 - Long stick
 - Biblical giant
 - Of or pertaining to the side
 - Schemes
 - Deformity in which foot is grown inward
 - Legal combination (abbr.)
 - Card game
 - Narrow pieces of flexible material
 - Flint
 - Pieces of hot fuel
 - Flower
 - Groom
 - One who plays a stringed instrument
 - Encourage
 - Cog wheels
 - Mistakes in printing
 - Reagent
 - Ward of a blow
 - Automatic registering instrument
 - Person of small stature
 - Contradict
 - Obj. of the
 - Writings (abbr.)
 - Southern state (abbr.)
 - And (French)
- Solution will appear in next issue.

period it is a contemporary of early man himself and would be regarded rather as a survivor of that hypothetical common ancestor, little altered perhaps, but not quite the same thing. Also, such a survivor found in South Africa would not signify that Africa was the cradle of primitive man, any more than the modern survival of the primitive Australian native indicates that man originated in Australia. It would point quite the other way. This is one of many interesting problems in connection with the Taungs skull that will be discussed during the next few years.

Like the Jukes Family

Three families in Oregon contribute approximately 60 per cent of the inmates of the state home for the feeble-minded and 40 per cent of the wards of the state training school, according to a statement made by Dr. J. N. Smith, superintendent of the feeble-minded home in an address at the Willamette University. "The members of these families are increasing rapidly, said Dr. Smith, "and have created a serious problem. Heredity, which is influenced materially

Solution of Puzzle No. 18.

A	O	B	O	E	S	A	L	O	O	N	
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	S	P	E	A	K
C	O	T	U	R	N	L	A	R	D	M	
E	R	G	S	E	E	A	D	O	T	C	
N	O	N	E	T	R	E	V	E	B	A	S
T	I	A	R	A	G	P	U	P	I	L	
D	R	A	M	I	N	C	L	I	N	E	
Z	O										
C	A	S	E	M	E	N	T	E	E	M	
B	U	I	L	D							
A	L	L									
I	T	R	B	A	G	E	M	D	A	M	
Y	U	R	A	T	E						
R	A	I	S	E	D						
T	E	N	D	E	R						

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by environment, plays an important part in shaping the destinies of society. It is my opinion that people generally underestimate heredity in dealing with our social problems."