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THEATRE FIRE PANICS

As is usually the case, the appalling loss of children's lives in the Montreal theatre disaster resulted wholly from panic and not from fire, as the blaze was a trivial one. To all intents and purposes the Montreal theatre was built for safety of its patrons in case of fire. It had four ample exits. Three of these through coolness of direction on the part of ushers permitted the lower floor and one side of the balcony to be emptied with order and without injury. But the fourth exit became jammed with little human bodies as the result of panic where panic was not justified and where competent direction would have guided the little ones safely to the street. Apropos of the Montreal tragedy, attention of Press readers is here called to conditions of safety under which the local theatre is conducted, in strict conformity with regulations laid down by the office of the State Fire Marshal. The aisles in the Standard Theatre more than conform to required width; there are four exits—all in straight line—leading from the auditorium and three exits with out-swinging doors leading from the building; the operator's booth is lined entirely, sides, roof and floor, with iron; the projecting machine, modern in every respect, is equipped with automatic fire shutter, and two approved fire extinguishers are at the hand of the two operators, one of whom must be constantly at the side of the machine. These precautionary methods are not only employed at the Standard Theatre, but are required of all theatres, and these requirements result in holding theatre fires down to trivial consequence so far as fire damage is concerned—the mere loss of several thousand feet of film and a water-drenched operating booth, where the fire is bound to be confined until extinguished long after the audience has had plenty of time to retire from the building. For example, picture film is made of celluloid, it is highly inflammable and so sensitive to heat that it will stand exposure in one spot less than half a minute when stopped in front of the powerful lamp globe in the machine. It is the stoppage of film in the process of passing through the machine before the globe's powerful ray of electric light that causes the film to burst into flame. To prevent this, two appliances serve in the capacity of protection. The second film stops still in the aperture plate in front of the light, the automatic shutter falls in front of the plate, directly across the light ray. This failing to function, a hand shutter is there for instant use by the operator, who has absolutely nothing to do while the picture is running, but to be ready to trip the hand shutter and keep the picture in frame on the screen. But in event a film fire should occur in the Standard booth, the booth would be instantly closed. The flame, no more than of ordinary fireplace dimension or intensity, but accompanied by billows of black smoke would burn for perhaps five minutes before breaking through into the main building, if not controlled by the fire extinguishers sooner. Thus it will be seen that plenty of time is given for all to quit the building in no danger whatever. In event the theatre were to be emptied, a few cool heads would prevail for quiet and orderly exit. The children in front would go through the two rear exits, passing through the big door at the back end of the building. Some of the adults would go that way, but the bulk of the audience would pass out to the street through the two big double door exits in front. And once starting out, no one should attempt to turn back, seeking somebody. Right there would ensue the inevitable struggle and scramble in which the ones on the floor would be trampled by the ones on top. And always, always remember that if it should occur, for every long minutes a film booth fire is no bigger than the blaze in your fireplace at home—that it is confined within iron walls, and only that the smoke is bigger and blacker.

MILLION A DAY TAXES

One million freight cars loaded each week and seven million dollars paid in taxes every seven days, were among railroad records of 1926, according to J. T. Saunders, freight manager for Southern Pacific company.

We have just closed the first year in the history of American railroading during which the car-loadings of the Class 1 roads have averaged a million a week," Saunders said. "It was also the first year in which the taxes paid by these railroads amounted to more than a million dollars a

day. If rail revenues were derived entirely from freight service it is evident that every car loaded would have to pay \$7 of railroad taxes. Freight service, however, accounts for about three-quarters of the railroad's total operating revenues, so the tax paid by each carload would be approximately \$5.25. The net revenue for each freight car loaded on this company's Pacific Lines during 1926 averaged less than \$35. If this basis was maintained during 1926 the \$5.25 in taxes would amount to about 15 per cent on the net revenue per car. For 1925 our Pacific Lines taxes, both Federal and state, averaged 8.3 per cent of total gross revenues received. Railroads probably are the only business enterprises in America taxed in excess of the total amount of dividends paid to stockholders, the owners of properties which move the bulk of the nation's commerce.

Uncle Sam and John Bull talked for the first time over the new radio phone service between New York and London, Friday forenoon. "Hello," "Are You There?" passed in mid-ocean, and that was all there was to the successful beginning of a new means of communication between America and Britain.

Republicans are asking for changes in the Washington state primary laws which will tend to restore party responsibility. Just to what the extent of responsibility asked for, may be gagged opposition to the change.

A gallant young old groom of 82 winters, took a winsome young old bride of 80 summers and filled out the first marriage license for 1927, issued at Corvallis. May they live long and prosper.

Charlie Chaplin has brought a \$500,000 damage suit against the Pictorial Review Publishing company, which shows that Charlie is chasing after the coin when off the screen as well as on.

The Los Angeles Times observes that automobiles may be putting a few railroad trains out of business, but not when they meet on grade crossings.

A wise man once said: "If you marry the right woman, there's nothing like it; if you marry the wrong woman, there's nothing like it."

Long Creek has been visited by an air plane—under forced landing. Long Creek is not far from beaten paths, after all.

Klamath Falls, Eugene and Salem stepped up in building operations in 1926, each with a gain of more than \$1,000,000.

Sold by Auction

Morganatic marriages of royalty are freely discussed, but perhaps the most curious stories are about the auctioning of wives which took place as recently as 90 years ago. According to the Annual Register the inhabitants of Carlisle witnessed the sale of a wife by her husband, Joseph Thompson, in 1832. A bellman was sent round to give notice of the sale, which attracted the attention of thousands. The woman stood on a large oak chair with a rope or halter of straw round her neck, and Thompson addressed the crowd.

After an hour or two she was purchased by a pensioner for the sum of 20 shillings and a Newfoundland dog! —London Tit-Bits.

His First Love Affair

If a boy who has been notoriously careless of his personal appearance suddenly begins to show some interest in the condition of his face, neck, ears and wrists; agonizes over the part in his hair; takes his fingernails out of mourning; discovers overnight that a toothbrush is of practical value instead of uselessly ornamental, and demands a clean shirt every day; if, we say, and when, this amazing metamorphosis occurs, remember the basis on which the old French detective used to go to work—"find the woman." There isn't another thing under the sun that will produce such a revolution. —Philadelphia Inquirer.

Tower Famous Landmark

As a landmark, nothing can equal a tower in a hilltop. For instance, the noted tower on the top of Leith hill, the culminating point of the North Downs, England, can be seen 40 miles away.

The story goes that it marks the spot where an eccentric farmer of the neighborhood was buried on horseback, and upside down, so that when the world was turned topsy-turvy at the last day he would be in the right position. This story is probably founded on the fact that Mr. Hall of Leith place built the tower in 1766, and was buried there six years later.

D. J. McFaul, M. D.

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The KITCHEN CABINET

(© 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)
 To try is better than the thing you try for;
 To hope is higher than the thing attained;
 To love is greater than the love you sigh for;
 To seek is nobler than the object gained;
 To wrestle with the angel—this avails
 Although the motive for the wrestling falls.

POPULAR FOOD

Now is the time for all good housekeepers to serve the wild mushroom.

It will be found in woods and pastures and when served with cream on toast makes a dish of rare flavor. Broiled mushrooms are delicious. Place the caps on a buttered broiler and cook well on the top, turn and cook on the other side; in each cap place a lump of butter and serve on toast, or as a garnish for broiled steak.

Deviled Mushrooms.—Mix a teaspoonful of mustard, a dash of cayenne, a teaspoonful of Worcestershire sauce and half a teaspoonful of paprika, cover broiled mushrooms with this mixture and serve on hot buttered toast.

Grape Mold.—Take four tablespoonfuls of granulated gelatin, soften with two tablespoonfuls of cold water, then add the juice and grated rind of a lemon, two and one-half cupfuls of grape juice and one-half cupful of sugar. Stir until well dissolved and the gelatin has begun to thicken, then add one-half pound of grapes seeded and skins removed. Pour into a wet mold and set away on ice to harden.

Date, Nut and Pineapple Salad.—Chop a cupful of dates and three good-sized apples, add a cupful of chopped celery and a cupful of broken nut meats, one-half pound of seeded and skinned grapes. Mix all together and heap on a slice of pineapple which has been marinated in French dressing. Serve with mayonnaise dressing. Marshmallows may be used in place of nuts if cut fine.

Peach d'Armour.—Fill tall glasses with peach ice cream and sufficient raspberry juice to run down through the glasses and color the cream. On top place a spoonful of plain vanilla ice cream and garnish with a fresh raspberry or two.

When stirring food in a small dish on the stove steady it by using a clothespin.

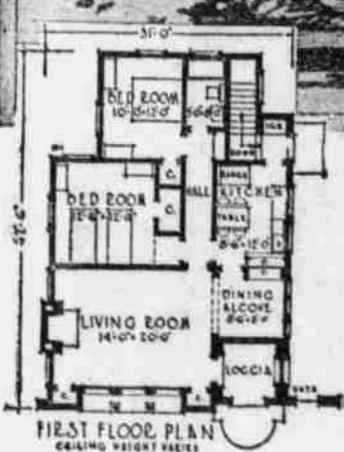
Nellie Maxwell

Eugene Council Names Mayor.
 Eugene, Or. — A. L. Williamson, member of the council for the past four years, was elected mayor of Eugene at a special meeting called last week. Five of the eight members of the council were present. Mayor Lee was elected by the council about a month ago to serve the unexpired term of former Mayor E. B. Parks and was re-elected at the last election. He resigned a short time ago, effective January 1.

Cold Feet

"Do you suffer from cold feet?" the doctor asked the young wife.
 "Yes," she replied.
 He promised to send her some medicine.
 "Oh," she replied nervously, "they're not—not mine."

Practical Four-Room Plan for That "Castle in Spain"



planned to give the housewife the greatest comfort and step-saving. Everything about the house has been planned to give the utmost in stability and real home comfort. The walls and ceilings are insulated throughout with celotex to cut down the coal bills in winter and keep the house cool in the summer. Who could wish for a more beautiful little home.

Wind's Great Effect on Personal Comfort

Personal comfort at any time of the year depends to an astonishing degree on wind; that is on the motion of the air. An interesting experiment, described by a writer in the American Magazine, illustrates the point.

To find out the different effects of still air and of air in motion, a man was shut up in a telephone booth. The booth contained an electric fan and it also had tubes through which fresh air could be supplied. The man had a lighted cigarette.

With the electric fan going, and with no fresh air coming in through the tubes, the man was comfortable, even after his cigarette had gone out because of lack of oxygen to burn. But when he was shut up in the booth without the fan being turned on, he was soon in great discomfort, even though he was being supplied with fresh air through the tubes.

"Curiosity Killed the Cat"

Just how this saying got started is unknown. There was an old proverb that a cat has nine lives, yet care would wear them out. Another version of the proverb is that though she had nine lives care killed the cat. Probably "curiosity killed the cat" is merely a corruption of the former saying. Its popularity seems to rest on the alliteration of the three hard "c" sounds, rather than on the sense of the expression.—Exchange.

CLASSIFIED

Donald McFadyen will have Rhode Island Red baby chicks to sell this season also White Leghorns. Can do some custom hatching at 7 cents per chick. Prices on baby chicks will be quoted in next issue of The Press.

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