The Way of Life
By BRUCE BARTON

PROPHETS

A man who was an officer in France told me this story, which is interesting and may be true.

He said that on November 10, 1918, a friend of his went into our headquarters and stopped beside the desk of an officer who was engaged in statistical work. The officer had been so busy with his charts and figures that he had hardly left his office for days.

The visitor said to him: "Well, I guess it's about all over."

"What do you mean?" asked the statistician.

"Why, the armistice will be declared tomorrow."

"Nonsense," the statistician exclaimed. "This war is going on for another five years." **Whereupon he drew out his graphs nad his charts and proceeded to prove it.**

Here's another story, told me by a banker.

In November, 1930, the ten leading economists of the United States held a secret conclave and took a ballot on how long the business depression would last.

One of them said it would be over in six months.

Four said it would last from one to three years.

The other five said it would last from three to five years.

"If they are right, the outlook is pretty gloomy isn't it?"

I said it certainly was.

"There is just one joker in the story as I told it," he added. "That the meeting was not held in November, 1930. It was held in November, 1920. And that depression came to a close, as we now know, in August, 1921."

Looking back over history, we can see that prophecy has always been a dangerous business. But as between the optimistic prophets and the pessimistic the balance is in favor of the optimists.

Old Mother Shipton, in the early 1500's, prophesied that "iron upon the sea would float as easily as a wooden boat." She foretold the air-plane, the submarine, and the telephone. She was suspected then of being crazy, but she does not look so crazy now.

John Law, of Mississippi Bubble fame, sold shares in his vast concessions on this continent. Speculation ran them up to wild prices, and the ensuing panic ruined thousands. But those concessions represented the richest part of the United States. Even at their highest prices they would be cheap today.

I do not intend to join the ill-fated company of prophets. I merely record my general agreement with the late P. T. Barnum, who said:

"If the truth were known I think it would be found that in this wide-awake country more people are fooled by believing too little than ever were fooled by believing too much."

GESTURES

A great many, perhaps most, of the things that are done by individuals and groups, in and out of politics, don't mean anything. They are merely gestures, uusally for self-advertisement. They often puzzle people who think there must be a deep motive behind every human action, whereas most of our actions are motiveless.

"Jimmy" Walker goes to California to plead for the pardon of Tom Mooney, convicted bomb-thrower. Why? A dozen explanations are offered, but so far as the importance of the action is concerned it can be dismissed as a mere gesture on the part of the mayor of New York.

Fifteen hundred well-fed "hunger marchers" converge on Washington, mainly by automobile. A serious Communist uprising? Nothing of the kind; merely a gesture to attract attention to a tourist group that loves the limelight. Folks intending to do serious things don't advertise their intention in advance.

In judging human actions a safe general rule is that most people who do things that get their names into the newspapers, do them for no other purpose than that—to get their names into the newspapers.

COLONELS

Just before his term of office ended, on December 7, Governor Flem D. Sampson of Kentucky commissioned me a Colonel in his staff. That was another gesture, signifying nothing but the climax of a jesting remark on my part that the best seats in the grandstand at the Louisville race track seemed to be reserved for the Governor's staff. I don't know how many state colonels there are with these Kentucky titles, but at least I'm in good company and plenty of it.

In France, when the Government wants to make a friendly gesture toward one of its citizens or a visitor, it bestows the ribbon of the Legion of Honor upon him. Italy gives the title of "Commendatore." Kentucky makes him a Colonel. All of those are merely graceful gestures.

POET

Nicholas Vachel Lindsay, tramping the countryside and reciting his poems for his meals and lodging, was the nearest approach in our time to the wandering minstrels of the Middle Ages, the Bards and Minnesingers who recited their heroic epics in the halls of the great or sang their ballads from house to house. In that wise blind Homer, "father of epic poetry," recited his Iliad and Odyssey in ancient Greece.

Vachel Lindsay is dead. The world has lost a real poet, America a great interpreter of the national spirit. His splendid voice, with its dramatic quality that made the hearer seem to see the scenes he described, has been preserved for posterity in phonograph records made at Columbia University.

Lindsay's greatest poem, in my opinion, is "General William Booth Enters Into Heaven." Reading it, one hears the boom of the bass drums in the Celestial brass band! I hope that when Vachel Lindsay's spirit entered into that Heaven in which he so profoundly believed, the angelic brasses blared for him, too.

FARMERS

To hear politicians and uninformed city folk talk, anybody would get the idea that all of the farmers in the United States were on the verge of starvation. Anybody who knows the facts about farming in any part of the country knows that is nonsense. It is the "one-crop," speculative farmers who are constantly clamoring to Congress for "relief."

I heard C. F. Collisson, farm editor of the Minneapolis Tribune, tell a group of New York business men the other day how the efforts of his newspaper, in ten years, have cut down the wheat acreage in four states and made the products of the cow, the sow and the hen worth several times as much as the wheat crop was ever worth in its best days. He suggested that butter and eggs ought to be quoted on the produce Exchange instead of wheat. They would be a better index of the farmer's buying power.

TEETH

Eskimos have the best teeth of any race of people, but when Eskimo children are given candy their teeth begin to decay, Professro Waugh of Columbia University told a meeting of dentists in New York the other day. Other dentists agreed that too much reliance should not be placed on the tooth-brush alone as a preventive of tooth decay.

We are just beginning to learn that Nature makes no allowances for civilization. Our bodies are just as primitive, and require just as much exercise and just the same food elements as those of the primitive folk who had nothing to eat except what each for himself could catch ro kill, dig out of the ground or pick off a bush or a tree.

R. L. Benge was taken to Heppner hospital the end of the week for treatment. He was reported to be responding well.

Reason for Failure of Car Drivers Reported

Reasons for the failure of some persons to pass the new operators' examination and to receive a license to drive an automobile in Oregon are covered in a tabulation prepared this week by Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state.

"While 3,699 applicants have successfully passed the three parts of the operators' examination and have been licensed since July, a number of persons have either failed or neglected to complete the steps necessary in the tests," states Mr. Hoss. "Of these latter, some failed the first time on the examination relating to rules of the road. These persons with a little more study of the law would be able undoubtedly to pass the examination, but they have never returned to take a second examination. We make every effort to help them and supply applicants with questions and answers prior to their examinations.

"Applicants are privileged to try again and again if necessary until they successfully pass the tests, and our examiners have been instructed to aid in every way possible the applicant who has difficulty with any part of the examination."

Included in the group who have not completed the steps required are 5 persons who failed on the first driving test. These applicants are perhaps taking further instruction and may return for examination at a later date. Only a few have failed on a second try at questions on the rules of the road and on their second trial at actually demonstrating their ability to operate a motor vehicle.

Failure to pass the vision tests given by the division examiners has kept several persons from completing their examination. They have been asked to obtain a certificate from someone competent that they would be considered safe drivers and if possible to have their vision corrected. This permits the person who fails to pass the department tests to get expert optometrical advice as to whether he is able to see sufficiently to drive before a license is refused him. Many persons have learned for the first time during the vision tests that they have minor eye troubles, which while not sufficient to prohibit them from driving are such that the individual is glad to know about them so that steps may be taken to counteract any more serious difficulties later.

At present, 233 persons have passed the tests on knowledge of the motor vehicle laws and the vision and hearing tests and are driving with temporary instruction permits until they have sufficient familiarity with the actual operation of a car to enable them to take the driving test. These permits are good for 90 days and require that the applicant have a registered driver with him in the front seat of the car while he is learning.

"An outstanding fact in the conduct of examinations thus far," states Mr. Hoss, "is the revelation that even those persons who have failed to pass certain portions of the tests have seen the value in such examinations and have expressed their satisfaction with the law and the methods which have been followed in carrying out its provisions."

Run a G.-T. Want Ad.

Gilliam & Bisbee's
VARNISH DEAL
Saves You Money

With every quart of **QUICK-STEP VARNISH** at the regular price of **$1.25 per qt.** you get a 3-inch bristle Varnish Brush that sells at 60 cents.

This Quick-Step sale continues for 30 days only and will close on the evening of December 17th.

QUICK-STEP is the ideal varnish for floors as well as for all kinds of woodwork.

In addition to the above we will be glad to furnish you anything in the Paint and Varnish line.

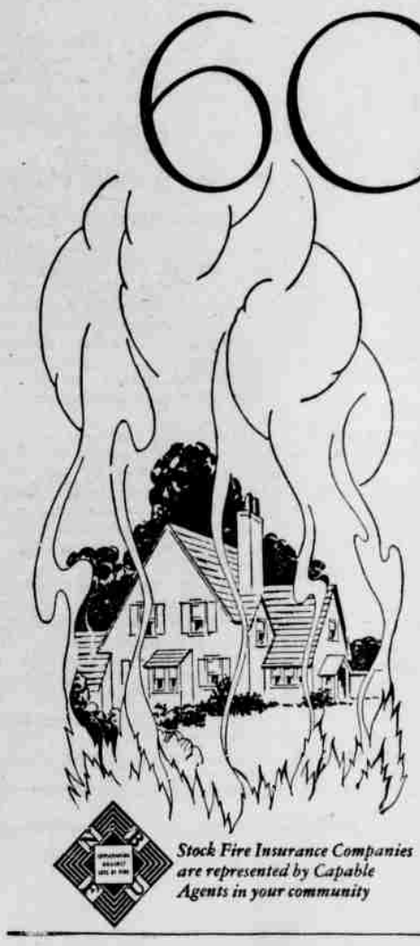
GILLIAM & BISBEE

POISON
in Your bowels!

Poisons absorbed into the system from souring waste in the bowels, cause that dull, headachy, sluggish, bilious condition; coat the tongue; foul the breath; sap energy, strength and nerve-force. A little of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin will clear up trouble like that, gently, harmlessly, in a hurry. The difference it will make in your feelings over night will prove its merit to you.

Dr. Caldwell studied constipation for over forty-seven years. This long experience enabled him to make his prescription just what men, women, old people and children need to make their bowels help themselves. Its natural, mild, thorough action and its pleasant taste commend it to everyone. That's why "Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin," as it is called, is the most popular laxative drugstores sell.

DR. W. B. CALDWELL'S
SYRUP PEPSIN
A Doctor's Family Laxative



60 PER CENT of all FIRES occur in homes

To reduce these hazards, Stock Fire Insurance companies—through the National Board of Fire Underwriters and other organizations—maintain many helpful services.

STOCK FIRE INSURANCE

considers the *protection* of homes and communities no less important than the payment of losses.

Stock Fire Insurance Companies are represented by Capable Agents in your community

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS
85 John Street, NEW YORK
CHICAGO, 222 West Adams Street • SAN FRANCISCO, Merchants Exchange Bldg.
A National Organization of Stock Fire Insurance Companies Established in 1866
W 404

RELIEF
From Headaches
Colds and Sore Throat
Neuritis, Neuralgia

Don't be a chronic sufferer from headaches, or any other pain. There is hardly an ache or pain Bayer Aspirin tablets can't relieve; they are a great comfort to women who suffer periodically. They are always to be relied on for breaking up colds.

It may be only a simple headache, or it may be neuralgia or neuritis, rheumatism. Bayer Aspirin is still the sensible thing to take. Just be certain it's Bayer you're taking; it does not hurt the heart. Get the genuine tablets, in this familiar package for the pocket.

SAFE
BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

U.R.Thrifty

They used to joke about "Chicken Feed"

But now it has come to be a substantial source of income on the well managed farm, this poultry money.

And properly so. Any man with two hundred hens can earn a supporting income and keep out of debt. We know because some of them are our customers.

You can too—Need any help?

Farmers and Stockgrowers National Bank
There is No Substitute for Safety

In Step With Fashion

What a difference there is in footwear. Your shoes must fit—they must also compliment the rest of your clothing.

Peters "Diamond Brand shoes are truly "In Step With Fashion" and the newest styles are just adorable.

You will be surprised at the low prices on this quality footwear.

Bedroom Slippers for All the Family
Give Footwear For Christmas
GONTY'S

MACMARR STORES

We've searched the finest markets to bring you the season's most palatable foods—foods fairly teeming with healthfulness. Pure, wholesome candies, too—satin mixes, chocolates, gum drops, crystallized cremes, crispy peanut brittle—candy so delicious it fairly melts in your mouth! All especially priced for holiday needs. This is the year to make dreams come true, to have all those wonderful treats you always wanted, with no bug-a-boo of extravagance to mar your enjoyment. Come, shop and save!

Prices Effective Sat., Dec. 19, to Thurs., Dec. 24, Inc.

BACON	Eastern Corn Fed, medium weight well streaked	Lb. 20c
POWD. SUGAR	XXX Grade—to top off your fine cake.	5 Lbs. 45c
COFFEE	MacMarr, Heppner's favorite	3 Lbs. 95c
SHORTENING	White and fluffy and always fresh.	8 Lbs. 83c
MILK	Federal Brand, a western product, tall tins.	15 tall tins 98c
PUMPKIN	For those delicious pies	2 No. 2 Tins 19c
OYSTERS	5-oz. tins Blue Sea	4 Tins 45c
SHRIMP	5-oz Tins, fancy pack	2 Tins 29c
OLIVES	Large tins, fancy ripe	2 Tins 25c
POP CORN	Jolly Time, it always pops.	5 Lbs. . . 39c
PEEL	Citron, Lemon, Orange	Per Lb. . 29c
MINCE MEAT	The finest we ever sold.	2 Lbs. . . 29c
CURRANTS	Maximum Brand	15-oz. Pk. 19c

XMAS CANDIES — Our Candies are all pure sugar products made in our own factory in Los Angeles—one of the finest in the west.

SATIN MIX	Splendid flavor and a wide variety of colors—a pure product.	2 Lbs. 25c
BROKEN MIX	No better mix candy can be found anywhere.	2 Lbs. 29c
O. F. CHOCOLATES, P. N. BRITTLE		2 Lbs 35c
MONSTER GUMS	JUST MELT IN YOUR MOUTH	
FRENCH MIX	The finest fancy mix you positively ever saw.	2 Lbs. 39c
CHOC CHERRIES	The very best, packed in fancy 1-lb. boxes	Per Box 45c
Fancy Box Chocolates	Not a cheap assortment, nothing but the best money can buy. 2½-Lb. Box	89c
MIX NUTS	A good mixture of your favoritte kinds. 3 LBS.	50c
WALNUTS	No. 1, small size, 2 Lbs. 37c; Fancy No. 1's ..... 2 Lbs. 55c	
PEANUTS	Very economical	2 Lbs. 29c
BRAZILS	1931 Crop	2 Lbs. 33c
ALMONDS	Soft Shelled	2 Lbs. 35c
HAZEL NUTS	Oregon	2 Lbs. 45c
SQUASH	For delicious pies	Per Lb. 1c
CR. BERRIES	Western	Per Lb. 15c
CRACKERS	Snowflakes in 2-lb. Caddy	Cdy 29c
Mayonnaise	Best Foods	Per Pint 29c
DATES	Fancy and full of syrup	4 Lb.s 45c
ORANGES	Medium Size	3 Doz. 39c

106 N. Main St. ❖ FREE DELIVERY ❖ Phone 1082