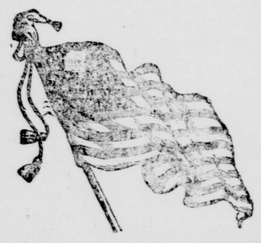
American Union.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1921.

America First.



Liberty Justice.

Parcel Post System and the Salary of the Fourth Class Postmaster.

By W. H. BROPHY, National League of Postmasters.

One of the crying needs of the service is a classified civil service status for third and fourth class postmasters. The parcel post system has placed a burden on the postmasters of this class that is all out of proportion to their compensation. Since the parcel post system was established it has grown to gigantic proportions, and in the smaller towns, where a large percentage of buying is done from mail order houses, it forms the bulk of the mail handled.

The present compensation of the fourth-class postmaster is fixed on conditions that existed a half century ago. His pay is based on a percentage of the cancellation of stamps in the outgoing mail. Incoming mail is from three to eight times greater than the outgoing mail, and the postmaster gets nothing for handling it. That means that he has from three to eight times more work to do free than his paid work.

An adequate wage scale, based on the hours of service required and the amount of work performed, is what the National League of Postmasters stands for, and congress will be asked to grant such scale at the coming session.

We Need More Super-Normal and Fewer Sub-Normal Persons in America.

By PROF. RUDOLPH M. BINDER, New York University.

No sane person can look at the 200,000 paupers and prisoners and 250,000 insane in our country with equanimity, especially when he finds that they are breeding faster than the prudent and thrifty part of the population. We need more super-normal and fewer sub-normal persons

There are two ways of bettering human conditions, by improving the individual and by improving the race. If segregation and sterilization are both resorted to the problem of crime, insanity and sickness would be largely solved within a century. The asylums, prisons and hospitals would decrease appreciably; the indigent old and the hopelessly degenerate would no longer trouble our civilization; above all, the ever present problem of unemployment caused largely by lack of ordinary mental ability and of vitality would solve itself.

Eight states have already passed laws for sterilizing the defective classes: Indiana in 1907; Washington, California and Connecticut in 1919; Nevada, Iowa and New Jersey in 1911, and New York in 1912.

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PARADED IN WEDDING FINERY

Peculiar Custom of Eighteenth-Century New England Would Seem to Put Premium on Vanity.

An unusual custom in vogue in New England in the Eighteenth century which caused newly married couples to appear at church on the four Sundays following their union dressed in all the bridal finery they could get together, is recorded by Edward J. Morris in his book, "The Psychology of Dress."

"This, of course, stimulated a rivalry between families, not likely to further the Puritan aim of modesty in appearance. Those who could afford it had four distinct sets of finery, one for each Sunday, that there might be no monotony for those who formed the audience. In many communities a pew was set apart in which the bridal pair was shown, so that the congregation knew just where to look for the objects of interest.

"These selected seats were often in the gallery, sometimes the front pews of the center aisle, and at times in other prominent places. The couple generally arrived a bit late, that the observers might all be seated before their arrival; then they walked slowly arm in arm to the assigned seats, while the entire congregation gave their hushed and respectful attention. At an appointed time, generally just before the sermon, the couple arose and turned slowly around two or three times, that every angle of their appearance might be viewed; they then sat down."

FINEST OF EARTH'S CHURCHES

Men of Genius Through Many Centuries Aided in the Erection of St. Peter's at Rome.

The history of St. Peter's at Rome, one of the world's most interesting edifices, goes back over a thousand years, for it was on this spot, the site of Nero's circus, within walls ornate with gold and glistening with mosaic and marble, that Charlemagne received the crown of imperial Rome from Pope Leo III., and here was slowly erected throughout subsequent centuries this building, called the central cathedral of Christendom. All that man could do to make St. Peter's great and beautiful has been lavished upon that splendid church. Mme. de Stael said of it, "C'est le seul travail de l'art sur notre terre actuelle qui ait le genre de grandeur qui characterise les oeuvres immediates de la creation." (It is the sole work of art on our earth which has the sort of nobleness that characterizes the works of nature.) Marion Crawford puts one's first impression of St. Peter's in a nutshell when he says, "The first sight of St. Peter's affects one as though in every day streets, walking among one's fellows, one should meet with a man forty feet high."

While the interior decorations have been criticized as being too profuse—an American tourist once referred to them as "too much gingerbread"—that great roof covers the work of some of the most renowned sculptors of the world.

Fish's Nest in a Clam Shell.

The goby (of which there are many kinds) selects the clean valve of a clam and uses this as the ready-made nest. The pair (for the goby mates with but one and is jealous of any rival) hover round an inverted valve and then the male scoops out the sand from underneath it, forming a cavity, the shell being slightly tilted and pressed into the sand. The female then enters the cavity and deposits her eggs on the lower (inner) surface of the shell. These eggs are somewhat cigar-shaped structures, fixed at one end by a glutinous network that secures them firmly to the shell. Having done her work, the female then exchanges places with the male, who remains on guard, keeping up a constant current of water over the eggs by movements of the pectoral fins, and darting out at the approach of an intruder.

Rubber Shoes Life Savers.

A fact which is probably only slightly known is the immunity from the attacks of lightning which is afforded by wearing a pair of rubbers.

The person who assumes these coverings must be careful not to come in contact with anything except the floor. Providing he follows this instruction he can not possibly be injured by the lightning in any way.

The explanation is simple enough. The electric fluid before it can pass into a human being or animal must first come in contact with the earth. Its passage from the earth to the wearer of the rubbers is, of course, stopped by the soles of the latter.

So next time a storm is brewing hurry up and get out your rubbers.

Dolls With African Burial.

Art galleries in New York last year exhibited specimens of African dollmakers. Perhaps the most interesting story of dolls in Africa is that which concerns the doll custom of a tribe dwelling near Lake Nyassa. When a member of the tribe dies a rough image of the dead person is made of rags or wood and laid away in a tent. Thousands of doll images of dead tribe members lie in the tent, and it is said that the tribe believes that the dolls are the embodiment of the souls of the dead men. By keeping the souls on earth they believe they are cheating the fiends which are supposed to lurk beyond life. The tent is regarded as sacred and only the medicine men are permitted near it.

The attitude of the ex-kings toward their former jobs is very much the same in all. They waste no time in high-sounding statements of the vast reforms they will undertake, nor set forth such programs of Utopian establishments as is customary with American candidates for office. They simply show a "Barkis" state of mind toward any chance of coming back to their people and their salaries.

COMES BACK AND PAYS HIS DEBTS

Former Broker Whose Firm Collapsed Springs Surprise in Old Home Town.

THOUGHT IT A HOAX

But Big Checks Convince Skeptics That There Still Are Honest Men—Only Regret Is He Can't Find Them All.

Chester, Pa.—A dapper little man of 50, whose hair was tinged with gray of battles fought and lost, alighted from a train in this city recently for the purpose of driving away the clouds and mist that he feared had enveloped his name. He was L. T. Layton of the one-time brokerage firm of L. T. Layton & Co. of this city, which occupied a more or less pretentious office at Third and Market streets and took an occasional "flyer" in the feverish pursuit of gold.

The Old Story.

The firm's vicissitudes furnished all the color for the old story. It started out with a promising future, gathered about it a worth-while and financially well-fixed clientele, and then, just when skies seemed to be brightest, broke in the middle. Almost two years ago L. T. Layton slipped away from here, dismayed and downcast, after he had paid to most of his creditors, in that last vain effort that a falling man makes, something like 50 cents on the dollar.

But L. T. Layton came back here from his home in Philadelphia to pay to those creditors every penny that he owed them. Prominent business and professional men who had lost varying sums of money by the failure of the brokerage firm gathered together to receive payment in full. There were a dozen or more in all, six of them physicians, and the total reimbursement was approximately $10,000.

Not Legally Indebted.

One of the creditors who vouchsafed the information thought it was a fairy story or a hoax when he received a mysterious message that a gentleman was in town who had a check for $800 or $900 for him. It came from the office of a doctor, a friend, over the



Paid His Creditors.

telephone. As a matter of fact, there was no legal indebtedness on the part of L. T. Layton, the "man who came back," to pay anybody, for when he left here he had releases in full from all his creditors.

It took about two hours to get through with the usual business transaction, and during the course of the conversation and settlement Layton declared that his greatest regret was that there were some former patrons of his whom he had not been able to locate. "I was broke and had to get away," he said, "but I never felt but that I owed you all every penny I am paying back today."

ALLOWED FATHER TO HANG

Son, Stirred by an Evangelist, Confesses That It Was He Who Killed Mother.

Ceylon, Can.—Evangelistic sermons held in his home town so stirred Arnell Love, a twenty-two-year-old farmer of Ceylon, Canada, that he went forward and declared to the evangelist, Rev. C. N. Sharpe, that he had clubbed his mother to death seven years ago because she reprimanded him for "keeping bad company."

Love's father, Henry Love, who was convicted by a jury and hanged at Owen Sound, Ontario, for the crime seven years ago, was found guilty principally through the testimony of his son, who now says he was the murderer. While on the scaffold the father made what was believed to be a confession of his guilt.

The son grew up into manhood a prosperous farmer, and the tragedy of his life was apparently buried in the oblivion of the past until he attended the evangelistic service. He told the evangelist that he killed his mother with a stick of wood and hid the body in the cellar, where it was found later.

Mabel and Myrtle.

Representative Dawson, the anti-suffrage leader, said at a luncheon:

"Woman's place is the home. When she starts out to imitate man she is absurd.

"Mabel was a new woman. She said to Myrtle one afternoon:

"'We'll make a night of it. Come to the Ratz with me and we'll have a fellowship dinner.'"

SCHEME TO HARNESS BRITISH TIDAL WATERS

Plan to Erect a Power Plant Greater Than That of Niagara Falls.

The British Ministry of Transport has just made public a scheme to harness the tidal waters of the River Severn at a cost of £30,000,000 and to erect a power plant greater than that of Niagara Falls. The Severn divides England from Wales.

The project is an outcome of the efforts of Sir Alexander Gibb, chief engineer of ports construction in the British army during the war and builder of the great naval dockyard at Rosyth. It is calculated that the power plant could produce 1,000,000 horsepower at its peak load capacity and that it would save 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 tons of coal a year. It is claimed that it would revolutionize the whole industry of the west of England and even supply London with cheap electric current.

A concrete dam would be placed across the river creating a locked basin twenty-seven square miles in extent, into which vessels could pass through a channel. It is estimated that the undertaking would provide work for 250,000 men for seven years.

In the spring tides the Severn rises thirty-eight feet, the second highest tide after the Bay of Fundy. The fact that tidal waters have never yet been used for the generation of electricity on such a vast scale, coupled with the big estimated cost of the scheme, make engineering experts cautious in expressing views as to its feasibility.

The Times editorially refers to the project as "somewhat flamboyant." The consent of parliament must be obtained before the scheme can be put into operation.

STILL LIVE IN TREES IN THE PHILIPPINES



The abode of a Moro tree dweller high in the branches of a tree in the Philippines. Many families there still live in trees to escape the snakes and insects that abound in the jungles. This tree house is but a few miles from the highly modern city of Manila.

GERMANS AFTER ORE FIELDS

Negotiate for Mineral Supplies in Chile and Brazil.

Through the German-South American bank, a subsidiary of the Deutsche bank, Berlin, German interests are trying to purchase iron ore deposits in South America, especially Chile. Some Chilean iron ore fields have already been acquired by German firms.

Chile has an abundance of mineral deposits, the large scale exploitation of which began during the war; $170,000,000 worth of copper and iron ore were exported in 1916, about 86 per cent going to the United States, Great Britain and France.

According to Porto Allegre (Brazil) advices, the German-South American bank is negotiating for the purchase of Brazilian iron ore fields, the richness of which is a matter of mere speculation as far as the official geological survey is concerned. A rumor has it that Dr. A. Hertwig, a German mining engineer, made a private survey on which the Germans evidently rely.

Wants to Make Beer as Medicine.

A brewery in Wisconsin has asked permission to make beer for medicinal purposes, according to Nelson A. White, chief inspector in the office of the prohibition director in Milwaukee, Wis.

Bold Footpad Rifled Officer's Pockets.

A bandit who held up a policeman in Quincy, Ill., backed his victim against a wall, rifled his pockets, and escaped in a shower of bullets from his victim's pistol.

Government Sold 430 Merchant Ships.

The government, up to December 4, had sold 430 merchant ships, totaling 2,157,124 deadweight tons, for $297,818,393, according to a summary issued by the shipping board.

To Whitney Warren, a well-known American architect who has given himself whole-heartedly to the cause of the Allies comes the flattering offer of the task of restoring the beautiful buildings of the University of Louvain, which were destroyed in 1914. If he accepts the appointment he can doubtless find many rich Americans who would like to contribute to this great work of reconstruction.

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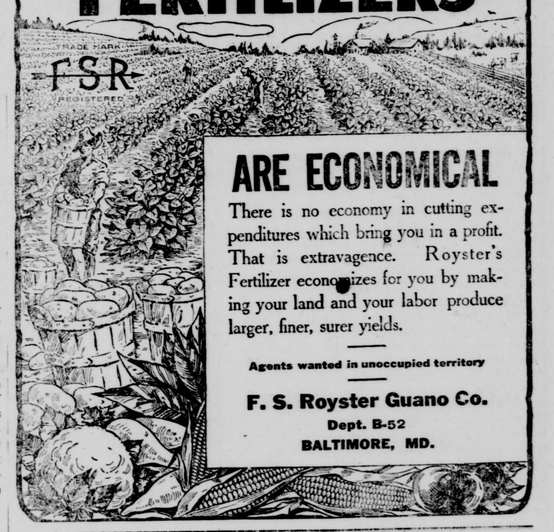
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