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What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Growing Cannon Fodder.
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—
To produce this crop takes time and planning.
First your veterans must grow past fighting age because those who survive the horrors of one war are a willingly enlist for another. Meanwhile be sure the women have been bearing children, since children are the seed corn of your future sowing.



As the newer generation grows up dose it on the old reliable P. P. P. formula — parades, pomp, propaganda. Bands and guns and flag-wavings, murderous procrements and manufactured patriotism; they all help to fertilize the ultimate harvesting.
Befuddle the first-born on dreams of drunken glory. Teach him the neighbor over the way is an enemy who must some day be crushed without mercy. Make him believe his country's destiny demands re-venge for old hurts, reparations, losses, widened boundaries writ in blood.

And then, in about 20 years, you have a nation ripened for ruin, a race of mothers ready to offer their sons to the slaughter. It's a slow crop, but a sure one, and highly gratifying to professional sword-rattlers and power-mad dictators, to profiteers and financial hijackers.
Let's see, come 1938, it'll be just about 20 years since the last time the world cut its own throat.

Two-Faced Politicians.
SOMEbody says the type of politician who swears worthless promises before election for the public's confidence—and its votes—reminds him of Janus. Janus was a god with two faces, and the ancients finally got so they couldn't trust either one of them. But it took them a long time to catch on.

Might I be pardoned for thinking of a homelier simile? I'm thinking of the pack-rat of this country. The thrifty pack-rat slips with stealthy tread into your camp whilst you slumber and carries off something of value. But he doesn't steal—nothing like that. He merely exchanges with you, you being asleep at the time. He leaves a dry twig behind and totes off a side of meat. He confiscates one of your boots, but, in return, confers on you a couple of dead cactus stalks. His intentions may be honest, but there is no record showing where a pack-rat ever got the worst of a trade. I figure he's part Scotch.

And the profits resulting from his professional dealings certainly may be likened to the career of many a chronic officeholder now flourishing in our midst.

This Man Dewey.
WHEN the Republicans get out the hound-dogs to run down their 1940 nominee, they might search in the tall timbers of Manhattan island.

There's a young fellow there, the name being Dewey, and he being kin to the great admiral whose deeds crackled at Manila one May day morning like the lightnings on Mount Sinai. He comes of old Yankee stock. He hails from a debatable state, Michigan; lives in a pivotal state, New York. Still in his mid-thirties, he smashed the foulest, securest nests of labor racketeers and vice racketeers in America.

He married a sweet Texas girl, as southern as they make 'em. Her grand-uncle was Jeff Davis. My daddy was Jeff Davis' relative, too. And this young Dewey trained for grand opera. Speaking of this charm thing, think of a President who'd wind up his fireside radio chats singing "Home on the Range."
Yes, sir, the G. O. P. might go farther and fare worse.

Nordic Supremacy.
RECENT events bring to mind a little story of some years back when night-riding patriots in an Arkansas county felt called on, as a sacred duty imposed upon all true Caucasians, to put the Black brother in his place; said place, in at least one instance, being a colored cemetery.

Also, there had been a flood of notices to vacate sent through the mail to members of the African race, followed by unpleasant surprise parties did the recipients fail to heed the gentle warning.

So the community was getting more Nordic by the hour and the sound of the Anglo-saxophone was heard off in the still night. That's the scene and the plot. Now for the sketch:

Pelagria Perkins meets Hookworm Hostetter on Main street: "Hooky," says Pelagria, "effen you wuz to git a letter from dese here white shirts, what would you do?"

"Met," says Hookworm. "Boy, I'd finish readin' it on the train."
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News Review of Current Events

CROP CONTROL MEASURE

Features of the New Bill Prepared for Congress . . . Italy Adheres to Anti-Red Agreement

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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the pact which bothers Great Britain is that the three allied nations may make a great clamor for restoration to Germany of her lost colonies.

Hitler, Mussolini and Premier Koyne of Japan exchanged felicitations on the signing of the agreement.

Duke May Come in February
MAYBE the duke and duchess of Windsor will come to the United States after all. It was said in Paris by one of their associates they had decided tentatively to make the trip in February, believing that by that time they could carry out their plan without criticism.

The sudden cancellation of the trip was primarily due to the harsh criticism of organized labor because it was to be managed by Charles E. Bedaux, whose speedup system is abhorrent to labor. That gentleman promptly withdrew from the tour arrangements and President Green of the A. F. of L. thereupon said American labor would "extend a sincere and cordial welcome to the duke and duchess and co-operate in their proposed investigations."

Should Edward and Wally come over in February, perhaps Mrs. Roosevelt will find it possible to arrange her lecture dates so as to be present at the luncheon the President will give for the visitors.

Our Navy Grows Rapidly
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY CLAUDE A. SWANSON reported to the President that the navy is stronger than at any time since war days and is moving steadily up to the full strength permitted by the treaties abrogated by Japan. It will not go beyond the limitations in those pacts unless other nations do so.

Under its big replacement program the department has seven new battleships and has appropriations for 85 other warships. These include three aircraft carriers, one heavy cruiser, nine light cruisers, fifty-five destroyers and seven submarines.

Five years ago the total number of under age vessels was 101 of 728,050 tons, with twenty-three vessels of 122,500 tons under construction. Today the navy has 113 vessels of 869,230 tons under age, and eighty-seven vessels of 335,565 tons under construction.

Shanghai Falls to Japs
STUBBORN defense of Shanghai by the Chinese came to an end when the Japanese troops marched their way across Soochow creek and occupied the entire city. The defenders retired westward and prepared to block the way of the invaders toward Nanking.

China Won't Negotiate
GEN. CHIANG KAI-SHEK, dictator of China, issued a formal statement opposing direct negotiations with Japan for settlement of the Far Eastern conflict.

He reaffirmed China's determination to continue the struggle until "justice is re-established in this part of the world," and expressed optimism concerning the military situation.

Success of the Brussels conference was endangered by the presence there of Soviet Russia. Japanese circles said they believed Japan was ready to exchange information concerning the conflict in China with signatories of the nine power treaty of 1922, but not with nonsignatories like Russia.

President's Birthday
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has authorized the use of his fifty-fifth birthday, January 30, for the promotion of the nation-wide fight on infantile paralysis. As in previous years, the day will be celebrated in many cities with balls. This time the funds raised thus will not be handed over to local agencies but will all go to the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis which was created recently by Mr. Roosevelt. The President has approved the appointment of a committee headed by Keith Morgan of New York to arrange for the celebrations.

New Attack on Black
ALBERT LEVITT made a new effort to obtain Justice Hugo L. Black's removal from the Supreme court, shortly before the court itself had opportunity to decide whether to hear another test of Black's eligibility.

Levitt asked President Roosevelt to start quo warranto proceedings against Black. This in effect would require Black to show by what right he held the position.

Noted Actor Dies

SIR JOHNSTON FORBES-ROBERTSON, eminent Shakespearean actor who was familiar to American theater audiences as well as to those in England, died at the age of eighty-four in St. Margaret's Bay, England. At the height of his career he was considered the foremost English actor in classic drama. He made his final stage appearance in 1927 in London when he played in "Twelfth Night." He had appeared in several films. He was knighted by the late King George V, of Great Britain in 1913 when he made his decision to retire.

Railways Ask Help

EXECUTIVES of the class one railroads asked the interstate commerce commission to help them raise \$508,000,000 more income to meet increases in payrolls, taxes and the cost of supplies. The margin between income and operating expenses has been squeezed so thin, they said, that rail systems face a crisis.

They asked for a flat increase of 15 per cent on freight rates and an increase in passenger fares in eastern territory from two to two and one-half cents a mile.

La Guardia's Victory

TAMMANY HALL went down to an ignominious defeat in the New York municipal election. Its mayoralty candidate, Jeremiah T. Mahoney, who was supported also by Jim Farley and Senator Wagner, was thoroughly whipped by Fiorello H. La Guardia, candidate of the fusionists, the Republicans and the young American Labor party. La Guardia, the first "reform" mayor ever

re-elected in New York, piled up a majority of 454,425. The Republicans hailed the result as a great victory for their party, and it was. But it also put the Labor party in the position of holding the balance of power in future elections in the metropolis.

Second in interest only to the mayoralty vote was the fact that Thomas E. Dewey, the young man who smashed organized crime and racketeers in New York, was elected district attorney, defeating Harold W. Hastings, the Tammany nominee. Dewey who is only thirty-five years old, promises reform in methods of the office and his record gives assurance these will be carried out.

The Republicans regained control of the New York state assembly and of many upstate cities.

C.I.O. Losses in Detroit

THE first important venture of the C. I. O. in politics turned out disastrously for the Lewis organization. Patrick H. O'Brien, its mayoralty candidate, declared on the stump that "the first must be the government of government in Detroit and every other American city." Whereupon the Detroit electors arose in their wrath and swept O'Brien and the C. I. O. out of the picture. Richard W. L. Curley, conservative candidate backed by the A. F. of L., won the office by a majority of 106,907 votes.

In addition, all the five C. I. O. backed candidates for the common council were decisively whipped.

In New Jersey Senator A. Harry Moore, Democrat, was elected governor over Lester H. Cleo, Republican, but only by virtue of a big majority in Hudson county. Moore has held the office twice before. It was the first time in the state's history that a governor has won a third term. The state constitution prohibits a consecutive re-election but Moore was elected in 1925 and again in 1931, each time for a three-year term.

James M. Curley, who has been three times mayor of Boston and once governor of Massachusetts, tried again for the mayoralty, but was defeated by Maurice J. Tobin, like Curley a Democrat.

Philadelphia went Democratic, as did Pittsburgh, which re-elected Mayor Cornelius Scully.

Brussels Conference

FORMAL opening of the Far East peace conference in Brussels brought out speeches by the chief delegates of America, Britain, France, Italy and Russia. Davis for the United States denounced resort to armed force as a means of settling international disputes, and urged Japan and China to seek a settlement of their conflict "by peaceful processes."

He continued: "We believe that co-operation between Japan and China is essential to the best interests of those two countries and to peace throughout the world. We believe that such co-operation must be developed by friendship, fair play, and reciprocal confidence. If Japan and China are to co-operate it must be as friends and not as enemies. The problems underlying Chinese-Japanese relations must be solved on a basis that is fair to each and acceptable to both."

Eden for England and Delbos for France seconded these sentiments. A committee was named to send an appeal to Japan to open peace negotiations with China, and Germany was asked to reconsider her refusal to take part in the conference.

SAGA OF SILK

Lowly Worm Achieves Its Moment of Glamour in PICTURE PARADE



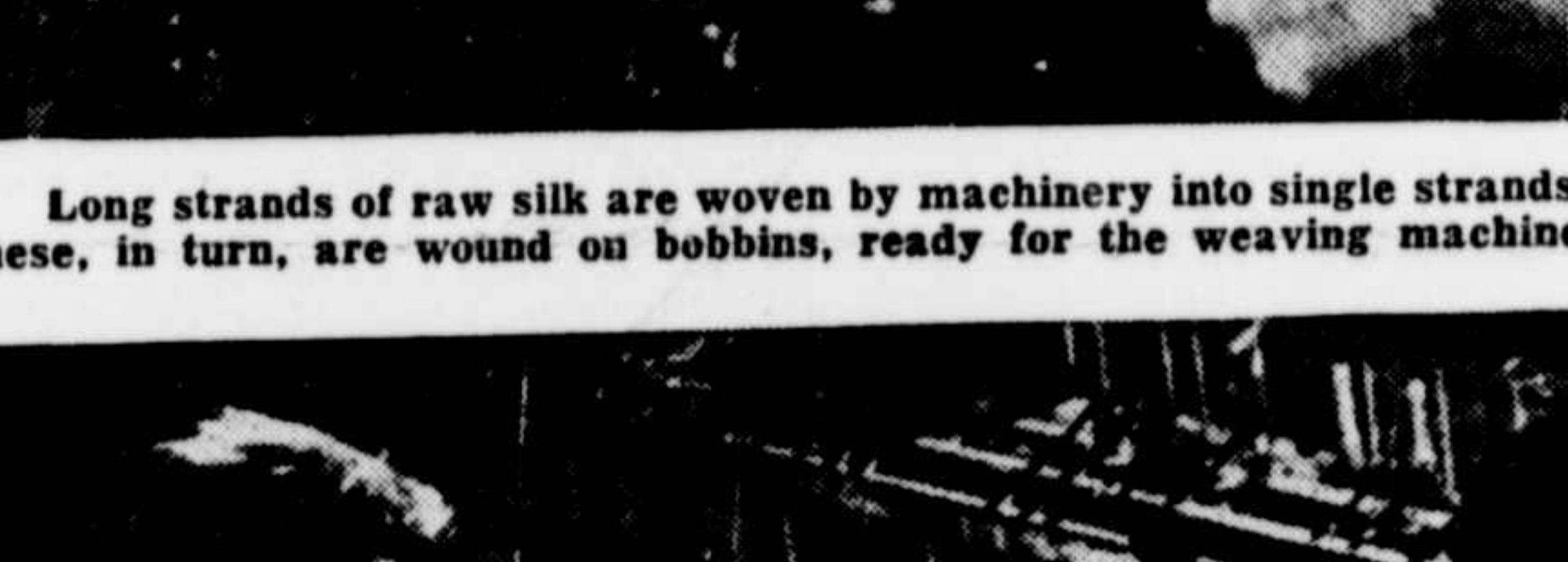
Not a pretty thing itself, the silkworm contributes to the world's beauty by spinning the raw silk for stockings to clothe lovely legs like those of June Claire, above. Below, the Picture Parade marches through a silk stocking factory.



Raw silk, as spun by the worm, arrives in American factories from abroad, braided as are little girls' curls. It is unraveled from the tight, individual bundles and once more becomes lengthy strands.



Long strands of raw silk are woven by machinery into single strands; these, in turn, are wound on bobbins, ready for the weaving machine.



Almost magically, the strands on the bobbins of the machine operated by the man and woman above turn into flat, woven silk. Coming out of the machine, they are the exact size of the finished stocking. The stocking is folded and sewed, heel and toe sewed on separately.



When the stockings in this factory have been dyed, dried and shaped, they are given accurate tests for strength in the machine shown above. Then, before being boxed for the stores—and the legs—they are once more inspected (left).



A queer sight are the metal driers which shape the stockings.

3000 New Voters Added

Number Filed Declaration of Intention in Montgomery County.

Rockville, Md.—The circuit clerk's office said Tuesday about 3,000 new voters filed declarations of intention to vote in the 1938 election in Montgomery county.

Montgomery county had a voting population of about 30,000 at the last election.

Continuity of Wedding

Ring and Eternal Love
When the bridegroom places the wedding ring on his chosen one's finger and says, "With this ring I thee wed," he little realizes the history that lies behind the simple wedding band.

Long before the ring became a symbol of matrimony, it had a mystic significance with the ancients, states a writer in the Washington Star. The circular continuity of the ring was accepted as a type of eternity and hence of the stability of affection. Often the rings were inscribed with loving wishes.

Coming up to the middle ages, the ring often was used at solemn betrothal ceremonies. Frequently lovers who were about to separate for long periods of time demonstrated their lasting affection by going through the ring ceremony.

Even greater significance to the custom was given by the invention of the linked ring. Made with a double and often a triple link which turned upon a pivot, it could be turned into one solid ring. It was customary to break these rings apart at the betrothal. This solemn ceremony was done in front of a witness. The prospective bride and her bridegroom each kept a ring while the witness was given the central one of the trio. When the marriage contract was fulfilled at the altar the three parts of the ring were again united and the ring used at the ceremony.

A custom that has survived in a revised way to the modern day was the habit of engraving simple sentiments in the nuptial hoop. Rhymes to rival Ogden Nash were inscribed in many sixteenth and seventeenth century wedding rings.

"Our contract was Heaven's act," "To thee, my choice, I do rejoice," and "God Above, Encrease Our Love," express the medieval version of the couple's happy sentiments.

First Timepieces Used
Heavy Weights on Cords
The earliest timepieces were clocks for which the motive power was supplied by weights. The unavoidable dangling of the weights from their cords compelled the limitation of the use of timepieces at first to standing or hanging in one place.

This was the situation from about the year 1300 until about 1500, according to a writer in the Washington Post, when the first portable timepieces were made possible by an invention of Peter Henlein, of Nuremberg, Germany, who first applied spiral steel springs to take the place of weights for motive power. The value of this invention to mankind is incalculable.

At first mainsprings were made comparatively short and thick. In these there was so great a difference between the power when fully wound and partly run down that special mechanical devices had to be used to equalize the power.

The best of these devices was the fusee, which is used in marine chronometers. But for watches the problem of improving the uniformity of power was solved by using longer and thinner mainsprings, helped out also by the development of isochronal adjustment, which makes it less imperative that the extent of vibrations of the balance should be uniform, as these are affected by the motive power.

Old Method to Test Gold
The ancient test-stone, needles and acid method of determining the karat quality of gold never has been improved upon as a convenient test. Starting with the fact that pure gold is called 24 karat; that less than 24 karats indicates the relative amounts of gold and alloy in the metal (18 karat gold is 18-24ths gold and 6-24ths alloy); and that nitric acid dissolves alloy but not gold, it is seen readily why old methods are still in use.

Enamel Romantic Product
The ingredients from which the enamelled surface of plumbing fixtures are made come from many different parts of the world. Tin oxide from the Malay States, kryptolith from Greenland, barium carbonate from Germany are among the 20 elements which are combined to make the glass-like surface.

The Wine-Table
The wine-table of the Eighteenth century was called by cabinet makers a gentlemen's social table. It was always narrow and of semi-circular or horseshoe form, the guests sitting around the outer circumference. Metal wells for bottles and ice were sunk in the surface of the table and were equipped with brass lids. In later examples the tables were fitted with a revolving wine-carriage, bottle-holder or tray working on a balanced arm which enabled the bottles to be passed without shaking.