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THANKSGIVING

The Thanksgiving feast is a symbol of the use of true abundance. Evidently the fact that true abundance does not consist merely in things, in houses, or crops, is in some measure recognized. Thanksgiving Day is clebrated in the United States every year—not only in years of material prosperity but in years of deep material depression as well.

There is no irony in this fact. Lasting thanksgiving must be for those things the tongue cannot taste, the eye cannot see, the hand cannot feel.

If at one time we give thanks for material prosperity, for merely human friendship or affection, we may be convincted at another time that there is nothing to be thankful for. To give thanks in prosperous times may seem easy. To give thanks in difficult times may seem all but impossible. But it is never harder to give thanks at one time than at another, if the thanks be given in an understanding of God's invariable goodness.

Mankind is growing more and more thankful in its expanding knowledge that this God-given abundance does not consist of materiality; that it cannot be fully reflected in the most fruitful crop, nor limited in the sparsest gleanings.

When the first Thanksgiving Day savored the woodsy New England air and prompted the hearty New Englanders to partake of abundance, there was slight enough material insurance of the future, as moderns would measure it. If the Pilgrim fathers had demanded, as a prerequisite to Thanksgiving, guarantees of perpetual economic security, or to know how long it would be before another European war might break out, the first Thanksgiving Day would have been idefinitely postponed.

What they had to be thankful for on that day, men have still: the fact of the abundance with which God has endowed His children. This is always at hand, reflected in unselfish resourcefulness, in courage, in mutual understanding, in humaneness, in love. And analysis of world conditions fortifies the conclusion that use of this abundance is necessary to solve problems of apparent material lack. Thanksgiving, now as in 1621, is best expressed in use of true abundance.

The annual tuberculosis Christmas Seal sale begins on Thanksgiving Day.

Tuberculosis is one of the major health problems. It is the leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 45, and is the seventh greatest over the complete life span.

The work of the Maryland Tuberculosis Association is devoted to eradcating this disease. The association is dependent on the sale of the Seals for funds for carrying on its program.

Everyone of us can cooperate in this great fight against a dread disease by purchasing these little seals that cost one cent each. You are urged to do your part, even though you purchase but a few cents worth of these little seals. No matter how small the purchase it will help swell the aggregate.

Thousands of automobile drivers have eyes that fatigue from long driving, and when fatigued they tend to turn in or out, instead of pointing straight as they normally do when not tired. The images on such over-worked eyes are indistinct and blurred, and the ability to judge distances is impaired. If an automobile driver with eyes in this tired condition takes a single drink of liquor, he may suffer great impairment of vision, frequently to the extent of seeing blurred, double images. While he may be perfectly sober in every other respect, and would pass the ordinary tests for intoxication given by physicians, still, from a visual standpoint, he would be cock-eyed, says the Better Vision institute. In that condition he becomes unknowingly a menace on the road.

In 37 years of automobile history approximately $84,000,000,000 have been paid in wages to workers who owe their living to ramifications of this industry.

If a man doesn't agree with you, the fault is not in his mind. If he were fixed as well or ill as you are, he would have your ideas.

ELECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., November, 21—I have always found it impossible to write about sujects in which there is such universal interest as in elections without being accused of reflecting personal partisan feeling. Perhaps that doubt is cast upon the conclusions of most Washington writers, and is the reason they are often taken "with a grain of salt". I have been a writer for the leading local newspapers of the United States from Washington since 1910. Before then, I was a "country editor" in Wisconsin. I have built up the leading weekly newspaper of the nation and kept it going all these years. I have kept the faith with editors who believe in me. Those are my credentials!

I believe that the elections are an important victory for American business, the small kind common in your community, and the large kind found in great industrial centers. I don't believe that President Roosevelt ever intended that his efforts for the "common people" would be diverted by his star-eyed young brain-trusters into plans to besmirch every successful business man—but that is what has been going on. American business men can be trusted. They are the backbone of every community; the props of prosperity.

I have seen great Republican majorities in control of national affairs in Washington, and I have seen great Democratic majorities in the same place position. These great majorities are a bad thing. They ruined the Taft and Wilson administrations, just as they ruined the Hoover administration, and have started the Roosevelt administration on the down hill to probable ruin.

Government always goes off on a single-track with a single-track political group in control of national affairs, working to do the will of a President who "can't be beat in Congress." The two-party system has come back. I don't say what it will do to either party. But I do declare, unhesitatingly, as a result of all these years on the battlefront, that the people of the United States are better off with the division of authority that lies just ahead than they ever could be, or ever have been, in the careless hands of a one-party Congress obeying the will of one Leader in the White House.

* * *

Merit System In Name Only

The merit system is supposed to have a very important place in public employment. The Civil Service is evidently misnamed if it is supposed to represent the "merit system" Federal and State Governments are pretty noisy in announcing that they keep people in positions of responsibility because they have backgrounds of efficient records. There are many thousands in the "merit system", employed in the departments in Washington. They go on, year after year, doing the work in small places Very few ever get to the top.

A new administration comes along and the politicans pass out exective positions paying good salaries to other politicans who have a party record and "cut ice" in local elections and in national and state campaigns. They get the big jobs and the little folks who have to do their best under the "merit system" are ground under their heels.

If this only happened in one administration it wouldn't be so bad, but there is a turnover every four or eight years, at which time the political favorites get the rewards of the spoils system. The lesser folks who know their jobs stick along in the merit system, and wait until retirement, or the end of their days, for better jobs.

* * *

A Higher National Income

The business improvement outlined in the October bulletin of the Federal Reserve Board is good reading, as it says that one million persons have been re-employed since last Spring.

Many important factors indicating a rising industrial situation are explained in the bulletin, the most important item of which is a higher national income. When the national income goes up it follows that wages, industrial earnings and sales of all kinds are increasing throughout the country.

So these official declarations are not as dull as they are sometimes said to be. When there are benefits on a large scale you need to matnematically reduce them to different communities. See it filter all the way down the line. When there is a pick-up of one million men in jobs that means that there is something happening right in your neighborhood, for the benefit of your people and the country as a whole.

* * *

Old-Age Pensions

Washington looks upon the old-age pension issue as a matter that will occupy a great deal of attention in the forthcoming session of Congress when a compromise will likely be worked out to provide a form of monthly pensions for old people, with enough money forthcoming every month to see aged men and women free from dependence and want.

OLD AGE INSURANCE

Q. I am required to make a quarterly report to the Government which shows the name, account number, and wages paid to each of my employees. Suppose an employee has quit or was dismissed before he secured a social security account number. What should I do, when I start to make out a tax return which requires such employee's account number?

A. If the employee can be located and you find that he still has no number, you should advise him to get one. In case you are unable to find the employee or to induce him to secure an account number, you should file an application for a social security account number for the employee—based on information belief.

Q. Why is it necessary for me to report the social security account number and wages paid each employee when I make my tax returns to the collector of internal revenue?

A. This information is transmitted through the Bereau of Internal Revenue to the Social Security Board, where it is recorded in a social security account maintained for each employee. Each account bears a certain number— the same number that appears on the social security account card of the worker concerned. The Government keeps account of the wages paid to every insured workers in the United States. In this way the amount of money due each claimant (when his old-age insurance benefits fall due) is determined. The worker's old-age insurance payments are based on his own wage earnings. He will receive a certain percentage of all the wages he is paid after the last day of 1936 and before he reaches age 65.

Q. My father has a little store in the country and employs only one clerk. Does the old-age insurance law apply to his business?

A. Yes, if the clerk is under age 65. The old-age insurance provision applies to stores, large or small. It applies to barber shops, bootblack parlors, bakeries and service establishments. It applies to employees of doctors, dentists, lawyers, and other professional people. If such establishments have only one employee, that employee should have a social security account number.

Q. I live near a coal mine where a number of miners were killed recently in an explosion. I am very much concerned about the welfare of their families, and I want to know whether or not they are entitled to a payment of old-age insurance.

A. It is quite likely that many of them are entitled to a lump-sum payment of old-age insurance. The law provides that a relative (or the estate) of a deceased worker shall be paid benefits that have accrued to the insured worker's social security account. At present, the only benefits payable are lump-sum payments in case of an insured worker's death or in case the worker attains age 65.

Q. I recently lost one of my best employees, for whom I paid wage taxes for a year or more. I think his widow is entitled to old-age insurance benefits. Is there anything I can do to help her get this benefit payment without delay?

A. Yes, You might inform the widow that she should file claim for old-age insurance benefits. She should go (or send) to the field office of the Social Security Board and ask for an application blank to use in filing a claim. Some one in that office will provide the proper forms and assist in filling them out, if that service is requested. Then you will fill out a form, known as OAC 1001, which you will send to the field office of the Social Security Board. This OAC-1001 is your statement of the amount of wages you paid the deceased up to the time of his death.

OCTOBER TRAFFIC MISHAPS

Thirty-five persons were killed and 211 injured in traffic accidents in Maryland counties last month the State Police Accident Prevention Bureau reports.

Sixteen of those persons injured fatelly were pedestrians an October report of the bureau showed. There were 280 crashes during the month Baltimore county led in the number of accidents and deaths, reporting eightty-six crashes and six fatalities.

Prince George's county was next with five dead in nineteen mishaps. Washington, Howard and Frederick counties trailed Prince George's with three deaths each.

Dumb animals are the ones that don't force their young to eat when they are ailing and nature tells them to stay empty.

WHY

The Old-Time Scarecrow Is Now Out of Date.

The bureau of biological survey announces that the scarecrow is practically extinct, that the familiar figure of the cornfield, celebrated for many years in prose and rhyme, limned by many an artist's brush and animated at many a Halloween frolic is seldom seen any more.

It seems that the scarecrow failed to keep up to date and that increasingly sophisticated generations of feathered marauders lost all fear and respect for him, once they learned that his patched coat, battered hat and stiffly outflung arms made up only the slightest similitude to flesh and blood, says a writer in the Columbus Dispatch.

Farmers who still use scarecrows, it is said, are merely following tradition without realizing that no one is fooled.

The scarecrow could possibly have been saved by spending more time and patience in making him a life-like figure, by giving him a natural posture and a stuffed body from which the tattered garments hung loosely. But then he wouldn't have been a scarecrow, at least in the form in which he has been a part of the American rural scene for so many years.

Why North Is Always at the Top of Modern Maps

No scientific principle makes it necessary to have the north of a map at the top. It is probable that the ancient Greek and Roman map makers had East at the top, that being the direction of the rising sun The medieval map makers as a rule followed the same custom. However, a map in the British museum is oriented with South at the top. It was made in 1492. Another map of the same collection is oriented with West at the top. Ptolemy placed north at the top of his maps and this system was followed by the early map makers of the British isles. With the revival of Ptolemy's geography during the Renaissance, placing North at the top became an established custom, which was further confirmed by the increase of the use of meridians and parallels.

Why It Is "Keystone State"

Just why Pennsylvania is called the Keystone state isn't known for certain. Perhaps it was so called from the fact that geographically it occupied the central position among the 13 original states. There is a theory advanced that the name was suggested by a bridge over Rock creek between Georgetown and Washington, D. C., the arch of which was built of stones left over from the Capitol. On 13 of the arch stones the names of the 13 original states were engraved, and Pennsylvania's name was engraved on the keystone, or the center stone. At any rate, the name was popularly applied to the state after a campaign document issued by the Democratic committee in 1803 advertised that state as the "Keystone of the Democratic Arch."

Why Oyster Is Liked

Since Roman gourmets praised its succulence in poems at their feasts, the oyster has been held in high regard. Despite its ancient lineage and the aristocratic company it keeps, the supreme shellfish is a valuable food—and an economical one, to boot. It's high in mineral content—iodine, iron and calcium. It's comparatively cheap because it's all food—no waste from trimming.

Why Dog Is Index to Owner

Dogs kept as house pets become almost four-footed replicas of their masters, or mistresses. They reflect even the smallest details in the characters of the human beings with whom they live. Unlike the human beings who sometimes cover up their true characters, the dog is always the same. That is why he is such a sure index to the owner.

Why Airplanes Are Noisy

Airplane noise heard on the ground varies with the wind. A person to windward of a plane in a strong breeze will scarcely hear a sound although the machine is fairly close, while a person to leeward will be annoyed by the loud roar even though the plane may be half a mile distant.

Why Liberty Faces the World

The Statue of Liberty is supposed to be enlightening the world, representing the United States as leading the world to liberty, therefore, it faces the world.

Why Red Sea Is So Called

The Red sea is so called because of the red color imparted to the surface water of certain portions of the sea by millions of tiny one-celled plants.

There are 17 species of mice in Virginia.

No man ever thinks enough of his mother-in-law to make his wife jealous.

Pictures Of Your Favorite Movie Stars

Pictures taken in Hollywood studios, news about screen stars and other interesting features will be found in the Green Spotlight, a bright, breezy section distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.

HOW

CARBON MONOXIDE VICTIMS SHOULD HAVE TREATMENT.—Carbon monoxide, according to a discovery recently made as the result of a three-year investigation by the United States public health service and the bureau of mines, produces a poison in the system of its victims that causes a fatal swelling of the brain.

Both carbon monoxide poisoning and oxygen deficiency were found in animal experiments to produce injuries to the brain cells and the central nervous system; hence the action of carbon monoxide was found to be suffocation or asphyxiation and not a special poisoning effect, as has been believed, as Dr. R. R. Sayers, of the public health service, reports to the American Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Deaths.

Dr. Sayers explains that the correct treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning is to avoid giving all fluids including water, and to reduce body fluids by such methods as catharsis, lumbar puncture or bleeding.

Oxygen, or oxygen mixed with carbon dioxide, should be promptly administered and further measures also taken to relieve swelling and pressure in the brain. Blood transfusions, sometimes resorted to in the past, Dr. Sayer warns, should be avoided as dangerous.

How Trees Are Forcibly Fed Through Glass Tube

When a criminal goes on hunger strike, he is forcibly fed through a tube inserted into his throat. Now agricultural scientists are finding this technique useful. They are injecting nourishment into the stems of apple trees which, for various reasons, are unable to obtain enough food through their roots.

A hole a quarter of an inch in diameter is first bored through the trunk of the tree, states a writer in Pearson's London Weekly. Then a glass tube is inserted at one end and made airtight by a rubber collar fitting close to the bark. The other end of the hole is blocked by a rubber stopper.

The glass tube is connected by a siphon to a container holding the liquid to be injected. The "food" used contains phosphate of potash, urea, and other chemicals.

The growth of shoots on treated trees was found to be two or three times as great as those on untreated trees among a number "forcibly fed."

How Captain's Cabin Is Equipped

The captain's cabin on a large naval vessel usually consists of an outer room which is used as a combination living room, dining room and office. Off this room is a cabin or sleeping quarters. A private bath leads from the cabin. The furniture in the officers' quarters of a modern ship is made of metal, but various finishes are given it to make it resemble wood. Plain rugs are provided and any bric-a-brac, pictures, etc., that may be found in the quarters are furnished by the officer at his own expense. Living quarters usually have a large extension table that may be used for entertaining. There are six or eight chairs in large cabins.

How "Death Watch" Originated

The "death watch" is another custom of which the origin is lost in ancient history. Thus it is not known whether it originated as a Christian or pagan rite, says Pathfinder Magazine. It has been explained as originating in a superstition that unless carefully watched evil spirits would carry the body away. Another explanation is that it is the outgrowth of a continuous chant carried on by priests or monks in relays so that the body would not be left without prayer until time of interment. Be that as it may, the custom is still widespread.

How to Test Binoculars

The comparison of binoculars can best be made by someone with a knowledge of lenses, but you can make some simple tests yourself. Hang a watch on a nail somewhere out of doors and see how far away you can pick out the second hand with the binoculars. The limit of the cheaper grades will be about 25 yards. A ten-power glass will keep it in sight for 100 yards. You can make a similar test with a newspaper. There should be no distortion of the type whatever the distance.

How "Movie" Films Are Developed

The exposed film of moving pictures is developed in exactly the same way as ordinary camera film, except that it is wound on a wooden frame for convenience in handling, and it remains on this frame as it is dipped in one solution after another. It may then be wound on a large, rotating, cylindrical frame for drying. This is done with fans in a dust-proof room.

How to Test Concrete Dryness

A practical and simple way of determining whether a concrete floor is dry enough to paint is to lay a piece of linoleum three or four feet square on the floor. If, after two days no dampness shows under it, it is dry enough to apply paint.

How Albany Got Its Name

Albany, N. Y., was named in honor of the duke of York and Albany, who later became James II of England.

UPS AND DOWNS

Rubber balloons made in the United States are popular in Turkey.

—

United States Coast Guard flying boats cruise an average of 100,000 miles a year.

—

The 20 Latin-American republics have more miles of air lines in regular operation than the United States or Europe.

OPINIONS

"Silence is a virtue which endears man to man."—Dean Inge.

—

"After-dinner spouting is a low form of acting."—Irvin Cobb.

—

"Happiness really is a state of mind. It is intangible."—Edna Ferber.

—

"No great achievement is possible without persistent work." — Bertrand Russell.

—

"Youth stands with this axiom: nothing in the world is impossible." —Benito Mussolini.

—

"Instead of people thinking of mischief and politics, I say, why not let them sing?" — Mme. Schumann-Heink.

—

"The ill-timed truth we might have kept—who knows how sharp it pierced and stung?"—Edward Rowland Sill.

—

"Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

—

"Whenever the women of the world really make up their minds to put a period to war, they can do it." —John Ruskin.

PEN POINTS

Speaking of fireworks. David was the original giant cracker.

—

We can often avoid a lot of worrying by having a poor memory.

—

Just because a man wears greasy overalls is no sign he has a job.

—

If a woman wants soft, beautiful hands all she has to do is—nothing.

—

Few people are able to appreciate a good thing until after they lose it.

—

Everybody loves a fat man—unless he is sitting on a narrow bus seat.

—

After they teach a baby to talk they have to turn around and teach him to keep quiet.

—

These days a man doesn't hitch his wagon to a star. He tries to hitch a star to a swank car.

—

A man isn't necessarily a high liver just because he occupies the attic room in a boarding house.

—

A friend is one who has to wait for the return of a loan while others are being paid off old debts.—Los Angeles Times.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Peace and quiet bring out the good qualities of men.—Tacitus.

—

What really flatters a man is that you think him worth flattering.—Shaw.

—

Life is not so short but that there is always room for courtesy.—Emerson.

—

Conscience has no more to do with gallantry than it has with politics.—Sheridan.

—

Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book.—Emerson.

—

The most positive men are the most credulous, since they most believe themselves.—Pope.

—

Evil habits soil a fine dress more than mud; good manners, by their deeds, easily set off a lowly garb.—Plautus.

SAYINGS OF WISE MEN

Force is not a remedy.—Bright.

—

Friends are not so easily made as kept.—Lord Halifax.

—

The greater man, the greater courtesy.—Tennyson.

—

Many are possessed by the insurable itch of writing.—Juvenal.

—

Admonish your friends in private; praise them in public.—Syrus.

—

What we find the least of in flirtation is love.—La Rochefoucauld.

—

Straining breaks low the bow, relaxation breaks the mind.—Syrus.

—

Wise men learn more from fools than fools from wise men.—Cato.

—

The chief glory of every people arises from its authors.—Johnson.

—

Independence, like honor, is a rocky island without a beach.—Napoleon.

The achers of the farmers yield the dentist an income.