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NEW YEAR'S DAY

Festivals in celebration of New Year's Day may be traced as far back as 3000 B. C., when the Babylonians observed the day in honor of the sun god. Throughout the ages various days of the year have been considered New Year's Day in various countries.

In church calendar, New Year's Day, coming seven days after Christmas, is taken as commemorating the circumcision of Christ, but this religious significance is almost lost sight of in the secular observances pertaining to the beginning of a new year.

The giving of present or good luck token may be traced to ancient Rome and still prevails in some countries. The Persians exchange eggs on that day. Many customs, pagan, Hebrew, Christian and social, have been associated with New Years day. That of holding "watch parties" to see the old year out and the new year in, is observed by some church congregations, while more hilarious proceedings take place in night clubs, and other centers of conviviality.

By means of greeting cards, written messages or spoken words the saluation "Happy New Year" is almost universal.

BUSINESS CHEER IN AUTO INDUSTRY

When the affairs of the country went into a tail-spin n 1937 the automobile industry was one of the first sufferers. The consequences were eflected in every branch of business and industry throughout the country, including agriculture, mining, steel—and then on the downgrade to lunch-counters, service stations, hotels, stores and shops.

The Automobile Manufactures Association announces that factory sales of passenger cars in November rose above shipments made in the same month of 1937. During the first eleven months of 1938 factory sales fell 52 per cent below last year's figures, and the slump reached the enormous total of 2,241,371 cars.

General Motors' sales of cars and trucks were greater by several thousand this November than for November, 1937. The gain of sales to dealers was significant as 159,573 sales were made last month as compared with 92,890 for the previous month of October. At the same time the company reported sales to consumers in the United States for November to be 131, 387 cars and trucks, which practically doubled the sales volume of business of the previous month of October.

For many months the whole country has been saying that "if the automobile business was only better" that it would prove that the depression is actually lifting. Now, the figures are entirely satisfying.

NEUTRALITY

The present neutrality act was passed for the express purpose of keeping the United States out of foreign wars. The amendments that are suggested to the neutrality act would give additional power to the President to act solely upon his own responsibility in identifying which are aggressor nations, and leave it to him to impose embargos on exports of munitions and other essential war supplies. the issue will be over proposed amendments or sticking to the neutrality policy—as is—until there is a war threat to be considered.

The opponents to the amendment indicate that there are no political questions involved as between Congress and the President but that they believe that no one person should be clothed with power to choose between combatant nations.

On the other hand friends of the amendment feel that if the Administration is free to act it might prevent a conflict, and that t positive gesture upon the part of Congress itself against a warring country—Japan, for instance—would be more apt to precipitate war.

NEW YEAR'S AT WHITE HOUSE

Since the White House was not completed during our first President's lifetime, the John Adamses were the first presidential family to occupy it. The first drawing room or New Years reception was held in the "President's Palace," as it was then referred to, on New Year's day, 1801.

Reading of a rich man's strange bequests is alway depressing. It seems so unfair that we got none of it.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING AT LIMA

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27—Pan-American Conferences in the past have been gradually drawing the 21 Republics closer and closer together as leaders from the different nations have convened on eight different occasions to build their programs. Presidents of the United States and Latin-American countries have appeared at these events to deliver solemn addresses to the effect that the Monroe Doctrine is sacred, and must be upheld and respected by all of the 21 nations.

Perhaps the results have been cumulative. Be that as it may, it is crystal clear that the necessity for solidarity is more fully appreciated today than ever before, and the opening sessions showed far more prospects of success than were realized at Montevideo five years ago.

The newspaper reporters at Lima all agreed with the New York Times staff correspondent that Cordell Hull is "the undisputed hero of the Conference."

He certianly has won the faith of his own countrymen, as the Gallup poll, taken while the American delegation was at sea enroute for Lima, rendered a verdict by a vote of 85%—only 15% voting in the negative, that Mr. Hull has "done a good job" as Secretary of State.

It is heartening to all the Americas to realize that the Conference has had no hesitancy about accepting Mr. Hull as their leader. It is no disparagement to anyone to say that in previous years the Latin Americas have carried on many of their functional affairs with "secret evasions and mental reservations". Some of them may still be doing it that way—but there is every reason to hope for the best of results.

In the course of a series of addresses at Harvard Uniuersity early this year, former President Ricardo J. Alfaro of the Republic of Panama described Pan-Americanism as "not a thory or a dream". He said our American nations were "the only conglomeration of people where a 'Pan' movement has become a tangible international reality." Mr. Hull has set up four objectives as the realities to be achieved by the Conference.

The Conference, he said, must carry forward the work of building an enduring structure of peace, must devote sincere effort to discovering means of strengthening the foundations of international law, must extend and make secure the basis of sound, healthy economic relations among nations, must carry forward the work of providing wider, stronger foundations for international cultural relations and better understanding among nations. When these objectives are achieved the Secretary of State would extend their operations to embrace all countries. Under the foregoing program the practices of some of the practices of some of the most notorious Latin-American nations would be curbed by the honest majorities of 21 American Republics who, no doubt, would join the United States in a real and realized Pan-American.

* * *

Eden Comes To Town

Breezy Anthony Eden was a perfect fit in the World's leading liberal Capital City. He is as handsome as Professor Tugwell, as snappy as Joe Kennedy; as dexterous as Jimmie Roosevelt in the Christmas season.

Eden evidently is not "out" with the British government, as it isn't a test of patriotism to stand on your own, instead of wearing a political collar in England. As the exponent of a viewpoint of British opinion Eden made a fine, favorable, and fascinating impression upon the bigwigs of Washington—and what is more important: with the newspaper correspondents, too!

* * *

Budget Making

This is budget making time in Washington—a time when leaders in the national administration talk about holding down public expenses. The trouble is that plans of the government for the coming year are calling for spending as heavy as ever. It is futile to look for reductions in federal taxation.

* * *

Trade Records

Reciprocal tariff agreements are credited with increasing the export of American goods and swinging the balance of trade heavily in favor of the United States. There are increases of from 39% to 60%. Government authorities believe that the Great Britian treaty will make a still better showing.

THE OYSTER—THE TRUE SYMBOL OF GOOD EATING

The Oyster Institute of N. America, Dr. Lewis Radcliffe, Director Washington, D. C

The Oyster Industry

The oyster industry ranks second in importance among our fishery industries, being exceeded only by the great salmon fisheries of our Pacific northwest. It gives employment to about 60,000 persons, scattered along our coast in hundreds of fishing hamlets and towns. Many of the employees work on farms during the summer and supplement such earnings by oystering or working in the shucking plants during the winter months. It is obvious therefore, that as the demand for oysters increases and a greater acreage is brought under cultivation many more persons will be employed, a considerable number of which will find work during the entire year. The investment in the oyster industry approximates $20,000,000 and the annual harvest nets the oystermen about $10,000,000. Formerly when oysters were much more abundant the returns to the watermen were as high as $14,000,000.

In the fishery, the oysters are harvested from the beds with scissor-like hand tongs or with dreges operated from boats. The handles of the tongs are worked scissors- fashion nipping the oysters off the bottom where they fall into a basket-like arrangement and are lifted aboard the small boat for culling out the small oysters and shells, and the boat filled with market oysters. Oysters are tonged in waters up to 20 feet or more in depth.

Dredges are provided with stout teeth the oysters being collected in iron mesh bags, the larger one capable of holding from 15 to 30 bushels. On the larger vessels as many as four dredges may be in use, two each side of the boat, the larger vessels taking aboard as much as 3000 or 4000 bushels in a day.

At the packing houses the oysters are prepared for shipment to consuming centers either as market shell stock, fresh shucked oyster meats, packaged and frozen meats or hermetically sealed and processed as canned oysters.

Fresh oyster meats are packed in individual containers of tin, glass or paper of various sizes, the gallon can being the most popular. The cans are packed in boxes or barrels surrounded by crushed ice. The frozen oyster meats are packaged in one pound cartons or 12oz paper cups, or other containers holding a specified number of oysters. The great bulk of the oysters harvested are marketed as shucked fresh oyster meats.

Market shell oysters are used principally by hotels, restaurants and other public eating places or for export. The individual oysters in the shell are graded carefully according to size and packed, usually in a three bushel barrel for shipment to market.

During the height of the season a shucking plant is a busy place the larger plants employing from 250 to 400 shuckers, who doftly open the shell and remove the meat without cuts. Before packing in the tins, the oysters are thoroughly washed in a blower which washes out any debris, particles of shell and etc. Every affort is made to keep the packaged meats as near 32 degrees F. as possible so that the consumer may get a fresh, tasty produce with its fine flavor and seatang unimpaired.

JANUARY WAS FOR JANUS, GOD OF NEW ADVENTURES

The month of January bears its name because Janus was the god of the opening year. He presided over the undertaking of any new adventure, and was a god known only to the Romans. The Romans adopted January as the first of the year from the reign of their second King, Numa Pompilius, who ruled until 672 B. C.

Not until the Eighteenth century was January universally adopted as the beginning of the year. England took the step in 1752, and Sweden in 1753, but other European countries adopted this New Year's day at an earlier date; France in 1564, Holland, Protestant Germany and Russia in 1700.

Tax returns required by the Social Security Act should be sent to the Collector of Internal Revenue and not to the Social Security Board. It is the Collector of Internal Revenue who mails out to Maryland employers the form known as SS-1a. After this form is filled out, it should be returned to the Collector's office at Baltimore, according to Luther Becker, Manager of the Baltimore field office of the Social Security Board.

WATCH NIGHT

On New Year's eve midnight masses and watchnight services are held everywhere, while those less inclined to religious observances make the closing minutes of the year an occasion for jollity.

Old Year Memories

Let us forget the thing that vexed and tired us,
The worrying things that caused our souls to fret;
The hopes that, cherished long, were still denied us
Let us forget

Let us forget the little slights that pained us,
The greater wrongs that rankle sometimes yet;
The pride with which some lofty one disdains us
Let us forget

Let us forget our brother's fault and failing,
The yielding to temptation that beset;
That he perchance, though grief be unavailing
Can not forget;

But blessings manifold, past all deserving,
Kind words and helpful deeds, a countless throng,
The fault o'ercome, the rectitude unswerving,
Let us remember long.

Whatever things were good and true and gracious,
Whate'er of right has triumphed over wrong,
What love of God of man has rendered precious,
Let us remember long.

So pondering well the lessons it has taught us,
We tenderly may bid the year "Goodby",
Holding in memory the good it brought us,
Letting the evil die.

Susan H. Gammons.

90,000 MILES OF TELEPHONE CIRCUITS FORM U. S. RADIO HIGHWAY

Program Transmission Service Is "Life-Stream" Of Networks, Says *Radio News* Magazine

A nation-wide "express service," using 90,000 miles of telephone wire as sound highways, makes it possible for your favorite radio network program to come to you with clock-like regularity, wherever you happen to be in the United States.

This program transmission service, furnished by the Bell System has its great junction and switching point in the long distance telephone building in New York. Forwarded over routes radiating from this center, the program from any studio in any of the dozen basic broadcasting networks can be faithfully reproduced by distant stations in the chains covering the country.

A radio program, rehearsed and ready to go on the air, may be likened to a package which the broadcasting company wishes delivered to one or a number of affiliated stations. For delivering these packages in perfect condition to one or scores of stations, the Bell System has built this twenty-million dollar express system, with specially constructed circuits and amplifying apparatus, control points and switching facilities.

These little-known, behind-the-scenes transmission facilities are the life stream of the broadcasting networks, in the opinion of Alfred W. Davis, writing in a recent issue of *Radio News* magazine. "Without these facilities," said Mr. Davis, "broadcasting chains or systems could not exist. Our selection of programs would be very definitely limited to the nearest stations."

A symphony orchestra plays or an actor speaks in a New York studio. The sound is picked up by microphones and carried through wires to a nearby room where the broadcasting company's engineer puts the final wrappings on the package by adjusting the volume of the electrical sound waves before he delivers the studio's production to the telephone company.

Under the streets of the city the electrical sound waves pass through telephone cables to the long distance building where the general control office serves all the major networks. This office, which receives complete daily schedules from the broadcasting companies and relays them to a dozen control centers throughout the country, proceeds to deliver the program according to the orders it has received.

With split-second accuracy the programs are switched according to schedule and travel along the wires to broadcasting stations in New England, Canada, the west and the south, at a speed of from 20,000 to 180,000 miles per second. At the control boards in the switching centers in New York and elsewhere engineers watch carefully the quality of transmission as the words or music flow along the wires. Meanwhile other technical men are on the alert for any possible impairment of service and are ready to switch to alternate routes always held available for emergencies. The job of these men and the apparatus they control is to deliver the radio program package without delay or interruption, and without loss in fidelity and tone.

WHY

Lightning Starts Fires in Buildings and Trees.

Instead of lightning never striking twice in the same place, the chief reason why it sets fire to things is precisely because it often does strike, not twice, but many times in succession. So K. B. McEachron, lightning expert of the General Electric company, has discovered with his 10,000,000-volt lightning generator at Pittsfield, Mass.

Mere high voltage is not all there is to lightning. The amperage also is important, indicating the amount of electric current. Recently McEachron succeeded in combining a voltage of 5,000,000 volts with a current of 50,000 amperes. Electric power in his flash was about 12,500,000 kilowatts, discharging for a brief instant about one-third the power of all the dynamos in the United States, according to the Baltimore Sun.

Instead of flashing downward from the sky or upward from the earth, according to rival theories of other experts, lightning is shown by McEachron's photographs to shoot both ways at once, the earth flash and the sky flash sometimes meeting midway. Other photographs show lightning's not uncommon habit of making repeated strokes and setting fires.

A single stroke seldom would produce enough heat for a fire. It is the strokes repeated several times a second which gradually build up heat to ignite houses or trees.

Why Top of Wheel Moves Faster

When you see a motor-car at speed, take a good look at the top and bottom spokes of the wheels. The top spokes will appear blurred because they are moving fastest, while the bottom spokes will be much clearer because they are moving much slower. The explanation is that the part of the wheel which touches the ground does not move at all for a brief instant, otherwise it would slip and skid. The top of the wheel moves that much faster to compensate.

Why Control Counts in Sports, Business, Habits

On the baseball diamond, the difference between a great pitcher and a dub who can merely throw a ball hard, is largely a matter of control, asserts a writer in the Washington Star.

Fire, when under control, turns the wheels of industry. When out of control, it is one of the most destructive forces in the world.

A brilliant scientist, making revolutionary discoveries in his laboratory, may be changed into a helpless madman, simply by losing control over his mind.

Sounds pretty important, doesn't it—this matter of control? And it is. The motorist, the airplane pilot, the locomotive engineer—the life of each one depends absolutely on his ability to control his machine.

But that isn't all. Control is important for you, too—control over your habits, your temper, your undesirable impulses, your unworthy thoughts. If you have it, you'll be like the good baseball pitcher, and win a lot of games. If you don't, you'll be like the dub who not only never gets to first base, but who never even makes the team.

Why Shooting Star Has Tail

The reason why a shooting star appears to have a tail trailing behind is that an image remains in our eyes for about one-sixteenth of a second, says Pearson's London Weekly. Since the falling meteorite (wrongly called "shooting star") is moving very quickly, it has covered quite a distance before that one-sixteenth of a second has passed; so there appears to be a tail. It is the same phenomenon that makes the spokes of a whirling wheel look solid; and it is also the basis for the apparent continuous action on the cinema screen on which sixteen pictures are flashed every second.

A politician's idea of a fool is a man who affiliates with the other party.

Unless a servant knows his place he need not expect to keep it.

NEW OUTLOOK

By Gregg Alexander

"A glorious New Year's day, isn't it?" the young man asked.

Molly aroused herself. She had noticed this attractive young man on the boat, of course. Molly had avoided him, however. If she hadn't been so absorbed with her own gloomy thoughts he wouldn't have gotten near enough to speak.

"Yes, it is," she replied coldly. But as she looked up into his merry face, her own sad countenance thawed.

"Gee, but you are swell looking when you smile," he blurted out. "I've been wondering how you'd look with a smile on that pretty face."

Molly couldn't help but laugh. He sounded like a child. Then she grew sober.

"If you knew what makes me sad: my eyesight going, my fiance deciding he didn't want a blind wife,"—she started. But Jack stopped her.

"Start the New Year thinking of what you have, not pitying yourself. You have money to travel."

"Surely. Money!" Molly agreed disgustedly.

"More than ordinary good looks. Education, I should judge. A fair amount of charm. I can't judge that accurately, for you've kept it shut off." His tone was so droll that Molly had to laugh.

"Well, you do paint rather a strong picture, Mr. Pollyanna. You have your fair share of charm and good looks too," she responded, with a provocative smile.

"Stop it, stop it," Jack pleaded in mock alarm. "Turn it off, turn off the charm. I'm too susceptible."

"All right. Since you had the courage to tackle the glummest girl on board ship, maybe I'd better try making myself agreeable." Molly was still smiling, but there was a look of determination on her face.

"Sure thing. Be a good sport. Take life as it comes."

A trace of bitterness returned to Molly's tone as she said: "It's easy for you to talk, with health and good looks and everything to make life easy."

Jack laughed. "Lots you know about it. They told me five months ago I had six months to live. But I'm showing them they're mistaken. Aren't your eyes better?"

Molly looked at him in astonishment: "You mean it, really? And you so full of fun all the time? Oh, my eyes, you say. Yes, they really are better."

"I was sure of it. Well, I'm off to see the mate. His wife wants him to give up the sea and settle down on land. The idea is driving him nuts. So long, I'll be seeing you. Good luck, and Happy New Year!"

A NEW YEAR STORY

It's Open Season For Resolutions; Made Yours Yet?

CHICAGO.—It's again time for New Year's resolutions and psychologists have something to say about it.

"Humbug," is the comment of Dr. Robert N. McMurray, executive secretary of the Chicago Psychological corporation.

"He's wrong," answers Dr. George W. Crane, noted psychologist with Northwestern university.

Although most scientists admit the average resolution lives no longer than a May fly, they claim this old American habit does have merit. Dr. McMurray sees no more logic in using the first day of January for making resolutions than in the old southern custom of shooting off fireworks at Christmas, but he admits that people most meticulous about their obligations are more likely to keep New Year's promises.

"A good resolution," he says, "becomes a compromise solution to the conscience conflict. The man who makes one says to himself, 'I will make a resolution not to do this or that which I should not during the forthcoming year.' Although it's not the same as refraining from such actions, it does have some value in quieting the conscience's reproaches."

But Dr. Crane is more hopeful.

"It is wise to make resolutions," he says, "since the first step in progress of any sort consists of formulating the plans."

For those without sins to expiate, he suggests the following ideas:

"Pay a sincere compliment to your wife or husband, your children or neighbors.

"Don't wait for death to tear the selfishness from your eyes, after which, in remorse, you heap extra bouquets on the coffin.

"Resolve now to pay at least three sincere compliments every day in 1939."