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Friday, February 2, 1923.

A Drive For Patronage

A vigorous effort will be made this session of Parliament by the spoil hunters in the Liberal party to return to the old patronage system. Major C. G. Powers, M. P. for Quebec West, has already given notice of a motion which he will introduce for the repeal of the entire Civil Service Act with all its provisions establishing the Civil Service Commission.

That Major Powers will get considerable support from his fellow Liberal members and even from Cabinet ministers is likely, judging by the vigorous efforts they have made since they assumed office to see that all plums of office go to the faithful. Western Ontario has had plenty of evidence of the efforts of the Government to appoint only Liberal office-seekers in the post office department. To cite only two cases, there are the postmasterhips of Brussels and Oil Springs. In both these towns there were vacancies last summer. The Civil Service Commission advertised for applicants. For both positions men tried the examinations. The law, as passed by Union Government, says that returned men shall be given the preference and, as a result, veterans, fully qualified, were recommended. However, the post office department has in its hands the final appointment and Hon. Charles Murphy, postmaster-general, has persistently refused to accept the recommendations of the commission.

The most courageous and progressive piece of legislation passed by Union Government was the act placing the whole of the outside civil service of 60,000 employees under the Civil Service Commission. From the standpoint of political advantage, it was disastrous legislation. It offended the party friends of the Government, while it is doubtful if a solitary uplifter, who demanded purer politics, voted for the administration on the strength of this legislation. Mistakes may have been made by the Civil Service Commission in the administration of the act. This is not to be wondered at considering the enormous amount of extra work which it was suddenly called upon to undertake. However, any shortcomings on the part of the commissioners do not afford sufficient argument for the wiping out of the Civil Service Act and the return to a system of unrestrained patronage such as Major Powers evidently desires.

Canada's Banking System

The decennial revision of the Banking Act will take place at the session of Parliament which opened yesterday. Western Canada is particularly interested, and the West is full of experts ready with advice for the Ottawa legislators. Nearly every Western grain grower's local association has passed a resolution on the subject, the recommendations varying from proposals to adopt the American system of small local banks to the formation of a great national bank, such as has been established by the Australian Commonwealth. The Canadian banking system may not be perfect, but it would be foolish for the Dominion to discard a system, which has worked remarkably well, for European or American methods, or Australian schemes which are only in the experimental stage.

The chief grievances of the West is the inability to secure sufficient loans. There has been an impression that deposits are gathered by the Western branches and then sent to the Eastern head offices for use in Eastern Canada. Official banking figures show this idea is erroneous. As a matter of fact, the Western bank loans are vastly greater than the Western deposits. One wise agrarian leader recently suggested that possibly the trouble was that the West had been given too much credit.

Recent history of the American banking system would not encourage its adoption by Canada. While Western Canada has not lost a cent from bank failures, yet in the past two years in the Dakotas and Minnesota dozens of small state banks have gone to the wall, with disastrous consequences to shareholders

and depositors. Canadian banks have weathered the storm well. The only bank to hit breakers has been the Merchants, and its financial difficulties have been so handled by the other banking institutions of Canada that its disappearance scarcely caused a ripple in the business world. However, the Merchants Bank should furnish lessons for the strengthening of the Canadian Bank Act in order to prevent a repetition of such an affair.

Harvey Skey, manager of the London branch of the Bank of Montreal, in an address to the Rotary Club this week, drew attention to some remarkable statistics showing the strength of the Canadian banks and how they had assisted in restoring the Canadian dollar to par, so that Canada's credit to-day is perhaps the highest of any country. Mr. Skey pointed out an exceedingly interesting fact that since 1914 foreign deposits in Canadian banks have steadily increased, jumping from \$1,000,000 in 1914 to \$25,000,000 in 1919, and on November 30 last to \$34,000,000. This unbroken increase reflects the strong position of Canadian banks in the eyes of the outside world.

De Profundis

In the Ruhr and the Rhineland the Germans are reported as chanting the "De Profundis." Out of the depths into which their militarism and their national ambitions have thrust them, millions on millions at hand raise their voices—and it is to be hoped their hearts—to that God whom the outrages they committed, six years ago, across the Rhine and beyond the Moselle, must indeed have offended.

The comparatively peaceable invasion of their country by France, has thrown a nation which so recently made a warlike and most brutal invasion of France into a passionate fervor of supplication.

Out of the depths (de profundis, in the Latin version) have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice. Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord. My soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul looketh for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning; yea, more than watchmen for the morning.

So goes the old 138th Psalm, which, when the revenues has slipped into the place of the saintly Cardinal Merder, leads vast crowds of people in prayer that God will be pleased to turn aside the hands of France.

It all sounds very pathetic and very picturesque until one recalls how well Cardinal Schulte served William Hohenzollern in those other years.

Also one remembers that on one of the pillars of Cologne Cathedral there is a portrait-statue of the ex-emperor done as the Prophet Daniel. Has Cardinal Schulte had that infamy removed?

The Fire Department Probe

A committee of the City Council has decided that the fire department did not fail in its duty in fighting the destructive blaze at the Thomas Alway Home on Tuesday.

However, this report will not altogether satisfy the citizens and the investigation should not end with this report. It is absolutely vital to the city that there should be a well-organized, well-trained and well-disciplined force, and the citizens want to be assured that they have such a department.

There is a suspicion there has been too much interference on the part of the City Council in the past.

If aidmen can meddle with the operations of the force, then it is fatal to discipline.

Now that the question is opened it should not be closed until London is satisfied that the fire department is on the most efficient basis possible.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Grave robbing is a grave offense.

It's a wise fellow who now makes his way with the crop.

Here's a new one, "radio celestia." Are you listening in?

Silence gives consent, but otherwise it is a most awful miser.

Bubbling humor sometimes gets humorist into hot water!

These are good log-rolling days if you're doing the genuine sort.

Don't try to make a superman of a person of straw-like characteristics.

No nation that has too stringent an "isolation" bent evolves a satisfactory foreign policy.

Someone said: "Patience is the key to contentment." It's worth trying out such a master key.

Lausanne parley? Who knows what will result? Will the "Tark" act true to type—if so, what then?

The trouble about stepping into another man's shoes is that one never knows where the "pinch" is located.

The clerk who is bound to succeed is the one to whom the customer is always right—no matter how wrong.

Einstein says that in all probability "there never will be an end to the world." Resurrectionists please copy.

Fire, fire, burn stick! Seems to have been the order of procedure in the mayor's "big stick" case with the fire department.

"Wireless talks" are all very well, still it is many a "talk" never would have taken place if it had not been for wire-pulling.

Three generations of British must pay for the money Great Britain borrowed of the United States with which to save the liberties of the world.

Just as murder will out, so worth will. Shakespeare has made another conquest. Three of his plays recently have been translated into Siamese by the king, who received much of his education in England.

The internationalism of commerce has many comedy elements. What could be more bizarre than the fact that thousands of Jews-harpe manufactured in England are sold every year to negro tribes in South Africa?

The Third Column

THE WHITE OAK

The white oak keeps its leaves till spring when other trees are bare. And who will take the time to look, will find the young bud there. The young bud nestled snug and warm against the winter's cold. The young bud being sheltered by the knowledge of the old.

And when the spring shall come again—and gentle turns the day. The youthful bud will swell with strength and thrust the old way. The youthful bud will seek the breeze and hunger for the sun. And down to earth will fall the old with all its duty done. Then heedless of the parent leaf, the youthful bud will grow. And watch the robins build their nests and watch the robins go. Then something strange will come to it when that young bud grows old. It, too, will want to shield its babe against the winter's cold.

It, too, will cling unto the tree through many a dreary day. Until the springtime comes again and it is thrust away. Then it will flutter down to earth with all its duty done. And leave behind its happy child to drink the morning sun.

How like man's life from birth to close! How like the white oak tree Which guards a shelter for its young against the storm, and we, who guard our children through the night and watch them through the day. And when at last our work is done, like leaves, we fall away.

—Edgar A. Guest.
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LEAVING THINGS BEHIND.

Many a home has been made unhappy by the head of the house taking his business there instead of leaving it behind at his office, where it rightfully belongs.

Troubles are as inevitable as the night itself. But we should not cart them around. We should have a special place for our troubles—and no one should know where they are kept.

Worries should be left behind. Sorrows should be left behind. Mistakes should be left behind.

The freer you are in thought and action, the more power you accumulate as you go your way.

I believe the stage to be a great educational force. Its power for good is limitless. How many times has it wiped the cobwebs from my brain and sent me home to "pleasant dreams."

And its great influence for good lies in the fact that it helps folk to forget. Associated with those who help to forget and inspire you and bring out the best that is within you.

Keep your mind at work with pleasant tasks. Keep filling it with beauty and knowledge.

You can do this if you eliminate everything that tries to keep you from it. Keep filling it with beauty and knowledge.

We all carry too much baggage. Life really calls for light equipment—no heavy journey is long and at times quite tedious, but interesting and thrilling if you have left behind our finished tasks.

Learn to leave things behind, and you will know the pleasure of growth.

—George Matthew Adams.

COLD WEATHER
How I hate to journey forth on these bitter winter morn! For the wind is from the north and has bells upon its horns; with that wind I have a dread and it hands me swat and blif, and I soon am frozen stiff from my whiskers to my corns.

In the back-seat of my car, where I am always being told there is pay in Arctic rules, there is stimulant in cold; where the blizzard fiercely shrieks and they're dreading him from limb, you are filled with snap and vim and with vigor manifold. Let the he-men face the storm, in their bold red-blooded way. I feel best when I am warm, when I'm snugly in the hay; let the hero, minus fears, face the blizzard that appears.

Have frozen both my ears, and I found I didn't pay, I have frozen both my feet when I found upon the fern, and I say that warmth is sweet and that cold has little charm; let me sit before the fire with my dachshund and my lyre, while the he-men admire your view which comfort with alarm. Let the hero, minus fears, face the blizzard that appears.

Waste while the bitter tempest rolls o'er the land in frantic haste; let them struggle with despair, coming icebergs from their hair; but a padded cash coat is more strictly my taste.—Walt Mason.

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK.
Poverty and Riches
It is more fun being rich than it is being poor, but on the reverse if you are very poor you can enjoy yourself more than people who are as poor as possible.

This proves the sufferings of others is a great blessing. Some people think they are rich if they have a dollar while others haven't got at least a million they go around complaining. This proves nothing to do with money is not a sin.

A pennies in your pocket make more of a rattle than 2 dimes and is often a one as was the 2 dimes would of him. Even a bunch of keys in your pocket is better than no sound at all except when if somebody else can hear them and find sure weather they are keys or not. One cent without anything to knock against don't make any sound but you are glad to know it there just the same.

This proves nothing to do with money is not a sin. The easiest thing to do with money is to lend it and the 2 hardest things is to get it back and borrow more. The opposite of spending it is saving it. Even if you only have a cent every day for 30 years you will have 328 dollars and 50 cents, only that time you will probably be too old to enjoy it. This proves there is no time like the present.

The most unsuccessful way to save money is to put it in a bank and when take it out again with a wife through the slot.

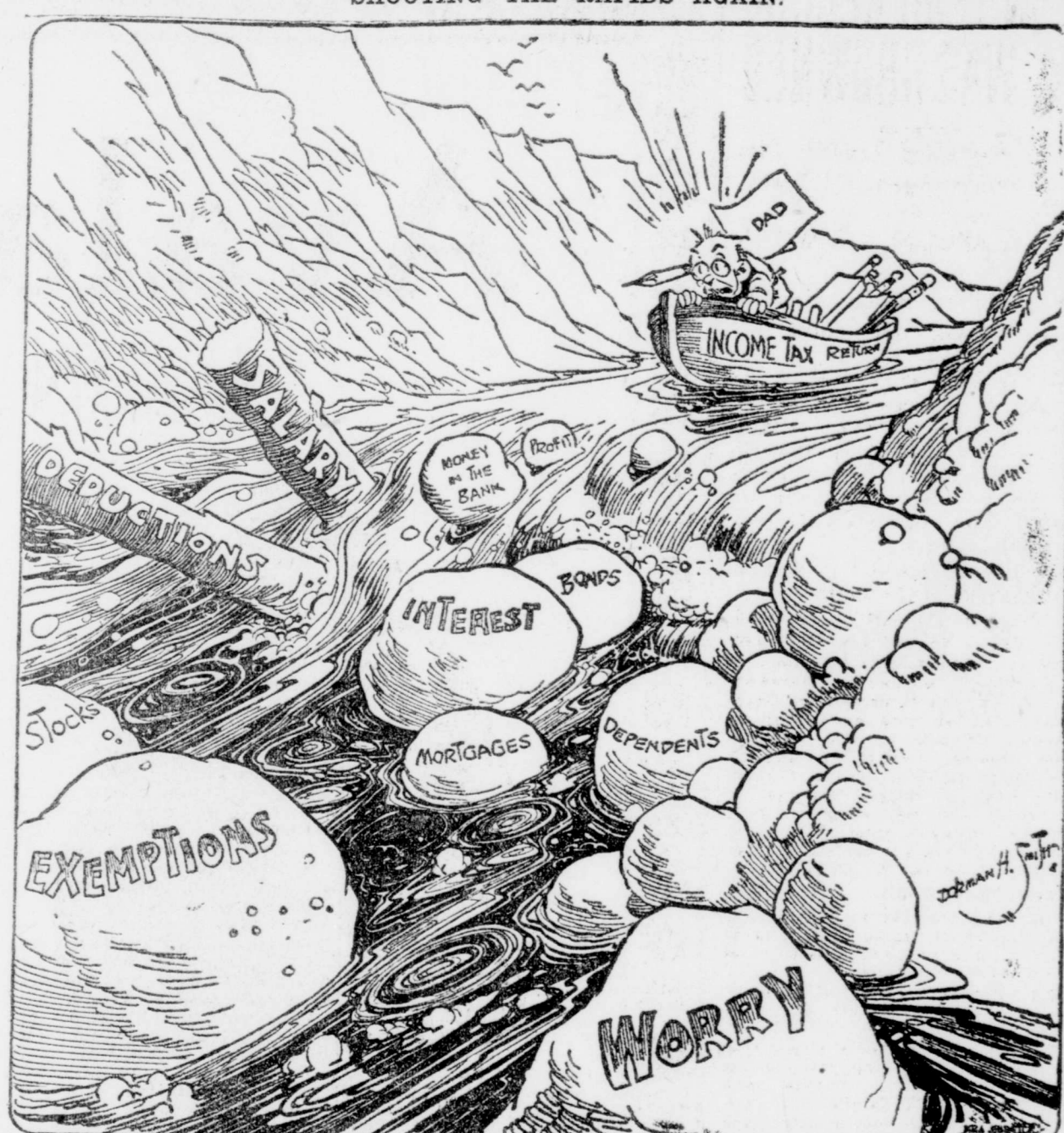
Everybody likes to have somebody leave them money in their will, but they have to die for you to get it. It is like a lot of money.

Everybody also likes to find money but nobody likes to lose any. If a man drops a dime even if he is a millionaire he will probably be the first one to notice it.

The easiest way to get money is to ask your father or mother for it once in a while and the easiest way not to get it is to ask them for it often.

—Lee Pope.

A Thought
He makes the storm a calm, so he who wakes there is a still—Ps. 117:29. Peace is always beautiful.—Walt Whitman.



Record of Good Progress Of the League of Nations

LORD ROBERT CECIL, one of the most ardent upholders of the League of Nations, in a recent article in the London Times reviews the work of the league. He writes:

The work that has been accomplished in the past year by the league, through the assembly, the council and its various commissions, must cause almost unmitigated satisfaction to those who base upon its ultimate success their hopes for the survival of our civilization.

In 1922 it made greater and more solid progress than it had made before. If it were possible to make a complete review of what has been done in all the various departments of international affairs with which it has dealt, it would be seen that it is far creating not only the machinery, but also the habits and the traditions of international co-operation, from which ever-increasing political and moral strength must result.

In all those departments of its work which are generally thought of as "international co-operation"—the social and humanitarian activities, its work against the illicit traffic in drugs, against the traffic in women and children, the work of the transit organization, the health organization and the rest—it has achieved more than could have been hoped for. But what is far more important—the league has carried into its political activities the same methods of objective and impartial co-operation which have brought success in the social and humanitarian work.

Its political work in 1922 has, indeed, been of happy augury for the future. In every question with which it has dealt it has reached conclusions satisfactory to the countries immediately concerned, and immensely to the interest of the world at large. In the matter of Albania, on which the council held its crucial 7th meeting in November, 1921, the work of the council and of the league commission which has been in Albania throughout 1922, has resulted in the establishment of the happiest relations between the Governments of Albania and Yugoslavia.

During the past year the council also brought to a happy conclusion the work which it had begun on the question of Upper Silesia. The German-Polish controversy, which seemed to have been a deadlock, was solved by the council in the previous year, was largely as a result of the mediation of the league, signed in Geneva and immediately ratified by both the parties.

AUSTRIA.
No doubt the most important political achievement of the year, however, was in the question of Austria. I call this a political achievement for the reason that, although the council had no direct power, it was the economic and financial salvation of the Austrian Republic, the true obstacles which had to be overcome were political in nature. The political difficulties were removed. To anyone who knew the inner course of these negotiations there could be no doubt that it was only the permanent machinery of the council, with its atmosphere of impartiality and its traditions of co-operation, that brought about the general acceptance of the "Geneva protocols."

The happy progress of events in Austria, its steady march towards financial and economic rehabilitation, are the best commentary on the work the council did.

In another department, a notable event took place. The permanent court of international justice, whose members were elected by the assembly of 1921, held two sessions, in the first of which they worked out their code of procedure, and in the second of which they dealt with the first questions which were laid before them by the council of the league. It is worth noting that on the league's anniversary the court has met to hear the first serious dispute between two governments of Europe, which has been brought before it.

But, perhaps, more important than all is the work which has been done on the subject of disarmament. The so-called temporary mixed commission, which is in the second year of its existence, is now at the end of its work. It is worth noting that it was appointed to advise, in which it had before the third committee of the assembly, regulations concerning a treaty of mutual guarantee, the reduction of land and naval forces, upon which were perhaps the most absorbing of the whole assembly took place. The committee, at the result of discussions upon these resolutions and upon all the obstacles, including the problem of reparations, which at present stand in the path of disarmament.

Between Ourselves

The Federal and Provincial parliaments are in session at the present time. The London Free Press is represented by its own correspondents, experienced newspaper men, who will tell in a breezy manner the daily doings of our legislators. At Ottawa the Free Press is represented by Charles L. Bishop, a veteran of the Parliamentary press gallery, who is personally acquainted with every politician in Canada worth knowing. He is one of the best posted men at the capital. At Toronto William E. Elliott will tell the story of the day session of the Legislature. Mr. Elliott's knowledge of provincial affairs, and particularly of Western Ontario, makes his reports of the proceedings of special interest.

It is not often that newspaper folk take a holiday, but Miss Margaret Coyne, of the women's department of The Free Press, is stealing time to take a three months' holiday in Europe. She will visit Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Constantinople (if the Turks will let her), Palestine and Egypt. She will send The Free Press a series of chatty letters from abroad, telling of "shoes, ships and sailing wax and cabbages and kings" abroad.

Like Christmas, the National Motor Show of Western Ontario comes but once a year and for no other reason it is looked forward to with exceedingly great anticipation. All next week at the armory the newest models of motor cars will be exhibited. One hears on every side: "Well, I wonder which car I will choose this year." Our own opinion is that this is quite a difficult thing to do. You look at one car and see something you like about it and then you look at another and wish that it had what was on the other, or vice versa. But one should not be guided to too great an extent by outside appearances. One wants to delve into the hidden things of a motor car to determine what service that machine is going to give. For instance, the rear axle, the lubrication, the carburetor, the motor, the bearings, the riding qualities of the springs. One can be certain, almost, that if these things are O. K. then the finish of the car, the mirror-like, glossy surface will stand a reasonable

amount of wear and tear. What's the use of having a fine, sparkling body on a car if the engine has a knock or the differential or transmission how like wolves baying in the forests? Not much satisfaction in that, is there?

That's the kind of dope being passed out by the motor editor. Just between you and I and the gate post, he doesn't drive anything that looks like a Rolls-Royce, but he's got the temperance about things running smoothly. "Just like a sewing machine," is one of his favorite expressions. When we remind him about the collection of stuff he's got he comes back with, "Well, a man's reach should exceed his grasp." It's a great thing, having ambitions like that.

But we don't want to forget, in this ramble, to tell you that we're publishing a motor show edition to-morrow. It's going to have in it some interesting things. Just the sort of things every motorist likes to read about. He's going to have a chance to learn things about cars so that when he goes to the show next week he can make comparisons. Then there is something new this year in connection with the motor show. The merchants of the city are going to have special inducements for motor show visitors. And the slogan is "Shop in London Motor Show Week." London merchants know how to co-operate on a proposition of this kind, so you should watch for their announcements of the things that are going to be offered at specially attractive prices.

While you are busy talking about motor cars see if you can't find a moment to think about your feet and our Perfect Foot Contest. Hundreds of men, women and children are having pedographs made of their feet and are entrants in the contest for the grand prize of \$50 in cash or one of the other prizes, \$20, \$10 down to \$1. If you haven't had a print of your foot made, you'd better get busy, for the time is approaching when the contest closes. All the facts are once more being set forth in our paper to-morrow.

Tongue Twisters

(To Be Read Aloud).
BY C. L. EDSON.
Author of "The Gentle Art of Columns."

THE LIVELY CHUM
Sally Wallace was an heiress in a palace. And she had a callous chorus girl as a chum. A peeress of the chorus, Alice Dallas, and she made the cheerless Wallace a palace hum. For there never was such a pill as Alice Dallas. She made Alice Wallace thrill as in a trance. When this Alice started kicking Sally's pillows, in a sort of careless Alice Dallas dance.

Miss Wallace had a lover, Willis Willis. And he said that Alice Dallas made him jealous. "Silly Willis," said Miss Wallace, "Such a peerless pal as Alice—Such a fearless pal as Alice—Never ought to stir the malice of a man that loves a Wallace." So was given unto silly Willis Willis, Sally Wallace's analysis of Alice.

ROBS EXPECTED ON MONDAY.
OTTAWA, Feb. 1.—Hon. James A. Robb, minister of commerce, will probably arrive in Ottawa on Monday next. He is on the Mauretania, which is due at New York to-morrow.

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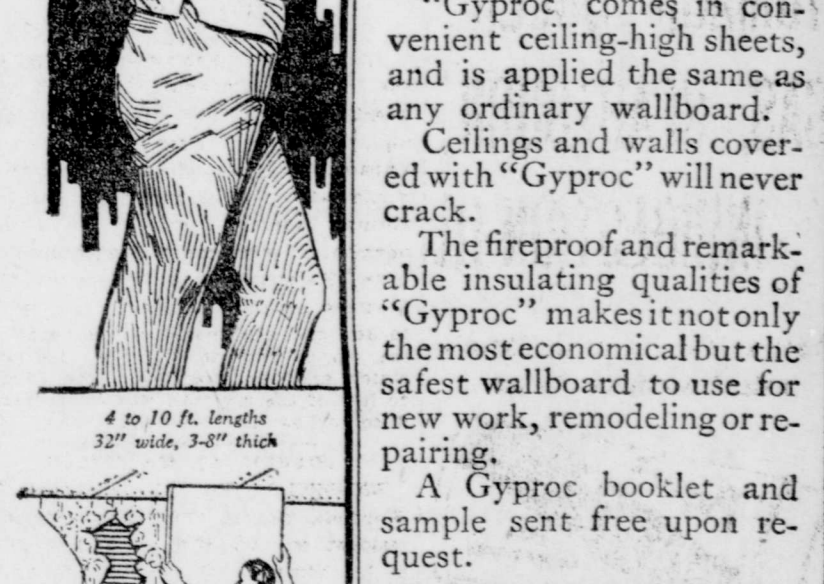
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