

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL

(Special for St. Peter's Bote.)

—It should be our constant endeavor to make our lives useful. To this end we should equip ourselves, and we should not become weary in this in our efforts in this direction, for in due season we will succeed. We must think of others, as well as of ourselves; love others as ourselves, and do unto others as we would expect them to do unto us. Such a course of conduct will result in a useful life.

—Life is like a magic vase. It will run over to you only that which you drop into it — nothing more, nothing less, nothing different. —If we drop in love, generosity, tolerance, magnanimity, kindness, helpfulness, unselfishness—the life vase will run over to us the same things in the same amount and quality. If on the other hand, we put in hate, jealousy, envy, cruelty, selfishness, grasping greed, malicious gossip about our neighbors — it will run over with all of these black devils to torment us and rob us of happiness and success.

—Each confession should be a wave to raise you nearer to God. It should be a bath; a bath to purify you from all stain; a tonic to strengthen you with so gigantic a strength that you may overcome all temptation and acquire all virtues.

—When a man or a woman professing allegiance to the Catholic Church becomes guilty of murder, graft, scandal, immorality, or any other crime, he or she has really ceased, for the time being, to be a Catholic. Such a one has thrown overboard his or her allegiance to the principles of conduct for which the Church has become famous. Hence, the Church is no more to blame than is a good conscientious doctor censured because an obstinate patient refuses to use the prescribed remedy and perishes in consequence.

—It is true that the mother makes the home, but it is also true that the father keeps it. If mother makes the bread, father furnishes the dough.

—Clothes do not make the man, nor does a coat of arms.

—It is not wealth or ancestry, but honorable conduct and a noble disposition, that make men great.

—If we would learn to be fair to our antagonists in the game of life, they would be our best teachers; and on our defeat or disappointment would follow a far greater success than that of our first thwarted dream.

—"What is the happiest time of life?" a Christian philosopher was asked. "The happiest time of life is the time when we are doing our duty best," he replied.

—There is no substitute for thorough-going, ardent, sincere earnestness.

—Some one remarked that the old copybook precept, "Man is the architect of his own fortune," might well have added that he is also the carpenter, mason and usually the head carrier as well. Because of this we rebel. If we could only shape success and character by beautiful blue prints drawn in a comfortable office, few would refuse the task. But the toilsome laying of brick as the slow foundation rises, and the weary mounting of ladders, round by round with the load upon the shoulder—it is these that discourage the ordinary human builder.

—Things don't turn up in this world till somebody turns them up.

—A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck.

—Patriotism is not the mere holding of a great flag unfurled, but making it the godliest in the world.

—Hasty climbers have sudden falls.

United States News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The world war cost the United States \$26,007,000,000, exclusive of loans to the allies totalling 9,406,000,000.

—Action by the Senate both on the Versailles treaty and the resolution of Senator Lodge, proposing to declare the war with Germany at an end appears improbable until after the Christmas holidays scheduled to run from Dec. 20 to Jan. 5. The deadlock over procedure as to the Versailles treaty apparently has tightened and Republican leaders agreed to defer action temporarily on the Lodge resolution.

NEW YORK. — The cost of living, as based on 96 commodities, advanced 1.3 per cent. during the past month, and now stands at 131 per cent. above the pre-war level, the highest ever known. Textiles, provisions and groceries constitute the bulk of the commodities.

CHICAGO, Ill. — Central and Western States, experienced extremely low temperatures and heavy snowfall. Nebraska reported that the worst storm in years was sweeping over that state. The southwest was in the grip of a gathering blizzard with the mercury falling rapidly in Missouri, Kansas, Eastern Colorado, and parts of Oklahoma and Texas. As the pasturage in many states is buried under a covering of ice, severe suffering among livestock is expected. Below zero temperature prevailed between Dec. 8-13 in virtually all the Mississippi valley. In Eastern Washington and Oregon one of the worst snowstorms in history was recorded. In Portland, Oregon, two shipyards were forced to close by the snow and cold. Two feet of snow blocked the street car traffic and the schools closed for two days. Dec. 10th and 11th have been the coldest days in Butte, Mont., since 1899, when records of weather were first tabulated in this community. While the official government barometer registered 28 below, other equally reliable records gave from 35 to 50 below in exposed sections.

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time it is obviously extremely difficult for overseas buyers to make settlements. The result is that Canada has not the benefit of the concurrent cash remittances which previously influenced rate in exchange. In brief, we have to pay cash for what we buy and we are selling on credit. It is true that there has been inflation in Canada, but probably less than anywhere. Canadian currency is in a very excellent condition. The gold reserve against our total currency note issue is over 47 per cent. That this is a high and satisfactory reserve is evident from the fact that the gold reserve called for by the federal reserve system in the United States is only forty per cent.

Flyer Makes Trip From England To Australia

Captain Ross Smith, the Australian aviator arrived at Port Darwin, Australia, on Dec. 10th from England, thus winning a prize of £10,000 sterling offered for the first aviator to make the voyage.

Captain Ross Smith left the Hounslow aviation field, near London, at 9 o'clock, Nov. 12, on his flight to Australia. On Nov. 18 he reached Cairo and on Nov. 19 he continued his flight, reaching Delhi, India, on Nov. 23. From there he continued east until he reached Rangoon, turning southward at that city, making a number of stops along the Malay Peninsula and in the islands of Oceania. He arrived at Bima, on Sumbawa Island, near Java, on Dec. 8th.

Port Darwin is near the northernmost tip of Australia, being near the town of Palmerston.

Under the conditions laid down by the Australian government when it offered a prize for making a flight from England to Australia the distance of 11,500 miles had to be covered within thirty days.

An interesting phase of the latter part of the flight was the international contest developed between the British Captain Smith and Lt. Etienne Poulet, the French military aviator, who left Paris for a flight to Australia on Oct. 4th, over a month before Captain Smith started from London. The Englishman caught up with Poulet in India, however, the aviators meeting in Rangoon on Nov. 30, and both leaving for Bangkok on Dec. 1. The two airmen started off nearly together from Bangkok on the day following. No reports have been received, however, as to the whereabouts of the French aviator after leaving Bangkok.

Foreign News

The crew of the British submarine E14, about 20 officers and men, will share in a prize bounty of over \$150,000 as the result of a judgment of the privy council last week. This is the biggest haul of naval prize money in the war. The bounty is in respect of the sinking of the Turkish transport Gij-djema, with 6,000 troops and 200 of a crew, in 1915, and is granted at the usual rate of £5 per head of those on board the enemy vessel. The prize court previously had given two judgments against the claim, but these are now reversed by the privy council, who decided that the rifles and field pieces aboard the transport were intended to be used at sea, and the vessel thus became "an armed ship" within the meaning of the Naval Prize act. A curious feature is that the sum awarded is six times greater than that given for the sinking of the German dreadnought Blücher, the crew of the latter being less than 1,000. Submarine E14 was finally sunk by the Turks in 1918. At this time the ship's books, contained no names of the original crew.



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