

The Wettest of the Wet

"How dry is Pennsylvania?" is the general heading of a series of articles recently published in the New York Tribune. An investigator made a survey of the Keystone State, and to say the least the results were interesting, if not surprising; particularly in view of the fact that Pennsylvania's governor not so long ago declared with great unctiousness and fervor that the constitution in respect to the Volstead Act must be obeyed.

The first article of the series dealt with Scranton, a city of some 135,000 people, and one of the most important mining and manufacturing centres in the State. The observer finds that there is no city "wetter" than Scranton. "The vaccine of prohibition," he says, "seems to have had not the slightest effect. Scrantonians have as much opportunity today for drinking spirituous liquors as they did in the pre-Volstead days when they had at their disposal 400 thriving saloons."

As predicted in these columns at the time nothing came of Governor Pinchot's order for the saloons to close up and stay closed. This order went forth in August last with a great blare of trumpets, but the saloons kept on doing business. Here and there a liquor vendor was grabbed and thrown to the federal courts where the judge says "most of the cases will rest and go to sleep."

The Tribune investigator then turns his attention to the city of Pittsburgh, where he says bartenders cannot work fast enough to satisfy the lines of patrons. "For sheer indifference to every form of prohibition regulations," says this investigator, "this city (Pittsburgh) the second largest in the Keystone State, would receive a crown. One prominent citizen describes it as wet enough for rubber boots, and that so far as the 600,000 residents of Pittsburgh seem to be concerned statutory prohibition is a meaningless scrawl."

He further states that there are at least two thousand places where people may obtain high power beer and spirituous liquors; that the police pick up from fifty to sixty drunks on the streets every twenty-four hours and that some days the big industrial plants have difficulty operating owing to the wobbly condition of their workers. In the Pittsburgh stores small stills for home use are sold openly, while the saloon keepers do not even take the trouble to hide their occupation.

The investigator goes on to state that while the large hotels do not maintain bars, most of the small ones do, and liquor may be obtained in the fashionable cafes, restaurants and cabarets.

The worst showing of all, according to the Tribune man, was in Philadelphia. Here are a few statistics gathered by him in the "City of Brotherly Love." Arrested for intoxication over a period of eight months preceding Sept. 1st, 29,134, other arrests for disorderly drunkenness, 5,346, intoxicated chauffeurs taken off the streets, 383, while 1,082 persons were arrested here and there on suspicion of bootlegging. "Only last Saturday night," writes the observer, "449 drunks were taken up by the police, and it is estimated that at the tempo of the present drinking orgy a record of more than one hundred thousand arrests will be established this year for all causes revolving about the drinking and selling of liquor."—Saturday Night.

Keep January 7th open for the C.L.A. Dance at Columbus Hall. Prince's Orchestra.—Jan2,51

Great Britain Must Keep High Sea Free to Maintain Empire

Australia Wants Closer Relations With United States.

TORONTO, Dec. 27.—The Washington conference which ended competition in the construction of big naval armaments, does not prevent nations from becoming strongly armed, said Premier W. F. Massey, of New Zealand, addressing the Toronto Canadian Club to-day.

No limitation having been placed by the conference on 10,000 ton ships carrying 8 inch guns or upon submarines or airships, the empire was free to provide adequate defenses and he was emphatically in favor of the establishment of British Navy strong enough to keep the sea free, for once the communications of the Empire were cut, then its very existence was threatened.

In this connection he stated that he could not imagine the possibility of a war between Great Britain and the United States, but he would like to see still closer relations established.

New Zealand and Australia were vitally interested in the question of the fortification of Singapore, and his government had voluntarily voted a sum of 100,000 pounds to be applied to this work, it decided upon.

Tickets for C.L.A. Dance can be had at the door. Dancing at 1.45.—Jan2,51

Our Capita Tax is Much Higher Than in States

U.S. GOVERNMENT COST ONLY \$28 PER HEAD COMPARED WITH \$50 HERE.

OTTAWA.—The Finance Department's November statement shows the national expenditure for the eight months ending November 30 at \$218,837,785, as compared with \$218,709,791 for the same period last year; on current account it was \$216,255 larger.

If the United States government's per capita expenditure during this fiscal year were as heavy as Canada's it would have asked the taxpayers of that country for \$5,590,000,000, instead of approximately \$3,900,000,000, the amount that the appropriations call for. Canada's federal estimates call for a per capita expenditure of \$50; the United States federal estimates call for a per capita expenditure of \$36.

Reports received here from various parts of the country indicate that expenditure and taxation are becoming very live subjects. President Coolidge's message to Congress on these subjects apparently is having its effect on this side of the line. A study of the accompanying schedules supplies much food for thought. The \$3,900,000,000 asked for by the government over this year includes a deficit of over \$54,000,000 on the Emergency Fleet Corporation, another of over \$24,000,000 on the Post Office, and about \$9,000,000 for the enforcement of the Volstead Act. It includes also \$512,000,000 for the redemption of the national debt. And on top of all this, it is expected that there will be a surplus of \$329,000,000.

If the United States made no more provision for the reduction of its debt than Canada does; if it made no more provision for a surplus than we do, instead of taking \$36 per capita in taxes from its people, it would take only \$28, as against \$50 over here. It is only by strict comparisons of this nature that the actual deadweight of taxation in Canada is realized.

Ladies' Tan Hockey Boots \$6.00 at SMALLWOOD'S. dec24,1f

M. C. L. I.

PROGRAMME FOR 1924.

January 10.—Resolved: That modern entertainment and sport tend to moral degeneracy.

17.—Resolved: That the alienation of the Labrador to the Dominion of Canada for financial considerations will prove inimical to the best interests of Newfoundland.

24.—Resolved: That in comparison with other countries, the results accruing to Newfoundland from her educational system are not commensurate with expenditure.

31.—Resolved: That the granting of a bonus on Codfish would retard the economic recovery of Newfoundland.

February 7.—Resolved: That France is justified and well advised in her occupation of the Ruhr.

14.—Open night.

21.—Resolved: That the Norwegian system of catching and curing fish by systematic groups is superior to ours, making standardization possible and should be adopted by Newfoundland.

28.—Resolved: That Newfoundland would be well advised to surrender her charter of responsible government and revert to the status of a Crown Colony.

March 6.—Three-sided Debate. Resolved: That of the three policies (Conservative, Liberal and Labor) submitted to the electorate at the recent British elections, that that of the Party was in the best interests of the Empire.

13.—Which Discovery or Invention ranks first in the achievement and general benefit to mankind?

20.—Open night.

27.—Resolved: That a University education that lacks a definite professional objective is not conducive to the success of the pupil in life's career.

April 3.—Resolved: That the St. John's Municipal Council should raise sufficient funds by a Bond issue, to install water and sewerage systems necessary in City streets; improve City sidewalks and pave Dockworth and New Gower Streets.

10.—Annual meeting.

From Cape Race

Special to Evening Telegram. CAPE RACE, To-day. Wind N.W., blowing strong; weather fine. A steamer passed West at midnight and an unknown schooner passed in at 11.30 a.m. Bar. 30; ther. 32.

Stock Market News

TO-DAY'S OPENING.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Am. Smelters, Caddo Oil, Cosden Oil, Dome, Gen. Motors, Great Northern, Kennecott, Marland, Middle States, Ind. Alcohol, Market St., Pure Oil, Sinclair, Sou. Pacific, Studebaker, Texas Co., Sou. Railway, N. W. Pref., N. S. Steel, Sub. Boat.

MONTREAL.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Abitibi, Brazilian, Brompton, Cannons, B. E. S. 2nd, Can. Steel, Shawinigan, Car. Pfd.

COTTON.

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price. Includes Jan.

BRAZILIAN.

(Financial Times, Dec. 29th.)

Brazil has been going through a rather stormy financial experience during the past year. It has made different efforts to improve its position, to the end that Brazilian exchange would respond. This effort has in a measure been successful, but world conditions have not been conducive to complete success. In all these ups and downs Brazilian Tracton was deeply involved. The various subsidiaries have enjoyed a good year. A report on nine months earnings for 1923 show a jump of practically 33,000,000 milreis, while the aggregate net stands 19,449,000 milreis higher than the nine-month total for 1922. There has been some nervousness during the year about the common dividend of one per cent quarterly. This nervousness was due to the exchange situation. About 40 per cent of the company's earnings are on a gold basis. The other 60 per cent are in milreis. Thus, purchases, outside of Brazil, when paid in milreis, entail a loss when the exchange is down. Also profits are eaten into in transferring dividend funds to the

Dominion. On the other hand, the earnings of the company, payable in gold, are enhanced when exchange is depreciated, and this makes up a portion of the loss on the balance.

ANY COMPLAINTS.

(Financial Post, Dec. 29th.) Holders of Power, Shawinigan, St. Maurice, Spanish River, and one or two other issues have little to complain of just now. While they have passed through rather trying times, in which prices of their securities fell to very low figures, the recovery of the past month has more than offset these mid-year losses and recompensed the confidence which was shown when the market was at its lowest ebb. The surprising thing in connection with the advance has been that so little real selling—other than of trading nature—has met each successive rally, which each rally has resulted in the passing of the previously established high points. There are some, of course who regard the upward swing as being of an artificial and, therefore, temporary character, but it is an axiom of the Street that a movement based upon heavy investment accumulation is one that is based upon solid foundation. Speculative markets can seldom be "made," they develop as the result of natural influences exerted by the multitudinous forces which go to make up a business and economic situation.

CUBAN-CANADIAN.

(Financial Times, Dec. 29th.) The present sugar situation is interesting as affecting the outlook for Cuban Canadian Sugar Company. Cuban-Canadian commenced grinding operations this week with the prospect of producing approximately 190,000 bags. Last year the company produced 165,000 bags, and at an average realization price of slightly under five cents per pound, realized a net profit of \$370,000 after bond interest and liberal provision for depreciation and other reserves. With no carry-over from last year's crop and the latest estimated total Cuban production of 3,700,000 bags, as against 3,600,000 last year, coupled with the lowness of refiners stocks both here and in Europe, the probabilities are decidedly in favor of continued strength of the raw sugar market, as a result of which Cuban Canadian and similar companies may reasonably be expected even to better the showing made by them last year.

Nothing in Particular

By TRINCULO.

A DISCOURSE ON MODERN POETRY.

Until recently, I thought I knew something about poetry. Not a great deal, I admit, but still, something. I even used to write a few verses myself, but after reading a little book I picked up the other day, I feel very much as Rip Van Winkle must have felt, when he awoke after his long sleep. The book I refer to is entitled "To-day's Poetry," and is an anthology of ultramodern poetry. I have read it from cover to cover and shall probably do so again, and I feel sure that after you have taken in the extracts which I propose to give in this article, you will want to obtain a copy immediately. Take this gem of poetry. It is entitled "Berceuse Ariettes," whatever that may mean, and is by a person named Kreyenborg, who most certainly pronounces the first syllable of his name "crime."

"We have a one-room home, You have a two-room, three-room, four-room. We have a one-room home Because a one-room home is all we have."

"We have a one-room home Because we do not want. A two-room, three-room, four-room. If we had a two-room, three-room, four-room We would need more than a one-room home. We like a one-room home."

"This is only the first verse. A sort of preliminary canticle, so to speak. Can you not see the infinite pathos of it? Picture the poor poet and his wife, or possibly she is not his wife, since a person who writes such free verse, probably believes also in free love; picture them, I say, living in a poor little one-room home, because it is all they have, because it holds all they have. Imagine the poor poet, staggering around the streets of a great city, trying to sell his works of art to heartless editors, who refuse to accept them, even as scrap paper. Think of his poor, lonely heartbroken mate, waiting at home, hoping against hope. Picture the two of them feeding off manuscript, for want of a more nutritious diet. Is it not too pitiful?"

I thought so, until I turned to the preface of the book, and discovered the following: "The new poetry may seek to reproduce or suggest certain musical forms, as Alfred Kreyenborg does in 'Berceuse Ariettes.'"

"Oh, Alfred, how could you? To think of the sympathy I have wasted on you, and you were not really poor

at all, but were just trying to reproduce or suggest certain musical forms. How cruel! Alfred's seventh and last verse is a fitting ending: 'It is "This room was our cradle. It will rock in our memory. No matter what we grow to."

And so will Alfred Kreyenborg's poem, forever rock in my memory. A fitting epitaph for it is "Once read, never forgotten." Now here is something I can understand more easily. It is a little bit from "The Social Order," by Ezra Pound.

"This Government official, Has such a careening air, When he shakes hands with young ladies."

There, we have tragedy. Can you not see it? A young well-to-do Government official, (of course all Government officials are wealthy in Newfoundland), unhappily married to a woman old enough to be his grandmother. He is tired of looking on his wife's wrinkled face and rapidly greying hair. He neglects her, he cannot stay at home, he seeks the company of young and pretty girls—and his wife stays at home and grieves over the wreckage of her life. There is a moral in this pathetic poem. I hope you have taken it in.

Here's another little bit, (not if I know it, Ed.). Oh, well, if the Editor is going to be nasty about it, I won't give you any more this time. In any case, this modern poetry must be taken in small doses. Perhaps more anon.

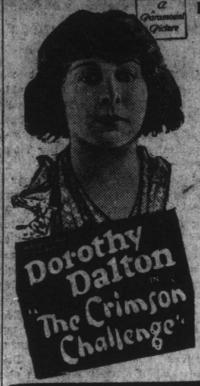
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Mystery of Paris

SENSATIONAL DEATH OF ROYALIST'S SON—YOUTH SAID TO BE VICTIM OF ANARCHISTS.

Profound sensation has been caused in Paris by the mysterious circumstances of the death of Philippe Daudet, the 15-year-old son of M. Leon Daudet, the Royalist deputy and editor of the Royalist organ, "Action Francaise." Philippe was just under 15, and was of morbid, nervous disposition. He had been receiving medical treatment for eccentricities which caused grave anxiety to his parents. On November 20 young Daudet left home with the intention of going to school, but was never seen alive again. After several days' absence his body was discovered lying unclaimed in a Paris hospital with an apparently self-inflicted revolver wound in the back of his head. Believing it was a case of self-destruction, the heart-broken parents obtained special permission from M. Polnareff to remove and bury the body without the formalities of autopsy or inquest. It was subsequently ascertained by the police that young Daudet, on November 24, had hired a taxi-cab in the east-end of Paris and was alone. A few minutes later the driver, hearing a detonation, pulled up and found his fare lying in a dying condition across the seat. There was a bullet wound in the head. Identification could not be established, and the body lay at the mortuary for two days unrecognized. Now comes the sensational sequel which has set all Paris talking. The opinions of the anarchist newspaper "Libertaire" and of the "Action Francaise" are wide apart as the poles. The Libertaire, under the signature of Comrade Georges Vidal, published a special edition giving a long account of the last days of young Daudet. The latter had always been known to his intimate friends as an ardent member of a Royalist organization. Comrade Vidal now announces that young Daudet was an avowed anarchist, and that he gave his life for the cause. M. Vidal alleges that a young man, who was entirely unknown to him, came to the office of the Libertaire the other day. He gave the name of Philippe Daudet, made a fervent profession of Anarchist faith, and offered his life and services for the glorification of the cause, adding that it was for any thought of the cause whom it was thought desirable to "remove," he wished to be entrusted with the task. M. Vidal tried to calm the perverid enthusiasm of the youth, and told him to go away and think more of the subject before he entered the Anarchist ranks. Philippe, however refused, and declared that he wished, if agreeable to the Comrades, to "do Polnareff in." He added that he belonged to an eminently respectable middle-class family, and was weary of their doctrine, so had become an Anarchist by conviction. The paper also published a facsimile of a letter left with M. Vidal, stated to be addressed by young Daudet to his mother:

"My Darling Mother.—Forgive me for the great grief I am causing you. For a long time now I have been an Anarchist without openly daring to avow it. Now the cause calls me, and what I am about to do I consider my duty to do."

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