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Jan 9, Fri, Tues

### Our American Letter.

Yuma, Arizona, Dec. 28.—I have just returned from the great Imperial valley of Southern California and find myself a border town at the foot of the mountains. Yuma is a mesa of sand set in the midst of the Arizona desert. Beyond, against the sky line, can be seen the Mexican border guard, great and majestic mountains. The air is like champagne and the sun as bright as that of Italy. The sweep of plains between Yuma and the mountain ranges presents a picturesque scene as one could wish. The coloring of the hills reminds one of the effect of the sun on the Moriah or Summerville, and was a marked resemblance with that of conformation. Yesterday was part of a great desert. To-day blossoms like the rose. Uncle Sam saw the possibilities of the region and began to irrigate. The result has been marvellous. As far as the eye can see the fruit orchards and cotton plantations and the entire landscape is green as Southern California. Next to Ireland is about the verdant land I know of.

From \$5 to \$1000 An Acre.

Years ago land was sold here for five dollars an acre and it was to be disposed of it even at that price. To-day this same land cannot be had for \$1000 an acre. Uncle Sam has away countless acres which are worth an immense fortune. There are Indians here who still live

according to their primitive customs but who can draw checks for more than six figures. All this wealth has been caused by water. The government found a way to bring moisture to these arid lands and from parched and sun baked plains they have become like the garden of Eden. The work of irrigation has been conducted on an immense scale, the construction of the dams and reservoirs entailing a stupendous outlay of money and labor. Only recently the new branch railroad from Yuma to San Diego was completed. This runs through the famous Imperial Valley and brings to the Pacific coast the products of this section. The town of Yuma is a polyglot community. Here you will find Indians, Negroes, Mexicans and Italians, not to speak of Japanese and Chinese, competing with the white American for a share in the wealth which the development of Yuma country is bound to bring to all who have a stake in the land.

Lost Heritage of Arctics.

There is an air of romance hanging over the country. It is part of the lost heritage of the Arctics and the scene of the labors of the devoted Jesuit fathers who toiled under such difficulties and hardships to bring the cross to the heathen. Many monuments to the work of the brave missionaries remain to this day. At Tucson, the churches and missions speak eloquently of those sincere and heroic men who penetrated the wilderness and suffered torture and martyrdom

that religion might be brought to the western hemisphere. Many remains of the ancient cliff dwellers and the people of the stone age are to be seen. Great apartments quarried into the solid rock served as dwellings for a people whose story is lost in the mists of antiquity. Here also the Aztecs lighted the sacred fires to the sun god and fashioned the silver and copper into war implements and articles of husbandry. Some of their old workings may be seen to this day. At Casa Grande, or Great House, are the dwellings of a race which antedated the Aztecs by many centuries.

Caesar's Day But Yesterday.

A ramble through those rabbit like warrens hewn out of the cliff cannot fail to send the thoughts backward through the dim centuries. These dwellings were hoary with age when Caesar landed on the shores of Britain, and Alexander seems but a character of yesterday compared with the men who chiseled out these primitive homes. There still remain the old fireplaces set in the wall of the caverns, and sometimes implements are found; which were used by these unknown people. Tourists, who like to live in the open, sleep in these age haunted corridors, and sometimes build fires in the places which were in use before Pharaoh. Archaeologists are continually searching the ruins for records which might help reveal the story of this lost race which peopled the southwest when even Europe was young. Many of the most promising exhibits of the progress of these cliff dwellers were carried off years before the United States took Arizona from Mexico. It has been said that the treasures of silver found were of fabulous wealth, even ordinary kitchen utensils being made of the precious metal.

The Triumph of the Cross.

Despite the long centuries of sun worship and human sacrifice to mythical gods, the influence which has lived longest in this romantic land is that of the Christian missionary and he was but yesterday. Wherever one turns his handiwork is apparent. The beautiful churches of Tucson, with their atmosphere of devotion and spirituality, and the convent bells calling the Angelus are but part of the proof that materialism can find no footing in a land consecrated by the blood of martyrs, and unselfish lives dedicated to the loftiest of ideals. Thus has the sun god fallen before the Great White Spirit. I shall deal in my next letter with a visit to turbulent Mexico.

W. M. DOOLEY.

### Fashion Forecast for 1920.

A decided change has come over the trend of fashion during the last few weeks, and one that will be welcome to all who value a sense of harmony and of the fitness of things in matters of dress, says a writer in the "Christian Science Monitor."

The mood of exaggeration, and the desire to be startling and extraordinary in dress, which seemed to sweep in soon after the signing of the armistice, and which in some quarters has held the floor for many months, is now giving place to a far healthier and more desirable state of things.

The designers are turning their attention again to the charming modes of the eighteenth century; clothes are to be dainty once more, instead of merely bizarre and weird; evening dresses will have sleeves; and flounces, lace and flowered silks are all the order of the day. Color schemes will be chosen to blend and harmonize, instead of dazzle and clash, and there is a distinct hint of returning crinoline styles for skirts. Actual hooped crinolines, of course, would never be tolerated in this practical age; but the effect of billowy frills, so dear to the heart of the artist on account of their decorative possibilities, can easily be attained without exaggeration or inconvenience.

Some beautifully embroidered Chinese shawls are making their appearance in the shops, and it is fairly safe to predict that the shawl may play quite an important part in our wardrobes in the near future. The writer remembers, some years ago, seeing a young girl dining at the Savoy whose only wrap was one of these large shawls; in this particular case, the ground was of pale yellow crepe, embroidered all over with birds and flowers in beautiful Chinese colorings, rose, blue and green, with a fringed border, and the effect was entirely charming.

Now that we seem to be looking again to the eighteenth century for inspiration, a return to the shawl as a wrap would be quite in keeping, and anyone with a flair for originality might easily start the fashion of wearing embroidered shawls as evening wraps, when the weather becomes warmer; and even now they could be worn at dinner in restaurants, when the heavier outdoor wraps are left in the cloak room. Many persons already possess beautiful old shawls, and it is a pity that they should not see the light of day, or rather night.

Some delightful little hats of the pull-on variety are to be had, and among these might be mentioned the sets consisting of a hat, stole and muff. In one such set the hat has a quarter crown of rust-red velvet, topped with a little bouquet of tarnished gold flowers, while the turned-up brim is of beaver plush of a quality so rich that it is hardly to be distinguished from fur. The brim fits closely at the back and stands out a little in front.

The stole is a perfectly straight piece of plush, about three-fourths of a yard wide and two and a half yards long; it is lined all through with ruffled nylon. This makes a warm and cozy wrap. The muff is of gathered velvet with plush bands at each end, lined with nylon and decorated with the tarnished gold flowers.

A word must also be said of the beret cap or tam-o'-shanter, which has reached a high degree of popularity and which still continues to attract. It is generally made of silk or velvet, though the plain cloth ones are quite nice, too, for everyday wear. There is quite a variety of styles to choose from, the newest being large and wide, flaring up at one side. Then there are the gauzed velvet in the middle of the crown, while some are made entirely of ruffled ribbon, which gives them a crinkled appearance all over. In fact, the attractions of the beret cap are not easy to resist and the only thing to do, if one falls a victim to its charms, is to get one and to have it just a little bit different from all the rest. This "little difference" which will make it individual, can, of course, only be thought out by the wearer.

If Farmers Struck.

(From 'Successful Farming'.)

We ask the city workers to ponder a moment what might happen if the farmers should do what the workers are doing—demanding shorter hours and higher pay. The farmers are their own bosses so they would not have to quarrel with anybody. They could hold out on strike until they got good and ready, for they can feed themselves. You working fellows, suppose for a moment that the farmers adopted the eight-hour day; it would cut down production at least one-half. Suppose they also set a price on their labor and their products based on an eight-hour basic scale. Where would you get your food? Only the rich could buy it at all, for the price would be prohibitive to men on strike. If the cost of living is too high now, how will lessened production affect it? How will increased cost of production bring down prices? If you city workers expect the farmers to go on feeding you at the old price you have got to get back to work at the old wage and make it possible for the farmer to buy cheaper so that he can produce cheaper. This is not a one-sided game. It takes two to play it and, if you city fellows quit, don't get 'sore' if you go hungry soon. Either the farmers must do as you are doing, shorten the hours and demand higher pay, or else they must lengthen the hours and produce more without pay. The farmers have been patient with you. When they lose their patience, look out. If they quit, who is going to feed you? What city workers have in common with farmers is not so much political as economic. What are you going to do about it?

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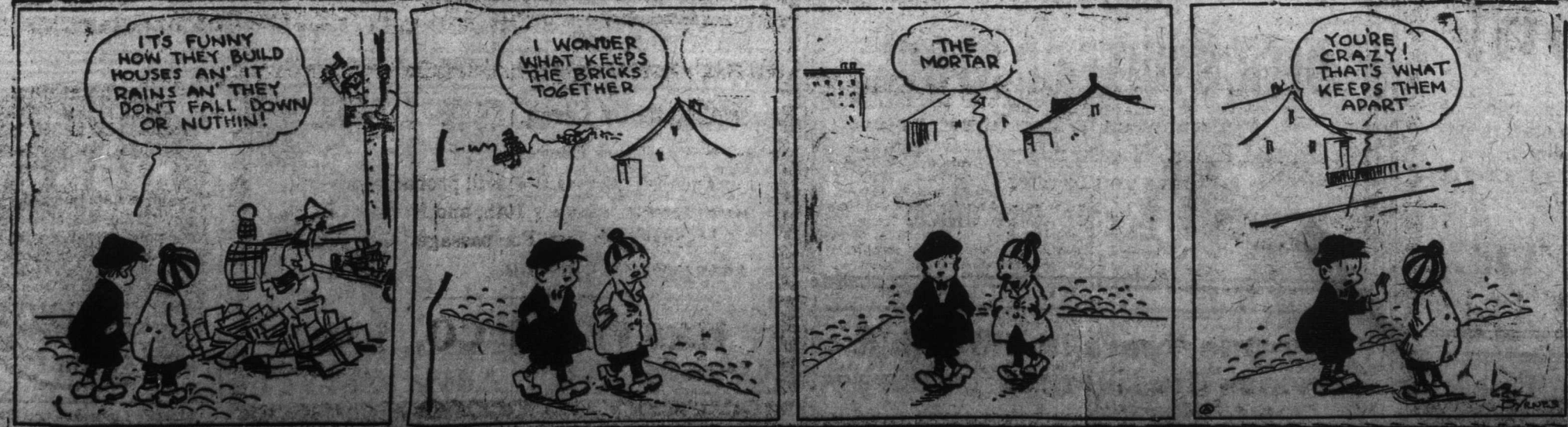
The above facts can be verified by writing to him, to the Parish Priest or any of his neighbors.

A. COTE, Merchant.  
St. Isidore, Que., 12 May, '98.

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By Gene Byrnes



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