

FUTURE

The Newsweekly for Today

Vol. I No. 19

Kansas City, Missouri, May 17, 1935

Single Copy 5 Cents

\$5000—AND THEN SOME

SNAPSHOTS OF THE WEEK

Three charges of murder and one of intent to kill are before Judge Cowan as he presides in the criminal court this month. The names involved include Richetti, Gargotta and Casciola and the crimes go back many months. If there is a statute of limitations on the prosecution of certain crimes, why can't it be applied to postponements in the trials of major offenders?

H. W. Swan was shot at and his arm broken because he didn't stop when police chased him for speeding. This new "iron claw" the cops used seems to be every effective. They can get tough with it very easily and break a guy's arm when he offers any objections. It's even better than shooting, because our police don't seem to be very certain, when they shoot, whether or what they are going to hit.

The radio has been blamed for practically everything, and now it seems that it has caused dust storms and drought, as well as occasional floods. The weather bureau denies this, but judging by the weather forecasts the weather bureau isn't a very good guesser anyway.

Thanks to the efforts of Mayor LaGuardia, New York will pay 19 per cent less for its city lighting this year than it did in 1934. By some threats of a municipal plant he brought the rate down very substantially. His next objective is "to give the consumers a break." We would remind you that Mayor LaGuardia was elected on a fusion ticket in opposition to Tammany.

RELIEF—

OR CAMPAIGN FUND?

We ask the citizens of Kansas City, and of the state of Missouri this single question: Are the Federal funds allotted for work relief in this state to be used to mitigate the general suffering, or are they to be administered as a campaign fund for the Machine? The question is before you, and on the answer may depend the political fate of the state for years to come.

Perhaps, by the time this number of FUTURE is off the press, the appointment of Matthew Murray, present head of the Public Works Department of the city, to the job of handling the Federal work relief funds in Missouri will have been confirmed. In that case we will have been too late to protest, but not too late to warn the people of the state to be on their guard. On the other hand Harry Hopkins, in whose hands the appointment lies, may have had the wisdom to refuse it. This will be a rebuff to Senators Truman and Clark, and will be another sign that in trying to control Federal affairs the Machine is going too far.

We have no quarrel with Mr. Murray personally. His record locally is good. He has training and he is competent to do a good job. If his hands were free we should have nothing to say. The point is that he stands publicly labelled as a henchman of T. J. Pendergast, a lieutenant in Follow to page eight

Just married and moving in? Fine. We think you'll like Kansas City, and we hope you'll stay. Here's your house. It's built in one of these nice little additions that tassel the city, and it will cost you somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000. After you move in and become a tax-paying resident it will cost you some more, and how much more is the question that is

bothering a lot of people these days. Taxes, utility rates and insurance—what are these going to amount to in the years you live in your house? Well, we'll tell you. They are going to amount to about \$403 . . . Of course, if certain little details of municipal government were different, the cost would be only about \$278. A nice little spread, isn't it? Here's how it works:

Property taxes are based on assessments, and here is the catch in the problem. Kansas City's assessment system, or rather that of Jackson County from which the city takes its own figures, is painfully vague. The actual rate of assessment varies according to times and conditions of prosperity, and, shall we say, of politics. The county assessment used to be about 44 per cent of the legal value, but now is 85 per cent, and the city's assessment is about 90 per cent of the county figure. There is, let us add, an accepted and accurate system of assessing property for taxation which could be installed in the county at a cost of \$200,000, but the backers of the meas-

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FUTURE FOREIGN

Europe Prepares for Danubian Parley

During the past week various European blocs have held discussions in an attempt to lay the ground-work for the solution of some of the problems confronting Eastern and Central Europe.

Meeting in Venice, delegates of Italy, Austria, and Hungary paved the way for the participation of the two latter countries in the Danubian Conference scheduled for next month at Rome. Accord was reached on the following points. Austria and Hungary agreed to postpone consideration of rearmament, revision of frontiers, and of a Hapsburg restoration. In return for these concessions, Italy promised to use her good offices at Geneva to bring about a settlement of the Hungarian Yugoslav dispute resulting from the assassination of King Alexander last fall, and to endeavor to obtain a definition of non-interference at the coming Rome parley which would permit Hungary to continue her propaganda for treaty revision. Italy will not insist on Hungary's joining a mutual assistance pact and will attempt to bring the members of the Little Entente into the Italo-Austro-Hungarian economic agreements of March, 1934. An effort will also be made to get assurances from the Little Entente that the rearming of Austria and Hungary will be permitted to proceed along the lines they have previously proposed.

The foreign Ministers of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania held a second Baltic Conference at Kuanas and discussed means of keeping the peace in Eastern Europe. The lack of diplomatic relations between Poland and Lithuania was felt to be detrimental to complete security in that part of the Continent, but it was understood that negotiations had already begun to adjust the differences existing between the two Governments. The principles of the League of Nations and of regional pacts were endorsed, although some difference of opinion was evident concerning the recent Franco-Russian pact of mutual assistance.

Balkan Entente Discuss Disarmament

As a preliminary to the Rome talks, the Foreign Ministers of the Balkan Entente—Rumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Turkey—met in Bucharest to discuss the problems expected to be brought up at that conference. It was agreed that any rearmament on the part of Hungary and Bulgaria must be limited and subject to their signing a six-power pact of non-aggression and

mutual assistance. If this meets with the approval of the other interested powers, it will remove one Turkish argument for the refortifying of the Dardanelles, a prospect which even Turkey's friends do not regard favorably. A Hapsburg restoration was considered to be out of the question and any such attempt will be treated as a breach of the peace treaties.

The proposed Franco-Italian mutual assistance air pact was fully discussed last week by the French Air Minister, General Denain, and Italian officials. A commercial convention was signed providing for air service between the two countries, and the military pact was understood to have progressed so satisfactorily that its initialing may be announced any day.

G. L. C.

SWILL

Councilman Clark, at the council meeting last Monday asserted that Councilman Backstrom was merely trying to get his name in the newspapers. Councilman Eviston stated that there was always an insinuation of big graft whenever a garbage contract was to be awarded. Mayor Smith said that the collection service is excellent. This sums up the highly lucid and intelligent discussion of the charges brought by Backstrom that the cost of garbage collection is excessive and that there has been grave negligence in the matter of auditing the Collection Company's books. Mr. Clark did say that he knew something about the garbage conditions, and he probably does, but he kept his inside information to himself.

Councilman Backstrom, with support from Councilman Adams, has fought consistently to bring the true state of affairs to the public's attention. His analysis of the costs in comparison with past performances and with similar costs in other cities was clear and concise. It is characteristic of the system that his statements were met with nothing better than slurs and generalities. When the new contract is awarded it will pay the public to watch its details and check on the costs. The contract can be cancelled in a year, by the city, and the city should be prepared to enforce its rights if necessary.

CELEBRATING THE NEW LAW

Gay revelers poured out of law-abiding drinking places Saturday night at midnight, grumbling about it being too early to go home. Across streets they marched; up to bars where they knew their politicians and celebrations went on unhampered by provisions of the new liquor control law.

Saturday night's gay parties, the first under the 12 o'clock closing in the new liquor control law, served as a celebration for the drinking places politically affiliated. The legitimate dealers—the larger ones that pay the taxes—observed the new law, clamped on the lid at midnight.

Grumbled too, the legitimate dealers who saw their patrons leave and go to the places that did not observe the law. No arrests were made.

But this human side of the new liquor law picture was only an incident—the bigger and better things for the political administration in the new act. No political neophyte missed the two big jokers in the liquor bill; jokers that drove out the smaller liquor jobbers and agents for outstate distillers and

Follow to page eight

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FUTURISMS

Erratum

“Lunch-hooks Out Of The Cookie Jar”

“Disappointed by the Roosevelt administration’s policy of avoiding Kansas City in the location of offices of the various government recovery agencies, due to the local political situation, a group of business men will attempt to put the city’s plea for a part of the \$4,880 million relief fund outside of politics.”

(From last week’s FUTURE.)

“Big Job to Murray”

“Veteran Pendergast Lieutenant is Formally Recommended by Truman & Clark.”

(From the Kansas City -Star.)

Our Error.

Fish, Flesh, and Foul

All the animals out at the zoo will have to vote the right ticket election day, or they won’t get a new cage. Superintendent Clark is asking for \$2,000,000 from the federal government for improvements.

Gabbage?

Councilman Eviston said in the council meeting last Monday that he would be against any garbage contract in which the price paid was not comparable to that in other cities. Is he “not going along,” or was he just carried away by his oratory?

Getting Together Not long ago a lady of our acquaintance had reason to suspect that a prowler had been lurking around. There were foot prints in the flower beds, for instance. Hopefully she called the police and was switched to the desk at Station Number One, where she told her story. The officer seemed perplexed, and asked if she could arrange to call in at sometime after midnight and repeat her tale. She said that she didn’t see how she could. “But, lady,” he protested plaintively, “I go off duty about ten, so I don’t see what I can do for you.” The lady suggested that he leave a note for his successor and he seemed to think the idea feasible. Nothing of a helpful nature has yet occurred, but the lady is still hopeful. Just give them time and the word may get through eventually.

AD INFINITUM AD NAUSEUM

Wise artisans of the tonsorial trade nodded heads knowingly as they read the society news between shaves, shampoos and shingles last week. Beauty shops were atwitter and many facials and permanents took longer than usual as cosmeticians chatted of the wedding. For the House of Pendergast was merged, at the altar, with a house of supplies for barber and beauty shops.

What was a somewhat elaborate and costly wedding to the public was of more direct concern to the barber and the cosmetician. They have to be inspected by Pendergast appointed inspectors. Where would it be wise for them to buy their supplies from the wedding on? Not many barbers or cosmeticians needed a second guess for that one.

Such was the gossip that ran through barber, beauty and barber- beauty shops the last few days. Over sudded smiles barbers wisecracked about it. While milady perspired for her permanent the beauticians chatted on and on about it.

Business men joshed the barber about it and told him he would have to be a politician now.

“You’ll be using Glendale soda pop for hair tonic now” got many a laugh in barber shops when customers whetted their wits.

Buying from Pendergast-connected businesses is a longtime practice in Kansas 'City. Many favors blow the way of the man who does business with such firms. Taxes may be cut, occupation licenses may not be required and some may not report their sales to avoid the state sales tax to finance relief for the unemployed and their families.

So common is such practice that the barber and beauty shop discourse was just a part of the day’s news.

There are not many wise in the bypaths of Kansas City politics who do not know where to buy their concrete, paving, oil, insurance, soundproof ceilings, building and loan stock, sand, building supplies, soda pop, whisky, marble games, dice tables, gambling “layoffs,” horse race betting privileges and bread, et cetera, et cetera, ad infinitum, ad nauseum.

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POLICE NEWS

Brief bits of police news of the week:

A county grand jury indicted Patrolman Nathaniel Lewis, Negro, on a charge of receiving stolen property. It was charged the policeman picked a "hot" fur coat out of a car of stolen merchandise he had stopped. The two burglars whom Lewis was accused of "shaking down" for the fur coat also face charges.

Patrolman J. A. Burkhardt and n O'Shea, Country club station, re arrested when police were informed by telephone the policemen were "beating each other to death." The two officers were doing a little drinking near Forty-seventh street and Troost, where is located one of the largest protected gambling saloons in the city, when the quarrel started. The director of police suspended them for fifteen days and told them to come back.

W. R. Billon, 700 Northern boulevard, Fairmount, lost his car to thieves. He reported the theft to police. The next day the police j called him and informed him the car had been recovered. He got it back stripped; even the license plates were stolen. A few days ago while he was driving he saw his | missing license plates, for which I he had bought duplicates. He called a motorcycle officer. They investigated, found the stolen licenses were on a police car. He was informed the licenses came from the police property room.

Dillon wondered if the police had the rest of his car. Police Director Higgins said he would "investigate."

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HE BEATS THE RAP BUT YOU TAKE IT

Charles Gargotta, rat-faced Pendergast political lieutenant and gangster, still has to climb over a mole hill.

Over a mountain he was pushed last Saturday by the United States district court of appeals, worming out of a 5-year federal prison term. Previously he had been freed of a murder charge in the political circuit courts in the infamous shuffled- gun case.

The mole hill is a charge of assault to kill Thomas B. Bash, sheriff, who interrupted a killing party on Armour boulevard and Forest avenue at which police were conspicuously absent. Although the shooting party occurred August 12, 1933, the trial has been delayed; may never come up.

When the jury brought in its verdict in the Gargotta murder trial, Sheriff Bash exploded "It's a disgrace." In a front page editorial, a local newspaper, cried: "A STENCH—The outcome of the Gargotta trial is a stench in the nostrils of all decent people. By and large the case resolved itself into a question of whether the jury was to believe Sheriff Basil and one of his deputies or a woman who confessed to having been picked up on the street by Gargotta. It (the jury) elected to believe the woman."

Public indignation was high and was demonstrated in a flood of commendatory letters to Sheriff Bash. The federal government, aroused by the political outrage, moved quickly.

An opportunity to bring Gargotta to trial a third time on the charge of shooting at Sheriff Bash comes up this week in the current court session. The case has dragged out for two years and many believe Gargotta may never be prosecuted although a city detective who was the surprise witness for the defense now faces a 4-year term in the federal prison, convicted of perjury before a federal grand jury for the same testimony he gave the jury that was responsible for Gargotta's freedom.

No more infamous case in the political history is there than the Gargotta case. The long-nosed, sallow gangster was a lieutenant of the late John Lazia, North Side gangster king and head of the North Side Democratic club. No Kansas Cityan doubted Gargotta's gangster activities and the action of the federal court of appeals was a shock last Saturday. Judge Merrill E. Otis, federal trial judge, has pointed out in the records the background of the Gargotta case.

August 12, 1933, Sheriff Bash, Mrs. Bash, a woman friend of the Bash's, and Lawrence Hodges, a deputy sheriff, were driving home from a party given by a women's club of which Mrs. Bas-h was a member.

As they drove south on Forest they heard shooting on Armour boulevard near the Steuben club. A Buick (John Lazia owned a Buick distributing agency) rounded the corner at near-top speed. They saw the red light on the Bash car, and knew it was an official car. Bas-h seized a riot gun, leaped out of the car. Hodges unhoisted his gun, jumped too into the face of bullets. Bash trained his gun on the Buick, killed Sammy Scola and Gus Fasone, friends of Gargotta and

fellow workers in the North Side Democratic club.

Two men jumped from the bandit car. Hodges followed one, shooting. The bandit escaped. The other bandit emptied his gun at Bash and threw it on the ground, snivelling "For God's sake don't shoot."

Bash never shot and it was reported later the reason was that he had no more cartridges in his gun. Bash seized the man, picked up the gun and later turned him over to the police who arrived after the county officers had shot it out with the gangsters. The man was Gargotta. Charlie Gargotta

A few minutes before, Ferris Anthon, a rival Fifteenth street bootlegger, had been killed in a spot murder around the corner from the shooting.

"Too bad, Bash should have killed the other man," said the public next day; talked about electing the modest, straight shooting sheriff governor.

Since then Bash has been the nemesis of the police and ally of the federal officers who have shied from working with the police department. Neither do Pendergast police love Bash or federal agents.

Off started the program to get Gargotta free. He was in a spot. The gun he threw down, according to the testimony of the valiant sheriff, turned out to be the gun used to kill Anthon.

Later William L. Vandeventer, Republican district attorney who had just left office, became Gargotta's lawyer. Also to the defense staff went W. W. Calvin, Ira B. McLaughlin, Bert S. Kimbrelil and, significantly, Edgar A. Keating, a member of the state legislature then in session.

The trial met many delays. The newspapers asked why. It was held up for some time on the excuse that Keating was attending the state legislature and could not give his time to the trial.

Finally, about a year after the shooting party, the case came to trial.

Bash, Mrs. Bash and Hodges told their stories to the jury. The doughty sheriff identified Gargotta, retold the whole event. Then the defense called to the stand L. Li. Claiborne, a city detective for fifteen years. He was the sensation of the trial; caused decent citizens to hold their noses.

He testified that the gun identified as Gargotta's and which ballisticians had said was the gun that killed Anthon had been mixed up at police headquarters and was not Gargotta's. His testimony freed Gargotta.

Incensed, Bash cooperated with the federal government. Gargotta and Claiborne were called before the federal grand jury and retold their stories to the federal grand jury. Claiborne was caught flat-footed when it was found the identification tag he had used on the gun had not been bought by the city until months after the killings. The tags had been switched and the guns shuffled to free Gargotta of the murder charge.

The city detective was convicted on the perjury charge, got four years and it has been upheld.

Gargotta was indicted for possession of the gun which was a United States army pistol stolen from a government armory. On the gun was "Property of the United States government."

The politically-affiliated gangster was convicted and sentenced to five years in the federal prison. The case was appealed with the resulting findings of the federal court of appeals last Saturday. The public was shocked; wondered if it is possible to put a politically-connected gangster^ here in jail.

Now the public wonders if Gargotta will be brought to trial in the circuit court here on a charge with assault with intent to kill Sheriff Bash.

It looks like a mole hill for the gangster.

It is certainly another beautiful punch in the nose for the decent citizens of this community. But, that nose seems inured to injury now.

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Conditions of the Future

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TOO OLD TO GET MAD

Walter Prichard Eaton, well known author, New York dramatic critic, and professor of
playwriting at Yale University, has complimented FUTURE with the following special article.

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD

HIS COUNTRY NEEDS HIM

I was once young. It was some time ago. And now I occasionally ask myself in what ways my feelings and outlook are changed, other, of course, than in the bodily field. I have given up tennis for golf, and abandoned rock climbing, reluctantly but without shame. But I fear that like most men of my years I have also given up some other things for which I should be ashamed. I have given up thinking that everything which is new is therefore good; but I'm not ashamed of that. Not, that is, so long as I have a real look at everything which is new. After you have seen new things come along for fifty years, you realize that the percentage of good in them is small, but that small remnant is very precious. If you have achieved wisdom, you learn to pick it out. If you haven't learned wisdom, you lump it with all the rest of the "newfangled stuff," and are rightly called an old fogey by the young.

No, what I am truly ashamed of, when I detect it in myself or others of my generation, is the lost capacity for indignation, or at any rate the diminished capacity. The saddest sign of age to me is not a liking for the past, is not a timidity in the face of adventure and experiment, is not even the conservative clinging to comfort and security. It is the lost capacity for indignation. When a man no longer gets indignant at injustice, no longer boils with rage at a corrupt

government in his city or state or nation, no longer fumes and splutters and gets fighting mad when graft and corruption undo the work of devoted pioneers in building up a park system or a public school system, or a public library, then he is indeed old. Then he is indeed very nearly dead, so far as any real usefulness in society is concerned.

The young don't think much about their souls. They are interested in life and society. The aged begin to worry about a hereafter. I sometimes think a good deal of religion is based on the worry of old folks about their puny little souls. When you are young you either don't think at all, but just enjoy life; or else, if you have a brain and use it, you think about the here, not the hereafter. You try to see what you can do to improve your surroundings and those of your fellows, and you estimate a man's worth by his service to the social order. Above all, you get hot under the collar when you realize that human stupidity, human greed, and human selfishness are responsible for most of our social ills, and even many of our physical ones, even, perhaps, dust storms.

It is that indignation roused in the young man or woman by his or her realization that all life could be richer and happier were it not for the crooks in power and the morons who put them there,, which makes reformers, which fires the crusaders' zeal, which boosts the world along, or at any rate keeps it from slipping back. The man who can keep this indignation through life remains valuable to society and remains truly young. The man who loses it, ceases to care, grows cynical or indifferent, is rightly despised by young people. Let the man who has learned wisdom and kept his capacity for indignation ally himself with all the young who need his wisdom to direct their divine anger, and you have a combination that cannot permanently be defeated. It is bound to win.

All power to the National Youth Movement! It is made up of young people who know

Matthew S. Murray, director of public works and a city hall protegee of Henry McElroy, city manager, has been recommended as the man to direct the expenditure of Missouri's share of the president's \$4,880,000,000 work relief fund. The OK for Murray was made by Senators Truman (Pendergast) and Clark of St. Louis.

Secretary Ickes of the interior department, one of the president's relief work cabinet, has an honest man's antipathy for cheap political intrigue. Harry L. Hopkins, PERA director, too, shares this antipathy.

They would supersede state director and Missouri would stand to suffer in having work funds denied this state if these two New Dealers were suspicious politics was playing a part in the state.

Urging the appointment of Murray to the post that in theory at least will bestow upon him some of the powers of sending fat public works contracts Pendergast way is a bold stroke by the Pendergast organization. So far the local organization has been sitting out in the cold as the result of attempts to grab relief contracts. The municipal auditorium case aroused bitter antagonism from New Deal leaders in Washington who said the contract framed at city hall would open the way for a steal of \$500,000 or more.

how to get mad. May they also, in the coming years, know how to stay so, and remain members of the Movement till it grows large enough to throw all the grafters out of power and bring us justice in the place of greed. Walter Prichard Eaton,

The organization also failed in attempts to have the say so as to whom should go on relief rolls.

Murray formerly held an engineering job with the state highway department. After McElroy was defeated in his race for county judge and Pendergast ordered him given a job as city manager Murray was hired to head up the public works department out of which came fat contracts for Pendergast companies.

Under Murray's directorship public works contracts have gone one way only—the boss's way.

Both the politically wise and the novice foresaw two reasons for Truman-Clark approval of Murray last week:

1. Putting Murray in charge of federal relief expenditures in Missouri should enable him to throw many contracts to Pendergast companies.

2. The agreement of Truman and Clark (who has been a Pendergast foe) may mean a gesture toward patching up differences.

When announcement had been made of the recommendation locally McElroy and Murray rushed into print waving the flag with these gems of patriotism:

"He will be granted a leave of absence if his country needs him."

"I'll be glad to be of service to my government."

Murray has been somewhat of a "mystery man" to the general public. When he went with the city he held only a minor job in the state highway department. His success as a contractor had been such that he took the highway job. McElroy put on a sales campaign to "sell" Murray to the taxpayers here.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

"The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their power as a state depend. ... It should be the first duty of a statesman." —Disraeli.

Babies

Mad dogs have practically been eliminated from Great Britain through a sensible, well-enforced law. Every foreign dog entering the British Isles must be muzzled and remain for 6 months in quarantine. It has been shown that 6 months is not too long a quarantine period since 12 dogs imported from abroad have developed rabies while in quarantine (during the past 16 years) and four of these dogs became rabid between the fourth and fifth months of quarantine.

The campaign started with the compulsory muzzling of all dogs. As rabies could not be transmitted from dog to dog, or from dog to man, the disease became extinct within a year or two.

Add rabies, therefore, to your list of preventable diseases—diseases we can control or eradicate at any time we decide to do so.

Typhoid Fever

With the approach of summer, plans are being made for camping trips, tours and visits in the country. It would be well if all travelers might protect themselves against a chance infection with typhoid by having themselves given vaccine.

As there is no certain knowledge about the duration of immunity to typhoid, those who have not been vaccinated in the past 6 years would do well to have a re-inoculation if likely to have to drink water from an uncertain source.

Investigators have recently perfected a typhoid vaccine which may be given by mouth. It is available in the United States, has a very good record as a prophylactic, and has the advantage

of producing only a very slight systemic reaction. It must be given annually and should be given 4 or 5 weeks prior to the expected exposure to infection.

He was built up as a non-partisan.

But his loyalty to Pendergast is evidenced by the fact Pendergast and his companies have certainly been enriched since Murray started handling the public works contracts. Pendergast has been able to operate a palace on Ward parkway and rarely drops down to the old North End to fraternize with the boys.

Should Murray get the job, and it is expected that he will, Pendergast will be in a position to enlarge his field of operations under the city public works director.

As to Murray's ability and public service, we cite his efficiency in seeing that Pendergast got the jobs in Kansas City.

Nineteen Thirty-five

May seventeenth

FUTURE

6

FINANCE

This era of cheap money and the press of idle funds for investment is resulting in one thing for which most of us are thankful—a reduction in the high cost of credit. Particularly is this true of motor car financing and we will confine this discussion to that branch.

For years the installment buyer has been forced to pay excessive rates for buying on time, but there was nothing he could do about it except pay cash and in most instances that would have meant no sale. The finance companies grew fat and, arrogant—secure in their knowledge that the rates were “legal.” Banks, for some reason or other, turned their noses up at motor car financing. There were plenty of other places where they could put their money in larger amounts and get a satisfactory return. They didn't want to be bothered with the extra work the small loans entailed.

Now it is a different story. With interest rates being scaled down all along the line in high grade bonds, and commercial loans dragging along at almost an all-time low, the banks have been looking around for some place to put their money and get a fair return. It was bound to happen that some of them would “discover” the motor car financing field. A large Detroit bank first announced that it had gone into the business of financing motor car retail sales, and in the last few months many banks throughout the country have started competing actively for the business at “bankers' interest rates.” The competition has been so effective that many finance companies have found it necessary to reduce their charges and now it is reported that the giants of the field are contemplating substantial reductions. The squawk that is going up from the finance companies is sweet to hear.

The installment finance business is a big one. It is estimated that t. about 40 per cent of the new cars : sold are purchased on time. We , always imagined the percentage was greater than that. In the used-car field probably more than half are bought on the installment plan. . There will be about 3% million new cars sold in 1935 and the average \$ loan will be around \$560. That t means that the finance value of f new car sales alone this year will j be around 850 million dollars.

We have before us a bill for a new low priced car bought two years ago on which the total advanced by the finance company was about \$210, after deducting insurance costs. The charge

for this accommodation was roughly \$26. The debt was to be reduced monthly for one year so that the average amount owed was one-half of the original sum or \$105. Thus the interest on the loan for a year was at a rate equivalent to 25 per cent. Assuming that this was around average for all of the companies—and we know of some that were higher—the total interest on new cars financed at a value of 850 million dollars would be 210 million dollars. Think of it!

The finance companies claimed they had to charge such rates to all buyers to make up for the fraud buyer or the well-meaning buyer who later found himself unable to pay. However, losses sustained by finance companies surely have not been so great as to make such charges necessary. In the first place, a 30 per cent down payment usually is demanded and the fi-

M^{AY} WE PRESENT

GEORGE O. PRATT

If the role of an innocent bystander is sometimes a dangerous one, that of a mediator is almost certain to be, particularly if he is attempting to mediate between two vigorous combatants. When George Pratt accepted his appointment as associate director of the 12th Regional Labor Relations Board, he knew he was in for some strenuous sessions. He knew the changing American social structure, the uncertainties of modern economic life would be reflected very emphatically in the field of his new work. He took the job, devoted his days to it and has met its confusions, trials, exigencies, defeats and triumphs with the intelligent serenity and impartiality which are the high requisites of any mediator.

Mr. Pratt, the son of one of Kansas City's distinguished lawyers, graduated from Yale in 1925. In 1927, after two years of constant grind, he graduated from the Yale School of Law and passed the Missouri Bar Examination the same year. As a junior member, he joined the firm of Lathrop, Crane, Reynolds, Sawyer and Mersereau. For the following years, he was immersed in the intricacies of corporate practice in which this firm specializes—hard, valuable work which left him little time for participation in contemporary political issues, either local or national. However, George Pratt could not escape the dawning spirit of social responsibility and awareness which the depression and the unusual activity of the Federal Government forced upon all in 1932. He voted the Republican ticket that year, but he kept an open mind toward the early strivings of the New Deal.

The inevitable snarlings and strangulations which grew out of the famous Section 7-A of the National Relief Act were not a focal point of his interest. The Act, as a whole, interested him and had his qualified support.

When the National Labor Relations Board was set up last June to replace the unwieldy Labor Board, Pratt, very likely, was unaware of its existence until the day one of the staff members of the Board from the East looked him up in his office in the Federal Bank Building.

The gentleman from Washington wanted suggestions from Mr. Pratt; wanted specifically the names of men who might accept the job of Assistant Director to the 12th district of the Regional Relations Board. The main office of the Board was to be in St. Louis. The district covered would be Southern Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa to Des Moines. The appointment was to be divorced from any political significance. The particular job of the Assistant Director would be that of an arbitrator and conciliator in controversies arising under Section 7-A. Misunderstandings that could not be cleared by discussions before the assistant director were passed on by him for hearing before the members of the National Labor Relations Board, a-body of men previously selected by Washington and representing

Industry, Labor and the Public. Further qualifications for the job were a knowledge of the local industrial conditions, a knowledge of law and a persuasive personality.

After three days of interviewing various men in Kansas City, some of them suggested by Pratt, the staff members offered the post to Pratt as the most likely candidate. He turned it down, but finally after being summoned to Washington, he accepted and for the past seven months he has been steadily at it, settling minor labor disputes himself, arranging hearings for those that did' not straighten themselves out in his office and keeping throughout an even keel.

As he anticipated, he has come in for a share of criticism from both factions. Some employers have accused him of being everything from a Brain Truster to a wild-eyed Red. Labor representations, on the other hand, know that he is as firm in his condemnation of any unscrupulousness on their part, any intimidation or coercion against non-union factions, as he is fair. He is not, of course, a radical in any sense of the word, but he is honest in his judgments. A soft spoken, gentle appearing fellow with a fondness for pulling on a collegiate pipe, he has, in the course of his directorship done a great deal to maintain the comparatively peaceful regime in our local industrial situation.

nance companies repossess the cars for second sale. Maybe it is their method of determining losses. We know that many count a loss of interest on a repossessed car for the time the mortgage would have run as an actual loss unless they can get this lost interest by adding it to the re-sale price of the car.

The banks now are handling new car financing generally in the following manner: A rate of 6 per cent interest plus 2 per cent service fee is offered; and the bank will assist to the extent of two-thirds of the new car value. On the used car the interest rate is generally around 7 per cent and the maximum loan is three-fifths. The purchaser is required to buy his own fire and theft insurance and thus does not have to pay a finance charge on it, too. What a relief!

B. O. B.

Under the heading "Activities of Women," the following are listed: "The average height of women in Japan is 4 feet 10% inches." And "It is possible to get a divorce in Russia for as little as 10 cents." Both of which facts at least indicate that there are women.

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The Regional Labor Relations Board has no legal power invested in it. It cannot compel employers or employees to accept its rulings in any given disputes. George Pratt feels that its undoubted social usefulness lies in the thought behind it. It increases the opportunity for amicable settlement of disputes by providing a place, an impartial atmosphere in which these troubles can be aired. It carries the weight of an idea with it—the idea that employer and employee are both entitled to set up their complaints where they will be listened to and considered in good faith. In this district, Mr. Pratt has found that the employer is, as a rule, as anxious to co-operate with the Board as is the employee and that, he feels, is the most important fact to be considered in this arduous business of lessening the breach between industry and labor.

When George Pratt goes away this summer to rest himself by climbing a few mountains, he will probably know then if the National Labor Relations Board is to continue in operation. Right now its fate is undecided. Whether it continues or not, he will have the satisfaction of knowing that he has served us all in a difficult position, that his integrity and common sense have impressed those with whom he worked and that his realistic sense of the facts of American life will always be of value to those who are working for a better social order.

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Nineteen Thirty-five

6

FUTURE

May seventeenth

ICE BOX ROLLO

By KATIE KITCHEN

MANNERS

MODES

New York, May 14. 1935.

From evening gowns to night gowns sounds like an awful jump but the new Grecian nightrobe at Bonwit Teller's is so charming that many New Yorkers are saying "Don't tell. I wear it as an evening dress" . . . It's called "circe" and comes in mellow yellow, tea rose, and pale blue with soft crossed fullness in front that is equally flattering to the poitrine whether small, medium, or large . . . and to go with it Lord and Taylor's suggest a hostess gown of soft satin brocade buttoned down the front in aqua, French blue, or rose . . . Meanwhile the newest interest for daytime wear centers about gloves . . . either thread ones at De Pinna . . . hand-knitted in Vienna with a lace patterned starched cuff for the street or a daintily ruffled' wrist for more formal wear ... or taffeta ones by Chanut at Sak's Fifth Avenue in brown, black, and navy, flared and stiffened with crinoline but with soft suede or kidskin palms.

Rita.

Jubilee years are rare and far between, but when they come they're certainly celebrated to the nth festive degree, and that not only goes for England where Queen Mary and King George are the attraction of the hour but also for our own U. S. A. where the "suit-makers" seem to be enjoying a celebration all to themselves. Of course that analogy may seem a little strong—particularly if you're one of those who can overlook the fashionable delinquencies of dowdy dowagers and remain impressed by the very sound of royalty—but when you consider that we've had winter suits this year, and then "transitional" ones, followed by Spring ones, and now summer ones—and all in unquestionable degrees of popularity—the "jubilee" quality of suitdom is hard to deny.

Summer Suits Are Practical

But the important thing, as far as fashion is concerned, is not so much that there are summer suits as that they're attractive and at the same time extremely practical. Coming as they do in all forms of cotton (and here linen again makes a knock-in-and-out showing) and in washable silk and sheers, their very fabrics are suited to our "tropical" climate; besides which their tailored lines (including long sleeves which cover a multitude of bare-armed sins for downtown wear) effect a crisp appearance that make them look cool and fresh. And if that isn't enough to convince anyone that at least one white linen suit with its accompanying changes in clever blouses is necessary for every summer wardrobe, there's the additional argument that variety in cut this year—to an extent that should amaze even the most blase shopper—has de-standardized the old models so that summer suits are not only practical but individual.

And Varied in Cut

Rothschild's new Cotton Shop, for instance (and it's a mighty attractive new rose-bowered one), shows variety in linen styles that suit every form and figure. First on the list, of course, are the old standby man-tailored affairs in brown, white, and blue, with easy backs and easy skirts, and there is certainly nothing like them for street (when the figure is right) particularly when they are en-

Among his feminine friends and admirers the ubiquitous hero was probably called by his full name, but surely when he was promoted to Little Rollo in the Woolly West some of those tough westerners must have occasionally broken down and called him other things, such as familiarly dropping the last syllable and calling him, with a hearty slap on the shoulder, "Good old Roll." Which brings us naturally, almost inevitably, to the last and as yet unwritten narrative of the lad, the title of which is suggested above. Little Rollo in the Ice Box may seem to savor a bit too much of the morgue, but try. the western familiarity, call it Little Roll in the Ice Box, and you

have the frantic housewife's best friend, the ice box roll.

Even if you're not a housewife but just an apartment girl this particular item can save you an awful lot of trouble and can make a meal into a dinner when otherwise it would just be something nourishing. We'll give you the rule for the full amount but we suggest that if you are a singleton you must make up only half. Of course that will entail wasting half of a yeast cake, but a cent and a half isn't a whole lot, even if you don't believe in advertising enough to eat the yeast. Here's the way you do it.

Take one cake of yeast and put it into a good sized bowl with half a cup of sugar, one teaspoonful of salt, and two cups of luke warm water. Mix them thoroughly, being sure that the yeast is dissolved. Then . add one well beaten egg. (By the way, if you are halving this recipe, the simplest way to compromise with that egg crisis is just to use as small a one as you can.

Taking half of a

raw egg is simply one of those things which isn't done. Go ahead and try if you like. We will stick to our method, small but whole.) To the mixed ingredients listed above add three and a half cups of sifted flour and beat it in well and then put in three tablespoonsful of melted shortening—butter, if you like, or lard. Butter is a bit nicer, but doesn't keep quite as well. Then add another three and a half cups of flour and knead the dough with your hands until it is smooth and firm. Put it in a warm place to rise to double its bulk—better make these up some evening or on Sunday—and then punch it down again. Put it into a bowl with a close cover and set it in the ice box. There you are. If you want Parkerhouse rolls nip off small bits, shape them into that particular model, rub them with a little butter and let them rise. If you can manage to give them quite a long time to rise, a couple of hours say, they will bake in just about five to ten minutes and be much better than if you have to count on their doing their puffing in the oven. If you can't, put them into a slow oven and give them longer time. They'll still be better than anything you can ordinarily buy.

And don't forget the variations. Cinnamon rolls, cloverleaf rolls, buns of various sorts, sweet bread in several different forms, all these can be made very quickly and easily from this foundation dough, which will, by the way, keep perfectly sweet and should keep perfectly lively—in the yeasty sense of course—for ten days. Try fixing some with a cocktail frankfurter tucked inside. They're very good, and so surprising!

hanced by daringly new and colorful accessories. . After that come clever models also in linen with side-buttoned skirts and short "wind-breaker" jackets that are fitted to the waist neatly by means of

From Adler's

buckled bands and zipper quickly up the front—or even newer numbers in Pongee or Congo Cloth either tailored or swaggered, particularly the latter with full sleeves and white leather buttons (grand for a tallish person!).

And from linens and pongees— and a navy linen swagger at Adler's with a white embroidered collar and pockets shouldn't be overlooked—the latest additions to summer suitdom come in seersucker and drawn cotton. There are lots of pros and cons about the former, but the consensus of opinion, including New York's, about the latter is all to the good. For these drawn cottons are really attractive in an airy but not too lacy way with a particular recommendation, if you're skeptical, of a blue Chasnoff creation including a white silk-pique collared, white pigskin belted, and small pearl-buttoned dress with a collarless white- grosgrain

bound short swagger coat.

And in Materials

But cottons are not the only "jubileers" and when the question is put up to silks, there are lots of charming answers in rajah, crepe, tub silk, and sheers. Thus the suit illustrated from Adler's comes in soft white wash crepe and its shirt waist dress has a mannishly pleated bosom, a brown and white or blue and white polka-dotted tie, and an action-back tailored jacket in quite the latest style. And there are lots more "thuses" if you will only look about for them—which shouldn't be hard as long as Spring in the air doesn't turn to summer!

GALLIMAUFRY

DEPARTMENT

If you belong to the "it's-fun-to-be-fooled" school of thought, this item will not interest you. If you think it's more fun to know, and that knowledge is power, proceed. For two dollars and a half, plus the necessary reading time, you can possess a clear picture of the politics of our city. "Boss Rule" by J. T. Salter is required reading for anyone who is even faintly pricked by a social-political conscience. Without venom, without purple writing, without hysteria, Salter gives a thrilling study of a typical American city saddled with the boss system. He uses a vivid, concrete method in revealing the total structure, the component parts and the aim of a party organization. The nine sketches of ward leaders he has included in the book are obviously written from life and do more to explain the mechanics of city politics than would pages of charts and graphs. His condemnation of boss rule is based soundly on the knowledge that its methods are hopelessly out of date, hopelessly inadequate in the face of today's economic complexities.

A letter from Marshall Field's in Chicago informs us that "hats in a new collection (from Paris) are different ... in some cases radically so. There are high turbans, for instance, inspired by the interest in Hindu costumes. There are hats definitely influenced by Spanish mantillas. There are great cart wheels made of lace." A little terrified by the thought of ourselves in a high Hindu turban or a huge cart wheel of lace, we sought out Ethel Bentley, whose flare for becoming bonnets endears her to us. She soothed us with the information that hat designers' barks were always worse than their bites. American designers, in particular, do not go in for the mad little fantasies peculiar to the French. American gals can't and won't devote days to the choosing of a chapeau—the necessary concentration needed if one is to wear, effectively, a radically different

hat. American designers take this into consideration. They talk a lot about wild, new notions, but the hats they create are becoming, comfortable and, in nine cases out of ten, practical. We went out of her shop wearing a lovely straw that had all three virtues even if it was, as Miss Bentley hinted, supposed to have been inspired by a Chinese coolie's lid.

The influence of Walter Winchell (he runs a column, too) on American life is pretty profound. A friend of ours purchased a maternity dress the other day and found it labeled "Blessed Event Modes Inc."

Book reviewing has become recently one of the town's major activities. So many ladies are taking it up, they are becoming a menace to book sellers and lending libraries. It works this way: The Busy Bee Circle arranges for Mrs. G. W. T. to give them a review of, say, "So Red The Rose." Mrs. T. tells them the plot of the story and the members of the Circle, aglow with culture, check off that book. They know all about it, so why read it? Mrs. T., our hypothetical

reviewer, does not go in for any critical analysis of Stark Young's book; she does not attempt to challenge her audience's interest by presenting any controversial material about the book. She simply tells the story. It is an ingenious sort of racket, catering to the intellectual lag which slows most of us down. We all like to talk about the latest books, but reading them is often a real chore.

Follow to page seven

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SICE OUR A/G SPECIALS EACH A. M., ON PAGE 6, THE TIMES

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May seventeenth

FUTURE

7

LEAVES WITHOUT FRUIT

Columns of Criticism and Comment

THEATRE

Last Friday evening at the Center was presented "A Bill of Divorcement" (Clemence Dane) by the Players of the Conservatory drama school. It was a good show, and it is a pleasure so to report.

Margaret Joyce as Sydney Fairfield, post-war and plucky, tapped the women performers. Her timing and pace were good, with the ease that is part of stage "It," which an actor or actress seems to have to be born with. Whether the quality makes great performers is for someone else to say; there are few great performers who do not have that magnetism, at any rate. Mabel McCallum, who has played five leads with this group in the past season, was in a difficult role as Margaret Fairfield, Sidney's mother, neurotic and not awfully bright. The part has implications which Miss McCallum did not translate, tones of spiritual unrest and trouble which were not well-enough I realized to charge the audience with a sense of what Margaret was experiencing.

George Phelps as Hilary Fairfield, father and husband of the above, who returned to knock

his family's lives apart after seventeen years in a madhouse, played his Hilary with an experienced actor's sense for strong drama, and with a very convincing case of asylum jitters. His role allowed some scenery-chewing which he did not do, and he sustained quite till the end a consistent and real idea of poor Hilary. crazy, piteous, and unloved.

In the other roles, Cedric Drink as the Rev. Christopher Humphrey plainly had a part which delighted him beyond words. Carruth McCord, who was Basset, the Fairfield maid, looked a good deal like a college girl who had donned an apron to help with the dishes . . . which was the costume-designer's fault, and Kit Pumphrey, Sidney's young love, was Carl Rodgers, handsome, juvenile and quite amateurish. Dr. Alliot, played by Arthur Ellison, was a small part well planned and well carried out.

Eugene Crum as Gray Meredith, the man who loved Margaret and was about to marry her when Hilary came locomotor ataxi-ing back, played through the performance in even key but with what appeared to me to be the wrong conception of the man into whose shoes he stepped. He was brusque, quick, impatient, and Margaret, ready to collapse with worry and helpless timidity, was to turn to him for peace and safety.

Ruth Bacon played Hester Fair- field with admirable hatefulness. Had there been less gallantry in the audience she would surely have been hissed.

The English accents of the cast were a trifle brittle, and not all broad "A's" were dependably casual, but it was very little strained. Think how much worse time an Englishman would have trying to say "I want out" like a Missourian or a Kansan.

The performance as a whole was a very happy one. The single set was attractive and well planned for the needs of the characters. The work of each performer showed study and good direction; the play moved well, surely and without hitches. N. L. S.

PICTURES

Kansas City's silver sheets are more than filled this week with murder, intrigue and horror, and top billing must go to "Star of Midnight," which is being screened at the Mainstreet. It is a charmingly gay murder-comedy, with William Powell, always a credit to any high- class mystery, giving an excellently smooth characterization of a lawyer who sets himself to solve the murder, and who does so, more or less by gazing into the crystal of a highball or cocktail glass, as the occasion arises. Ginger (Twinkletoes) Rogers as the Powell-chasing debbie does right well for herself and the picture, although we missed the good old Loy finesse. Ginger has improved much, but she still has a long way to go to catch up with Myrna. Paul Kelly plays the gangster with humor and a touch of wistfulness. Some mention must be made of Leslie Fenton, Russell Hopton as the murdered man and Gene Lockhart as Bill's invaluable valet.

The story, adapted from an Arthur Somers Roche opus, is deftly handled, with smart but natural dialogue, and there is a sensation of being right in there with the players while all the excitement is brewing. In fact, if you want a chuckling, pleasant, fast-moving evening, take in "Star of Midnight." You won't be disappointed.

International Mystery

Gapmont-British is represented, and very well, too, by "The Man Who Knew Too Much," showing at the Uptown. This was voted the Best Picture of the Year by the English and King George chose it to be shown privately at Compton Palace.

It is a story of international intrigue, anarchists, attempted assassination and kidnapping. Getting off to a fast start with ski-jumping at St. Moritz, there is a neat little murder in the hotel

dining room. Nova Pilbeam, the very capable child actress, is forthwith kidnapped to keep her parents, Leslie Banks and Edna Best, from telling what they know concerning the killing and the events connected with it. From this point on the picture switches to London.

Peter Lorre, ostensibly of German descent if accents mean anything, is the hit of the show. The man has a weird fascination which practically compels you to watch him every moment. One minute he is gracious, so innocent in appearance as to be almost childish, and suddenly in an instant he changes to the most malevolent, cruel, heartless sort of criminal.

The direction is quite fine as a whole and Leslie Banks and Edna Best are good as the distraught father and mother who try to keep silent in order to save their daughter from Lorre's clutches.

Frank Vosper, in real life a charming gentleman and a playwright of no mean ability, is the Class A marksman who is elected to assassinate the Foreign Minister. He does well in his part, which is not a pleasant one.

This picture is definitely one of the better ones from our English competitors and the King showed good judgment in choosing it for his private showing.

J. D.

ART

The word "miniature" in painting originally came from the Latin *minium*, vermillion, and did not mean small as I supposed. The red initial letters and borders of the Middle Age manuscripts often contained tiny scenes, and thus any minute paintings came to be known as miniatures. It has been established by people who concern themselves with such research that the wonderfully executed miniatures of Persia derived from the work of early Christians under commission to Muslim employers-. Fine examples of this school were on exhibit at the bookshop of Frank Glenn several months ago. In Europe miniatures have always enjoyed a far-reaching vogue. Until the 18th Century these charming and decorative pieces were painted on playing- card hacks, vellum, or chicken-skin stretched on cardboard; and were, for the most part, portraits of important or wealthy people. Then an artist experimenting with ivory found that color used on this substance gave a fine texture and the appearance of floating above the surface. "Paintings in little," as Pepys termed them, received greatest popular reception during the era when the microscope was first being used successfully; and attention everywhere was focussed on the finest details of things. The sweeping lines of architecture were broken into countless individual spaces containing scrolls, shells, flowers, etc. Corners were cleared to make room for shelves loaded with tiny bibelots; and clothing became a burden of loops, ruffles, and topplins head-dresses. Although some excellent miniatures have come out of France and Germany, this medium lends itself admirable to the English school of portraiture. Today, with decorating fashions based on the Empire and Regency periods, people are steering away from large over-mantel portraits, and are having their "Juniors and Dianes" done for posterity in the smallest possible spaces. This, as the decorators warn clients, so as not to overpower the bottle-green chairs and column lamps.

The stiff-boring little discussion of "Miniatures Through the Ages" given above is by way of introducing Miss Emma Siboni and her work. Miss Siboni, temporarily residing at the Lighton Studios, is one of the most highly regarded miniatureists in America; a reputation merited by the verisimilitude of her likenesses, and the dexterity in which she places colors without reworking them.

Miss Siboni left her native Denmark at the age of 17 and studied in St. Louis, later returning to the European capitals for further training. She was commissioned to do portraits of many royal personages including the children of Grand-duchess Xenia of Russia and those of the English Duchess of Fife.

Photographers have recently advertised a means of reproducing and tinting photographs on ivory; but this work spuriously going under the name of miniatures is not to be confused with true portrait-

Nineteen Thirty-five

Gallimaufry

From page six

How nice it is to get at the story of Thomas Wolfe's ponderous "Of Time and the River" without having to plow through nine hundred and twelve page. (Parenthetically, we add that Estelle Schneider, who reviewed Wolfe's book before the Smith Club last week, did a truly expert job of it. She created for her listeners a desire to read the book themselves. She left the story of the book alone, in marked contrast to the less able reviewers who skim the cream off of a book and thus destroy the further interest in it.)

For weeks we have been troubled by the appearance of little seeds sprinkled on the crust of our toast. They were delicious, but they looked so much like bird seed we grew a bit self-conscious about them. Of course, we finally learned they were sesame seeds—not bird seed at all. They come from China and points East (or West, we get lost easily in the Orient). The Schulze Baking Company, inspired by or influenced by some Chinese bread they discovered in California, were the first to try sesame seeds on their American customers.

We were invited to meet Elizabeth Arden at tea on Monday, but we were afraid to go. We have a couple of wrinkles that demonstrate all too clearly we have not used sufficient self-discipline in our quest for beauty. If we could have run up a rubber mask for ourselves like the one Ralph Morgan wears in the big shooting scene in "Star of Midnight," we might have gone. As it was, we stayed home, letting our wrinkles deepen on us.

This has all the earmarks of one of those stock jokes that are always being circulated, but the integrity of the pretty woman who told us the story cannot be questioned. Her Son came home one night, she says, with an assignment to write an essay on the difference between depression and prosperity. Puzzled as to how to go about it, the student asked his father what was the difference between depression and prosperity. With great spontaneity, and without hesitancy, the father told him: "The difference between them is this; -prosperity is wine, women and song. Depression is beer, the radio and mother." This gave the boy the idea, and the essay was no trouble at all.

To FUTURE:

I have enjoyed FUTURE and enclose check for a subscription. May painting. Like most artists in these times, Miss Siboni has reduced the price of her work to a figure incredibly out of proportion to what was asked several years ago; and being a genuine artist and lady of the old school, she will regret my having mentioned "price." T. K. B. I make a suggestion? I was annoyed and more than a little surprised to read this statement in a recent issue, "having been made elementally dishonest by prohibition the bartenders continue to be so." As one of the younger fighters in this business I know that it was the dishonesty of the traffic that pushed us into prohibition, perhaps against our own will. Every other appeal to

the business had failed. The Senate investigation in 1918 shocked the entire country into a fever heat of indignation, and the 18th amendment was the result. T. J. was powerful long before that happened—according to the press he is a product of the old saloon days and learned his technique in them.

'Since you have the support of Kansas City church people you should be wiser in your statements.

Thank you for your good work.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Neal Dow Newby, Leonia, N. J.

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8

FUTURE

May seventeenth

Relief—Or Campaign Fund?

From page one

the organization of the Machine. Can anyone really believe that if these Federal funds were placed in his hands that he would not be subject to pressure and control that would turn this money into a vast campaign fund for the T. J. party? A gubernatorial election is in the

Matt Murray

offing. Throughout the state there are potential jobs and jobless men. Does anyone here and in this day believe that this money in these hands would be spent without regard to party

affiliation or party advancement?

The National Youth Movement, which fought the Machine in the last municipal election, and which is still fighting it at every turn, sent an immediate protest to Mr. Hopkins as soon as the news of the recommendation appeared in the public press. We print their protest below and subscribe to it. This is the master stroke of the Machine. Kill it before the state, body and soul has been bought with Federal money.

Herewith is the NYM protest: Day letter May 11, 1935 Hon. Harry L. Hopkins Director of Emergency Relief Washington, D. C.

The National Youth Movement, a non-partisan organization of young men and women, protests approval of appointment of Matt Murray as relief director of Missouri. Such an appointment will demonstrate that the administration intends to use the four billion eight hundred million relief funds for partisan and political purposes. Murray has long record in Kansas City of partisanship in administration of public affairs. For history of character and accomplishments of National Youth Movement for good government in Kansas City see story in American Magazine, February, 1935. Letter follows.

Joseph C. Fen nelly, President, National Youth Movement.

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Celebrating the New Law

From page two

that cut the tax on beer from \$1 a barrel to 52 cents.

Of more importance to T. J. Pendergast than all else was this section, this joker in the new law:

“It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership or corporation, residing without the state, to solicit, receive or take orders for the sale of intoxicating liquor within this state except by or through a duly licensed wholesale liquor dealer who shall be considered for the purpose of this act as the agent of said non-resident person, firm, partnership or corporation or to haul or transport intoxicating liquor, or cause to be hauled or transported intoxicating liquor, in any manner whatsoever in or into the state, for sale or storage and sale in the state, unless the same has been ordered by such duly licensed wholesale liquor dealer.

The T. J. Pendergast Wholesale Liquor company is one of the biggest liquor sellers, if not the largest, in the state. Now all liquor sold in the state must be bought through a wholesaler and no Einstein is needed to figure the relativity there. The Pendergast company is distributor for almost every brand of intoxicating liquor handled here. Under the new law it will be illegal for a dealer to buy outside the state' except as he buys through the wholesaler, putting another fait commission on the price of drinks for the wholesaler.

In some states where there is state control of liquor there are such laws, not to protect the politically-protected wholesaler but to guarantee revenue for the state in which there is a state control of liquor distribution. Some arrests are expected under the new law to get the dealers in line.

The liquor control bill was signed by Governor Park last week. The bill was so raw in its handout to the brewery lobby that has taken the state capitol by storm at the current session that the governor waited until the last day to sign the bill.

The bill cuts the tax on beer from \$1 to 62 cents a barrel and is expected to reduce the state's income from liquor licenses.

A Pendergast company is the distributor in this area for the world's largest brewery, located in St. Louis.

A room has been used in the state capitol for distributing beer to the legislators, employes and clerks in the building during the session and the brewers feel amply repaid for their elaborate lobby. Their tax will be cut almost in half.

Many new features were included in the bill, now effective to carry the wholesaler and brewery jokers. They included:

Window displays of intoxicating liquor are illegal.

Saloons cannot operate within 100 feet of churches without consent of church governing boards.

dosing hours are moved up from 12 midnight to 1:30 o'clock.

The number of saloons under one ownership is limited to three (a section of the law easily evaded).

Right of search, seizure and padlock.

If enforced some sections of the new bill will aid in regulating liquor distribution. If used politically by the administration to punish their enemies it will afford a better weapon to keep out unfriendly dealers. It greatly increases power of political machines to take over the liquor business.

\$5000—And Then Some

From page one

ure have never had any luck in putting it through. Cincinnati, where the county is controlled by the non-partisan municipal government, has installed it with great success. Perhaps the difference on paper between the taxes levied in Kansas City and in Cincinnati is not great. The point is that in Cincinnati you know what the levy is going to be; in Kansas City you hope for a charitable assessor and for enough political pull to keep the assessment down. The nearest rate that could be computed, in recent years, was \$25.23 per \$1,000. But as long as "fixing" is a popular political game, those figures don't mean a thing.

As to the rates you will have to pay for utilities, these compare rather favorably with other cities. The water rate is not deemed excessive, although Cincinnati, with practically the same water problem, is paying off their water bonds while charging a lower rate than Kansas City charges to just struggle along with. Electricity, too, shows a variation between these two particular cities since Cincinnati put through a contract between the city and the power and gas companies which brought down the rates with a rush. Comparatively stated, in a six-room house here you pay \$4.30 for a hundred kilowatt hours, while in Cincinnati for the same power you pay \$2.70, a difference of \$19.20 a year.

Of course you're going to insure. Unfortunately we haven't the figures for Cincinnati, but we find considerable interest in checking against the rates for our next door neighbor, Kansas City, Kansas. Your fire rates here will be \$4.20 a \$1,000; over the viaduct they would be \$2.80. Your burglary insurance in our crimeless city will cost you \$27.50 per \$1,000, and your public liability

will be \$7.50 for up to \$10,000. For this latter item you would pay \$5 across the line. For a public utility official, for example, to fall down your cellar stairs seems to be much likelier here than in Kansas City, Kansas. Or may be it's the likelihood of winning the suit in the courts that makes the rates higher.

And you'll own a car, no doubt. Prepare to shell out. Your new Ford, valued at about \$550, will cost you \$5.50 for fire insurance, and \$17.35 for theft, with \$10 extra if you want to cover such accessories as are removed by strippers. In Kansas City, Kansas, fire would cost \$3.15 and theft would be \$10.50 with an additional \$5 for wider coverage. It might be noted that the \$10 charge for the accessory coverage is found in no other city, while in most cities there is no extra charge whatever.

We still think you'll like your house, and we hope you'll like the city and the many beauties it can show you. But there is no reason why it should cost so much. Look up conditions a little, and see what you think, and decide what you are going to do about it.

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