

## FUTURE

The News weekly for Today

Vol. II No. 1

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## FUTURISMS

You'll have to credit Huey with one of the better Blue Eagle gags. During the NRA era he honored the well-known bird by running its picture twice on the caption of his own private newspaper. When the same bird was taking the rap from all sides, he helped things along by standing both birds on their heads. And when the Blue Eagle was no more, Huey's June issue came out with a dead and mutilated eagle, feet thrust in the air, and below the caption:

WE DONE OUR PART.

Ensnared in Joe Shannon's Regular Democratic Club, Councilman James B. Shoemaker pondered long on some measure to improve the general well-being of Kansas City. Eureka! He had it. He would amend the city liquor ordinance to keep "wimmin outa saloons." It was a grand idea teeming with possibilities until George Kingsley, city counsellor, ruled it wasn't legal. Councilman Shoemaker is thinking again.

County employees certainly play in hard luck. They work for a nineteenth century county government that's already 2 million dollars in the red. Now it begins to appear they will be taking heavy pay cuts the last part of the year because W. W. Graves, county prosecutor, blocked the application of the state's budget law with an injunction until the supreme court ruled against him. Meanwhile, department heads spent money as if they had it.

How about that report on the Ten-Year-Bond Plan expenditures, gentlemen?

Mayor Smith, the meek little man who hired the city manager and has some say in the council, has announced he does not favor any more funeral homes being built on boulevards. This commendable objective probably could be attained if no politician or official overrules him. He is only the mayor.

Remember our story on Dr. J. A. Gray, who was cut off the air by station WOS when his speech got too hot? Mr. Gordon, director of the station, was fired July 1st. The point being, we assume, that Mr. Gordon erred in booking the doctor.

We wonder what Walter Lister, superintendent of Swope Park, thinks about crime conditions in Kansas City. Five times in recent years bandits have chosen him as their victim. They have slugged him, robbed him and even attempted to shoot him. He was slugged again this week by an unknown assailant. The police haven't asked him for a testimonial on police efficiency.

It's open season on asking for a few millions of dollars of federal money. With a lot more fanfare than he displayed in telling how he borrowed the money to meet a sinking fund payment on Kansas City's bonds, Henry McElroy has shouted he is going to ask his buddy, Matthew S. Murray, federal works progress administrator, for \$7,100,000 to build a water supply tunnel 8 1/3 miles long in this county. We'll need it in twenty-five years, he believes. Deserving Democrats are acclaiming the city manager's astuteness.

## LUG AFFAIR

Hiram II, our gentle and imaginative art contributor, submitted the above appetizer some weeks back and we used it. Now we use it again, because this story concerns the technique of

the "lug," and no other illustration could possibly be more appropriate.

In Kansas City there can be but few who misunderstand this quaint term. The dictionary doesn't even give it in its current sense, but ask any city or county employee. He knows what it means. The Kansas City "lug" is an involuntary or forced contribution to something a luckless employee isn't nearly as interested in as the welfare of his family ! and paying his grocery bills.

Political bosses in this city "lug 'em" heavily and often. The most common ones ar for elections, and occur so regularly tha badgered and bewildered employees dread the[ time when election day approaches, knowing it probably means going on a protracted diet of hamburger. There also are other lugs, to which we shall refer directly.

"Make 'em pay! They got a job, ain't they?" is the accepted political dogma of the bosses.

FUTURE contends that political lugs are wholly unnecessary in a sane, decent city government and in this startling view we have able support. Uncle Sam doesn't

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FUTURE

FOREIGN

Ethiopia Appeals to U. S.

Ethiopia's chances of obtaining foreign aid in her dispute with Italy were materially weakened during the week by President Roosevelt's prompt rejection of Emperor Haile Selassie's appeal to invoke the Briand-Kellogg pact against Italy. The United States Government in rejecting the appeal expressed the hope that the present arbitral commission set up through League of Nations efforts would reach a decision satisfactory to the interested governments, and stated it "would be loathe to believe that either of them (Italy or Ethiopia) would resort to other than pacific means as a method of dealing with this controversy or permit any situation to arise which would be inconsistent with the commitments of the pact." This optimistic view, however, failed to accord with later reports that the State Department was advising the 125 American citizens resident in Ethiopia to evacuate the country immediately.

Paris Will Not Support London

Because of the large number of English voters clamoring for a determined stand against Italy through various peace organizations, the British Government in view of the coming elections has been forced to satisfy this demand by making an effort to block Italian aggression in East Africa. It has been rumored that London was exploring the possibility of imposing economic and financial sanctions through the league in case of an Italian- Ethiopian war and was studying the advisability of closing the Suez Canal to Italian ships. But the government realizes that such action would be futile Without French support, which is lacking and would have serious implications should Italy retaliate by declaring war on Britain. In London's opinion, that would be too high a price to pay for insisting on League principles. Furthermore, with Germany, Japan, and the United States outside the League, it is doubtful whether an effective blockade could be maintained. However, Great Britain is willing to assume any responsibility other members of the League care to undertake, but as no other major power seems interested in what is taking place in Africa, effective action cannot be expected to originate in Geneva.

Russia Denounces Japan

Soviet-Japanese relations which have been noticeably improved since the sale of the Chinese Eastern Railway several months ago became more uncertain as a result of the Soviet

press campaign charging Japan with responsibility for the recent Manchukuo-Siberian border incidents. A vigorous note of protest officially presented to the Tokyo Foreign Office warned that "grave consequences" would result if Japanese militarists continued to provoke incidents along the border in the hope of precipitating a crisis.

At the same time plans were revealed for increasing the Russian fleet in the Baltic as a consequence of recent German studies of possible military bases in Finland where there is an element which envisages an enlarged Finland at Soviet expense.

G. L. C.

#### SMELL DYNAMITE?

As FUTURE forecast several weeks ago, the "compromise" plan of R. Emmet O'Malley, Pendergast state superintendent of insurance, to distribute about \$11,000,000 of impounded fire insurance funds has developed into a major political scandal and will be mixed up in the next state campaign.

As a result of rate litigation the \$11,000,000 has been impounded in the federal court here and the Cole County circuit court. When the Pendergast machine moved into the state house this fund had developed such proportions that it caused the political mouths to water.

Then O'Malley came out with his "compromise" which would set aside only 20 per cent for the policyholders, the other 80 per cent going to politicians and the insurance companies. So wild was the storm of protest against the plan that last week O'Malley left for a vacation in Troutdale-in-the-Pines, Colo. But the storm did not abate in the federal court.

This case has been reviewed in several issues of FUTURE and the "compromise" has developed into the biggest political stench in Missouri in many years. It may be the spark that will open up a bitter outstate and St. Louis attack on the Pendergast machine.

The "compromise" would set aside 20 per cent for a refund to the policyholders, a large part of which would never be repaid as the policyholders over the past five years could not be located. Eighty per cent would ostensibly go to the insurance companies and a group of lawyers. Many believe it would be split up mostly among the politicians.

Both the insurance companies, seeking to establish a fair schedule of rates in Missouri, and the buyers of fire insurance, appear to be at the mercy of the political machine.

With O'Malley working out the split-up of the huge fund with the insurance companies the policyholders appeared to have no representative in the litigation until a lawyer R. M. Sheppard, appeared to contest the O'Malley "compromise." In the last few days Sheppard has been attacking the "compromise" and charged O'Malley was mixed up in "secret agreements" which would result in the payment of \$400,000 to the insurance commissioner.

"Absurd," replied the insurance commissioner on vacation.

In petitions filed before the three-judge federal court Sheppard charged that O'Malley was to have received \$200,000 for an agreement he is alleged to have signed with the insurance companies waiving for the stockholders a claim of \$3,000,000 against the insurance companies, that sum representing interest on funds that had been collected by the companies, based on a rate held invalid later in the United States supreme court. Sheppard also charged O'Malley was to receive another \$200,000 for "expenses" as the result of the present "compromise."

Attorneys for O'Malley and the insurance companies filed replies in which they said Sheppard or others had no rights to intervene in that the "policyholders are represented by the state superintendent of insurance," Mr. O'Malley himself.

Sheppard said his clients, the insurance buying public, felt that O'Malley was not representing them.

The litigation over the "compromise" now is before the three-judge federal court here and if the O'Malley plan does not go through in the decision of the court it undoubtedly will play a big part in the coming state campaign.

Roy McKittrick, attorney general and an aspirant for the party nomination for governor next year, has kept his hands off the "compromise" and may have incurred the enmity of Pendergast to such an extent McKittrick may have eliminated the possibility of getting the boss' OK for next year. If such a situation develops it is expected McKittrick will unloose a blast at the machine boss on the O'Malley "compromise."

The "compromise" is full of political dynamite and FUTURE believes the voters of the state are going to hear much more about it in the days to come before the next state primary election.

t. j. and w. T.

William T. Kemper, Democratic national committeeman for Missouri, and Thomas J. Pendergast, Democratic No. 1 man in Missouri, have patched up their disagreement, or what appeared to be a disagreement, concerning an outgrowth of the Lazia case here.

MYSTERY

Something of a 2-day international mystery was created early this week when it was learned Thomas J. Pendergast was coming home to his subjects in Missouri. It splashed over the front pages of newspapers in many states, despite the boss's denial he couldn't see what all the fuss was about.

Politicians of greater and lesser magnitude were thrown into consternation. Had something gone wrong? Was something askew in Missouri politics that required the attention of the Big Boss? There was some trembling in high places. Office holders asked each other what it could be about.

Tom had sailed on the luxurious Normandie for France early in June, the delicate scent of gift flowers perfuming his stateroom. Now he was coming back two months earlier than he had planned. There must be a reason and a million persons in Missouri wondered what it was. The supreme ruler of the state, maker of governors and senators, had caused a lot of speculation.

Some thought it had to do with R. Emmett O'Malley's insurance rate "compromise" that hit upon rough sledding in the federal court. Others wondered if someone was to be removed. To all questions Tom contended that politics had nothing to do with his sudden decision.

The next day Mrs. Pendergast explained she had become ill in Brussels, Belgium, and that was the reason for the boss's unexpected return. Perhaps it was. Time will show what the supreme ruler of the state had on his mind. Tom's best line was given in New York, when he said:

"I am not a national figure, never want to be and I can't see what all this fuss is about."

Kemper again is telling his friends Pendergast is a gentleman and a scholar and there is every evidence Kemper will retain his honorary party office. It was talked in political circles for a while that Kemper would be removed and James Aylward, chairman of the state committee, named in his place.

Surface evidence of bad blood between the Kansas City boss and Kemper developed when Sen. Bennett C. Clark made public several months ago a letter written to a Washington official

by Pendergast in which the Kansas City boss fronted for the late John Lazia, gangster politician, who had been charged with income tax violations. In the letter was reference to other income tax cases and one in particular which was generally seen as a prod at Kemper by the Kansas City boss.

Of course, the letter never was intended to have been made public and it caused bad feeling between Clark, Kemper and Pendergast. Kemper always has been opposed to the North End gangster hook-up of the Pendergast machine.

Lazia later was convicted. Kemper settled the \$800,000 income tax suit brought against him by the government.

Kemper, a very successful banker, has added a prominent name to the party set-up in the state although it generally is understood his title is mostly an honorary one and that patronage comes from Pendergast's headquarters. Kemper is an outstanding banking figure of the Southwest and his name goes a long way in high administration circles. He has had some patronage in the RFC organizations in this area.

To have removed Kemper from his post as national committeeman probably would have created a scrap inside the party and a peaceful parrying of such a crisis apparently has been worked out by the two Democratic leaders.

Just where the public would have been the loser had the two "big boys" of the Pendergast machine so forgotten their roles as to call each other names we fail to discern. It is our belief a real scrap between these two party leaders, if it reached the point where they indulged in calling each other names, would be illuminating to the citizenry. Of course, we certainly do not ever expect to see it. That would be expecting too much and, after all, we know that two people who know as much about each other as they do don't talk out of school.

It is wondered if the city, hall will do a little more banking business with Kemper's banks as a result of the amicable settlement of the squabble stirred by the Lazia case or will the city manager continue to do business with another large bank.

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RELIEF, THE MAGIC WORD

Although there is a strong feeling in the minds of many citizens that the federal supervision of the work relief projects in Missouri will keep them more or less out of politics, no such sentiment appears to exist in the minds of the machine followers. The boys of the machine, both here and in all Missouri, are beating a new path to the door of the machine's shrine at 1908 Main street.

No Big Boss is there but his nephew, acting as the party dictator, is talking it over with the boys.

The machine members believe the expenditure of \$95,000,000, the amount allotted to Missouri from the president's \$4,880,000,000 works program fund, should provide many jobs and the boys are appearing early to get their names in for the time when the handout of jobs is made. About \$40,000,000 of the \$95,000,000 has been set aside by the government to be expended on CCC camps and turned over to the state highway department for road work.

Matthew S. Murray, machine director of public works, who has been named state administrator for the fund, will really have only about \$55,000,000 of the fund to put into projects in the state. There are many supervisory jobs expected to be filled by the machine. The actual labor on the projects must come from the relief rolls.

The local relief office has announced that there has been an avalanche of applications the past few days from persons asking to be placed on the relief rolls. More than 2,000 now are being investigated.

There is a report that the machine has sent out the word for the

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boys wishing to get the jobs to get on the relief rolls and they will get the first jobs. That would appear to be about the only way the machine could get its boys the jobs. Sounds a bit like ballot stuffing. If this report is true the new applications for relief are largely made up of the boys

planning to get the first jobs. Just what the reaction of the New Deal relief heads to the possibility of such a development is not known.

Every kind of plea is being taken to the Pendergast headquarters from partisans all over the state, seeking a preferential position for the relief job handouts. Under Wallace Crossley, federal relief director of Missouri, there has been an attempt to keep the relief cases down to the minimum requirement. As far as representatives of the present relief organization would go in taking cognizance of the possibility the rolls are being increased with the taking over of the program by Pendergast's Murray was to say that "the fact workers for the projects have to be taken from the relief rolls may have caused this huge wave of new applications."

One Pendergast jobholder, commenting on pay cuts he had sustained to aid the machine fund, said that most of the jobholders would be better off on relief than they have been the last two years.

At this time the relief organization under Murray is being besieged by the politicians to provide jobs for the machine. Murray this week announced the following appointments for his organization:

Chief deputy administrator—A. J. Alport, St. Louis construction contractor.

Chief Engineer—E. A. Langley, Jefferson City, formerly associated with Murray in the state highway department.

Director of women's work— Mrs. Charles Tidd Cole, Columbia, who held the same position with Crossley.

Director of finance—Walter J. Cummings, St. Louis, who held the same post with Crossley.

Social service adviser—Lena B. Small, Kirksville, who held the same title in Crossley's organization

Crossley still retains his title as federal relief director but it is expected his job will only include the direct relief work administration.

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BOTH

Naively City Manager Henry Mc- Elroy apprised the people of Kansas City last week of the purchase of additional ground to be used for the site of the new city hall. The city manager announced he had purchased a tract with a frontage of 132 feet on Twelfth Street and 184 ^ feet on Locust street.

The purchase price was announced by McElroy as \$150,000, but, added the city manager for all his modesty hidden in country bookkeeping, it really was worth \$365,000.

It is difficult to know whether the city manager meant to imply that the county had paid twice the real value for the courthouse site or whether he was just trying to impress the people with his business acumen. Perhaps it was both.

JUST ANOTHER LITTLE THING

Frankie and Johnnie night club, 608 East Fifteenth street, is a well- known rendezvous for hoodlums, street walkers and "thrill seekers." Recently the G-men visited the place, looking for a criminal wanted by the government. They rounded up the habitues, searched them and got enough guns to arm an expeditionary force for Abyssinia.

The girls pull the old trick of sitting down with the customers, ordering high-priced drinks and taking soda pop. It is a meeting place for the Fifteenth street gangster politicians.

July 4 the hoodlums were having some fun throwing firecrackers and torpedoes at passing motorists. Two motorcycle patrolmen passed the place and later said eight or ten men tossed torpedoes at them. The officers, Patrolmen S. J. Lawrence and C. T. Hastings, returned but found only one man at the place.

He was Joe School.

Who is Joe School?

The police have been looking for a Joe School and his brother, Phil School (real names unknown) for more than a year. Joe School was sought for questioning in the killing of John Lazia, slain North End Pendergast political leader. Phil School has been sought in the slaying of Webster Kemner, Commerce Trust Company messenger, February 27, 1934. Their names have been mentioned in many gangland escapades in recent months.

At the start of the police investigation of the slaying of Kemner and Lazia, the officers went to the home of the relatives of the School boys. They were told the boys had gone fishing. It was generally understood the boys were here and could have been found by the police, had they so desired. They were active in the Fifteenth street political organization.

But the fireworks episode did not end the celebration at Frankie and Johnnie's place that night. The two officers booked School and after going off duty returned to the night club. Whether they imbibed at the bar was not disclosed in the police report on the matter.

According to the report later by the officers they were attacked by the hoodlums at the place, their guns taken from them and they were left unconscious. A spectator called the police and a squad was rushed to the scene to find the officers lying in the joint. Next day the place was ordered closed by the acting chief of police. A raiding squad was sent out to close the place and arrest a bartender.

While the raiders were at the night club, School's case came up in the North Side court and it was dismissed by Judge Thomas V. Holland when the complaining officers, who were too badly beaten up to appear, did not show up. Later the judge explained he did not know the circumstances of the case when he dismissed the charge against School.

Police Director Otto Higgins, of course, ordered an investigation and left for Atlantic City to attend a convention of the International Association of Police Chiefs.

Strange it appears to the public that a man wanted by the police in numerous cases but who could not be found could walk into the court and out again a free man. The episode is illustrative of how things are handled by the machine when one of the boys needs looking after.

#### MARY LUGS THE FEDS

Mrs. Mary Edna Cruzen, Gallatin, has been reappointed state labor commissioner, although Sen. Bennett C. Clark bitterly criticized her for putting a political "lug" on the pay of political jobholders coming under her supervision. Mrs. Cruzen, who was appointed to the job on the approval of T. J. Pendergast, sent letters to employes in her department assessing them a portion of their June salaries to help pay off the Democratic national committee debt.

Clark had said that Mrs. Cruzen "should be removed from office if the charge she solicited funds from federal employes is true."

Gov. Guy B. Park, picked also by Pendergast, said in announcing the reappointment of Pendergast's labor commissioner that the letter was sent to the federal employes "by mistake."



“Mrs. Cruzen has been a most efficient and conscientious administrator of her office,” Park stated.

Mrs. Cruzen was reappointed by the governor for a four-year term expiring July 3, 1939.

This rebuff to Senator Clark by the Pendergast machine indicates that all still is not well between the Pendergast machine and the opinionated young senator from St. Louis. Clark, it will be recalled defeated the Pendergast pick for the senatorial nomination, Charles M. Howell. Last election, Clark’s choice for the senate was former Rep. Jacob L. (Tuck) Milligan who lost to Pendergast’s senatorial jack-in-the-box, Harry L. Truman. Mrs. Cruzen was a supporter of Senator Truman.

Indications are that Mrs. Cruzen put her foot into it, so to speak, among New Deal leaders by her political activity in assessing the employes and she is reported to have been shorn of her power as far as her activity extends into the federal set-up.

Missouri politicians just can’t get it through their heads that the federal government now and then frowns on the practice of playing politics with human suffering. It’s such an old story in this boss-dominated state that few give it a passing thought until the practice gets someone into trouble.

This activity by Mrs. Mary Edna Cruzen, state labor commissioner and indefatigable Pendergast appointee, now threatens to have Missouri cut off from an \$88,000 allotment for the labor office. The hitch is that some of Mrs. Cruzen’s state employment offices have been combined with federal ones.

Governor Park was advised not to reappoint Mrs. Cruzen to the state office, but went ahead and did it anyway. Now the governor has been told by W. Frank Persons, director of the federal employment service, that unless she ceases her political activities in connection with her offices, the government cannot make further allotments to Missouri.

Senators Clark and Truman are racing around Washington trying to smooth over the situation, now that a senatorial investigation is threatened by foes of the New Deal. The tragic part is that Mrs. Cruzen’s office really is a huge employment bureau, attempting to find jobs for the unemployed, and to play politics here is pretty bad.

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SAD, SAD MISTAKE

THE PRICE PLEA

On that last memorable election day a woman worker at the polls idly observed her fellow cog in the machine as he sat waiting for voters to come in. He would tap the desk nervously with the point of his sharpened pencil, harder and harder, until finally the point jabbed into the wood and broke off there. Then he would sharpen the pencil or produce another and begin the process again until the desk was well studded with broken leads still embedded in the wood. When a ballot was handed to him by a voter his conduct seemed to take one of two courses. If the voter was one who was known to be in favor of supporting the present regime, the ballot went quickly and unostentatiously into the box. But if the opposition workers had greeted the arrival of the voter at the polls with any show of pleasure, the ballot when handed to this nervous gentleman would be waved gaily about to the accompaniment of banter and the flourish would wind up with a long sweep across the desk before the ballot found its way into the box. The woman worker thought little of the playful antics of her associate un-

ere was a little boy who want- ^5\*0 play in the school band, but while he had ability he had no instrument. And there was an individual who was so unfortunate as to break and be too hard up to replace a glass eye. The plight of these and others was indeed pitiable. No bond issue had been float- I; no funds were available to meet ese needs. But the active Civics Committee of the Woman's City Rub came, saw, and conquered. And now the ears of a small boy are filled with rapturous trumpet noises of his own making and, indistinguishable in the crowd, two eyes look fearlessly toward the future.

With the death of that great humanitarian, Judge E. E. Porterfield, al' those concerned with the problems of juvenile delinquency waited with bated breath to see who and what would take the place of him til when the ballots were counted it was discovered that almost all those marked against the machine had to be thrown away. They were strangely defaced by pencil marks as if an unlettered child had scrawled upon them. Now the more votes for the machine and the fewer for the opposition the better it suited the political and personal feelings of the

woman worker, but to her own great detriment she happened to possess a sense of justice. So she hastened to point out to everyone present just who the unlettered child had been, namely her co-worker, the embedded pencil points and the flourished ballots in a cooperation worthy of the vast political Juggernaut whose ministers they were.

This was, of course, a sad mistake on the part of a loyal mechanic, for now she will never be asked to work at the polls again and her husband who had for years held a position at the city hall with great efficiency and unquestioned allegiance was promptly told that his services were no longer required. And neither he nor his too clairvoyant wife has been able to hold a job since.

and his work. The importance of the proper handling of the cases which come into the juvenile court could not be overestimated, and the judge of that court was the one who handled them. Almost everyone in a position to know declares that Judge Cowan is proving a worthy successor to Judge Porterfield. They could pay Judge Cowan no finer tribute.

The Illinois state senate committee investigating the University of Chicago for communism, as charged by Mr. Walgreen, brought in a verdict of not guilty, but added that Robert Morss Lovett, professor of English, was "unpatriotic." Professor Lovett, nationally famed critic of the drama and literature, had an only son killed at Belleau Wood. Will some one check on Mr. Walgreen for the same period?

To FUTURE:

The federal fair trade and employment codes having been hastily abandoned, the country is again swept by a wave of cut rate bait selling coupled with reduced employment, long hours and low wages of a far worse type than ever. There is only one question involved. Is the country and the whole people better off with or without this type of unbridled cut rate bait selling and unregulated hours and minimum wages? This is certainly not for the high powered lobbies and advertising agencies to decide.

Contrary to general belief, the drug code was not a price fixing code, but merely prohibited as unfair trade practice, the selling at retail of drug commodities below the wholesale list price; the grocery code and others permitted a nominal margin of profit.

Forty years ago, when Kansas City was in the making, the entire lengths of Main, Walnut, Eighth, Ninth and Twelfth streets, and particularly Grand avenue, were filled with small, prosperous shops operated by men who were citizens of Kansas City, lived and spent their profits here and were proud of their town. One regrets to look at these streets today, as a whole, and particularly Grand avenue, the graveyard of more hopes and more money sunk in real estate than any other street in the nation.

There has been a most potent cause. Where at one time, aside from other business, over five hundred individually owned grocery stores, and over three hundred individually owned drug stores existed here and supported families, and maintained the owners as self-respecting citizens of credit to the community, how many such independently owned places can you count today, and how many of them are making a living?

The "price plea," most deceptive lure, has done all this and is the hammer that is being swung on the community today in these operations. And, alas, too often the price plea will not stand scrutiny. But assuming that advertised prices are "the lowest" is this the only consideration the citizen should have before him? The ultimate destination of the money spent should have the greater bearing. Once the dollar leaves town it has no further circulating or

exchange value here. "Circus money" leaves town the night spent.

Today a great bulk of retail business here is done by corporations largely owned and controlled by non-residents of the city; in many instances the receipts of the day leave Kansas City that night by the speediest means possible to "get on interest" at the earliest possible moment in the large central holding banks in the east; the profits of Saturday are not spent on Sunday with families in Kansas City; instead, too often the managerial and other salaries paid must be most frugally expended to "keep up the required front" and to hold body and soul together. It is the steam roller age; Kansas City is merely a classified profit point for eastern operatives owning these concerns. We are living in "near" times. The late Col John T. Crisp during his lifetime lamented that Kansas City was beginning to contain too many "near" persons. One must have been familiar with the large, open and fair conditions of those days, when due regard was paid to the welfare and profits of the other person, to know just what Col. Crisp meant by his "near expression. The "nearness" unfortunately continued and has grown. The great interests and "specialists" in business have come as "near" to every enterprise and business as possible for self profit, and we have seen the sad local results. "Near" is the correct word; the city contains too many "nears" most of whom operate from afar and are sucking the life blood out of the community. The "far aways" have come too "near" and we are being "side- swiped" with the result that the local pocketbook is too often lost in the operation.

You probably know that Florida has no chain stores; that no cut rate enterprises are tolerated within the state; Florida is prosperous and has suffered little from the depression. The reason is self-evident; it is a state fully contained within itself in its local trade operations.

In Kansas City why not patronize and encourage clean small shops owned and operated by local residents whom you know or with whom you can easily become acquainted, and who will be glad to put "personal responsibility and service" into every transaction with you. Why not deal with "home folks"? Don't let "price" be the entire controlling factor, and don't be too "near." These people will usually meet any "advertised" price you can show them, and often their "every day" prices will be found below the one-day special sale prices. They will extend credit in time of need. Grow up with these men. Make them responsible for your personal needs and requirements. You will find wholesome response in their hearts, and they deal only in quality and fairness. This line of operations has actual return in it, and will pay big for you and for Kansas City. The great stretches of vacancies now existing can again be made to blossom like the rose by YOU and your friends operating along the lines indicated.

Albert N. Doerschuk.

Walter Lippmann in a recent article said: "The historian will, I believe, rate Mr. Hoover higher not only than the public rates him today, but higher than he rates himself . . . Believe it or not, he arrested the depression." Calling all cars! Culprit escaped and still at large!

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.

Vital Statistics

The Health Department has just published its vital statistics for the year ending in May. As a reminder of our size and importance it might be well to reflect occasionally that Kansas City proper comprises 423,600 souls spread over 65 square miles of territory.

We had 509 more deaths last year than in the previous year. It is interesting to study the

statistics for the cause of this increase. By far the greatest increase in deaths was. under the heading of "excessive heat." In 1933 there were only 3 deaths attributed to the heat, whereas in the year ending in May 1935, there were 209! In two other categories the heat may easily have been a factor in increasing the mortality, e. g., in the case of "Diseases of Early Infancy" the number increased from 116 to 145, and in the case of pneumonia the number rose from 596 to 683 (assuming many deaths to have occurred among old people).

Depression and Recovery may be read into the figures in the cases of cancer and suicide. In the case of cancer there were nearly 100 more deaths last year than in the previous year, suggesting that the depression years have encouraged people to neglect chronic, insidious conditions until too late in many instances. In a decline to 99, from 112 suicides in 1933, one may assume that there is at least a greater sense of security abroad in the land. Security is not necessarily actual, we might add, for there were reported 89 homicides—the same number as for 1933!

The Chamber of Commerce may be interested to know that 43 more people came to Kansas City from its "trade territory" to die during the past year than in the twelve months just preceding. Then again the Chamber may rebuke us for calling attention to this fact and to the number of deaths due to excessive heat.

Missouri is still not listed among the low-incidence-of-bovine-tuberculosis states. There were 18 states in which the disease in cattle had been reduced to 0.5 per cent and the Department of Agriculture has just added Kansas as number 19.

In March 1935, 2,690,074 cattle in 250,000 herds were tested for tuberculosis. This is more than in any month since the department began this work.

Representative Cannon of Wisconsin has introduced a bill imposing a heavy property tax on Americans who marry aliens. The Mdivanis alone should make quite a sizable increase in the national income.

Nineteen Thirty-five

July twelfth

FUTURE

FINANCE

The stock market has been giving an exceptionally good account of itself the last week or so, not only regaining the ground lost after the June highs were touched but going ahead to establish new peaks. Probably the chief influence back of the latest upturn has been the increasing signs that congress is breaking away from executive domination as reflected in the insurrection over the holding company bill and other minor uprisings. This recurring lucidity of our representatives at Washington is seen as the big factor in the business outlook. Some of the fears and uncertainties that have held business back are fading and indications are that recovery now will not have so much to combat as in the last several months.

The ability of the market to ignore a sharp drop in grains as well as the many political obstacles speaks well of its underlying strength. Of course, other factors besides optimism are at work. The abundance of cheap money seeking investment still is a big force. High grade bonds continue to be boosted to unprecedented levels in the quest for a safe return and yields in many instances are approaching the vanishing point. As has been pointed out before this decline in bond yields naturally will cause much money to flow into good industrial stocks. Even the more speculative types are finding a better following.

Getting back to the business angle, if a serious revolt over executive domination is in progress at Washington, the chances are reasonably favorable that some of the so-called "must" legislation will be abandoned or materially altered. Business, which has regarded this legislation with suspicion and apprehension, naturally will respond favorably, and stock prices should reflect the better feeling.

Interest rates, both long term and short term, should remain low for a year or longer. Short term rates are extremely low and there is little chance of them going any lower on the open market but the rates charged by banks to their own customers possibly will be scaled down somewhat under current levels. Conditions should remain favorable to borrowers on long term obligations and there is a good chance of these rates going lower. When business expansion attains a vigorous pace, interest-bearing instruments at the extreme end of the short term group, such as acceptances, will begin to pull up, but short term financing can be done at attractive rates for some time to come. The most advantageous time for long term financing probably will be seen in the next year.

The treasury offering of  $V_2$  billion dollars in notes early this week, the largest single issue to raise new money since last December, served as a reminder the government may have to return to the money market in a big way to finance the works relief program if the latter is to go ahead as planned. The treasury has been slow to add to the debt until the new fiscal year started. The national debt has been almost stationary the last few months. The latest borrowings will be offset by retirement of 675 million dollars of Panamas and Consols, largely from gold profits.

Some observers believe the treasury is itching to use more of the  
MAY WE PRESENT MRS. A. ROSS HILL

The parents of Mrs. A. Ross Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford James, were members of one of the most prominent families in Kansas City. Mrs. James was a graduate of Vassar at a time when the percentage of women in America with a university degree was practically nil, and was an active worker for woman's suffrage when a daughter was born. The girl was entered in her mother's beloved alma mater and matriculated from there the requisite number of years later. Her early association with Vassar through her mother and her later attendance there herself became in after years one of the motivating factors in her life.

Miss Vassie James first married Mr. Hugh Ward, of an equally prominent Kansas City family. Four children, three sons and a daughter, were born to this marriage, and while all four are now no longer living in the city of their birth, they have left a great many friends behind. When her sons were young Mrs. Ward was an active worker in the organization of the Kansas City Country Day School, now, as the Pembroke-Country Day, an institution of twenty-five years standing. At a banquet celebrating the foundation of this school Mrs. Ward's work in its behalf was eulogized and she was described as "this big little woman."

In April 1918, Mrs. Ward was placed in charge of enlisting women for foreign work in the Red Cross. Henry Ashley was her co-worker in charge of the men's division. That same month she was made a "general" in the Liberty Loan campaign, in charge of the women workers who had as their duty the covering of the residential district in a house-to-house canvass.

A year later, shortly after the close of the war, we find her appointed one of a committee of five women to study and promote the interests of women in connection with the deliberations

of the peace conference on the European settlement and the League of Nations. Unfortunately, she was unable to make the trip to Geneva.

Always an active Democrat, Mrs. Ward, in June 1919, was appointed Democratic national committee woman, but upon her marriage to Dr. A. Ross Hill, president of Missouri University, in September of that year, she resigned this office as being inconsistent with her position in the state university. When Dr. Hill was appointed Red Cross administrator to Greece during the trying days there of the early 1920's Mrs. Hill accompanied him, not only actively aiding him but also finding time to organize a Greek federation of university women with some two hundred members.

Upon her return to Kansas City in 1923 several active years ensued during the course of which we find her organizing the Jefferson Democratic Club, an independent organization of women designed to interest them in their party and its principles; becoming active in the Missouri Welfare League; and elected to various offices in the United States Association of University Women. In 1932 she was one of the delegates to the Conference of the International Association of University Women at Edinburgh, and sat at the executive conference table.

In October 1933, she was appointed by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt the Missouri chairman  
**BOONDOGGING**

The city council, meeting July 8, dispensed with a third reading and passed an ordinance appropriating \$33,640.07 from the Contingent Fund to the Director of Finance to pay for "flood prevention work." We disagree with Mr. Garrett, who said that anyone who saw the work would compliment the city on its prompt and effective measures. In the issue of June 14th we said: "Engineers who viewed the flood "levees" laughed loudly. They said they would not have held back a drop of water. But the city is to get a bill. The work was done by two politically-affiliated companies, the Boyle-Prior Construction Company and the Paul Patton Construction Company . . . Everybody who saw the "levees" knew that if the waters had risen high enough to go over the banks the politically- scattered sacks would have been so much boondoggling for the boys."

gold profit for debt retirement as an offset to new borrowing. But stabilization prospects are generally held to be too remote to promise use of the 2 billion dollar exchange fund for debt repayment before the works program calls for heavy new borrowings.

Just now there is a big question mark on the works relief program. Congress has lost control of the spending program and confusion abounds. Some of the newest spending projects are fantastic beyond relief and only Harry Hopkins thus far has been able to devise acceptable plans. Thus the delay in work relief.

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The civic mindedness of Dr. and Mrs. A. Ross Hill is well exemplified by Dr. Hill's allowing his name to head the Fusion Ticket as candidate for mayor in the last municipal campaign.

How Mrs. Hill has found the time to fill her many posts and at the same time to raise a family of four children, astonishes the average person, but fill them she does, and with credit to herself and her community.

ANTIQUES

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FUTURE  
July twelfth  
MANNERS MODES  
THE SUN VOGUE

Remember when play suits were thought a bit scandalous for children? Now practically every child is keeping cool in one. Witness Emery Bird's little plaid play suit in a size two with organdie ruffling trimming the top like Mother's summer formal. Or the gingham "Marianne" we came across at Harris's French and Italian Shop that is a member of "Our Gang," or rather boasts that well known comic club as its originators.

And for parties the little Miss of three or four may wear either a cross-bar organdie in peach with black velvet trim from Emery's or a pink pleated net from Harzfeld's.

Her older sister, however, turns a freckled and sunbrowned nose up at such frivolities and goes in for play pajamas in a big way, like the suspender overall type found in yellow linen with natural cork trim at Emery's. It comes both as a regular pajama and as a suspender type that has a jersey shirt accompanying it. Or a three-piece play suit with navy shorts sprinkled with multi-colored dots and a white shirt for her more violent activities. When company comes she is presentable by merely slipping her all-white dress with accessories that match her shorts over the lesser part of her suit. Both mother and daughter will approve this one. We liked these play styles for the growing girl at Emery's. Their style far surpasses the modes in more dressy frocks shown at the same store.

Sheer Materials

Sheer materials predominate in dresses for the young girl, as in the fashion world of their mothers. A navy blue dotted-swiss with white trim from Harzfeld's should bring the beaux around at an early age for its wearer. For dresses that will stand a lot of wear-and-tear, seersucker is both cool and practical while linen is the old standby as usual. When she wears a hat she insists on a Breton sailor in linen from Harzfeld's because it's cool and stylish, or else a jockey hat with a visor brim. And her brother plays around in Palm Beach shorts (just like Dad's long, summer trousers) or else military shorts of whipcord in yellow and brown.

In the Pink

To get to his royal majesty, the Prince of Wails, we found a darling- baby outfit at Harris's that is both cool and beautiful. Pink is the color—pink the shade of a delicate, dusty rose. The material for the coat is imported barred organdie with a matching ruffled bonnet. A sleeveless pink dress, Philippine hand-embroidered, tiny pink linen shoes, pink socks and a hand-woven Afghan for the night winds complete an outfit that will put baby n his or her rightful place as

the small king or queen of his or her domain.

Twin Sets

And why wouldn't they if they wore some of the cleverly-styled brother-and-sister suits by Nathan Krauskoph that are exclusive with Harzfeld's. One that particularly struck our fancy and made us wish we were making mud-pies again was a set in hand-tied dotted swiss in blue and white. Pique seems to be quite a factor in the life of little

GOING TO GRASS

By KATIE KITCHEN

This column has been awfully verdant lately. Must be the weather. Here we are prattling about spinach again. But I do just want to get this spinach souffle off my chest. Anyone who has gone around in weather like this with a spinach souffle on his chest for any length of time will know what I mean.

Let's get at it. You start with a cup of spinach that has been cooked but not eaten, i. e., leftover. Mix it with the beaten yolk of an egg and stir the two over the fire until the egg sets. Let it cool until ready to serve. Then stir into it lightly the well-beaten whites of three eggs. Put the mixture in individual cups or in a well buttered pan and cook in a hot oven for ten or fifteen minutes. Serve the souffle at once because if you don't you may have to call it something else. When it falls it ceases to be souffle.

Before we get away from this matter of greens let's just touch the helpful and healthful string bean. You can cut it in short lengths, or you can slit it lengthwise four times if you want to be rather special. Fixed this way you can even go French and call them haricots verts. Put them, in any case, in salted boiling water and add either a few strips of bacon or a piece of salt pork. If you use the pork it will help the flavor to put in a bit of bacon anyway. Cook the beans until they are perfectly tender. Few things are tougher than an underdone bean. And don't forget the bacon. It does something to a bean that will surprise you. As an afterthought, any beans that are left over go beautifully in salad.

One more item will about finish the more verdant pastures and that is the cucumber. Raw it has two main uses, one being in salad, when it is sliced thin and served with French dressing, and the other where it is cut lengthwise and served in slender pieces like celery with no dressing except salt. In either case the cucumber should be prepared ahead of time and put into ice water until time to serve. It crisps it wonderfully.

Cucumber can also be served cooked, and it makes a very good substitute for egg plant, or is just as good without substituting for anything. Select short, round ones, the chubbier type, peel them and cut them lengthwise in slices about a half to three-quarters of an inch thick. One cucumber should make three slices unless unusually fat. Pepper the slices, salt them slightly, and dredge them well with flour. Then fry them in butter or bacon fat until they are tender and well browned. Cucumbers take longer than egg plant, so allow fifteen minutes at least. If your fire isn't very hot, allow twenty. This is an especially good summer vegetable as it is light in taste and texture, and if properly drained after cooking won't be in the least greasy. Frying as a method of cooking is either horribly overdone, or bitterly abused. We'll go into it seriously one of these days.

brother and sisters, but the more sheer materials seem more practical. Although we did admire a pique suit that shows that the nautical influence is not confined to the adult world. And to show that your little Susie is a lady, the sister part

From Harris's

of the suit ties with a sash while the boy goes about-townish with buttons that go down the back.

Although we are subject to lumbago if we make too rapid a change from high heels to low, on the whole we are in favor of the new sandals. Unless we are to be a nation of Amazons they may become a virtual necessity if girls continue to wax big and strong and to tower over homo sapiens. However, there are sandals and sandals. We know one woman who had truly Cinderella-like extremities in days of yesteryear but who now goes about with her feet looking like a pathological chart of a pair of kidneys.

#### TACT RE WAX

One of you humanitarians would do a great service for the people who trek daily across the Plaza by having a quiet talk with one of that community's beauticians regarding his window-display. It could be done quite tactfully by complimenting him first on the window's size and background, and how cleverly he had concealed a view of hair-driers from passers-by on the street; then at the first sign of his growing heady with pride ask the cosmetician if he knew that several Hallowe'ens ago a band of pranksters had broken into the shop and left a wax bust of the Werewolf's Bride right in the middle of all the jars and permanent wave placards which grace the window. This way you suggest that the monstrosity wasn't intentional on his part. If this kind of diplomacy doesn't get through to him, you'll have to be harsh and point out that to think a customer wouldn't have to grit her teeth bravely before going into the shop after seeing what might happen to her face is to live in a Fool's Paradise. Personally we discredit the theory that because of several summers in Kansas City the dummy's eyes and mouth have run together; we even harbor the suspicion that some foolhardy person picked the figure up at Madame Tussaud's fire sale in 1925.

Senator Huey P. Long ducked a haymaker recently and received much space in the newspapers. What a greater story it would have been if he hadn't ducked.

#### THE SKIN GAME

The Eve of the cave-man age may have had an easy life as far as the well-known "skin game" is concerned, but the modern Eve finds she can't forget her face from month to month without reaping the ill-effects to her own disadvantage. This disadvantage would seem to us to consist in losing her place in the glamour-girl class and becoming just another wilted lily. Anyway, while the first woman may have let nature take its course in keeping her "schoolgirl complexion," the fifty million women of today must suffer haunting fears of sunburn, acne, pimples, enlarged pores and all the other ailments you read about in the ads every day. Aside from using the fifty different brands advertised and recommended by the "doctors of Vienna" and elsewhere, there are a few fundamentals that every girl or woman should know concerning her skin. We're going to suggest a number of little "home aids" and bits of common sense that will give you a beautiful skin.

The health and beauty of the skin depends chiefly on the action of the pores. If they are choked by the application of various foreign substances applied in excess quantities, blotches will appear. And everybody knows the old adage about eight hours of sleep (how hard they are to get in this day and age). Even if you make the gay rounds night after night, try to squeeze in your beauty naps, my dears.

Self-Control

Summer is the time you simply just practice a little self-control and give up those luscious pieces of chocolate that make caring for your skin twice as hard. Sweets and careless diet are the root of an unhealthy skin, for to be clear and beautiful it must be nourished by a healthy system. A good, old-fashioned idea for keeping the complexion clear, soft and smooth is to take a glass of hot water before meals.

As regards soap and water, don't be afraid of your childhood habits. A good scouring once a day with a pure soap, preferably Castile, will keep your skin healthy and clean. But don't forget your creams. Too much of these old-fashioned remedies might make your complexion a dull one indeed, but a bit of them will go a long way toward helping out the rows of creams and powders that line your modern dressing table. Nor should you shy away from the brush idea being flaunted from the cosmetic counter of all the best shops. It's clean, it's healthy and it's invigorating to brush your skin with a soft, smooth brush and don't believe it isn't.

Fooling Nature

And if you're blessed with large pores or scars, you can even fool Mother Nature and hide them with the new Creme Nutria that matches your face and hides its faults. Common sense abetted by modern cosmetics will go a long way toward making you a girl who knows her way around her face.

The Beauty Twins.

Most people have "shining morning faces" all day long recently, although it is to be feared that the summer heat rather than inner spiritual qualities is responsible. And, ladies, vanishing cream or almost any sort of powder base will but add to that translucent radiance under the circumstances. It is best merely to concentrate on thoughts of cool green lettuce and lily ponds and to keep away from mirrors.

BRIGHT IDEA DEPARTMENT

If you like things brief as a split-second, snappy as the lines of a Dusenbergs, we recommend "Old Smoothie." It's gay, modern, young. You won't resist it for traveling. It's a little felt hat that collapses flatter than a pancake and packs like a handkerchief. Show the old-timers how you do it (keep modern and up-to-the-minute), tilt it on the side of your curls, whisk it off, flatten it out like a man's opera hat. Dash it away in the corner of your bag, forget it 'til you're ready to don it again. Then take it out as fresh as a daisy and none the worse for squashing. If you get an "Old Smoothie," you'll be one, we'll wager. (The only place we know of to order them is from Bonwit Teller's, New York, but ask your pet hat salon, anyway.)

Tut, tut, don't stir up a temperature over the answer to knockout table decoration problems. Last week one found its way into this column and this week we've two more. We can't help it because we're smart, but we're passing it on to you. In London, Lady Diana Cooper and Rex Whistler have taken the notion to arrange huge bouquets of mixed flowers in urns painted pink. Novel, what? Or take your favorite statuary figurines (white, if possible), make garlands from your common garden flowers and drape them between the figures.

LADY OF POWER

This little tale, you may as well know at the beginning, is brought on by the general trend of late to speak disparagingly of women who enter the field of men's activities. In the Channel Islands about thirty miles off the west coast of France lies a unique little island, Sark, that believe it or not, is ruled by a woman. The lady is the Dame de Sercq, who pays "half a knight's fee" or fifty shillings a year to King George in his right as Duke of Normandy. The Dame holds

her title under letters patent granted by Queen Elizabeth. The present Lady of Sark, Sybil Beaumont, is married to the wealthy American, Robert, W. Hatherway. She rules, perhaps not with an iron hand, but with a firm one. She has absolute power over the island, and can, if she so desires, invite you to leave on a moment's notice. The custom of the woman ruler is quite an old one there and seems to have proven quite successful, even if novel. So there, gentlemen, will you take your hats off to the Lady of Sark and others of her sex for their achievements in your chosen fields.

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FUTURE

LEAVES WITHOUT FRUIT

Columns of Criticism and Comment

MUSIC

Notes

The summer music season at the Lewisohn Stadium, New York City, opened June 26, to last eight weeks. There will be nightly performances, three nights a week of symphonies, two for opera, and two for ballet. The New York Philharmonic-Symphony orchestra will play for all performances. For whimsy and bright-eyed appreciation, see *The New Yorker*, which will send someone up to write about it.

Analytical Not©

"Every man living is to some extent a Sentimental Tommy because he is only a grown-up little boy still playing wild bears and Indians on later-in-life Saturday afternoons; but the musician's imaginings and delusions of grandeur and importance are intensified by the emotional character of his medium. He swims, as it were, in a palpitating liquor of heady unrealities," (From a commentator in a current musical magazine.)

It sounds nice when it's done, but it can't be much fun.

Celebrity

John Thompson, of the Kansas City Conservatory, is giving a free normal course for piano teachers in Seattle, July 18, 19, 20.

State Music—U. S. S. R.

Charles Brill, writing in the *May Musical Times*, is impressed with the progress of state directed music in Russia, and its acceptance without reserve by the workers for whom it is intended. There are a few great orchestras, playing in concert halls and on the air, and smaller ones, (constantly increasing in number, by the way) in the lesser centers of the country. The People's Commissariat for Education, supervising and expanding theatre, music and dance in the Union, is doing a fine work on the grand scale, if we may believe Mr. Brill. Twelve orchestras will take shape and start work in smaller cities this year. The great names of music, without regard to present or past standpoints on capital and labor, are represented on the large number of concerts and broadcasts which are given weekly from the music centers. On almost

every program, too, there is a representation of young Soviet composers. Headliners current are Shostakovich, Shebalin and Knipper Brahms is only recently popular; Bruckner, so long a standard composer in Middle and Western Europe, is never heard. The "Bolshoi" theatre, with a smaller experimental theatre, is the fountainhead of opera. The repertory is wide, but conservative; Glinka, Dan-jomijsky, Moussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky. There are, in addition, two Opera Studios in Moscow, directed by the famous Stanislavsky of the Moscow Art Theatre.

#### Blood Streams

It has been reported that Richard Strauss may lose his presidency of the Reich Music Chamber since the libretto for his new opera, *The Silent Woman*, was written by Stefan Zweig, a non-Aryan.

N. L. S.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

##### "Disa and Data"

Jimmy Savo, favorite Broadway star, currently featured in a Theatre Guild production, "Parade," may yet show his sad, comical face in the movies. . . . The Hecht-Me-Arthur writing combination, who left Hollywood in a pout last year, deciding to become their own producers and directing "Once in a Blue Moon," the Savo picture which was completed six months ago, have finally signed a new contract with Paramount. . . . The Newman Theatre management, last December, running a clever trailer exploiting the Jimmy Savo genius, was forced to show it again the following week.

The Park Central Hotel in New York City has booked solid our old friend Henry (Hank) Halstead and his new outfit. Incidentally, some years ago out on the West Coast, Henry Halstead's orchestra included Abe Lyman as drummer and somebody by the name of Phil Harris as crooner. . . . Gene Raymond, the handsome screen star, has sky-rocketed into the matinee idol class, due to his recent personal appearance tour in the eastern cities. . . . It seems he sings, too.

##### Seth Parker Stuff

For our Strange-as-it-may-seem department, we reserve these Variety headlines: "Seth Parker Authors 'G' Men Radio Serial." The versatile Phillips Lord has sold to Chevrolet a dramatic radio series glorifying the "G" men. NBC will probably get this half-hour spot weekly. . . . Jack Benny, long conceded the best air comic, reports that since Shirley Temple's phenomenal success in movies, exactly 37,416 mothers have arrived with their bright children in Hollywood all ready to cash in. . . . Three are working.

##### New Program Clicks

"Vox Pox," the Voice of the People, replacing Joe Penner's hour, got off to a fast start in its initial Man-in-the-Street broadcast Sunday night. . . . Local laugh: The Plaza Theatre Marquee recently read: "Mae West in Goin' to Town with 7 Leading Men." If 3's a crowd, what's this? That should give her something to work on. There's still a clamor for Mae West and King Kong to play "Romeo and Juliet." . . .

##### Newman

"Stranded," a Kay Francis starring picture, opens this week at the Newman Theatre. She still bears witness to film goes as one of the best-dressed women on the screen.

This stark drama concerns Kay as social worker of the Travelers' Aid, who thinks only in

terms of humanity, but who falls in love with a hard-boiled engineer (George Brent), who is building the largest bridge in the world, and considers human beings only as cogs in an industrial machine. A labor walkout ensues, producing a fair-enough climax, bringing the lovers back to arms.

George Brent, sans Chatterton, is fast regaining his old popularity as a Warner Bros. star. Others in the cast are Patricia Ellis, Donald Woods, Barton McLane, a swell new "heavy," Mae Busch and John Wray. Frank Borzage directed.

E. H. B.

GALLIMAUFRY

DEPARTMENT

CALENDARS

The quaint and useful rhyme, "Thirty days hath September, etc.," may some day be merely quaint. For along with peace and prosperity plans and remedies for ills ranging from dandruff to fallen arches, calendar reform has its enthusiastic proponents. Changing the calendar necessarily results in a good deal of documentary confusion, but civilization has managed to withstand the chaos of several such changes, frequently resulting from the egotism of a despot. It is, of course, the dream of calendar reformists to have an international calendar to simplify world commerce, but since there are several very popular calendars in use in the world today, this happy dream is in much the same condition as the plan for an international language. And everyone feels that an international language would be simply marvelous, provided it were his native tongue that constituted it. The chief step toward calendar reform recently has been the decision to fix the date of Easter. It was discovered that the practice of making Easter the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (March 22) had a foundation of no greater religious significance than that this plan enabled the pilgrims of the middle ages to have moonlight to travel by when they went to celebrate this great spring festival.

September, contrary to the jingle but in accordance with the enthusiasts for a certain type of calendar reform, would have not thirty days, but twenty-eight. And so would the other twelve months. This is not written in error, for the plan calls for the insertion of a thirteenth month, probably called Sol in honor of the orb which makes us have months at all, between July and August. Each month would begin on Sunday and would be exactly four weeks in length, corresponding to the lunar month and eliminating hard feeling between those paid by the week and those paid by the month. There would be a holiday at least once each month and it would be so placed as to make a long week-end, pity the poor hostess. A few quiet hours with the comptometer have probably brought the conviction that in this plan there is one day left over each year. This day is to be neatly disposed of by having no weekly name or month date, called merely by the year number and known as Year Day. It would be inserted between Saturday, December 28, the last day of the old year, and Sunday, January 1, the first day of the new. It would be a holiday, kiddies. It would be too good an opportunity to be overlooked. Since each month would be exactly alike there would be no further need of printed calendars once one month was memorized, and therefore this particular reform is expected to meet with great opposition from advertisers and lovers of lurid wall decoration.

Since there will be no 29th, 30th or 31st of any month, anyone formerly born on these days will have the choice of moving up into the first few days of the following month, retrograding to the 28th, or losing all proof that they exist at all. This is expected to please those who are

constantly wishing they had never been born.

The signboard advertisement decorating the main street about town of late that advertises its whiskey as being good by picturing the monks of Old California enjoying its delicious flavor, etc., is our idea of why advertising copy-writers should travel about a bit before setting their ideas before the public. As you may or may not have noticed, two monks are smacking appreciatively over the fine, ripe old flavor of the mellowed brand advertised. To our knowledge, the monks did not spend their time tasting the different brands of whiskeys. According to the history of early California, they did excel in wine making. But it seems that they are recorded as spending- more time going about their daily duties than learning the fine art of drinking. It's merely a fine point.

Usually we're not the type to fall for any kind of hocus-pocus that comes along, but we were urged violently by a well wishing friend to send for a horoscope concerning ourselves, from an early morning program that uses this method for advertising. The program, incidentally, is grand for waking you up when you want to sleep in the morning. Much against our better judgment we gayly called it a lark and fell neatly into the trap. Madame Delphi, as the magical reader is called, has forecast our future very definitely for us, as well as delved down into our noble character and revealed—what we find to be so truthful as to be very embarrassed about it. In fact, we're burning from the ears up. And even our best friends never told us before! To add insult to injury, she mentioned that we had scientific ability. We do know that H<sub>2</sub>O is equal to water, so maybe we shall carve a great career for ourselves along that line. However, we're not speaking to the friend that wished all this on us for the present. crisp wisps of sheer nothing being shown at the shops that would make any young 'un feel like the Sleeping Beauty herself and her brother feel like conquering dragons and giants to win the hand of the princess, or more probably a peanut butter sandwich.

Princess Marina, or rather the Duchess of Kent, is still setting styles even in the long lull after the brilliant season of her wedding last autumn. Undoubtedly she will overshadow her mother-in-law, the Queen, when it comes to setting fashions. It is to be hoped that she does not follow the aforementioned lady's style in hats. That would spoil an otherwise perfect setting for the originality already displayed by the Duchess.

Turning our thoughts from the Lullaby of Broadway to the Lullaby of the Baby is like jumping from the famed "Jack's Bean-stalk" of our fairy-tale days down to old Mother Earth again. Getting down to the little things in life, however, places us in an unenviable state of getting our fairy tales mixed up with our favorite fables. Right now we are having Prince Charming racing through obstacles and winning the delicate but hairy hand of the hare (Alexander Woollcott would appreciate our anomatopoeia, as also would Poe) while the Princess Goldilocks gathers all her children into her modern, air-conditioned shoe and lives happily ever after.

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Nineteen Thirty-five

8

FUTURE

July twelfth

Lug Affair

From page one

countenance it on his workers. Neither do a few better-governed American cities—Cincinnati, for example. Neither does that innocuous document, the Kansas City charter, \* the existence of which has almost been forgotten. The charter makes it a punishable offense to assess city employees and provides for the ousting of the lugging official. But, after all, what is a mere city charter between friends?

An almost insignificant example of the lug is brought out in the recent furore over one put on by Mrs. Mary Edna Cruzen, a pleasant politician appointed state labor commissioner by Thomas J. Pendergast.

Mrs. Cruzen is in hot water all because she followed the tried and true system of putting the lug on employees in her department for 1 per cent of their June salaries to help Jim Aylward pay for a dead horse, Missouri's quota of \$25,000 to clean up the deficit in the Democratic national committee's budget. Unthinkingly, Mrs. Cruzen pulled a political faux pas. She sent some of the letters to federal employees in St. Louis and the storm broke. Senator Clark and even Senator Truman became a bit exercised about the assessment because no one lugs Uncle Sam's people. It seems to be strongly verboten, as Governor Ganger of North Dakota learned recently.

Mrs Cruzen Under Fire

Governor Park dutifully came to Mrs. Cruzen's defense and now it looks as if she'd weather the storm but it's interesting to recall the state labor commissioner has been under fire periodically since she became an official in Pendergast's state.

In December, 1933, 9,000 men were put to work in Kansas City on federal CWA projects, just after Mrs. Cruzen took charge of the combined federal-state re-employment office in the Railway Exchange Building. Thousands were hired one Sunday. And the expected happened. Police escorted to the head of the lines big groups of men bearing coveted letters from Democratic precinct captains while those who only were deserving stood and waited. How many were hired illegally, no one knows. Employment office officials denied the charges but relief officers worked weeks clearing the rolls of the undeserving. Mrs. Cruzens has been charged with using her office to play politics in other parts of the state. Once federal funds were withheld pending an investigation. Mrs. Cruzen investigated and found herself innocent, as Senator Clark has said.

## The Election Lug

But this article is about all kinds of lugs. The big ones, naturally, are for elections and last year was a particularly bad year for city and county employees. A big pile of money was required to win Kansas City's bloody city election for "democracy" little more than a year ago. There were votes to be bought and expensive radio time for blistering the opposition to be paid for.

Remember Jim Reed weeping into a microphone about the opposition going "to use guns"? It was so touching we almost wept. The fact it proved to be Democratic gangsters who used the guns and caused the violent deaths of four persons quickly was forgotten by frightened business men and politicians.

An amount of \$200,000 may have been required to win that city election. We don't know because it isn't good taste to boast of such figures. Then came two more elections, the fall primaries and November election. It is estimated it took \$100,000 in Kansas City to save the state for "democracy." Of course, favored contractors and material men "kick in" liberally on campaigns. So do business men, gangsters, gamblers, bootleggers and others who seek the boss's favor. Such a paradox as a frightened business man contributing to both political parties causes no comment here.

## Mrs. Cruzen

In the final analysis, however, it is the poor city and county employees who pay through the nose. They are the ones who have our deepest sympathy because they don't pay through choice. It means economies and skimping on food and going without clothes to them, just to hold their jobs.

## The Poor Pay

The usual election lug runs on a sliding scale, such as \$10 to poor employees who receive less than \$100 a month; 10 to 20 per cent of a month's salary to those earning up to \$200, and even more for highly paid employees. Not even the city manager is exempt. Lugs as high as 25 per cent of a month's salary are not unknown and they even have reached 10 per cent of a year's salary. The poor devils pay, or else. And woe befall the unfortunate who fails to come across.

We feel sorry for the employees who have to work under those conditions. Besides the election lugs, there are many others. About the most amusing one we can think of is the one put on by Tom Pendergast to buy a collection of gruesome-looking teeth models for the Kansas City Dental College. The cost was about \$25,000. Philanthropist Tom who got all the credit, let many employees know he'd be pleased if they'd contribute. They did.

Employees pitched in to buy flowers for Tom when he sailed on the Normandie. They buy gifts for reigning political favorites and attend back-slapping dinners. They join the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Besides all that, they take pay cuts with a smile. They really are bears for punishment. They are lugged to belong to a "regular" Jackson or Jefferson Democratic Club. Late each fiscal year their salaries are lopped heavily.

## Salary Cuts, Too

In order for Henry McElroy, the city manager, to boast of economy in the city's affairs, the downtrodden employees took a cut of

## TOM COLLINS, ATTENTION

We grow a little sad these days sitting on the side-lines and watching with hands tied while

the old order changeth. First they started fooling around with the Liberty Memorial—adding a frieze here and a fountain there—until now we want to sneak past without a glance in its direction. How much greater, though, was the loss of all those Viennese beauties from the rotogravure section each Sunday. We had learned to gauge our lives from that weekly contact—that gay and effervescent breath from the boulevards of Europe; the plump and comely charmer dressed in a coiffure spelled Life for us, somehow. What matter if it was always the same beauty rigged in different pearls and feathers or even if the editors after ten weeks started running the same pictures through again. The news that Mademoiselle Sonya was the most gorgeous danseuse in Austria gave us a lift each time we read it. And then one rainy Sunday her place on page one was taken over by a bunch of pub- maids and clerks watching “The Latest Arrival at the London Zoo.” For almost a month there was nothing but “A Herdsman and His Flock Resting Beside Lake Miro Nestled in the Alps,” or “Boy Scouts Drilling at Camp Go-Me-Gush-Go”; but then last week the sunshine broke through and Mademoiselle Lala was back not only with her No. 3 outfit of pearls and feathers but with a pretty complete view of both legs stockinged in black net.

25 per cent in their salaries the last five months of the last fiscal year. On one month several years ago the cut was 50 per cent of the salary. Suppose a policeman were getting \$140 a month and had it cut to \$70. Would it make him a good policeman? Somehow the employees manage, even if their children want for food and their pants get shiny in the seats. Can you imagine any other business except the people’s business being run that way?

To have to bleed your own people to get by! Wouldn’t they be happier if they knew their salaries were what they were supposed to be? Wouldn’t they be more efficient, better public servants? Cincinnati has no lugs. Kansas City’s charter makes it an offense to do so.

Some day when the tyrannical political machine that rules Kansas City progresses to decent non-partisan government, there will be no more lugs. Then public servants will feel secure in their homes and know how to plan their budgets. FUTURE respectfully suggests that such a situation is worth working for.

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