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AS USUAL

The one thing that is clear now is that it is unfortunate that from the first efforts to rescue the victim of this terrible tragedy were not systematically organized, in charge of some authority with competent engineering advice. There would then have been a good chance of bringing out Collins alive, so astonishing have proved the fortitude and vitality of the young explorer. But that, in all probability, anything like such a system has not been effected until too late, is no reason for criticizing those who labored devotedly and heroically by the means available, to save the life of the imprisoned man.

A COMMISSION'S VERMIFUGE

It is now apparent at Washington that this Congress will make no effort to adopt legislatively the recommendations of the President's agricultural commission. This, despite the President's breakfast to Congressional leaders at which he asked prompt acceptance of the recommendations and his transmission of the commission's report to Congress with the urgent plea that its proposals be enacted into law without delay.

The Courier-Journal does not conceal its surprise at President Coolidge's ready adoption of the commission's advice, for in important respects it is in direct conflict with the views on Governmental aid to farmers which Mr. Coolidge has officially expressed. As to the report itself, anything which the commission might have turned in would not have been surprising. It was a commission whose sole excuse for being was to make some sort of report. Some sort of report it did make, and its mission thus performed, its members hurried away from Washington, out of ear-shot before a House committee could call them to come back and explain what the thing meant.

Its meaning, however, is sufficiently clear to make it unwelcome to the co-operative marketing associations, largely in whose interest it is professedly drawn up. The commission made some sound criticisms on the lack of co-ordination in Government departments at Washington, and Congress might find in those criticisms good suggestions for needed legislation. But when the commission proposed to add to this unco-ordinated machinery another Government board to provide for the co-operative marketing associations "a fostering attitude on the part of a Federal agency," it proposed for the associations something they do not want, and something the commission knows the associations do not want.

These associations made that plain at their recent national conference in Washington. Commission members were visitors at that conference, and they heard or read the conference's resolutions, which pronounced emphatically against any such "fostering attitude" of the Federal Government as the commission has recommended. The terms in which the commission explains the functions of the proposed "Federal agency" leave no doubt that it would be empowered to exercise a supervising and interfering control of the farmers' organizations which would be offensive to them and restrictive of their self-reliance. It would transfer to a Government bureau the functions which the farmers, as the President himself has said, must exercise for themselves if they are to work out their salvation. And no Federal agency, the President has also said, can work out that salvation.

It is all a reversion to the delusion that there is some mysterious virtue in a Federal bureau beyond the reach of individual effort. The bureaucratic paternalism which the commission prescribes for the co-operative farmers is not dissimilar to that of the fond father who thinks that what his boy most needs is a dose of vermifuge and who, despite the youngster's protests, holds his nose and forces the stuff down the rebellious throat. A difference between the two cases, however, is that the boy may not know whether or not he needs vermifuge, while the farmers who object to the commission's medicine feel sure, with ample reason, that they are more competent to decide on the proper remedy for their complaint than any Government commission whose only reason for existence is to prescribe some sort of Governmental remedy.

MR. STONE GOES UP
The Senate's confirmation of the President's appointment of Harlan Fiske Stone to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, insures for membership in that body a man of highest character as well as a lawyer of profound learning.

It is in no sense disparaging of the admirable record made by Mr. Stone in the office of Attorney General to say that he will find a seat upon the tribunal of last resort more congenial to his taste and more suitable to his abilities than would be a portfolio in the Cabinet. His fine achievement as head of the Department of Justice, the country has sound reason to believe, is now to be sustained by the record to be made by him on the Supreme Court, just as his lasting work as Dean of

THE OPIUM FIASCO

The withdrawal of the American delegation from the international opium conference at Geneva and the consequent assurance that nothing of any great value toward the suppression of the illicit drug traffic can be accomplished just now is cause for general regret, but the Porter delegation had no alternative under the unwise instructions it received from Congress.

Suppressing the opium traffic, as attempted at Geneva, was beset with enormous difficulties, concerning many of which those unfamiliar with Far Eastern affairs, especially the internal administration of producing colonies, can have little conception. The first great problem which came up, and which was possibly the biggest stumbling block of the two months' parleying, was that of plans for limiting raw opium consumption in India. Closely allied with this was the subject of production in the British Empire of the East. The United States won its point in the effort to discuss Indian consumption.

As far as domestic consumption in India is concerned, the eating of opium is so widespread a habit that the Bombay Provincial Government recently enacted a law limiting the size of pills which may be fed to babies, but nothing was said about how many pills might be given them at one time! A League of Nations report declares that prohibition is regarded as impossible by the Government. The Indian office shows where consumption of opium has been prevalent in India for 300 years and it is virtually universally used as a common household remedy, prophylactic or narcotic, besides its use by addicts.

The British point of view here is that production for home consumption is a matter of domestic concern since control of traffic in opium for international consumption is in the hands of the provincial assemblies. The British hold such consumption and production therefore are not illegitimate under the Hague convention. As far as exporting of opium and its production for export are concerned, Viscount Cecil and his delegation have been ready and willing to discuss this matter. The Indian Government has expressed itself prepared to restrict, or even to prohibit entirely such export (if requested by consuming countries). Here the attitude of the British-Indian delegates is perplexing, for the importers of Indian opium are none other than the Straits Settlements, British North Borneo and other British colonies, for the most part. The Dutch Colonies also are large buyers.

It is all a matter of Governmental sincerity. China forbids the exportation of opium, yet Sun's official figures frankly reveal the importation of thousands of kilos of opium from one Chinese province alone. But before India can act finally, it must find some substitute for the millions in revenue which the opium trade brings in.

American efficiency experts would reveal in the affairs of Oxford and its more or less inter-related colleges, which have separate revenues, ranging from \$500,000 to \$500,000 and charge tuition and incidental fees in adverse ratio to the sufficiency of their incomes. The total annual expenditure is \$5,000,000, which is less than the budgets of several Western universities whose funds are apportioned on an equitable basis among the dozen or so colleges into which they are divided. The efficiency engineer would first be struck by the amount of duplication that exists in the English group; and while they may be strong on culture, if the curriculum is as antiquated as the financial administration, for a practical, everyday education the Western Hemisphere probably furnishes its youth something more closely related to life as they will find it.

The League of Women Voters, undertaking to differentiate the causes of war and devise corrective measures, suggests an amendment to the adage, "Young men for war, old men for counsel"—"and women for peace."

"Boyle's Thirty-five Acres" has nothing to do with staging a prize fight. It means that farmers in the Kentucky county of that name have pledged that amount, so far, to strawberry production.

President Coolidge makes a plea to oust unnecessary Government workers. A step in this direction would be to call them by their right names, Government drones.

The Third Russian National Congress is now in session at Moscow. What the world is waiting for, however, is Russia's convalescence.

Flettner's rotorship is making its first trip with cargo from Germany to England. But can these turning turkeys that propel it effect a revolution?

Why all this concern about the Prince of Wales marrying? Lloyd's, no doubt, would be willing to insure the succession.

ENGLISH INFANT DEATH RATE.
(Red Cross Courier.)
Only 69 out of every 1,000 babies born in England and Wales in 1922 died before reaching their first birthday. This is the lowest infant mortality rate recorded in the history of the country. The London rate was only 69. In the United States the proportion of infant mortality rate for 1922 was 77 and for New York City, 67.

The Bintu View

The publication of communications under this head does not imply editorial approval. The best insurance of consideration is brevity. The Courier-Journal reserves the right to condense submitted articles.

GIRL SCOUT LEADERS.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal: The new training courses for Girl Scout leaders will open on Tuesday. The afternoon class will be held from 3:30 o'clock to 5 o'clock at Girl Scout Headquarters. The evening class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday for a period of six weeks. Completing the training course entitles the student to enter any of the activities in which Girl Scout leaders participate.

Leaders' hikes are always enjoyable occasions. Building a fire in the open, relying upon but two matches, brings tense, exciting moments, ending in either a thrill or a pang of regret for having had too few whittles for kindling. Steaks, kumate stew and kibbabs taste best when cooked over an open fire—if one is a good Girl Scout who knows how to make a fire. Reading a message, sent from a distant hill, dots and dashes waved by a Morse Code signal flag is a good brain-tenser, as well as a training for keenness of the eye. Following a trail out in the open, finding a broken twig, here an arrow, there or two rocks piled together—all meaning "this is the trail," or coming upon an "important warning" sign, three rocks in a stack or three blades of a tree, old haunts take on a new lure and all seem like untried paths. The most interesting and worthwhile thing a Girl Scout leader does is meeting with a group of frisking, frolicking, enthusiastic girls between the ages of 10 and 18 years, once a week for an hour and a half. She opens her meeting with a ceremony, during which the girls pledge allegiance to their country's flag, and repeat their Girl Scout laws. Then comes Scoutcraft, training in citizenship and leadership, and finally games, such as growing girls need to work off surplus energy. Many ten-year-old Girl Scouts already know the method of making which will be given in the course, such as making a hospital bed, cooking and table setting. Persons wishing to know more about the Girl Scouts or about the training course, may call headquarters at Main 2273 or City 8512. LOIS HARRAGE, Louisville.

SHES FOR JACK.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal: I am not a fight fan, but I do enjoy reading Jack Dempsey's story. I think he deserves credit for overcoming his early home life and training and can point his friends among the best people here and abroad. Most of the people who knock him are jealous, and hope he wins in everything he attempts. Lots of men don't do it in the World War, but you don't hear of it. Just because he is

Just Among Home Folks

Local Items: From fitting kind of domestication, owing to the animal and poultry contributions which has been made up on the farm. The people who knock him are jealous, and hope he wins in everything he attempts. Lots of men don't do it in the World War, but you don't hear of it. Just because he is

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in the public eye they won't let him alone. I'm for him and I hope his story runs a long time.

THE MOTHER OF THREE BOYS AND A DEMPSEY ADMIRER.
Louisville.

REPORTER MILLER.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal: Men's words are inadequate to express praise of the rescue work as conducted by William Burke Miller at Sand Cave, Cave City, Ky. His first entrance into the cave was probably prompted by his duty to his paper—that is, getting first-hand information and personally interviewing the explorer, Floyd Collins, who is entrapped there. His subsequent entrances in this cavern, and his anxiety to lead the trapped man to safety, notwithstanding the hardships, exposure and danger to himself, have been prompted by his love for his fellowman.

He probably, in the due course of time, will be awarded the Carnegie Medal for bravery.

MRS. D. S. McELROY, Louisville.

A CALL FOR ELINOR.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal: Why not let Elinor Glyn in on this "snappy love stuff" of Jack Dempsey? Elinor should "cash in" on that kind of stuff. SALEM FIGHT BUG, Salem, Ind.

My Favorite Stories

By IRVIN S. CORB (Copyright 1923)

MERELY THE PRELIMINARY WORK.

According to T. Roy Barnes, there was a Tong war on in San Francisco's Chinatown. On both sides there had been numerous fatalities. One morning, in the midst of hostilities, a mild-looking little Oriental came quietly into the office of a prominent criminal lawyer of the city. He opened negotiations without preamble: "How much you charge, get Chinaman free for kill another Chinaman dead?"

"Ten thousand dollars," answered the lawyer promptly.

"How much down?"

"Five thousand dollars now—\$5,000 when I go to court for the trial."

The caller counted out \$5,000 and put it on the desk, then started out. "Hey, come back here—where are you going?" cried the attorney.

"I go kill him," said the little yellow man. "He back bimby."

IN KENTUCKY

Cross-Words and Efficiency.

(Mansfield, Ohio, Journal.)
Now comes a defense of the crossword puzzle from an unexpected source, and the contention that it may prove a blessing in disguise for employers who feared its distracting influence on office help. The president of a national insurance company gives some information that is worth serious attention.

He says that the puzzles are responsible for a 25 per cent increase in the efficiency of his stenographers. The mental labor of solving them has made the average office girl faster and more accurate. The corporation president says he noted a marked improvement recently in the work of several hundred stenographers in his organization, having in their correspondence of 100,000 letters a serious statement of fact given out in the form of a crossword puzzle.

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Manhattan Days and Nights

Copyright By HERBERT COREY 1923

New York, Feb. 6.—Fellow told me today he knows a beggar master downtown. It's a good story, any way.

"He rents a house in one of the strange alleys off Delancey Street," he said, "where all is strange. The windows are blanked up and the front door locked. His boarders come in by the back door, after they have been looked over through a peephole. Inside they have beggar luxury. Warmth, good beds, a slattern cleanliness and whisky."

The beggar master not only runs a boarding house for his clients, but he instructs them in their business. He is a beggar virtuoso. He trains each beggar in the line to which he is best adapted. "I'll double your receipts," he promises. And does.

About 7,000,000 eggs are sold daily in New York City. That seems quite a sizable bunch of eggs. But it is pretty fair proof that some one is going hungry here.

New York's resident population is about 5,000,000. That seems quite a sizable bunch of people. But it is pretty fair proof that some one is going hungry here.

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