The Modern Girl and the Ballot

While Britain Furiously Debates Extending the Franchise to Her, Mr. Chesterton Asserts That She Is Much Like Her Grandmother and Is Unlikely to Destroy or Remake the World

In this article Mr. Chesterton set out to discuss what England calls the "Flapper Vote," and is debating furiously. But he has struck deeper than the question of whether Parliament shall grant the ballot to women under 30, for he presents an analysis of the ever-current Youth Movement. Coming as it does from one of the keenest minds of the Older Generation, it holds much interest—and much entertainment.

By G. K. Chesterton.

In recent times the new Gospel of Youth has been expressed with all the exactitude which old and experienced journalists can give to it. The principles of its philosophy stand out with the full a logical clarity and consistency. We know all about the young woman of the time. She has apparently remained young for quite a long time; and will probably continue to remain young for quite an indefinite time. As she was still called a flapper, long after she no longer had anything to flap, so she was still called a Suffragette even when she had forgotten whether she had got the suffrage.

In other and more important matters her doctrine and destiny are described in the same lucid, systematic style. As she is nothing if not natural, she naturally wishes to cover herself with an artificial mask of chalk or paint. As her philosophy expresses the fullness of life, it is inevitable that her figure should express the rigidity and attenuation of the dance of death. As she is in favor of frankness about all natural objects she was the first to discover that the human nose in its natural state is an unseemly and indecent object, which must not appear naked but only covered with a light gray dust.

As her pulses are described as throbbing with the rhythm of life, it is inevitable that she should read poetry that does not scan and join in dances which can only relatively be said to move. As she has broken away from the bondage of her relations, especially her male relations, it follows that she should imitate her father in going up to the city every day with a bag and should borrow the single eyeglass which has always made Uncle George look even more of a fool than he is. As she is now free, she will shave her head like a convict, and as she can now gratify all her healthy appetites she must starve like the Fasting Man at Barnum's.

I have gathered all those facts about her from the authentic and authoritative statements of those who speak in her name. I have mentioned nothing that I do not in a sense quote, and quote from others better informed than myself. I think I have got everything correct, and that, so far as I can make out is how the logical situation stands. At least, that is how it would stand, but for a small initial difficulty which it is necessary to admit at the beginning. I have no desire to be anything but respectful to the Young Women of the Day. The only defect I should allege about her is that I gravely doubt whether she exists. If she did exist, as she is represented by her admirers, she would be some such comic and contradictory monster as I have described. But I doubt whether anybody could be quite so unnatural as that simple child of nature. I doubt whether any theory could be quite so illogical and unreasonable as the theory now set before us as the Gospel of Youth. The real people must be more realistic than that. The real reason must be more reasonable than that.

The explanation, I think, is that moderns love to describe monsters in the style of the Beast with Ten Horns in Revelations, largely because most moderns are Millenarians or men expecting the Millennium. H. G. Wells, for instance, is a typical revivalist predicting an immediate Day of Judgment. Nothing can persuade these people that our century is a century like any other, with all its good and evil; they insist it must be out of the very force of the explosion, and fantastic things appear as portents of the last days.

Suppose we look back at any other historical transition; say, the transition from the Court of Charles the First to that of Charles the Second. There were plenty of Fifth Monarchy men in that time, too, to maintain that the Civil War was the end of the world. But the change of fashion that took place was an inconsistent patchwork like our own. On the other hand, the Restoration ladies grew looser in dress (and other things); on the other hand periwigs began to replace their natural hair. Looking back on these things, we do not think they mattered much; for we know that neither Charles the First nor Charles the Second destroyed or remade the world. So our remote posterity will wonder how we could have seen either ruin or renovation in a change of modes or in a few muddle-headed young persons following the fashion like their grandmothers.

But there is one aspect especially in which the character of the Modern Girl is discussed with extraordinary gravity; and that is in connection with the recent legislation which has extended the franchise, not only to the woman, but to the young woman. In relation to her new duties as a citizen, as the phrase goes, we hear an emphatic renewal of all these promises and panics; of the dread of all these artificial anarchies or the praise of all these inconsistent virtues. And in this matter, perhaps more than in any other, it is necessary to remind ourselves of the reasonable probabilities, and real proportions of history. It will be necessary to point out (to a select society of idiots) that woman did not become a Bolshevik when she bobbed her hair, any more than she became a reactionary military aristocrat when she was silly enough to stick a monocle in her eye.

It is not the habit that makes the monk or the uniform that makes the militarist; indeed, the whole German General Staff could hardly produce such a galaxy of splendid uniforms as await us in the vast vestibule of the most vulgar sort of modern hotel.

From the beginning of the Suffrage controversy, the threats of those opposed to the change were as absurd as the promises of those attached to it. Both were concerned with generalizations about Woman and neither seemed to take any notice of the most ordinary facts about women. The idealists were always telling us that Woman would purge society of avarice and ambition and all snobbish distinctions—in face of the fact, which everybody must know perfectly well, that the desire for success, at any rate for family success, is commonly a characteristic of a good woman, let alone a bad one. The opponent of the change stated that the real danger was (of all things in the world) the probable weakness of foreign policy and the feminine fear of the entanglement of war. Any sane person, one would think, could see for himself that women are much more likely to be too militarist than too pacifist.

All these preposterous pros and cons which were used about the adult woman are now repeated about the adolescent woman; with the addition that the disputants can talk nonsense about youth as well as about sex. But in the new debate, as in the old, there is an extraordinary absence of reality, or of any consciousness of the facts of the modern world.

We asked, with all due solemnity, what the girl will do with her vote; just as it was asked before what the workman would do with his vote. I am quite prepared to answer the question about what the girl will do with her vote. She will forget it, as the woman and the workman forget it. This does not even mean that they do not use it; many of them use it quite automatically, as they put pennies in slots or show tickets to ticket collectors. But it no longer stands for any real and constructive citizenship. For it is like putting a penny in an automatic machine that is not working. It is like carefully providing a whole party with first-class railway tickets, down to the little toddling infant, when there happens to be a breakdown on the line.

That is what is the matter with modern politics; the block is further up the line. It is not that anybody has any difficulty in voting. It is that voters have a difficulty in controlling those for whom they vote. And they have that difficulty because of the economic and financial conditions of our time, which permits of very rapid fortunes in that the same time of very remote and secret responsibilities. Modern government is not democracy but plutocracy. The only importance of any new power or altered status is how far it may affect the grip of great wealth on the State.

It is only in this indirect sense that there is any relevance in the question of the alleged luxury and frivolity of the young. It is not that even the most frivolous young person would directly vote for another frivolous person. She is more likely to be sufficiently frivolous to forget to vote. It is not that a Film Star is likely to become Prime Minister or the Government Bench consist entirely of glamorous. But it is to some extent this: that people who care most for fashionable films and dances will be unconsciously supporting the Big Business that backs such entertainments and they can therefore be counted on in practice as clients of the millionaires.

In the same way, there is nothing particularly revolutionary about modern feminine fashions. Indeed they have nothing of the grandeur that belongs to the historical tradition of revolution. I do not believe that short skirts have anything to do with republican simplicity; nor that the possession of a single eyeglass is evidence of a single eye. I see nothing very democratic about people boasting of what they call an Eton Crop. It shall recognize a more brotherly breadth of Christian sympathy when they call it a Borstal Crop.

But there is this amount of moderate though real danger: that those who more and more accept the patterns of dress from the great commercial houses of Paris or New York, those who follow more and more blindly the direction of fashionable hairdressers and other lords of luxury, are indirectly supporting that great centralized power of wealth, which is to-day more free from al restraints of religion or republican responsibility than it has been in the whole history of man.—N.Y. Times.

Vast Dead Sea Wealth May Be Exploited Soon

Concession for Working Deposits Granted to British-Palestinian Group

London.—The long-discussed scheme for developing the Dead Sea's vast mineral wealth has advanced a further stage toward realization. The colonial Undersecretary, W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, replying to questions in the House of Commons recently, announced that the concessions for working these deposits would be granted to Major Tulloch and Mr. Novomevsky, provided satisfactory guarantees were forthcoming and suitable terms agreed to.

Reminded by eager questioners that the potash in the Dead Sea was valued at £14,000,000,000, that it is vitally important for agriculture in the British Empire and that the world's supply is now a German monopoly, Mr. Ormsby-Gore declined to commit the Government to taking itself any direct share in the undertaking, though he agreed that any concession should be for a limited period only.

ENTERPRISE AN EXPERIMENT.

He explained this attitude as due to the fact that whatever these salts might or might not be worth, nevertheless the process of getting them out and marketing them made the enterprise necessarily experimental and speculative.

THE PALESTINE LOAN.

Regarding the history of the concession, a representative of The Christian Science Monitor learns that three groups originally tendered, one American, another continental and the third British and Palestinian. It is the third to which the British Government now proposes to concede the concession, Major Tulloch being an English engineer, while Mr. Novomevsky is a chemist from Palestine. The Imperial Chemical Industries Company, of which Sir Alfred Mond is chairman, has been mentioned as interested in the undertaking.

The Palestine loan, underwritten recently, it will be recalled, provides for building a harbor at Haifa, and the promoters expect an electric railway, 20 miles long, to be constructed, connecting the Dead Sea with the railway to that port.

France Develops Speedy Air Mail Routes to South America

Paris.—Growth of the French air mail service on a 4,000-mile route from Paris to Senegal, on the west coast of Africa, promises speedy development of the mail service to South America.

The flight from Dakar to Pernambuco by Costes and Lefrix in early October, was the spectacular first jump over the Atlantic westward to pave the way for regular trips.

Mail that now takes twenty days to go from Paris to Buenos Ayres is expected to be delivered in five days within a year or two. It will go in seven days within a few months.

Two months before the war was over the Latecoere Company gave the French government its plan for the South American service and ten years later, experts are sure, it will have become a reality.

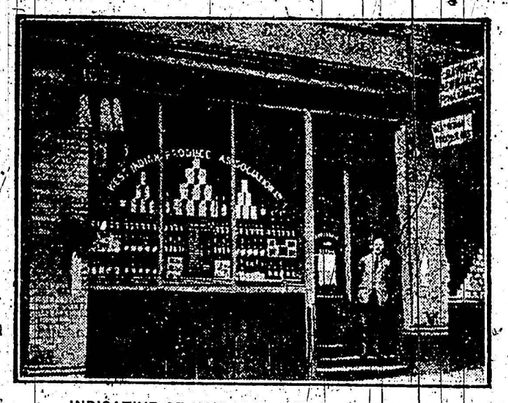
During Day, 1918, the Toulouse-Barcelona route was established. Four months later it reached to Casablanca. Two years ago mail was being carried by air to Dakar, half way from Paris to Buenos Ayres. During the nine years the number of letters by airplane has jumped from 9,000 to 7,000,000. The commercial receipts have increased likewise.

Argentina and Uruguay have signed contracts for the air mail service and Brazil and Chile are negotiating agreements.

AN AMERICAN WINNER

Clifford Johnson, 17-year-old youth of Elkhorn, Iowa, won the grand championship prize as a junior five stock breeder at the recent International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago. His Hereford steer won over the entries of 185 boys and girls from all over the continent.

"Business Steady Thank You"



INDICATIVE OF HOW THE BRITISH "CARRY ON"

Where the Boston Tea Party Really Started: This shop, still doing business in Greenchurch Lane, Leadenhall Street, London, shipped the tea that was thrown overboard in Boston harbor. It was founded in 1650 and still runs under the same name.

A Message of Hope

"Cancer is Not Necessarily a Fatal Disease" is Slogan of Medicoes

GOOD NEWS TO ALL

The word of hope that should preface the appeal for funds to carry forward cancer treatment and research is that "cancer is not necessarily a fatal disease." This should not lead men or women who have any of the symptoms of the dreaded disease to postpone inquiry, fearing the worst, for the worst may after all be prevented by prompt availing of the advice and, if necessary, the treatment that may be had, even though the cause of the disease still baffles science. Here are some of the rays of hope in the dark picture (not listed in the resolutions of the most authoritative body of experts probably ever gathered in America, the International Symposium on Cancer, whose proceedings have been published in a volume which Dr. William H. Welch, "a first citizen in the scientific world," has called epochal):

First, it is not to be looked upon as contagious or infectious;

Second, cancer itself is not hereditary, though there may be a certain susceptibility through inheritance;

Third, persons who have cancer must apply to competent physicians at a sufficiently early stage in order to have a fair chance of cure. In some forms early treatment affords the only possibility of cure;

Fourth, even when indications of cancer are believed to be possibly present, competent medical attention should be sought;

Fifth, the most reliable forms of treatment—in fact the only ones as yet justified by experience and observation depend on surgery, radium and X-rays.

Until man finds the cause of this insidious disease (and it is for carrying on such research that the fund is sought), that hope cannot be greatly extended. It is wrongly assumed that enormous sums have been expended on such research. Dr. Francis Carter Wood, one of our highest American authorities on cancer, stated less than a month ago that the entire world does not spend more than $400,000 annually on such research. But while it is of prime importance to the human race that this research should go forward with utmost speed and thoroughness, there must also be fullest use of what is already known, and this depends upon the intelligent cooperation of the patient and physician.

"One can think of no more important philanthropy," said Dr. Frank Billings, former President of the American Medical Association and of the Association of American Physicians. The "unique paradox," mentioned by another authority, that cancer's ravages are high because improved public health has prolonged the lives of increasing numbers into middle or old age, the "cancer age," can after all give little comfort. To have the mortality statistics of this disease (one in every eight men between the ages of 55 and 70 and one in every five women between 45 and 65) hanging over one as that age "draws nigh" would be worse than having the sword of Damocles hanging over one were the worse not preventable. Though death must come to all, soon or late, no one would choose to have it come, even if the coming is postponed, in the guise of this insidious disease, which mocks at man's inability to reach the last entrenchments.—N.Y. Times.

Three Oyster Dishes

Panned Oysters on Toast

Wash 3 dozens large oysters and lay them in a colander to drain. Melt in a saucepan 2 level tablespoonfuls of butter, and add 1 small bunch of tender celery cut into small pieces. Cook slowly for about 10 minutes—until the celery is tender. Dust the oysters lightly with salt and paprika and add them to the celery. Stir constantly until the gills of the oyster are curled. Serve hot on buttered toast. With a salad of tomato and cream cheese and a simple dessert, this makes an excellent supper.

Oysters With Codfish

Cut fine, fresh cod into strips an inch thick and remove any bones. Put the fish into a stewpan and add a rush of grated nutmeg, 1 cupful of minced celery, ½ of a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper and 3 blades of mace, the juice from 1 lemon and 2 cupfuls of oyster liquor. Cover closely and simmer gently until the fish is done. Then add a piece of butter the size of an egg that has been rolled in flour, and 2 dozens large oysters with their juice. Simmer about 5 minutes longer and serve hot.

Oysters a la Newberg

In the double boiler melt 1 tablespoonful of butter, then stir in 1 tablespoonful of flour. When well blended, add 1 cupful of cream and stir until the sauce is smooth and glossy, then stir in 1 quart of well-drained and dried oysters. When the gills begin to curl, add the beaten yolks of 2 eggs, a dash of red pepper and ½ of a teaspoonful of salt. Serve at once on well-buttered slices of fresh toast, garnished with lemon slices.

Auto polo, a new and novel sport, is gaining much popularity in Nebraska. Wonder if they use traffic officers for referees.

A plot is something the other side does which, if your side did, would be merely a plan of co-operation.

THE ROYAL STOMACHS

King George May Dislike Pudding, But He'll Eat It and Be Patriotic—All-Empire Dinner Planned for Palace on Christmas; British Isles to Furnish Nothing But Beer

London.—When King George and Queen Mary eat their plum pudding this Christmas, whether they like it or not, they will have the satisfaction of doing a patriotic deed. They will be boosting "Empire trade."

Usually the King's own chef, M. Cedard, is solely responsible for the royal Christmas fare; but this year some bright mind in the Empire Marketing Board has had the idea of hitching their Majesties to the propaganda wagon for Colonial foods. And as the plum pudding is the most varied and exotic item in the Christmas menu, it has been chosen as the ideal object lesson in British self-sufficiency.

Incidentally, the British people have been let into the secret of the royal recipe, as furnished by the chef of Buckingham Palace. According to this recipe, the pudding consists of the following: Five pounds each of currants, sultanas and stoned raisins; 1½ pounds of minced apple, five pounds of bread crumbs, five pounds of beef suet, two pounds of candied peel, 2½ pounds of flour, [illegible] pounds of Demerara sugar, two ounces ground cinnamon, [illegible] of grated nutmeg, one pudding spice, one gill of gills of rum, and two [illegible] beer.

This recipe has been [illegible] large-type advertisements [illegible] the country, and [illegible] loyal British families are [illegible] eat similar puddings [illegible] scale at their Christmas [illegible] they do, the [illegible] will be doing their bit for Empire trade, for the currants [illegible] from Australia and South [illegible], the apples from Canada, [illegible] New Zealand, the eggs [illegible] Ireland, the sugar from the West Indies, the spices from Ceylon, Zanzibar, Straits Settlements and India, the alcoholic ingredients from Jamaica, good old England nothing but the best.

New Zealand and Singapore

The action of New Zealand in voting a million pounds toward the cost of the British naval base at Singapore should not be regarded as an unfriendly gesture directed at any Power or group of Powers in the Pacific. It merely bears witness to the loyalty of the New Zealanders to the empire. Often called more British than the British, they have long felt it their duty to take a part, however small, in the burden of Imperial Defence. Since New Zealanders and Australians alike regard the base at Singapore as the rallying point of British interests in the Western Pacific, it is natural and proper that they should prove their faith by works.

Fortunately, the factors making for peace in the Pacific are so many that it is profitless to talk in terms of possible conflict. Even were there no other guarantees of peace, the close community of interest between the Dominions and the United States has established a solidarity which not even the blasts of Chicago's Mayor can shake. Like Japan and China, the Dominions and the United States want peace above all in the Pacific—in order to finish the tasks of nation-building and to develop commerce. New Zealand and Australia are pioneer countries facing problems similar to those of America. Peopled by kinded stocks and having similar forms of Government, they view the world more nearly eye to eye than do any other nations. Being, all of them, Pacific Powers, they are keenly concerned in the developments in that great ocean and on its shores.

The reason why New Zealand and Australia are particularly interested in Singapore is that, as the nearest base for refueling and repairing British ships, it is in a sense the police station of Britain in Eastern waters. So long as the Dominions form essential links in the empire they cannot remain aloof from empire defence. Obviously, they are unable by themselves to carry the burden of sustaining large navies. Hence it is only fitting that they should take their share in defraying the cost of the defensive forces of the empire which, as the British delegates at the Geneva Conference aptly showed, are essential for the protection of Britain's farflung lines of commerce and communication.

Comand of the Air

Leo Marsa in the London National Review: We never can understand the propaganda of those who regard the sea and land as "back numbers" and who would gally scrap British sea power to say nothing of the British army in order that we may become a mighty air power, and who would talk of command of the air in a manner that has no meaning, because the thing is impossible. No one can command the air. It is altogether beyond the control of man, and for that reason bears no resemblance to sea or land which are within human compass. To talk of commanding the air is to deceive the multitude. It is moonshine.

NOT A BULLET HOLE

Hotel Clerk: You've just arrived from Chicago I see, Mr. Browne.
Brown: No; I burnt that hole in my coat with a cigarette.

Former German Army Officers Train Bolivians

Status of Danzig Matter Causes Vehement Protest From France and Britain

London.—"When is a German?" is the question engaging the serious attention of diplomatic circles here and in both the new and old capitals, in consequence of Bolivia's employing a number of former officers of the German Army as instructors to reorganize and train the Bolivian army. It is said that the matter has been brought to the attention of the British Government as a violation of the Versailles, and it is understood that the French Minister at La Paz has protested on the subject to the Bolivian Government. Bolivia as a signatory of Versailles, should be taken on the officers in question.

The answer to this is that a German is not a German when he is a citizen of the Free State of Danzig. The officers employed by Bolivia were admittedly signed until the Treaty of Versailles, but they had to give up their citizenship, with the unexpected result that the German army ban under which they should be allowed to serve "any foreign power" does not apply to them.

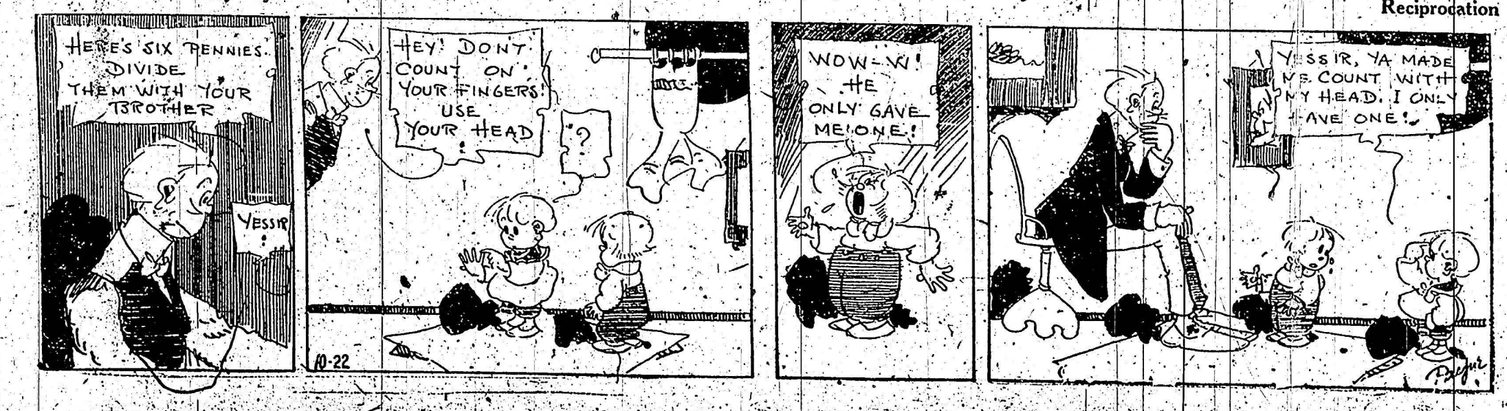
The relevant part of Article 179 under which the French protest was made, runs as follows: "Germany agrees, from the coming into force of the present treaty, not to send to any foreign military, naval, or air mission, or to allow any such mission to come to her territory, and Germany undertakes to take appropriate measures to prevent German nationals from entering her territory to be enrolled in any army, navy, or air service of any foreign power, or to be attached to any army, navy or air service for the purpose of assisting in the military, naval or air training thereof, or for the purpose of any military, naval or air instruction in any foreign country."

Style

A scholar writing to the editor, he will of course [illegible] the willing intelligence. "To go preach to an [illegible] says Montaigne, "is to the ignorance of the thing I abhor"; a [illegible] turally distressing [illegible] will therefore ever [illegible] uncomplimentary [illegible] reader's wit. [illegible] The stimulus to the continuous effort on [illegible] regarded by secure [illegible] mate grasp of the [illegible] restraint, a skilful [illegible] ascesis, that [illegible] own; and for the [illegible] there will be an aesthetic [illegible] in that frugal economy [illegible] makes the most of [illegible] action from every [illegible] cise relief, in the [illegible] word to thought, in the [illegible] space connected with [illegible] lightful sense of [illegible]. Different classes of [illegible] ferent times make [illegible] various demands. [illegible] Still, scholars, I suppose, [illegible] scholars, but all [illegible] of books, will [illegible] to all other [illegible] sort of cloistered [illegible] vulgarity in the [illegible] fect poem like Lycidas [illegible] like Esmond, the [illegible] a theory like Newman's [illegible] versity, has for them [illegible] uses, of a delight [illegible] then, with a few [illegible] of a select few, [illegible] thread" who have [illegible] tain the literary [illegible] every component [illegible] undergone exactly [illegible] they will be as [illegible] tarnished or [illegible] missible ornament [illegible] part structural [illegible] painter in his [illegible] in his book, [illegible] by honourable [illegible] atmosphere. "The [illegible] der, "may be known [illegible] omits"; and in [illegible] true artist may [illegible] his tact of omission [illegible] Style," by Walter [illegible]

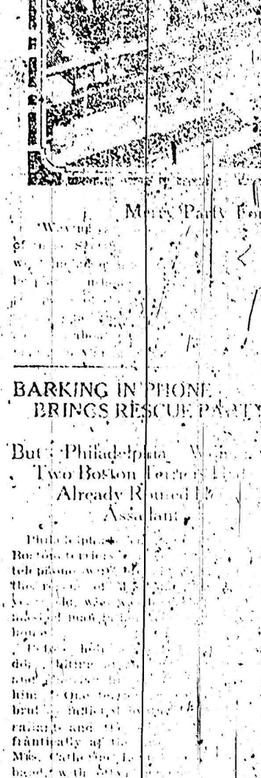
The French A[illegible] It is to be hope[illegible] lead to its carrying [illegible] branch of peace.

S'MATTER POP—By Payne



Reciprocation

THE ONLY TIME-TESTED B[illegible]
Merry
Say it with the very latest
ROC[illegible] BATTERY RADIO RECE[illegible]
The Gift That M[illegible] Will Select for
Let your choice be the [illegible] three years of [illegible] faction and s[illegible]
Don't [illegible] and Be Sure
Prices from [illegible]
Ask your [illegible] write to the
Q.R.S. M[illegible]



Merry Party For [illegible]

BARKING IN PHONE BRINGS RESCUE PARTY

But Philadelphia [illegible] Two Boston [illegible] Already R[illegible] Assailant

The Brooklyn Eag[illegible] "Here we are trying to [illegible] and we can't even [illegible] But there is one [illegible] in knowing that [illegible] floods have cost [illegible] liquor would cost [illegible]

Minard's Liniment for Grippe

Mrs. Nuwiff: Why Tom! And this is the first $5.00 extra I've asked you for. What if it was $100?
Hubby: That's what I'm practicing for now.