

STATE BUILDING SEA WALL AT BEARDSTOWN

PROTECTION FROM FLOODS

Illinois River City Which Has Suffered Much From Freshets; Hopes Plan Will Be Effective

Reports received by the state department of purchases and construction indicate excellent progress is being made in the completion of the sea wall and levee at Beardstown for the future protection of that city from disastrous floods which have swept that section in the past.

Steam shovels are now working on the final section of the earth levee while concrete work on the sea wall will be finished within the time limit of December 31.

No delay has resulted as yet from the cold weather, and it is expected there will be no trouble from this source unless temperatures fall well below the zero mark.

Work Continues

Levee between the railroad tracks and the Oak Grove cemetery will be completed during the present week. Attention will then be given to the east levee, extending from the concrete sea wall to the high ground at the Huss farm.

With the city of Beardstown three times within ten months suffering from disastrous floods, practically cutting off that city from connection with the remainder of the state, stopping all activities and causing many thousands of dollars in damage, appropriation of \$350,000 was made by the state legislature for the construction of a concrete sea wall and earth levee which would avert flood conditions in the future. To this was added \$45,000 by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and the Baltimore & Ohio railroads.

The contract calls for an embankment of 450,000 cubic yards together with 10,000 cubic yards of cement work, the project to be completed by December 31, 1927.

ANDREW MELLON IS GREATEST TREASURER

None to Equal Him in Finance Since Hamilton; Has Had Notable Career

Andrew W. Mellon is not only not the "greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton," but he is comparable to a secretary whose name is now almost forgotten, asserts Silas Bent in an article on Mr. Mellon in the first number of the new Scribner's Magazine. Mr. Bent presents a balanced portrait of the secretary, showing him greatly overpraised and much-maligned.

"Newspaper editorial writers grew fond of comparing Mellon with Hamilton and Gallatin," says Mr. Bent. "By iteration and reiteration to millions of readers, and by being taken up by Wall Street the comparison crystallized into a commonplace. I do not doubt that Mr. Mellon himself was embarrassed by it," he continues.

"The surpassing greatness of Mr. Mellon remains to be established. His chief claim to fame is the refunding of the public debt, and in his earlier administration this was effected on a makeshift basis, which left the obligations in comparatively short form. Even in the summer of 1927 the secretary's judgment of the market was not vindicated, and the calling of the Second Liberties dragged along for months. His estimates of the national income have often been wide of the mark, more than a billion wide of it in 1923. His record is creditable, but not brilliant. Consider what was done after this country emerged, torn and shaken, from the Civil war. The government had been paying interest from 5 per cent up to a fraction more than 7 per cent. But on the heels of the 'money panic' which wrought disaster in 1873, a Secretary of the Treasury negotiated demand loans at 3 per cent, and refunded part of the debt at 4. The average in refunding was 1 per cent below the rate of the original loans. Who, then, was secretary in 1874, when these things were done? He was a Kentuckian named Benjamin Helm Bristow; and one has heard of him, if at all, not as a remarkable secretary but as the man who broke up the corrupt whiskey ring in Grant's administration. Mr. Mellon, in handling the public debt, has done no better than this obscure predecessor, if as well."

In connection with an art exhibit consisting of 150 reproductions in color and sepia of famous paintings, pupils of all grades in public schools in Choteau, Mont., studied for a week the life and works of the artists represented. In a memory contest following this, one child in the first grade was able to name correctly 99 out of 144 pictures, a third-grade child named 128, and a sixth-grade pupil named correctly the entire collection. A public exhibition and lecture, held the last evening of the week, netted sufficient funds for the purchase of two of the pictures for permanent use in the school.

The kid who kicks about his Christmas gifts, would find plenty of wistful little ones who would be made happy by a small fraction of them.

RELATIONSHIP OF RACE AND CRIME

Interesting Deductions From Report of Illinois Public Welfare Dept.

Is there a relationship between race and crime? That this question can be answered in the affirmative is as logical as to believe that natives of the warmer countries are most easily aroused and therefore most liable to murder.

Based on the 3,766 inmates received at the penal, reformatory and corrective institutions of Illinois for the fiscal year of 1926, the Department of Public Welfare has drawn some interesting deductions showing racial relation to crime.

Out of a total of 207 received under sentence for murder or manslaughter, the three races leading in offenses of this nature were Mexican, Italian and African.

For burglary the English, Irish and German predominated.

In larceny cases the lead was held by the French, Slavonic and Hebrew races.

For the crime of confidence game the Scotch, Hebrew and German race are recorded in the order mentioned.

For robbery it is found the largest percentage are classified as Greek, Italian and Slavonic.

Among crimes against chastity the greater percentage as figured on the number of convicted for crimes of this character were Greek, Dutch, Flemish and Scotch.

Out of 101 Italians committed during the fiscal year of 1926 not a single one was received for the crime of confidence game, while no Mexicans or Scandinavians were under sentence for crimes against chastity.

IS MELLON SENSITIVE ABOUT HIS AGE, TOO?

If So, It's the Only Thing That Seems to Worry Him; His Job Is Done Well

In an article on Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, Silas Bent, in the January Scribner's Magazine—which appears in new cover and type and with new editorial policy—comments on the secretary's seeming imperviousness to criticism, but points to one source of possible irritations.

"When the air is thickest with bricks he relights his small cigar and tranquilly resumes the contemplation of the national balance-sheet," writes Mr. Bent.

"The secretary knows, of course, that any effort to impugn his integrity must prove ridiculous. To accuse a man so immensely rich of sordid motives is absurd on the face of it. And he must know that the mass of the American public regards him with a respect not unmixed with awe. At first blush one can hardly believe that personal aggrandizement of this sort could cut any ice with him. Yet I am not so sure. There is the matter, for instance, of his age. In volumes 10 and 11 of Who's Who, covering 1918-19, 1920-21, the year of his birth is given as 1852, according to which he is now seventy-five. In subsequent issues the date is set down as March 24, 1854; but in Congressional directories the year is given as 1855, according to which the secretary would now be seventy-two. Can it be that his age is the heel of this Achilles?"

MAGAZINE EDITOR ONCE LUMBERJACK

CAREER IS NOTABLE ONE

Born Amid Primitive Surroundings Merle Crowell of American Magazine Started at Lowest Rung

Merle Crowell, editor of the American magazine, will be chief speaker this year at the annual convention of the National Editorial association. Although he is the head of a great national magazine, he was invited by the newspaper editors rather as the embodiment and exponent of the country newspaper. It is one of his outstanding axioms that "there is something in American country life—with all its drabness, loneliness and self-denial—that breeds power and courage."

Mr. Crowell is himself an example of what rural America can do in the production of leaders. He was born in 1888 in North Newport, Me., where the conditions of life were about as primitive as those of the early pioneers. In his youth he had the ox-like vitality of those pioneers,—that brave, restless, audacious force.

His first memories, according to Irving Bacheller, his biographer, are of his grandmother molding candles and turning wool into yarn on the spinning wheel. He got through with the district school at eleven. Impressed with his precocity, the village people said that he was likely to become another Frank Prilay, who had gone to Bangor and won a job in a shoe store at the princely salary of \$19 a week.

At eleven, Crowell entered an academy some distance from his home, where he rented a room at 25 cents a week and lived on ten cents a day. He won a scholarship in Colby college, working his way by lumbering in the Maine woods. Three years' work as a lumberjack brought on rheumatism which forced him into less strenuous labors, and he turned to newspaper work. A story which he wrote for the New York Sun won him a place on the American magazine.

SENTIMENT AGAINST FEDERAL SUBSIDIES

The sentiment against the appropriation of Federal subsidies for the various states is steadily growing. In the present appropriation bill there is an item of one million one hundred thousand dollars for the promotion of welfare and hygiene in maternity and infancy which is to be balanced by state appropriations. The President has expressed the hope that it will be the last appropriation of this kind ever made.

It is not the amount of money involved, although it must be admitted that the grand total of these Federal subsidies makes no inconsiderable sum, but what the President and a great many far-seeing statesmen are worried about is this constant surrender of state rights and obligations to the federal government because by so surrendering this dole of United States treasury funds is made possible.

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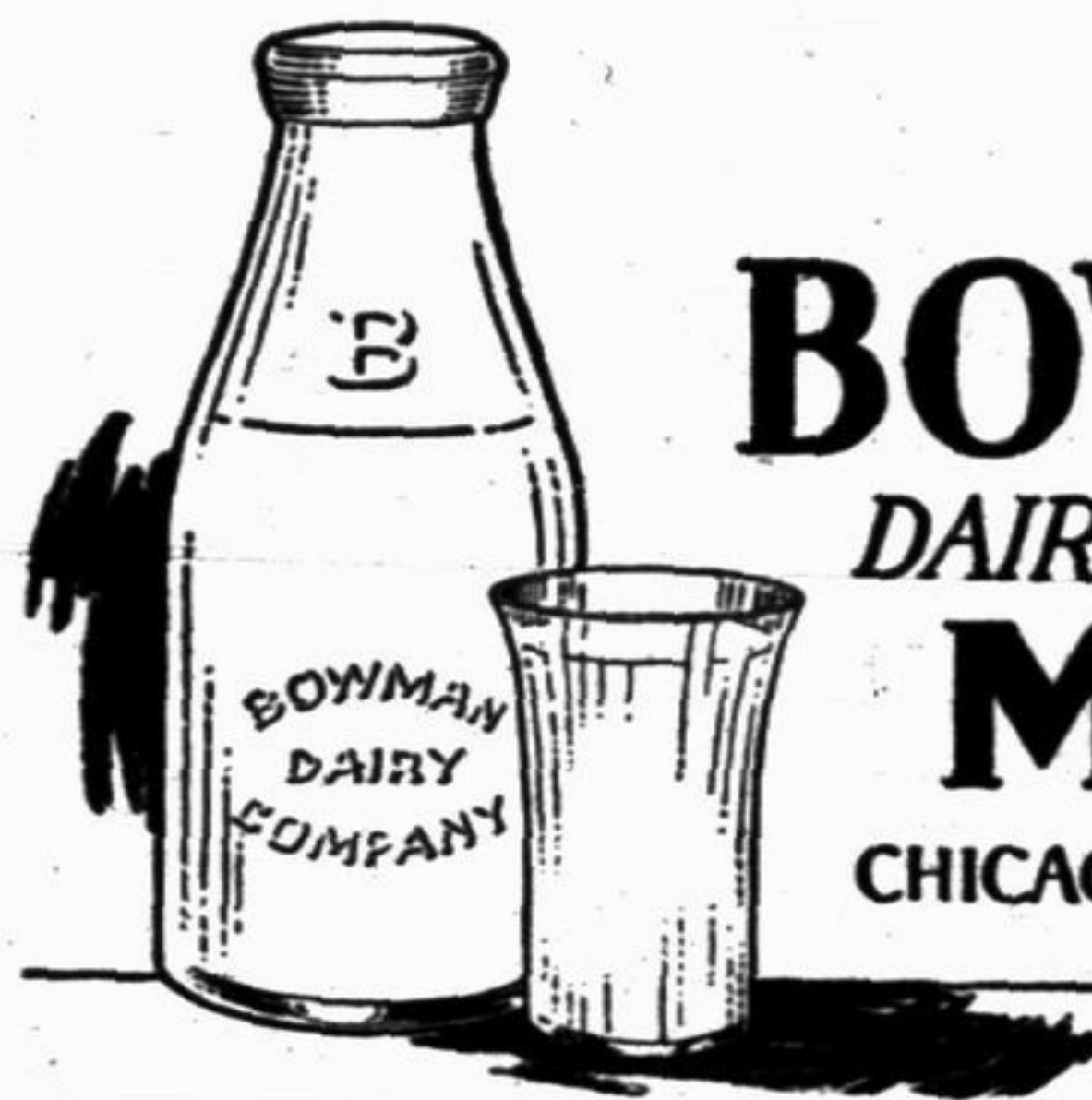
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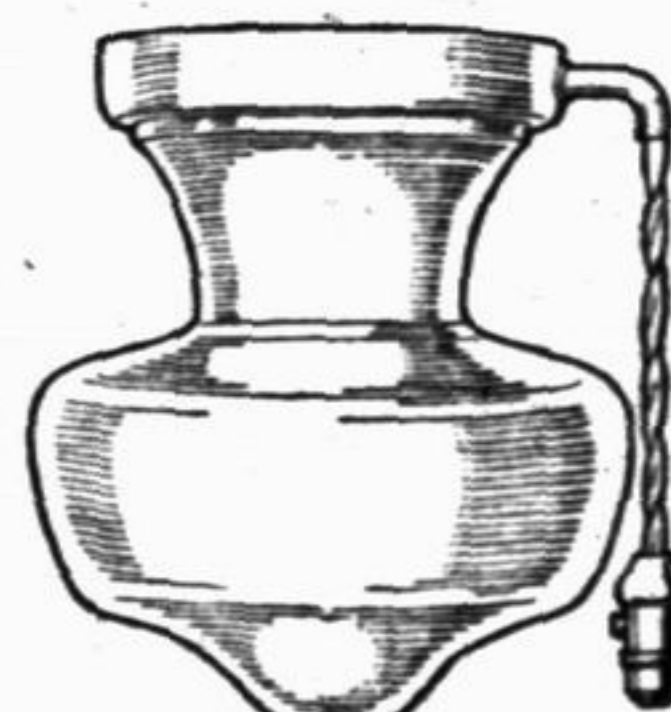
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