

Esther Gould's Book Corner

JUST PARAGRAPHS

Edgar Lee Masters has written a long dramatic poem which will be published this month. It deals with American history from 1831 to the present time and is epic in style. The central figure is Jack Kelso, a poet, wanderer and friend of Lincoln.

Already we are getting news of the publishing lists for next fall to whet our appetites. The Viking Press leads off with the announcement of a third novel by Elizabeth Madox Roberts, a historical romance by Ford Madox Ford, a book of poetry by Sylvia Townsend Warner, and plays by Lion Feuchtwanger and Gerhardt Hauptmann.

"MEAT"

By Wilbur Daniel Steele
Harper & Brothers

"Meat," the new novel by Wilbur Daniel Steele should most certainly have been called "Drink." That would have been less misleading. To be sure, Mr. Steele took his title from the Biblical verse about meat making my brother to offend, which is quite appropriate when you know about it, but the title itself gives no idea of it nor clue to the book. And surely the whirl of machinery and the shouts of men from a vast stockyards which the title certainly conjures up could not be more effectually dispelled by an earthquake than by the opening picture of New England.

When the sound, then, has died away, we realize that this book is an argument against prohibition — not only in our strict American sense but in all senses — that is, prohibition laid down for the strong to protect the weak, and thereby taking from the strong their power and privilege of ruling themselves.

There could not have been a more normal healthy and happy family than the India family until Rex India was born into it. With one son and an adopted daughter, with culture and wealth, they felt certain that they knew the secret of living. But then Rex was born. A weakling, not quite mentally or normally responsible he changes everything. Most of all he changes his mother whose fierce maternal instinct is so aroused to protect him that she sacrifices everything to his welfare. "If it won't hurt him, let him have it. If it will keep it out of his way." It is on this dictum that they live.

One of the first things to go is wine from the table. This becomes a symbol of the deprivations. The result is of course that the strong son is brought up to fear wine, and when he is thrown out into the world he likes it far too well, and the weak son, all the time that he is being deprived of it and told of its horrors, is stealing it from his father's cellar. This is only symbolic of the ruin that this policy brings.

It is a cruel book, not at all pleasant reading, but it is well done and

certainly makes its point with clarity.

"THE BONNEY FAMILY"

By Ruth Suckow
Alfred A. Knopf

Ruth Suckow is a writer who reproduces actuality. At the very first paragraph of this latest book of hers "The Bonney Family" we are in the backyard of the little Iowa parsonage with that family. We come to know each member of it with a calm matter of fact intimacy. This type of writer does not idealize her characters but presents them with the dispassionateness with which we see people in life. It is often thought that such a writer will disparage, Miss Suckow is free from that.

The chief danger in this method for the reader, is that he will be bored. Without the illumination of the author's point of view, giving him more than he could see if he were there himself, he is likely to think at about page twenty-six, "Well what of the Bonney family?" But if he pushes on these characters become more than acquaintances, they are old friends in whose life stories it is easy to be interested.

We take the Bonneys from the time the children are young and struggling and unformed, through the stormy days of adolescence until they are all settled in their places in the world. It is all so extraordinarily life-like, so exactly the way if these people lived somewhere they did live. Their successes, the rise in the family fortunes, due to the indomitable spirit of the mother, the disintegration due partly to her death, partly to the fact that the children simply weren't up to her standard, and "it would have happened that way," are a slice of life.

You may not care supremely for this type of fiction that goes under the label of "realism," but you will in any case admit that Ruth Suckow does it exceedingly well.

SEES BIG GROWTH OF CHICAGO AREA

IN FOURTEEN COUNTIES

City Statistician Predicts Population Will Exceed Seven Millions by 1950, It Is Reported

Frederick Rex, Chicago statistician, today reviewed the city's growth by decades from its beginning as a frontier outpost village of 100 souls within an area of less than a square mile in 1830 to its present area of 208 square miles and an estimated population of 3,741,910. This is a population of 17,936 per square mile.

Fourteen counties in the city's metropolitan area will have a population of 7,506,000 in 1950, Mr. Rex estimated. These counties are Cook, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will, in Illinois; Lake and Porter in Indiana, and Walworth, Racine and Kenosha in Wisconsin.

In 1930, Mr. Rex believes, these counties will have a total population of 5,048,000, and by 1940 a total of 6,282,000.

"Were it possible or desirable for Chicago to annex the territory within a 50 mile radius, the city would have an area of 6,824 square miles," said Mr. Rex.

"If all of Cook county were within our city limits Chicago's area would be 933 square miles, and if the city boundaries encompassed urban and rural territory within the metropolitan district including Cook, Kane, DuPage, Lake and Will counties in Illinois, with Lake county in Indiana, Chicago's area would be 3,596 square miles.

Chicago at present is third in area among American cities, Los Angeles containing 406 square miles, being first, and New York, with 316 square miles being second.



Flag Day, June 14

Every nation has its flag. It is a curious fact that the flag of the United States of America is among the oldest flags among the nations of the world. Most of the older nations have modified the designs of their flags within a hundred years, while ours has remained unchanged. It means to us what it meant to our forefathers when they established its present form a century and a half ago. It means American history, American feelings, American ideals.

In the public ceremonies in observance of The Flag's birthday on June 14th, an important part will be assigned to scouts. This is appropriate, for the Boy Scout symbolizes ideals of American manhood, citizenship and service, as The Flag symbolizes the American nation itself. The Boy Scouts of America emphasize a knowledge of the history of The Flag and the Flag Code. This knowledge is part of the requirements of the Tenderfoot. Every scout may feel that The Flag, its honor and dignity and the forms of respect due to it, are his trust; and he will live up to his obligations in his home, on the street, at camp and in the public assembly.

"Flag Day makes this obligation particularly real and worthwhile. Let the troop review the Flag Code, and the Flag history. Hold a Flag program in the troop meeting to quicken the scouts' sense of personal loyalty and patriotism. Encourage them to render appropriate community service in connection with Flag Day, so that each and every Boy Scout may say, with Abraham Lincoln—"Let us go to extend the area of our usefulness, add star upon star, until their light shall shine upon five hundred

millions of free and happy people."—Scouting.

High Point of Year

The high point of the year's activities is camp. That is what the boy has been looking forward to through the year; that is what has kept his enthusiasm keen, his scout achievement high. Don't disappoint him. Camp is an education. The boy accustomed to have everything done for him is called upon to do things for himself. Camp shows the real stuff that the boy is made of. It takes him out of the conventionalized life of school and brings him to the larger schoolroom of the out-of-doors. Three generations ago we were an agricultural people. Fathers and sons worked together in the fields and wrestled with the forces of nature to win food, erect a shelter and build a community in the wilderness. Out of this education there grew men who were leaders. They had had training in initiative, resourcefulness, in meeting emergencies and adapting themselves to environment.

Contrasted with their life, the life of the boy today is meager and barren. He lacks the simple elemental things that he craves. His life is hedged in by the routine of home and school.

Camp is the Scoutmasters' opportunity to show the boy the real things of life. Teach him to meet nature first hand, and adapt her resources to his needs. Give him real scouting out of doors. Get the boys out in the open for over-night hikes. Take them for a week or more into the woods and set up a troop camp. Send them to the council camp for as many weeks as it is possible for them to stay. Don't let a single scout in your

charge miss the big opportunity at Camp for health, for education and character training this summer.—Scouting.

New Scouts welcomed into North-shore Scouting week ending June 9, 1928:

Troop 5—Wilmette—Fach Allworth, David Cressy, Wm. Denholm, James McClure, Richard Preston, Rubert Pellott, Charles Williams, Russell Wyle, George Yoeman.
Troop 23, Glencoe—Adam Gruber.
Troop 33, Highland Park—George Zengler.

Court of Honor held in Highland Park, June 5, 1928, Tuesday evening: Life award to John Kraft, Troop 35, Ravinia.

First Class awards to H. Herman and Ralph Greenley, Troop 31, Highland Park.

Troop 35, Merit Badges — Peter White, Firemanship; Bob Jerome, Angling, Handicraft; David Cannmann, Angling, Poultry Keeping; John Kraft, First Aid, First Aid to Animals.

Troop 33—H. Denton Smith, Bird Study; Roderic Smith, Weather, Civics; Fred Reichardt, Athletics, First Aid.

Troop 31—Ralph Greenley, Swimming; Randolph Herman, Cycling. This honor. A backward race was which was conducted by Brainerd Chapman, J. A. Scoutmaster. And Grant Herman S. Patrol Leader. We had drilling and inspection which two scouts, Ralph Greenley and Warner Turriff were even. Both tied for this honor. A backward race was run and the wolf patrol won.—Troop Reporter, Sture Johnson, Troop 31, Highland Park, Illinois.

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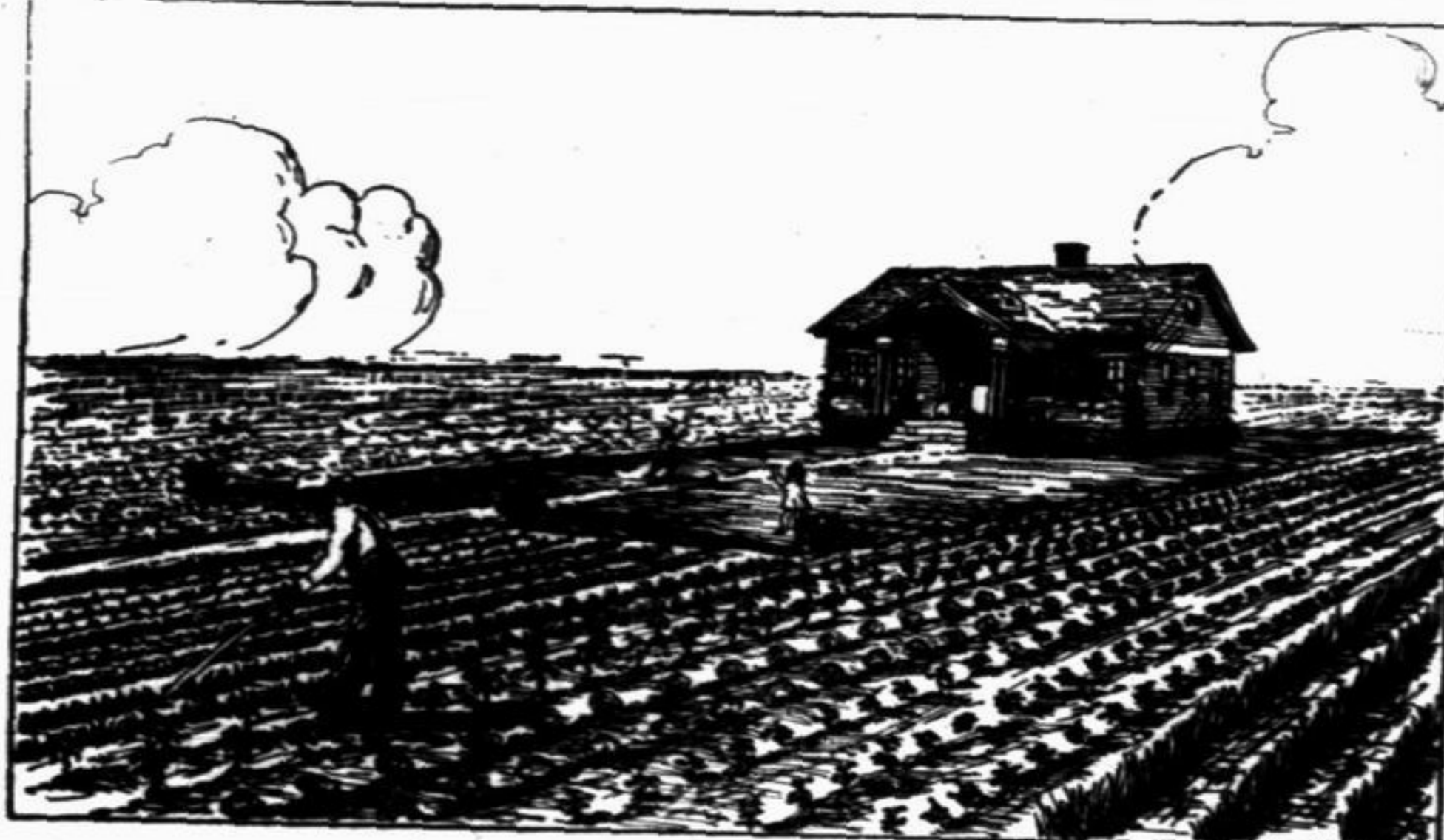
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