

**FACT AND COMMENT**

To clear the streets of snow Stockholm, Sweden, has a truck on which is mounted a furnace with a large funnel into which the snow is shoveled. The melted snow runs through a hose to the nearest sewer.

The picturesque jinrikisha, or kumura, is going out of use in Japan. Other vehicles are taking its place; cabbies are rising above the "status of draft animals"; the chief manufacturer of jinrikishas is now making baby carriages.

Far from affecting church attendance adversely, the Sunday radio sermon seems to have brought into the fold some of those who had been indifferent. The man who has not been to church for twenty years is discovering that the church still has a message for him.

It is not regarded as good manners to issue an invitation by means of the telephone except among the most intimate friends, for it gives the guest no time, without apparent rudeness, to consider whether he is really free and wants to accept. It is much more considerate to send an invitation by mail.

Paper barrels designed to withstand as rough treatment as wooden ones are something new. They are made by a simple machine, which rolls a thick paper under tension into the desired shape and at the same time applies an adhesive to each layer of the paper. The workman can make a barrel as thick and strong as he wishes.

A National Bank in New York City is issuing a "compo bond." The purpose is to visualize for the investor what his money will be worth at compound interest at the end of a fixed period. For a \$10 bond due in twenty-five years the purchaser

pays \$1.76, or for a \$10 bond due in ten years \$7.43. The bonds come in denominations up to \$1,000; the Comptroller of the Currency classifies them as a new form of time certificate of deposit; and a United States court has recently legalized them.

The United States Army Air Service says that it has built a helicopter aeroplane that actually works. The design for the machine was made by Dr. de Bothezat, who also superintended the experiments at McCook Field. The helicopter, it is reported, rose straight up from the ground to a height of six feet, flew successfully for two minutes and descended safely. It weighs thirty-six hundred pounds and is raised by four lifting screws run by a one hundred and seventy horsepower motor. The most encouraging thing about the De Bothezat plane is that the pilot can control the descent. The problem of getting a helicopter down out of the air has always been harder than that of getting it up. Several machines have been built that would rise vertically for several feet, but when they tried to descend they invariably got into trouble.

President Harding's fact-finding coal commission has published a preliminary report. It takes occasion to reassure the public in the matter of another coal strike this spring, a reassurance that was justified by the agreement reached on January 24 between the bituminous mine owners and the miners. The report declares that there has been unmistakable profiteering by certain operators, brokers and retailers, though the commission has not yet gathered all the evidence it requires before making specific recommendations on that point. It believes that coal must always be high priced so long as the industry is overmanned and obliged by the vagaries of out-

lic demand to mine and ship coal at certain seasons instead of regularly throughout the year. The bituminous industry, the commission declares, is particularly chaotic. Many more mines than are necessary have been opened. At least two hundred thousand miners and their families must be supported by the public, although their services are not necessary. Owing to the excess of mine labor and the seasonal character of the business, many of the miners can count on only about one hundred and fifty days of work during the year. The commission hints that the confusion in the industry is so serious that it may be necessary for the nation to consider whether private property in an inexhaustible natural resource and labor in a public-service industry should not be subjected to some curtailment of their private rights and receive in return certain guarantees not accorded to private business or to persons in private employ.

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, announces that he means to lead the forces of organized labor in a movement to modify the provisions of the Volstead Act, which bears the same relation to the public as the Ontario Temperance in this province. He thinks that the law goes beyond what the eighteenth amendment contemplated and that the sale of beer and of wines with a low alcoholic content must eventually be permitted. It will be interesting to see whether organized labor falls in behind its leaders on that issue. It should be added that when the saloon was mentioned Mr. Gompers denied emphatically that he had any desire to see that "institution of the Dark Ages" restored.

In spite of the terrible evils that the Bolsheviks have brought and are bringing on their nation, there is something irresistibly funny about

their naivete. One of their latest performances is the "sovietization" of Hamlet. The Commissariat of Education has rewritten Shakespeare's famous play and ordered it to be produced throughout Russia. Hamlet is no longer a Danish prince but a communist reformer who is constantly thwarted and badgered by the evil influences of capitalism and the bourgeoisie. All Hamlet's soliloquies have been rewritten into rhetorical outbursts in praise of communism. As a final delicious touch the part of Polonius is taken by an actor who is made up to resemble Mr. Lloyd George, and who continually repeats passages from the speeches of the former British premier.

Not the Prince of Wales, but his next younger brother, the Duke of York, will be the first of the King's sons to marry. The young man has become engaged to Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, who is the daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, a Scottish nobleman whose title goes back to 1677. Lady Elizabeth was one of Princess Mary's bridesmaids. She is described as tall, dark and fond of outdoor sports. Although she is not a beauty, she is attractive and popular with her friends and with the British public.

While the Germans gloomily watched the French soldiers marching into the Ruhr Valley they were still further provoked to hear that at the other end of the country Lithuanian irregulars had stormed and occupied the city of Memel. Memel is the only good port along the coast of the Baltic in the neighborhood of Lithuania. It was included in East Prussia before the war and is still predominantly German in population but its hinterland is strongly Lithuanian. The city was left in the hands of an allied garrison by the Treaty of Versailles. It was not to be given to Lithuania, but neither were the Germans permitted to keep control of it. The Lithuanians are apparently dissatisfied with the anomalous situation and have taken advantage of the crisis in the west to seize control of the city. Can they keep it? They are likely to face an indignant allied council for it was the allied garrison that they attacked, and, if the council lets them stay, there will be continual danger of a counter-demonstration by guerilla bands of Germans from East Prussia.

**TOO MUCH RUSH**

(Flesherton Advance.)

The County Council of Brant County and the U.F.O. Clubs of the same county have passed resolutions calling upon the Minister of Highways to ease up on his expenditure on roads this summer. The burden of taxation in that county is too great to bear. This shows that the poor worm is at last beginning to sit up and take notice that somebody is treading on its tail.

Until the protestations become more general it is not likely that Mr. Biggs will remove the complaint. He has his heart set on scenic highway and permanent roadbeds similar to those builded in ancient days by the Romans through the medium of convict and slave labor. We may not be convicts but he is making of us slaves. Other departments of the Ontario Government are not much behind in this respect. Taxes that were imposed during the war to cover a war grant are still collected and other means of

drawing more money from our pockets are continually being added.

The Ontario Government disclaims extravagance. It designates it all as business enterprise. With a Federal debt of several hundred dollars on every man, woman and child in Canada, it seems to us that retrenchment would be wiser than spending such vast sums by our Game and Fisheries Department, our highways and special grants to members themselves. The completion of Mr. Biggs' Monument to Mr. Biggs should not be rushed to completion in a year or two, even if Mr. Biggs doesn't expect to be relegated to a private seat in the Legislature after next general election.

**GOOD ENOUGH**

Grocers are accustomed to answering penetrating questions about the merits of their wares. Mr. Jones was no exception to the rule. A lady came into the shop to buy some eggs. "Are they really fresh?" she asked. "Oh, yes, ma'am," he answered. "Are you quite sure, because I'm so frightened of bad eggs. I must have them really fresh." "Boy!" called out the grocer to his assistant, "just run to the back room and see if this morning's eggs are cool enough yet to sell!"

A cat cannot see better in the dark than in the light, although it can see better in the dark than we can.

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S.S. "Princess Louise"



Between Vancouver and Skagway the Canadian Pacific steamer "Princess Louise" passes through hundreds of miles of such beautiful sheltered waterways as this.



The wonderful totem poles of an Alaskan Indian village.

**G**EORGE E. BUCHANAN, a Chatham, Ont., boy who is now a prosperous coal dealer in Detroit, attributes his success largely to an offer made him when he was a boy that he would have a trip to Europe if he saved up a third of the cost. The offer was made by a friend who promised to lend a third provided George's father lent the other third, the loans to be repaid when George could afford to do so. Here was a real incentive for saving, and when the trip was made it proved of an educational value that has stood him in good stead all his life. Last year Mr. Buchanan made a trip to Alaska, and the idea occurred to him of making the same kind of offer to other boys that he had himself enjoyed in his own youth. But the trip should be to Alaska and not to Europe. As soon as he made the announcement, he was inundated with applications, and a large party of Detroit boys has already been booked to sail from Vancouver on the Canadian Pacific steamer "Princess Louise" on July 14th. Mr. Buchanan will personally conduct the tour which he is thus helping to finance. He says that such a trip would have been worth \$20,000 to him if he had taken it him-

self in his own boyhood because of its educational and broadening influences.

The Rev. Lynn Harold Hough, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, William Livingstone, president of the Dime Savings Bank, and Circuit Judge Joseph A. Moynihan have endorsed Buchanan's scheme as an unusual opportunity for boys to learn the value of thrift and industry. But the trip will have still other benefits, as Mr. Buchanan has said. These lads cannot cross the continent and take that wonderful trip up the island-sheltered waters of the Pa-

cific Coast without its having a tremendously stimulating effect upon their imagination, and upon their future modes of thought and life. From Vancouver up to Skagway and back is a nine-day trip that can never be forgotten. The yacht-like "Princess Louise" glides over a still sea among countless islands that rise forest-clad or mountainous on either side against a snow line of snow-capped mountain peaks. The Indian villages of Alaska with their totem poles are unique, and they too will have a special charm for these fifty fortunate boys.

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