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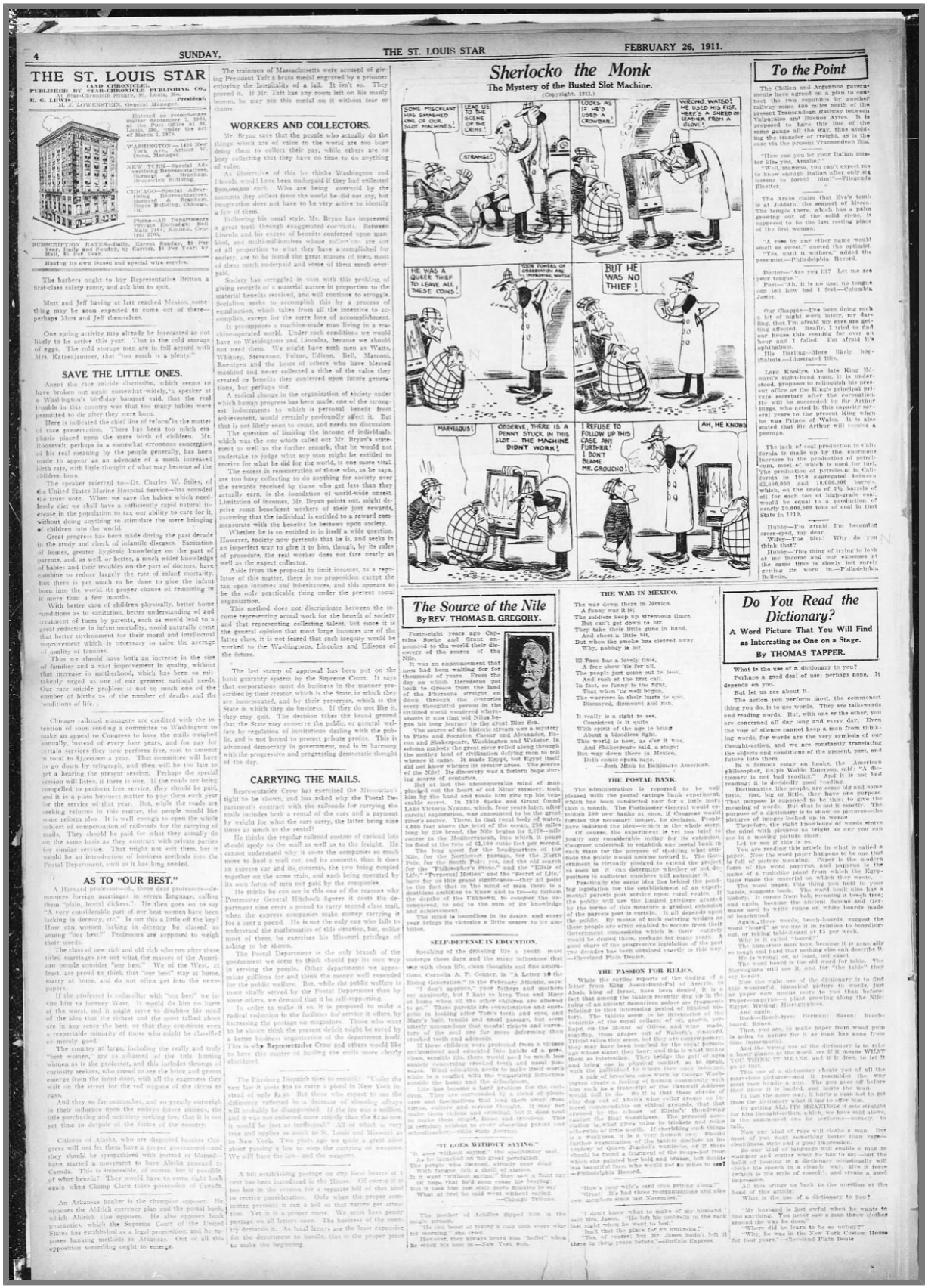

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Having its own leased and special wire service.

The barbers ought to buy Representative Britton a first-class safety razor, and ask him to quit.

Mutt and Jeff having at last reached Mexico, something may be soon expected to come out of there—perhaps Mutt and Jeff themselves.

One spring activity may already be forecasted as not likely to be active this year. That is the cold storage of eggs. The cold storage men are in full accord with Mrs. Ratzenhammer, that "too much is a plenty."

SAVE THE LITTLE ONES.

Anent the race suicide discussion, which seems to have broken out again somewhat widely, a speaker at a Washington's birthday banquet said, that the real trouble in this country was that too many babies were permitted to die after they were born.

Here is indicated the chief line of reform in the matter of race preservation. There has been too much emphasis placed upon the mere birth of children. Mr. Roosevelt, perhaps in a somewhat erroneous conception of his real meaning by the people generally, has been made to appear as an advocate of a much increased birth rate, with little thought of what may become of the children born.

The speaker referred to—Dr. Charles W. Stiles, of the United States Marine Hospital Service—has sounded the truer note. When we save the babies which needlessly die, we shall have a sufficiently rapid natural increase in the population to tax our ability to care for it, without doing anything to stimulate the mere bringing of children into the world.

Great progress has been made during the past decade in the study and check of infantile diseases. Sanitation of homes, greater hygienic knowledge on the part of parents, and, as well, or better, a much wider knowledge of babies and their troubles on the part of doctors, have combine to reduce largely the rate of infant mortality. But there is yet much to be done to give the infant born into the world its proper chance of remaining in it more than a few months.

With better care of children physically, better home conditions as to sanitation, better understanding of and treatment of them by parents, such as would lead to a great reduction in infant mortality, would naturally come that better environment for their moral and intellectual improvement which is necessary to raise the average of quality of families.

Thus we should have both an increase in the size of families and a vast improvement in quality, without that increase in motherhood, which has been so mistakenly urged as one of our greatest national needs. Our race suicide problem is not so much one of the number of births as of the number of deaths and the conditions of life.

Chicago railroad managers are credited with the intention of soon sending a committee to Washington to make an appeal to Congress to have the mails weighed annually, instead of every four years, and for pay for certain services they now perform free, said to amount to total to $5,000,000 a year. That committee will have to go down by telegraph, and then will be too late to get a hearing the present session. Perhaps the special session will listen; if there is one. If the roads are being compelled to perform free service, they should be paid, and it is a plain business matter to pay them each year for the service of that year. But, while the roads are seeking reforms in this matter, the people would like some reform also. It is well enough to open the whole subject of compensation of railroads for the carrying of mails. They should be paid for what they actually do on the same basis as they contract with private parties for similar service. That might not suit them, but it would be an introduction of business methods into the Postal Department, such as it has long needed.

AS TO "OUR BEST."

A Harvard professor—oh, those dear professors—denounces foreign marriages in severe language, calling them "plain, brutal dickers." He then goes on to say "A very considerable part of our best women have been lacking in decency, etc." Is not this a little off the key? How can women lacking in decency be classed as among "our best?" Professors are supposed to weigh their words.

If the class of new rich and old rich who run after these titled marriages are not what the masses of the American people consider "our best." We of the West, at least, are proud to think that "our best" stay at home, marry at home, and do not often get into the newspapers.

If the professor is unfamiliar with "our best" we invite him to journey West. It would do him no harm at the worst, and it might serve to disabuse his mind of the idea that the richest and the most talked about are in any sense the best, or that they constitute even a respectable minority of those who might be classified as merely good.

The country at large, including the really and truly "best women," are as ashamed of the title hunting women as is the professor, and this includes throngs of curiosity seekers, who crowd to see the bride and groom emerge from the front door, with all the eagerness they wait on the street for the red wagons of the circus to pass.

And they so far outnumber, and so greatly outweigh in their influence upon the rebounding future citizens, the title purchasing and notoriety seeking few, that it is not yet time to despair of the future of the country.

Citizens of Alaska, who are disgusted because Congress will not let them have a proper government—and they should be sympathized with instead of blamed—have started a movement to have Alaska annexed to Canada. This is impossible, of course, but it possibles of what benefit? They would have to come right back again when Champ Clark takes possession of Canada.

An Arkansas banker is the champion opposer. He opposes the Aldrich currency plan and the postal bank which Aldrich also opposes. He also opposes bank guarantees, which the Supreme Court of the United States has established as a legal proposition, and he opposes banking methods in Arkansas. Out of all this opposition something ought to emerge.

The trainmen of Massachusetts were accused of giving President Taft a brass medal engraved by a prisoner enjoying the hospitality of a jail. It isn't so. They proved it. If Mr. Taft has any room left on his manly bosom, he may pin this medal on it without fear or shame.

WORKERS AND COLLECTORS.

Mr. Bryan says that the people who actually do the things which are of value to the world are too busy doing them to collect their pay, while others are so busy collecting that they have no time to do anything of value.

As illustrative of this he thinks Washington and Lincoln would Live been underpaid if they had collected $100,000,000 each. What are being paid to-day to eminents they collect from the world he did not say, but imagination does not have to be very active to identify a few of them.

Following his usual style, Mr. Bryan has impressed a great truth through exaggerated contrasts. Between Lincoln and his excess of benefits conferred upon mankind, and multi-millionaires whose collections are out of all proportion to what they have accomplished for society, are to be found the great masses of men, most of them much underpaid and some of them much overpaid.

Society has struggled in vain with this problem of giving rewards of a material nature in proportion to the material benefits received, and will continue to struggle. Socialism seeks to accomplish this by a process of equalization, which takes from all the incentive to accomplish, except for the mere love of accomplishment.

It presupposes a machine-made man living in a machine-operated world. Under such conditions we would have no Washingtons and Lincolns, because we should not need them. We might have such men as Watts, Whitney, Stevenson, Fulton, Edison, Bell, Marconi, Roentgen and the hosts of others who have blessed mankind and never collected a tithe of the value they created or benefits they conferred upon future generations, but perhaps not.

A radical change in the organization of society under which human progress has been made, one of the strongest inducements to which is personal benefit from achievement, would certainly profoundly affect it. But that is not likely soon to come, and needs no discussion.

The question of limiting the income of individuals, which was the one which called out Mr. Bryan's statement as well as the further remark, that he would not undertake to judge what any man might be entitled to receive for what he did for the world, is one more vital.

The excess in remuneration of those who, as he says, are too busy collecting to do anything for society over the rewards received by those who get less than they actually earn, is the foundation of world-wide unrest. Limitation of incomes, Mr. Bryan points out, might deprive some beneficent workers of their just rewards, assuming that the individual is entitled to a reward commensurate with the benefits he bestows upon society.

Whether he is so entitled is in itself a wide question. However, society now pretends that he is, and seeks in an imperfect way to give it to him, though, by its rules of procedure, the real worker does not fare nearly as well as the expert collector.

Aside from the proposal to limit incomes, as a regulator of this matter, there is no proposition except the tax upon incomes and inheritances, and this appears to be the only practicable thing under the present social organization.

This method does not discriminate between the income representing actual work for the benefit of society and that representing collecting talent, but since it is the general opinion that most large incomes are of the latter class, it is not feared that such inequity would be worked to the Washingtons, Lincolns and Edisons of the future.

The last stamp of approval has been put on the bank guaranty system by the Supreme Court. It says that corporations must do business in the manner prescribed by their creator, which is the State, in which they are incorporated, and by their preserver, which is the State in which they do business. If they do not like it, they may quit. The decision takes the broad ground that the State may conserve the public, or general welfare by regulation of institutions dealing with the public, and is bound to protect private profits. This is advanced democracy in government, and is in harmony with the progressive and progressing democratic thought of the day.

CARRYING THE MAILS.

Representative Crow has exercised the Missourian's right to be shown, and has asked why the Postal Department's contract with the railroads for carrying the mails includes both a rental of the cars and a payment for carrying the mail in the cars carry, the latter being nine times as much as the rental?

He thinks the regular railroad custom of carload lots should apply to the mail as well as to freight. He cannot understand why it costs the companies so much more to haul a mail car, and its contents, than it does an express car and its contents, the two being coupled together on the same train, and each being operated by its own force of men not paid by the companies.

He thinks he can see in this one of the reasons why Postmaster General Hitchcock figures it costs the department nine cents a pound to carry second class mail, when the express companies make money carrying it for a cent a pound. He is not the only one who fails to understand the mathematics of this situation, but neither most of them, he exercises his Missouri privilege of asking to be shown.

The Postal Department is the only branch of the government we seem to think should pay its own way in carrying the people. Other departments we appropriate millions for and think the money well expended for the public welfare. But, while the public welfare is more vitally involved in the Postal Department than by some others, we demand that it be self-supporting.

In order to make it so, it is proposed to make a radical reduction to the fictitious rate for carrying the people, leaving the postage on magazines. Those who want to be shown think the present deficit might be saved by a better business organization of the department itself. This is why Representative Crow and others think that a thorough study of the matter of hauling the mails more closely is indicated.

The Pittsburg Dispatch tries to remind: "Under the best law in force in the country, that of New York, the stead of only $2.50. But those who expect to see the difference reflected in a decrease of shooting affrays will probably be disappointed. Of the fee was a million it would be spent in more strictly the same fashion as now. It would be just as ineffectual." All of which is very true and applies as much to St. Louis and Missouri as to New York. Two years ago we began to talk about passing a law to stop the carrying of weapons. We still have the talk—and the weapons.

A bill establishing postage on city local letters at 1 cent has been introduced in the House. Of course it is too late in the session for a separate bill of that kind to receive consideration. Only when the proper committee presents it can a bill of that nature get attention. It is to be hoped that it will. We must have penny postage on all letters soon. The business of the country demands it. As local letters are the least expensive for the department to handle, that is the proper place to make the beginning.

Sherlocko the Monk

The Mystery of the Busted Slot Machine.

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The Source of the Nile

By REV. THOMAS B. GREGORY.

Forty-eight years ago Captains Speke and Grant announced to the world their discovery of the source of the Nile.

It was an announcement that men had been waiting for for hundreds of years. From the day on which Herodotus got back to Greece from the land of the Pharaohs until on down through the centuries every thoughtful person in the civilized world wondered where about it was that old Nilus began his long journey to the great Blue Sea.

The source of the historic stream was a secretary to Plato and Socrates, Cicero and Alexander, Bacon and Shakespeare, Washington and Webster, in solemn majesty the great river rolled along through the mother land of civilization defying man to tell whence it came. It made Egypt, but Egypt itself did not know whence its creator arose. The source of the Nile! Its discovery was a forlorn hope during scores of centuries.

But at last the unconquerable mind of man plunged out the heart of old Nilus' mystery, took him by the hand and made him give up his vegetable secrets. In 1859 Speke and Grant found Lake Victoria Nyanza, which, four years later, after careful exploration, was announced to be the great river's source. Lake Victoria, that royal body of water, 4,000 feet above the level of the ocean, 220 miles long by 250 broad, the Nile begins its 3,73-mile course to the Mediterranean, into which it pours its flood at the rate of 41,500 cubic feet per second.

The long quest for the headquarters of the Nile, for the Northwest passage, for the North Pole, for the South Pole, yea, and the old search for the "Philosopher's Stone," and the "Elixir of Life," "Perpetual Motion" and the "Secret of Life" have for us this grand significance—they all point to the fact that in the mind of man there is a deathless ambition to Know and to Do—to fathom the depths of the Unknown, to conquer the unconquered, and to add to the sum of its knowledge and achievement.

The mind is boundless in its desire, and every year brings its victories a little nearer to its ambitions.

SELF-DEFENSE IN EDUCATION.

Speaking of the dwelling life a tenth most undergo these days and the consequent influences that war with clean life, clean thoughts and fine aspirations, Cornelia A. P. Comer, in "A Letter to the Rising Generation," in the February Atlantic, says:

"I don't approve," your fathers and mothers say anxiously, but I hate to keep Tom and Mary at home when all the other children are allowed to go." These parents are conscientious and energetic in bodily health. Tom's teeth and eyes, and Mary's hair, tonsils and nasal passage, but seem utterly unconscious that mental rickets and curvature of the soul are as deforming things as crooked teeth and adenoids.

If these children were protected from a vicious environment and educated into habits of a pure, clean, sensible life, there would need be much less anxiety over decaying crooked teeth and nasal postures. What education needs to make itself worthy is to confer with the unfavorable influences outside the home and the schoolroom.

Life has become a hard problem for the children. They are surrounded by a crowd of pleasures and fascinations that lead them away from the home and the schoolroom. It may not make them vicious and criminal, but it does lead it to a weakening of the moral and physical. The is certainly evident to every observing parent and schoolteacher.—Ohio State Journal.

"IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING."

"It goes without saying," the gentleman said. As he launched on his great perforation.
The people who listened, already near dead
With fatigue, felt a thrill of elation.
If he'd said "without saying," they saw a faint ray
Of hope that he'd soon cease his bragging;
But it took him just sixty more minutes to say
What at first he said went without saying.
—Chicago Tribune.

The mother of Achilles dipped him in the magic stream.
He can boast of taking a cold bath every winter morning," she cried.
However, they always heard him "holler" when the stork his best in.—New York Sun.

THE WAR IN MEXICO.

The war down there in Mexico,
A funny war it is;
The soldiers keep up strenuous times,
But can't get down to biz.
They take their little guns in hand,
And shoot a little bit,
But when the smoke has cleared away,
Why, nobody is hit.

El Paso has a lovely time,
A free show 'tis for all.
The people rush across to look,
And rush at the first call.
In fact, so fierce the fight,
That when 'tis well begun,
The warriors in their haste to quit,
Dismount, disband and run.

It really is a sight to see,
Consistent is it quite
With spirit of the age to hang
About a bloodless fight.
This world is new, as e'er it was,
And Shakespeare said, a step!
But way down there in Mexico,
Both cousins equip step.
—Josh Mink in Baltimore American.

THE POSTAL BANK.

The administration is reported to be well pleased with the postal savings bank experiment, which has been conducted over four a little more than a month. The Postmaster General would establish $60 new banks at once, if Congress would furnish the necessary money, he declares. People have indorsed the idea—which is the whole story.

Of course, the experiment is not too short to justify any considerable outlay for its extension. Congress, undertook to establish the postal bank in each state for the purpose of studying what attitude the public would assume toward it. The Government is virtually pledged to extend the project as soon as it can determine whether or not depositors in sufficient numbers will patronize it.

Practically the same idea lies behind the pending legislation for the establishment of an experimental parcels post service upon rural routes. If the public will use the limited privileges granted by the terms of this measure a gradual extension of the parcels post is certain. It all depends upon the public. By means of such catering wedges as these people are then enabled to secure from their Government concessions which in their entirety would be denied them, perhaps for many years. A good share of the progressive legislation of the past two decades has been obtained exactly in this way.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

THE PASSION FOR RELICS.

While the earlier reports of the finding of a letter from King Assur-Bani-Pal of Assyria, to Ahab, king of Israel, have been denied, it is a fact that among the tablets recently dug up in the ruins of an ancient Samaritan palace are fragments of a letter of the most interesting period of Biblical history. The tablets seem to be the invention of the Assyrian scribes of the royal cellars; of oil, grown, perhaps, on the Mount of Olives and wine made, perhaps, from grapes cultivated in Jehovah's vineyard. Trivial relics they seem, but they are contemporary; they may have been touched by the royal hands of the one who signed their letters; and this is what makes them so interesting. They bridge the gulf of ages and bring one in physical contact, so to speak, with the individual to whom they once belonged.

A pair of brown shoes worn by George Washington create a feeling of human community with him such as a thousand pages of the Farewell Address fail to do. So it is that these shreds of royal cloth of Ahab's wine cellar arouse an interest which is based on ethical grounds, that that interest in the "scribes" of Elisha's thundering against the Baal worshipers. The personal association is what gives value to trinkets and relics otherwise of little worth. If cherishing such things is a weakness, it is a very human one. Should further examination of the tablets disclose an inscription of Gehazi, Jezebel's workhorse, or if there should be found a fragment of the bourgeois face which she painted to conceal the ravages of time, how beautiful face, who would not go miles to see?—Philadelphia Record.

"How's your wife's card club getting along?" "Great! It's had three resignations and nine new members since last November."

"I don't know what to make of my husband," said Mrs. Jason. "He left his umbrella in the rack last night when he went to bed."
"Isn't that the place for an umbrella?"
"Yes, of course; but Mr. Jason hadn't left it there in three years before."—Buffalo Express.

To the Point

The Chilian and Argentine governments have agreed on a plan to construct the two republics by another railway some 400 miles north of the present Transandean Railway between Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres. It is proposed to have this line of the same gauge all the way, thus avoiding the transfer of freight, as is the case on the present Transandean line.

"How can you let your Italian master kiss you, Amalie?"
"Well, mamma, you can't expect me to know enough Italian after only six lessons to forbid him!"—Fliegende Blaetter.

The Arabs claim that Eve's tomb is at Jiddath, the seaport of Mecca. The temple there, which has a palm growing out of the solid stone, is supposed to be the last resting place of the first woman.

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet," quoted the optimist.
"Yes, until it withers," added the pessimist.—Philadelphia Record.

Doctor—"Are you ill? Let me see your tongue."
Poet—"Ah, it is no use; no tongue can tell how bad I feel.—Columbia Jester.

Our Chappie—I've been doing such a lot of night work lately, my darling, that I'm afraid my eyes are getting affected. Really, I tried to find our house this evening for over an hour and I failed. I'm afraid it's ophthalmia.
His Darling—More likely hopthalmia.—Illustrated Bits.

Lord Knollys, the late King Edward's right-hand man, it is understood, proposes to relinquish his present office as the King's principal private secretary after the coronation. He will be succeeded by Sir Arthur Bigge, who acted in this capacity several years to the present King when he was Prince of Wales. It is also stated that Sir Arthur will receive a peerage.

The lack of coal production in California is made up for by the enormous increase in the production of petroleum, most of which is used for fuel. The production of petroleum in California in 1910 aggregated between 62,000,000 and 70,000,000 barrels, which, on the basis of 2½ barrels of oil for each ton of high-grade coal, would be equal to a production of nearly 20,000,000 tons of coal in that State in 1910.

Hubby—I'm afraid I'm becoming cross-eyed, my dear.
Wifey—The idea! Why do you think that?
Hubby—This thing of trying to look at my income and our expenses at the same time is slowly but surely getting its work in.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Do You Read the Dictionary?

A Word Picture That You Will Find as Interesting as One on a Stage.

By THOMAS TAPPER.

What is the use of a dictionary to you?
Perhaps a good deal of use; perhaps some. It depends on you.
But let us see about it.
The action you perform most, the commonest thing you do, is to use words. They are talk-words and reading words. But, with one or the other, you are concerned all day long and every day. Even the vow of silence cannot keep a man from thinking words, for words are the very symbols of our thought-action, and we are constantly translating the objects and conditions of the present, past, and future into them.
In a famous essay on books, the American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, said: "A dictionary is not bad reading." And it is not bad reading; it is decidedly good reading.
Dictionaries, like people, are some big and some little. But, big or little, they have one purpose. That purpose is supposed to be this; to give the meaning of words. But that is not it exactly. The purpose of a dictionary is to show us the pictures of images locked up in words.
Therefore, the right knowledge of words stores the mind with pictures as bright as any you can see in a moving picture show.
Let us see if this is so.
You are reading this article in what is called a paper. Now the word paper means to me that it is full of picture meaning. Paper is the modern form of the word papyrus, and papyrus is the name of a rush-like plant from which the Egyptians made the material on which they wrote.
The word paper, this thing you hold in your hands, suggests book. The word book also has a history. It comes from beh, meaning a beech tree; and bgeh, because the ancient Saxons and Germans used to write runes on white boards made of beechwood.
Again, these words, beech-boards, suggest the word "board" as we use it in relation to boarding-out, or taking table-board at $5 per week.
Why is it called "board"?
The humorous man says, because it is generally so tough and hard that nothing else can describe it.
He is wrong, or, at least, not exact.
The word board is the old word for table. The Norwegians still use it, and for "the table" they say bordet.
Now the right use of the dictionary is to find this wonderful, historical picture in words. Just as paper now means more to you than before, so—perhaps—plant growing along the Nile; Egypt; Writing; Hieroglyphics.
Book—Beech-tree; German; Saxon; Beech-board; Hieroglyphics.
Thus, you see, to make paper from wood pulp is going to matter for it is man has gone from time immemorial.
And the wrong use of the dictionary is to take a board glance at the word, see if it means WHAT YOU THINK IT MEANS, and if it does, to let it go at that.
This use of a dictionary cheats you of all the marvelous pictures—and it resembles the way most men handle a gun. The gun goes off before they know it is loaded, and shoots the wrong man.
To just the same way, it hurts a man not to get from the dictionary what it has to offer him.
By getting ALL THE MEANINGS it sets straight for him thought-action, which, we have said above, is the sentences one has to speak, write, read, or talk.
Now any kind of race will clothe a man. But most of you want something better than rags—cleanliness, style and a good impression.
So any kind of language will enable a man to stammer and stutter when he has to say—but the habit of looking in a dictionary occasionally will clothe his speech in a cleanly way, give it force (which is the style of speech), and create a good impression.
All this brings us back to the question at the head of this article:
What is the use of a dictionary to you?

"My husband is just awful when he wants to find anything. You never saw a man throw clothes around the way he does."
"Where did he learn to be so untidy?"
"Why, he was in the New York Custom House for four years."—Cleveland Plain Dealer

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