AN EASTER "ENGAGEMENT"

IN that city, and in those days, things may be different now—they did things in a free-and-easy, haphazard fashion. For instance, there were no telephone pay stations, and not many private houses were furnished with telephones of their own; you went to your favorite corner drug store, smiled at the clerk and nodded to the telephone with which every drug store was equipped, then the clerk would say, "Help yourself," and you helped yourself, gratis, to the use of the telephone. Not only that, but, if you lived near a really obliging drug store, the clerk would receive messages for you and send them by a chance messenger to your house.

In that way it happened that a good deal of neighborly conversation, and above what went on around the store, was held in the drug store. And sometimes one overheard what was not at all interesting to hear, and sometimes what was.

Julius Cauby overheard, one day that interested him, a conversation one day while he was waiting at the counter for the clerk to disengage and open a new case of cigars. Julius did not know the lady by name, though her face was familiar enough. So went to the telephone and asked for a certain number which, for the sake, it may be said, is entirely fictitious. After that he overheard the lady say: "Is that you, Maud?"

Julius often rang up that number himself and talked to one Maud.

What he finally got unfortunately was: "I want you to tell me about Easton. Yes? Yes? Now, you're quite sure? It is an engagement, then? So glad goodby."

And when the drug clerk had got out those new cigars and Julius had sampled one, he did not like the flavor nearly as well as he expected to. He bought a few of the cigars, so as not to disappoint his friend, the clerk, and then, as he walked home, he meditated bitterly on two things—the sinfulness of his thought and the foolishness of women.

"I know it all along," he said to himself. "I was a blinded fool to let myself be taken in by a transparent flirt like that. Didn't Billy Herbert give me a plain hint? And didn't Mrs. Capston tell me—or as good as tell me—she had seen Miss Andrews going through all that tomic thing, back force? Never mind. A fool must learn by experience. It's Easton's turn to learn now. Wonder how long it will be before he gets his lesson?"

The Easton mentioned in this soliloquy was a strapping youth just from college. Most people in the village disliked him. Maud Andrews among them, but Julius did not, chiefly because Maud did too much, Julius thought.

It was dusk as Julius strolled home from the drug store meditating bitterly. A large cog not fitted on the shaft, well stopped as it appeared to be noticed, but Julius passed on until a few paces further, he was stopped by the salutation, "Hi, Cauby, what are you dreaming about?"

It was the voice of the dog's owner—Easton.

"Hello!" said Julius. "Oh, I wasn't dreaming at all. Ha, ha! Congratulate you, Easton."

"Oh, so you've heard of? Well, I thought I'd pull it off, you know."

"Well, I must be getting home," said Julius, anxious to end the interview.

A few days later he met Maud Andrews, who asked him why she had seen nothing of him since the week before.

"Oh, nothing," he said. "I only thought—"

"What?" said Maud.

"Thought you might not be particularly anxious to see me just now."

"That was a funny thought for you to have," she remarked. "What made you think it?"

"Oh, don't you know? he said.

"No, I don't."

"Then I don't think there is any particular reason why I should enlighten you."

They parted, and Maud bit her lip, calling Julius Cauby in her heart "a horrid wretch," and vowing she didn't care if she never saw him again.

Julius did some more soliloquizing, and it went something like this: "Of all the outrageous little flirts, this girl is easily the most outrageous. She actually thinks she's going to draw me back with her little thread and her little fish. And after I've had it in mind straight from Easton himself who thought he'd pick up a few points. I wish he'd keep her. Hell have a lovely wife if she ever marries. If it gets no further than that, ha, ha!"

He was chewing the cud sourly with, for him, unusual bitterness when Julius remembered that he had to go home and get dressed for dinner. It was the necessary chatter that he anticipated for her. He was bringing some nurses for Julius, who, in a short while, fated as a good bachelor, and in the music store he met his acquaintance who was a lady. Well, the lady referred to was one whom Julius pronounced as the person who had carried out that memorable coup sensation.

The lady organist introduced him to her as Mrs. Walker.

"I have heard much of you, Mr Cauby," said Mrs. Walker.

Julius wondered why there should be anything in this thought to make Mrs. Walker smile and gaze at him so archly. Of course, she might have heard his organist spoke of him, considering that he was her best and most reliable barytone. She might also have heard of him from Maud Andrews.

"Shall you be in the choir on Easter day?" said Mrs. Walker.

"I believe so," said Julius smiling at his lady organist.

"We couldn't get on without him," that artist-like smiled. "Are you only just having your score for that offertory, Mr. Cauby?"

"If that is so," said Mrs. Walker, "I hope Mr Cauby is a quick learner. He hasn't much time left to learn his part, and I have quite a number of friends who are going to church with me on Easter day."

"But not to hear me sing, I hope," said Cauby.

"For some of them I believe that will be the chief consideration," said Mrs. Walker. And once more she smiled archly.

Julius thought he knew why Mrs. Walker smiled archly. She was a friend of Maud Andrews and Maud was going to church with her on Easter day. For that very reason he wished he could get out of singing in the choir for that day. He had half a mind to be taken with a severe bronchial trouble.

But on the very morning Easter morning while he was finishing a particularly early breakfast in order not to sing too soon after a meal, a blundering Easton and his big German

"Julius, you sing awfully well, but you are awfully stupid."

And Easton gave a loud guffaw.

Obstacles Can Be Overcome

It's a mark of weakness to yield to obstacles. Of course, they are hard to bear. But remember, it's the hard things that fit us to do the big things. The great men of the world are for the most part men of low estate. Goaded by poverty they have learned to make the most of opportunities. When such men get a chance there is nothing that can hold them back. Adversity is the fire in which they write names that endure when babies more lightly in scribed perish. It's a law of nature that struggle makes men strong. The lessons are seen everywhere. The oak grows strong as it resists the storm on the wind-swept hill. Men who brave the wilderness become tough in muscle and fearless in mind. The struggle for life makes them "fit."

Ignorant people are born critics.

About Granulated Sugar.

The bureau of plant industry says that granulated sugar as we now know it commercially first began to replace brown sugar about forty years ago.

Before that time it was used only to a small extent.

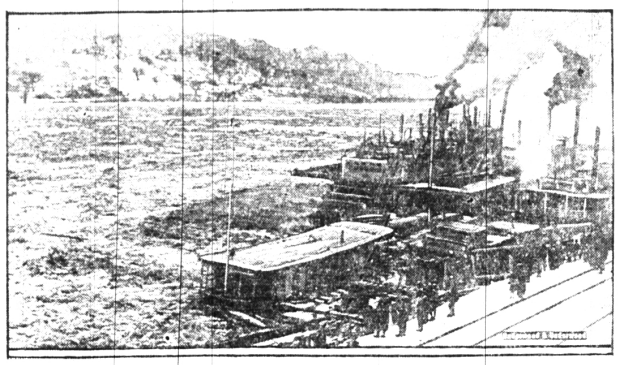
Cannot Deport U. S. Citizens.

The naturalization bureau says that a citizen of the United States cannot be deported. Only those communists who are not citizens of the country are subject to deportation for their activities against the government.

WHITE PEARLS MOST VALUABLE.

Pearls that come from the coast of Australia are of many shapes and colors. Those under ten grains are sold by the ounce; above that by the grain. Color has a deal to do with the value. The white pearls go mostly to Europe and the yellow ones to India. In Australia an ounce of good white pearls will fetch up to $500 but sometimes realize only a fifth of that amount. The yellow pearls may be rated on an average of about half the value of the white ones.

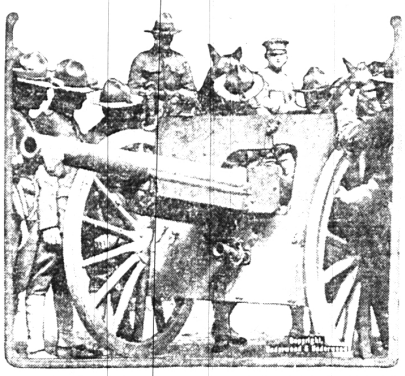
FIGHTING ICE ON THE MISSISSIPPI



A view showing the gunboat Kenosha breaking the ice in the Mississippi river to keep the channel open.

PANAMA HONORS UNITED STATES NAVY

FRENCH "75" AS WAR RELIC

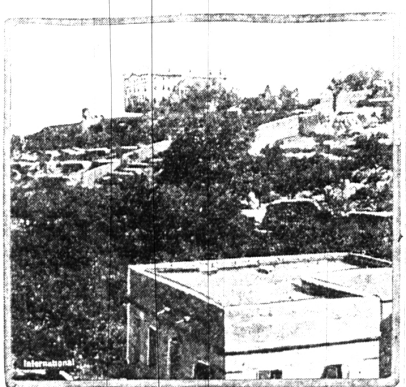


Members of battery L of the Second field artillery loading over the French 75, which was used in the first great offensive of members of the Second field artillery when they served with the Tenth Seventh division in France. The gun has been shattered as a result of its long service in the Second field artillery. Its distant keeps on saying the battle ground. The gun was nicknamed "Buster" by the crew and it was effective in helping to break the Hindenburg defenses.

HE HAS NO WORRIES

Little Philip Tumulty, the youngest of the six children of Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to President Wilson, is absolutely quite unconcerned by any anxiety connected with a presidential campaign.

SCENE OF MASSACRE OF MANY ARMENIANS



View of Marash, Cilicia, where the Turks, after fighting the French garrison, massacred thousands of Armenians. More than half the town was burned. On the hilltop is seen the Near East Relief mission compound, where American relief workers were besieged for three weeks.

TAKEN FROM EXCHANGES

Wolfskin makes the best parchment for banjos.

Sweden has smelted iron for more than 20 centuries and some of the ancient furnaces still are in existence.

The discovery of oil in Oklahoma has given Sarah Rector of Muskogee, eighteen years old, $1,500,000, making her the richest colored girl in the United States.

No gold has been coined in England since October, 1917.

The world's railways are estimated at 700,000 miles.

An automobile that travels on three sets of movable runners instead of wheels has been invented in Europe.

An Englishman is the inventor of a magnifying glass to be fastened to a pencil or engraving tool, to help the draftsman or engraver.

Red Tape in England.

A certain town hall in the north of England had been burned, not a military hospital. The matron hired some chimney sweeps and the local sweep offered to do the job for fifteen shillings; but the war office, on receiving notice of the proposed sweep, wrote severely to the effect that only a soldier could be employed to climb inside the chimney and sweep them. The local sweep offered to demonstrate his sweep for fifteen shillings. An urgent wire was dispatched to the war office for permission to "send off" the sweep and the reply came back: "You are authorized to employ sweep at all costs."

May Make Soap From Clay.

Extensive experiments have been made by England to ascertain whether clays can be used in the manufacture of soap. Results so far obtained are claimed to be satisfactory. It would effect a great reduction in the cost of manufacture.

How Fish Eat.

When a codfish eats it takes a step in its mouth, cracks the shell digests the meat, and ejects the shell. Crabs crack the shells of their smaller neighbors and suck out their meat. This accounts for the mounds of shells which are found beneath the waves. And, as further illustrating the constant destruction going on in the oceans' depth, it is said that if a ship sinks at sea it will be eaten by the fish with the exception of its metal portions.

LIVE STOCK

CLUB MEMBERS RAISE SWINE

Indiana Breeders Sell Gilts to Boys and Girls in Order to Get Them Started Right.

Members of a Boys' Club Receiving Information on Good Points of a Brood Sow.

AVOID HOG CHOLERA GERMS

Houses and Lots Should Be Arranged So That They May Be Cleaned and Disinfected Easily.

Experts in the United States Department of Agriculture have made the following suggestions made by the United States department of agriculture to eliminate the danger of the prevailing hog cholera germs are the following.

Hog houses, lots, and pastures should be located away from streams and public highways, and the houses and lots should be arranged so that they may be cleaned and disinfected readily. They should be exposed as far as possible to sunlight, which is the cheapest and one of the best disinfectants. Hog lots should not be used for hauling wagons and farm implements and should not be entered with horses and mules, particularly when loading stock for shipment to market. As further precaution no one should be allowed to enter hog lots unless there is assurance that he does not carry infection. Farmers and their help should disinfect their shoes before entering hog lots after returning from public yards, sales, and neighboring farms.

BEEF CALVES ARE FAVORED

Profit Assured to Farmer With Small Permanent Pasture and Plenty of Feed.

The farmer who has a small permanent pasture and plenty of feed is glad that the raising of a few calves of the best type for the dual purpose type profitable. Much will of course, depend upon the calves and the methods of raising the extra feed. Those are now making fair profit on beef cattle. Some of these are small farmers.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Excess in pigs; pigs is more pigs; more pigs is more money.

• • •

Have the sows in good gaining condition, but not fat, at breeding time.

• • •

The sheep industry is receiving more attention than ever and is one that pays large dividends.

• • •

If pigs pile up it is a pretty good sign that they are not quite comfortable. Make the quarters warmer.

• • •

Sheep breeders should pay special attention to conditioning their ewes before the breeding season opens.

• • •

Breed a cow under ordinary circumstances from ten to fourteen weeks after she drops her calf. This will cause her to replenish regularly once a year.

• • •

When the young pigs scour, reduce the sow's feed. If they are running on grass, shut them up for a few days. Keep the beds and pens clean and dry, and let in plenty of sunshine.

THIS IS HARD TO BELIEVE

Swede Really Claims to Have Invented a Faucet That Cannot Leak.

Hardly imagine an item would stir the immediate interest of more persons, kinds who after years from a faucet to the other than that which Hagalund. Hagalund is known city of Stockholm, Sweden; and in Hagalund has now been established a plant in which will be produced a new and wonderful faucet, invented by Gustave Wedholm and covered by patents in 17 countries. For Mr. Wedholm has invented a faucet which, it is said, cannot leak! Trade papers are congratulating him, and predicting a great future for the new factory, which is already being enlarged. One foresees more and more additions—for who has not longed for a faucet that could not leak?—Christian Science Monitor.