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ADVENTURE AND COLOR FILL NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

The colorful and crowded world of the holiday season has found their way into the Baldwin Public Library, where new books in such number and variety as to keep Birmingham readers engrossed for days may be found.

"The Turning Wheel," by Stuart Cloete, is a novel of violence and passion; of Kaffir raids, hunting and Bible searching; of irrepressible love: the story of the great trek of 1836 to the Transvaal, undertaken by a band of fiery and lusty Boer farmers, increased by the act of the English in the Cape Colony. And Cloete knows whereof he speaks, for he is a Boer-descended Afrikaner.

"Men, Women and Tenors," by Frances Alda, is also on the shelves. During the 32 years that Mme. Alda was a Metropolitan star, she apparently met everybody and knew, if not everything, at least a good part of what went on. Her book is clever, amusing and gay, reflecting the brilliant cosmopolitan life she has known.

"Tombs, Travel and Trouble," by Lawrence Griswold, is as interesting as the title. He has found lost jungle cities, and brought back the only live specimens of Komodo dragons, in his work as an archaeologist. Despite fever and thirst, cannibals and headhunters, he has found food for five days without food or water, living for 62 days as a captive of Indians so that they had never seen a white man on a human face. He is still alive. He has seen the ritualistic dances, or shrinking of human heads. He has learned the secrets of bush magic which can be more effective than modern science at times. And he covers 14 years of this sort of life in his new book.

"Christopher Morley's 'The Trojan Horse' is his latest novel in five years, and completely different from the rest of his work. He has attempted here the dangerous theme of the legend of Troilus and Cressida which includes every phase of human passion: joy, tragedy, comedy and mystery. And is one of the world's most famous love stories.

"America's 60 Families," by Ferdinand Lundberg, is the first study of the country's ruling families. It isn't his history of how they acquired their wealth, but of how they are employing and retaining these fortunes. This amazing book isolates and defines, as does none other, the real problem which confronts America today. About it, the great political battles of this and the next decade will be waged.

Matthew Josephson's "Zola and His Time," is the history of a martial career in letters. It tells of Zola's circle of friends, his remarkable foes, his cyclopean labors, his public trials and campaigns, coming to a triumphant finish with his ultimate glorification.

"Oriental Odyssey," is by Bob Davis, who makes other travelers seem deaf and blind. He has jaunted through Japan, China and Hawaii on his latest leg of his journey. In these chapters he deals with everything, from the champagne carried pigeon of Japan to the love potions of Kauai, from rules for the judging of jade to a heart-thumping account of one night in ten Chinese bar-rooms.

"An American Hunter," by Archibald Rutledge, is a book filled with the beauty of fields and woods. It is colored throughout the love of a good hunter for his dog, and his keen respect for his game. Rutledge is a sportsman in the finest sense, with a rare gift of expression which is enjoyed wherever men know a good hunting yarn.

Slow Work
 The mistress of the house went into the kitchen to learn why dinner was so late and found her newly-acquired Irish cook wrestling with the pepper-pot.

"When are we going to have dinner, Bridget?" she asked.

"Shure, ma'am, an it's meself an't say, I don't know how long it'll be takin' me to get all the pepper in the thing through the hole holes in the top!"—Montreux Star.

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Michigan Mirror
 NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING, Dec. 9.—Price-fixing trends of state legislation, glorified by sponsors by the banner of "fair trade," are now due for a showdown.

For the protection of independent merchants against price-cutting competition, the legislature enacted a bill this year that permits the fixing of a minimum price for trademarked commodities. The Michigan law is similar to those in a score more other states. The United States Supreme court has upheld the power of a state to establish minimum prices of trademarked products.

In Detroit a thriving cut-rate store has been selling a trademarked toothbrush for 32 cents and toothpaste for 9 cents. Manufacturers have filed suit in the Wayne county circuit court for an injunction against sale of the toothbrush below 47 cents and the toothpaste below 19 cents, the minimum price set by the manufacturer for the consumer to pay.

Chain stores, however, can offer a wide variety of goods. Trademarked commodities must still compete in price with chain commodities which are not affected by the new state law.

Barbers Try It, Too
 Barber unions in Michigan prevailed upon the legislature to establish a state board of barber examiners and to pass new rules in the interest of "fair trade." In Lansing the state board fixed a minimum pay for journeymen barbers of 42 cents per haircut and 23 cents per shave.

The Master Barbers of Michigan APL union, promptly boosted the consumer haircut price to 65 cents and shaves to 35 cents. Frank X. Morley, president of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, defended the price hike, declaring that some barbers received only \$16 to \$20 a week.

When the windows of several barber shops were smashed after protesters had declined to raise prices, the attorney general's office in Lansing applied a legal injunction to the union, contending that the state law prohibited price-fixing and that the wage to be paid went to each individual employer.

It was a rather close shave for the public.

Sales Tax Trouble
 As the business recession threatens to cut \$1,750,000 from anticipated state revenue, throwing the budget more out of balance, Governor Murphy let it be known that the state's tax administration is lax in enforcing sales tax collections from retailers.

The governor implied he is convinced many merchants are withholding payment of part of the sales tax collected from consumers. In fact, the coming special session of the state legislature will be asked by the executive office to evolve a new system to plug all tax leaks.

The tax airing came as a result of a disclosure that a motor car sales company had effected a settlement to pay a \$16,000 sales tax debt for \$4,000 under the plan that payment of the total amount would mean bankruptcy.

In its efforts to balance the budget while trade is declining, the state administration still continues to be tax conscious for many months to come. You are going to hear more about taxes when the legislature meets in January or February.

Strikes are Costly
 When Governor Murphy issued his Thanksgiving Week statement, cautioning labor not to strike at a time when "business and employment are not in good condition," we were in mind the fact that last spring's sit-down warfare was costly to the state treasury in

MOTHERS HOSTS AT DINNER FOR FOOTBALL TEAM

The annual football banquet given by the mothers for the members of the football team and the fathers and guests was held in the Baldwin cafeteria Wednesday at 6:30 p. m. with Captain Phil Carey acting as toastmaster.

A turkey dinner was served, after which the captain called upon the following guests who spoke briefly of the season and prospects for next year: Principal Ray H. Bechtold, Superintendent of Schools Howard D. Crull, Coach George Warster, Assistant Coach Franklin Whitney, and Dick Beas. The principal address of the evening was made by George R. Averill publisher of the Birmingham Eccentric.

The boys introduced their fathers and mothers, after which Duke Potere led in cheers for the mothers and the team.

Besides the boys and their fathers the following guests were invited: Mr. Bechtold, Mr. Crull, Arnold Berndt, director of the band; Coach Warster; Assistant Coach Whitney; Paul Ryan, head cheer leader; Dick Beas, mascot; Miles W. Robinson, and Ernest Engel.

Mrs. George Forester of 560 Brown street was general chairman of the banquet. Mrs. L. C. Colgrove, 452 Puritan road, was in charge of the dining room committee.

Poland To Be Theme Of Illustrated Talk

Polish dances by natives in picturesque costumes, native wedding ceremonies, military reviews, in fact every phase of life in modern Poland, will be revealed in motion pictures and the accompanying commentary when Julien Bryan, ace photographer for "March of Time" speaks at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Woodward at Kirby, next Sunday afternoon, at 3:30.

Returned recently, from a summer spent in Poland and Russia, Mr. Bryan brings a report of the conditions and changing trends that mark the life of these two countries. In Poland he visited the peasant on the farm, the worker in the factory, the business man, military leaders and government executives.

On Friday evening, Dec. 17, in Cass Tech High School, Mr. Bryan will report on Russia, showing thousands of feet of new motion pictures of Russia and telling of conditions as he saw them during the past summer. Is the Soviet breaking down? Will Russia fight Japan? These are two of the many important questions Mr. Bryan will discuss during his motion picture lecture.

Liquor Confusion
 Governor Murphy not only appoints state commissions but injects his personal leadership into their decisions.

When he elected a New York physician as director of state hospitals, a Lansing member of the state hospital commission resigned in public protest against a rubber stamp.

The state liquor commission experienced the same fate.

Early in 1937 the commission passed a rule that would have increased the three-fifths of all the private vendors of package liquor to the state. Governor Murphy reversed the ruling.

Changes of liquor control commission policies have caused confusion and uncertainty, so declared Lieut.-Gov. Leo J. Nowicki recently in Lansing.

"One of the troubles may be that we have two commissions," Nowicki was quoted as saying. "We have the duly appointed legal one, and we have the governor's office. Several times the commission wanted to do one thing but Gov. Murphy asked that it do another. The commission's whole history since its creation early in the year has been one of reversals."

It is generally known that Nowicki has a mind of his own on state matters. He was unsympathetic with handling of sit-down strikes last spring. He opposed the governor's veto of the governor's own labor relations board bill.

Now, apparently, Nowicki does not look with favor upon the governor's inclination to do the thinking of state commissions on matters of major public policy.

Lafayette's old pal, Uncle Sam, stoutly resists any temptation to march down the gangplank at Shanghai, crying "Alle samme, we are here!"

Gob Humer
 From the U. S. S. Reins Mercedes Gallon: During dinner one day a father spoke to his son: "Sonny," he said, "I want to talk to you after dinner, I want to discuss with you the facts of life." So after dinner when they went into the other room, the son quietly closed the door behind him and said, "Well, Dad, what is it you would like to know?"



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