

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

- Strangling With Taxes
Go See Alaska
A 74-Year-Old Heart
Iceland's Old Volcano

The Supreme court decides that government has the power to tax a thing out of existence. This decision came with approval of a 15-cent-a-pound tax on oleomargarine. The purpose of that tax is to make it impossible to manufacture oleomargarine profitably, and thus compel people to eat butter, whether they can afford it or not.

Doubleless that is wise, in fact, it must be wise, since the Supreme court says so. But some day, when we have, as we shall have, one thousand million people in the United States, and lack room for so many cows, it may be desirable to have a good substitute for butter, and we may regret today's hostile taxation.

See Alaska, and at the same time see the whole United States. Go through the Panama canal on a big boat and see what men can do when they use a nation's power. Or travel by rail, studying the cities of the country, or take your car, which goes everywhere and stops where you choose, or fly, and see the world from above.

See Alaska, a magnificent empire far away in the northwest. See what Seward bought for the United States for \$7,200,000. A purchase that was called "Seward's folly." They took small change like \$7,200,000 seriously in those days. But it was profitable "folly." Alaska has yielded \$419,791,000 in gold, more than fifty times Alaska's cost alone. The "Juneau Empire," which ought to know, estimates that Alaska has been worth to the United States \$2,500,000,000, after subtracting the cost price. The self-supporting reindeer alone will more than pay for Alaska.

In his poem beginning "Dear friend, thou art lost," Helne reminds his friend that fuersten haben lange arme ("princes have long arms").

Samuel Insull of Chicago learns that Uncle Sam has long arms also, and can reach out far to get what he wants.

Mr. Insull thought himself safe on his chartered Greek tramp steamer, riding at anchor under the walls of Istanbul, on the little strip of water that separates Europe from Asia. But Uncle Sam reached out his long arm, and Mr. Insull is arrested by the Turkish government, and unless the Chicago utilities magnate is able to perform some new wonder, his arrest probably means the last active chapter in his career.

Mr. Insull is seventy-four years old, a man of intense pride, nourished and increased by success, through years of unquestioned domination. It will be hard for a heart seventy-four years old to stand the strain that will be put upon him.

Nothing is safe, nothing sure. In Iceland, 150 miles east of Reykjavik, there stood a calm mountain known to have been a bad volcano in its younger years, called Skeldararjokull Cirka, a thick cap of ice covering the summit, every sign of reformed old age.

Inhabitants of Nupsstad village, close by the peak, in Skaptafellsbyala, felt certain that Skeldararjokull Cirka's wild oats had all been sown. They had not.

The old volcano has blown the ice cap into cracked ice, and with lightning flashes and roarings is in violent eruption.

Some ice-capped old men have acted as foolishly, and as unexpectedly.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., gives \$2,000,000 for a research laboratory that will be open to the scholars of the world. If anyone says, "He ought to spend his money in America," remind him that Rockefeller-Standard Oil money has been made all over the globe, not only here in America. You will find Rockefeller oil cans used as household utensils in the farthest corners of China.

Bremerton, state of Washington, reports six bodies, two women, four men, found bound, gagged, beaten, shot to death in a house ransacked by thieves. The crime wave hangs on, with prohibition, its foster-mother, gone.

Two hundred thousand gathered in Rome to cheer Pope Plus at the end of a solemn ceremony establishing and confirming miracles performed by Don Giovanni Bosco, enrolling his name in the calendar of saints.

A humble priest of Turin, in comparatively modern times, Father Bosco took the side of the miserable and poor so violently that he narrowly escaped being confined in an insane asylum as a lunatic.

The old struggle between "the shell that pierces steel armor and the armor to stop any shell" is decided for the moment in favor of the shell. Sheffield, England, announces a shell that will pierce a plate of the toughest armor of the thickness of that shell's gun caliber and go on nine miles farther. Such shells, weighing nearly a ton, are expensive, but in war money ceases to be important.

SUCH IS LIFE—Upholding the Family Honor!

By Charles Sughrue



Mother of Eight Leads Stork Derby

Likely Winner of Odd Race Says She Isn't Trying.

Toronto.—Ontario's celebrated ten-year "stork derby," purse of \$500,000, looks like a walkaway for a contender who declares that she isn't even trying—Mrs. Grace Bagnato, who has given birth to eight children since October of 1926.

The stakes in the "stork derby" were provided by Charles Vance Miller, K. C., prominent Toronto barrister, who died in October, 1928, and who bequeathed the bulk of his fortune to the Toronto woman who gives birth to the largest number of children in the ten years following his death.

With more than seven of the ten years now having passed and with the contenders rounding into the home stretch, Mrs. Grace Bagnato appears to have the inside rail position, always barring the possibility of triplets putting some "dark horse" into the lead.

Plans to Have More.

Runner-up to Mrs. Bagnato in the contest is Mrs. Florence Brown, who has had seven children since the race started, but who is today said to be falling behind.

Mrs. Bagnato, now only in her early forties, has given birth to 22 children, all told, and declares that, irrespective of the Miller trophy altogether, she expects to have two or three more before October of 1936. In fact, she insists that the \$500,000 isn't even an inducement at all; although admitting that it, or even a slice of it, would come in very handy indeed.

"But we aren't thinking about the award, at all," insists the Italian

matron, younger in appearance than her years. "We're just raising the family that we consider is our duty—and finding it mighty difficult sometimes. If we win the \$500,000, it will be fine, wonderful; but if we don't it won't be any disappointment to us, for we aren't counting on it."

Several attempts have been made, in the past, to cancel the "stork derby," on the ground that Miller never seriously intended his estate to be so utilized. Several of his close associates declare that he only drew up the will in question as a joke, and that he intended to prepare a later testament, which would revoke it, but that he died suddenly, before having an opportunity to do so.

Upheld by Courts.

Regardless, however, of the spirit in which the testament may have been drafted, the Ontario courts have already ruled that it is a valid legal document.

The Ontario government, two years ago, moved to set the will aside on the ground that it was contrary to public interest, and to appropriate the estate, utilizing it for educational purposes.

A protest arose against such a step, however, with the result that the government abandoned its proposal.

Soon afterward it became known that efforts had been made to "buy off" both Mrs. Bagnato and Mrs. Brown, and that certain unidentified men had offered them from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in cash to assign their rights to the estate. It was suggested, but not definitely established, that these offers might have been made on behalf of the government. Both Mrs. Bagnato and Mrs. Brown declined them, however, taking the stand that a bird in the hand is not worth two in the bush when the bird in question is the stork.

If Mrs. Bagnato—mother of 11 living children and as many more dead—wins the prize, one of the first things she plans to do is to adopt a child, she declares. Then she and her husband hope to buy a small farm, perhaps about 15 acres, on which to raise their family.

Comic Opera Is Making Strides Among Turks

Istanbul.—Turkish comic opera has made such rapid strides recently that it is getting into trouble with the educational authorities.

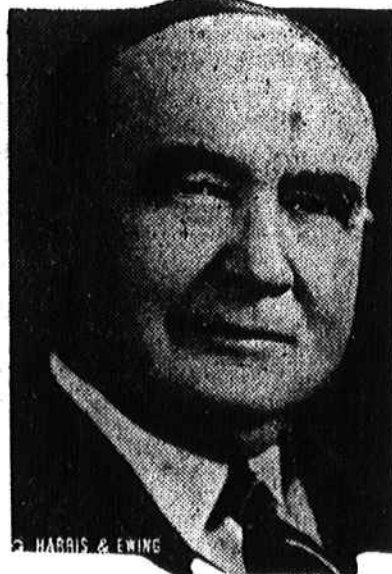
Complaints are made that it is interfering with the "serious treatise"—straight drama—and the educationalists have appealed to the new comic opera librettists and composers to cease production.

The governor of Istanbul, however, says that there is not enough money to be made as yet in Turkish straight drama, and so the lighter brand of theatrical entertainment will continue.

Luminous Beauty Patches

Bits of fungus which are luminous at night are used as beauty patches by native women of Samoa.

Walter J. Cummings



Walter J. Cummings of Illinois is the new treasurer of the Democratic national committee. He succeeds Franc C. Walker of New York, who resigned after he was appointed director of the national emergency council.

"THE PEN AND SWORD"

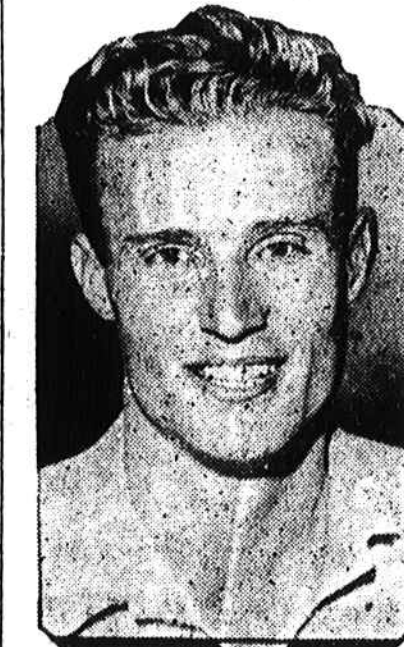
By LEONARD A. BARRETT

"The pen is mightier than the sword." History attests no truer statement. Nations which relied for protection upon the sword, perished through the sword. Brute force has never accomplished any results of permanent character. "He that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword."

The cry is everywhere heard, let us have peace. The price for securing this peace is not to be paid by the use of arms. Many interpreters of history agree that the creation of firearms on so large a scale and the economic necessity of disposing of them primarily led to the great war. Be that as it may—it goes without saying that no problem is ever settled until it is settled right. The settlement of a problem depends primarily upon the influence of thought expressed in public opinion when the pen becomes mightier than the sword. The most powerful influence for moulding public opinion today is the product of the pen, expressed through



Tennis Champion



Now Lester Stoffen of Los Angeles is the "biggest man" on the indoor courts in more ways than one. The giant, third-ranking player in the United States, uncovered the best tennis of his career, before 4,000 spectators in New York, to dethrone Gregory S. Mangin of Newark, as national indoor singles champion.

the public press. It is an astounding fact that according to the census of 1930, "the total daily and weekly distribution of newspapers was fifty-six million." It is reported that of the twenty-four million families in America, two-fifths are now reading chain newspapers, and only a small portion of the remaining three-fifths do not have daily access to the metropolitan press. The newspaper is the most vital and important propagandist in the world, and its influence for good or bad is unbelievably great.

Our efforts at moral reform as well as international good will (a matter of spirit and mental attitude) can be realized more through the moulding of public opinion by way of the pen than by the brute force of the sword. © by Western Newspaper Union.

Feeds Six Ducks; Brings Thousands

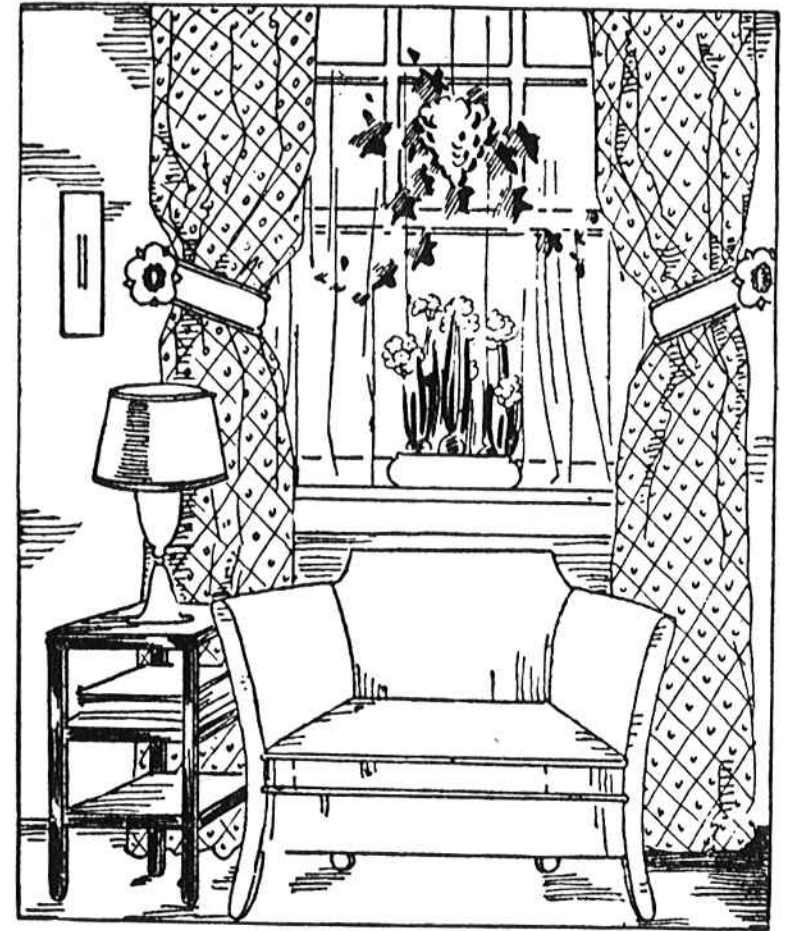
Winnipeg.—Raid of swarms of wild ducks, estimated to number at least 3,000, are causing great trouble to farmers in the vicinity of Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Lacking sufficient natural feed, owing to unusual conditions in the five-mile area of spring-fed marsh at the heads of Raven and Clear creeks, they are ravaging farmers' barnyards and stealing food laid out for cattle and poultry.

This situation is confirmation of the Biblical prophecy that bread cast upon the waters shall come back several-fold. Seven years ago a farmer, one Budden, fed three pairs of wild ducks over winter. Next year a larger flock came back to the vicinity and the number has increased each year, indicating that now has a way of getting around in birdland.

The Household

By Lydia Le Baron Walker



In This Gay Window Treatment Color Achieves an Effect of Sunshine, and Flowers and Foliage Give the Cheer the View May Lack.

HOW to curtain windows in sunless rooms or those in which the sun lies but a very short time, so that the light filtering through, or falling on, the material gives an impression of sunshine, is a subject that every homemaker has to consider at one time or another. It is amazing the difference in the cheerful aspect of the room, when the curtains are well chosen for this purpose, and when they are not. A dreary room can be transformed into a pleasant one through correct curtaining and since the aspect of a room reacts on the spirits and even the health of occupants, the matter assumes importance.

Let us take one of the hardest problems to solve, which is the curtaining of windows opening on an airway, a very narrow street, or close to a wall, which is a common one in city apartments. The impression of sunshine and verdure can be instilled into the treatment by having pane or glass curtains of yellow, and hangings of green. The range of suitable glass curtain materials is from a good quality of cheese cloth or scrim, costing little, to expensive nets and lace. And for draperies the range is from crepe to choice silk damask. It is assumed that the best that the purse can afford without straining its strings will be chosen for the materials, and that the kind will be selected to accord with the room, whether a main one or a minor one. The effect that is sought is not of elegance but is one of color and artistry in bringing about specific results.

A secondary color scheme is rose and green, either color may be used for the pane and either for the drapery curtaining. While this scheme does not convey the effect of sunshine but of quietly the cheerful aspect is stressed. Firelight rather than sunshine is simulated. However, the color scheme of a room is a determining factor. For pane curtains, tones rather than strong colors should be chosen. Hangings may be more intense but pure tone is hard to harmonize with other colors in a room.

ODD THINGS AND NEW—By Lane Bode

LATKA
NATIVES OF NORTHERN LIBERIA PRACTICE LATKA, OR WINTER SLEEP, LIKE BEARS THE FAMILY SLEEP TWENTY-TWO HOURS A DAY, RISING ONLY TO SIP TEA AND EAT BLACK BREAD.

GOLD AND SILVER.
GOLD IN THE OCEAN WOULD COVER THE CAPITOL GROUNDS AT WASHINGTON A THOUSAND FEET DEEP WHILE THE SILVER WOULD COVER CENTRAL PARK, N.Y., OVER A THOUSAND FEET.

LIVING LONGER.
EATING FOODS CONTAINING CALCIUM AND PHOSPHATE HAS BEEN FOUND NOT ONLY TO BUILD STRONG BONES BUT TO OFFSET OLD AGE.

Son of Cleveland to Enter Movies



Francis Grover Cleveland, lawyer, actor, Harvard graduate and son of the late President Grover Cleveland, photographed in his Belmont (Mass.) home, with Mrs. Cleveland, after news that he was about to enter upon a motion picture career had been published. The youngest son of the former Chief Executive, Mr. Cleveland has already appeared in many theatrical performances.