

**Seventh Series**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

E. Haldeman-Julius

# The Price We Pay

A Frank and Critical Discussion of the Social Disease Problem, for Young and Old Alike. By Dr. A. Strachstein.

This is the latest and most complete book on venereal diseases, written by a well-known authority—Dr. Strachstein, who is eminently fitted to deal with the subject discussed in this new volume. He studied social diseases in the U.S. as well as in clinics abroad. He formerly held the position of Instructor of Urology at Cornell Medical College, and later filled a similar position at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. At present he is affiliated with three hospitals in New York City, and is actively engaged in the practice of his specialty.

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The Ms. of this book, *The Price We Pay*, was submitted to a number of competent critics, with the following results:

Dan H. Ecker, Director, Student Union, New York University:

"*The Price We Pay* is a comprehensive treatment of a vital subject. It should be made available to all young people of both sexes as soon as they are of an age to absorb any knowledge of social hygiene. As a source book, especially for college students studying in this field, it has as yet no equal. I heartily congratulate you on the timeliness of this book."

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Louis J. Frank, Executive Director, Beth Israel Hospital, New York City:

"I read the manuscript with great interest. It is written in terms understandable by lay people and should be used as a text book in high schools and colleges, and read in every household, particularly where there are children. By the publication of this book, '*The Price We Pay*,' you will be making a valuable contribution to the happiness and prolongation of life. A great many tragedies caused by social disease and a great many misfortunes will undoubtedly be avoided through an understanding of what the book intends to convey."

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James Taylor, Executive Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Fort Slocum Army Branch, New Rochelle, N.Y.:

"I have wished many times that a competent physician would write a book in understandable English whereby the average person might understand the seriousness of the Social Diseases. I realize that numerous volumes have been written on this subject, but they have been edited mostly by would-be reformers who know but little regarding the medical aspects of these diseases. It is obvious that a book of this type must apply to two classes: 1. Those seeking information for the purpose of evading the consequences. 2. Those seeking assistance from the effects of these diseases. '*The Price We Pay*'

meets the needs of both classes. I sincerely believe that this book will be much in demand."

Albert Shea, Physical Director, Roof Athletic Club, Hotel McAlpin, New York City:

"The manuscript, 'The Price We Pay,' was read by our staff. We all agree that in it you impart an important message to the general public. In our own Institute, we have similarly observed that a good deal of the ill health we find among our patrons is largely due to lack of knowledge. We are convinced that if 'The Price We Pay' would be widely publicized, it would act as a powerful weapon to combat the social disease scourge. The book is particularly a valuable contribution because it is written in a clear and understandable manner. It should find a wide and useful field in all high schools and colleges.

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We believe the best way for the reader of this announcement to judge whether or not *The Price We Pay* will be value to him or her is for us to outline the chapter headings of the volume. Each section listed below is handled thoroughly and scientifically, with a minimum of technical language, but wherever a technical term was absolutely essential the author carefully defined it in plain speech. This book, written by a scientific authority, is intended strictly for laymen, though even doctors will find this volume of great help to them in their vocation.

## What the Book Contains

Syphilis—historical data of its appearance in civilized countries. Origin of the name. Syphilis in literature. Prevalence of Syphilis. The discovery of the germ that causes syphilis. The danger of delay. Is there any relation between Syphilis and Gonorrhea? The occurrence of both diseases simultaneously.

The discovery of Salvarsan or 606. The Wassermann Test.

The outset of Syphilis. Description of the three stages. The period of incubation. The primary stage. The unknown danger. The nature of the primary stage. Chancroid.

The secondary stage of Syphilis. Course of the secondary stage. Infectiousness.

Tertiary Syphilis—the third stage of the disease. Putting it over on the doctor. Involvement of the nervous system. Syphilis as a cause of death.

Syphilis in woman. Carriers of infection. Case 1: Vacation at camp. Case 2: The last fling. Case 3: A buyer is entertained. Case 4: The free ride.

Congenital or hereditary Syphilis. Prevalence of hereditary or congenital Syphilis. The State's duty to enlighten the public. Social Hygiene lecture in Schools. Signs of awakening. The problem of prevention of congenital Syphilis. How congenital Syphilis can be prevented. The law for preventing hereditary transmission of disease.

The treatment of Syphilis. Is Syphilis curable? Drugs we use in the treatment of Syphilis. Salvarsan (606) or its derivatives. Bismuth and Mercury. 1. By mouth. 2. Inunction, or rubbing in. 3. Injections by the hypodermic syringe. Bismuth. The iodides. Duration of the treatment. Shall the treatment be "continuous," or broken up in "courses" with "rest periods"? The erroneous interpretation of the Wassermann Test. Neglect of treatment. The Wassermann-

Fast, or irreducible positive Wassermann cases. Treatment by malaria inoculation and by artificial production of fever.

Marriage with safety. Quacks and their maltreatment of venereal diseases. The prevention of Syphilis. The infection carrier. Prostitution as a social problem. Personal prevention. Experimental prevention. Experimental proof of the preventive. Proof based on a large scale.

#### Gonorrhea, or Neisserian Infection.

The Gonorrheal germ. Frequency of Gonorrhea. Occupation and venereal disease. Mode of infection. Infection without penetration. Perplexing problems. Onset of Gonorrhea. The period of incubation. Non-Gonorrheal infection. In the female. Selective infectiousness. The vicious cycle. Course of the disease. The urethra. The prostate gland.

The dangers and complications of Gonorrhea. Its ravages upon society. Personal dangers. Gonorrheal rheumatism. The prostate gland. Stricture of urethra. Infection and enlargement. Eyes. Effects upon others. Dangers to the newborn. A cause of sterility in women. Our duty to society.

The treatment of Gonorrhea. Educational. Prophylactic measures. The local treatment of Gonorrhea. Continuance of treatment. Is Gonorrhea curable? The patient's cooperation. Frequency of medical consultation. Vaccine treatment. Blood test in Gonorrhea. Gonorrhea and marriage. Summary.

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"The Freethinker" is devoted to Joseph McCabe's original, exclusive, copyrighted essays on Rationalism, Agnosticism, Atheism, Skepticism, Freethought, Materialism, critical examinations of Religion, Theology, Clericalism, Sectarianism, Theism and the various problems of Philosophy that are concerned with the God-Idea.

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3. Is the Philosophy of Dialectical Materialism Out of Date?
4. A Critical Review of the Latest Claims that are Supposed to Give Validity to the Idea of God.
5. Reason or Faith—Which Shall Prevail?
6. The Social Record of Christianity.
7. The Absurdities of the Christian Religion.
8. Would a Godless World Make for Social Progress or Decline?
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**Robert G. Ingersoll's Wit, Eloquence and Logic at Its Best—An Inimitable Summary and Criticism of the Bible Story of Creation**

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## CONTENTS OF THE BOOK

Free Schools. The Politicians. Man and Woman. The Pentateuch. Monday. Tuesday. Wednesday. Thursday. "He Made the Stars Also." Friday. Saturday. Let Us Make Man. Sunday. The Necessity for a Good Memory. The Garden. The Fall. Dampness. Bacchus and Babel. Faith in Filth. The Hebrews. The Plagues. The Flight. Confess and Avoid. "Inspired" Slavery. "Inspired" Marriage. "Inspired" War. "Inspired" Religious Liberty. Conclusion.

bunk. He is the very ideal of intellectual virility as he rips open the sainted shams and lands his light, quick and powerful blows at myths and superstitions. Fundamentalism, today so widespread among classes that are numerous and vociferous, had no greater opponent than Colonel Ingersoll; and his *Mistakes of Moses* remains the best answer to the Fundamentalists. Just look at the chapter headings in the box printed above and you will appreciate, in anticipation, the thoroughness and joyousness with which Ingersoll performs his mighty sham-smashing job. He didn't overlook a thing. It is all here—all the errors and absurdities and grotesqueries and cruelties of the Mosaic account; and all is exposed to Colonel Ingersoll's civilized humor and scorn and debunked by the illumination of reason and common sense and real history and science.

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# The Story of the World's Oldest Profession

*A Complete and Candid Account of Prostitution Through the Ages,  
Written by Joseph McCabe, World-Famous Historical Scholar*

Prostitution of sex is an important phase of human history, and as such it must interest all who have intelligent curiosity about the social life of the race. And when a feature of human social life has been so marked and so continuous and has assumed such strange, variegated forms as prostitution has borne in different ages and civilizations, interest is naturally aroused in a degree corresponding to the insistent nature of the subject.

Throughout civilized times and under all religions and governments and social systems, the world's oldest profession—the selling of sex—has been a familiar traffic and under certain circumstances (circumstances that will surprise the average reader) the custom has been rife. In primitive society, before the emergence of what we call civilization—but that portion of the subject is best left for the reader to learn directly from McCabe. This is the first complete, general history of prostitution. How complete McCabe's book is may be gathered from the following chapter headings:

1. Prostitution Amongst the Savages. 2. Prostitution in the Ancient Civilizations. 3. The Golden Age of Temple Prostitution. 4. The Greeks Humanize Prostitution. 5. The Whores and Courtesans of Rome. 6. The Transition to the Dark Ages. 7. The Age of Cathedrals and Brothels. 8. Prostitution in Medieval Europe. 9. The Renaissance Period. 10. Luther and the Campaign Against Prostitution. 11. The Development in the 19th Century. 12. Prostitution in Asia and Africa. 13. The Situation Today. Bibliography.

Having been engaged in historical research and writing for forty years, Joseph McCabe was ideally equipped to write *The Story of the World's Oldest Profession*. He found that no complete and careful history of prostitution had ever been written; now he has provided us with an entirely new work of an entirely new kind and scope, based on the original sources, on the authentic history of each period of civilization. The vital facts are here; they are written in an easy, picturesque style; they are given an intelligent meaning.

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# The Autobiography of a "Madame"

Her motto was: "Here's to life and love—on a paying basis!"

There was a price tag on each of the "Daughters of Joy" on display in her establishments.

She was a professional keeper of a bawdy house—many such places during her amazing career as a merchant in the retailing of attractive human flesh.

How did she "get that way"? What did her strange, exotic, terrible business teach her down through the years? What happens behind the heavy curtains—in the realm of the woman who runs the joint—the "madame"?

These and scores of other intimate, fascinating, sordid, commercial questions are answered in the 60,000-word autobiography written by Lucy Harrison Taylor, who for many years ran fast houses. Her story reads like the most entrancing fiction—but it isn't a novel of life that never was—it is a matter-of-fact, real portrayal of life in the raw—real life.

Her autobiography is crowded with scores of characters who played real parts in her dramatic life—beginners in the art of selling joy to sex-hungry men, old-timers, their experiences, their philosophy, their observations and adventures.

She was a tried and experienced executive in the tenderest—and most hard-boiled—profession in the world. And she tells everything about it—from the inside.

The author tells her amazing story in a racy, lively, galloping style. Of course, this is a big book—128 large pages—but the material is so fascinating that reading it takes all too short a time and absolutely no effort. Here indeed is a social document crammed with life.

No one goes to a house to look at a "madame," but a "madame" makes it her business to look at everybody who comes to her house—her glorified girls, how they acted and serviced the clientele—and, of course, the men, who they were and how much they paid. Running such an establishment is a complicated business, as this autobiography shows.

Not only does this life-story tell everything about establishments where love is doled out at so much per, but our author gives her readers clear, revealing looks at all phases of the entire world of vice. As one of the characters in this volume remarks: "There's mighty little goes on in the underworld that isn't all thrashed out in the cat-houses." In addition, we are given many interesting glimpses at what the trade calls "amateur competition."

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# The Protocols of Elders of Zion

Isaac Goldberg, in his new book, entitled "The So-called 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion,'" proves conclusively that the much-circulated Protocols are forgeries, conceived by rabid anti-Semites who seek to arouse race prejudice against a helpless, innocent people.

In this carefully-constructed historical work, Dr. Goldberg traces the lies in the so-called Protocols, showing how they started, by whom they were invented, and how they were made to serve the ends of reactionaries, tyrants, oppressors and sadists. This important, documented book contains the following chapters:

1. The Psychology of Racial Prejudice. A. "Without Trial." B. Religious Prejudices.
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3. "Sergius Nilus" and the Protocols. A. "The Great in the Little..." B. Messrs. Butini and Lutostansky. C. Farewell to Russia.
4. The Protocols Go West. A. "Gottfried Zur Beek." B. Henry Ford—and After.
5. The Real Enemy. A. "Moscow or Washington." B. "Divide and Conquer." C. "Red" Herrings.

In all, this historical masterpiece—which has vital bearings on the events of the present year—serves to bring before the intelligent, reasonable public a set of facts that should dispose of the endless propaganda of the Jew-baiters—if only it were possible to give this 15,000-word book the wide distribution it deserves.

"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" fills an entire number of THE REVIEWER. The first number is entitled "What Does the Catholic Church Want in America?" Another number deals with "George Gershwin and American Music." Still another is entitled "Joseph McCabe: Fighter for Freethought—a Half-Century on the Battle-Front of Rationalism." Dr. Goldberg is also at work on a number to be devoted entirely to the record of Mussolini.

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**SEVENTH SERIES**

# **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

**E. Haldeman-Julius**

**HALDEMAN-JULIUS PUBLICATIONS  
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# Questions and Answers

May I say, in advance, that I am not personally concerned in the matter I am asking about? I am interested in the happiness of two young people, who are contemplating a mixed marriage. The young man is of Russian Jewish extraction, a son of orthodox Jewish parents, who strictly observe all the laws of the Jewish ritual, and who gave their son a Jewish education. This son, who is obedient to his parents, who will touch no pork, and who will not think of staying away from the synagogue at least for the high holidays, is in love with a girl, who is very much devoted to her Episcopal Church. Can there ever be a happy union between a Jew of such traditional and national Judaism and a girl of Anglo-Saxon race and Anglican communion? What would become of their children if they should decide to marry in a thoughtless moment?

Usually it seems to me that mixed marriages are desirable, for it is my theory (well-supported by history) that cross-fertilizations are valuable to the race. A so-called "pure" race is intellectually and culturally sterile.

But in this case it seems to me that not much good can result, for both parties seem loaded with peculiarly stubborn forms of intellectual obscurantism. If the young man were really intellectually free, and saw plainly the stupidity and futility of orthodox Judaism and the hypocrisy and duplicity of "reform" Judaism, I'd feel there could be every chance for good in a mixed marriage. I always shrink when I meet one form of medievalism, but when I see it in a pair who are about to marry—and their medievalisms are completely incompatible—I shudder at what might result.

If the young man feels exactly as you describe, he should, by all means, marry a Jewess. If he were to marry a liberal, debunked, realistic-minded Jewess—and there are many such to be met in every advanced, civilized community—the alliance might result in something of a contribution to the race. A liberal-minded Jewess might shake him out of his obscurantism, but a Fundamentalist, like the girl

you describe, can only add confusion to chaos. I hope, for both of them, that the marriage doesn't take place. The children, if any, will be fit subjects for pity.

\* \* \*

Why does Hitler call his government the "Third Reich"?

Reich, in German, means government. The first was the monarchy; the second, the republic; the present Nazi regime, the third.

\* \* \*

Since, as you say, nothing seems to be done by the Jews in general to combat the growing anti-Semitism, how can any single Jew or group of Jews start doing things?

It has long been my contention that individual Jews can do many things to help in the important educational work connected with the exposure of anti-Semitism. There's no reason why our Jews should remain silent in the face of unfair, disgraceful, slanderous, false propaganda that is intended to organize sentiment so that the obscenities of Hitlerism may be repeated in this country.

If anti-Semitism becomes openly effective here, a great deal of the blame will rest with the Jews themselves, because of their unwillingness to present their case before fair-minded non-Jews. I know for a fact that most Jews feel uncomfortable about the future—many fearing that it may be only a matter of time before the blatant and crass anti-Semites feel strong enough to break out into overt acts—but they keep their dreads to themselves, discussing them only when they are with their own kind. Beyond this they rarely go—and it's here that I criticize them. Their attitude of dignified aloofness is fraught with peril.

If the Jew refuses to fight back—using, of course, only the most fair and orderly means—he may be faced with an organized campaign in this country that will strike at Jewish students in educational institutions, Jews in the professions, and, to top it off, a nation-wide boycott against Jewish-operated establish-

ments. I hate to seem to indulge in harem-scarem talk, but I was never more serious in my life.

Personally, as a writer and editor, I intend to do my utmost in combatting this movement, as my publishing record shows. I have fought all kinds of racial intolerance and persecution—including, of course, the outrageous treatment accorded our Negroes—and I certainly don't intend to keep quiet now when I see clever, well-heeled hypocrites and bigots getting together for a drive on American Jews.

The facts show that American Jews are among our most constructive social, political, educational, professional and commercial forces. Their contributions to American civilization are real, measurable and valuable. The case against them invariably falls to pieces whenever the anti-Jewish arguments are examined fairly and honestly, because no amount of anti-Semitism can conceal the simple fact that our Jewish citizens are among the most valuable in every community. For such persons to be made scapegoats in times of social and business depressions is to resort to the most brutal form of discrimination, and we must work together to answer such a senseless, inhuman and useless war.

Personally, I intend always to do more than my share in opposing this medievalism. Besides giving a great portion of my own literary endeavors to the work of examining anti-Semitism, I aim to use the intellectual efforts of others, particularly such gifted, intelligent and effective writers as Dr. Isaac Goldberg. This fine thinker and careful student is now doing for me a work based on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which I'll issue when ready. In this work Dr. Goldberg makes an exhaustive examination of these false, forged documents, shows their source and analyzes them candidly and thoroughly to show how completely unreliable they are and how dishonest are those elements which are using them in this country at this time. He will, in other ways, use his mighty pen to expose the menace of anti-Semitism.

In such an educational drive, the duty of individual Jews is clear. They should, to the limits of their

powers, join in the crusade for truth, seeing to it that other Jews—and, of course, as many fair-minded non-Jews as possible—shall be given an opportunity to examine the literature that aims to expose the propaganda of the American Jew-baiters. Such cooperation can be made really effective, if followed by a sufficient number of individuals and groups. They can distribute the literature—by hand or by mail. They can, by such collaboration, make it possible for those who are bearing the brunt of the fight to see their efforts bring a harvest of results, and at the same time enable them to obtain necessary funds for expanding this humanitarian work of mass education.

\* \* \*

What is the life expectation at birth of persons born in the U.S., compared to some other countries?

*The British Medical Journal*, London, January, 1936, listed a dozen countries other than the U.S., which we'll use below. The U.S. 1930 census gives our life expectation as 59.4 years for white males and 63.1 years for white females. Estimates for other countries:

Period observed	Country	Males	Females
1926-30	Denmark ...	60.9	62.6
1926-30	Sweden .....	61.2	63.3
1921-2	Norway .....	61.0	63.8
1930-1			
1921-30	Finland .....	50.7	55.1
1930-33	Austria .....	54.5	58.5
1921-30	Holland .....	61.9	63.5
1930-32	Scotland .....	56.0	59.5
1930-32	Italy .....	53.8	56.0
1933	Germany ....	59.8	62.6
1933	{ England & Wales }	58.7	62.6
1924-30	Czechoslovakia	52.5	56.1
1925-27	South Africa		
	(Europeans)	57.8	61.5

\* \* \*

I was interested to note in the March Freeman that you included Abraham Lincoln in your list of skeptics. Will you please expand on this or tell me where I can find material on just how much of a skeptic he was and what he said or thought about the subject of religion?

Abraham Lincoln never joined a church of any kind. In religion, he was a skeptic. Before he became active in politics, he spoke openly against religion, according to the memoirs written by his law partner. This places him along with our other

infidel Presidents—Washington, the Deist; John Adams, the non-religionist; Thomas Jefferson, the Materialist and Atheist; Thomas Madison, James Monroe and U. S. Grant.

Lincoln, like Washington, was a Deist, which means that he would speak favorably of some vague sort of a God-idea, but would withhold any kind of support from the Christian or any other religious institution.

In his *Little Blue Book*, No. 1203, entitled *Seven Infidel U.S. Presidents*, Joseph McCabe devotes an entire chapter to the religious ideas of Lincoln. McCabe calls attention to the significant fact that in 1846 Lincoln was "asked to say whether he was a Christian; and, being an honest man, he refused." Religious writers have always had a hard time proving Lincoln a religious man, and they usually end up by admitting that while Lincoln was "not a member of any of our orthodox churches," he was "substantially a Christian." That hefty word "substantially" needs elaboration, which is lacking, for the most that the apologists can establish is that Lincoln did believe in a vague form of Theism which embraced the idea of an impersonal God. W. H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, himself a religious man, wrote in his well-known book about the great emancipator that Lincoln was a member of the "noble army of doubters." Furthermore, Herndon claimed that Lincoln had written an anti-Christian essay, which was destroyed in 1833.

This matter has been the subject of controversy for many decades, as McCabe shows in his valuable chapter. The arguments from the religious-minded writers and witnesses are examined in the light of history and are found to be inadequate. According to Herndon, Lincoln read Paine and Volney, which led him to Deism and to the denial of the divinity of Jesus. Herndon quotes from Mrs. Lincoln, who, in 1866, said:

Mr. Lincoln had no faith and no hope in the usual acceptance of those words. He never joined a Church; but still, as I believe, he was a religious man by nature. He first seemed to think about the subject when our boy Willie died, and then more than ever about the time he went to Gettysburg; but it was a kind of poetry in his nature, and

he was never a technical Christian.

\* \* \*

Are receipts at U.S. and Canadian movies up for 1935 as compared with previous years?

In the U.S., movie receipts, in 1930, were \$1,100,000,000; in 1934, \$650,000,000; in 1935, \$750,000,000. In Canada, the receipts, in 1930, were \$38,480,000; in 1934, \$25,280,000; in 1935, \$28,000,000.

\* \* \*

What is the length of the Panama Canal?

50.2 miles.

\* \* \*

What fire was the most destructive in history?

San Francisco's fire, in 1906, comes at the head of the list, with a loss of \$350,000,000.

\* \* \*

What branches are meant when one speaks of the Fine Arts?

Music, architecture, painting and sculpture.

\* \* \*

In the Catholic magazine, *The Commonweal*, for February 28, 1936, Rev. Patrick J. Barry, professor of church history at the Diocesan Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, N. Y., dismisses Joseph McCabe with the remark that his "experiences in religion were unfortunate." Please comment.

The Rev. Professor should have been a little more explicit. Granting that McCabe's experiences were "unfortunate," it wouldn't be amiss if Father Barry stopped long enough to explain for whom they were unfortunate. At a rough guess I'd say it was the Catholic Church that was unfortunate.

McCabe's experiences—as a popularizer of serious subjects and as a sound commentator on the record of the Church—have been unfortunate for the forces of obscurantism and most fortunate for the causes of Truth, Justice and Intellectual Progress.

After all, the Church, from its own viewpoint, is correct in ignoring or curtly dismissing McCabe. The man is far too dangerous for thorough treatment. Elaborate discussions and criticisms of his numerous works might lead others to his writings—with still more unfortunate results for the One and Only Church.

It's highly amusing to watch the discomfort of Catholic apologists

who must, once in a decade, stoop to a note on McCabe. Not so long ago, a Catholic book contained the sweeping characterization that McCabe "has the mind of a peasant." That, it seems to me, is worth a good, long laugh, when one recalls that our "peasant-minded" author, in his middle twenties, was professor of scholastic philosophy (the most important chair) at Louvain, the most distinguished Catholic university in the world.

In his twenties, McCabe was intellectually important enough to occupy the Church's most delicate and involved department of learning; in his late sixties, after many years of authorship on about 200 large books, McCabe has degenerated into a peasant-minded clod. There's a fable that tells about the fox who couldn't quite reach the cluster of grapes.

Why was Napoleon called the "Little Corporal"?

Because he was little and because he started his military career as a corporal.

How old are the telephone and telegraph? When was wireless telegraphy invented?

The telephone was invented by Bell in 1876; the telegraph, invented by Morse, was born in 1837. Wireless telegraphy was invented by Marconi in 1895.

Is it true that the Jews are interested in pushing the case against Hauptmann?

The charge has been made in a number of places, particularly among Nazi sympathizers, but the facts do not support such an assumption. While it's true that Attorney General Wilentz, a Jew, led the prosecution forces, it is also a fact that a Jew, Sam Small, called the "persistent penman," served the defense by insisting that Hauptmann didn't write the ransom notes. Besides, Hauptmann himself said that a Jew, Isidore Fisch, was the original owner of the ransom money. Also, Samuel S. Leibowitz, noted criminal lawyer and a Jew, was, for a while, responsible for Hauptmann's legal fight after his conviction. Thus, the facts show a Jew against Hauptmann and two Jews for Hauptmann, and a fourth Jew as something of a partner of Hauptmann's. Personally, I

feel that Hauptmann was guilty of the Lindbergh murder, because the facts serve to make a bullet-proof case against him. Of course, the prosecution couldn't produce a moving picture of Hauptmann actually committing the crime, but it did produce a set of circumstances that leaves no doubt of Hauptmann's guilt.

I was in error when I wrote recently that Mark Twain's "1601" wasn't available in a low-priced edition. Several readers call my attention to the advertisement of the Union Library Association, 367-373 Fourth Avenue, New York City, which offers copies at \$1.58.

Is King Edward VIII a homosexual?

So far as I can learn, the King, all during his Prince of Wales days, was perfectly normal sexually. It's common knowledge that he had a long string of affairs with beautiful women, but that, of course, is no one's business but his own, as the gentleman never posed as a moralist and never scolded others who happened to enjoy what he himself indulged in. I merely mention the fact to help prove his interest in normal outlets for sexual stimulation. No one would dream of placing Edward VIII in the same emotional class as the rulers of Nazi Germany. Only the other day, while talking with Gerhart Seger, a former Reichstag member and now an exile in this country, I learned that Hermann Goering, one of Hitler's most powerful aides, is not only a morphine addict but a practicing sadist as well. Seger, who is a cultured, civilized person of the finest sensibilities, was a prisoner in a German concentration camp, until he managed to escape, and while there he learned that Goering had the habit of coming to prisons and camps late at night, armed with a whip, and compelled handsome young men to strip and accept lashes until Goering went through the throes of sadistic sexual satisfaction. Julius Streicher, the notorious Jew-baiter, does the same thing. Nice people.

A friend of mine is an admirer of Mark Twain, but claims that he, like Will Rogers, was fundamentally friendly to religious thought. Can you give me a quotation that would meet this argument?

The problem isn't to find a quotation from Mark Twain but in select-

ing one from the great mass of material that is available. The following Twainiana, I believe, should set your friend's mind at ease on the subject of the great humorist's skepticism:

"A God who could make good children as easily as bad, yet preferred to make bad ones; who could have made every one of them happy, yet never made a single happy one; who made them prize their bitter life, yet stingily cut it short; who mouths justice, yet invented hell; mouths mercy, and invented hell; mouths Golden Rules and forgiveness multiplied seventy times seven, and invented hell; who created man without invitation, then tries to shuffle the responsibility for man's acts upon man, instead of honourably placing it where it belongs, upon himself."

\* \* \*

Where is the longest railway tunnel?

The longest is 12 miles and 450 yards in length. It's the Simplan, between Italy and Switzerland.

\* \* \*

Which mountain is the world's highest? Mount Everest, 29,000 feet high.

\* \* \*

Which island is the largest in the world?

Greenland.

\* \* \*

Is Death Valley, California, the world's lowest point below sea level?

Death Valley is 276 feet below sea level, as against 150 feet below sea level for the Sahara Desert. The lowest point below sea level is the Dead Sea, Palestine, 1,290 feet.

\* \* \*

Which is the world's largest lake?

Lake Chad.

\* \* \*

Which river is the longest in the world?

The Nile, 4,000 miles.

\* \* \*

How about inserting a picture of yourself in *The Freeman* so we readers wouldn't pass you up on the street?

*The Freeman* is a personal organ, but I want to keep it from exploiting its editor as an individual. What the editor and his readers are thinking about constitutes legitimate material for these columns, but I don't see why I should foist my mug on my readers.

\* \* \*

Please comment and compare the following: A Catholic's freedom of religion and education in Mexico, and a

Protestant's freedom of religion and education in Italy.

A Catholic has complete freedom to follow his religion in Mexico. The Mexican laws which are supposed to be so "tyrannical" are being obeyed by Protestant worshipers and preachers, without a word of complaint.

The educational system has been secularized and placed under the control of the government, but this can't be construed, in any way, as being against the right of parents to have their children educated to an understanding of religious ideas.

What the Mexican priests are squawking about is the daring of the government in deciding that the public school system shall belong to the people and not to the Catholic Church. In addition, the Catholic hierarchy is forbidden to indulge its genius for political meddling, which, after centuries of "freedom" to interfere in Mexico's secular affairs, comes as something of a shock to power-gorged priests who have been compelled to disgorge.

On the other hand, Catholicism is the state religion of Italy and all forms of Protestantism are illegal, under the terms of the concordat signed by Mussolini and the Pope. Of course, the Catholic apologists get around this inconsistency by blandly announcing that when Catholicism represents the majority opinion of a country it has the right to a monopoly on religion and educational systems because it's the only religion in the world that's right. All other religions are false, and to permit them to function legally is to allow the people to endanger their immortal souls.

\* \* \*

Which domestic wood is the heaviest?

Weighing 80 pound to the cubic foot, when dry, black ironwood qualifies as the heaviest American wood.

\* \* \*

I'd like to see you review Upton Sinclair's "What God Means to Me."

This new book is Sinclair's "attempt at a working religion." This, his 54th book, takes God out of the moth-balls and shows what a good fellow He is if given only half a chance to do His wonders.

As a Mystic and Metaphysician, Sinclair, it seems to me, is just a notch below Mary Pickford. The be-

witching lady who, some decades ago, was America's sweetheart, has concentrated all her bunk into the single pellet of Christian Science, while Sinclair has scattered it over the universe, embracing everything from faith healing to gluten bread. Of course, Sinclair—an older practitioner at the art of writing—can turn out snappier copy, but Mary can balance Sinclair's superior technique with a carload of sex appeal. And S.A. usually wins when it jousts with mere literary craftsmanship.

This book is really an amazing document. In it, the Great Upton turns himself inside out, and outside in, with the result that we see, without a doubt, the world's supreme assortment of freaks, eccentrics, muddle-heads, gullibles and plain suckers all wrapped up in a single package. To give you an idea of what Sinclair's mind can accept as truth or near truth, let me list just a few of the things he believes in, practices or advances as a cure for suffering humanity:

Christian Science. Telepathy. Clairvoyance. Auto-suggestion. Self-hypnotism. Prayer as a cure for insomnia. Demonology. Witchcraft. The Elan Vital. The Life Force. The Cosmic Consciousness. The Over-Soul. Noumenon. Fortune-telling. Palmistry. Forecasting by card-reading. Suggestion as a cure for hiccups. The Holy Spirit's readiness to loosen a constipated bowel. Voodoo. Witch-doctors. Dancing dervishes. The immateriality of matter and the reality of spirit. Levitation. Thought transference. Mental radio. The miracle of Lourdes. Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy. Taboos. Magnetic healing. Malicious animal magnetism. Emile Coue. Spiritualism. Communication with the dead. African sorcery. The soul-destroying possibilities of tea and coffee. Chanting strange spells. Frightening the devils out of the unwell. Exorcism. Incense burning. Tom-tom beating. Unclean spirits. Automatic writing. "Possession." "Science and Health." Samnavayama. Five methods of expelling evil thoughts. Bhavana. The Anurakhanappadhana. Lord Buddha. Prayers that get results. Psychical research. New Thought. The Emanuel movement. How faith can remove warts. Extra-sensory perception.

Ideoplastic energy. Why the Father in Heaven made bed-bugs. The struggles between Ormuzd and Ahriman. And, of course, the Old Boy Himself—God.

All these concoctions—and scores more—are crammed into the eccentric brain of Upton Sinclair, or that of his neurotic wife. I didn't notice Graphology. Numerology. Astrology, Holy Rollerism, Mormonism or Rosicrucianism, but give the fellow a little time.

One theme Sinclair keeps pounding right through his book—though he's always ready for a hundred excursions into other manifestations of God's will—and that's the fact that God often cures the sick. If there's a bad bunion—give God a chance—or, as Mary Pickford puts it: "Why Not Try God?" The book is one long record of belly-aches, and sour stomachs, and varicose veins—and the answer, always, is that God, if given a break, will do a better job than any pill-peddling doctor, even though Sinclair must always let his readers know that he's the best little friend real science ever had.

If religious faith makes for physical health, the matter should be settled in an orderly, logical way. A real test would be to take 1,000 pious souls and 1,000 Atheists and put them through their paces. Pound their chests, test their urine, examine their semen, check their hearts, and then see what the facts are. I don't know, because I'm not a laboratory worker. But Sinclair is something of a student of these great issues, so I pass the buck to him. Such a study might show just how healthy God made 1,000 of his blessed saved ones, and just how hard he punished his unbelieving Materialists. I have the notion the result will show up better for the non-religious, though here it's possible I'm letting my prejudices run away with my good sense.

However, there's one historical fact that Sinclair might give some thought to—and perhaps write Book No. 55 on the theme. I refer to the simple fact that in the Middle Ages, when the whole of Europe was enjoying the Age of Faith and unbelief was unknown—when God was accepted as a full-time working partner—the life span was only about 20 years. Today, with less religion, with more



Atheism, with more Materialism than at any previous time in the history of the world—with the Church at its lowest point of influence—the public health is such that the life-span is almost 60 years.

Materialistic and naturalistic science seems to have the better of the argument though Sinclair, ever the plausible, might retort that the trouble in the days of the Age of Faith was that they didn't have the benefit of the religious ideology Upton Sinclair could have supplied them, had he been given a chance. The fact that he wasn't even born then is beside the question, for in this book Upton Sinclair dismisses the idea of the past being behind the future and suggests that the future can be brought into the present, thus saving the past for some future event. At least that's the notion I get out of reading Sinclair's amazing jumble of superstition, stupidity and infantilism. Meanwhile, let's wait to hear how Sinclair disposes of the terrible pests that swept Europe during the days when everybody believed in religion—with as many as 50,000,000 people dying in a few years from the Black Death and other pestilential visitations to a pious people—while in these days of Doubters, Atheists and Infidels, we find the major diseases gradually surrendering to the attacks of materialistic science, with some of the ancient pests gone, perhaps for all time.

Sinclair's new book exposes its author as the possessor of the most elaborate store of bunk and quackery ever held by any single individual. He is the world's champion muddle-head, who is charming and reasonable even when he's presenting himself as the intellectual equal of a Bantu witch-doctor.

It seems that Sinclair's intellectual downfall may be traced to the influence of his hysterical, nervous, neurotic, psychopathic wife. Before he married Craig, Sinclair was given to amazing demonstrations of faddism and gullibility, but he at least had the good sense to keep them from the public. Now, with his neurotic wife to spur him on, he not only thinks these bewildering foolish notions, but he actually prints them in books that carry his name on the

cover. Sinclair now has the courage of his freakishness—thanks to an abnormal wife. (I speak of Craig as neurotic, and all that, not because I have made first-hand observations of the woman's physical equipment but because of the information Sinclair gives the world about his dear wife in this appalling book.)

Now that the political campaign in California is over, imagine how lucky that state was in keeping Sinclair out of the governor's office. Picture, if you can, a Governor, in charge of a practical job, going into trances before sending a message to the Legislature; calling in a Christian Science healer when asked to receive the report of the State Medical Department; ordering the unemployed to give a part of their leisure time to an intensive study of the activities of a black witch-doctor in the mountains of Ethiopia as he goes about the job of curing a wart by sticking a pin into it and exposing it to the light of a full moon; and having a law passed compelling all persons to stop at least once each hour long enough to mutter: "Every day in every way I'm growing better and better."

Sinclair is a mental case too complicated for me. I pass him on to the psychiatrists, who may be able to probe the queer depths of this muddled, addled, but gifted, dupe and worshiper of sacred insanities. In other words, he's nerts.

\* \* \*

Does the sponge belong to the animal or vegetable kingdom?

It is a low form of animal life, found on the bed of the sea and on rocks.

\* \* \*

In your interesting and valuable discussion of R. G. Ingersoll's philosophy you make the statement that while it's permissible to call the great intellectual emancipator an Agnostic it would be just as correct to refer to him as an Atheist. Such a position should be supported by direct quotations from the works of Ingersoll, instead of a mere generalization on your part. Can you produce such incontrovertible evidence?

I refer the reader to Ingersoll's last lecture, "What is Religion?" in which it will be found that Ingersoll was definitely on the side of pure, unadulterated Atheism. I quote the following from Ingersoll's above-

mentioned lecture, which was issued towards the end of his life:

I have a theory and I have four corner-stones.

The first stone is that matter—substance—cannot be destroyed, cannot be annihilated.

The second stone is that force cannot be destroyed, cannot be annihilated.

The third stone is that matter and force cannot exist apart—no matter without force: no force without matter.

The fourth stone is that that which cannot be destroyed could not have been created; that the indestructible is the uncreatable.

If these corner-stones are facts, it follows as a necessity that matter and force are from and to eternity; that they can neither be increased nor diminished.

It follows that nothing has been or can be created; that there never has been or can be a creator.

Ingersoll adds the following (the last three words of which I emphasize):

"If these corner-stones are facts, nature has no master. If matter and force are from and to eternity, it follows as a necessity that NO GOD EXISTS."

How many banks have deposit insurance in the U.S.? What is their assessment? How much money have they on deposit?

The report of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shows 14,208 member banks under the system. They will, during the first half of 1936, be assessed \$17,345,000 for this insurance. On December 31, 1935, FDIC member banks had deposits amounting to about \$41,629,000,000.

This doesn't mean that every dollar on deposit is protected by the government's insurance. In fact, the federal government isn't behind a single dollar of deposits. The FDIC has merely set up facilities for member banks to pool a certain amount of money in order to protect depositors, but this protection is strictly limited to the sums paid in by the bankers. Should losses be less than the money paid in all will be well and good, but should there be another panic, the FDIC funds would soon melt away and the same old banking crisis would be with us again.

If the federal government wanted to provide real deposit insurance it would rearrange its postal savings

system to allow deposits of more than \$2,500, and would provide such depositors with all commercial facilities, including the clearing of checks. Such a system would be practically failure-proof.

\* \* \*

Can you name the 10 most successful movies made in the U.S. during the past 10 years, and what they grossed?

The most successful film since 1925 was "The Singing Fool," made by Warner Brothers, with an estimated gross of \$5,000,000. Next follow five silent films: "The Four Horsemen," Metro, \$4,500,000; "Ben Hur," Metro, \$4,000,000; "The Big Parade," Metro, \$3,500,000; "Birth of a Nation," Griffith-United Artists, \$3,500,000; "The Covered Wagon," Paramount, \$3,500,000. These five are followed by talkies: "Cavalcade," Fox, \$2,500,000; "The Jazz Singer," Warner, \$3,500,000; "Sunny Side Up," Warner, \$3,500,000; "Broadway Melody," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, \$3,000,000.

\* \* \*

Is the fire hazard very severe in a great city like New York?

During 1935, according to the report of the Fire Commissioner of New York City, the total loss caused by fire amounted to only \$8,781,600, a loss of a little more than \$1 per capita. This would indicate that New York City's fire fighters are doing a mighty good job.

\* \* \*

Has the chain-store percentage of total sales gone up or down during the depression?

In *Rulers of America: A Study of Finance Capital*, by Anna Rochester, we learn that the chain stores are making steady inroads on the business done by the smaller concerns, despite depression years. The following table, taken from this important book, tells the story:

Chain-Store Percentage of Total Sales			
	1929	1933	
Shoe stores .....	38.0	46.2	
Groceries and meat .....	32.2	43.7	
Cigar stores and stands ..	25.1	33.9	
Drug stores .....	18.5	25.1	
Department stores .....	16.7	23.9	

From the above, it's apparent that small business is doomed. Just how long it will take for the chain stores to completely dominate the distribution field I can't even estimate, but the process is at work and it's only

a question of time before the social service of distributing commodities to the consumers will be controlled by our great commercial chains.

But, this fact shouldn't permit one to accept the "remedy" offered by economic quacks who are without a comprehensive grasp of the social forces at work. They would, in their innocence, outlaw the chains or tax them to the point of liquidation. That isn't a real remedy, for the action runs counter to scientific progress.

If chain stores were economically unscientific—if they couldn't distribute goods at prices lower than the individualistic businessmen, with more efficient general services—then outlawing the chains wouldn't mean anything harmful to the future of society. But the facts show plainly that the chains are growing rapidly because they sell better merchandise at lower prices. There's no way of escaping that simple condition.

If chain stores are sound, economical, efficient and thoroughly scientific, it's the essence of social stupidity to put them out of existence merely because they threaten to supplant those commercial elements which can't render the same services. We have seen, during the past centuries, many instances of laws passed against progressive enterprises, merely because they menaced the old. We have seen mobs of workmen, in England, attack the cotton mills in order to destroy the power looms, merely because they promised to deprive hand workers of their livelihoods. The mobs couldn't stop economic advancement.

This chain-store question brings us straight against the wall of Capitalism. Capitalism has put a wall of private ownership and gain around the means of production, distribution and exchange. This, of course, is mighty nice for the capitalistic owners, but what about the workers and the consumers? The great technical advances made during the past two centuries in production and distribution have brought a few gains to the workers and consumers, but in the main the advantages have gone to the capitalists, who are thereby enabled to make further expansion and achieve nearer approaches to monopoly conditions.

The movement for socialization of

these great instrumentalities of production and distribution—and these naturally include the chain stores—would permit and encourage the further scientific advancements so well begun, but it would insist that the social order be changed so that these mighty industrial forces be owned and controlled by society instead of a small class of owners.

These large-scale chains could easily be socialized, once the social organism decided to take charge of the great industries. Under such a regime the efficiency of the chain stores would work to the full advantage of the workers and consumers, instead of to their economic and social hurt.

Yes, the figures show the chain stores to be a menace, under the present insane system of private ownership of large-scale business, but let's beware of those false prophets who would have us destroy them. They're too valuable. Let the nation own them.

\* \* \*

How many of our people are on relief?

On February 20, 1936, federal relief authorities reported about 16,500,000 persons on relief provided by Federal, State and municipal governments. In January, 1935, those on relief numbered 20,500,000. This means there has been a reduction of 20 percent.

\* \* \*

How many billion-dollar corporations have we, outside of the banking companies?

On January 1, 1932, there were 18 billion-dollar corporations in this country. They consisted of the following: six public utility companies, General Motors, U.S. Steel, seven railroads, two oil companies and the A.T.&T.

It's an interesting fact that for every billion-dollar corporation we have just about 1,000,000 men, women and children on relief. The facts, of course, show that while these vast industrial aggregations are highly profitable to their owners, and also that these organizations are efficient machines for the production and distribution of goods and services, the present system prevents them from passing on their social advantages to the common people—the workers and farmers, whose condition, during the

past decade, has grown steadily worse.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of persons on relief—about 20 percent—but the figures show that we still have about 16,000,000 on relief, and that is simply appalling. Unemployment has decreased slightly during the past three years, but there are still about 11,000,000 employables without jobs. At the same time, the production figures show substantial increases, so that the employed workers of today are producing far more than the employed of a decade ago, despite the fact that we have fewer persons employed today in our heavy industries, etc.

The facts show, therefore, that something is fundamentally wrong with Capitalism. It can produce efficiently, but without real regard for the welfare of the workers who make that production possible. It is, therefore, a matter of social protection, not of mere sentiment, to alter the system along scientific lines, so that the industrial machine may be given an opportunity to function with a view to social welfare instead of capitalistic profit. That, naturally, can mean only one thing—the collective ownership and democratic management of the large-scale industries, railroads, telephone and telegraph lines, pipe lines, power plants, natural resources, refineries, smelting plants, steel mills, etc.

If we permit our present billion-dollar corporations to grow even more powerful, and tolerate the emergence of new corporations into this recently-achieved field, we must, of necessity, have one of two objectives in mind. First, we can say that the present system of private ownership shall continue, which will mean economic slavery for the masses. Second, we can say that these mighty economic organizations have reached the point wherein it's society's duty to take them over—socialize them. That road means economic emancipation. Which will the workers, farmers and consumers take?

\* \* \*

1. What sized gun is our chief artillery weapon? 2. What does one cost?

1. The U.S. War Department reports that the most common gun used in artillery is three inches in size. 2. A three-inch gun costs \$11,800.

This is about \$5,000 more per unit than the same standard-sized unit used until recently, because of the following changes:

1. This sized gun may now be elevated up to 45 degrees. During the World War such a gun could be elevated 19 degrees.

2. The old-style guns had a change of direction of one mile, without moving the carriage. Today, the same gun's change of direction is up to 85 degrees, permitting coverage of the opposite front up to 11 miles.

\* \* \*

What are the latest figures on air transport operations?

The Bureau of Air Commerce reports air transport operations for 1935, as follows:

Miles flown: 1935, 55,380,000; 1934, 42,675,000.

Passengers carried: 1935, 747,000; 1934, 462,000.

Passenger miles: 1935, 313,906,000; 1934, 187,859,000.

Expresses carried: 1935, 3,822,000 pounds; 1934, 2,133,000 pounds.

\* \* \*

What are the latest figures on the gold holdings of the main countries of the world, compared with the year before the World War?

Figures gathered from 50 countries show total 1935 monetary gold stock to be worth (at \$35 per ounce) \$22,457,000,000; in 1934, \$21,771,000,000; in 1913 (adjusted to \$35 per ounce) \$8,773,000,000. The 10 leading countries show (in millions):

	1935	1934	1913
United States ..	\$10,123	\$8,238	\$3,258
France .....	4,395	5,445	2,878
England .....	1,648	1,584	1,304
Russia .....	839	744	1,763
Spain .....	735	740	157
Belgium .....	611	590	115
Switzerland ....	453	624	90
Argentina .....	441	403	483
Holland .....	438	573	122
Japan .....	422	394	146

\* \* \*

How much did motorists pay in taxes on their cars in the U.S. during 1935?

\$1,300,000,000 (estimated), or about \$50 per car, of which there are 26,000,000. In 1934, the average aggregate taxes amounted to \$48 per unit.

The Automobile Club of New York reports the following numerous forms of taxation against motor cars:

"Fed. Govt. collects levies on:

Passenger cars, trucks, parts and accessories, gasoline, lubricating oil, tires and inner tubes. States collected gasoline imposts ranging from 2c to 7c a gallon; also registration fees, charges for certificate of title, for operators' and chauffeurs' licenses, operating taxes based on gross receipts, ton-miles, net or capacity; occupational tax and privilege tax. In addition, counties collect gasoline or registration taxes in five States, and personal property taxes on motor vehicles in 27 States. Nearly 1,000 municipalities in 39 States fix automobile registration fees."

\* \* \*

What is the average depth of oceans and seas?

About 2½ miles.

\* \* \*

Can any bird fly backwards?

The humming bird can perform this feat.

\* \* \*

What is Perspex?

Perspex is the name given to glass made from coal, a new discovery made by chemists in Great Britain. Reports say Perspex is as transparent as glass, but is only half as heavy. It also has greater tensile strength.

\* \* \*

How many unemployed musicians have we?

About 25,000.

\* \* \*

Favors D.D.: Doctor of Death

C. A. Lang, Mo., one of my favorite readers, is hot for euthenasia, and his letter in support of this humanitarian theory of death for those who ask for it, or who ought to have it on principles of social protection, follows:

Your aversion to the idea of the physician becoming involved in the euthenasia business mildly amuses and puzzles me. Of course, it is unlikely that in our time either you or I will have the duty or privilege of calling a physician for such a purpose, because in my opinion the sanction of legality will not be given it very soon. Why, we can't even get the obscene birth control laws repealed! But inasmuch as our social and economic structure will probably be much revised before such advanced ideas can gather much popularity, and since such revision would result in a great decline in tendencies to abuse, which would be so liable to complicate the problem at present, I fail to see the point in getting hot and bothered about WHO is to do the job if the

time comes when we finally recognize that it is a job that needs doing.

But it is not difficult to imagine provocative situations even in that more or less remote future; imbeciles, a complete nuisance to themselves and everyone else; those hopelessly ill, cancer for instance, (can I ever forget some cases I have seen?) where each drug-induced sleep leads only to more agonizing misery later, etc.

Even if the physician were not the actual killer in such cases, it would hardly be possible to proceed calmly and methodically without his advice and knowledge. He would therefore be as fully responsible and aware of what was going on as any one could be. And since he, more than any other, is qualified by experience and equipment to do a clean workmanlike job, what reasonable objection can there be?

Of course I would not—could not indeed—COMPEL him. But if any considerable part of the medical profession showed squeamishness here, it is entirely possible that a body of professional "practitioners of euthenasia" would rise to the need, even as we have our executioners now; sometimes in many ways estimable enough men, but nevertheless not unwilling to use even the bizarre devices which the law prescribes, and on poor unfortunates who for the most part have come to that extremity because of society's own wanton, calloused carelessness.

From the esthetic standpoint, too (I suspect that you are beginning to get sick now, but I will go on nevertheless) I feel that such a function, if entrusted to a physician, or at any rate to one with comparable technical skill, would result in a far more satisfactory feeling of a job well done, than would the tacit admission alone of the right to suicide (which as pointed out by others excludes those incapable of exercising it, anyway), with all of its undignified elements of crudity, bungling, frantic and shockingly ill-advised efforts at resuscitation and general messiness.

I dislike especially in this connection such things as are suggested in Aldous Huxley's discussion of the matter in a recent issue of Esquire. I refer to his remark about gardens of euthenasia "where those who want to die cruelly may even have the services of cages of hungry leopards." Besides outraging the very meaning of the word

"enthusiasia," such stuff makes me ask, in spite of a liking for some things he has written, "What in the hell IS the matter with HIM?"

\* \* \*

How did you like the comments of Litvinoff after his conversation with Edward VIII?

Shortly after Edward VIII became king he granted a hearing to Litvinoff, Russia's commissar for foreign affairs and one of the most important men in world politics. Soon after this meeting the report was circulated that Litvinoff had described the new king as a "mediocre" young man who had foolishly asked "why it was necessary for Russia to have had a revolution at all," and why it had been found necessary to execute the deposed czar and his family. Litvinoff, the soul of patience, explained carefully (according to press reports), showing why a revolution had really been found necessary, and why it had been essential to the safety of the revolution to do away with the czar, thereby removing the living symbol that was encouraging the counter-revolutionists in their campaign to restore the rotten Romanoffs. Furthermore, Litvinoff is supposed to have added that Edward VIII seemed to be the kind of person who "read only one newspaper."

I rather doubt that Litvinoff said all these indiscreet things. Everything attributed to him sounds reasonable, but the idea of so astute a politician shooting off his mouth that way is thoroughly out of character. If there's a man in this world who knows how to keep his trap shut at the proper time, Litvinoff is that man. He is the kind of statesman who literally hates publicity, has a special dislike for newspapermen, and hardly ever says anything outside the official record. And yet, we are expected to believe that Litvinoff, at a most delicate moment in Russian history, would jeopardize his long-nursed plans by such futile chatter. The thing sounds absolutely screwy, to me, and I refuse to believe that he said the words attributed to him.

Certain reports hint that the first publicity for these Litvinoff words came from German sources. Now here, at last, we begin to get some light on the problem. Germany, at the moment, is set on winning over

England, in order to have a clear road when it decides it's ready to attack Russia to the East. It would also like to keep France at least neutral when that war on the U.S.S.R. begins. At the same time, Litvinoff has been working hard along his own lines—he would have France actually fight on Russia's side when Germany strikes, and he would have England friendly to such a pact, thereby helping forge an iron ring around the German government. Litvinoff, to prove his pacific intentions, offered to sign a non-aggression pact with Germany, but was rejected in toto. He was also willing to enter into a mutual assistance pact—along the lines of the Russian-French military pact—and was again rebuffed.

With such a situation facing Germany, it was considered good politics to let loose the story about Litvinoff in order to settle the new king's friendship for Germany, an attitude which was developing rapidly while the king was Prince of Wales. Just how the king now feels towards Litvinoff I don't know. If he believed the yarn, then he must certainly be sore, and soreness in such quarters can have the gravest consequences. It's on such tiny things that great empires rest.

\* \* \*

What do you think of Governor Hoffman's attempt to reopen the Lindbergh case?

It seems to me that the Governor has acted to serve his political ambitions more than the ends of justice. He is intimating there is new evidence around the corner, but up to the time I write this not a scrap of new truth has been turned up that could even hint at Hauptmann's innocence. It looks to me as though Hoffman, a Republican, wants to put Wilentz, a Democrat, on the spot. Hoffman wants to go higher in the political world—Wilentz wants to occupy Hoffman's seat in Trenton—so if Hoffman can bust up Wilentz' case against Hauptmann he will—so he imagines—serve two ends: 1. dispose of his pet abomination, Attorney General Wilentz; 2. feather his own political nest.

I haven't the slightest doubt of Hauptmann's guilt. As for the question of whether or not he had others

in with him, I'm convinced beyond the slightest doubt that he had one accessory—his wife—whose job it was to take care of the kidnapped baby. Hauptmann, of course, had no intention of murdering the child—the accident of the broken ladder upset his carefully-arranged hide-out, where his wife was to care for the victim while Hauptmann went about the business of collecting the ransom. Now, Hauptmann is practically offered commutation to life imprisonment if he'll talk, but he can't because he'd have to involve his wife. At least that's the way the case looks to me.

\* \* \*

What is the significance of John L. Lewis' rumblings in the labor movement?

Lewis' activities are of the utmost importance, for he is proposing that the American Federation of Labor abandon its old conservative theory of craft unionism and adopt the radical plan of industrial unionism. Lewis is at the head of the United Mine Workers of America, the largest single union in the A.F. of L., so his fight is to be taken seriously. It is Lewis' suggestion—taken from the old I.W.W. and other revolutionary labor organizations and leaders—that it weakens labor to divide the organizations along craft lines—separate unions for carpenters, masons, hod-carriers, etc. Instead, industrial unionism would take all the building workers and put them into one organization, thereby achieving unity, the end of jurisdictional fights, and support for the principle of using the stronger workers to help defend the economic interests of the less skilled. If Lewis is really sincere in all this—and he seems to be the real McCoy—one should expect great developments in the American labor movement, which too long has been in the control of the conservative, old-school craft unionists.

\* \* \*

What do you think of Gen. Smedley D. Butler?

For something like 30 years, Butler was, as he describes himself, a collection agent for Wall Street bankers. As a marine, he went everywhere the government sent him—China, the Philippines, Central America, etc., to make damned foreigners understand

that Wall Street's commercial advantages and financial interests were not to be ignored or countered. He did as he was told, because that was good soldiering, and he never thought he was being anything but patriotic. It was only after he was retired because of age that his eyes were opened. He looked back over his record and realized, to his own bewilderment, that he had been spending almost a lifetime fighting for the moneybags of Wall Street instead of the Stars and Stripes. So he busted loose, and since then the air has rung with sound sense, really intelligent criticism and sane support for those radical elements who would make our government an instrument for the improvement of the conditions of the masses instead of a weapon for the protection of patrioteers out to make millions at the expense of domestic and foreign peoples. Every time Butler opens his mouth these days he says a mouthful. I don't think he's quite ready for Socialism yet—his understanding of scientific economics is still rather sophomoric—but he's on the way. At any rate, Butler may always be counted on the side of democracy—the real thing—and strictly against those incipient Fascists who would establish in this country a dictatorship of Capitalism along the lines of the totalitarian states created by Hitler and Mussolini. Butler not only believes in popular rights—civil rights—freedom of speech, press and assembly—but he's ready to fight for those blood-bought principles. Democratic-minded people should feel a little safer when they know a General Butler is around ready to fight against the Fascism that the Hearsts and the Coughlins would like to foist on our country.

\* \* \*

If Russia's intentions are to maintain peace, why does it go ahead increasing its army?

To some people it sounds inconsistent when they hear the argument expressed that Russia's standing army of 1,800,000 men mustn't be looked on as a force for aggression. It really is the policy of the Russian government to maintain peaceful relations with all foreign governments, no matter how reactionary some of them may be.

Modern capitalistic governments go



to war for one of two reasons: 1. to appropriate more territory; 2. to win economic and financial advantages through the absorption of new foreign markets.

Russia is too big to want more land, so No. 1 is disposed of. Russia is not interested in exploiting foreign markets or populations, preferring, in harmony with its socialistic policies, to develop peacefully its material resources at home, so that disposes of No. 2. Realizing these two conditions are necessary to modern warfare, it's simple to understand why Russia should be everlastingly striving for peaceful understandings with other governments, near or far. It has, in the past, made numerous offers to disarm completely, if that would also be acceptable to the great powers, but studied rejections have compelled the U.S.S.R. to continue building its military machine until it now stands as the greatest fighting force in the world.

The Soviet Union is in danger from two sources, as I've explained many times in the past—Germany and Japan. So long as these two governments frankly tell the world that they plan to further their economic and territorial advantages at the expense of Russia, we must sympathize with Moscow's determination to add to its military establishment until it's clear to all enemies that the least overt act will be met with the most violent resistance.

As I write these lines, press dispatches from Japan report a series of assassinations by a group of militarists, with the consequence that a number of important governmental figures, who opposed Japan's militaristic behavior in China and who advised against planning a war on Russia, have been removed. It amounts to a Fascist-militarist coup and may bring Japan closer to war with Russia. The extreme militarists, who aren't answerable to the civil government except to the extent that they must ask the government for money to pay the costs of increased armaments, are asserting their determination to compel complete acceptance of imperialistic policies. If this element isn't checked, the near future may see an attack on Russia's territory in eastern Siberia. In the face of such a situation, Russia can do

only one thing—prepare to make its military force even more powerful, especially in the Far East.

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How many jazz musicians are there in London?

About 15,000.

\* \* \*

Is our birth rate greater than our death rate?

According to the Bureau of Census, between April 1, 1930, and July 1, 1935, we had 12,420,000 births; 7,423,000 deaths.

\* \* \*

Would it be possible for the U.S. to keep out of another world war?

Our isolationists—headed by Senator Borah—believe it's possible for the U.S. to remain neutral should there be another great war. But they don't take into consideration the fact that a war of capitalistic nations must touch the capitalistic interests of the U.S., and that in itself would make neutrality a mighty frail craft. On this question of isolation, Sir Norman Angell, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1933, said, in London, on February 25, 1936, that armed isolation of the U.S. failed in 1914 and wouldn't endure in the future. He added:

"The United States is not going to fight 52 States for the privilege of trading with one. History has shown that the United States has become the economic ally of those States controlling the seas during a war.

"No nation puts peace first. Every great nation puts defense ahead of everything else because there are conditions worse than war."

American Capitalism has about \$5,000,000,000 invested in capitalistic Europe, not counting the war debts owing Uncle Sam. There are additional billions scattered in other parts of the world. Then there is the element of trade. The only difference between the U.S. and most other countries is this: we don't need any additional land. That is a strong force for peace, but the other factors are obviously heavy enough to move the scales in the direction of war, should it come.

At present, the isolationists are having their own way in everything, except the matter of tremendous appropriations for record-sized armaments, but this policy of isolationism

meets its test under war conditions, not peace. When the great nations of the capitalistic world go to fighting, the U.S. is, by virtue of its system of finance and economics, bound to change from neutrality to some form of cooperation, and that eventually results in hostilities.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the enclosed clipping.

The clipping is from the *Journal-Every Evening*, Wilmington, Del., for February 24, 1936, and reports a sermon by the Rev. Barney T. Phillips, of Washington, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, at the Cathedral Church of St. John, the favorite Wilmington church of the DuPont crowd.

In this sermon, the preacher made the statement that "a person may save his money in Russia, may be self-denying and frugal, and when he has done all this, will find that he is unable to spend his savings because the economic structure of the Soviet Republic will not permit of such spending, let alone the accumulation of wealth by saving."

There are two statements in this sentence—and both are false.

Any schoolboy ought to know that the people of Russia are permitted to spend their money. There are stores, theaters, cafes, cabarets, street-cars, beauty parlors, and a thousand and one other places where any person who has money to spend can find some polite clerk to take it from him.

As for being denied the right to save money, this is another howler. If such were the truth, then why would the Soviet Union go to the trouble of operating state savings banks?

\* \* \*

The Rev. Richard Quinlan, of Boston, said, in a speech to the Women's Guild in a Mass. town that the education in the parochial schools is "equal to any schools of the country." Please comment.

It's natural for a priest to defend his own institutions, for it wouldn't do to tell the bitter truth and thereby endanger the holy racket. The Catholic hierarchy boasts of its parochial schools, but fails to mention the interesting fact that the number of Catholics in *Who's Who* is down at the bottom of the list, next to the Seventh Day Adventists and the Latter Day Saints. If the parochial

schools were doing a good job the percentage of Catholic laymen among men of achievement would be larger. I have shown the actual figures several times, as has Joseph McCabe. The facts tell volumes. The more liberal a church is the greater is its percentage of distinguished citizens, until, when we reach the top—the Unitarian Church—we find that the Unitarians have the greatest representation in *Who's Who*. Then, of course, when we go still higher—into science, secularism, skepticism, Free-thought, Rationalism, etc.—we find still more persons of outstanding ability. The lesson is obvious. Churches that are hide-bound, orthodox and resistant to free inquiry—like the Catholic Church—produce mentalities of extremely low caliber, because it's impossible to keep pumping superstition and dogma into a growing mind and then expect it to function with the alertness and efficiency of a mind kept clean of all religious muddle-headedness and general hokum.

\* \* \*

What is the population of the U.S.?

The Bureau of Census estimates it at 127,521,000 for July 1, 1935. This, over 1934, registers a gain of 0.7 percent; 4 percent over 1930.

\* \* \*

A Republican senator declares that Roosevelt has ruined the young folks by pampering them with such projects as the CCC. Please comment.

The tory type of mind has always resisted any attempt to make one's government serve as well as rule the public. When the people, through the government, decided to establish free public schools hardly more than a century ago, the individualists howled their heads off. They saw the people being coddled and pauperized. Free public libraries and hospitals were fought as weapons of the devil, because they would surely lower the moral fiber of the people and deprive them of their independence and freedom. Laws regarding workmen's compensation in cases of industrial accident, child labor, old age pensions, unemployment insurance—all were poison to the reactionaries—and still are, for that matter—because they tend to make life more secure for the masses when any simp knows that child labor, helpless old age and other

forms of social insecurity are good for the proud heroes in overalls. Starvation, unnecessary disease and suffering, absence of social protection—all these things help make the masses sturdier, develop the old pioneering spirit and in other ways produce better citizens, even though it kills them.

\* \* \*

What was "Seward's Folly"?

In 1867, Secretary of State William H. Seward signed a treaty with Russia that ceded Alaska to the U.S. for \$7,200,000. Critics called the transaction "Seward's Folly." During 1934 Alaska's exports of canned fish had a value of \$39,811,224. In the same year furs to the value of \$2,554,930 were sold. Alaska bought from the U.S., during the first 10 months of 1935, goods valued at \$28,925,106. And Alaska's natural resources have hardly been scratched. Where does the "folly" come in?

\* \* \*

The New York Times, in its issue of February 28, 1936, says editorially: "President McKinley was shot in Buffalo by a Socialist who was cherishing fancied wrongs." Please comment.

Such a statement displays incredible inaccuracy. McKinley's assassin was not a Socialist. He was an Anarchist. Surely, the *Times'* editor knows the difference between the two. An Anarchist believes in abolishing all government. A Socialist seeks to establish a social order in which the facilities for conducting public, industrial, economic and financial affairs will be owned by the people and democratically managed in their interest. Such a structure amounts to a super-government, except that the state will be used to protect and serve the masses instead of being a club in the hands of a small, ruling class. At the time of McKinley's assassination one accepted the charge (that the murderer was a Socialist) on the score of popular hysteria, but it seems there's been enough time for passions to cool and reach something akin to the truth.

\* \* \*

Is our shipbuilding industry at all active?

The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that 132 ships, of 118,700 gross tons in the aggregate, were being constructed, on January 1, 1936, for private shippers. This includes a number of ships on which work

hasn't been started yet, but which have been contracted for. On December 1, 1935, our shipyards were at work on 129 ships, with a total tonnage of 81,900.

\* \* \*

Has the depression had a bad effect on new inventions?

Reports of the U.S. patent office show the following applications for fiscal years: 1930, 117,569; 1932, 93,859; 1934, 79,367; 1935, 81,000. Most of the applications for patents deal with packages, patterns or other selling ideas, instead of original machines or new ways of producing. The above figure of 177,569 for 1930 (which included part of 1929) showed an all-time high.

\* \* \*

Which do we have more of, murders or suicides?

The January, 1936, Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. shows that we have more suicides than homicides. For each 100,000 population, we had, in 1935, 9.1 suicides and 5.9 homicides. In 1934, we had 9.5 suicides and 5.9 homicides. It will be noticed that we had exactly the same number of murders in both years, while the number of suicides declined slightly in 1935.

\* \* \*

Which causes more deaths in the U.S., heart disease or cancer?

During 1935, according to the Statistical Bulletin, we had 157.4 deaths per 100,000 population from diseases of the heart; 95.5 from cancer. During 1934, the record shows 162.9, heart diseases; 96.1, cancer.

\* \* \*

How many persons are we using in the work of fighting soil erosion?

The *Forestry News Digest* for February, 1936, reports that 142,000 persons are actively engaged in this work, of whom more than 100,000 are CCC men.

\* \* \*

If the U.S. government made its own battleships, etc., would there be any saving?

A report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, made before the Senate Munitions Investigation Committee, in February, 1936, claimed that a government monopoly in the production of naval vessels would result in huge economies. A saving of \$1,000,000 could be made on each heavy cruiser. However, before the government could establish such a

monopoly it would be necessary to invest about \$47,000,000 in plants. This would have to be done on the basis of \$23,604,000 to provide necessary equipment in our navy yards. The balance would be needed to reproduce privately owned establishments that are now making aircraft equipment, explosives and arms. But the saving would be so large, it is urged, that this comparatively small investment would soon be recovered. That's looking at the question only from its business and financial side. There is the additional gain of taking from private munitions makers the motive for indulging in war scares, defense propaganda, bribery, graft, subsidizing politicians, lobbyists, newspapers, etc.

How many American cities and counties use the Council-Manager Plan?

Cities, 438; counties, 8. Michigan has the most cities under this plan, 64. During 1934-35 21 cities and two counties adopted the plan. Only 21 cities have given up the plan in the last 27 years. Eighteen percent of all cities of more than 100,000 population now use this form of government.

Please compare the national income and amounts paid in all taxes during the past few years, preferably from 1929.

The following figures are in millions, and the taxes include the collections of Federal, State and local governments:

	Natl. Income	Taxes	In per- cent
1929 .....	\$78,900	\$ 9,800	12.4
1932 .....	45,800	8,100	17.8
1933 .....	43,600	8,100	18.6
1934 .....	49,900	9,500	19.0
1935 .....	53,700	10,250	19.1

How many trees are we planting?

During 1935, according to *The Forestry News Digest*, the U.S. broke all records by planting 501,790,000 trees. In 1934, we planted 164,000,000. The greatest portion of these plantings took place in national forest lands, with 221,863,000 trees, in 1935. The shelter belt planting got 5,700,000. The balance: state lands, 89,703,000; privately owned lands, 95,251,000; soil erosion lands, 89,250,000. The leading states in which these plantings were done are: Michigan, 112,980,000; Wisconsin, 55,522,000; New

York, 52,743,000; Indiana, 32,382,000; Minnesota, 25,502,000; New Mexico, 24,694,000.

Which is more, the number of people leaving this country or the number of immigrants coming in?

Between April 1, 1930, and July 1, 1935, there were 251,000 more persons who left the U.S. than those who came in, according to the Bureau of Census.

What is our average annual increase of population?

The Bureau of Census says that since 1930 the average annual increase for the U.S. has been 904,000. From 1920 to 1930 the average yearly increase was 1,665,000.

What is the extent of Canada's trade with the U.S.? Does Canada do a bigger business with the United Kingdom?

During December, 1935, Canada sold the U.S. exports worth \$27,348,000, and bought from the U.S. \$22,429,000 worth of goods. During the same period, Canada sold to the United Kingdom goods worth \$26,659,000 and imported from the same source \$7,212,000.

1934-35 figures for Canadian foreign trade, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, follow (in thousands):

	1935	1934	Change plus
Exports to:			
British Empire	\$377,645	\$335,418	12.0%
United Km. . .	303,502	270,492	12.0
U.S.A. ....	265,975	222,568	20.0
All for. countries	351,640	317,894	10.0
Imports from:			
British Empire	\$173,892	\$157,067	10.0%
United Km. . .	116,676	113,416	2.5
U.S.A. ....	321,411	293,780	6.0
All for. countries	376,400	356,403	5.5

How much does it cost to elect a Canadian Parliament?

The present Parliament was elected at a cost of \$1,300,000, or about \$5,000 per member.

How much juice does TVA produce? What does the government's service save the consumer of electricity?

The annual report of the Tennessee Valley Authority shows that its present facilities manufactured, from September 1, 1933, to June 30, 1935, 122,370,300 kilowatt-hours. A study of the bills of 13 communities showed power and light savings that ran

from 29 to 61 percent on electric rates charged by private corporations. The public served by TVA is getting such cheap power that its residential use of electricity is already above the national average. There is no doubt about the success of TVA, and it's hardly started.

Is Great Britain drinking more beer, spirits, tea and cocoa compared to a decade ago?

The consumption of beer declined about 25 percent in the years from 1925 to 1935. Spirits declined 33 percent. Tea increased 6 percent; cocoa increased 16 percent.

Please give the percentage of Jews to total population.

The following figures are as of January 1, 1936, and come from the National Conference for Palestine, Washington, D.C.:

Palestine .....	29.8%
Poland .....	10.5
Lithuania .....	6.2
Rumania .....	5.1
U.S.A. ....	3.5
Soviet Russia .....	2.0
Canada .....	1.8
Germany .....	0.8
France .....	0.5

How many Jews are there in Palestine? 375,000, on January 1, 1936.

How many Mexicans are there in the U.S.?

About 500,000, mainly in California; Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Colorado.

What is our dollar worth in Russia?

Five rubles.

What was the point of the dissenting opinion in the TVA case?

Justice McReynolds was the only member of the Supreme Court of the U.S. to hold that the government had no right to manufacture and distribute electric power. It was his point that the case of TVA should not have been based on Wilson Dam alone but on all governmental activities in the power business. His conclusion is summarized as follows:

If, under the thin mask of disposing of property, the United States can enter the business of generating, transmitting and selling power as, when and whenever some board may specify, with the definite design to accomplish ends wholly be-

yond the sphere marked out for them by the Constitution, an easy way has been found for breaking down the limitations heretofore supposed to guarantee protection against aggression.

What is Russia's foreign trade, in U.S. dollars?

The Chamber of Commerce, Moscow, U.S.S.R., reports foreign trade to be:

	1935	1934
Exports .....	\$299,000,000	\$364,000,000
Imports .....	210,000,000	202,000,000

Export surplus \$89,000,000 \$162,000,000

What progress has been made in the government's housing program?

The Federal Housing Administration's annual report, for 1935, issued on February 17, 1936, holds that it did a total business amounting to \$540,080,000. This was divided, as follows:

Modernization loans insured by the Administration, \$254,000,000; home mortgages, \$170,600,000; housing projects, more than \$27,000,000.

The report holds, in addition, that FHA has served to bring out mortgage credit and make possible a heavy increase in the sale of construction materials.

What is the government doing to help needy American artists?

There is now a Federal Art Project Administration which, acting under the WPA's \$3,000,000 art program, has taken 4,300 artists and put them on 327 projects. Most of these artists were on relief before the administration got its art program under way. Every form of art is included in these 327 projects—from huge murals to easel paintings, sculpture, designing, etc. About 50,000 persons are taking lessons in art from artists connected with WPA projects, mainly in and around New York City. These classes are meeting in boys' and girls' clubs, public schools, churches, settlement houses, etc.

What's become of the \$4,880,000,000 voted for federal relief?

The Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 established a fund of \$4,000,000,000, to which was added \$880,000,000 for the purpose of mov-

ing unemployed persons from direct relief to work relief. From this money, as of January 31, 1936, \$4,400,000,000 had been drawn on. Of this sum, there was spent \$1,951,526,000, which left a balance of \$2,448,474,000. This last sum consisted of \$1,672,796,000 in unobligated obligations, and of \$775,678,000 in unliquidated obligations.

\* \* \*

We always hear about Christian countries fighting or getting ready to fight, but hardly ever a word about Mohammedan countries. Are they just as war-like?

As a result of the efforts of President Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, of Turkey, four independent Moslem countries—Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran, comprising about 50,000,000 people—have accepted a treaty of friendship and non-aggression. It isn't at all accurate to speak of these countries as Mohammedan—especially with regard to Turkey—because skepticism in religion is growing fast. Turkey's President is himself a frank Freethinker who has no use whatsoever for the religious notions of Mohammedanism. He has, to the amazement of the orthodox, turned his government to strictly secular pursuits, thrown religion out of the schools, compelled priests to wear ordinary clothes when outside their churches, and in other ways has taken steps to modernize Turkey.

\* \* \*

What does it cost England to keep its fleet in the Mediterranean?

\$160,000 per day.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to the reports that the Mexican government is turning Communist?

When President Cardenas announced that Mexico's labor laws will have to be obeyed—which, among other things, provide for seven day's pay for six days' work—the press of this country began its usual stunt of yelling "Communist." To this, President Cardenas replied:

Social agitation is not the work of Communists. The Communist party represents too small a minority to have the slightest influence in Mexico. The present situation is due solely to the conflict between the just demands of the workers, and their employers who do not wish to comply with labor laws.

There's no doubt that Cardenas

stands as one of the most progressive rulers in the world, but it's highly inaccurate to refer to him as a Communist or to his policies as communistic. The Mexican administration is liberal, even radical, with leanings towards the more moderate policies of a socialistic state, rather than a proletarian dictatorship.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the removal of a high army officer for talking about public affairs.

Major General Johnson Hagood was removed from command because he argued that WPA money could be better used to build up the Army—this, of course, despite the fact that the federal government voted more money for the Army, during the next fiscal year, than in any peace-time year in the history of the nation. When Hagood discussed matters in his department, he was within his rights, but it's a sound policy which holds that men connected with the Army or Navy may, under no circumstances, discuss publicly matters of politics, government, etc. So long as they are connected with the service they must devote themselves entirely to their job. Of course, this ideal is never really lived up to. It's because Hagood indirectly criticized his Commander in Chief (through a slur on WPA) that he brought down on his head the wrath of Jehovah. Had Hagood done as others before him have done repeatedly—made public speeches or written newspaper and magazine articles attacking the Soviet Union, defending Fascism in Italy and Germany, urging an orgy of red-baiting in this country, and the like—he mightn't have heard a word of complaint from anyone except a handful of Reds, and they, of course, would get no attention. Army and Navy men should be made to keep their mouths shut, regardless of whether they're on the side of the Left or the Rights. If they want to interfere in political and social issues, let them resign their places and become private citizens—then they can talk to the limit, as the Constitution permits. Hagood deserved what he got, but he probably didn't expect it, because, as I've just said, so many of his colleagues have been given to talking about matters outside their fields when the regulations strictly

provide for no comments on public policies.

\* \* \*

Please list the 20 countries that are most densely populated.

The figures below, which are from the latest sources, show conclusively that there is nothing to the notion that China and India are the world's most populous countries. China has seventh place, while India is down near the bottom, in 15th place.

Country	Persons per Sq. Mile
Belgium	700.5
England and Wales	684.8
Netherlands (excluding water area)	659.1
Japan (proper)	449.2
Germany (including Saar District)	363.5
Italy	356.0
China (proper)	299.3
Czechoslovakia	271.5
Switzerland	255.1
Hungary	241.8
Poland	221.2
Denmark	220.5
Austria	208.8
France	196.8
India	195.1
Portugal	192.3
Rumania	153.7
Bulgaria	152.9
Yugoslavia	145.8
Greece	131.7

\* \* \*

Would you include the Philadelphia Record among liberal, progressive newspapers?

By all means. The three J. David Stern papers—in Camden, N.J., Philadelphia and New York City—are liberal, well-edited papers that are always ready to support democratic institutions and fight incipient Fascism. These journals do a mighty neat job of exposing Hearst's reactionary policies. I don't read any of Mr. Stern's papers regularly, but I do manage to see an occasional copy, particularly the *New York Post*.

\* \* \*

Are we selling oil to Italy for cash or credit? Is this trade up or down?

Under the terms of our Neutrality Act, which expired on February 29, 1936, but was extended to May 1, 1937, by a vote in the House of 353 to 27, and then passed in the Senate without a record vote, it's forbidden to make loans to a belligerent, or advance credits. This applies to Italy, so any business done with that government means cash on the barrel-head. As the League of Nations fail-

ed to include an embargo on oil in its list of sanctions (penalties), it's legitimate for the U.S. to sell oil to Mussolini, so long as he can produce the money. He started hostilities with a fair amount of gold (actual figures were given several times in previous issues) but this money has been disappearing fast. However, he did have enough money, during December, 1935, to buy the following from us: crude oil, 598,700 barrels; gasoline, 184,700 barrels; gas oil, 212,400 barrels; lubricating oil, 77,500 barrels; fuel oil, none. He bought a total of 596,800 barrels of all the above commodities during November, 1935. A year ago Italy bought nothing of any of these things, except 18,800 barrels of lubricating oil.

\* \* \*

What is soil erosion? And what damage has it done in the U.S.?

Erosion is the gradual washing away of good soil by rain or snow down sloping land. It has rendered useless 35,000,000 acres of arable land in this country. This amounts to about 200,000 farms.

\* \* \*

Is it true that our current appropriation for armaments is the largest in peace-times?

Yes. In February, 1936, Congress passed the Army appropriation of \$390,000,000 for the military, and \$168,360,000 for non-military purposes connected with the Army. At the same time enlistment was ordered increased to 150,000. The National Guard is to be increased from 195,000 to 200,000.

Navy appropriations are estimated at \$549,591,000. Total defense bill is \$939,591,000 for the next fiscal year. The current fiscal year's expense is \$744,000,000. It was \$533,000,000 in 1934-35.

We are soon to spend about \$3,000,000 per day on the Army and Navy. This is a peace-time record by a wide margin.

\* \* \*

What is the purpose of President Roosevelt's proposed Pan-American parley?

On February 15, 1936, Roosevelt suggested an inter-American conference by 20 Latin-American governments. It was proposed in the interest of peace. The parley will consider the ratification of peace measures already discussed, and some new proposals. It's felt that such a con-

ference might serve to prevent future troubles like the recent Chaco War.

\* \* \*

I'm thinking of going into the business of running cockroach races. Please give me a few pointers.

Your first need will be a trap with which to catch the roaches. Such a contraption may be had from a Mrs. A. N. Givens, Jacksonville, Fla., who is said to have a clever device for sale. Not all roaches are racers, so you'll have to do a little selecting. The races are run on a track that is glassed-enclosed and electrically wired, the equipment being placed on a 10 x 5 foot table. There are supposed to be 10 glass runways. Each runway must have a different, vivid color. Tiny stalls are placed at both ends, for the roach to leave when he goes racing and to enter when he has finished. The roaches usually run to the limit of their powers because they are sensitive to the bright glare of light and to the electric shocks. Undoubtedly even these races will be "fixed" by controlling the electric current, leaving in peace those which are backed to lose. It's like those mouse games that were popular recently. They looked straight enough, until it was found that the mouse impresario rubbed cheese on the walls of the holes which he wanted the little fellows to run into.

\* \* \*

Is it true that Hitler, early in his career, was a professional spy in the labor movement?

John Gunther, foreign correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*, in his recent book, *Inside Europe*, says:

"Hitler entered political life as a spy, a non-commissioned officer in the post-war German army, detailed as intelligence officer to attend labor meetings."

\* \* \*

Something like 400 readers have sent me the missing line from the couplet which begins with "Some come here to sit and think." Most of these correspondents seemed to be most solemn in their effort to get the record straight, though one or two readers added impishly that they suspected I asked the question with tongue in cheek. One Brentwood, Md., reader set me right on this great question based on outhouse poetry, and added:

"That reminds me of the thrust at Dallas which was quite popular at one time in Fort Worth. The two cities have long been bitter

rivals, and at times the gibes are quite caustic. Once, Dallas had a water famine, and Fort Worth offered three carloads of water daily. This was haughtily spurned with the accusation that Fort Worth was trying to advertise at the expense of Dallas.

"The West Fork of the Trinity runs from Fort Worth to Dallas. About this time there appeared on the walls of practically every public toilet in Fort Worth, the following legend: 'Don't forget to pull the string; Dallas needs water.'"

\* \* \*

#### UPTON SINCLAIR PROTESTS

Of course, I knew that Upton Sinclair wouldn't like my review of his new book, "What God Means to Me," as he himself knew I wouldn't like his book. Sinclair writes:

You review my book, "What God Means to Me." Of course I did not expect that you would like it, but I did expect that you would tell the truth about it. I endeavored in this book to explain religion in terms of modern psychology. Unfortunately, you do not know very much about modern psychology, and you cannot distinguish established facts from delusions.

Every traveler in Africa knows that African sorcerers sometimes kill their victims by their spells. Every modern psychologist would admit the phenomenon and say that the victim died of auto-suggestion, his own fear, caused by belief in the spells. In mentioning this fact I say (page 40):

"Writing on these dangerous subjects I have to be careful; so I specify: I do not believe in African sorcery, and do not advocate its practice. But the African savage believes in sorcery, and so when the sorcerer puts a 'spell' upon him, he dies of terror."

Having read this, you list for the entertainment of your readers the things in which Upton Sinclair expresses belief in the book; and in your list I find "African sorcery." I have long ago observed that a dogmatic Atheist is among the most irrational of thinkers, but does he have to tell outright falsehoods in order to make his points?

You invite me to conduct a survey to determine whether religious people enjoy better health than others. I have explained in the book that most religious people have very little real faith, and nothing that would help their health; but if I had the means to conduct a survey



I would like very much to investigate life insurance statistics and ascertain whether, for example, Christian Scientists as a group live longer than other persons. You see I am not like you—I don't know everything according to theory, but I try to find out what facts are, and when I find out I tell them, and am not deterred by fear of ridicule.

One set of facts has been investigated. Who do you suppose constitute the longest-lived group in the United States? The answer is, clergymen. I would be interested in your guess as to the cause of this. My own guess is that they are continually giving to themselves suggestions of serenity and peace. But I suppose by making such a statement I will cause you to accuse me of believing in cannibalism and lycanthropy. Sincerely,

UPTON SINCLAIR

When I finished my review of Sinclair's book I realized the job was still to be done if his philosophy was to be answered adequately, so I did precisely the right thing—I shipped the book to London, for Joseph McCabe to handle. Of course, McCabe jumped right to it. He had a crowded schedule, but he put everything aside and turned his good-tempered, polite, but stern, guns on the one and only Upton. The result was a manuscript, which I read with many a quiet chuckle. He calls this 15,000-word book on Sinclair's book: "Upton Sinclair Finds God," and it will be issued soon as a complete number of *The Freethinker*.

When I finished McCabe's analysis of Sinclair's ideas, I decided to invite Sinclair to make a reply, permitting him wordage up to that used by McCabe—15,000 words. I'm waiting for his reply. Should he accept, I'll send McCabe's manuscript on to Pasadena, for Sinclair to study and answer. If he does all this, the battle of minds will be interesting and instructive. It's Upton Sinclair's next move. If he doesn't accept I'll have to print McCabe's review by itself. Either way, readers of *The Freethinker* are in for an exciting, stimulating experience.

\* \* \*

UPTON SINCLAIR SAYS "NO"

Joseph McCabe and I are just too ignorant to be worth arguing with, so we'll have to have our say without the benefit of open discussion. Sinclair found time to write a fat book on why he believes in God, but he's too busy to write a few thousand words defending that book against the opinions of Jos.

McCabe, a man who has written more on Theism and religion than any other man living. Nothing remains for me to do but print McCabe's review and let the readers judge for themselves. Meanwhile, here's Upton Sinclair's caustic rejection of my invitation to have a nice, snappy debate:

I am sorry I cannot accept your invitation to answer McCabe. I am half way through a long novel dealing with our California self-help co-operatives, and I am trying to cut out everything else. Anyhow I do not think there is any use in arguing, because you are not interested in the facts and my guess is that McCabe's review will prove the same thing about him. You both have formulas, and if the facts do not fit in, you reject them. When I have said that, I have said all that is necessary to say—and it doesn't take 15,000 words.

Take the subject of telepathy, for example. For two years my wife and I worked patiently and collected a mass of facts, our own personal experiences. When I sit in a room with the door closed, and make a drawing and in the course of a minute or two my wife in another room reproduces it, of course you are at liberty to say I am lying about it, but I do not know what else you can say or feel about it and at the same time go on ridiculing the idea of telepathy. Recently in the laboratories of Duke University, Professor Rhine and his students have made one or two hundred thousand tests and have proved telepathy, and made it as certain as electricity. But I have never seen any comments from you on these experiments, and I doubt if you even know they were made.

Of course if you want to remain ignorant, that is your privilege, but you must understand that I cease to be interested in what you write on such subjects.

Sincerely,

UPTON SINCLAIR

\* \* \*

Since Upton Sinclair is so positive that I am dogmatic with regard to telepathy, let me quote what I wrote once in answer to the question: "What is your opinion of mental telepathy?" The following is taken from page 96 of No. 3 Questions and Answers:

"This subject does not belong in the same class with psychic phenomena, though psychics often try to run the two together. There is very little real evidence in support

of mental telepathy, but there is an attitude of suspended judgment among educated people. The thing may work out in time, but this does not mean it will function through supernatural means. If arrived at, mental telepathy would be no more super-materialistic, or spiritual, or miraculous than radio, which, of course, is a triumph of physics."

In the same article I suggested that it would be clearer if we called the phenomenon "thought transference," which is simpler and less subject to notions of the supernatural, whereas "mental telepathy" suggests communication between the living and the dead, which, of course, is rank superstition.

Sinclair also seems to think that Christian Scientists live longer than non-believers. This is a matter which should be supported by verifiable data, if there's anything to the claim. The proper people to study such a problem are the statisticians connected with the great insurance companies. I wrote to Mr. Louis I. Dublin, Third Vice President and Statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., New York City, and received this reply: "We have no statistics showing the relative mortality of Christian Scientists."

\* \* \*

Upton Sinclair seems to think there is something of an argument in favor of religion and the God idea because ministers enjoy a lower mortality rate than is the case with the general male population. Louis I. Dublin, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., in his new book, *Length of Life*, says members of the clergy, in a special study carried on in England and Wales, "had an expectation of life of 42.8 years at age 25, as compared to 37.3 years for the general population."

But Dr. Dublin is a scientist, not a theologian. When called on to discuss this interesting fact, he resorts to rationalistic thinking, as follows:

"As one might expect, on the scores both of standard of living and freedom from occupational hazard, professional men and women occupy an extremely favorable position."

Perhaps Upton Sinclair isn't familiar with the facts, but it's a fact nevertheless, that Atheism is strongest amongst graduates and faculties

of our greatest educational institutions. I have quoted numerous tables of statistics on this point, gathered by Dr. Leuba, and which showed that the higher the standing the greater the volume of disbelief in God and Immortality, until the top strata of scholars show almost complete absence of theistic beliefs. Here Dr. Dublin joins the discussion with this verifiable observation (page 223 of the book just named):

"In a study conducted in the statistical Bureau of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, it is shown that college graduates, who may be considered as representative of the professional class as a whole, have a mortality very definitely below the average."

When we come to the honor men—who were studied separately—we find that at age 22 they enjoyed an expectation of life of 47.73 years. Here again, of course, as we come into the realms of higher scholarship, we find greater acceptance of Atheism and Materialism, and yet these same individuals are even better off than the clergymen discussed above. Allowing for the three years' difference in the groups' age, we still find considerable advantage in favor of the lay scholars.

The facts, therefore, dismiss Upton Sinclair's inference as being without validity.

\* \* \*

What was the meaning of the Supreme Court's decision on TVA?

By a decision of eight justices against one dissenting opinion, the Supreme Court of the U.S. ruled that the government's building of Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals was constitutional. The government was also permitted to sell surplus power (through purchasing transmission lines) to the market. The decision is summarized as follows:

The power to regulate interstate commerce embraces the power to keep the navigable rivers of the U.S. free from obstruction to navigation and to remove such obstructions when they exist. Water power, the right to convert it into electric energy, and the electric energy thus produced, constitute property belonging to the United States. Authority to dispose of property constitutionally acquired by U.S. is expressly granted to Congress by Section 3 of Article 4 of the Consti-

tution. Transmission lines for electric energy are but a facility for conveying to market that particular sort of property. The question of the constitutional right of the government to acquire or operate local or urban distribution systems is not involved.

\* \* \*

How many people are there in the U.S. who aren't affiliated with any church?

70,000,000. (I believe this figure to be pretty accurate, but lest it be thought I'm letting prejudice against religion dictate in order to show how indifference towards religion is growing, let me add that this estimate will also be found at the top of the second column of page 526 of the well-known Catholic periodical, *The Commonweal*, for March 6, 1936.)

\* \* \*

Did our big corporations do better in 1935 than in 1934?

During 1935, 237 important industrial companies made a net aggregate income of \$565,165,000, which was 48 percent more than the same corporations earned in the previous year. The leading money-makers were in the following fields: automobiles, building, products for household use, and machinery. In 1934, U.S. Steel showed a huge deficit, which, in 1935, it turned into profit. Roosevelt's administration has done everything in its powers to help the great industrialists of the nation, but they are ungrateful to him for his help, because he dared include in his policies a few measures of the kind that are intended to supply a measure of social security. Now that Roosevelt has "finished" his job of saving Capitalism—for it was tottering when he went into office—the Capitalists feel they are ready to return to a tory of the Lord 'erbert 'oover type. But the people are going to have a little to say on this subject next November.

\* \* \*

I understand that city home-mortgages have declined during the past few years. Please comment.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board estimates that urban home-mortgages declined from \$21,810,000,000 in January, 1932, to \$17,500,000,000 in January, 1936. This means a drop of 20 percent, or \$4,310,000,000. The Board explains the decline as follows:

Payments of large amounts

through amortization;

Curtailment of existing loans by home owners during a time of building stagnation when few new loans were made;

Large-scale foreclosure operations of private lenders, particularly in 1932 and 1933 when more than 500,000 home owners lost their properties; this factor alone accounted for reduction in mortgage debts of \$1,500,000,000;

Exchange of nearly 1,000,000 distressed mortgages by private lenders for bonds of the Home Owners Loan Corp. in amounts less than the original mortgages, reducing the face amount of loans outstanding;

Interest charges were reduced by: Transfer of nearly \$3,000,000,000 of distressed mortgages, originally bearing interest rates averaging above 6 percent, into HOLC loans carrying 5 percent interest;

Conversion of a large volume of loans by private lenders into long-term amortized mortgages at lower interest rates.

\* \* \*

How many submarines have the Russians in the Far East? How do they get them there?

The Soviet Union refuses to give out figures on its naval strength at Vladivostok, but reports received from good sources give the Russians 25 submarines of the latest and best design, with all of them carrying quick-firing 5-inch guns. These vessels were made in European Russia, knocked down and shipped over the trans-Siberian railway and set up at Pacific naval bases. The same source, which reported to London, says more submarines are being rushed to completion, because the heads of the Soviet government are thoroughly alarmed over conditions in the Far East. With these submarines, with a great air fleet and 250,000 trained troops facing the Japanese, it seems certain that Russia will give a good account of itself should the Fascist-militarists of Japan decide to risk a war of aggression.

\* \* \*

Please explain what WPA is doing for actors.

In September, 1935, the Federal Theater of the WPA was granted \$6,784,036 as relief for unemployed actors. A check for \$103.40 goes each month to each of 9,000 actors, stagehands, scenery artists, managers, and

the like. The project is under the direction of Mrs. Hallie Flanagan, who has sent out numerous road shows, one of the objects of the project being the development of provincial dramatic enterprises. One company of New York actors was sent on a tour of the South with a play entitled *Jefferson Davis*, by John McGee.

One of the difficulties facing Mrs. Flanagan—who, by the way, is professor in charge of the Experimental Theater at Vassar College—is the fact that most of the unemployed actors are in New York City, where there is hardly any need for additional theatrical productions. A number of road companies will serve to remove these New York actors to other parts of the country, where their art is really needed.

The 9,000 unemployed actors are scattered throughout 20 States, with 1,500 in Los Angeles, 275 in Dallas, 175 in San Francisco, and fairly large numbers in Chicago and Boston.

It is Mrs. Flanagan's desire to make possible the continuation of this work of spreading the influence of the legitimate theater even after federal funds are spent.

In all a good and necessary work is being done and the administrators of the project, along with the government, deserve the highest praise. It's taking very little money to get this important work going, and it's hoped that when the funds are exhausted more will be forthcoming.

What are the favorite entertainments of children?

A psychologist says there are four choices, in the following order: movies, listening to an orchestra, the comics, the radio.

Which vegetable can be used the most ways?

The onion.

When a garment is cleaned by the dry process how much does the dirt weigh, compared to the weight of the clothes?

The average is 5 percent.

Is it true that persons with strong, powerful jaws have strong, dominating characters?

There's no scientific authority for such a notion. Of course, it's possible for a strong-jawed individual to also

have a strong character, but that's only a coincidence. Your jaw's shape is determined by heredity, while your character, to a great extent, is shaped by environment, education, training, opportunity, etc.

I remember having read in *The Daily Worker* that Norman Thomas believed in lynching for Negroes. Please comment.

This Communist daily is notoriously lax when it comes to showing a little respect for the truth. When Norman Thomas was asked about the Communist demand that the Negroes in our southern states be permitted to secede from the Union and form black republics, he frankly said he thought the idea was screwy. Ergo, Thomas believes in lynching! That, my friends, is just another *non sequitur*, or, in blunter speech, bunk.

Is there any truth in the theory that the rate of growth has something to do with the length of life?

Cornell University has made studies which indicate that longevity may be induced by slower growth. Rats, insects, trout and cantaloupe seeds were used in the tests. *Good Health* reports the following results:

"At Cornell, 105 weanling rats were divided into three groups. One set was allowed to eat as much as it liked; the second was put on so restricted a diet that it grew slowly; the third was fed freely for two weeks and then had its rations restricted.

"Of the group that was fed freely and then restricted the average life was 509 days for the males and 801 for the females. Of the retarded animals, 13 (five males and eight females) were alive at the end of 1,200 days. None of the first group lived so long. Ten days in the life of a rat is said to be equivalent to a year of human life. So these rats had attained what corresponds to 120 years in man."

What is the size of the average farm in Japan?

Two and a half acres.

Is there any way of escaping the high cost of funerals?

Most communities have burial societies, lodges, fraternal orders etc., which may enable you to die in the knowledge that your family won't have to spend beyond its means in

order to get your bones safely put away. Cremation is by no means a cheap method of disposing of the dead.

According to *The Municipal Review*, Sophia, Bulgaria, has handled the problem by doing away with all private undertakers. The Municipal government provides four classes of funerals, the first being expensive and intended for the rich, and the others working down in price until Class 4 offers a coffin, services and a place in the city's cemetery for only \$15. There's still another class which can get the services of Class 4 free of charge if the family is without funds.

\* \* \*

It is claimed that Japan must conquer new territory in order to take care of its extra population. Please comment.

I've considered, in several long articles, the same argument as it's urged by Italy, showing, by actual facts, that Italy owns almost 900,000 square miles of colonies (about nine times the size of the homeland) and that Italians have simply refused to go there. Take, for instance, the colony known as Libya. In 1934, only 90 Italian families were there, after Mussolini had done almost everything to get his subjects to colonize. There are only 84 Italians working farms in all Eritrea. Does it follow that Italy's excess population will go to Ethiopia if Mussolini succeeds in subjugating that independent Negro nation? Of course not. The whole plea is based on bunk.

The same goes for Japan. Korea has belonged to Japan for 25 years, and yet there are only 400,000 Japanese there, many of them being traders and public officials. Formosa has been the property of Japan for 40 years, and yet the island has only 180,000 Japanese. There is the great territory of Manchuria, and it holds only 185,000 Japanese. As Norman Angell showed in his recent book, *Raw Materials, Population Pressure and War*, the Japanese, in 40 years, have taken care of, through colonization, only one year's population growth, which is 1,000,000 persons, out of a population (including the places just mentioned, and Japan proper) of 121,399,797. Japan proper has 64,450,005.

There is, as Norman Angell points

out, nothing to the argument that additional colonies will enable a mother country to solve its unemployment problem. If such could happen, England, the home of the greatest colonial force in all history, would have no unemployed, and yet it has its own unemployment problem despite the fact that it owns about a fifth of the land surface of the globe.

Then, of course, our expansionistic propagandists argue that colonies solve the problem of raw materials. Here again we see the emptiness of this argument. There isn't a country in the world that can't get all the raw material it wants, and then some—if it's ready to pay for the shipments. The fact that England has access to Canadian wheat or newsprint doesn't mean England can get them without money. They have to be paid for the same as any other customer—or they'll be sold to Mussolini, Japan, or Germany, or anyone else who can produce the money. The fact that one owns a colony doesn't mean that one gets raw material for nothing.

\* \* \*

What are farm wages in Japan?

About 15 cents per day.

\* \* \*

How large is the Japanese empire?

Counting Japan proper, Formosa, Korea, scattered islands, Manchuria and Jehol, Japan has 723,742 square miles, or about four times the size of Germany.

\* \* \*

Are there any large cities in Japan?

Tokio has a population of 2,000,000; Greater Tokio, 5,500,000. Osaka's population is 2,453,000. These cities have grown rapidly.

\* \* \*

How long did it take to try President Andrew Johnson on impeachment charges?

The post-Civil War President was tried by the Senate and acquitted. The trial lasted from February 25 to May 26, 1868.

\* \* \*

How does science account for the faint light in the heavens on moonless nights?

Prof. Georges DeJardin, University of Lyons, France, says, in the *Reviews of Modern Physics*, January, 1936, that only one-fifth of this light comes from the stars. It's his theory that most of this light is the result of electricity being thrown from the sun

and "striking sparks" as it hits molecules high up in the air. This scientist adds that another source of light on a moonless night is sunlight reflected by particles of matter in the empty space above the atmosphere, in the same way that the moon reflects the light of the sun.

In answer to the question how the light can be reflected when the sun is on the other side of the earth, it's explained that the sun's electrons are curved by the earth's magnetic field. That tells why almost as many electrons fall on the side of the earth where it's night as on the other side where it's day.

\* \* \*

What is the percentage against the player at roulette?

Frank Menke, in his book, *Sports Record Book*, says that where the wheel is honest and has both the "O" and "OO," the house has an advantage of a little over 5 percent.

\* \* \*

Which sport draws the biggest box-office?

Frank Menke, who studies such things, says it's basketball. He puts the yearly "take" at \$80,000,000.

\* \* \*

How many hunting licenses are issued yearly in the U.S.?

About 6,000,000.

\* \* \*

Is the bite of the black widow spider usually fatal?

In a bulletin issued by entomologists connected with the University of California, it's claimed that her bite is fatal only about once in 100 times.

She's always ready to leave her natural habitat of woods or field to make her home in some dark, dry, warm corner of a building. The bulletin suggests they be prevented by crushing webs, spiders and the sacs containing the young. Dark corners should be covered with creosote. This spider's venom poisons the nerves instead of the blood.

As for her character, she is strongly devoted to her home duties, though she usually sees to it that the male is killed after he finishes his job of mating. She gives her future husband a warm, emotional, almost hysterical welcome, even going into a series of gyrations that suggest a dance, but, alas, all this ecstatic love is short-lived, for friend husband is

usually put on the spot and rubbed out, if he isn't quick enough to sense that he isn't wanted any more.

The young spiders live in the sac after hatching, remaining there for from four to 30 days, depending on weather conditions. They eat one another, leaving only the strong to perpetuate the species.

\* \* \*

Does the inclusion of a leap year make our calendar accurate?

The Gregorian calendar was established in 1582 to correct the Julian calendar's error of nearly 10 minutes per year, but it itself is about 24 seconds too long per year. The calendar, as it stands, is now about three hours too much, which means that about the year 4600 the calendar will be an entire day in error. This, of course, isn't anything to worry about, but the simple fact remains that the Gregorian calendar will yet have to be modernized if it's to be strictly accurate.

The Julian calendar was named after Julius Caesar because he introduced it in 45 B.C., after the astronomer Sosigenes put the year's length at 365¼ days. The trouble with this, of course, was the fact that it doesn't take the earth exactly that time to make a complete trip around the sun. It's closer to 365.24219, and even this figure isn't exact. It was because of that extra fourth of a day per year that leap years were established once every four years, in order to make up for this additional time, but this couldn't last throughout the centuries because the year was actually 10 minutes shorter per year. For example, when the Gregorian reform of the calendar was ordered in 1582, the calendar was already 13 days in error, which made Spring come on March 12 instead of March 25, where it was placed by the Julian calendar. It's obvious that such a thing had to stop or the world would, in time, see Spring arrive officially in the middle of Winter. That would result in the dislocation of a number of religious holidays, especially with regard to Easter.

Pope Gregory's calendar—which was made by the astronomer Christopher Clavius—cut off 10 days from the calendar at one swoop. A number of other changes were made—including the one that there be only

97 leap years, instead of 100, every 400 years. But there is still that discrepancy of 24 seconds per year, which has added three hours to our calendar since 1582 and will continue to add an entire day every 3,000 years.

\* \* \*

What has Aberhart done to carry out his promise to give every citizen in Alberta \$25 per month out of the public treasury?

As I anticipated, when I discussed, many months ago, Premier William Aberhart of the Canadian province of Alberta, exactly nothing has been done. There have been plenty of promises of future action, and plain and fancy buck-passing, but the fool voters who put him into office, in order to have the government give everybody a piece of money at bill-paying time each month, are still struggling along without the free money.

It has been shown that it would cost the province \$120,000,000 each year to finance Aberhart's pipe dream. The total yearly income of the entire province—men and women of every class and position—is only \$115,000,000. So, what it amounts to is simply this delightful piece of financial hokum: The people are to get \$5,000,000 more from doing nothing than they make at their jobs, professions, businesses, etc.

Yes, we have our political quacks and charlatans—more than our share, for that matter—but the record shows that Canadians aren't the least bit backward when given a chance to fall for a shyster's political shell-game. At that, Aberhart's social credit mirage is worse than Townsendism, because the latter promises free money to less than 10 percent of our population, while Aberhart guarantees an unearned income for everybody.

The trouble with the people is that they want paradise to come the same way they get their Amos and Andy program—by a quick turn of the dial. Questions of economics, finance, sociology, government, political science, etc., are highly complicated, and as such don't attract popular attention, but let some screwy pill-peddler concoct some political patent medicine that's guaranteed to cure everything from unemployment to halitosis after

taking only one swallow of the dope, and the dumb masses fall all over themselves to give him support—not only with their votes but with the few remaining pennies they have, as the Townsend racket shows.

The American people—and here I include the good citizens of Alberta—are going to learn—perhaps during the next 10,000 years—that great social questions are going to be solved scientifically, not by a magician—and that will mean slow research, careful planning, complete grasp of all available facts, patience, willingness to spend real sweat on vast social problems. There's no other way. Anyone who promises that society can be made to guarantee free incomes by the passing of a law—without going to the roots of social issues and reorganizing the industrial, financial, governmental and social regime, is making a public fool of himself, and the reason the public doesn't brand him for the fool he is is because the public itself contains such a heavy proportion of nit-wits and morons.

We, the people of the United States and Canada, are going to learn one thing—if we are ever to get out of our social chaos—and that is it's going to take real mental and physical effort to bring a measure of social justice to the masses. A slogan won't do it.

The Russians have the right idea, though I'm not suggesting Communism as our remedy. The people of the Soviet Union are realists of the first order—they think in terms of production, distribution, machinery, expansion of the facilities of wealth production, more efficient productivity from labor, jobs for everyone able to work, building, preparing, planning, and so on down the line. You never hear Russians talk about "free incomes." They don't ask for "free incomes" but for "free opportunity to go to work to create wealth." That's what's needed—work, hard work, steady work, and all of it intelligent and scientifically managed.

But, you say, we can't go to work at will in the U.S. and Canada because the mediums for wealth production—the large-scale industries—belong to the capitalists, who care to have them operated only when they can be made to produce a profit to the owners. Right, but here we are

getting to the core of the problem of social injustice—and if we are to get anywhere we will have to go to that basic question, despite all the squawkings of our Townsends, Sinclairs, Coughlins and Aberharts.

If we can't get a sure income for all the people without working for that income—because no social order has yet been able to produce the necessities of life without work from the masses—then we must study the scientific answer to the problem of how to break down the walls of economic domination that have been erected around our large-scale industries by Capitalism and its institutions. If the people can get wealth only one way—and that's by working for it—then they must consider the means offered by certain schools of thought which claim that economic security can be reached only by opening the avenues of opportunity, through a system in which the implements of production, distribution and exchange will be owned and operated democratically for the good of those citizens who are willing to work for what they get.

But all this looks like the long road—and that's too tiresome. Our people want to turn the dial and get heaven on earth tonight, or perhaps tomorrow, at the latest. Well, they won't. And the sooner they learn this bitter truth the better it'll be for the future of civilization.

\* \* \*

What is a writ of habeas corpus?

Countries like Germany and Italy today, and most other countries before the U.S. adopted its Constitution, arrested at will, regardless of whether or not a crime had been committed, and held the prisoner, without trial, as long as the incarceration suited the mood or plan of the persecutor. But such a thing is unconstitutional in the U.S., where each citizen is guaranteed the right to apply for a writ of habeas corpus. "Writ" means "order," "habeas" is Latin for "to have" or "to produce," and "corpus" means "body." In short, the court orders the sheriff or jailer to produce the body of the prisoner in court, where the judge is to decide whether or not the person is being held without cause, or if his rights are being denied in other respects. If the writ is granted it means that the court

has held that the prisoner was guiltless and should not have been arrested and must therefore be released at once. This is one of the most vital rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

\* \* \*

What does our Constitution mean when it says, in Article 1, that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion"?

An "established religion" is the official adoption of a religion by the State, with its expenses paid by taxation. Our Constitution forbids Congress to establish a religion, but it guarantees everyone the right to free worship.

\* \* \*

What was our population at the time of the Revolution?

3,000,000.

\* \* \*

What is the foreign debt of the Soviet Union?

100,000,000 gold rubles. In 1931 it was 1,250,000,000.

\* \* \*

What percentage of motor car sales is on an installment basis?

Installment financing is used in 54 percent of the sales of new cars and 58 percent of used cars. For every 10 new cars sold there are 17 sales of old ones. The average loan on a new car is \$520; \$216 on a used car. The industry estimates that out of the 1936 production of 4,000,000 cars 2,160,000 will be financed by part payments, which will require loans of about \$1,000,000,000.

\* \* \*

How do the deposits and resources of the Wall Street banks compare with those of the rest of the banks?

On Nov. 1, 1935, 5,409 national banks throughout the country had deposits of \$24,033,236,000, and total assets of \$27,430,730,000. Seventeen banks in New York City, which constitute the Wall Street institutions, at the close of 1935, had aggregate deposits of \$10,833,761,000; resources, \$12,568,383,000. These figures prove that the Wall Street financial institutions have about 42 percent of the total deposits and about 46 percent of the total resources.

\* \* \*

What is our production of distilled liquor?

In 1934, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, U.S. production of distilled liquor amounted to 62,469,700 taxable gallons; in 1935, 90,618,-



200; gain, 31 percent. November, 1935, was a peak month, with 11,223,900 gallons.

\* \* \*

What is our consumption of textile fibers?

The consumption of the four leading textile fibers—cotton, wool, silk and rayon amounted to 3,482,000,000 pounds during 1935; 3,133,000,000 pounds in 1934. Gain, 10.9 percent. The percentage of consumption was as follows:

	1935	1934
Cotton .....	79.4%	84.6%
Wool .....	11.6	7.3
Rayon .....	7.2	6.2
Silk .....	1.8	1.9

World production of these four textile fibers, in 1935, was estimated at 16,600,000,000 pounds, as against 15,400,000,000 in 1934, a gain of 1,200,000,000 pounds. Production during 1935 was only about 800,000,000 pounds under the peak of 1929.

\* \* \*

How large is the Red Cross membership?

4,000,000.

\* \* \*

What are some of the production figures of our mints?

The U.S. Mint Service reports that during 1935 our mints coined 560,758,000 pieces, valued at \$38,580,000. This is in addition to coins made for foreign governments. The first U.S. mint was established in 1793, and since then we have made 12,593,420,000 domestic coins. With the exceptions of 1919 and 1920, 1935 was the biggest production year.

\* \* \*

What is the average pay per day for farm hands in the U.S.?

The average for the U.S. is \$1.37, without board, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. South Carolina's average is 70c, from which the scale works up to \$2.50 in California and Massachusetts.

\* \* \*

Do our mints make any money for foreign governments?

During 1935, according to the U.S. Mint Service, we made 109,000,000 pieces of money for foreign governments.

\* \* \*

What's the meaning of "due process of law"?

Instead of going into an elaborate legal discussion on this point, I think

it would be better to repeat Daniel Webster's oft-quoted words:

"The law which hears before it condemns; which proceeds upon inquiry and renders judgment only after trial. The meaning is that every citizen shall hold his life, liberty, property and immunities under the protection of the general rules which govern society."

\* \* \*

Give the population of the main Soviet cities.

Cities in the Soviet Union are growing rapidly. Figures released on March 1, 1935, by the Central Department of Statistics, show:

Moscow, 3,641,500; Leningrad, 2,739,800; Kiev, 625,000; Minsk, 186,500; Tiflis, 426,300; Tashkent, 555,000; Ashkabad, 85,400; Stalinabad, 40,300.

\* \* \*

When was the Constitution adopted? I often see the year given as 1787 and 1789. Which is right?

The Constitution, with George Washington serving as president of the Convention, was adopted on September 17, 1787, but didn't go into effect until 1789, when nine of the 13 States had ratified it.

\* \* \*

Please explain the meaning of the provision of the U.S. Constitution which reads: "No bill of attainder, or ex post facto law shall be passed."

This section is one of the important enactments of the Constitution. It was aimed at an old evil—one that is still in existence in tyrannical countries, like Italy and Germany under Fascism.

"No bill of attainder" means important protection for our citizens. Before it was adopted it was possible to hold legally that when a person was sentenced to the gallows or convicted of treason or a felony, he was considered "tainted," so much so that he forfeited all civil and property rights. In addition, his progeny were compelled to forfeit all rights of inheritance. "Without this constitutional provision it would be possible for a legislative body to enact a "bill of attainder," by which a person could be made to suffer penalties without the formalities of a judicial trial.

In Fascist Europe today relatives of persons merely guilty of political offenses or of speaking critically of the regime can be punished severely.

Such a thing couldn't happen under our Constitution. Fascist governments try to gag their critics who have escaped to foreign lands by arresting their relatives and holding them as hostages.

No "ex post facto law" may be passed in the United States, under our Constitution. These Latin words mean "after the fact" or "after accomplishment." In other words, if you commit an act against which there is no law you can't be jeopardized if a law covering that act is passed later. In Germany today, ex post facto laws are passed all along the line, making crimes of acts that were legal at the time they were committed and severely punishing the victims. In this country no legislative body can pass a law that is retroactive. I recall vividly how, during the World War, a well known Socialist author was picked up by the federal authorities because of his anti-war book. When it was shown that this book was written and published before the anti-sedition law was passed, no action could be taken against him and he was freed immediately. Such a law's fairness is obvious at a glance. To permit ex post facto laws means to tolerate the worst kind of tyranny and oppression.

\* \* \*

What did you think of the movie, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"?

It was great, magnificent, delightful, entertaining, inspiring and supremely beautiful. Max Reinhardt showed himself—in a new medium for his talent—a genius. The scenario was true to the spirit of Shakespeare's beautiful play, the direction was brilliant, the acting faultless, the music of Mendelssohn thrilling, the scenery unutterably charming. In all, two hours of perfect entertainment. And what a cast—Mickey Rooney, Joe E. Brown, James Cagney, Hugh Herbert, Ian Hunter, Jean Muir, William Powell, Ross Alexander, and a half dozen others of equal skill as artists. And, of course, the amazing dancing of the ballet. The play's phantasy and comedy were translated into the terms of the screen, without losing anything—in fact, with several distinct gains. I hope the great Max Reinhardt will remain in this country for many, many years, as we are in need of his tremendous gifts. And to think that this man is an exile from

Germany—where his life's savings were stolen by a gangster government—because he happens to be a Jew! Reinhardt's answer to Germany's savagery is this masterpiece—and let's look forward to many more such answers! Germany's sad loss is our artistic gain.

\* \* \*

Please comment on the President's new taxing program.

Roosevelt's plan to compel the great corporations to distribute their excessive cash reserves among their stockholders or have the items taxed impresses me as one of the most sensible and constructive proposals to come out of Washington. There is no sane reason why an organization should keep from, let us say, \$100,000,000 to even \$300,000,000 in idle bank balances. Roosevelt properly holds that the directors should leave a safe reserve for future difficulties, but the balance should be declared as dividends, whereby many millions of small investors will be enabled to increase their purchasing power and step up the momentum of production and distribution.

In Henry Ford's case—as I showed recently—his company has about \$600,000,000 in cash. In his set-up, a forced dividend won't mean anything for business in general, because the stock is held only by Henry Ford, his wife, and Edsel. But even here some benefit will result, for the federal government will be able to get a part of this money through its income tax on dividends.

Corporations like General Motors, U.S. Steel, A.T.&T., etc., keep entirely too much money on hand, as I've already mentioned. This money is "frozen" in bank balances, where it merely serves to increase the already excessive cash reserves of the banking fraternity. If these funds were used to provide credit where it's needed, some good could result from this money, but we know too well that the bankers have no mind to such a policy. They have entered upon a period of money-making, because they have discovered that it pays to slap on every conceivable service charge, thereby making the depositors produce profit that should come from loans.

\* \* \*

Did Rudyard Kipling die a rich man?

According to his American publish-

ers, Doubleday, Doran Company, Kipling's estate amounted to over \$3,000,000. In the last 40 years, 3,500,000 Kipling books have been sold in the U.S.

\* \* \*

How'd you like Chaplin's new picture?

I saw Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times" and went away convinced anew that the man is a genius of the first order. My enthusiasm for Chaplin isn't a new passion with me. Coming to think of it, I wrote a piece for *The New York Call*, when I was that paper's dramatic critic (along with about seven other editorial jobs) something like 22 years ago. I recall having just seen my first Chaplin "short" at the Strand, and it had me in the aisle most of the time. Talk about belly laughs! I expected a rupture, at the least. My piece—if memory serves me right—was crowded with extravagant phrases, but the little comedian's record since then has proven me in the right.

During 22 years as a Chaplin fan I don't know of a single picture I ever missed. I really believe I can qualify as one who has seen every last one of 'em. And I now say, in all sincerity, that "Modern Times" is the best of the lot—a masterpiece of comedy, high and low.

Of course, I won't outline the story or point out the "gags" that pleased me. Suffice it to say that I was delighted every moment of the show—from the first scene showing the sheep being driven to slaughter, to the last fade-out when Charlie and his sweetheart walk hand-in-hand into the sunset.

"Modern Times" is perfect art—brilliant acting, a good story, great direction, fine camera work, snappy tempo. And I never missed the talking. It took me just about 10 seconds to get used to the silent film. Of course, there was music, some words from a radio, etc., but Charlie—except for that perfectly insane song he sings in home-made French—sticks to pantomime, of which he is a superb master.

"Modern Times" is supposed to be some sort of a subtle attack on capitalistic ideology. I suppose it's so—because better men than I have said the social criticism is there—but to me it was just plain good story, good fun, laugh after laugh, and a right

fine time all round.

The Communists, I notice, make much of the fact that Chaplin opens the picture with scenes from an immense plant, where thousands of robots work at the assembly line, a la Ford. Chaplin has a lot of fun with those machines—how he gets them balled up!—but it seemed to me that his purpose wasn't to do away with the machine but merely to use the machine for the purpose of amusing the world.

Our Communists should be the last to complain about the position of the machine in society. Especially now, when we hear so much about Stakhanovism, which is a fancy way of describing what we, in capitalistic America, know as the speed-up. Of course, they can reply that they aim to socialize the machine and thereby make it the servant, instead of the master, of man, but the simple fact remains that, for the present, the machine tenders of communistic Russia get less than the skilled machine tenders of plutocratic America, which they themselves will, when pressed, admit.

I am among those who have no desire to see Chaplin play Hamlet or turn social philosopher. I like the old, tried-and-true Charlie, the mixture of high comedy and low, coarse horse-play, the little fellow who punctures dignity, the tiny Don Quixote who uses his queer cane to poke at the windmills of the modern scene.

I hope Charlie isn't going to wait another five years before doing his next picture. We should have at least one new Chaplin film each year. That's my demand, and I hope Charlie bows to it.

By all means, see "Modern Times." I'm going to see it again, the first chance I get. And after that, I may want to indulge myself with still another look at this perfect gem. Chaplin's art never grows stale with me, his adventures always set my pulses to pounding, and he never fails to set my belly shaking with the most outlandishly-demonstrative laughter.

\* \* \*

What are some of the slogans used in our political campaigns?

The 1936 slogans are still to be coined, though there is talk of "Keep Roosevelt in and the Gang out" for the Democrats, and "Save the Consti-

tution" for the Republicans.

Roosevelt's 1932 slogan was in the form of a song: "Happy Days Are Here Again." Hoover's 1932 slogan was: "Who but Hoover." Lord 'erbert 'oover, in 1928, coined his own: "A Chicken in Every Pot." Harding's was: "Back to Normalcy." Cal's slogan was: "Keep Cool with Coolidge." Al Smith, in 1928, kept repeating: "Let's Look at the Record." Woodrow Wilson's slogan, in 1916, was: "He Kept Us Out of War." McKinley's was: "A Full Dinner Pail." Teddy Roosevelt's was: "The Big Stick," along with "Trust-Busting" and "The Square Deal." Horace Greeley's slogan, when fighting against the second election of General Grant, was: "Keep the Rascals Out." Abraham Lincoln's, for his reelection campaign, was: "Don't Swap Horses in the Middle of the Stream." His first campaign's slogan was: "A House Divided Against Itself Cannot Stand." In 1828, supporters of Old Hickory yelled: "Jackson Forever." And that's all I can think of now.

\* \* \*

If Cab Calloway married a Chinese woman what would the children be?

I see you're trying to test me on the latest wisecracks. It's a happenstance that I know the answer to this one. The nifty goes this way: "The children would be little yellow cabs."

\* \* \*

Please review Sinclair Lewis' "It Can't Happen Here."

I read the novel with vast approval and enthusiasm. It's a fine social document—a tract for the times. Here's propagandistic writing at its best—art for the people's sake! Every American citizen who loves his country, its fine traditions and glorious history, and who appreciates its institutions of free speech, press, assembly and the other precious rights of civilized living, should read and take to heart Lewis' warning of the dangers of Fascism in this country. If Fascism doesn't come, it'll be because of the vigilance of men like Sinclair Lewis.

I can't get over the idea that the publicity about the book's experiences in Hollywood is just so much balldoo. I may be all wrong, but it seems to me that the film will be made, and if it's as good as the book it'll do a great deal of service to the cause of

democracy. It's hard to believe that the management decided to abandon the shooting of the picture because of its costs, especially since the author had already been paid, and also in view of the fact that the film oughtn't to cost any more than the average Hollywood feature.

The other report had to do with the decision of the Hays organization in banning it because the film might annoy Hitler and Mussolini. That also sounds incredible. Of course, any stupidity can come out of Hollywood, but here, it seems to me, stupidity has gone beyond its human limit and reached divine proportions.

\* \* \*

What was the basic law of this land before we adopted the Constitution?

The Articles of Confederation.

\* \* \*

What is the federal government doing for unemployed musicians?

During 1935, according to a report issued by the Federal Works Project, Concert Division, 2,949 free concerts were given in New York City, attended by about 3,000,000 persons. The music was supplied by unemployed musicians who had been on the relief rolls. The project included 1,928 broadcasts, in addition to the following: symphony concerts, 592; concert orchestras, 60; concert bands, 620; chamber music ensembles, 867; dance orchestras, 739; choral units, 60; others, 114.

\* \* \*

How many one-room school houses have we?

In 1933-34 the U.S. had 241,428 school houses, of which 139,180 consisted of one-room buildings, or 57.6 percent. Four years before, the percentage was 60.1 percent. South Dakota has the largest percentage of one-room school houses—88 percent. Next follow: North Dakota, 81; Nebraska, 80; Wisconsin, 79; Iowa, 78; Kansas, 76; Minnesota, 76; Montana, 75; Missouri, 74; Maine, 70.

\* \* \*

What is the total production of electricity in the U.S.?

In 1935, according to a report of the Edison Electric Institute, the U.S. produced a total of 92,223,354,000 kilowatt hours. This registered an increase of 8.7 percent over 1934. The industry now (1936) has 25,371,000 customers. The 1935 average price, per kilowatt hour, was 5.03c. In 1934,

the average price was 5.3c. However, the price is still entirely too high. Public plants could cut this rate in half and still make a profit.

\* \* \*

How much jewelry did the people of the U.S. buy in 1935?

Dun and Bradstreet estimates retail sales at \$238,000,000. In 1934, the sales amounted to \$201,000,000. Sales for 1936 are expected to reach \$298,000,000.

\* \* \*

What is our production of silver, by States?

The six silver-producing States produced, in ounces:

	1935	1934
Idaho .....	10,024,640	7,410,000
Utah .....	8,343,163	7,111,417
Montana .....	7,819,025	3,958,000
Arizona .....	5,950,624	4,420,000
Colorado .....	4,756,774	3,475,651
Nevada .....	3,904,960	2,850,000

\* \* \*

What is the world-production of steel?

In 1935, the entire world produced 95,988,000 gross tons; increase over 1934, more than 20 percent. The U.S. produced 35.5 percent of the world's output; in 1934, it produced 33 percent. The eight leading steel producing countries in 1935 turned out:

	Gross tons
United States .....	34,076,000
Germany .....	16,325,000
Soviet Russia .....	12,252,000
Great Britain .....	9,942,000
France .....	6,101,000
Japan .....	3,870,000
Belgium .....	2,890,000
Italy .....	2,171,000

\* \* \*

What are the receipts of the radio networks?

In 1935, the two greatest radio companies—NBC and CBS—received from advertisers \$48,787,000; in 1934, \$42,659,000.

\* \* \*

What are the latest figures regarding receipts of chain stores?

During 1935, 25 U.S. chain stores took in \$2,393,936,000; in 1934, \$2,158,928,000; increase, 10.9 percent. As I've shown before, the chain stores are making progress year after year. The above figures support the statements made in previous articles.

Father Coughlin, seeming to tire of his attacks on the money question, recently turned his guns on the chain stores. His remedy—if one can call it such—is merely to put the chains

out of business in order to save the little fellows. If I may repeat the point I've made several times in the past, such a policy is really anti-social, because it aims at crippling or destroying a scientific, efficient, economical method for the distribution of consumer goods.

It's typical of the quacks of the Coughlin type to approach such a problem with nothing more than an appeal to prejudice among the numerous small interests that are being injured by the rationalizations of the great corporations that run thousands of variety, grocery, drug, shoe and apparel stores.

The scientific attitude, of course, is to preserve the machinery of distribution now being worked out so intelligently by the chain store capitalists. They are performing a social service that will help rather than hinder society when the people finally decide to socialize the large-scale industries.

\* \* \*

Is there any limit to the speed of an airplane?

Dr. George W. Lewis, director of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, has found, after experiments in a "super speed" tunnel, that the limit is about 575 miles per hour, if the present design of wings remains unchanged. Dr. Lewis, at a meeting of the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, showed movies to prove that at a speed of 575 miles the sustaining flow of air over the wings abruptly changes to a "shock wave" which deprives the airplane of its lift. Dr. Lewis' tunnel is only two feet in diameter, through which he can force air at a speed of 750 miles per hour.

\* \* \*

Which radio network is bigger—NBC or CBS, with regard to advertising receipts?

In 1935, NBC received \$31,149,000; CBS, \$17,638,000. In 1934, NBC received \$27,834,000; CBS, \$14,826,000.

\* \* \*

What is the circulation of American newspapers, printed in English?

Editor and Publisher, in its issue of January 4, 1936, says the circulation of U.S. and Canadian English-language newspapers is as follows: dailies, for 1935, 38,450,000; for 1934, 36,540,000; increase, 5 percent. Sunday editions, for 1935, 28,300,000;

for 1934, 26,075,000; increase, 9 percent. In 1934 there were 14,091 newspapers; in 1935, 13,927; decrease, 1 percent.

\* \* \*

Which 10 companies spend the most money on radio advertising?

	1935	1934
Proctor & Gamble	\$2,105,000	\$ 969,000
Gen. Foods Corp.	1,949,000	1,451,000
Standard Brands	1,939,000	1,847,000
Ford Motor Co. . .	1,929,000	1,192,000
Col.-Palmolive-Peet	1,679,000	1,334,000
Sterling Products	1,423,000	1,449,000
Amer. Home Prod.	1,212,000	898,000
Lady Esther Co.	1,101,000	964,000
Pepsodent Co. . .	1,090,000	1,642,000
Campbell Soup Co.	927,000	206,000

\* \* \*

What does a gallon of gasoline cost at the refinery, before taxes?

Two and a half cents.

\* \* \*

What's your notion about "Klondike Annie"?

I think it's the trashiest picture of the year and should end the career of Mae West. I'll never forget the breezy way Mae West galloped into the movies in her first two pictures. There was a freshness, candor and humor that simply couldn't be resisted by any man in the possession of a full set of functioning glands. But, alas, that Mae West is gone, for all time. Now, to be blunt, we have a fat, tedious, slow, humorless wench.

In this picture, after about 20 years of whoring in San Francisco, where she finally gets in bad with the police for having stabbed her Chinese lover, Mae goes to Alaska, where she turns missionary and actually gets off dozens of lines that are intended to give aid and comfort to the churchy people. In several scenes she handles what is obviously a Bible, but afraid that she might offend the Christians we are given a close-up which shows the book's title to be *Settlement Maxims*. That is a new low in stupidity.

Shortly after, I came on several Hearst editorials which demanded that Mae's new picture be banned and that Mae herself be burned in oil, or something equally extreme. This is another one of those amusing things about American life—the Great Lover, Hearst, living openly with Miss Marion Davies, using his powerful newspapers to ruin Mae West and save virtue.

One of my unpaid spies in Holly-

wood writes me a letter that contains the interesting news that Hearst was sicked on to Mae West by his mistress, Marion Davies, because in a recent exchange of reciprocal insults Mae referred to Marion as being a real whore herself, while she (Mae West) merely acted the part. I don't know how true all this is, but it sounds in character, so I pass it on,

\* \* \*

Is there any evidence to support the opinion that crime is basically a problem of economics?

The facts all indicate beyond debate that property is the cause of the great majority of criminal acts. The Boston juvenile court made a study of 1,000 delinquents, and the inquiry showed that 911 of them came from neighborhoods, as follows: favorable, 25, or 2.8 percent; fair, 104, or 11.4 percent; poor, 782, or 85.8 percent. The facts prove that bad environment breeds crime.

\* \* \*

How many students are receiving federal aid?

John H. McNeely, research specialist, Office of Education, Washington, D.C., says about 109,000 students are receiving federal money to help them through college. The stipend averages \$15 per month. Mr. McNeely says this sum is sufficient to see a student through college in just about one case in 10.

A student is performing an important social service when he is educating himself in order to be able to assume an important place in the world after he graduates. As such, he is entitled to financial support, should he lack the necessary funds to pay his way. The Soviet Union, for years, has taken this view and has inaugurated a system whereby a student is automatically put on the pay-roll of the government.

An American student can't consider himself really helped by the government if he is allowed only 50 cents per day. There should be an irreducible minimum of \$1 per day, with larger stipends for those students who are pursuing studies that call for greater outlays, especially in the technical fields.

\* \* \*

Do students who receive federal aid have to work for the money they receive?

Yes, they must work 30 hours per

month in order to get \$15. This policy is wrong, in addition to being too small an allowance. We should learn that a student who is going through college is already performing a social service in following his studies. To make him do physical labor, in addition to studying, is to lessen his efficiency as a student. A student should be paid by society for studying, not for raking leaves or stoking the furnace. Such jobs should be done by regular employes hired for such chores.

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What did Sir Isaac Newton mean when he wrote: "Hypotheses non fingo"?

"I make no hypotheses."

\*\*\*  
How many people died throughout the world in the post-war flu epidemic?  
20,000,000.

\*\*\*  
On what date will office be taken by the man elected President next November?

January 20, 1937. By constitutional change, March 4 has become just another day.

\*\*\*  
Are you a vegetarian?

No. I find it necessary to eat a certain amount of meat each day if I'm to keep this machine running full tilt. And several times each week I develop a craving for a 14-ounce, thick, juicy steak, with mushrooms, German fried potatoes, lettuce and tomatoes, coffee and a sliver of pie.

This doesn't mean I have any prejudices against vegetarians. Let them as likes it have their own way. I wonder if there's any truth to the remark: "A vegetarian diet fills one up with wind and self-righteousness."

And that brings me to another sure cure—vitamins that are alphabetized and counted. I like the advice given by Dr. Thomas R. Brown, of Johns Hopkins University, for 45 years a medical man:

"You probably get all the vitamins you need in the average mixed meal. Cooking may diminish the value of some foods slightly, but if you eat an average amount of uncooked foods you have no need to worry about your vitamins."

The same authority takes a healthy shot at those who fall for all these diet crazes. It's his contention that the average healthy American should stick to average American food. I

may be wrong, but I'm still to see the person who ever really helped himself by going in for a lot of very special foods.

The fat's in the fire. Now I'm sure of at least 50 hot letters from readers who will chide me for my reactionary ideas about diet, or will solemnly try to save me from early death by proposing a very exclusive diet that did them wonders, or will order their subscriptions canceled because of studied unfriendliness to dietary pioneers and would-be martyrs.

\*\*\*  
Please discuss the enclosed clipping, which tells of a plan to sprinkle mosquitoes with colors.

The New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association, at its meeting in Atlantic City, early in March, 1936, decided to send a group of scientists to districts near Chicago, where the pest is prevalent. These men will pour sprays of colored dyes on the insects as they rise from the grass. The purpose is to learn their migratory habits. This knowledge will help in the war of extermination that is planned for these particularly obnoxious creatures.

Of course, these scientists already know that the mosquito is a great traveler. He is something of an international hitch-hiker, ever ready to steal a ride if one is to be had. Instead of going on his long journeys on the wing, he will, whenever possible, steal a ride on trains, ships, buses, motor cars, trucks and, believe it or not, even airplanes. The mosquito manages to survive just about anywhere—down in the deepest valleys or up in the mountains, 13,000 feet above sea level. He infests equatorial lands, and yet, according to a report made by Soviet scientists, mosquitoes from the torrid zone were found on the frozen steppes of Siberia, where they caused a tropical fever.

As he goes on his journeys, Mr. Mosquito is always ready to change his habits to fit his new environment. Of course, he prefers a "meat diet" whenever man or beast are available, but if none is about he accepts, however reluctantly, a vegetarian diet, sipping plant juices until animal juices can be again had.

The little rascals are downright clever, but their ready adjustments to environment make man all the more

determined to end their worthless, destructive careers. Not a great deal of progress has been made, but science has put its curse on the vile things and will, we hope, work out a campaign that will rid the world of their unwelcome presence.

\* \* \*

Please repeat James Harvey Robinson's definition of a liberal.

"A liberal is one who believes in the possibility of conscious human progress."

\* \* \*

Ben O. Miller, of Waelder, Tex., who claims to have been a "pupil" of mine since 1924, sends this informative note:

"Good loyal Texans are proud of their State's history, and anyone who has had a forefather bumped off in the Alamo has first preference in the social life of his community.

"So many prominent family fortunes got a start from cattle rustling and other early outlawry that it is disgusting. But some of these pioneers did have a very realistic conception of civil liberty and its enemies. Read the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Texas and note the passion for human rights and democracy as against the Fascism of priesthood and military domination. These old rebels told the Catholic priests of Mexico and its Fascist army where to go to. The Texas document denounces the army and priesthood as '... the eternal enemies of civil liberty.'"

\* \* \*

I've read somewhere that when one enters the Panama Canal from the Atlantic side one must travel east to reach the Pacific. Is this true?

A glance at the map will show you that the Canal runs from northwest to southeast, from the Atlantic side. The Pacific side of the Canal is further east than the Atlantic side.

Another reader asks for the size and population of the Canal Zone. It's 553 square miles and has a population of almost 40,000. The U.S. Army and Navy keep about 10,000 men stationed in the Zone.

\* \* \*

Which surnames are the most popular in the U.S.?

In his new version of *The American Language*, H. L. Mencken devotes a chapter to proper names in this country. He finds that Smith still tops the list, followed in order by Johnson. Brown, Williams, Jones, Miller, Davis,

Anderson, Wilson, and Moore. This order of surnames is upset in New York City, where Cohen and Schwartz take second and fourth places. In Boston, Sullivan and Murphy take second and fifth places.

\* \* \*

Did George Washington use false teeth?

The set of false teeth used by George Washington can be seen at the University of Maryland Dental School. They are considered so valuable that they have been insured for \$10,000.

Washington's artificial teeth were carved out of two blocks of ivory, shaped to simulate natural teeth. At the back of the set are springs, which hold the two sections together. Dentists who have seen this set agree that it is crude and that its use must have been uncomfortable, even painful.

\* \* \*

Is there scientific authority for the impression that women's brains are smaller than men's?

A study of 500 human brains was made at the Bekteroff Institute for the Study of Brains, according to a statement made by Director V. P. Osipoff, Moscow, U.S.S.R., with the result that no structural differences could be found. The facts indicated that women's brains aren't smaller than men's. After studying the problem for years, the Institute found the brains of both sexes are structurally similar. Experts in this field found it impossible to tell whether a brain under examination belonged to a man or a woman.

\* \* \*

How much money do the foreign governments owe Uncle Sam?

On March 10, 1936, according to a compilation of the Treasury Department, foreign governments owed the U.S. \$13,670,087,391.26. Most of this money was advanced as loans (without collateral) during or shortly after the World War. It's considered now that this money is practically uncollectable. The debtor nations, and the amounts owing us, are as follows:

Armenia,	\$21,509,408.26.
Austria,	\$23,898,429.72.
Belgium,	\$423,479,692.37.
Czechoslovakia,	\$165,483,256.97.
Estonia,	\$18,969,792.79.
Finland,	\$8,544,349.71.
France,	\$4,041,152,328.53.
Great Britain,	\$4,950,595,301.20.



Greece, \$33,281,866.01.  
 Germany, \$1,278,340,010.  
 Hungary, \$2,189,303.19.  
 Italy, \$2,014,065,749.13.  
 Latvia, \$7,807,809.81.  
 Lithuania, \$6,985,255.55.  
 Nicaragua, \$451,386.26.  
 Poland, \$237,390,982.53.  
 Rumania, \$63,925,133.26.  
 Russia, \$356,481,985.04.  
 Jugo Slavia, \$61,625,000.

Every dollar of this money is now in default, except for the comparatively small amount owing us from Finland.

\* \* \*

Is unionism making any headway among professionals?

The facts indicate that during the years of the depression professionals turned more and more to unionization. In 1936, there are upwards of 300,000 professionals enrolled in protective unions. In addition, more than 1,000,000 belong to organizations that have semi-union functions, such as the American Medical Association, the National Education Association, the American Nurses' Association, the American Association of University Professors, etc.

Out-and-out unionism is growing, because the professional workers realize there is meager hope for economic protection if they permit new thousands to be poured into their ranks each year without some sort of united action to control remuneration, classes of service, hours, and other conditions.

Even the newspapermen, through the American Newspaper Guild, are seeing the sense of collective action. This organization now has 68 chapters, with 5,000 members, under the presidency of Heywood Broun, who has done effective pioneer work in this field. Several important victories have already been won.

Newspapermen are traditionally hard to organize, because they have the notion their profession is a romantic one and unionism would destroy that poetic arrangement. On the other hand, the newspaper owners, being practical businessmen, have, for many decades, had a tight, powerful organization. The owners never offer to disband their organization because of the fear they might lose the "romantic glow" in the newspaper profession, but they are always ready to bring up this "argu-

ment" when their reporters and editors ask for a closed shop and other union conditions.

Another favorite argument deals with "independence." It is claimed, by the employers, that the reporters would lose their "freedom" to report the truth if they were to become union members. I met this argument from a reporter only a few days ago, when I asked if the men on his paper were considering joining the Guild. I later learned that this same "rugged individualist" was, working 70 hours per week, for \$16. When I asked him how he could reconcile these sweat-shop conditions with "freedom," he laughed. But even this chap will learn the lesson of unionism some day, and he may yet be seen on the picket line. At least, that's been the case with hundreds of other "individualists."

A few other professional unions are:

The American Federation of Teachers, with 25,000 members in 200 locals. In 1931, this union had only 5,000 members.

Social workers connected with public relief agencies have organized a trade union, which, since 1931, has grown to 50 locals and 15,000 members.

In 1933, the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians organized on a national scale, with 15 chapters and 7,000 members.

The Interne Council of Greater New York, embracing 1,000 of the 1,500 internes in the city's hospitals, has succeeded in changing the no-pay policy to a cash salary of \$15 per month. That isn't much, but at least it's a beginning. This union had an especially difficult role to perform because tradition has established the condition that internes shall work for nothing.

Over 1,000 men and women have joined the Pharmacists' Union of Greater New York. Several strikes have been conducted.

In all, it seems clear that the not remote future will see the professional workers as well organized as the skilled trades.

\* \* \*

Is there any factual basis to the claim that the NRA tended to lessen child labor.

There's no doubt that the now de-

funct NRA did serve to curb this blot on modern civilization. One of the ways to judge this question is to compare the number of full-time employment certificates issued to children. From September to December, 1935 (after NRA) such certificates to children, from 14 to 15 years of age, were issued as follows: New York City, 5,299; same period in 1934 (during NRA), 1,405. Providence, R.I., 226, in 1936; 40, in 1934. Maryland, 154, in 1935; 6, in 1934. North Carolina, 276, in 1935; none, in 1934.

\* \* \*

What does the federal government do when its farm mortgages aren't paid?

It acts like a private mortgage company—it sells the property. The Farm Credit Administration reports that during 1935 the Federal Land Banks sold 8,788 farms, as against 4,865 in 1934. The 1935 farm sales realized \$29,215,000, as against \$17,600,000, in 1934.

\* \* \*

From what sources does the federal government get its money?

Take a dollar received by the government in revenue, break it into cents and you find the following:

	Actual	Estimated
	1934	1935
	1935	1936
Corporation income tax ..	6.3c	8.0c
Individual income tax ...	6.1	8.2
Back income taxes .....	2.5	2.5
Estate taxes .....	1.9	2.5
Gift taxes .....	1.0	0.8
Capital stock, excess profits taxes .....	1.3	1.3
Alcoholic beverage taxes	5.0	6.6
Tobacco taxes .....	6.2	6.3
Stamp taxes .....	0.6	0.9
Manufs' excise taxes ....	4.6	4.8
Other internal revenue ...	1.3	1.7
Tariff collections .....	4.6	4.6
Processing taxes .....	7.1	6.9
Miscellaneous .....	2.4	2.6
Total ordinary receipts ...	51.5c	57.7c
Taken from general fund	17.1	...
Borrowings .....	31.4	42.3

Total receipts ..... \$1.00 \$1.00

\* \* \*

I am a new reader and want a complete file of *The Freeman*, because I want all your questions and answers for purposes of reference. Please advise.

All of the questions and answers printed thus far have been gathered into book form, and I advise you to get a complete set of the volumes.

There are six large volumes ready at this time, carefully indexed so that a reader can find what he wants in a short time and with practically no effort. These volumes contain 128 pages each, 5½ x 8½ inches in size, and may be had FREE OF CHARGE by Freeman readers if they will renew their subscriptions now, regardless of when they expire. The plan works this way: For each \$1 you send in for a year's renewal (Canada and foreign, \$1.25) you receive ONE volume of *Questions and Answers*, of your own selection. You can have all SIX volumes by remitting \$6 for six years of *The Freeman*, plus 20c per volume for packing, handling and carriage. No. 6 is just off the press, and those readers who have already ordered the first five volumes may have this new issue by sending \$1 for a year's renewal, plus 20c for carriage, etc. Now that No. 6 is off the press there will be no new volumes for the next six or seven months. I urge readers to order the complete set of SIX volumes, which they will find crammed with material on every conceivable subject—science, history, economics, government, politics, philosophy, religion, industry, finance, Socialism, Communism, the Soviet Union, Fascism, etc. This set really constitutes an encyclopedia of current events and social trends.

\* \* \*

I was especially pleased with the review you wrote of Upton Sinclair's "What God Means to Me." I've read this new effusion of Brother Sinclair and am astonished, even bewildered, by his queer mental contortions.

When I finished the review I felt that it touched only the high-lights, so I sent the book on to Joseph McCabe, a specialist in the work of attacking Theism and defending Materialism. McCabe jumped to it, for this was meat to his ribs. He turned out a book-length review, entitled *Upton Sinclair Finds God*, which dispenses of the California Messiah's revelation. I'm sure all McCabe readers will look for this work, which is full of sound sense and nice, clean fun.

\* \* \*

Would you mind following up your Canadian election figures with data regarding the activities of the Socialists who were elected to Parliament?

The Canadian Commonwealth Fed-

eration (which is the Socialist party of Canada) has seven members in the House of Commons. As I've already given the figures showing the strength of the C.C.F., nothing remains but to call attention to the bloc's activities, though there has been comparatively little time in which to get a program started. However, the group, headed by J. S. Woodsworth, soon after the opening of Parliament, at Ottawa, conducted several debates to show why Canada was ready for, and in urgent need of, the socialization of the large-scale industries, utilities, banks, etc. Also, an effort was made to have the body pass an old age pension for all Canadians over 60 years of age, of whom there are 870,428.

*The Financial Post*, one of the organs of Canadian big business, wrote editorially that "in debating strength and general ability, this handful of members outshines any other party."

\* \* \*

How did pre-scientific man explain the migration of birds?

There were many theories, the most amusing being that of a British writer, who, in 1703, guessed the birds flew to the moon for the winter.

\* \* \*

What is the brain's water content?

About 75 percent.

\* \* \*

How large is the cash reserve of the Ford Motor Company?

At the end of 1935, according to a financial statement, the Ford Motor Company had an undivided surplus of \$580,276,391.

\* \* \*

What, in your opinion, are the future jobs of science?

Science still has its greatest problems before it. Wonderful things have been done in the recent past, but they are only the merest beginning when we begin to list the tasks crying to be done. Here are only a few:

1. End poverty, by learning to apply scientific economics to society.

2. End war, by establishing a social order in which civilized peoples will have absolutely nothing to gain from destruction and exploitation.

3. End racial prejudices, by learning the lesson of science that there is no such thing as a "superior" race, and that true progress will result

when all peoples find a safe way of living together in harmony, understanding and cooperation.

4. End the horrors of unnecessary deaths from diseases like cancer and heart disease. Medical science must, in time, wipe out all preventable causes of death.

5. Release man's dependence on fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, by finding a way to make the sun's energy work for us or by releasing the power hidden in the atom.

6. Substitute cooperation for competition in our social, economic, industrial and financial life, by finding a way to establish a classless society based on mutual aid and non-exploitation of man by man.

7. Break the bonds of intellectual backwardness and superstition, by freeing education so that man's mental forces will strive for and achieve the truth.

These are the jobs facing science. Will they ever be done? I'm optimistic enough to believe that the future will see these goals reached. There will be set-backs, of course, there will be reactions by powerfully-organized minorities like our Fascists and Nazis, but it seems to me that the scientific world will find a way to conquer these destructive, medieval powers.

\* \* \*

Is Manhattan the dress center of the U.S.?

The 105,000 garment workers in the Manhattan section of New York City make 90 percent of the country's ladies dresses. The annual output of the entire industry is \$500,000,000. This industry has tremendously wide fluctuations because of its seasonal nature. In mid-May the industry has leaped to a production of 2,730,000 per week, only to drop to 41,400 in a half month. New York City has 3,000 dressmaking establishments. The average number of employees per shop is 31. There are two classes of shops: manufacturers' shops and contractors' shops. In the former, wages are \$1,100 per year; in the latter, \$700.

\* \* \*

What do our large cities spend on education?

The Bureau of Census reports that 94 cities of more than 100,000 population, in 1934, spent \$526,864,000 for

education. The Bureau also issued figures showing per capita expenditures in these cities, from which I select the following:

	1934	1933	1926
Paterson, N.J. ....	\$22.16	\$20.69	\$17.77
Newark, N.J. ....	21.00	20.94	19.29
Yonkers, N.Y. ....	19.09	22.40	22.04
Rochester, N.Y. ....	19.08	17.62	19.71
Springfield, Mass. ....	17.58	17.24	20.62
New York ....	18.73	19.32	16.67
Chicago ....	10.79	11.90	13.45
Philadelphia ....	12.85	14.55	12.31
Detroit ....	11.65	11.66	13.64
Los Angeles ....	16.55	17.60	22.10
Cleveland ....	13.49	11.91	17.39
St. Louis ....	11.84	11.83	12.00
Baltimore ....	10.22	9.54	9.88
Boston ....	18.56	18.51	18.90
Pittsburgh ....	16.01	15.88	16.25
San Francisco ....	11.78	12.99	12.08

\* \* \*

What is the freezing point of pure ethyl alcohol?

117.3 degrees below zero Centigrade. (This is at about 211 degrees below zero on an ordinary Fahrenheit thermometer.)

\* \* \*

Can mercury freeze?

Mercury will freeze at about 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

\* \* \*

How does the U.S. compare with the world in the production and consumption of copper?

In 1935, the world produced 1,430,000 tons of copper, of which 320,000 tons were produced in the U.S. For 1934, world production, 1,234,000 tons, U.S., 207,000 tons. For 1929, world production, 1,820,000 tons; U.S., 894,000 tons.

In 1935, world consumption of copper was 1,675,000 tons, of which 470,000 tons were consumed in the U.S. For 1934, world consumption, 1,444,000 tons; U.S., 372,000 tons. For 1929, world consumption, 1,942,000 tons; U.S., 1,000,000 tons.

\* \* \*

Whenever I apply a match to my gas heater the thing lights with a bang, sometimes even giving my fingers a slight burn. Is there anything to be done here?

If your gas stove isn't out of order the fault must be with the manner in which you apply the match. I've noticed that the average person, when he applies a match to the gas, places the match too high or away from the point at which the gas is released. The farther away the match, the greater the explosion when

the gas is ignited. The remedy here, of course, is to place the burning match as close to the jet as possible. I believe that will remedy your difficulty. I know what it's like to apply the match too far from the jet —there's an explosion that frightens one. Try to follow my directions and see if there isn't a difference.

\* \* \*

Have any attempts been made to list what children actually learn from the radio?

A psychologist lists four: 1. popular songs. 2. stories. 3. games. 4. increased vocabulary. If our psychologist is right in his analysis it can't be said that the radio is a howling success for children. The printed word is still the civilized world's greatest medium for mass education, and that applies to children as well as grown-ups.

\* \* \*

How much of the Canal Zone belongs to the U.S.?

All of it. The federal government doesn't permit private ownership of land in the Canal Zone.

\* \* \*

When and where did paper money originate?

In China, in 807 A.D.

\* \* \*

In his book, *Backsliders to God*, page 26, Isaac Goldberg speaks of "ethnography," which is unfamiliar to me.

It's a typographical error for ethnography.

\* \* \*

At what age are brain workers most effective?

I have reported the results of several inquiries on this point, showing that the conclusions reached were surprisingly close. A new analysis comes from Dr. Harvey C. Lehman, of the psychology department of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. This investigator found that writers reach the peak of their productive capacity at 41. He also said that chemists are at their best between 30 and 35; astronomers, between 40 and 45.

In the literary section, Dr. Lehman reported that poets did their best between 25 and 28; short-story writers, before 35.

Dr. Lehman's investigations were thorough, covering the works of more than 500 English authors of better than average reputation; 100 Americans; scores of French and German authors. Dr. Lehman said: "The

graph showed writers' productivity ascending more rapidly before 41 than descending after. There was, however, a sharp descent after 44."

This psychologist says he reviewed 244 chemists and 933 discoveries in chemistry in order to establish the years 30 to 35 as the best period in chemistry.

\* \* \*

What are the latest figures on our farmers' cash income?

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics' latest report deals with the cash income for January, 1936. For purposes of comparison I take the January reports for the previous five years:

January	Benefit payments	Total cash income
1931 .....	None	\$582,000,000
1932 .....	"	437,000,000
1933 .....	"	348,000,000
1934 .....	\$60,090,000	490,000,000
1935 .....	70,000,000	520,000,000
1936 .....	1,000,000	566,000,000

\* \* \*

Which large American city has the lowest per capita government cost?

The Department of Commerce, on March 10, 1936, reported that the city government of Milwaukee cost less than in any other of 13 larger American cities. Milwaukee citizens, in 1934, paid \$3.31 per capita. The next is St. Louis, with a per capita cost of \$3.49. Pittsburgh is the highest, with \$6.38 per capita.

Milwaukee, for 20 years, has had a Socialist administration. This well-governed city has a good record of economy and efficiency in municipal government. Autotheft and burglary insurance are at the lowest scales. Serious crime is well handled. Graft is unknown. And in addition Milwaukee enjoys the best credit of any city in the nation.

Milwaukee's chief executive is Dan W. Hoan, mayor for about 20 years and now up for reelection.

\* \* \*

Why does the stringbean plant turn its leaves edge-wise to the sun?

To avoid sunburn.

\* \* \*

I claimed in an argument that the 20th Century started on January 1, 1900. Was I right?

No. It started on January 1, 1901.

\* \* \*

Has counterfeiting grown during the depression?

Yes. In 1925, the federal author-

ities arrested 663 persons for engaging in the manufacture or passing of bogus money. In 1935, the arrests numbered 3,300. Another yardstick is to compare the amount of counterfeit money seized. In 1935, \$1,418,000 in bills and \$73,579 in coins (all bogus) were seized. In the fiscal year 1931-32, the government confiscated \$540,000 in bills; \$49,000 in coins.

The Treasury Department holds that in addition to the depression is the element of post-prohibition conditions, wherein experienced bootleggers who had become experts in the art of counterfeiting labels and revenue stamps turned to money when they found their previous sources of illicit income destroyed.

\* \* \*

What's movie attendance in the U.S.?

According to the *Film Daily Year Book*, the average weekly attendance, in 1935, was 80,000,000. The record year, 1930, showed 110,000,000 box-office visits each week.

\* \* \*

"Words cannot express the high regard I have for the editorial matter in *The Freeman*. Clear, concise, up-to-the-minute, and interesting. *The Freeman* gives its readers the important facts of the day like no other paper. America either needs a much larger circulation for *The Freeman*, or many more papers like it." A. L. Flounders, corresponding secretary, Socialist Local, Massillon, O. (This note was accompanied by a club of four subscriptions and the promise to send more later.)

\* \* \*

How many of those fancy cherries one sees on sundaes do we consume?

About 16,000,000 pounds annually.

\* \* \*

"I very much enjoy *The Freeman*, and consider it one of the most vital publications in the country. It stirs me out of mental lethargy and makes me do a little thinking. Keep up the good work!"—Chad Walsh, Marion, Va.

\* \* \*

I notice that poems of social criticism are usually long. I wonder if you know of any really short things.

The shortest—and best—I know of is the famous four-line piece by Sarah Cleghorn, the New England Socialist poet who, while in the South, visited a mill that was built plumb in the middle of a golf course. This moved her to write the following lines (which, by the way, are probably the most quoted in the last few decades). The poem first appeared in *F. P. A.'s*

column, in the *New York Tribune*, and since then has been used in a thousand anthologies and perhaps a million lectures. The little, sardonic masterpiece:

The golf links lie so near the mill

That almost every day

The laboring children can look out

And see the men at play.

\* \* \*

How is Japan able to buy its cotton in the American market, take it to Japan, work it into thread or cloth and then ship the product to the American market at a price that's less than we can afford to meet?

One of the answers is Japanese child labor. The largest textile mill in Japan, at Osaka, "employs" 2,000 little girls, who work 10 hours each day for only 16 cents. The children work, live, and sleep at the factory. Poverty-stricken parents are compelled, by economic conditions, to sign up their little girls for four years' "employment," but which really amounts to four years of prison-like slavery. Of course, the great cotton company gives its employees certain welfare services—such as free instruction, low-priced meals, medical attention, and the like, but the appalling fact remains that the Japanese capitalists are interested primarily in the exploitation of these little girls, who tend highly mechanized machines for less than 2c per hour. These young workers are productive and enable the corporations to make great profits from their labor. And that, in great measure, explains why Japanese products can often compete foreign goods out of the market.

\* \* \*

You say that Dr. Brinkley can't practice his goat gland operation in Kansas, but yet I hear his propaganda regularly over the air. How does he do it?

Dr. John R. Brinkley, "goat gland" specialist, was denied his license to practice medicine in Kansas because competent authorities agreed that his operation is a scientific fake. But this crass charlatan and quack moved into Mexico, right across the line from Texas, where he established a powerful radio station. He now says he will erect a large hospital in the Rio Grande valley and set up a great broadcasting station at Matamoros, Mexico. His broadcasts, of course, will be directed at prospective dupes living in the U.S.A., who will be in-

vited to go down to his headquarters for a useless operation that will cost \$750. This unethical doctor says: "I will bring so many people to the valley you can't stir them with a stick." That may be carried out, for the supply of suckers is almost limitless, and "Doc" Brinkley is an expert in getting the American gullibles to pay heavy fees for an operation that has no standing in the world of science. It's disgraceful of the Mexican authorities to "play ball" with such a charlatan. The Mexican government is doing wonders in putting its educational system on a scientific basis, but at the same time it permits a scientific fakir to put up a great radio station in its territory for the purpose of making vast amounts of money from a method of practice that was investigated by scientific experts and found to be pure mountebankery. There must be some motive at work besides the love of science. Mexicans should let their government know that they consider Brinkley's establishment a disgrace to their country and demand that a stop be put to his racket.

\* \* \*

What does a woman do sitting down, that a man does standing up, that a dog does on three legs?

That was a popular one when I was a boy. The answer, of course, is "shake hands."

\* \* \*

What is the total of retail sales in the U.S.?

In 1935, according to the Department of Commerce, it was \$32,600,000,000. This amounted to about two-thirds of the 1929 retail sales.

\* \* \*

Why do we call a seeker for political office a candidate?

It comes from the Latin. The word "candidus" means white. Those who sought political office in ancient Rome usually wore white linen togas.

\* \* \*

On March 16, 1936, I happened to tune in on the tail end of a broadcast by the government, in which a number of test questions were asked. I believe it would be interesting to print them, and their answers.

The radio program you refer to was sponsored by the U.S. office of education and its purpose was to let listeners test their knowledge. Some of the questions were tricky, so I ad-

vise those who work them to be careful. The average person, according to the announcer of the test, Maurice Lowell, should get five of the answers correctly. Personally, I think Freeman readers should give the correct answers to at least seven. I took the test myself, and fell down on No. 4. I'm sure Reader C. A. Lang, of Missouri, will answer all of them. The questions:

1. Do you think a croquette ever makes a good wife?
2. Where would you go to buy a goober?
3. How many legs has a full grown Caucasian?
4. What kind of material do you need to make a gusset?
5. Did George Washington write the Monroe doctrine? And if he didn't, who did?
6. Mail to Russia must be addressed to the U.S.S.R. What do those initials stand for?
7. What is the prince of Wales's first name?
8. Of what country is Mussolini the king?
9. What city is farther west, Reno, Nev., or Los Angeles, Cal.?
10. What cities do you think of when I mention these five famous streets, Broadway, Michigan boulevard, Pennsylvania avenue, Euclid avenue and Tremont street?

The answers:

1. No, since a croquette is a small heap of hashed meat.
2. Since a goober is a peanut, I suggest the best place to go is a peanut stand.
3. As a Caucasian is any man or woman of the Caucasian race, the answer is two.
4. The same kind of material as what you are putting the gusset in. A gusset—as all grandmothers know—is a triangular piece inserted in an article of clothing to make it bigger.
5. President Monroe wrote the Monroe doctrine.
6. Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.
7. There is no prince of Wales.
8. He is premier of Italy.
9. Reno.
10. New York City, Chicago, Washington, Cleveland and Boston.

No. 5 isn't quite accurate. The doctrine was named after Monroe because it was finally adopted by the President, but the writing of it, according to reliable authorities, was done by Monroe's Secretary of State,

John Quincy Adams. There is additional evidence to show that Monroe, Jefferson and Madison all opposed the doctrine. Adams and his supporters prevailed on Monroe and got him to change his mind and sign the Adams formulation. On this point, Hart's *Essentials in American History*, page 308, says:

"Monroe was inclined to accept Canine's invitation (this was to be a joint declaration with England), but John Quincy Adams was determined the United States should make a separate and independent announcement. Monroe yielded to the stronger mind of his secretary, and allowed him to draft that part of the message of December 2, 1823, which has been commonly called the Monroe Doctrine."

\* \* \*

Please comment on the report that Hitler is a great lover of music.

Artur Schnabel, the wonderful pianist who is considered the world's greatest interpreter of the works of Beethoven, was asked about Hitler's supposed love for music, while touring this country recently. This genius—a Jew who is an exile from Hitlerland—replied:

"Music, as Schopenhauer put it, is a world apart, where there are no men, no women, no Jews, no Gentiles, no Pagans. Mr. Hitler is not a lover of music, because music is infinite—and Hitler is narrow."

\* \* \*

(This question is really asked seriously.) What means can be taken to eliminate or reduce the well-known anti-social effects of bean-eating? The bean is one of the main staples of life in this country (Mexico), and is also consumed in great quantities by the poor of the U.S. Any method of reducing the gas formation would be a real social benefit. Cooking with lots of garlic helps, but is not a complete solution of the problem. Do you know a better one?

Some of the best minds in the world have given thought to this problem, but thus far without measurable results. The bean continues its anti-social behavior. Benjamin Franklin, in his famous letter to the Royal Society of Brussels, suggested that chemists work on the problem of mixing something with one's food—and here, of course, he certainly meant to include the bean—so that the anti-social act might become an esthetic pleasure. His point was that a pow-

der of some sort might enable a hostess to inquire of her guests, before eating: "Would you prefer attar of roses or the sweet essence of violets?" The guest then picks his favorite aroma, which is supposed to be guaranteed when nature demands a certain degree of relief. Under such a happy arrangement, said the great Benjamin Franklin, the wise hostess could carry her program even farther, giving her various guests different scents, so that the meal could be followed by a symphony of delicious aromas, should there be displayed a bit of boredom with a single sweet smell. Alas, that proposal was made about a century and a half ago, and science is still to give the world the relief that Franklin called for so eloquently.

\* \* \*

On the evening of March 8, 1936, during the Believe-It-or-Not broadcast, Mr. Robert L. Ripley made the announcement that on the following Sunday he would tell "Why I am never permitted to return to Russia." What's the answer?

I never listen to Ripley's broadcasts, but the above correspondent says he tuned in on the following Sunday and Ripley didn't say a word about Russia. Just why he changed his mind I don't know, but this I do know: Ripley isn't wanted in Russia because he is known to be a studied, calculating liar. During his first trip through Russia he wrote an article which was printed in a popular magazine and which spoke admiringly of the Soviet Union, but on his return to this country he learned that his boss—Mr. Hearst—had become bitterly anti-Soviet, so Ripley changed immediately and began making speeches and writing articles describing horrible conditions in the U.S.S.R.

The Soviet government doesn't tell correspondents what to say, nor does it demand friendly treatment in dispatches and articles, but it insists that a correspondent shall have respect for the truth. Ripley won't be permitted to enter that country because his purpose is only to dig up lies and slander. There are many foreign correspondents in Russia—men connected with capitalistic newspapers like the *New York Times*, *New York Herald-Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, etc.—and they are unmo-

lest because their reports are honest, even though Soviet officials may disagree with the inferences drawn by these writers. Honest criticism is welcomed, but a crook like Ripley won't be permitted to enter the country.

\* \* \*

Can a person's postal savings account be garnisheed for city, county or school taxes?

No.

\* \* \*

Does the President have to pay income tax on his salary?

Yes. He pays about \$15,000 on his \$75,000 salary.

\* \* \*

What are the endowments of some of our great universities?

Harvard, \$128,827,068; Yale, \$95,-838,568; Princeton, \$26,929,810; Columbia, \$69,226,412; Chicago, \$59,-478,903.

\* \* \*

What percentage of the people smoke cigarettes?

The magazine *Fortune* asked the question "Do you smoke cigarettes?" of a number of persons, with the following results in percentages:

Men (under 40): Yes, 65.5; No, 34.5.  
Women (under 40): Yes, 26.2; No, 73.8  
Men (over 40): Yes, 39.7; No, 60.3  
Women (over 40): Yes, 9.3; No, 90.7.

\* \* \*

Why is it that some thoroughly educated and widely read people are so chaotic about their knowledge and so muddled in their inferences?

Herbert Spencer discussed this problem and concluded: "When a man's knowledge is not in order, the more of it he has, the greater will be his confusion."

\* \* \*

Do cows have personal likes and dislikes? I've noticed often how a cow will be gentle to one milker and mean to another.

Congressman Percy L. Gassaway brought the weight of his tremendous intellect on this question with this result: "The trouble with most milkers is that they're stronger with one hand than the other. This makes the cow mad."

\* \* \*

How many feathers does a hen have?

An American high school student—who may become another Einstein—counted 8,537 feathers on a hen. I don't know just what he did with this knowledge, but you never can tell.



Brought up to its real proportions such a discovery might come in handy someday, perhaps enabling us to win a war.

Man has an insatiable curiosity, and that's one of the nice things about him, to my notion.

\* \* \*

What was the 1935 airway traffic, compared with 1934?

The Department of Commerce reports the following traffic on U.S. commercial lines, including trips of U.S. planes into Canada and Latin-America:

	1935	1934
Passengers .....	960,800	561,400
Air exp. (lbs.) ..	3,449,700	5,511,700
Miles flown ...	63,540,000	48,786,000

\* \* \*

Is the water in the human body equally distributed?

According to the *Scientific Monthly*, the human body is 70 percent water, by weight, but this doesn't mean the water is evenly distributed. Here are some differences: lens of the eye, 98.7 percent water; lungs, 79 percent; heart, 79.5 percent; blood, 80 percent; brain, 90 percent; bones, 25 to 50 percent.

\* \* \*

What is the attitude of the American people towards government ownership of munitions plants?

The American Institute of Public Opinion, in 1936, conducted a nationwide poll, submitting 102,120 ballots to citizens, who were asked to vote on the following question:

"Should the manufacture and sale of war munitions for private profit be prohibited?" The result:

For government manufacture 82 percent.  
For private manufacture 18 percent.

The survey also analyzed the vote, to learn where various party voters and persons on relief stood on this question. The following was shown:

	Govt. Mfr. Percent	Private Mfr. Percent
Democrats .....	85	16
Republicans .....	79	21
Socialists .....	91	9
Persons on relief ..	78	22

Early in 1935, 11,000,000 British voters were canvassed on the above question, with the result that 93 percent declared themselves to be in favor of government ownership of munitions plants.

It's clear from the above that the people of Great Britain and the U.S.

A. favor the socialization of the war machine. When will they be as overwhelmingly in favor of the socialization of the peace machine—that is, the means of wealth production, distribution and exchange?

\* \* \*

How many steins of beer did the American people drink last year?

About 25,000,000,000.

\* \* \*

How many walnuts should one expect from a tree?

A five-year-old black walnut tree should produce about 400 nuts; at six years, about 700. Older trees have been known to yield as much as 25 bushels per year. At \$4 per bushel this is highly profitable. Besides, the wood is commercially valuable, being harder than mahogany and stronger than white oak.

\* \* \*

What is the minimum speed an autogiro can make at level flight?

In 1928, the minimum was 32 miles per hour. In 1936, 16 miles.

\* \* \*

Which southern State contributed the greatest number of soldiers to the Confederate army?

North Carolina.

\* \* \*

Which was the last State to join the Confederacy?

Virginia.

\* \* \*

What is "phobophobia"?

This new word is yet to crash the dictionaries. It means the fear of becoming afflicted with a phobia.

\* \* \*

What is the "additive" method of subtraction?

"Additive" subtraction, invented in Austria, was introduced in some American schools about 20 years ago, particularly in New York City. It was supposed to be an improvement on the "take away" system.

To understand the "additive" system, let's suppose I'm to subtract two from eight. When I went to school I was taught the method of "taking away" two from eight. But under the "additive" method the pupil asks himself "two and what are eight?"

In March, 1936, school officials in New York City made arithmetic tests among 20,925 pupils of 5A Grade and found that the "additive" method isn't as good as the old "take away" system. The opinion was almost unani-

mous, among teachers from 247 schools, that the old system should be restored.

\* \* \*

What is the basic idea of the Bessemer process?

The Bessemer process came into existence about 10 years after the Civil War and did a great deal to advance the steel industry. By this method iron is turned into steel by blowing air into the molten material.

\* \* \*

What is the name for the movie process wherein two or more pictures are blended. I've seen movies showing, at one time, railway wheels, presses running, airplanes flying—and, most prominent of all, the central character looking at the audience and thinking about something. Has that process a name?

It's called "photomontage."

\* \* \*

What does it cost to ride in a commercial airplane?

During 1935, according to the Department of Commerce, the average fare paid by airplane passengers was 5.7c per mile. In 1934, the rate was 5.9c per mile.

\* \* \*

I've read numerous references to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt's scrambled eggs. I wonder just what there is about her scrambled eggs that's better than anyone else's scrambled eggs.

When Mrs. Roosevelt scrambles eggs for the President, she does the job this way:

Melts two squares of butter in chafing dish, adds two spoonful of cream, breaks three eggs into dish and stirs with wooden spoon until cooked. Serves piping hot after seasoning with salt and pepper.

I'll try Mrs. Roosevelt's concoction before long, as I'm something of an enthusiast about scrambled eggs. I suppose I have them at least five times each week and never tire of the dish. Only a few minutes ago I finished eating a dish of scrambled eggs, which I cooked myself. I work along simple, proletarian lines, as follows:

A little bacon grease, very hot. Break the eggs so they flop down without busting the yoke. For a while—until the white begins to become "solid"—treat the eggs as though you were going to fry them one side up. Then, just when they're about to become one-sided fried eggs, sneak up on them and give them the works, switching to a quick scramble. Stop

to add salt and pepper, then stir some more. And there you are. I know that's good, for I've done it that way for a quarter of a century, and always with successful results.

\* \* \*

What is a pogrom?

A mass lynching or massacre.

\* \* \*

Are U.S. nickels made of nickel?

A "nickel" contains 75 percent copper.

\* \* \*

Wouldn't it be a good idea if the farmers were to tie up with industries in order to find new uses for their products?

The Department of Agriculture has given a great deal of attention to this phase of the farmers' problem of disposing of surpluses. Here are a few developments:

Elimination of foreign oils. At present, we use 65 percent domestic fats in our soap. It's claimed that this could be increased to 90 percent by using oils from corn and cotton, with an extra 10 percent from petroleum.

Soybeans plastics. This field has already been worked, especially in the Ford industry, where it's been found that soybeans can be used for many motor car parts. Further industrialization is feasible.

Corn surpluses to produce alcohol. Recently a plant was established at Atchison, Kansas, by a chemical corporation, to manufacture alcohol from corn. There will be a difficulty here if it's planned to make alcohol for purposes of motor fuel, because the petroleum industry is able to use its own waste products for the manufacture of alcohol. If laws were passed demanding, say, 10 percent alcohol in gasoline, the refineries could easily make the alcohol and thereby keep out the farmers' competition.

Nicotine for the insecticide industry. This can be made from dark tobacco in large quantities. There are uses for nicotine in various industries.

The use of cotton to reinforce the top layer of asphalt, and in oil-bound roads.

The paper and textile industries could use great supplies of starch, which could be produced from sweet potatoes, especially unmarketable culls and jumbos.

From the above it's plain that steps

are being taken to make the farm more than a source of food. It's to be an adjunct of the industrial system. There are interesting possibilities here which are worth watching.

\* \* \*

Is present-day pugilism harder or softer than the boxing of the past?

It's been about 20 years since a heavyweight championship fight went beyond 15 rounds. Back in the month I was born, July, 1889, John L. Sullivan fought Jake Kilrain for 75 rounds, with bare knuckles. Later it took James J. (Gentleman Jim) Corbett 21 rounds to dispose of the great John L., with gloved fists. In 1915, Jack Johnson and Jess Willard fought in Havana for 26 rounds, when the Negro lost. Imagine what the old timers would say if they could be told about these fight limits of 15 rounds, with all sorts of unladylike punches outlawed! Pugilism has become a refined exhibition of young businessmen out to clean up the most money with the least possible strain. Where the one and only John L. thought nothing of going through 75 rounds in a single brawl, a modern champion would consider it unethical and unprofessional to fight more than 75 rounds during the entire period he held the title.

\* \* \*

How much did the federal government realize, in a year, from the tax on bank checks?

In 1934, the tax yielded \$41,000,000.

\* \* \*

Is there any way of preparing spinach so it'll be palatable?

You're asking a whole lot. I've never yet been won over to Popeye's favorite fruit of the garden. Canned spinach I abominate, and that's about all I've seen in a long time. The way they do it around here is to cook the spinach and then put in a couple of hard-boiled eggs. I usually eat the eggs and let the spinach remain untouched. And even that isn't a howling success, because the spinach does something to the eggs' taste. I once had ground, fresh spinach, which tasted real good, at a swell hotel, but I don't remember just how it was done. The spinach was ground to a fine pulp and mixed with some kind of oil. It was tasty, all right.

The author, Julian Street, claims he has a recipe for "spinach with a smile." This dish is to be tested by

a committee consisting of Irvin S. Cobb, Hugh Wiley, Charles Caldwell Dobie and a few other gourmets. It goes like this:

Two cups milk

Half cup butter

Half cup sifted flour

Six eggs

3½ cups spinach (cooked and chopped not too fine).

2 teaspoons salt

½ teaspoon pepper.

Blend flour and butter in bowl, pour in scalding hot milk and put back on fire to thicken, stirring constantly. Separate eggs, stir yolks into sauce, removed from fire, one by one. Fry spinach slightly in saucepan, stir in whites of eggs, beaten stiff. Pour whole into baking dish, bake 25 to 30 minutes in moderate oven, and serve at once. Serves eight.

\* \* \*

What is coal?

Carbonized vegetable matter.

\* \* \*

An acquaintance of mine maintains many individuals have secured judgments against you on convictions of libel and that you have nothing of any appreciable commercial value in your own name and that such a state of your affairs is maintained by you so that you can continue publishing the results of the slanderous thoughts of your prejudiced mind. How can I answer him?

You may tell your acquaintance that he's all wrong about his facts. The property I own—which consists of the plant of the Haldeman-Julius Publications—is all in my own name (on file at the courthouse here in Crawford County, Kansas), so if anyone were to sue and get judgment he'd have something tangible to shoot at.

In my entire career as a writer, publisher and editor I've been sued for libel only twice. Once by a great mortgage company in Chicago, which I accused of being run by crooked officials. They slapped a suit against me for \$500,000, but before the suit could come to trial these officials all had to leave for long "vacations" in Leavenworth, because the charges I made against them were true. Another libel suit for \$100,000 was filed against me by a medical quack in Chicago, the papers of which were served on me as I stepped from the platform in a Chicago hall, where I was deliv-

ering a lecture. My attorneys in Chicago filed an answer, alleging truth as a defense—and that was the end of that.

Your acquaintance is wrong when he says I publish the results of slanderous thoughts. I have never libeled or slandered an individual or group in my life. When I make critical remarks they are based on facts. If the things I write were false, I'd be spending the rest of my life in jail, including half the time waiting for me in heaven. Rest assured, I'm not going to let myself be caught with my pants down.

Your figures showing the amount of money received by the federal government from liquor should be followed by figures covering receipts of the various states.

According to a survey conducted by the Distilled Spirits Institute, Washington, D.C., 40 states netted \$161,445,808 from liquor licenses and taxes during 1935. New York led with \$35,566,661. Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin each made more than \$3,000,000 from this business.

The coin-flipping question persists. Reader C. A. Lang, Missouri, comes back with the report of an equal tossing. He had a coin flipped 500 times and tabulates the results. Reader Lang, who is always methodical, divided the 500 throws into 50 groups of 10 each and sums up the results, as follows:

(Possible) (Combination)		(No. times) (repeated)
H.	T.	
0	to 10	None
1	" 9	1
2	" 8	2
3	" 7	6
4	" 6	8
5	" 5	10
6	" 4	14
7	" 3	8
8	" 2	1
9	" 1	None
10	" 0	None

Total 50

Reader Lang asks us to note the increase in probability of an even half as one moves from the ends toward the middle of the above column. He offers this comment:

"When divided into 10 groups of 50 each, the greatest deviation from

half and half was one series which ran 32 to 18. There was also one series of exactly 25 to 25. The other eight series were all in the low to high twenties, first on one side, then on the other. And the final total was 253 to 247. The conclusion seems inescapable that the margin of 'error' from an even half and half probability tends to disappear as the number of trials increases, so that theoretically with an infinite number of trials we should expect the amount of deviation from equality to be zero."

Isn't it a fact that Sweden's sound economic and financial situation results from the fact that the average intelligence in that country is high?

That, naturally, has an important bearing on the matter. The Swedish people rank with the most civilized in the world. The facts show that the people of Sweden have great regard for reading, and that is always a good sign.

Recently, a survey of 3,229 Swedish homes, in 160 communities, was made to learn what the average household has in the form of reading matter. The investigation disclosed an average of 27 books and three newspapers.

The books were as follows: fiction, 11; for or against religion, four; encyclopedias, two; economics, two; history, one; geography, one; law, one; cook book, one; diet, one; children's literature, one.

A similar survey in this country wouldn't make anywhere near that showing.

Have any famous literary men ever written advertising copy?

Back in 1877, a young man was hired by the Enoch Morgan Sons Co. to write advertisements for their dirt-chaser, Sapolio. The young ad writer was Bret Harte. Here's his masterpiece, written with apologies to Longfellow's *Excelsior*—or, rather only the first stanza, for the poem was rather lengthy:

The shades of night were falling fast  
As through an Eastern village passed  
A youth who bore though dust and heat,  
A stencil-plate, that read complete—  
"Sapolio!"

Bret Harte, who was to win fame as a writer of short stories and poetry, received \$50 for each of his Sapolio pieces, which was much more

than he received from his literary productions—that is to say, for the same wordage.

It's interesting to note that bibliophiles (book-collectors, to you) have turned Harte's Sapolio creations into collectors' items. A complete set of Bret Harte's Sapolio jingles brought \$225.

Here's another Bret Harte advertisement:

For, as the butcher aptly said,  
You'll find before you go,  
That dirt won't linger long where  
folks

Apply Sapolio!

Do children cry more than they laugh?

Dr. Catherine W. Brackett, of New York City Child Development Institute, reports children, between 18 months and four years, spend, on the average, about 6.7 percent of their time laughing and 2.5 percent crying.

Were the soldiers, during the Civil War, permitted to vote?

Yes. The men in the Union forces voted in the national election of 1864, as follows: For Lincoln, 116,000; for McClellan, 33,000.

I am a white-collar worker and live in New York City. Recently I found myself in a hospital, having been taken ill suddenly. The ailment wasn't serious, but after three weeks I was sent home with a bill for \$350, which I must pay off in weekly installments. I know that under state medicine such things couldn't happen, but while we're waiting for paradise what's a fellow like me to do?

You should subscribe to the Associated Hospital Service of New York, which offers an actuarially-sound policy for only \$10 per year, or 3c per day. This will entitle you to three weeks of hospitalization per year, room, board, nursing, laboratory charges, and operating room and X-ray services. I'd advise you to visit this cooperative organization's offices, where application blanks will be available. You will get protection of the best kind, at a small price.

This service now has 62,500 men and women members, who have their choice of 174 hospitals in New York City. To show how necessary the plan is and how it's being welcomed by persons of small income, let me mention the interesting fact that this service is only two years old, having

been organized on May 7, 1934, with 640 members. In only four days the cooperative society grew to 3,000 members. In July, 1934, there were 10,000 members. And now, as I've already said, there are 62,500.

Remember, this isn't a charity movement—it's a sound, group-insurance cooperative. I recommend joining at once. The movement should spread rapidly to other centers, because it's needed.

What is the "land of Cockaigne"?

This expression comes from a medieval poem and refers to a fabulous country wherein one finds only idleness and luxury—a sort of Townsend Plan in action.

Please give receipt of "Sweetbreads a la Samuel G. Blythe."

Blythe's sweetbreads won first place in a contest, in which famous gourmets acted as a committee of judges. Here's the secret:

Soak the sweetbreads in salted water one-half hour.

Place them in a saucepan and just cover with water, to which a tablespoon of vinegar has been added. Let simmer 20 minutes.

Remove and dip immediately in cold water. Season with salt and pepper.

Dip sweetbreads in white of an egg and roll in finely-ground black walnut meats. Saute slowly in a covered pan.

What's your opinion of the sophisticated ones who say "eyether" and "nigh-ther"?

An American who says anything but "eether" and "neether" is a sassy sissy. Whenever I hear this "eyether" business in the movies, on the stage, or from the counter of a Woolworth store, I feel like getting up and yelling. Boy, it boins me up.

How long does it take for an oyster to mature?

From two to four years.

Is "secret'ry" right?

Not for me. I hate it. I prefer the real American "secretary," "dictionary" and "necessary." I just about throw a conniption fit whenever I hear that damnable and outrageous "dict-shun-ry." Give me, always, a plain, clear "dic-shon-ary." Another pet hate of mine is "cemet'ry." And

while I'm at it let me again put the curse of Jesus on the Harvard broad a's.

\* \* \*

When was "A-C" power invented?

Alternating electric current, the most common form of electrical power, is 50 years old in the U.S. The founder of the Westinghouse Company, George Westinghouse, purchased from its European inventor, in 1885, the patent rights to "A-C." In March, 1886, the first transformer was installed in this country to put out this kind of power.

\* \* \*

Which is correct—a-viation or av-iation? The first.

\* \* \*

The noun "species" puzzles me. Being plural in form I insist on its having a plural verb. Am I right?

It is followed by a plural or singular verb, as the following shows: "Many species of insects are found throughout the world. This particular species is found only in, etc."

\* \* \*

The exchange of letters between Professor Albert Einstein and Dr. Sigmund Freud on the question of how best to eradicate the evil of war brought me several valuable letters from readers of the volume in which it appeared, No. 7 of the *Appeal to Reason*. Reader C. A. Lang, Missouri, comments briefly and helpfully, as follows:

"I was very much interested in the remarks of Einstein and Freud on the causes of war. Insofar as it is useful to call attention to the fact that there are causes which are more obscure than generally suspected, the opinions of these two men are undoubtedly very valuable. But I think the emphasis which they place on such obscure causes is altogether out of proportion to that which should be placed on such causes as are to be found in the world's obvious economic maladjustments. The U.S.S.R. has straightened and is continuing to straighten out its share of the world tangle in this particular. Is it a menace to world peace? It is not. And I do not think Mexico is either at the present time. But to assure the success of their enterprises in both of these places, the radical groups who came to power wisely realized that first of all their educational plants would have to be really house-cleaned. In doing that along the realistic lines

which they have pursued, they have automatically taken care of about nine tenths of the hatreds, fears, jealousies, complexes and neuroses with which Einstein and Freud concern themselves. And if a few more big husky powers such as Britain, France and the U.S.A. would do as much, then these things would soon cut a very sorry figure."

Reader Lang's opinion is to the point. Einstein and Freud pay practically no attention to the economic foundations of society. Wars under capitalistic internationalism—imperialism, colonial expansion, economic concessions, trade privileges, etc.—come because there are interests which have much to gain from militarism. A social order that is based on exploitation and expropriation rarely hesitates to resort to the sword when its acquisitive impulses are countered. In other words, a society that is formed of an owning class and a working class accepts violence as a natural part of its being. But, when society becomes organized on a classless basis—that is to say, when the large-scale industries, etc., belong to the people instead of a small owning class—one of the prime causes of war will have been removed. Proletarian internationalism is one means of achieving international peace, while capitalistic internationalism is just one more sure method of continuing the threats and realities of wars.

\* \* \*

I've heard tell that Senator Long (the widow of the Kingfish) reached her exalted position because of her clever baking of a cake. What's there to this?

As a young man, Huey P. Long was a salesman who distributed shortening, and being a shrewd young man he ran a number of baking contests in order to boost sales. One of his prizes was won by a girl who baked a cake in a certain way that was pleasing to the future politician. So he married the gal. And then, of course, he became Senator, got bumped off, and his widow was given his job. So there's something to the yarn. And, by the way, here's Mrs. Long's cake recipe that got her a prize of 10 bucks, a perfectly good husband—and a seat in the U.S. Senate:

One and three-quarters cups of sugar, one cup milk, three cups flour, three teaspoons of baking powder,

seven egg whites, two teaspoons of extract. Cream the shortening, add the sugar and cream together, add the dry ingredients and the milk alternately. Fold in the egg whites, then add the extract. Bake 45 minutes in a moderate oven.

\* \* \*

Under the new 2c-per-mile rate, what will a transcontinental trip cost? What would the same trip cost by bus?

A railroad journey from San Francisco to New York, under the new rate, will cost \$53.60. The old rate was \$94.94. The same trip by bus costs \$42.25.

\* \* \*

Is it possible to increase the height of a five-year-old child?

It is possible to do something, but only by an expert who has a great deal of knowledge covering the glandular system. There are only a few such specialists in the profession, though you (who happen to live near Chicago) should be able to find someone who knows that branch of science. I'd advise you to make inquiries at the offices of the American Medical Association, in Chicago.

\* \* \*

Is there any scientific way of increasing the height of a 33-year-old adult?

There is no method available. As you perhaps know, there is the bone-breaking process, by which the bones of the legs are broken systematically and pulled apart slightly. Nature, in healing the break, adds a fraction of an inch to the length of the bone. By repeating these breaks many times it's possible, under certain limited conditions, to bring something of an increase in one's height. But this is a long, tedious, expensive operation, and besides it isn't growth in the natural sense. I'd advise against submitting to such an experiment. If nature made you too short, let it go at that. There may be other compensations.

\* \* \*

How many milk-giving goats are there in the U.S.?

More than 5,000,000.

\* \* \*

A friend of mine claims that from the beginning of the Christian era until the Renaissance the Bible was the main source of education. Please comment.

It seems to me that a supporter of the Bible should be reluctant about advancing such a claim, because if

he's right he's practically saying that the Bible was responsible for the Dark Ages, Medievalism and all the horrors of those long, dreary, appalling centuries during which the Church was in almost complete control. The Renaissance, with its development of Humanism, artistic enthusiasm, poetry, literature, intellectual growth, etc., represented the awakening of mankind. Before that, we found Europe—at least that part of it which was steeped in Christian supernaturalism—wallowing in filth, ignorant, superstitious, fear-ridden, tyrannized, and thoroughly decadent. The lifespan was 20 years. Great cities declined and ended in ruins. Civilizations decayed. Learning disappeared. That, tell your friend, was the period in which the much-vaunted Bible was accepted by almost every element in society—from top to bottom. It was a period which we must never return to, for it spelled backwardness and social strangulation. If, as your friend claims, the Bible was the main source of education—and, as history shows, there wasn't any education—it must seem as though the Bible, as a source-book, served humanity badly.

\* \* \*

I was surprised to learn, during the strike of the elevatormen in New York City, that so many thousands of men were engaged in this work. Please give some facts dealing with this industry.

The vertical transportation system (elevators, to you) carries more passengers daily than all other of New York City's transit systems combined. New York City has more than half the number of elevators that are found in all Europe and 25 percent of the elevators in the entire U.S.A.

If put end on end, the combined length of the elevator shafts of New York City would be 1,300 miles. There are 41,649 elevators. Daily passenger loads, 15,000,000 riders, compared with 5,200,000 subway and elevated passengers.

\* \* \*

There are reports that the preachers are becoming more liberal in matters of politics, labor, etc. Have you any information on this subject?

After countless centuries of being one of the arms of reaction, the Church, faced with half-empty buildings and dwindling financial returns, is permitting a minority of its spokes-

men to make gestures in the direction of radicalism, but the thing stinks to heaven. In January, 1935, Yale University sent a questionnaire to 100,000 clergymen, chiefly Protestants, of 22 major faiths and denominations. Replies were received from 4,700. The vote shows that only 25 percent were in favor of permitting "labor leaders as speakers to congregations," only 47.5 percent favored the "right of labor to strike and picket," only 29.6 percent favored "unionization of workers," and only 66.4 percent voted in favor of "fair play for Negroes."

\* \* \*

What proportion of the people die of old age in the U.S.?

According to the Bureau of Census, only one out of 166 died of old age in 1934. Senility, as a cause of death, is most prevalent between 80 and 85 years.

\* \* \*

Which years are the most fatal?

The first five years of life have the highest mortality rate, according to the Bureau of Census. Next is the period from 70 to 75 years.

\* \* \*

What is the strength in men and airplanes of the five great European powers?

The five governments have more than 4,000,000 men in arms, about 17,000,000 men in reserve, and about 9,000 military planes. The following table was compiled from various Associated Press dispatches printed during March, 1936:

	Men-at-Arms	Reserves	Airplanes
Russia	1,300,000	8,000,000	3,000
Italy	1,200,000	5,800,000	1,500
Germany	650,000	1,400,000	1,100
France	600,000	1,008,000	2,500
Britain	400,000	500,000	1,100

\* \* \*

Please explain why the date of issue of The Freeman is always about three months ahead of the time it actually arrives. Is it just a desire to be ahead of the times, or what?

Three months isn't quite accurate. It's about two months. The reason I do this is because the paper is a personal organ, and if I don't write it the darn thing won't come out. As there's always the possibility of sickness or accident, I try to play safe by giving myself a little extra time. If I should get laid on the shelf for a month or two I'd still have a chance

to get out my paper within the time demanded under second class postal regulations. If a second class publication doesn't deliver its issues by a certain time the entry can be withdrawn by the postoffice, and that wouldn't be so nice.

\* \* \*

I have a friend who is taking the Norman Baker cancer cure. He is convinced of its effectiveness. It looks to me like just another quackery, especially as the hospital has equally marvelous cures for piles, varicose veins, or what have you, but my friend's recital of cases he saw cured while there, along with some of the pictures in Norman Bakers' book, raises a slight doubt. What information have you on the subject?

This Baker "cure" for cancer is all the bunk. A person who has cancer and puts himself in the hands of this charlatan endangers his life. Your friend should know that there is no sure cure for cancer. Science must still win this battle—one of the most important in the history of medicine. Let alone not being able to cure cancer, science doesn't even know for sure what it is. This Mr. Baker doesn't know any more about cancer than I do—and I know exactly nothing. Norman Baker stands with that long list of medical quacks. He has absolutely no standing. The only reason he is such a financial success is because of the readiness of the sick to permit themselves to be carried away by impossible promises.

\* \* \*

How much raw material must Russia import for its army?

The best estimates I can get place it at only 1 percent.

### \* \* \*

### RACIAL PERSECUTION

A Los Angeles reader, who asks that his name not be used, writes a number of comments on my pieces dealing with racial persecution, especially as it's found in Nazi Germany. He makes the point that "similar conditions exist right here in this country, about which I have heard no protests."

This reader asks if it isn't a fact that our largest public utilities in this country, such as the A.T.&T., as well as large banking institutions, refuse to hire anyone of the Jewish race. From this he concludes that the U.S. is just as bad as Hitleristic Germany.

I certainly never aimed to give anyone the impression that I believed there was no racial prejudice in this country. I have written hundreds of columns



dealing with the problems facing our Jews and Negroes. But I wouldn't dream of so losing my sense of proportion as to claim that such discriminations can even be compared with the behavior of Hitler's gangsters.

To get the issue right, let me stress this important fact: In the U.S. racial discrimination is not a matter of governmental policy, while in Germany it is nothing but that, with the full powers of a great government being used to miseducate the people into demanding persecution, passing laws to rob and persecute helpless Jews, and denying these members of a minority group their human rights.

The American Jew knows what it means to be blackballed when he would enter a certain club or society. But he takes it on the chin. If he isn't wanted, he stays away. If a certain hotel lets him know that it doesn't cater to Jews, he sees to it that he takes his business elsewhere. And, of course, he is fully aware of the fact that many large business groups refuse to give employment to Jews, though they are always ready to take the Jew's money when they have goods or service to sell.

These facts the Jew knows, but he can bear the insults and discriminations, because he knows that they are the expressions of individual, rather than organized, prejudice. Education, in time, will eradicate such hatreds, but education takes time, and the Jew has learned to be patient.

On the other hand, the Jew knows that anti-Semitism is not a policy of our government. The Jew has the same protection that is accorded the non-Jew. He can vote. He can buy and sell property. He can follow the profession of his choice. He can speak his mind. The artistic world welcomes him, when he is able to give to art contributions of superior merit. An Einstein speaks on science—and the civilized world listens—and no one says he should be hounded out of our country because he is a Jew. Our laws are for all the people, not a mere group. Our government is run without an anti-Semitic bias. If our government followed Germany's lead, the condition of the Jew in this country would be entirely different. Any intelligent Jew knows this.

So, I want to emphasize the point that Jews—and others—should be careful when they complain lest their complaint cover too much ground. There is room for discussion and complaint, of course, but compared with Nazi Germany we are all living in paradise. In this country, with all its faults—and it's by no means a perfect social organism—you can at least breathe, speak your mind,

read, discuss, meet, vote, organize, educate and even agitate.

Anti-Semitism, as I've said before, is growing in this country—mainly because of the propagandistic efforts of agents of Hitler, paid to do this anti-social work. But this campaign of hatred can be countered by the Jews and other decent-minded citizens. They can discuss the issues in a sane, orderly, calm spirit, making an appeal to reason instead of an appeal to passion. They can meet the issue in a constructive manner, showing wherein the propaganda is wrong and unjust. That means there's a chance for reason to triumph.

What a different situation would prevail if the government itself were to become a weapon with which to beat racial prejudice into the hearts of the people! But that condition doesn't prevail—and if all fair-minded lovers of justice do their simple duty as citizens the government's tremendous powers will be used to counter the medieval aims of the hate-mongers.

\* \* \*

Are the American Indians dying out?

The Indian population of the U.S. is increasing, according to the report of John Collier, commissioner of Indian affairs. Collier says the reason is that the Indian death rate fell faster than the birth rate. Our Indians are increasing at a faster rate than the rest of the country.

\* \* \*

How many horses are there in the U.S.?

In January, 1936, according to an estimate of the Department of Agriculture, there were 11,637,000 horses in this country.

\* \* \*

Would a four-year enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps be good training for a boy just graduated from high-school?

As I don't know what the boy's talents, interests or capabilities are, I can't express even an opinion. I know that it's the last thing I'd think of for my boy. I can think of a thousand things I'd rather have him be than a marine, or any other kind of soldier. It's my hope that my boy will turn to constructive, useful enterprises, not soldiering.

\* \* \*

I am a beginning writer and have an opportunity to use the services of a Hollywood author and critic, who offers what he calls "Professional Collaboration Service," for \$50. Please comment.

If you are writing acceptable copy, your agent should serve you without charge, depending on his 10 percent commission for remuneration. Thou-

sands of beginning writers are paying great sums of money to so-called agents who are more interested in milking the author than in supplying the market with new manuscripts. I know nothing of the particular individual you mention, but I don't approve of the general practice.

How often do earthquakes occur?

About every 30 seconds, if we count the small as well as the large earthquakes throughout the earth.

What pet name does Marion Davies have for her Willie Hearst?

"Popsy."

What contribution did the late Coin Harvey make to the science of money and economics? Did he finish his pyramid?

Coin Harvey, who attracted so much attention with his "Coin's Financial School," made no scientific contributions to money or economics. He, like so many others, rushed into a highly complex field of research, without the slightest grasp of scientific methods, and the result, naturally, was only to further befuddle a badly muddled, superficial public. Coin Harvey—like so many others, including Father Coughlin and Dr. Townsend—had the delightfully naive notion that a few surface changes in money, credits, etc., could remedy deep social problems. That Coin Harvey could draw so much attention was merely another proof of America's economic illiteracy.

As for his pyramid, I suppose it was finished, but here I'm not sure. It seems to me that the thing was partly erected when I visited Harvey about 10 years ago, at Monte Ne. Accompanied by Charles J. Finger, I called on the "money sage," and found him to be a pleasing old man, honest and sincere, but utterly inadequate as a social scientist or philosopher. After talking with him for hours—or rather, after being talked to that long—I concluded that the man was merely an eccentric dabbler, with an extra measure of conceit. The idea of the pyramid is just another proof of his egotism. As though Harvey's writings were important enough to store away in a pyramid so that the leaders of a future civilization might know that the present generation had its one and only remedy at hand (Harvey's, of course) but preferred

not to use it! As I left, I turned to Mr. Finger and dismissed the "philosopher" with the curt, inelegant expression: "diaper dust."

Please give the full quotation which describes four kinds of men, one of them being something about a man who knows not but thinks he knows, etc. In her *Life of Sir Richard Burton*, Lady Burton gives the quotation this way:

Men are four:

He who knows not and knows not he knows not, he is a fool—shun him;

He who knows not and knows that he knows not, he is simple—teach him;

He who knows, and knows not that he knows, he is asleep—wake him;

He who knows and knows he knows, he is wise—follow him!

Please give the best measures and devices which prevent venereal infection.

Before exposure do one or all of three things: 1. Wash the parts thoroughly with soap and warm water. 2. Resort to a mechanical preventive of disease, which is a sheath made of rubber or parchment. 3. Apply a calomel ointment and silver preparation.

Immediately after exposure you should wash with soap and warm water and apply a combination tube of calomel ointment and other chemicals, these being obtainable in any drug store. If possible, have a doctor do this, in which case he will apply the above and other chemicals, thus reducing the danger of infection down below 1 percent.

If the prophylactic is to be applied many hours after exposure, it's practically imperative to have the work done by a doctor, for at this stage the danger of infection, even with self-applied preventives, is something like 10 percent. Note: A "prophylactic" is merely a means of protection against catching a disease. It comes from the word "prophylaxis," which means prevention of disease.

## BROTHERLY LOVE

BY CHAD WALSH

(Chad Walsh, a Virginia reader, is the author of the lively lines below. This is a good poem—well put together, and, above all, with a full set of ideas—and yet I can't, for the life of me,

think of any other American publication that would print it. But I insist the poem is worth reading, and therefore gladly give it space in this consecrated and sanctified organ of purity and virtue.)

I think the intellectuals make  
An error in the course they take  
To combat Hitler's rule.  
What if the men who get ahead  
Are those who share his bachelor  
bed?

Abuse and ridicule  
And harping on this private failing  
Will be and should be unavailing!

For many men throughout the ages,  
Whose names are found in history's  
pages,

Have loved a rosy lip  
(Though it adorned no woman's  
face)

And reveled in the rugged grace  
Of some strong manly hip.  
Therefore, I think we should not  
write  
Of how Herr Hitler spends the night.

Let's write about the day instead,  
How Germany is dragged and led,  
Prey to a madman's fancies.  
Let's not begrudge his hours of lei-  
sure.

The greater time he spends in pleas-  
ure,

In masculine romances,  
The more he loves this recreation,  
The better for the German nation!

\* \* \*

How are the great buildings of the gov-  
ernment, in Washington, kept warm?

At a cost of almost \$5,000,000, the government, in Washington, D.C., built a central heating plant which supplies steam heat to 76 large government buildings. Its six gigantic boilers produced almost 16,000,000 pounds of steam in one day during January, 1936, during a particularly cold spell. It cost almost \$70,000 to operate this plant during February, 1936, and required a crew of 62 workers, who served in four shifts. It requires from 12 to 20 railroad cars of coal daily to keep these boilers going. The plant has used as much as 725 tons of coal in a single day. It's possible to store almost 10,000 tons of coal in the yards adjoining the plant. Belt conveyors carry the coal 400 feet from the yards to the plant.

This central heating plant is located behind the Agricultural Building, from which tunnels four miles long, and conduits three miles long,

carry heat to the White House, and almost every other federal building in the district, except those on Capitol Hill. Before entering the boilers, water is chemically treated to soften it.

Ashes are removed by many cars and trucks, which carry them to the city's parks, where bridle and cinder paths are laid down.

The whole thing is a smooth, quiet, efficient machine, which may always be depended on to function perfectly.

\* \* \*

Why don't you put the circulation figures of *The Freeman* in each issue?

*The Freeman's* circulation has remained right at about 25,000 for something like a year, so I see no point in using up space for useless repetition. If the paper's circulation were to grow and then fluctuate violently, I'd consider giving the new figures each month.

\* \* \*

What do you think of these reports from radio people claiming millions—sometimes even 20,000,000—listeners?

I've expressed myself about this bunk several times in the past, during which I used several varieties of razberries and Bronx cheers. Radio promoters are the most brazen liars in the world today, but I don't know what you can do about it. There's no way of checking their claims. They say, without blushing or even swallowing hard, that so-and-so many millions tune in on X&%Y, and we can take it or leave it. I usually prefer the latter.

This situation reminds me of the newspaper circulation managers of a generation ago, who usually stopped only at the sun or the moon when quoting circulation figures. A dinky little sheet with 6,000 circulation wouldn't feel right unless it suggested at least 100,000. But that was changed when the government stepped in and demanded sworn statements twice yearly. The advertisers also did their share by organizing to demand audits of circulation.

But the radio can't really be checked, as I've stated before, so liars can quote their figures, and the victims are judged only by the size of their gullets. However, now and then we get a hint of the truth. Hearst's WIN station, in New York City, claims 1,000,000 hearers, but if some pro-

gram receives 400 letters asking for some premium, the staff knocks off for a bottle of whisky. The Cadillac people offered a series of broadcasts in order to promote the sale of used cars at bargain prices—and received one inquiry after three weeks of plugging, and that single query arrived on a penny postcard. I may be over-skeptical, but it's my notion that the nation's best liars have gravitated to the radio studios.

\* \* \*

What did the Lindbergh-Hauptmann case cost in dollars and cents?

Estimating some of the items, this famous kidnaping case, which cost more than any criminal case in American history, figures up like this:

New Jersey expenditures ...	\$ 162,713
United States government ..	800,000
Col. Charles A. Lindbergh ..	
(ransom) .....	50,000
New York police and courts	250,000
Hauptmann defense counsel ..	43,000
New Jersey reward (not yet	
paid) .....	25,000
Dr. John F. Condon (Jafsie)	6,000
Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean	
(ransom hoax) .....	100,000
Telephone, telegraph, cable	
tolls .....	250,000
Radio broadcasters .....	30,000
Newspapers, press associa-	
tions, etc. ....	265,000
Cost to individuals, etc. ....	100,000
Cost of execution .....	200
Not otherwise calculated ....	50,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,131,713</b>

The last few weeks of Hauptmann's life represented probably the most disgraceful period in American history so far as the administration of justice was concerned. It was simply appalling to watch the cheap political cavortings of a Governor who was out to make a tragic joke of the processes of justice in order to gain for himself some very dubious political advantages.

By and large, New Jersey treated Hauptmann fairly; though one can't help feeling it would have been better if the court had forbidden certain undignified acts. The worst spectacle of all was put on by the sensational press, which overplayed the trial from first to last. But regardless of all these exhibitions of bad taste, the simple fact remains that the state made its case against Hauptmann stand up. There couldn't

be the shadow of a doubt about Hauptmann's personal guilt. He died without saying anything because there wasn't anything he could do to wipe out the convincing record that Wilentz and others had built up.

Personally, I'm strongly opposed to capital punishment, but that feeling didn't sway me from supporting the New Jersey authorities in demanding that Hauptmann go to the chair. Since the law was on the books, it had to be enforced. If New Jersey ever wants to abandon the uncivilized practice of capital punishment, it must do it by act of the legislature, and so long as the legislature refuses to change the law it should be made to stick.

The idea that New Jersey and other states will have to learn is that capital punishment is no real remedy. It's revenge on the part of the state—that's all. It thinks it serves to cure an evil by killing the criminal, but the facts show clearly that killing by the state won't stop killing by the individual.

We frequently hear the argument that the government, state or federal, should institute capital punishment for kidnaping, but here it should be plain that such a punishment would be the worst possible thing for the state to provide. My reason for this is that the kidnaped person is the kidnaper's worst enemy—because he's the state's best witness—and capital punishment would make it logically necessary for the criminal to kill his victim, thereby getting rid of his most dangerous accuser.

Milwaukee, Wis., has one of the best crime records in the country, if not the best for its size, and during 1935 only one murder was committed—and yet, Wisconsin doesn't have capital punishment.

This in itself proves that capital punishment isn't necessary as a deterrent. As others have said many times, the important thing in law enforcement isn't severity, but celerity.

\* \* \*

I was impressed by your remark that a good history of Freethought is needed, and knowing that you have edited thousands of volumes, the question arises in my mind regarding your method of outlining such a gigantic intellectual task. Please elaborate on the idea.

The late J. M. Robertson wrote a fat book on this subject, calling his

work *A History of Freethought*, but the trouble with this work is its difficult style, its seemingly endless use of long, unfamiliar words, and the author's habit of just compiling masses of detail that merely give the appearance of being learned. Besides, Robertson really knew little about history and its vital forces. Also, he knew practically nothing of science and its influence at various stages. All this makes his book numbing, and I never met anybody who ever read it through. I've had it in my library for about five years and am still to finish it. I take a stab at it every now and then, but usually get licked before I work my way through a dozen pages.

First of all, I don't care a lot for the title—it's too academic. I'd want to liven it up a little, without sacrificing any scholarship. Here's my suggestion for a title that would cover the subject: *The Story of the Emancipation of the Mind from Priestly Tyranny*. That title expresses the idea perfectly. Robertson's work could be used moderately for source material, but here our author would have to be careful, for Robertson's authorities are mostly hopelessly out of date and, of course, his book has no recognition of the enrichment of our knowledge of history in the last 20 years.

As I see the subject—and here I'm merely playing with the idea—it strikes me that the story we want to see told should be written in about 150,000 words, breaking it up into 10 parts of about 15,000 words each.

I know I couldn't write this history I've been mulling over in my mind, but I have a pretty fair idea of what I'd like to see covered in order to satisfy me as an editor. I'd start off with an introduction, and then I'd go into the invention of the idea of revelation by priesthoods. This would outline the basis of the tyranny we want to study—what it has cost the race, and proof that emancipation from this tyranny is an essential part of progress in all ages. In other words, we would show the epic of the 4,000-year struggle for emancipation.

With that out of the way we would be ready to go into the heart of the job, beginning the first section, which would require about 15,000 words,

under the general sub-title of "Freethought in Egypt and Early Asia." This would serve as a logical opening of the subject, though, of course, we have but scanty knowledge as regards Babylonia and Assyria. There has been a recent expansion of our knowledge of Egyptian literature and discovery of widespread skepticism from an early age, which often took the form of ignoring the popular gods and ridiculing immortality. From here we go into the discovery of the antiquity of the Hindu civilization, the first great development of the history of Atheism. Here, of course, I have in mind the predecessors of Buddha. The development of Buddhism and the contemporary spread of skepticism in China would be valuable at this point, for this section would have to bring out clearly the essential Materialism of the Chinese mind.

Now that we are well started, I'd go into the second section, which, roughly, would require two parts of 15,000 words each, under the heading, "Skepticism in Greece and Rome." Here my mind crackles with its wealth of material, practically all of which I'd want to see covered if we are to know the real origins and meaning of Greek skepticism. We'd have to discuss the melting pot of Asia Minor and the battle of the gay and the grim gods. Next we would sail into the dominant Materialism of the Greek mind—a fascinating phase of our subject, and here, of course, we would have to expand and show that the spiritual philosophers of the period were quite exceptional and little heeded. While covering these subjects we'd find it necessary to give a little space to the triumph of Freethought in the ancient colonies. Then we'd be ready to prove the parallel growth of Freethought and culture at Athens, for the two went hand in hand. A serious discussion would have to be given here to the false emphasis on Plato and Aristotle and to bring out the real influence of Epicurus. The false ideas about the Stoics would have to be corrected at this point and proof regarding the popularity of the skeptics. This would shunt us right into the rise of science, with Greece loyal to Materialism to the end. A few pages would have to be given to Hy-patia at this point.

We now approach the spread of Greek skepticism to Rome, where we are able to study a rapid growth of freethinking. Space here would have to go to the skepticism of Cicero, the spread of Epicurean philosophy and the idealism it inspired. Then we would correct the errors about the Roman Stoics. After these points are made we are now ready to go into a new phase of the subject, showing conclusively that the development of real civilization was checked by the coming of Christianity. After comparing the respective character of the Pagans and Christians, we would be ready to treat the beginning of the worst tyranny over intellect recorded in history.

We are now well into the subject of our inquiry, and make the third section carry this sub-head: "Freethought under the Mohammedans." Such an investigation would show how the early Arabs mocked Mohammed, thereby exploding the myth of their early fervor. Space would then have to go to the influence of Persian Freethought, showing what happens when skeptics reconstruct civilization. Here the facts will prove that the majority of the constructive Caliphs were skeptics. An interesting feature at this point would deal with popular education and skepticism. After treating the Arab and Persian philosophers, we would be ready for a brief excursion into the lesson of Omar Khayyam. Then would have to come a stark contrast of Catholic Spain and Moorish Spain. After describing the repeated blight of Moslem fanaticism, we would describe the destruction of the Moslem civilization by Christian and Moslem fanatics.

So far so good. The fourth section, it seems to me, would call for two books of 15,000 words each, under this title: *The Medieval Struggle for Freedom*. After exposing the false views about the piety of the Middle Ages I'd want to see described the great spread of Freethought as soon as Europe reawakens—the age of the troubadours and Abelard, first showing, of course, the deep influence of Arab skeptics. Then we would be ready for a study of the myths about the cathedrals and the truth about Frederic II and his age. Here, also, must space be given to the

truth about the Albigensians and the Crusades. A wealth of data could be drawn on to prove the immense spread of skepticism by 1200 A.D., which compelled the Popes to turn to savagery in order to suppress growing Freethought. Here we would turn to Freethought in the age of the **Inquisition**, showing how the Papacy triumphed. Papal corruption would receive lively treatment at this period.

Now we're ready to show the slavery of the intellect in the later Middle Ages. We see how vice occasionally shelters scholars from virtue. We now see the Papal tyranny has become purely political and commercial. As genius turns to art, we see and study freethinking amongst the artists of the Renaissance. Now the stage is set for a keen, but brief, analysis of the bastard Freethought of early Protestantism, as it was inspired by church corruption. Along with the Lollards and the Hussites we would dwell on the freethinking pioneers of the Reformation, a fascinating stage in our journey down through the centuries.

Our fifth section would cover another two books, under this title: "From the Reformation to the 19th Century." This gives the reader a fair idea of the fields I want to see covered in this adventure in intellectual progress and warfare. We would open here with an analysis of the Reformation and its effects, and go carefully into the new tyranny over the intellect. Then our author would have to show why science and Freethought prosper most in Protestant countries. This is followed by some pages devoted to Atheism as it reappears in Elizabethan England and 17th Century France. Being somewhat premature, we see the spread of a deistic Freethought. Here we notice how free conduct protects freethinking in France, and, of course, the influence of Montaigne, Spinoza and Descartes.

We now sail into the 18th Century advance and see Freethought pass from papal to biblical authority. We now enlist the genius of Voltaire, and Rousseau, too. Then we see the immense spread of freethinking in England and its extension to America. An important feature of such a work would be its careful study of Free-

thought in the American colonies. We see how skepticism deepens with Atheism and Materialism and in the same proportion becomes idealistic and practical. Our record now shows how Freethinkers in every country shake the world and prepare revolutions. Here we study the advance in Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, etc., and the savage reaction of the obscurantists and tyrants.

Our sixth section, with its two books, takes shape in my mind with a title something like this: "The Modern Struggle and Triumph." We now have to show how orthodoxy enters upon its final alliance with political and economic selfishness. We look at the man-hunt throughout Europe. And here, naturally, we must learn why there has been little progress in free America. We turn to the masses and study their awakening by the extension of education and the political struggle. We also see how the advance of science gives solidity to skepticism. We now record the steady growth of Atheism and Materialism and note the collapse of theology and the reaction of the churches. And here, of course, must go some account of the great Freethinkers, and also the famous men who were secret skeptics. Here we must tell the story of the Freethought movements in all European countries and their spread to the peoples of Asia, Africa and South America. We approach the close of our wide survey with a resume of Atheism's sweep of the world. We also note the temporary and corrupt Fascist reaction. And then, after a sketch of the advance of Atheism in America, we close our history. And that, my friends, is what a history of Freethought should cover, at least in the opinion of one editor.

Now, please don't tell me to settle down and write such a monumental work. I'll thank you for the compliment, but I know my limitations. Such a job isn't for my small capabilities, though I'll admit frankly that I have a fair idea what the thing should embrace.

I pass this idea—all too briefly surveyed—to my readers, for them to study and mull over. And if they have any notions on the proposed literary endeavor I'll be more than glad to hear from them. If I haven't out-

lined the job well, please be good enough to show me where I fell down.

I didn't intend to get into this long discussion when I started to write this piece. I meant only to write a few short paragraphs, but here I am rattling on as though the columns of this paper were as big as the Grand Canyon. I beg the pardon of all readers who have followed me to this point (if there be any) and promise them I'll try not to bust into another such rash during the rest of the year.

\* \* \*

Upton Sinclair is still at me for my unfriendly remarks about his little excursions into spook-land. His letter:

I have read your comments on my letters to you. If you believe that telepathy is a proper subject for scientific investigation and proof, why do you list a belief in it as among my credulities and absurdities? This seems as if you are trying to ride two horses going in opposite directions. Try to make up your mind for one horse or the other.

You suggest that telepathy should be called thought transference. Apparently this would make it seem more dignified to you. But the fact is that the word "telepathy" is an ad hoc word created by F. W. H. Myers to mean exactly what it does mean; it is taken from two Greek words and means "sensation at a distance." You prefer to substitute one Anglo-Saxon word and two Latin words to say the same thing, and I do not see there is any gain in this.

As a matter of fact, my wife's experiments proved clairvoyance as well as telepathy. What this is I have no idea, but the experiments at Duke University established the same thing. More exactly, Mrs. Garrett, the English medium, "read" cards from a pack of cards which were being turned over by a man in the next room. When the man looked at the cards he was turning over, this was perhaps telepathy; but when the man turned the cards over without looking at them himself, this was clairvoyance, and the result showed that Mrs. Garrett had a higher percentage of clairvoyance than she did of telepathy.

It happens that I have just received and read a pamphlet on the subject of some of those Duke University experiments. If you will take the trouble to read this, you

will see that real scientists are building up a method of getting exact knowledge in this difficult field. If you are really open-minded on the subject, you might educate yourself. This pamphlet is not easy to understand, but you have the intelligence, and when you get through, you can tell your readers what you make of it. I have marked a few passages so that you can get the gist of it first.

Arthur Train had an article in "Scribner's" explaining why he does not believe in telepathy. I sent him a copy of "Mental Radio," and he writes me: "It is the kind of thing which must make any skeptic wobble. In fact, it is the strongest evidence brought to my attention."

#### UPTON SINCLAIR

The reason I listed telepathy as one of Sinclair's absurdities is because he approaches this subject in the same way that the charlatans of a half century ago went to hypnotism—as a manifestation of something supernatural. If Sinclair were really scientific about thought transference there would be little cause for argument, but he is everything but that. He is determined to believe, regardless, and believe he does.

As I've said several times in the past, these "experimenters" in the shadowy world of psychical research should invariably put their so-called tests under the direction or observation of the critical-minded who want truth more than they want to establish unfounded inferences. In other words, a man of the type of the late Harry Houdini should always be demanded before anything is done in these fields, for he would most likely be able to prove that everything these naive believers think they can do only through supernormal or supernatural means can be done by clever mystifiers through brilliant trickery. Houdini never failed to make good his promise to do anything a medium could do, by human, natural means.

The Sinclair type of mind makes telepathy as ridiculous as communication with the dead, because he is ready and willing to swallow any sort of nonsense. I know his type so well, having watched him for several decades, that I wouldn't believe anything he wrote—not that he's a conscious deceiver but rather because he is a

gullible acceptor of anything that's rammed down his throat.

There are some attempts being made to do half-way reasonable laboratory work in what Sinclair calls "mental radio," but this far the "proofs" are far from convincing. I examined the Duke University pamphlet Sinclair was kind enough to send me and reached the conclusion that these men mean well but they are far, far away from proving telepathy, though I'm not saying the thing will never be established. As I've claimed before, should it be proven a reality, it would merely be another naturalistic achievement, and not a victory for spiritualism or other psychical nonsense. Thought transference may come, I repeat, but it isn't here yet. It took many years for hypnotism to throw off its supernaturalistic trimmings—and that, of course, was one of the main reasons for the slowness with which hypnotism was accepted in scientific circles.

I don't see much to Sinclair's point about sticking to the name "telepathy," especially since it's been connected with so much fraud and trickery. I notice that the article on Psychical Research, in the 14th Edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, is written by William Henry Salter, an official of the London Society for Psychical Research, and this writer, at the bottom of page 669, speaks of "thought-transference," and accepts the word as being good for his purposes.

As for Mrs. Sinclair's stunts in clairvoyance, so far as I know she has done all her so-called experiments in the presence of Upton Sinclair, and I'd never dream of accepting anything that came from this unchecked and unverified pair of intellectual babes-in-the-woods. Let Sinclair and his wife do their clairvoyance in the presence of the professors of physics, psychology and, for good measure, the head of the department of engineering, of the University of California, and let them check the Sinclairs each step of the way—then, and only then, would I believe anything Upton and his wife said or wrote about "supernatural" or "supernormal" phenomena. I hate to sound this hard-boiled, but I know the types of mind I'm dealing with, and one must treat



them as though they were children.

I read Arthur Train's skeptical article on telepathy and was impressed by his conclusions. Note, however, that his polite words to Sinclair shouldn't give Sinclair the slightest reason for believing that Arthur Train has been won over to his ideas. True, he says it's the strongest evidence brought to his attention, but note also that he doesn't say the evidence is strong enough to make him accept Sinclair's notions. If Arthur Train knew Sinclair as well as I do, he would hesitate about saying that the author of *Mental Radio* was worthy of acceptance. He might wobble, but he'd soon steady himself and dismiss the Sinclairs as a pair of practitioners in a field that is loaded with mysticism, bland acceptance of any sort of howler, and infantile spookery. The various fields of psychical research have drawn many crass charlatans—they have worked for several decades—millions of dollars have been spent—thousands of books have been printed—and the net result, so far, is exactly zero.

\* \* \*

In an editorial, the *Kansas City Star*, April 15, 1936, says the late Houdini was "so far in mysticism" that he believed, when he was dying, that he would return and communicate with his wife. Please comment.

The editorial is all wrong. Harry Houdini was never a mystic and never surrendered to mysticism. His whole record showed him to be a realistic-minded debunker. It's true that he arranged a secret signal between himself and his wife, which was to be communicated after he was dead, but this was done to put the claims of mystics to the test. He spent many years of his life combating the fakes of spiritualism and all the other hocus-pocus notions of mystics and their moonshiny diaper-dust. I spent a delightful evening with Houdini at his home in New York City during one of my visits to that city, and was impressed with his scorn for the claims of mystics. He told me there wasn't a trick a mystic did by "supernatural" means that he couldn't do by natural trickery. This hard-headed exposé of quacks and fakes was hated by those who make a racket of mysticism.

\* \* \*

Antonio Del Riego, a reader who lives

in Parral, Chih., Mexico, was thoughtful enough to send me a copy of "U.O.," a well-printed radical magazine that gives serious attention to Mexico's cultural problems and radical thought. "U.O." is the organ of *Universidad Obrera de Mexico* (Worker's University), which Subscriber Riego describes as "an institution dedicated to the gigantic job of bringing higher knowledge within the reach of those unable, financially, to crash into our 'respectable' high-hat universities, where only the select few can find admittance." The same correspondent informs me that its teaching staff contains some of Mexico's best-known intellectuals, nearly all of whom had been expelled in 1933 from the *Universidad Nacional*, because of their radical ideas. Reader Riego adds: "Communists are our scape-goats at this stage, as anti-Semitism hasn't a hold, yet, although the 'blessed' Protocols of the Elders of Zion are beginning to be mentioned around, and you know what that means."

\* \* \*

What is the literary value of the works of Brann, the Iconoclast?

W. C. Brann, who edited *The Iconoclast*, in Waco, Texas, until he was murdered by a fanatic, belonged to the rip-snorting school of authorship, the kind of writer who wouldn't dream of getting along with one or two short adjectives when he could as easily slap in a dozen high-sounding jaw-breakers. Personally, I'm always a little suspicious of the over-ornate writer who strives everlastingly for the grand style. Give me clarity and simplicity and I'm satisfied to let the literary pyrotechnics get the boot. Brann was widely read and could sling a mean cleaver when he got properly wound up, but a glance at his collected articles will show the man's thoroughly out-dated. He commanded a wide audience in his day, and was something of an influence for a brand of thinking that approached genuine liberalism, but he had many blind spots and intellectual mannerisms. I couldn't imagine anyone wanting to sit down to read the man seriously in this day and age. He put on a lively, provocative show and always spoke his mind, without compromise or fear. He belongs in America's large gallery of colorful characters.

\* \* \*

Is L. M. Birkhead about done with the book he is writing for you?

Dr. Birkhead was supposed to write

a book describing his observations in Russia, Germany and Sweden, but on his return to Kansas City he found himself so overwhelmed with lecture engagements that he couldn't carry out his writing program. I was sorry, but there wasn't anything I could do about the matter. Some readers sent in remittances for their copies, even though I told them not to do this until I gave out a formal announcement, so I made refunds to them when I realized that the project wasn't going to materialize.

\* \* \*

What became of The Freeman Radio Fund?

Some years ago, at the suggestion of some *Freeman* readers, an announcement was printed inviting contributions to a fund to enable the editor to discuss social questions over the radio. The response was pretty fair, but it was soon realized that only the tiniest stations could be used, and they would be wasteful of time, energy and money, so the matter was shelved. If *The Freeman's* circulation were to grow from its present small 25,000 to something like a half million, the idea could be revived, and perhaps made to serve useful ends. Those who contributed to the fund were offered refunds in the form of trade coupons good for anything published by this plant, or, refusing such coupons, they could have cash refunds. If I remember correctly, not a single person refused to accept the trade coupons, which I took to mean that the disappointed contributors were still quite friendly.

\* \* \*

You wrote glowingly of Rene Descartes' "Discourse on Method," and I was given to understand you would publish it. What's happened?

This book is still on my "must" list, but I don't see how I can get to it before the end of 1936, or perhaps the first half of 1937. I have a fairly crowded schedule that must be executed before I'll be free to do this interesting and valuable reprint.

\* \* \*

Do you publish all of Joseph McCabe's works? If you don't, where is it possible to get all of them?

I published scores of McCabe items, but by no means all of them. There are about 100 large books on the lists of other publishers in this country and England. The fourth issue of

*The Reviewer*, which is to be devoted to the works of Joseph McCabe, will contain a bibliography—the first ever compiled.

\* \* \*

We hear a great deal about reckless driving and speed as being causes of automobile accidents, but rarely hear anything about bad eyesight. Please comment.

Dr. Arthur L. Corriveau, of Biddeford, Me., president of the New England Council of Optometrists, recently called attention to this cause of motor car mishaps, and suggested eye tests for all drivers. He added:

"All eyes require some time for seeing. In the case of normal eyes, one-16th of a second elapses between the time an object is looked at and its perception by the brain. Defective eyes may require half a second or even longer."

\* \* \*

Dr. B. G. Lipton, 161 W. 86th St., N.Y.C., writes me an interesting letter which covers two points treated in these columns. The first follows:

"That perennial cry of the cost of medical care is forever with us. Your reply to your questioner, who was ill in a hospital in New York, and who incurred an expense of \$350, which he must pay off in installments, is a correct reply and sound advice. Doctors realize that the total cost of an illness is quite an item in anyone's expense account. What doctors can't understand is why that white collar worker complains, when he must pay off in weekly installments for the expense incurred. That same worker gladly pays off in installments for his small car, or radio, or small piano, etc. Why? These items he has bought of his own free will and choice; illness came unexpectedly and unwanted. Other major items are not less expensive than the item of an acute illness, nevertheless payment for the former is made ungrudgingly.

"Dr. Morris Fishbein of the American Medical Association aptly states: 'Are most Americans without funds to pay for medical service? Not when the average family pays \$150 for motor cars, \$67 for drinks and chewing gum, \$25 for radios, musical instruments and saxophones, in contrast to \$25 annually for the doctor.'

"Appropos, this subject, I have a copy of four engravings done by Goltzius (1558-1617), the Dutch painter and engraver. The physi-

cian is pictured as follows: 1. When death lurks at the door, the physician is considered as a god. 2. When danger has been overcome, the physician is looked upon as an angel. 3. When the patient begins to convalesce, the physician becomes a mere man. 4. When the physician asks for his fees, he is considered as Satan himself. These four engravings are cleverly done, depicting the descent of the physician in the eyes of the patient as the latter gradually improves. And these pictures were done over 300 years ago. So, that 'paradise' of socialized medicine which your correspondent so eagerly awaits, must have had its inception in thought eons and eons ago, just as hope itself, which exists so eternally in the human breast."

Dr. Lipton then turns to my comment in the June, 1936, *Freeman*, wherein I stated "there are only a few glandular specialists." He writes:

"This is not exactly accurate. There are a great many glandular specialists. They are all, including the best specialists or most renowned specialists, limited by the paucity of real knowledge concerning the subject. Any general practitioner or physician in internal medicine can treat a glandular patient. Endocrinology is a branch of internal medicine. Your correspondent need not travel to Chicago. His doctor in his own town should be able to handle the case properly."

\* \* \*

What's Marcet Haldeman-Julius doing in the writing line? I haven't heard from her in years.

Marcet is hard at work writing again, which I'm sure will be good news to thousands of readers who have followed her articles. I have her three 15,000-word manuscripts, which will be issued during 1936 as three numbers of *The Reviewer*. Isaac Goldberg did the first four *Reviewers*. The fifth issue will contain the stenographic text of a debate on *Do the Dead Live Again?* between Clarence Darrow and Judge M. A. Musmanno, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Then will follow the three *Reviewers* by Marcet Haldeman-Julius, thus:

1. *Jane Addams As I Knew Her*. (Marcet is a niece of the late Miss Addams and knew her intimately during many decades.)

2. *Famous and Interesting Guests*

at a Kansas Farm. (Here Marcet gives her impressions of Upton Sinclair, Lawrence Tibbett, Mrs. Martin Johnson, Clarence Darrow, Will Durant, E. W. Howe, Alfred Kreymborg and Anna Louise Strong.)

3. *Three Generations of Changing Morals*. (This study enables Marcet to discuss the emotional and sexual behavior of the youth of 1900, 1920 and 1936—an invaluable review of American life during its most exciting and interesting periods.)

As announced before, the *Goldberg Reviewers* cover *What the Catholic Church Wants in America*, *The Music of George Gershwin*, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, and *Joseph McCabe—Warrior of Freethought*.

In all, you get 10 issues of *The Reviewer* for only \$1 (\$1.25, Canada and foreign). A single copy costs 50c, but an order for all 10 issues will cost only \$1, or 10c each. Issues will be mailed as they come off the press. The first number is now ready, and during the next month we expect to mail another four issues, to be followed quickly by the remaining five.

*The Reviewer* is a neat, attractive book—5½ x 8½ inches, printed on good paper, and bound attractively in card covers. A set of 10 *Reviewers* is worth much more than the \$1 we ask. Rush your order to: *Haldeman-Julius Publications*, Girard, Kansas.

\* \* \*

Is there any chance of Germany being able to get the loan it seeks in England?

Germany's credit is just about zero, but that doesn't hinder Hitler's financiers from trying to get desperately-needed money in England. It's hard to believe that hard-headed Englishmen could permit themselves to be fooled so easily, but they've been fooled before—by Germany and others, to the tune of billions of dollars in unpaid loans—and they may let themselves be trimmed again. I know the English won't listen to me, but why don't they give serious thought to the sane words of that great Liberal statesman, Richard Cobden, who, nearly a century ago, said:

I say that every loan advanced to a foreign power to be expended in armaments, or for carrying on war with other countries, is as much money wasted and destroyed for all the purposes of reproduction as if it were carried into the mid-

dle of the Atlantic and there sunk in the sea. . . . It stops employment, impedes industry and withdraws from us the only source of profitable labor.

The British, particularly in their foreign policies, are always ready to compromise, even to the extent of lending money to outfits known to be poor risks. They figure there may be other advantages sufficiently profitable to offset the loss incurred by the poor loan. But if they have any sense about Hitler's government, they'll know—or learn through bitter experience—that it's impossible to make real contracts with gangsters. Every promise is made with the intention of breaking it, every loan is arranged with the view of defaulting, if expedient, and every pact is written on cigarette paper, to be burned when occasion requires. But British compromise is a queer thing and may wangle the government into financing Europe's great blackmailer.

British compromise reminds me of an aged story having to do with a fancy lady who sported a swell fur coat before her jealous maid. With charming candor, the kept lady confessed: "I got this fur coat because I met up with a man who could spare \$1,000." The maid decided she'd do the same trick, so she quit her job in search of a man who could spare \$1,000 for a fur coat. Some months later the ex-maid met her former employer, and sure enough the maid was wearing a gorgeous fur coat worth \$1,000. Seeing this, the lady remarked: "You must have met a man who could spare \$1,000." "No," replied the maid, "but I did meet 1,000 men who could each spare \$1."

How's Rex Eastman coming along with his book on English?

He's still at work on *A Self-Teaching Manual of English*, and I'm sure it'll be very helpful to readers who want a simple, clear volume on grammar, spelling, punctuation, construction, style, rhetoric, common errors, etc. The book ought to be ready for distribution in about 90 days. Watch for announcements.

How many Americans attend conventions yearly?

It's estimated that during 1936, 10,000,000 men and women will attend conventions in the U.S. and

Canada. They are expected to spend \$780,000,000 on transportation, food, rooms, etc.

How'd you like Bette Davis and Herbert Marshall in "The Petrified Forest"?

I enjoyed this fine movie—the story, acting, direction, dialogue and everything else that goes to make a drama. Bette Davis and Leslie Howard (not Herbert Marshall, as you mistakenly hold) did first-rate work, as usual. Miss Davis is certainly one of my real favorites. A great deal of the credit, of course, goes to the writer who turned out this exciting, entertaining, absorbing play—Robert E. Sherwood. Anytime you see Mr. Sherwood's name on a program you can depend on a workmanlike job, for he's at or near the top of his profession. The man hasn't disappointed me yet. Even if he were to write a bad play—and he hasn't done that yet—there'd be something about it worth one's time, for he has a touch of genius that never fails to reveal itself. In addition to the two actors mentioned, I liked immensely the work done by the gangster and the old man who knew Billy the Kid.

How many fairs, exhibitions and such shows are held yearly in this country?

Estimates put the figure at 1,500 for 1936, to be attended by 78,637,000. (These figures are for both the U.S. and Canada.) In addition to these fairs, etc., there will be 18,035 international, national, State and regional conventions.

What's your opinion of "The Magnificent Obsession"?

It was plain, bald, unmitigated, unqualified, unquestioned, unmistakable balderdash. Its goofy mysticism made me feel as though my stomach were trying to digest a cannon-ball.

"It will interest you, I know, to be told that my Liberty Encyclopedia is being used frequently by the kids as source material for biographies, themes, etc., in their school work."—C. A. Lang, Mo.

If the average young American had his own pick of a job what would he select?

The following question, "If you had your choice of all the jobs in the world, whose job would you want?" was asked of 11,000 East Side members of the Boys' Club, New York

City, age eight to 18. The most popular job in the world, it seems, is doing the cartoons entitled "Believe It or Not," by Robert L. Ripley. The first 10 preferred jobs, in the order of their popularity, are: Robert L. Ripley. 2. J. Edgar Hoover. 3. James Cagney. 4. Dizzy Dean. 5. New York Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine. 6. Jack Dempsey. 7. President Roosevelt. 8. King Edward VIII. 9. Mayor F. H. LaGuardia. 10. Walter Winchell.

The following ran pretty strong, but must be also classed as "also rans": Benito Mussolini, Major Bowes, Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Bobby Jones, William T. Tilden, Freddie Bartholomew, Eddie Rickenbacker and Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh. Only one vote went to Vice President John N. Garner. Not a boy said he'd care to have the job of answering questions in this publication. Einstein, Bertrand Russell, Joseph McCabe, Wells, Shaw, Isaac Goldberg, the president of Harvard University, the Mayo brothers, Dr. John Dewey, Dr. Freud, Toscanini and the Pope didn't get a vote.

For years I've read your pieces calling on Science to remedy our social and other problems, and yet you admit at this late date that Science can do nothing about so comparatively simple a thing as taking the anti-social propensities out of beans. If Science can't cure the small evils, how can we hope for the correction of great ones?

One scientific remedy has been proposed, but the objection to it is its inordinate expense. The idea is suggested that each bean be drilled to let out the air. But this, as I said, isn't practicable.

What is the life span of white rats?  
About three years.

Our school laboratory is in need of a steady supply of healthy rats. Please advise.

The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., offers the best white rats, at \$45 per 100, carriage charges collect.

Is it true that rain clears the air?

The U.S. Public Health Service has studied this problem and reports there is no truth in the popular notion that

rain gives the air a cleaning. Scientists made a study of atmospheric pollution in 14 large cities, during which automatic air filters were used before, during and after rain storms. These filters failed to show the slightest change in pollution. The dirtiest American cities were found to be Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. The 14 cities had their degree of pollution placed at 100, and based on this scale the five cities mentioned in the previous sentence had a rating of 137. New York City's rating was 97.

What are the latest figures on U.S. silver production?

Because of the government's policy of buying silver and the high price offered, production has increased materially. During February, 1936, we produced 5,313,000 ounces; in January, 1936, 5,177,000 ounces; in January, 1935, 3,411,000 ounces.

In January, 1936, Mexico produced 6,862,000 ounces of silver, which means that Mexico is still the world's heaviest producer of this metal, though the figures just quoted indicate that we are challenging this leadership.

During January and February, 1936, U.S. silver producers received an estimated \$8,077,300. To show how great this production is, we should compare this amount with the entire year of 1933, during which \$7,195,000 was paid to our silver producers.

February, 1936, was a short month and weather conditions were bad, so we may expect to see still greater increases in the near future.

What was the financial loss that resulted from the recent floods in our north-eastern States?

\$250,000,000 (estimated).

How much money have our largest banks put into U.S. government securities?

The 20 largest banks in the U.S., on March 4, 1936, had \$5,970,913,000 of U.S. government securities, or about 20 percent of the national debt. The J. P. Morgan bank heads the list, with 61 percent of its resources in federal bonds and other securities of our government.

It's interesting to note that the propaganda which urges on the public that our government is going

"bankrupt" comes from these 20 largest banks, and yet they are anxious to put such a large percentage of their funds into these securities, thus proving that they really don't believe what they claim.

These big bankers know that our government is sound financially or they wouldn't increase their holdings from December 31, 1935, to March 4, 1936, by \$255,323,000.

In addition to the federal government's securities held by these banks, as stated above, they held, on March 4, 1936, \$1,544,307,000 in the bonds and other securities of corporations, etc., other than the government, which also shows that these 20 greatest banks have more faith in the credit of Uncle Sam than they have in the corporate institutions of Capitalism.

The real reason why these 20 greatest banks want the government to retrench is the fact that such a policy would enhance the value of their holdings, at the expense of needed public improvements, the unemployed, etc.

I note your statement that U.S. English is better than the speech spoken in England, but wonder if you have authoritative support for this position.

Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly, noted lexicographer and editorial head of the *Funk & Wagnalls* dictionaries since 1891, offers the support you call for, in the following:

"The English spoken in the U.S. is far superior to the affected and exaggerated speech you hear throughout England. . . . Take this test sentence: 'I bought an oragne and an apple in an hotel at home.' And this is how they'd pronounce it: 'I bough ta-norange and anapple inanotel atome.'

"They must be in a great hurry. They must think the end of the world is at hand, to rush words in together that way."

In his early life Dr. Vizetelly lived in Sussex and Surrey, where the speech is rendered in a broad dialect. When the future lexicographer came to this country he thought "the clear, round speech I heard here was the most direct and musical language in the world. Where did I hear it first? You'll laugh—it was in Hoboken! But I still rejoice that we talk here to be understood. Our American speech is the most virile

in the world, and our critics must remember that it is the language of our whole nation."

How many new firms are started in this country yearly?

Dun and Bradstreet report that during 1935 about 402,000 new firms were started. Each day there are over 6,000 changes in business listings by Dun and Bradstreet, including additions, eliminations and corrections.

What is a hair's breadth?

In a patent suit before the U.S. Supreme Court a hair's breadth was described as exactly "one two-fiftieth of an inch," or "four one-thousandths."

Please comment on the Hearst press.

I've already done this several times, the best being when I quoted some scorching sentences from Prof. C. A. Beard, the distinguished historian. Another academic figure, Prof. Edward A. Ross, of the University of Wisconsin, pays his respects to Hearst in a single sentence that tells everything. Endorsing a proposal to boycott Hearst, Dr. Ross said:

"I would rather go to a swill pail for my lunch than to a Hearst paper for my news."

Of what real value is political democracy when the economic forces of a nation are in private hands?

I have written hundreds of columns on this subject and believe I've shown clearly that political democracy even by itself represents social advance. At the same time, I've suggested frequently that political democracy can be used as a legitimate, legal, orderly weapon to help bring about industrial democracy. Mark you, I don't say political democracy alone will enable the working class to achieve the goal of social or industrial democracy. Real assistance can be drawn from honest, intelligent industrial unionism, the development of the consumers' cooperative movement and the general spread of education and enlightenment.

Hugh Dalton, one of the leaders of the British Labor party, has written a useful book, *Practical Socialism for Britain*, from which I draw the following valuable sentences:

"Political democracy will only be

fully alive when married to economic democracy in a society of equals. Yet, to deny the reality of political democracy even when only half alive; to deny, for instance, that an Englishman today breathes freer air than a German is half-witted. And to deny that political democracy can, if enough men and women will it persistently, march toward Socialism, is defeatist and doctrinaire."

There's a lot of sound sense in the above quotation, and I recommend its careful study by all who are finding themselves influenced by the arguments of the anti-democratic forces—either Communist or Fascist. The lesson of the world situation is simple and clear—the best countries to live in today are the democratic countries; the worst are the Fascist-anti-democratic countries.

\* \* \*

A correspondence course is offered by O. F. Schoeck, Alton, Ill., on Diesel engines and air conditioning, two engineering subjects in which I am interested. Do you recommend this concern?

I don't know how Mr. Schoeck is running his business today, but not so long ago he resorted to various practices that are highly questionable. For instance, he would place advertisements in the classified sections of newspapers, under headings like "Help Wanted," "Men Wanted," "Employment," "Wanted—Male Help," etc., and would have salesmen visit those who answered, and offered correspondence courses instead of jobs. The inquirers would be assured that jobs would be available when the course was finished. Investigations have shown that this concern—despite its claims—had no contact with employers and therefore had no jobs to hand out.

To show how financially successful this venture is, let me mention that the records show an enrollment of 2,500 students in the Diesel engine course and about 1,500 students in the air-conditioning course, all of which were sold at high prices.

Another fact brought out by investigations is the falsity of the concern's claim that students are supplied with tools.

Another practice which is intended to impress would-be students, and which is severely criticized, is the giving of high-sounding titles to sub-

ordinate employees. By this magic an ordinary clerk would be turned into an executive officer, such as "Home Office Registrar," "Supervisor of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning," "Supervisor of Aeronautical Department," "Supervisor Employment Service," "Supervisor of Mailing Department," "Supervisor of Accounts," "Chief Engineer," "Director of Enrollment," and "General Manager."

I haven't examined the actual courses, so can't pass an opinion, but judging the crew by its methods I'd say you'd better lay off.

\* \* \*

Back in the old days you used to run what you called "The Bunk Box," in which you listed the follies of the American scene in a way that always amused me. I later got the pieces in book form, which I value, but it seems to me you ought to keep up the idea.

Thanks for recalling that ancient stunt. I used to get a lot of fun doing the job. Readers everywhere would help me by sending entertaining clippings. The other day I saw a piece in the papers—a United Press dispatch from Dallas, Texas—which would fit perfectly into a revived Bunk Box. The reports tell of an international egg-laying contest which will be held at the Texas Centennial Exposition, though it fails to mention how the hens are to be given the news that they're contestants. It seems that their nests will be wired for sound. The report continues:

"The hens will settle to their task. June 1. When the first egg drops into the super-comfortable nests which the exposition will provide a buzzer will sound and an attendant will hurry into the hennery with a microphone, and the hen's cackling will be picked up for a waiting radio audience."

How's that for real, tested, undiluted bunk?

\* \* \*

#### A 410-POUND PROBLEM

A reader who describes himself as "America's biggest one-ton engineer"—he weighs a mere 410 pounds—asks me what he can do about his condition. I'm not competent to even discuss such a subject, preferring to refer him to members of the medical profession who understand the behavior of our glandular system. This man, who is an engineer on a large ship, tells me he has great endurance and seldom gets tired, and that he moves and thinks fast. His dif-

ficulty, it seems, is the fact that he's very fond of the ladies, but that attention to the lovely objects of his affection frequently results in busted beds. He tells me, in a tone of deep hurt, that he has broken some of the best beds in Europe, including a few hearts. The point has been reached where he must either reduce drastically or submit to the complete disappearance of sex appeal. It seems that since Fatty Arbuckle had that amazing experience with a woman who was too small for his bulk, the fat boys have had what we may politely call a black eye. In short, the fair dames are getting a little gun-shy when brought up against any male that weighs somewhere around 400 pounds. The circumstances are such that I would go to any limit to help my friend, but I must admit my impotence. Four hundred pounds (plus 10 pounds for war tax) is an awful lot of man, especially when he has his mind set on using beds for things other than slumber.

\* \* \*

What's the color of Hitler's mustache?  
Red.

\* \* \*

How much money has the beer industry paid to the U.S. and State governments since beer was re-legalized?

From April 7, 1933, to April 6, 1936, the beer industry paid to the Federal government some \$630,000,000; to the States, \$150,000,000. In 1935, the brewers sold 44,907,700 barrels.

\* \* \*

Can you recommend a good fountain-pen?

Practically all the well-known makers of fountain-pens are turning out worth-while products; my only objection being that most of them are too highly priced. I've been using the same Parker pen for almost 12 years, with consistent satisfaction. And I'm sure there are a half a dozen other brands equally good.

\* \* \*

Do the people really care for political broadcasts?

*Fortune* magazine reports it asked, in a national survey, the following question: "Would you like to hear more, less or no political speeches on the air?" The result: more, 15.8 percent; same, 38 percent; less, 27.9 percent; none, 18.3 percent.

\* \* \*

What is the status of Germany's foreign trade with Russia?

In 1932, before Hitler stole power, Germany sold to Russia 625,800,000 Reichsmark of goods and services. In

1935, exports to Russia amounted to only 39,200,000 Reichsmark. In 1932, Russia sold to Germany 270,900,000 Reichsmark of goods, raw materials, etc.; in 1935, Russia's exports to Germany amounted to 215,000,000 Reichsmark. The balance is against Germany, for 1935, by 175,800,000 Reichsmark, while in 1932 the balance favored Germany by 354,900,000 Reichsmark.

\* \* \*

I notice that during recent years the Federal government's experts in the weather bureau are able to warn the people of Florida and other sections visited by hurricanes, in many cases about a day before the disaster arrives. Why don't the people take advantage of these warnings?

The Works Progress Administration reports that it has adopted plans for the construction of hurricane-proof, reinforced concrete shelters in community centers, each capable of protecting about 250 persons. The plan calls for 20 such structures, of which nine are now being built, to cost \$300,000. All of these shelters are intended for Florida and will be high enough to resist storm tides. I know of no similar work being done by other agencies.

\* \* \*

I've seen a great many complaints or comments in the press regarding the activities of the federal government as a lending agency, but haven't seen the comparisons with private lending by the banks. It would be valuable to learn just how much the government has loaned out, also the total loans made by the banks. Can you supply the data?

Since March, 1933, the federal government has established a number of New Deal public corporations for the purpose of making loans, the 15 more important ones having, on December 31, 1935, loaned out \$5,476,917,000.

On the same day, the Federal Reserve member banks had loans and investments out totaling \$29,934,000,000. All U.S. banks, on the last day of 1935, showed loans or investments of \$45,000,000,000.

Therefore, the federal loans equalled 18.3 percent of the money loaned or invested by Federal Reserve member banks, or 12.2 percent of all loans made by our private banks.

However, these 15 federal departments do not include government loans made before the inauguration



of the New Deal. For example, we should take into consideration the loans made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Federal Land Banks. These two agencies loaned out, in round figures, \$4,700,000,000.

When we add together all the loans made by the 15 New Deal corporations and the two named in the previous paragraph, we find that government loans amounted to 23 percent of all loans and investments of all private banking institutions.

\* \* \*

When the publishers of a certain book caught Father Coughlin stealing many pages of text and using them over the radio as his own ideas, what kind of a settlement did he have to make with the owners of the copyright?

As I've explained before, Father Coughlin swiped page after page of material from *The Economic Consequences of the New Deal*. When the Father (of what?) was called to account, he admitted his theft and agreed to make amends for the damage he had done the authors and publisher. I now quote from a letter, written by a member of the firm of Harcourt, Brace and Company, publishers, 383 Madison Avenue, New York City, under the date of March 25, 1936:

"Father Coughlin did not make a cash settlement with our firm. After consulting with the authors, Messrs. Stolberg and Vinton, and acting as much upon their advice as upon our own wishes in the matter, we decided not to press Father Coughlin for any damages, provided he would agree to call the book to the attention of his huge radio audience during the subsequent broadcast. Father Coughlin agreed to do this."

Of course, the point about the settlement is important, because it shows that Father Coughlin confessed his guilt as a plagiarist, as I charged last year and which will be found reprinted in one of my books. After all, it was really a cash settlement, because Father Coughlin had to pay cash for his radio time, which he devoted to advertising the book from which he had stolen numerous paragraphs, even pages. I didn't listen in during the particular broadcast mentioned by the publishers, but I understand he gave something like \$5,000 worth of time to boosting the Har-

court-Brace volume. Coughlin, as I said, paid cash for it. The publishers would have had to pay cash for the advertising, had they taken the time for themselves over the large chain Coughlin employed. So, whether it was direct cash or cash through the donation of radio time, Father Coughlin admitted he was a literary thief and paid damages in order to avoid prosecution in the federal courts, where he might have received years in the penitentiary had he been brought in on a formal complaint.

\* \* \*

I heard a fellow say he bought a typewriter on the Never-Never System. What is it?

That means he paid \$4 down and the company has been looking for him ever since.

\* \* \*

Please name some of the great living Jews.

A list of "the 10 greatest living Jews" was made up recently by Ludwig Lewisohn, well-known author, as follows:

1. Professor Albert Einstein, scientist.
2. Sigmund Freud, psychologist and psycho-analyst.
3. Henri Bergson, philosopher.
4. Martin Buber, professor of religious philosophy.
5. Chaim Weizmann, head of the Zionists.
6. Dr. Bernard Zondek, gynecologist.
7. Scholom Asch, novelist and dramatist.
8. Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.
9. Louis D. Brandeis, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.
10. Arnold Schoenberg, composer.

Dr. Lewisohn says the first four listed above rank as authentic geniuses. "The other six," he adds, "are not of the same divine spark." While I might want to make a few exceptions, the list, by and large, is a good one. For example, it seems to me that Dr. Isaac Goldberg, famous literary critic, is much more important, as a social thinker, than Rabbi Wise. And, while I'm at it, I'd say that Max Reinhardt, the director, is a greater creative spirit than Dr. Buber.

\* \* \*

Which countries make dangerous drugs for export?

Japan comes first, with 18 licensed factories. Then follow: Germany, 8; Switzerland, 7; France, 6; Great Britain, 3. The U.S. has five licensed factories that make dangerous drugs, but their products don't go into ex-

port. We have an additional three factories that are permitted to change opium into alkaloids.

\* \* \*

What is the world population of the Jews?

The latest estimate is for the beginning of 1936, which places the Jewish population of the world at 16,240,000, an increase of 1,300,000 over 1926.

\* \* \*

Which countries have more than 1,000,000 Jews?

There are only four such countries: the U.S., with 4,450,000; Poland, with 3,150,000; the Soviet Union, with 3,080,000; and Rumania, with more than 1,000,000. In all, Jews live in 30 countries, of which 17 have more than 100,000 Jews.

\* \* \*

How much money have members of CCC camps sent home to needy families?

During the first three years, CCC members sent home \$260,000,000.

\* \* \*

Which States received the largest share of federal relief money and which the lowest?

South Carolina comes at the head of the list, having received 98 percent of its relief money from the federal government. The lowest was Rhode Island, which got only 39.4 percent.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration gave out the table below, showing the 10 highest and 10 lowest States receiving federal money, the percentages stated below being the amounts contributed by Washington:

Highest		Lowest	
S. Car. ....	98.0%	Rhode Is. ..	39.4%
Louisiana .	96.9	Delaware ..	40.5
N. Car. ....	96.8	Conn. ....	43.9
Ark. ....	96.5	New Ham. ..	44.7
New Mex. .	96.5	Maine ....	50.6
Miss. ....	96.2	Mass. ....	52.4
Florida ...	95.2	N. Y. ....	53.0
Georgia ...	94.7	Vermont ...	56.6
Alabama ..	94.6	Iowa .....	57.8
Tennessee .	93.4	Indiana ...	64.6
Total .....		\$4,096,433,000	
Average share .....		70.9%	

\* \* \*

Has there ever been a time in history when all the nations of the world were at peace?

During 3,410 years—from 1496 B. C. to 1914 A.D.—there were only 27 years during which the world was entirely at peace.

From 1450 A.D. to 1721 A.D.—a

total of 271 years—there wasn't a single day during which there wasn't at least one of Europe's 11 greatest powers at war.

From 1100 A.D. to 1914 A.D. France participated in 197 wars, some internal, but most of them external.

\* \* \*

How much paper must our government buy to keep the country supplied with paper money?

About 1,000 tons per year. Figuring 20 tons to a carload, this means a train of about 50 freight cars.

\* \* \*

Please give me some information regarding the airplane carriers now being built by our navy.

In April, 1936, the government launched the *Yorktown* airplane carrier, which is the second such craft built for the U.S. navy. Two more are under construction the *Enterprise*, which will be finished in 1937, and the *Wasp*, which will be ready in 1939.

The *Yorktown* cost \$20,000,000, which came from emergency funds in 1933, allocated by President Roosevelt. The *Yorktown* will be ready for service in March, 1937, and will have a displacement of 19,900 tons. Its deck is 109½ feet wide and 809½ feet long. It'll be able to do better than 35 miles per hour. The ship will be able to carry 142 airplanes. Its personnel will consist of 2,072 officers and men.

\* \* \*

How many birth control clinics have we in the U.S.?

According to the March, 1936, issue of the *Birth Control Review*, there were 242 birth control clinics in the U.S. in February, 1936, as against 150 in January, 1935, and 31 in 1930. Most of these clinics are in the following States: New York, 41; California, 30; Pennsylvania, 24; Michigan, 22; Illinois, 12; West Virginia, 12. Eleven other states have only one clinic each. The District of Columbia has one clinic. Eight states are still without clinics.

The Milbank Memorial Fund, on March 27, 1936, released a valuable statement on birth control practice, as follows:

"According to a survey of 31,000 married women in 26 large U.S. cities, 43 percent of white, and 16 percent of Negro women practice

birth control. Assuming wider practice than is revealed by these admissions, it is estimated that between 55 percent and 60 percent of all married white women practice birth control. Yet, the reduction of pregnancy rates for white women in this category is only about 25 percent below that of other women in the same age group but not using contraceptive methods. Among Negro women, the reduction was found to be insignificantly slight. This is taken as an expression of the comparative lack of intelligence and, therefore, the ineffectiveness of contraceptive practice."

The American Birth Control League, in a statement, March 25, 1936, claims that 41 percent of the women who asked for birth control information during 1935 were on relief. These women had an average of three living children, and the average age of these women was 28. The League reports that the main reasons for their seeking birth control information were poverty and physical conditions that made birth control necessary as a health measure.

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What effect has the depression had on the salaries of our educators?

The March, 1936, issue of *School Life* reports the results of a survey of 69 colleges that are attended by white students, as follows:

	1929-30	1934-35	Decline
Presidents .....	\$5,469	\$3,708	32.2%
Deans .....	3,375	2,500	25.9
Professors .....	3,030	2,336	22.9
Assoc. prof. ....	2,646	2,156	18.5
Assistant prof. ....	2,235	1,864	16.6
Instructors .....	1,775	1,559	12.2

After seeing what the educators in our HIGHER institutions of learning are paid for their invaluable social services, let's take a look at the salaries that are received by corporation pets, according to a report to the House Ways and Means Committee. Corporation salaries for 1934 follow—only a handful from the long list:

Thomas J. Watson, N. Y. ... Intl.	
Business Machine Corp. ....	\$364,432
Will Rogers ... Fox Film ...	324,314
F. A. Courtway, Pres. .... Lever	
Brothers .....	298,049
Janet Gaynor ... Fox Film ...	252,583
Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. ... Gen.	
Motors .....	201,693
Walter P. Chrysler ... Chrysler	
Corp. ....	197,568
John S. McCarrens ... Plain	
Dealer Publ. Co. ....	191,092

Harry Cohn, Pres. ... Columbia	
Pictures .....	182,000
Frederic March ... 20th Century	
Pictures .....	157,458
Jesse Lasky, producer ... Fox	
Film .....	156,000
Donald Cook, Director ... Columbia	
Pictures .....	156,000
H. L. Crosby, Jr. ... Crosby	
Productions .....	152,142
Maurice Chevalier ... 20th Century	
Pictures .....	150,000

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I notice that you refer occasionally to reports and statements of the Milbank Memorial Fund. What is the nature of this institution?

The surveys of this organization are valuable to all students of social questions. Milbank information helps me answer questions asked by my readers. The following resume will give you a fair idea of the Fund's activities:

"Last year (1935), Milbank Memorial Fund spent \$320,778 for support of the activities of 27 official and private agencies in the fields of public health, medicine, social welfare and research. Projects aided include studies of district health administration in cities; experiments in measuring the effectiveness of public health service; a demonstration of rural public health service in Ting Hsien, China; collaboration with U.S. Public Health Service on a national health survey, and with the League of Nations on a system of health indices to measure health conditions and practices in various countries. The Fund since its establishment in 1905 appropriated for philanthropic purposes a total of \$10,171,900."

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Is it true that the play "Tobacco Road" is enjoying the longest run in theatrical history?

In March, 1936, this play reached its 1,000th performance in New York City, which makes it the third most successful play in theatrical history. *Abie's Irish Rose* comes first, with 2,532 performances; *Lightnin'* had 1,291.

I saw *Tobacco Road* when it was shown in Joplin, Mo., some months ago and was impressed with the play's great artistic merit. It's a brilliant, honest, fearless, unconventional study of Georgia's "poor whites," and left an impression on me which I'm sure will never leave me. Of course, I laughed at the writer's numerous bursts of wit and humor,

but what touched me above all was the poignant portrait he gave his audience of the corruptions of life and character which result from a diseased economic system. These tragic men and women were in decay because they were in the grips of a rotten social order.

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How many corporations are there in the U.S.?

About 500,000.

\* \* \*

Is Clarence Darrow, now that he has grown to be a very old man, still strong in his Agnosticism?

On April 18, 1936, Mr. Darrow became 79 years old, and it was on this day that he told the Associated Press:

"I say that religion is the belief in future life and in God. I don't believe in either."

In the face of this candid, direct, blunt expression, it's apparent that one shouldn't refer to Darrow as an Agnostic—it's more accurate to use the plainer, simpler, more honest word, Atheist. Darrow grows stronger in his Atheism as he grows older.

\* \* \*

I've seen a picture of President Roosevelt at his desk in his office, faced by a crowd of at least 200 reporters, the occasion being one of the regular press conferences. The President is the only man in the room who is smoking. Are the others forbidden to smoke?

There's no rule against smoking in the President's office. It happens that the reporters are at a disadvantage, because there's only one ash-tray—and that belongs to F. D. R. So the gentlemen of the press don't smoke. (This is getting into very deep stuff. I hope none of my readers get brain-fag.)

\* \* \*

What is the difference between Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy?

Fundamentally, both men were real believers in democracy, with sublime faith in the people. But still there was a difference. Jefferson was a strong believer in State sovereignty, with the lightest possible powers centered in the Federal government. Jackson, who was more of a man of the people than the great Jefferson, felt that when he was elected President it was his duty to see that his powers were used for the Union, instead of for the individual States as units.

Applying the pragmatic test—and

that's usually a sensible thing to do in political matters—the results indicate that Jackson's ideas were closer to realities. At any rate, the Jacksonian idea has grown with the years, while the Jeffersonian idea of "that government is best which governs least" has gone overboard, perhaps for good.

The policies of President Roosevelt certainly are closer to Jacksonianism than to Jeffersonian democracy. The fact of the matter is, Jeffersonianism is anachronistic—the times have shed it, until now we find ourselves worshipping Jefferson for his greatness—and he was perhaps the greatest man in American history—but leaving far behind his political dream of unqualified, unchallenged States' Rights.

The two men—Jackson and Jefferson—were as dissimilar as it could be possible for two persons to be, and still live in the same world, and, for a long while, at the same time.

Jefferson was a brilliant, cultured, educated gentleman—a scholar, a lover of education, an iconoclast in religion, a gifted writer and a keen thinker.

Jackson, on the other hand, was a forceful, colorful, rugged, honest, common, boorish, ignorant, unlearned, uneducated, uncouth, tempestuous rowdy. I forget how many duels he participated in and how many men he shot, stabbed, hanged and in other ways disposed of. As a military leader he was ruthless and merciless, and always acted on the theory that the general is best who kills and destroys the most. He wouldn't hesitate a moment about stringing up six men. He was a born fighter—as a military genius, as an individual, as a politician and as the head of our government. To me, the miracle was that he died a natural death, in 1845, living to the ripe age of 78.

Jefferson, who lived the quieter life of the student, lasted until his 83rd year a long life of good, faithful service to a people who will never forget his dignity, beauty of character and wide cultural and intellectual interests.

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Is there any truth to the popular belief that crooks are furtive, refusing to look one square in the eye?

There's no scientific authority for the idea. Charles Dickens, almost a

century ago, covered the subject quite sensibly in the following:

"I have known a vast quantity of nonsense talked about bad men not looking you in the face. Don't trust that idea. Dishonesty will stare honesty out of countenance any day in the week, if there is anything to be got by it."

\* \* \*

Have you any facts dealing with the use of school buses?

In January, 1936, there were 77,825 school buses used in the U.S., either owned outright or hired by 28,231 schools. During 1935, 2,919,000 pupils were hauled over almost 1,000,000 miles of route. This service cost \$52,622,000. The average cost is \$18 per pupil. The service costs least in North Carolina, \$10.85; most in Wyoming, \$66.32.

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Have you any late figures on installment buying?

The National Retail Dry Goods Association reports that retail sales for 1935 amounted to \$32,500,000,000, of which \$3,840,000,000, or 12 percent, was on the installment plan. The same authority estimates 1936 installment sales at \$5,000,000,000. In 1929, installment sales amounted to about \$6,370,000,000, or 13 percent of total retail sales of \$49,000,000,000. It's claimed that installment buying will increase in volume, as the list of goods and services sold under the plan keeps expanding.

\* \* \*

Does cancer strike the human race with the same frequency everywhere, or are there variations, as in the case of tuberculosis?

The cancer rate is uneven, fluctuating widely. Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, consulting statistician of the Biochemical Research Foundation, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, writes in an article published by the New York City Cancer Committee that during 1934 Arkansas had the lowest death rate from cancer of any State in the Union. New Hampshire had the highest death rate from cancer, in proportion to population. As for the U.S. generally, we take a middle position, losing 96 persons in 100,000 as a result of cancer.

Dr. Hoffman reports the three States with the highest cancer death rates are: New Hampshire, 159.6 per 100,000; District of Columbia, 158.1;

Massachusetts, 153.3. The three States with the lowest general cancer death rates, according to the same source were: South Carolina, 54.8; North Carolina, 53.4; Arkansas, 48.9. Dr. Hoffman continues:

"For the world at large, there is a range from a minimum rate of 9.0 for 100,000 for Ceylon and 24.0 for Greece, to a maximum of 146 for 100,000 for England and Wales, 147 for Scotland, and 148 for Austria. The United States, in this comparison, holds middle place with a rate of 96 for 100,000 for the period 1926-30."

\* \* \*

What is the present naval strength of the great powers?

Including all ships constructed, now being constructed and appropriated for, the five leading naval powers stand, in April, 1936, as follows:

	Battle-ships	Cruisers	Destroyers	Submarines	Air-craft carriers
Great Brit.	15	67	197	66	7
U.S.A.	15	37	266	100	7
Japan	9	40	122	70	6
France	12	24	98	111	1
Italy	6	30	98	77	0

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How many farms were lost during recent years through foreclosure?

It's estimated that 800,000 farms were lost through foreclosure from 1933 to 1935.

\* \* \*

What is the national wealth of Canada?

The Ministry of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, estimated Canada's national wealth, as of December, 1933, at \$25,768,000,000. This is a decline of \$5,597,000,000 from the peak of 1929. One of the most important items in this decline was the fall in farm values from \$6,300,000,000 to \$4,760,000,000. During the same period Canadian railroads increased in value from \$3,321,000,000 to \$3,365,000,000.

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How many Jews are immigrating into Palestine and which countries do they leave?

According to the *United Palestine Appeal*, New York City, 61,541 Jews immigrated to Palestine during 1935. They came from the following countries:

Poland	27,291
Germany	7,747
Rumania	3,596
Greece	2,122

Lithuania .....	1,967
United States .....	1,638
Yemen (Southwestern Arabia) ..	1,425
Czechoslovakia .....	1,397
Latvia .....	1,042
France .....	1,021
Austria .....	961
Turkey .....	764

How many lawyers are there in New York City and how much money do they make?

The *New York Law Journal* says there are 22,000 lawyers in greater New York City, with incomes estimated as follows:

Above \$50,000 yearly .....	500
Between \$25,000 and \$50,000 .....	2,000
" \$10,000 and \$25,000 .....	5,500
" \$ 5,000 and \$10,000 .....	6,500
Below \$ 5,000 .....	7,500

What's the value of the government's stock of gold?

The latest report of the U.S. Treasury is for the week ending April 1, 1936, and shows that the monetary gold stock is worth \$10,185,000,000, the highest figure in history.

What is the base of the life table of the insurance companies?

In 1901, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the life expectation figure was 49.24 years, for a considerable part of the U.S. In April, 1936, the same company announced that mortality statistics from the entire country give, in a table that is applied to both sexes, an expectation of life at birth of 61.26 years. This means that a child born today may expect to live 12 years longer than its parents.

Do horses and mules have the same life-span?

No. Horses live an average of 15 years; mules, 18 years.

How many stone blocks were needed to build one of the pyramids?

It took about 2,500,000 big ones to make the Cheops pyramid.

How common is stuttering?

Nine persons in 1,000 stutter.

What is the output of the government printing office?

During 1935, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing—the largest printing plant in the world—turned out 26,659,000,000 pieces of printed

matter. This work ranged from Treasury bills worth \$1,000,000 each, down to a half-penny postage stamp. The department devoted to printing postage stamps turned out 14,677,800,000 stamps, with a sales value of \$481,533,000. Revenue stamps also served to keep the public printer hard at work, for last year the production of these stamps increased to an all-time high of 10,872,657,000. Most of these stamps were needed to take care of increased sales of liquor and tobacco.

Which U.S. newspaper prints the largest volume of advertising?

The *Washington Star* heads the list, with 21,837,000 agate lines, during 1935. Next comes the *New York Times*, with 19,421,000 lines. (There are 14 agate lines to a column inch.)

Is the textile industry of the North losing out to the South?

The facts show a steady migration in favor of the South. *Barron's*, January 27, 1936, says:

Between 1923 and 1933 the number of cotton plants in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island declined from 506 to 301, while cotton textile factories in Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Virginia increased from 656 in 1919 to 764 in 1927, then dropping again to 650 in 1933. Textile production in the North decreased 48 percent, gaining in the South 35 percent.

Are plants susceptible to noises?

A report from the Moscow Institute of Roentgenology says plant life is responsive to sound-waves. Several months before planting-time, potato seeds were exposed, for one minute, to sound waves of a frequency of several hundred thousand per minute, with the result that they sprouted earlier than usual. They also yielded up to 60 percent above normal. Yields of green peas were increased 100 percent, and in some cases 300 percent, by the same means.

Has the repeal of prohibition caused a drop in our consumption of coffee?

The New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange, in a report issued on January 29, 1936, said:

Last year each habitual coffee drinker in the U.S. drank 60½ more cups of coffee than in 1934.

This set a new high mark of 3.03 cups of coffee daily, against 2.86 cups in 1934, and somewhat more than in 1931, the previous best year, despite the repeal of prohibition in the interim.

\* \* \*

Can the insects found buried in icebergs, etc., be revived?

Scientists connected with the Soviet Academy of Scientists report that they dug out of Siberia's frozen peat insects and lobsters which are estimated to have been entombed for about 3,000 years. They were revived, and, according to a news report, lived their normal lives, some even propagating their species. No hint was given regarding the methods used to achieve this startling result.

\* \* \*

How many Civil War veterans are still receiving compensation or pensions? How many Indian Wars veterans? How many Spanish-American War veterans?

The annual report of the Administration of Veterans Affairs says that during the year ended June 30, 1935, 13,273 Civil War veterans received pensions of \$16,144,000. The same report says there were 3,899 veterans of Indian Wars, who received \$2,139,000. Veterans of the Spanish-American War numbered 167,892, and received \$66,253,000.

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How does the government printer turn out postal cards?

About 7,000,000 postal cards are printed daily at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C. The work is done on three rotary presses. Each press prints, cuts and delivers the postals in stacks of 50. Sixty-four hundred cards are produced each minute.

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"The American Freeman should be read by every person in the U.S. who has the intelligence to be concerned about his own welfare. I hope you will be able to continue your worthy work indefinitely."—Fred C. Fee, Calif.

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Boosters for Mussolini do a lot of crowing over the fact that he drained the Pontine marshes. Please comment.

I have already given considerable space to this "gigantic achievement," showing that according to Mussolini's own figures the entire job cost only \$20,000,000, which is on a par with a few of our bigger CCC jobs.

Let's see how this Mussolini "victory over nature" compares with the

work done by a smaller country—Holland—and under a democratic government. This decent country—where human rights are respected and the government rules by the consent of the ruled—modestly goes about its program of draining the second of the four projected polders—which means those areas of low land which are reclaimed by dikes. This project covers an area of 120,000 acres, an engineering feat of reclamation that will cost about \$83,500,000. This comes after the completion of 50,000 acres at a cost of \$50,000,000. In addition, Holland spent \$80,000,000 on a 20-mile dam across the Zuider Zee (now called Yssel Lake). All this reclamation work is being followed up with additional projects for the unemployed—preparing the soil for cultivation, building villages and towns, canals, ditches, bridges, etc. The people of Holland were able to get these—and numerous other—jobs done without using them as an argument for giving new strength to Fascism.

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How much money is in circulation in the U.S.?

According to the report of the U. S. Treasury, on March 31, 1936, there was \$5,877,042,000 in circulation in this country, as against \$5,493,138,000 on the same day of 1935. This makes a per capita circulation, for 1936, of \$46.01; for 1935, \$43.26.

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Have you any facts dealing with the industrial uses of silver?

The world uses about 60,000,000 ounces of silver industrially each year, out of a world production of about 250,000,000 ounces. With a domestic consumption of about 25,000,000 ounces in the U.S., about 80 percent is used up in silverware, photographic film and electric plating. This means that we make industrial use of more than 50 percent of the 45,000,000-ounce production of U.S. silver mines. About half the silver that is used industrially comes back into the market in the form of scrap. The U.S. Bureau of Standards is making a study of the greater use of silver in industry and chemistry.

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I notice that some of our institutions of learning conduct extension work through correspondence courses. Why wouldn't it be a good idea for these and other universities to use the radio in

order to spread education among the masses?

Ohio State University conducts what it calls the Radio Junior College. During the past two years, 43 courses were offered to radio listeners, six of the courses coming direct from the classrooms. More than 7,000 radio listeners registered, of whom 35 percent were in country sections.

How big is the industrial espionage system in this country?

The Senate Education and Labor Subcommittee held hearings on this subject early in 1936 and found that our capitalists pay \$80,000,000 yearly for their private armies of spies and hoodlums, the latter being supplied with arms and ammunition. It was shown that three detective agencies—Pinkerton, Burns and Thiel—recently contracted to supply private industry with 135,000 spies and spotters, as a part of an anti-union drive. As a "normal" thing there are about 40,000 spies steadily employed to keep watch on workers lest they turn too friendly ears to union organizers. In all, there are about 200 agencies that are ready to serve American industry with paid spies.

If American opera audiences had their own way, which operas would they choose, and which would they reject?

The Metropolitan Opera Guild, New York City, made inquiries among 2,000 opera-goers, asking them to list the least and most wanted operas. The vote follows:

Most rejected	
Il Trovatore	829
Rigoletto	614
La Traviata	514
Madame Butterfly	456
Least rejected	
Lohengrin	156
Tannhauser	162
Tristan und Isolde	174
Die Walkure	197

Guild members, and others, selected the following lists of operas as their favorites:

Guild members:	
Pelleas et Melisande	427
Der Rosenkavalier	415
Fidelio	369
Romeo et Juliette	361
Don Giovanni	325
Others:	
Fidelio	1,261
Mignon	1,162
Don Giovanni	1,152

Norma	989
Barber of Seville	934

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What do newspaper editorial writers write about?

*Editor and Publisher*, in its issue of April 11, 1936, published the results of a survey of 12 daily newspapers, as follows:

Akron Beacon-Journal
Baltimore Sun
Chicago Herald and Examiner
Chicago Tribune
Cincinnati Enquirer
Cleveland Plain Dealer
Cleveland Press
Detroit News
New York Herald Tribune
New York Post
New York Times
Toledo Blade

The study reviewed 3,206 editorials that were printed during January and February, 1936, Sundays omitted. The following subjects were treated, according to the survey:

		Percent- age
Local	898 times	28%
State	313 "	10
National	1,563 "	48
International	432 "	13
Relief	179 "	5
Crime	180 "	5
Bonus	97 "	3
Education	127 "	4
Taxes	181 "	5
Ethiopian conflict	72 "	2
Presidential campaign	292 "	9
Economic	573 "	17
Political	1,137 "	35
Social	703 "	21

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How many States received more money in federal relief than they paid to the government in taxes; how many paid more in taxes than they received back in relief?

*The U.S. News*, in its issue of April 13, 1936, reports that in 1935, 24 States, containing one-fourth of the nation's population, "received \$310,000,000 in federal relief payments and paid \$171,000,000 in federal taxes. The other 24 States, with 75 percent of the population, received \$1,050,000,000 in relief money, paying \$2,857,000,000 in taxes."

\* \* \*

What is the pressure of the explosives used in modern artillery?

The usual gun pressure is 40,000 pounds per square inch, but it's claimed by Colonel Henry W. Miller, chief engineer of U.S. heavy cannon



during the World War, that a new secret powder now being used in Germany has a pressure of 70,000 pounds. If this is accurate, Germany, in a new war, ought to be able to increase the range of its artillery by about 50 percent.

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A Catholic bishop recently spoke before the Wilmington, Del., Kiwanis Club and informed his hearers that there would be a great increase in crime this coming year. People MUST get back to God and religion. Then there would be no more crime, as in the old holy days! I wish Joseph McCabe had heard this. He could have told them "why Catholics fill the jails"; why the era of comparative freedom from crime corresponded with the days of skepticism. But imagine Kiwanians listening to anyone as sensible as McCabe.

J. Matthews, who writes the above, is asking for a whole lot when he invites the Kiwanians—and that includes the Bishop—to listen to McCabe. We're not quite ready for utopia. Meanwhile, wouldn't it be a good idea if the bishop were to read the literature issued by the more educated Catholics? Perhaps he would be willing to revise his notions regarding the necessity of Catholicism as a cure-all for crime.

If the bishop will refer to the April 3, 1936, issue of *The Commonwealth*—the best-edited Catholic periodical—he will find, beginning on page 624, an article by Thomas F. Kenny, entitled "Catholic Criminals." This author—who is a Catholic—made a study of "trends in delinquency in a Western State." And here, in brief, is the amazing story Kenny tells his fellow-Catholics, including the bishop who addressed the Kiwanians:

"When official records showed that the Catholic population of the State, represented as 12 percent of the total population, had an average representation of 34 percent in the total number of delinquents and criminals committed to reform and penal institutions in the State, it focused the attention of the writer on the apparent facts as a Catholic problem."

Remember, my dear holy bishop, this is a Catholic writer, in a Catholic periodical, speaking to Catholic readers.

It might be argued that this situation which the writer described may have been exceptional. Here Mr.

Kenny rushes in to explain away that objection with the frank admission that:

"The records indicated that this high ratio of Catholic malefactors was relatively constant over a 10-year period."

After dismissing as fatuous the possible claim that these Catholic criminals "really weren't Catholics," our author delivers himself of this opinion:

"At best intellectual honesty compelled an acceptance of the thought that the disproportionately high ratio of Catholics coming into conflict with the law must be interpreted as a symptom that there was something wrong somewhere."

Instead of being the mainstay of law and order, as it claims, we find that the stricter a religious sect is the greater its contribution to the criminal population. That explains, in a measure, why Catholicism leads the list—it's the most fundamentalist of all fundamentalistic church organizations. As we leave the various orthodox, superstition-laden, fundamentalist sects we find the proportion of criminals decreasing, until, when we reach the ultra-liberal churches—led by the Unitarians and non-orthodox Jews—we find greater and greater respect for law and order. Then, when we come to out-and-out skepticism, including the various phases of Rationalism, Agnosticism and Atheism—we find the prisons almost devoid of them. Why?

Your fundamentalist—especially in the Catholic form—is a stultified mentality. You can't twist and turn a human's mind into unnatural ideas and notions without having a decadent and degrading effect on character and behavior, especially when it's a tenet of Catholicism that unsocial behavior can be forgiven if the priest is paid his proper fee. This, working on the stultified minds already described, amounts to a license to commit crime, for the low-grade moron who accepts Catholicism in all its orthodoxy soon develops the belief that the priest—who is the voice and will of God—can "fix things up in heaven" with the result that the committer of the worst anti-social acts can, before it's too late, be told the slate has been wiped clean and that he's free to go ahead.

In such a mixed up, bewildering

arrangement why wonder if the pious wretch decides that what he got away with once can be gotten away with a dozen times—and the result, of course, is a new list of crimes and a new candidate for a penal institution. Besides, there's the economic side—hundreds of billions of dollars in wealth taken from the faithful dupes in order to build up a vast, international Church plant—billions of dollars collected yearly from the poorest and most wretched victims of social injustices—fortunes that should properly be spent for scientific character-building and realistic education.

You can't take millions of men and women who are already objects of social injustice, add to their misfortunes by piling priestly exploitation onto economic and industrial exploitation, and then wonder why they fall prey to criminal tendencies. That the result is as McCabe has long claimed—excessive criminality among Catholics—is now admitted even by Catholic journalists, though they, of course, would seek for a remedy in an even stronger dose of fundamentalism and orthodoxy, the very things that helped contribute to the crime problem in the first place.

Catholicism begins with the anti-social behavior of the priest, who makes his parasitic living by spreading superstition and intellectual darkness, at the same time emptying the pockets of his victims. The next step, for the victims of priestly tyranny and abuse, is acts of crime—so we see our prisons filled with Catholics, completely out of proportion to their presence in the general population.

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Do any cities other than New York have Associated Hospital Service?

I've seen the report that this co-operative hospitalization movement is now being organized in 40 of our larger cities.

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"It is with a great deal of enthusiasm that we look forward to each issue of *The Freeman*."—E. R. Nieland, Bangor, Calif.

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I recently listened to a talk by Harold Loeb, head of the Continental Committee of Technocracy, who directed the national survey of potential product capacity. The program of the Continental Committee seems to be closely

in accord with Socialism (a fact which Mr. Loeb privately admits but refrained from mentioning in his lecture). Isn't it therefore a step in the right direction?

As I've mentioned several times in the past few years, I recognize many valuable features about the work of the Technocrats. The criticisms they level at Capitalism are sound, of course, and their estimates of industrial society's future capacities for production are, in the main, accurate, or at least within reasonable distance of accuracy. But, as I've preached again and again, knowledge is not enough. Knowledge, to mean anything as a social lever, must be connected with a program of positive action. And it's here that the Technocrats fall down. They tell us, convincingly and intelligently, how science can abolish poverty, but they fail to tell us how the victims of Capitalism can organize and make social prosperity a reality. If Mr. Loeb speaks privately about Socialism—in a favorable manner, as you say—then it shows the fundamental soundness of my criticism, for if he were actuated by a truly scientific spirit he would see to it that the full truth was given to the people who hear his lectures. It's a confession of fatuousness to say in private the things that simply have to be said in public, if any message of economic emancipation is to have any genuine meaning.

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What was the point of the Browder broadcast?

On March 5, 1936, Earl Browder, General Secretary, Communist party, was given the facilities of the Columbia net-work for an address covering the policies of his organization. The following lines, taken from his speech proposing a Farmer-Labor party, give you the gist of his argument:

"Such a farmer-labor government would outlaw the yellow-dog contract and company unions; it would help the workers to make our industries and agriculture 100 percent unionized. . . . The New Deal, which aroused such hopes among the people, is in ruins and bankrupt. Now all the most reactionary forces in the country . . . have entrenched themselves behind the apparently impregnable stronghold of the Supreme Court, which in brushing out the wreckage of the New Deal has

outlawed all future social legislation. . . . We propose no actions except those which the American people are prepared to organize and carry out themselves in their own interests."

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I have, on several occasions, heard it claimed that the Seventh Day Adventists—notwithstanding the peculiarities of their faith—are more sincere in their religious belief than most denominations and that they perform a real service by fighting legislation which would establish Sunday "blue laws." Please comment.

Our Seventh Day Adventists may be sincere, as you say, but that shouldn't impress a realistic-minded person who would see humanity turn from religious superstition to rationalistic reasoning and scientific living. A sincere enthusiasm for orthodoxy and fundamentalism should frighten one much more than a light acceptance of such dogmas, because the very sincerity of the pious morons makes them just that much more dangerous.

It's true, as you say, that these Adventists fight against Sunday "blue laws." But they do this because they believe the Holy Sabbath is Saturday, not Sunday. So, doesn't it follow that if the Adventists were to win over the country, or establish a working minority capable of effectuating its beliefs, we would find the restrictive Sunday laws of old revived, but enforced instead on Saturday? That's a case of jumping from a red-hot frying-pan into a nice, cool fire.

\* \* \*

Are the buses carrying more passengers than the railroads?

*Business Week*, in its issue of March 14, 1936, says more people patronized the buses than the railroads in 1935. During that year, the buses carried 651,999,000 passengers, as against 378,200,000 in 1934. In 1935, the steam railroads carried 445,995,000, as against 449,907,000 in 1934. Last year the buses took in \$239,950,000 (\$171,200,000 in 1934); the railroads, \$357,481,000 (\$345,887,000 in 1934).

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How many Negroes are employed in domestic or personal service in this country?

*The Journal of Negro Education*, January, 1936, says there are 1,500,-

000 Negro servants employed in the U.S. This is about one-third of all Negro workers, male and female, now at work. Of course, wages are extremely low. The same source claims that in Norfolk, Va., the average wage for women servants is \$4 per week, with 14 working hours daily. Out of their \$4 they must pay, on the average, \$1.25 for transportation.

\* \* \*

What is the annual population growth of the world?

Between 1924 and 1932, the annual increase is estimated at 1.3 percent. The following 20 countries showed annual population growth higher than the average:

Brazil	3.69%
Cuba	3.41
Uruguay	3.28
Dominican Republic	2.84
Argentina	2.64
Bolivia	2.63
Peru	2.50
Jugoslavia	2.42
Costa Rica	2.42
Siam	2.07
Salvador	1.96
Albania	1.80
Nicaragua	1.75
Mexico	1.72
United States	1.61
Netherlands	1.49
Chile	1.49
Soviet Russia	1.48
Japan (Proper)	1.45
Bulgaria	1.39

\* \* \*

### WHY PREACHERS LIVE LONG

Dear Editor:

I was much interested in your reply to Upton Sinclair, in the June Freeman, as to the reasons for the longevity of clergymen.

Sinclair seems to think it is due to the peace and serenity that come from being pious; you believe it is a result of freedom from occupational diseases and injuries to which manual laborers are exposed.

Why shouldn't a clergyman live to a ripe old age—unless he gets hit by an automobile? With a very few exceptions, the clergy have that peace and serenity that come—not from piety—but from the knowledge that you will be provided for as long as you live. And if that isn't something!

Let us take, for instance, a relative of mine. He is nearly at the end of his rope after six years of depression, and threatens suicide. Now, he should have gone into the ministry. Somebody would see that he got a fat living.

Funny, isn't it? As long as they hand out bunk, the people will see that they are well paid for it. If they quit, like McCabe, they are hounded unmercifully.

A laugh for you: last winter a clergyman, as reported by the press, said that WPA workers were parasites. What else is a clergyman? You tell me. Wilmington, Dela. W. MATTHEWS

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What are the birth and death rates in India?

Births, per year, average 8,500,000; deaths, 6,500,000.

\* \* \*

In your June, 1936, issue of *The Freeman*, when explaining the meaning of an *ex post facto* law, you say, "In this country no legislative body can pass a law that is retroactive." This is an error. In law, the expression "*ex post facto* law" has a technical meaning. It refers only to a criminal law. Retroactive laws in reference to civil matters are frequently passed not only by Congress, but by the legislatures of all the States and are always upheld by the courts.

As my discussion of *ex post facto* laws dealt exclusively with criminal laws, I fail to see why it was necessary for me to explain that retroactive laws could, and can, be passed in civil matters. Every layman knows that retroactive tax laws—and those dealing with other non-criminal matters—have been passed again and again. But it is a fact that behavior that isn't a crime today can't be punished by a law passed tomorrow—and that was the limit of my observation. And, while I'm at it, let me mention the fact that this constitutional provision—too infrequently mentioned—is just one more thing that differentiates our enlightened political democracy from the tyrannies of Fascism.

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W. C. Devecmon, Lombardy Apartments, Baltimore, Maryland, must be highly technical-minded, for he pounces on one of my passing references with all the enthusiasm of a crap-shooter whose point is a big eight. His devastating letter:

In the June, 1936, issue you say, "The Constitution [of the United States], with George Washington as president of the Convention, was adopted on September 17, 1787, but didn't go into effect until 1789, when nine of the 13 States had ratified it." This is a mistake. New Hampshire ratified it on June 21, 1788, and was the ninth State to take this

action, but it did not go into effect at that time. It is true that Article VII provides "The ratification of nine States shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the same," but this article must not be construed literally. It was necessary, of course, that the adoption by the States be authoritatively ascertained, and the proper officials elected, and other things done before the new government could be said to be "established." Naturally the Constitutional Convention could not remain in session to attend to these details. Accordingly, that Convention by formal resolution referred the whole matter to the Congress established under the Articles of Confederation, usually called the Continental Congress, with recommendations as to carrying out such details.

Said Congress met on September 28, 1787, and then formally notified all the 13 States of the action of the Convention and requested action on their part. Though New Hampshire was the ninth State to adopt it, on June 21, 1788, the Congress did not take further action until September 13, 1788, before which time two more States had ratified it, to wit, Virginia, June 26, 1788, and New York, July 26, 1788. The Congress then passed a resolution, which, after reciting all the previous proceedings, and the fact that the requisite number of States had ratified the Constitution, called upon the 11 States which had taken this action to hold proper elections, and finally resolved "that the first Wednesday in March next [the 4th day of that month, 1789] be the time, and the present seat of Congress [New York] be the place of commencing proceedings under said Constitution." Owing to various delays, due perhaps to poor means of communication and bad roads, a quorum of the new legislative bodies, Senators and Congressmen, did not get to New York until April 6, and Washington, the elected President, did not get there until April 27. He was duly sworn in on April 30, but, as under a legal maxim that "all matters merely formal are presumed to have been done as they ought to have been done," and as the terms of office of all the newly elected government officials were fixed by the Constitution, Washington was and is officially assumed to have been inducted into office, and the government to have come into existence, on the 4th day of March,

1789, which was the time fixed by the Continental Congress, under the authority and power conferred by the Convention.

\* \* \*

The death rate in the U.S. is said to be (according to several reports I have read) only 11 per 1,000. This would mean that the average duration of life for every man, woman and child in this country is 1,000 divided by 11, or over 90 years, which is a mere absurdity. Can you kindly enlighten me about this matter?

I don't know how you got the idea that a death rate of 11 per 1,000 means what you say. The fact, of course, is simply this: During a given year, 11 persons out of 1,000, in the U.S., will die—on the average.

\* \* \*

What is meant by "Pork-barrel Legislation" in U.S. history?

\* \* \*

This expression is an effective piece of American slang and describes a condition whereby law-makers pass an appropriation to improve roads, rivers, etc., or finance other public works, with a view to giving local favors (or patronage) instead of providing for the real needs of the public.

\* \* \*

I understand that the great Russian scientist, Pavlov, shortly before his death, wrote a message to the young men and women of his country. Can you let us have the gist of this last testament?

Ivan P. Pavlov, physiologist and winner of the Nobel Prize, died recently at the age of 87. Shortly after his death, an examination of his papers revealed an open letter to the youth of the Soviet Union, which was soon printed in a student magazine called *The Generation of the Victors*. This message has been translated into English by Professor P. Kupalov, chief assistant in the Pavlov Institute, Leningrad. Pavlov's message will probably prove a source of inspiration to the youth of the world during many generations to come, for his letter is filled with a beautiful devotion to the great war for truth and progress. Pavlov's helpful, really uplifting message reads:

"What can I wish to the youth of my country who devote themselves to science?

"First, gradualness. About this most important condition of fruitful scientific work I never can speak

without emotion. Gradualness, gradualness and gradualness. From the very beginning of your work, school yourselves to severe gradualness in the accumulation of knowledge.

"Learn the ABC of science before you try to ascend to its summit. Never begin the subsequent without mastering the preceding. Never attempt to screen an insufficiency of knowledge even by the most audacious surmise and hypothesis. Howsoever this soap-bubble will rejoice your eyes by its play, it inevitably will burst and you will have nothing except shame.

"School yourselves to demureness and patience. Learn to inure yourselves to drudgery in science: Learn, compare, collect the facts!

"Perfect as is the wing of the bird, it never could raise the bird up without resting upon air. Facts are the air of a scientist. Without them you never can fly. Without them your 'theories' are vain efforts.

"But learning, experimenting, observing, try not to stay on the surface of the facts. Do not become the archivists of facts. Try to penetrate to the secret of their occurrence, persistently search for the laws which govern them.

"Second, modesty. Never think that you already know all. However highly you are praised, always have the courage to say of yourself, 'I am ignorant.'

"Do not allow haughtiness to take possession of you. Due to that you will be obstinate where it is necessary to agree, you will refuse useful advice and friendly help, you will lose the standard of objectiveness.

"Third, passion. Remember that science demands from a man all his life. If you had two lives, that would still be not enough for you. Be passionate in your work and your searchings."

\* \* \*

How much does it cost to educate a doctor?

Dr. Frederic E. Sondern, President, Medical Society of the State of New York, says that the cost of a physician's education, up to the time he is ready to enter practice, is from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

\* \* \*

Antonio Del Riego, Parral, Chih., Mexico, one of my readers, received a letter from me recently in which I asked a number of questions about conditions and personalities in his country. I turned to him because I know him to be an intelligent, honest,

candid student of affairs in his land. As a result, I am adding a number of pieces dealing with Mexican affairs that I know are of interest to every American who would be familiar with current developments.

On April 22, 1936, Mr. Riego wrote me the long letter which, as I said in the above paragraph, I'm using generously below. He opens his valuable letter as follows:

It was thrilling to receive your letter of April 16, which came to me three days ago. It's fine to see that so busy an editor finds time to take an interest in Mexico and my way of seeing what's going on here. I'll let my thoughts ramble along and in the course of this letter your questions will be answered to the best of my ability. Mexico's evolution, its growing-pains and disturbances announcing the not so remote attainment of social maturity, have been, since I awoke to intellectual life seven or eight years ago, the source of profound interest to me. The future is bright and promising. The budding mental life sensed everywhere, and the collective concern for something else than mere physiologic, vegetative life, is wonderful considering the fact that Mexico has always been a nation of violent contrasts, of well-to-do minorities and great bulks of serfs little above the animal level, of a few aristocrats educated European-style among illiterate thousands. The new Mexico is just emerging and belongs to the future.

I'm sure there are many readers in other countries who could help me pass on information regarding political, social, cultural, economic and industrial questions. I cordially invite them to write me chatty, informal letters, which I'm to be free to use as I see fit, withholding the names of my correspondents if they request me to keep their identity confidential.

\* \* \*

Is the Mexican press reliable?

Mr. Riego warns us that the Mexican press is misleading, to put it mildly. He claims that news is often distorted, because of bias or prejudice. He adds:

Reactionary publications predominate numerically, but I'm not sure that their influence dominates that of the many-hued radical press. Our greater dailies, "Excelsior," "El Universal" and "El Nacional," can be said to have right, middle

and left-wing views, respectively, the last being the organ of the PNR (National Revolutionary Party) and the best of the three, for it gives space to matters of general cultural and scientific value, which in a way compensates for its frank government-bias. The freedom of the press is guaranteed by the Constitution, but "El Machete" (organ of the Communist party) and several other extremely radical publications are denied circulation through the mails. That, and the fact that the Soviet Union isn't recognized diplomatically, puts in a bad light the oft-repeated statement that our government is communistic and protects communists.

\* \* \*

What are the facts regarding the fight between President Cardenas and Calles?

At the time I wrote to Mr. Riego the press was reporting the climax of the Cardenas-Calles feud, with the result that Calles was compelled to board an airplane and come to the U.S., where he is now living in exile. My correspondent gives numerous facts which have never been related in the U.S. press and thereby helps us understand better the issues at stake. He writes:

President Cardenas will go down in history as one of our most remarkable Presidents, if for nothing else because from Calles' puppet, from being imposed by that scoundrel upon the Mexican people, he became autonomous, destroying his "master's" apparently invulnerable political machine, and turned a public opinion entirely to his side. From the time he was elected President, till some time after Cardenas' nomination, Calles was the unquestioned boss of Mexico. His word was law in everything related, even remotely, to politics and administration. Those he appointed were Governors, Ministers of State, generals and ambassadors. He ruled the nation in the old-fashioned Porfirio Diaz manner. Obregon, his would-be successor, was murdered by a fanatic. Public opinion named Calles as the brain behind that deed. Portes Gil was nominated by Congress as Temporary President. Then Ortiz Rubio was "elected" to wear the three-colored band. Everything went well till Calles felt he was getting unruly (Amaro, then Secretary of War, tried to inject a little independence into Ortiz Rubio, promising the support of the army) so—he got the works. Re-

sults: Ortiz Rubio "resigned" and Amaro was "sent to Tripoli" (Mussolini-Balbo), that is, was put in charge of the Military Academy, the equivalent of political death.

So Rodriguez scaled "the highest chair in Mexico." Rodriguez was safe and sensible, having always traveled under Calles' wing, so he ruled peacefully and the job of "electing" the next President went as if on wheels. There were three candidates for the job: Perez Trevino, Riva Palacio and Cardenas. Calles chose the last because he had no brains and consequently no initiative, was mediocre and obedient, and "devoted" to him! What a good judge of men, what a psychologist Mr. Calles turned out to be! So General Cardenas was duly "elected" and Calles settled down to the pleasant game of pulling the strings of Mexican affairs. The puppet-master felt safe for at least six more years. Of course, the PNR (National Revolutionary party) was the handy tool for all this rigmarole. The elections were "democratically" managed. Vasconcelos (cranky mystic and pseudo-intellectual) was Ortiz Rubio's opposition with the Anti-re-electionist party, and Villarreal and Valenzuela fought Cardenas for the votes, with the same party. It goes without saying that this opposition never got to first base in Mr. Calles' nice little game.

Things were like that at the time Cardenas began his rule. Little by little he began to stand on his own feet, to consolidate his position. It was done so intelligently and patiently that Calles came to the end of his rope before he got wise to what was going on. The break came in July, 1935, when Calles declared to the press, among other things, that the nation was going to its ruin because of the labor agitation that the government was fostering, and that Cardenas' regime was coming to a crisis similar to the one that resulted in Ortiz Rubio's "resignation."

He thought the agitation caused by this declaration, as well as the severe internal pressure he applied, would result in Cardenas' downfall, but he got the surprise of his life. He found out that his "pull" was gone, that Cardenas had undermined the stout pillars on which he stood. Congress, Calles' ace up the sleeve, developed unexpectedly a radical "left" wing that gave Cardenas full support. The army took a similar stand, and that

left Calles helpless and impotent.

All those having any sort of a tie with Calles were expelled from the administration. Ministers of State, generals in command of troops, Congressmen, Senators, etc., by the ton went out on their ear. To clinch the matter, almost all the Labor Unions trained their guns on Calles and his men, with the exception of the CROM, the erstwhile revolutionary Union led by Morones, millionaire demagogue, the type of corrupt "lideres" (undoubtedly from the English word "leader" and having the same meaning), so Calles sailed for Hawaii on a vacation to take care of his failing health, "retiring definitely to private life" (he has said this a number of times).

Cardenas was then free to express himself in government. Great work was done and is still being done. The Revolution (it should be called more properly Social Evolution) that had stood still for some years and seemed to be in its twilight zone, gathered momentum again and is increasing its pace every day. Two conspicuous and far-reaching developments, of late months, have been the independent organization of the workers under a single union. CTM (Confederacion de Trabajadores de Mexico), that has met the violent and mostly ineffective opposition of a few reactionary Unions (C.G.T., CROM, etc.) led by interested, corrupt and low-minded demagogues, and the grouping of all "agrarristas" (peasants working lands expropriated from great landowners) under a single organization, that is merely beginning under the auspices of the PNR, perhaps with some political purpose.

But Calles couldn't stay away. Some months ago he returned, prepared to regain his former position. His coming caused a great turmoil, but things finally settled down again. He began legally, founding a political party PCR (Partido Constitucionalista Revolucionario) that was a flop, and maybe contributing to the development of the 100 percent Fascist movement, ARM (Accion Revolucionaria Mexicanista, or "golden shirts"). Incidentally, Cardenas has promised the workers the dissolution of the ARM, which will probably be done on the grounds that it constitutes a paramilitary force, and has caused many riots resulting in dead and wounded.

Those tactics being slow and ineffective, Calles must have taken to

terrorism. Dozens of bombs have gone off during the past months, specially in schools, theaters, railways, etc. Concrete examples: One exploded at the Teatro Hidalgo in Mexico City, while a meeting was being held, dedicated to the memory of the Russian scientist Pavlov. Another was set at the house of Lombardo Tuledano, General Secretary (Chief Executive) of the CTM. This house is patroled day and night by workers, so the bomb went off without any loss of life. This terrorism has culminated with the blowing up, on April 6, 1936, of a bridge on the railway Mexicano, from Mexico to Vera Cruz, causing many dead and wounded.

Of course, it's impossible, as yet, to pin all this on Calles, but undoubtedly he had something to do with it, as part of his campaign to cause foreign comment on the "chaotic condition of Mexico under Cardenas." Anyway, a few days ago Calles was unceremoniously arrested and sent by plane with Morones, Leon and Ortega to the border, deported on Cardenas' order. At the time of his arrest, he was reading Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and his comment, on being notified that Mexico's health made it imperative that he leave the country, is significant. He showed surprise at being merely deported, when he had been expecting the "pardon" (literally, "big wall," before which those to be shot are placed to receive the volley of the firing squad). And just before leaving Mexico he prayed to God that something may happen so he can come back. Praying to God! For some time now he's been flirting with the Catholic Church, so, as Hernan Laborde of the Communist party aptly puts it: "Calles and the Church are but two heads of the same monster, that formerly bit and spat each other, but now are kissing and making love."

\* \* \*

What is Calles' future?

According to Mr. Riego, Calles seems to be out of the picture for good, a completely liquidated figure. But he adds the warning that he's not so sure he won't be causing mischief in the future. Mr. Riego turns his searchlight on Calles, writing:

He's ruthless, ambitious, ego-centric, and his wealth is immense. During his 12 or so years of despotic rule he lined his purse good and plenty. His personal fortune amounts to several hundred million dollars. It is estimated that his de-

posits in cash in the Bank of England reach the 50 million pounds mark, and that his name appears conspicuously in several Canadian banks, in cash accounts. But of course I can't make a categorical affirmation on this subject.

Here in Mexico he has great business interests, though carefully disguised. His "haciendas" are many, extensive and valuable (Santa Barbara, El Tambor, Soledad de la Mota, El Mante, etc.) with government-built dams, pedigreed cattle, beautiful buildings, etc. He can be expropriated of them, surely, but his cash in foreign lands is safe and sound, and if he takes a notion of using it to trouble Mexico, it will be just too bad. Cold, hard dough can just about wreck the thin veneer of honesty of some of our influential men. But let's hope for the best.

Now, consider Calles, the man. He is very intelligent, an able statesman, well instructed in economic matters, and but for his treason to Democracy and political rectitude, would be one of Mexico's immortal Presidents. The beginning of his administration was very promising. In 1926, sometime before the end of his term of office, in an historic proclamation, he promised the nation to retire constitutionally from public affairs. He said Mexico was ripe for true Democracy, that the time of "necessary men" was over, and the reign of institutions instead of "caudillos" was here. The keeping of that promise would have been a great thing for Mexico. But he probably never even intended to keep a small portion of that promise.

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What manner of man is Cardenas?

We, who get our information from the U.S. press, can't get much of a picture of the real President Cardenas, a man who is, without a doubt, one of the most interesting and important personalities in the world today. I asked Mr. Riego for a few words about Cardenas, the man, with the following response:

He comes from the lowest ranks of society, and admits it. He was a proletarian when the Revolution began in 1910, and from then on he became a soldier. He has cultivated his mind, for he speaks fluently and intelligently on social and economic subjects and handles things nicely. His most relevant quality is his open-mindedness, his caution being a close second. He never takes a



hasty step or makes a false move. Over the worst ordeals he has gone through he has been cool, collected, clear-headed. His public and personal life is an open book.

Frequently he goes afoot through Mexico City, mingling with the people, listening to everybody, taking note of everything. He appears unexpectedly wherever things are not coming out as they should. For instance, some time ago there was a disturbance in Monterrey. The reactionary press said it was a popular manifestation against Communists who had "stamped on the flag, substituting it with the red-black, taking advantage of a strike."

Cardenas quietly went to Monterrey and was there before anybody got wise. He made a careful investigation and unmasked the whole thing to the nation: political lock-out; the strike was legal, and there were no Communists in it.

He has been doing a nice job of house-cleaning, without undue haste. Fat, oily racketeering politicians are finding out that the crooked path doesn't pay, after all. Of course, this is a job that will take years, but he will do it, if he has half a chance.

He's branded as a Communist, but, while a sincere radical, I don't think he believes in Communism. All this may sound like uncritical praise, like hero-worship, to use Carlyle's language, but it isn't, considering his extraordinary showing during the past 18 months. I realize that this job of judging contemporary personalities even now making history is a risky proposition, to say the least. Undoubtedly being in ignorance of many facts and conditions behind public acts tends to produce false impressions, but a good index to Cardenas' attitude can be had by reflecting on the fact that capitalists, more or less openly, oppose him, almost to a man, for his labor-protecting tactics and his way of handling the Agrarian problem.

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Is Mexico, under Cardenas, better or worse off?

One can sense easily the feeling of American imperialism towards radical Mexico—an attitude of tense dissatisfaction and sober worry. We are given to understand that things are going from bad to worse down there, but let's see what Mr. Riego says below in answer to the question I put at the head of this paragraph:

Reactionaries say, in chapter and

verse, and they have a very influential press, that Mexico is going to its ruin, and make a great fuss about it. But, as you say, statistics have a funny way of giving the lie to reckless statements of fact. Mexico, definitely out of the last depression, is in better economic shape than in pre-crisis days. As a matter of fact, the country wasn't very hard hit by the depression. Of course, we had rather severe disturbances, with the unemployed numbered by the hundred thousand, but as our industry is in its bare beginnings, the workers used to incredibly low wages (that is being changed by syndical action very fast), and the majority of the people engaged in agriculture (food can almost be had for the gathering in some parts of Mexico), the depression here couldn't be as devastating as, for instance, in the United States, with its great industrial development, its dependence on foreign markets whose consuming power diminished greatly, etc. Today, our industry is developing at a fast rate. Our foreign trade shows a very favorable balance, but that's fictitious as an index of industrial buoyance, because the great bulk of our exportations are raw materials (ores, oil, fruits, etc.).

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What are Mexico's labor laws and how are they administered?

Our press makes a great fuss, now and then, over Mexico's labor laws, but one reads these reports without gaining the slightest idea what these laws are about. Mr. Riego's answer is therefore of value to those who would understand this difficult question:

The handling of labor problems is one of the most interesting aspects of modern Mexico. Our Ley Federal del Trabajo, promulgated during Ortiz Rubio's period, is frankly on the workers' side. It covers almost every aspect of the subject, but naturally legislation couldn't have foreseen everything. Supreme Court interpretation of the text, and a few additions, have about covered every loophole.

There are Juntas de Conciliacion y Arbitraje in every town that take care of infractions and see that the minimum wages are applied everywhere. Syndicalism and Cooperativism are encouraged, so there are practically no non-union workers. For instance, strikes are declared legal by the respective Junta when

more than 50 percent of the workers involved approve the movement. Once a strike is declared legal, no scabs are allowed, and federal troops give support and facilities to the strikers, with no direct interference on the movement, merely keeping order.

On settling the strike, an arbitrator's decision is optional, not obligatory; that is why you never hear in Mexico that strikers fall before federal or police guns or of scabs and strikers fighting it out, and we have had more than a thousand strikes since Cardenas was put in power.

All we've had is a little "inter-gremial" trouble, the only conflicts exciting nation-wide attention being those of Atlixco, Pue., between the CROM and the FROC, this last affiliated with the CTM. The CTM controls more than 75 percent of all Mexican workers, and is going fast to the 100 percent mark. Vicente Lombardo Toledano is its leader, and it would be hard to find a better man for the job. He's a lawyer and Doctor of Philosophy, and has been connected with the labor movement since he was a student, not so very long ago, for he's still young. He's a public speaker of unusual power, a Marxian scholar of the first rank and a fine controversialist on cultural and socio-economic subjects. The reactionary press floods him with insults, attacks and abuse, using mainly the familiar "Communist" line. If there were any anti-semitic sentiments in Mexico, he would be made a Jew, no doubt. "Sold to Moscow gold," "Leading the deluded workers to a bloody October" are typical ditties, not noticing that the Communist party rides him, too. He returned a few months ago from a trip to the Soviet Union and since then has dictated lectures and written many articles about his trip. His latest book, written in collaboration with Villasenor, is about to appear, with the name "Un Viaje al Mundo del Porvenir" (A trip to the world of the future), edited by the Editorial Department of Workers' University. The following quotation is taken from his "50 Truths About the Soviet Union": "Before seeing the U.S.S.R., Socialism is an intellectual conviction; after being there, it becomes a plastic conception."

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What is the position of the Catholic Church in today's Mexico?

News reports and news reels give

us to understand that the Church is "coming back" in Mexico, but here again our sources of information are untrustworthy. Mr. Riego gives us the true picture, thus:

As for the Church (and Church means Catholicism in Mexico, for Protestantism is microscopic and weak; rabbinism, non-existent), it goes its sorry way, its grip slipping more and more every day, with its treacherous, underground attacks on everything decent and worthwhile. It barely manages to keep a hold on backward peasants and women. Even children give it the razzberries nowadays.

The last 10 years have been dark years for the Lord and his self-appointed representatives, and the future is darker than ever. The big shots in the racket fulminate ex-communications by the dozen against public officials, PNR and labor union members, public school teachers, parents who send their children to those schools, readers of radical publications, and so forth—the familiar hullabaloo. But the funny thing is that such trash has no circulation, for, with few exceptions, nobody gives a damn. Governmental work goes serenely on, the schools are full to capacity, and the volume of radical publications grows steadily.

It secretly fosters bands of murderers and pillagers called "Cristeros" and the victims are lonely "Socialist teachers" in far away places. In a word, the beast of yore has no fangs or claws now. The religious problem is no more.

The Church is not considered when important matters are on the carpet. It is considered as a secondary figure. It receives a blow or a derogatory remark now and then, and that's about all there is to it. A few petrified mystics and some misguided students hold on to the faith, women make a fuss about religion once in a while, but overwhelming majorities boosting the Church are memories of the dark past. When illiteracy is finally eliminated, and women join the cultural, revolutionary movement, Mother Church will join Huitzilopochtli in the Museum with a sign reading: "The infamous thing was definitely crushed in Mexico in 19—."

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Is Mexico establishing a Socialist state?

Mr. Riego's treatment of the above is brief and to the point:

Is Mexico heading in the direction of Socialism? The answer is

yes, but only ideologically. Material conditions would prevent us from becoming a socialized nation before such a change occurs in the United States. As Lombardo Toledano has repeatedly asserted, Mexico is a semi-colonial State, satellite of the United States. Politically we are more or less autonomous (Imperialistic America has been known to intrigue in our internal affairs), but economically Mexico belongs to the United States, England, France and other nations. Ninety-five percent of the total wealth of the nation is in foreign hands (all we furnish in the process of production is cheap labor), and if some sort of a collectivist system were to be instituted in Mexico, Imperialistic United States wouldn't take it with a how and smile. Not to speak of England's reaction. And that's that.

\* \* \*

What does gambling cost the American people?

The magazine *American Business* estimates our organized gambling bill, for 1935, as \$6,600,000,000, "all cash." The magazine distributes this money thus:

Legal bets at race tracks, \$500,000,000; bets placed with racing book-makers, \$1,500,000,000; money exported for sweepstakes, \$1,000,000,000; money spent on so-called "tip-sheets," \$100,000,000. The magazine says the rest "was frittered away in lotteries, policy and number games, and sports pools."

\* \* \*

Does wood contain sugar?

A group of London scientists claim: "from five tons of wood one can extract a ton of sugar."

\* \* \*

How many kinds of wood are there? 22,000.

\* \* \*

How many thunder-storms are taking place at any given moment throughout the world?

Professor B. F. Schonland, in *Scientific Monthly* writes:

The number of thunder-storms taking place over the whole surface of the earth amounts to 16,000,000 storms per year, or 44,000 every day. At this very moment there are 2,000 thunderstorms raging in various parts of the world.

\* \* \*

Please criticize the following: The economic troubles of the world are caused by a narrow-minded policy of protectionism having its root in short-sighted na-

tionalism and vicious patriotism, which, in nations, correspond to crude selfishness and self-conceit in individuals, and is, indirectly, the cause of stupid wars.

There's no doubting the statement that the tariff—protectionism—is one of the causes of our economic distress, but it's a mistake to assume that it's the fundamental basis of the problem of poverty, unemployment and social exploitation. A much greater evil than protectionism is the acceptance of the economic theory that it's socially desirable for a small class to own the large-scale industries, means of communication, distribution and exchange. In fact, protectionism is one of the natural consequences of monopoly Capitalism. When our great industries can't dispose of their product at home, they demand of their government that foreign markets be opened to their goods, and at the same time insist that foreign commodities be kept out of the domestic market in order to enable our own capitalists to make the profits to which they consider themselves entitled.

The Socialist solution goes radically to the roots of the evil—private ownership—and demands that the means of life be thrown open to the masses through a social order in which the instrumentalities of production are the property of the people, through their government, and that this socialized property be operated democratically for the service of the masses instead of for the profit of the classes.

The Socialist program which limits itself to large-scale industries appeals to me as being scientifically sound. In this, it stands forth as superior to the idea of the Communists, who would socialize every piece of productive capital—from a steel mill down to a peanut stand. I believe that Russia's policy of outlawing all private, small-scale business works to the disadvantage of the people at large, though it does give the government a monopoly advantage in its control and operation of the great machines that produce the goods which the people must have if they are to survive. If Socialism were to be inaugurated in the U.S.—according to the ideas of the Socialists, not the Communists—the small businesses would be left alone, for the objective would be the

socialization of those industries that have reached, or are approaching, the monopoly stage.

Under such a social order large production would be conducted for use instead of profit, while the smaller enterprises would be permitted to function so long as they obeyed strict labor-laws, social policies, income taxes, etc. Protectionism, under Socialism, would be unnecessary, for there would be no predatory capitalistic interests to require "protection." Trade would become free, naturally.

As the system works today, John Doe, who is fortunate enough to get a job in a steel mill, produces many times more than he receives in wages from the corporation that employs him. He is, therefore, unable to buy back what he produces, thereby leaving a surplus which must be disposed of somehow, possibly by foreign exploitation. But when foreign countries follow our practices of protectionism, we see the stage set for a nice little war. All modern wars are economic wars—they are struggles among different sets of capitalists who are out to find an easy, profitable, ready market for their wares. In this issue, Socialism also offers a solution for the problem of imperialistic, commercial war, because it has no motives for compelling anyone to use what it produces.

Under a Socialist economy, the workers—who, through their government, would be the owners of the industries—would receive the full social value of their labor, minus, of course, all social services like health and unemployment insurance, old age pensions, education, hospitalization, entertainment, depreciation, obsolescence, etc. Such workers would continue to be active consumers, because of their greatly increased purchasing power, thus doing away with the risks of a combination of overproduction and underconsumption. Under a socialized system of production and distribution, a spell of overproduction would serve merely as a signal for a slowing down while the masses consumed the surplus. Today, under Capitalism, overproduction serves as a signal for unemployment, the reduction of purchasing power and the deepening of the social crisis. The former order—Socialism—works to the advantage of the producers;

the latter—Capitalism—works only for the protection of the owners of the great industries.

But such a social order—in which production is conducted for the use of the masses—can be established only by the strictest application of scientific principles, and this must, of necessity, require time, patience and the finest technical ability. It's this very feature which discourages the masses, for their mood is to reach "utopia" in a hurry. It's this which explains why millions of people are ready to listen to the demagogue appeals of a Dr. Townsend, Father Coughlin, etc., for these fakirs gain their followings by promising everything in sight in a hurry, without the need of thought, energy or delay. Chasing rainbows is pleasant, but it gains us nothing when the problems facing us are strictly realistic and scientific. But it's the prophets of rainbow-chasing who gets the ears of the masses—until they are given a chance to produce their magic, and failing which—always an inevitable result—they turn to other glib guarantors of quick paradise. The real scientific remedy is at hand—but where a thousand persons heed it, a million turn to a Dr. Townsend, who promises to make us all rich by the simple trick of giving a fortune to our oldsters. That's the irony of the situation, but the problem won't be solved by hurry-up quackeries. It'll have to be handled through the processes of socialization, whether we like to or not, and those who guarantee to shake a wand and produce prosperity overnight will have to be given the boot.

\* \* \*

Have you any figures dealing with the gains made by cooperatives in the U.S.?

The Cooperative League News Service, New York City, reports numerous gains during 1935, from which I select the following:

**Wisconsin—Central Cooperative Wholesale**, serving 130 stores, increased its sales more than 22 percent to \$2,185,000.

**Kansas City—Consumers Cooperative Assn.** Increased sales in all fields, with the largest gain (45 percent) in the distribution of petroleum products. Nearly 5,000 tank cars of gasoline, kerosene and distillate, or 36,000,000 gals., were shipped to 313 local cooperatives in

eight western States.

St. Paul.—Farmers Union Central Exchange increased sales from \$2,600,000 in 1934 to over \$3,000,000 in 1935, with net savings rising from \$55,000 to \$101,000.

Springfield, Mass.—Eastern States Farmers Exchange added 6,000 individual farmer members to the co-operative. During the year, sales rose from \$12,000,000 to more than \$14,000,000.

And while I'm on this interesting and important subject, let me use the facts dealing with a report by the Cooperative Wholesale Society, Great Britain, according to a report printed in the *London Economist*, January 18, 1936. During the first 39 weeks of 1935, the above society made total sales of 70,022,000 pounds, as compared with 64,963,000 in 1934. As a pound is worth about \$5, one readily sees how large this single English cooperative is. This cooperative also runs a banking department, and now carries the accounts of 897 cooperative societies, 8,986 labor organizations, and 17,638 individuals, according to the same report.

I'm glad to see you give attention to the cooperative movement. Have you any facts dealing with the movement in Japan?

According to Dr. Toyohika Kagawa, in a speech delivered in New York City, about 5,200,000 families are members of Japanese cooperatives. The membership is mainly rural, but the same authority says the idea of consumers' cooperatives is growing in the urban sections, through credit unions and mutual ownership of public utilities. During 1935, 82 silk-producing cooperatives exported 80,000,000 yen worth of silk to this country. While the facts indicate remarkable growth of the cooperatives, labor unions remain surprisingly small, there being only 120,000 organized workers in Japan.

Does the British government collect taxes from the natives in its colonies?

Yes. For example, the British colonial administration collects yearly a head tax on all natives in Uganda, Africa, amounting to 15 shillings. This equals a month's wages, on the average. In addition, there is a local tax of 10 shillings, which goes to the local administration. This latter tax is in lieu of 30 days' statute labor

formerly demanded by the chief of all members of the tribe.

What is the best way of knowing when a fish is bad?

Dr. S. A. Beatty, biochemist of the Fisheries Experimental Station, Canada, said, in a paper read before the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, that the human nose is the best means in the world of recognizing bad fish. The nose knows best.

How many large meteors strike the earth?

Professor C. C. Wylie, of the University of Iowa, an expert on meteors, says "the possibility of giant meteors striking the earth is small; only one meteor weighing 35 tons should hit the earth in 300 years."

What steps should American workers and farmers take to achieve economic emancipation?

I'm going to answer this question briefly, for I have the notion that this will be more effective than a long essay. I've written hundreds of columns—yes, thousands—on this question, but I believe I can summarize the steps as follows:

1. *Organize on the job.* That means all workers should join unions, in order to assert power in the industrial field. This, of course, includes farm workers.

2. *Organize politically.* The workers and farmers must support their own political party, the objective of which will be the socialization of the large-scale industries and the utilization of governmental powers for the protection and security of the producers instead of for the production of profits for the owning class.

3. *Organize as consumers.* The consuming public must build a great co-operative movement in order to get the best quality and the lowest prices. Several steps have been taken in the direction of cooperatives, but the field is hardly touched, the surface hardly scratched. The consumers can benefit themselves to the extent of perhaps 25 percent, if they will build up co-operative buying and selling instrumentalities. This movement should include the organization of credit unions, in order to take care of the people who must make small loans but can't get accommodations at the

banks and who would thus escape the clutches of the loan sharks.

These three steps, in a democratic country like the U.S., can bring economic emancipation to the masses.

\* \* \*

Why do you usually prefer to call an automobile a motor car?

For two very good reasons. 1. It sounds nicer to my esthetic, esoteric, refined, artistic ear. 2. Motor car contains only three syllables against automobile's four.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of "Pop-eye"?

Whenever I see a Pop-eye film open up, my whole body recoils in horror, because I know I'm in for several barbarous minutes of violence, torture, sadism, masochism, mayhem, rowdiness, raw brutality, crass ugliness, and rampant lowbrowism. In other words, I don't like Pope-eye.

\* \* \*

Is it a fact that Dr. Freud once accepted hypnotism, but finally rejected it?

In 1885, Freud, as a medical student, made many experiments in hypnotism, but later came to the conclusion that neurosis could be treated better with suggestion than with hypnosis. Hypnotism has many supporters in the world of science, but its acceptance is by no means unanimous.

\* \* \*

How much food does it take for a bird to make a long flight?

It has been shown that a bird needs only two ounces of body fat to make a 2,000-mile trip. That's getting a lot of transportation out of a small amount of fuel. An expert on this subject has said: "If an airplane could do as well, it would utilize only a pint of gasoline on a 20 mile flight, instead of the gallon it requires."

\* \* \*

Why do birds fly so close to the ground?

Birds don't go up very high, because the air closer to the earth is heavier and easier to fly in.

\* \* \*

Is suicide almost limited to civilized peoples?

Dr. Gregory Zilboorg, psychiatrist, says it's a fallacy to put on modern civilization the blame for recent increases in the suicide rate. He adds:

"As a matter of fact, there were more suicides among the aborigines of Peru, Hayti and Canada than there ever have been in our civilization. During the Spanish conquest of the

West Indies hundreds of thousands of natives destroyed themselves in mass suicide. The ancient Teutons, the Greeks and Romans, the Japanese, the Hindus—all killed themselves and, for a time at least, made the best of a tragic situation by worshipping the act of self-murder."

This New York psychiatrist reports there are between 15,000 and 20,000 "official" suicides yearly in this country. Germany has the greatest suicide rate in the world—it is about twice the size of that in the U.S. The lowest suicide rate is in Ireland, which is only about 20 percent of ours.

Dr. Zilboorg, who is secretary of the Committee for the Study of Suicides, Inc., claims our "official" reports of suicides are inadequate, because so many acts of self destruction are concealed. He holds:

"Few persons, suspect how many suicides in the true sense of the word are concealed behind our numerous automobile accidents. The practicing psychiatrist is only too familiar with the neurotic and ostensibly normal individual who labors under the pressure of a violent but unconscious trend of self-destruction, and who either runs his automobile into a telegraph pole or lets himself be run over by an approaching car."

This authority attacks the popular theory that suicide's main cause is depressive insanity, by pointing out that the greatest number of depressive psychoses in mental hospitals is among women, while the suicide rate among men is the highest.

Dr. Zilboorg's theory of suicide is outlined below:

"Unless the psychic machine, the human individual, is permitted to function freely, it will wilt under the pressure of its own inner steam and, like a boiler whose safety valves are plugged up, it will break.

"The recent growth of political dictatorships undoubtedly serves as such an agency of plugging up man's natural drives, and it would not be surprising to learn that suicide will begin to increase as a result. If man's natural aggression does not find its legitimate outlet, it will turn on itself."

\* \* \*

Is blood transfusion a recent discovery of medical science?

The Medical Society of the State of

New York reports that blood transfusion is not a new development. Ancient Egyptian and Greek writings reveal references to it. It's also mentioned in the seventh book of Ovid. Louis XIV's private physician, Denys, is "usually credited with the first successful blood transfusion, June 15, 1667, when he transferred nine ounces of arterial blood from a sheep to a sufferer from repeated bleedings, and both survived." Until recent times blood transfusions caused the death of the patient in 50 percent of the cases in which they were attempted, as a result of clotting of the blood. Modern science contributed the element of safety.

\* \* \*

What was Comte's conception of mathematics?

August Comte, the French sociologist and mathematician, defined mathematics as "the science of indirect measurement."

\* \* \*

I recall that many years ago we used to be amused by a recital of what happens after a marriage mix-up, with all kinds of complicated relationships. Do you recall the text?

There are many such domestic mix-ups. The following is a popular one:

"I got acquainted with a young widow who lived with her stepdaughter in the same house. I married the widow. Shortly after, my father fell in love with the stepdaughter of my wife and married her. My wife became mother-in-law, and also the daughter-in-law, of my own father. My wife's stepdaughter is my stepmother, who is the stepdaughter of my wife. My father's wife has a boy, who is naturally my stepbrother, because he is the son of my father, and of my stepmother; but because he is the son of my wife's stepdaughter, so is my wife the grandmother of the little boy and I am the grandfather of my stepbrother. My wife also has a boy. My stepmother is consequently the stepsister of my boy and is also his grandmother because he is the child of her stepson; and my father is the brother-in-law of my son, because he has got his stepsister for his wife. I am the brother-in-law of my mother, my wife is the aunt of her own son, my son is the grandson of my father, and I am my own grandfather."

\* \* \*

A friend did a trick which I thought was cute, but I couldn't learn how he

did it, because he refused to give it away. He was able to find out how old a person was and how much small change he had in his pocket. What was the trick?

Even though it's pretty old, this trick isn't at all bad, because it can be relied on to mystify the average person. It runs this way:

Tell the person to write down his age and multiply it by two.

Then add five.

Then multiply by 50.

From this total, deduct 365.

Then add the change in his pocket. (Change must be under \$1.00.)

To that total, YOU add 115.

The first two numbers of the answer will represent the man's age; and the last two numbers will equal the change in his pocket.

\* \* \*

Is passenger flying becoming safer in the U.S.?

A study of the number of passengers carried by air transports and the number killed indicates that air travel is growing safer year after year. The figures, covering eight years, were gathered by *Business Week* and printed in its issue of April 18, 1936. Here are the facts:

	Passengers carried	Passenger- miles flown	Pass- sengers killed
1928 ..	47,840	24,703,000	14
1930 ..	374,935	84,014,572	24
1933 ..	493,141	173,492,119	12
1935 ..	746,946	313,905,508	15

From the above table, *Business Week* draws the following conclusion:

In 1928, air transports in U.S. flew 2,460,000 passenger-miles per passenger death; last year, they flew 20,927,000 passenger-miles per passenger death. Over a period of eight years, air travel has become nearly 10 times as safe in passenger-miles and more than 15 times as safe in terms of passengers carried.

However, for the industry in general there is strong criticism, the claim being that flying in all its forms could be made much safer. *The Nation*, in its issue of April 22, 1936, summarizes the case against the industry as follows:

It is charged that the entire aviation industry has grown up so rapidly that no adequate system of control has been devised. In the last four years, passenger-mileage flown in U.S. rose from 106,000,000 to 314,000,000. Advance in construc-

tion and flying skill has been immense, but a similar advance in safety measures seems to be lacking. A survey of the country's airways, made in July, 1934, reveals that of radio signal systems in 26 leading stations, not one was in perfect working order. Wasted equipment was rotting in unopened packing boxes, and lamps were soot-blackened so that beacon lights could shine for only a few feet. An appropriation of \$500,000 for safety aids had reportedly been diverted to construction purposes at a cost of serious deterioration in radio-beam plants and beacon lights. Senate investigation showed that authority in the Bureau of Air Commerce was divided under three commands which conflicted in responsibility; all except the lowest brackets of the Bureau personnel were exempt from civil service examinations, allowing inspectorships to be filled by political appointees. Between 1927 and 1935, the Bureau investigated 101 crashes but accepted responsibility for not a single one.

\* \* \*

What is the per capita cost of armaments expenditures in the British Dominions compared with the U.S.?

Our military outlay of \$744,000,000 for the present fiscal year means a per capita expense of about \$5.86. The per capita rates for the Dominions are:

Australia .....	\$5.45
New Zealand .....	3.15
Irish Free State .....	2.50
Canada .....	1.40
South Africa .....	.85

\* \* \*

What does it cost to maintain the British royal family?

Edward VIII and other members of British royalty, beginning in 1936, will receive \$2,165,500 per year, if the House of Commons accepts the recommendations of one of its committees. This amount will be increased by about \$200,000 per year should the king marry.

\* \* \*

Has the Soviet Union completed its program of socializing all business?

Private business, however small, is practically out of the picture in the Soviet Union, for, according to reports in April, 1936, 98.5 percent of all business is now being done by the State. This leaves only 1.5 percent of Russia's business—such as milliners, dressmakers, shoemakers, etc.—still on an individualistic basis. It's the

objective of the government to make the socialization of industry and agriculture 100 percent, a goal that will be reached before long if the authorities continue applying prohibitive taxes against non-socialized concerns and trades.

\* \* \*

How much has Italy spent on its war against Ethiopia?

Until April, 1936, the Italian government's appropriations amounted to \$800,000,000. This amount has been officially admitted by Mussolini. There's no way of estimating what the unpublished expenditures have been.

\* \* \*

Peter Sorensen, chief steward, S.S. Margaret Lykes, while passing through the Panama Canal, writes that he agrees with my praise of fresh spinach and scorn for the canned article, but adds that he prefers the following way of fixing it, a way which he learned from his mother:

Rinse the spinach well in plenty of water, then cook in double boiler in its own juice, being careful not to add water. When done, add a little bacon grease, salt and pepper. Try it, he boasts, and you'll cry for more.

He adds that he was one of seven at home—and all liked their spinach. He also mentions the fact that he hasn't been sick a day in his life, and while he doesn't even try to lay this on spinach he insists it helped.

\* \* \*

I wonder if you ever care to write to correct folks who misquote you. Well, I dropped into Marquette, Mich., today, as a salesman, and for the sake of going some place I went to hear the Rev. H. J. Bryce, pastor, First Presbyterian Church. His sermon was the usual sort of thing, and during it he made the statement that a publishing house at Girard, Kansas, had, during six years, circulated 100,000,000 pieces of atheistic books and pamphlets. Please comment.

The dear preacher gives me much more credit than I deserve. I wish it were true that I had circulated a hundred million atheistic books, for that would mean a vast improvement in the thinking of the general public. Of course, I've sold more than twice that many books, during the past 15 years, but anyone who knows the titles of my 3,000 books—large and small—will agree that Atheism, as such, doesn't take up more than 1 percent of the list. But, this preacher, like so many others, had to put a



scare into his congregation, so he exaggerated my work for Freethought by perhaps 1,000 percent. At any rate, I thank him for the compliment and can only add that I hope, during any six years of my career, to do as much educational work for Freethought as he claims I've already done.

\* \* \*

Would you advise me to read "Soviet Communism: A New Civilization?" by Sidney and Beatrice Webb?

I haven't read this two-volume work yet—though I hope to—but I'm sure, from reading intelligent reviews, that this is a masterpiece of informative writing. Both radicals and conservatives agree that the Webbs have told everything worth telling about the Russia of 1936.

\* \* \*

Why doesn't the paint industry do something to take the awful odor out of the goods it sells?

The odor of paint is offensive and is one of the reasons why so many people resist applying paint until they actually have to get the work done. The scientific section of the National Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association recently issued a statement by Dr. Henry A. Gardner in which the interesting fact was disclosed that common vanillin is effective as a medium for taking the disgusting smell out of paint by putting in an odor that isn't objectionable, that is, in fact, a pleasant aroma. The report says that one part in 2,000 parts of paint will do the trick. The expense is only slightly higher than other industrial perfumes. Of course, vanillin would have to be used only in interior painting, for there's no objection to the old-style paint in outdoor jobs. Dr. Gardner says vanillin is added to the turpentine or linseed oil, which is then mixed with the paint. I believe the paint industry will be showing real wisdom if it proves to the public that the odor of paint is an unnecessary evil.

\* \* \*

I have seen the statement that the Scandinavian method of attacking the venereal problem is fundamentally different from that prevailing in this country. Please comment.

Dr. David J. Kaliski, a member of a commission appointed by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, of New York City, to investigate methods of controlling

venereal diseases in the three Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), reported in April, 1936, that the authorities in these lands act "on the principle that the disease are communicable and should be dealt with as such." The most important feature of the method—one which must eventually be adopted in this country, which is still suffering from a hangover of puritanism—is explained by Dr. Kaliski as follows:

"Coercive measures are provided for sufferers who refuse to cooperate in treatment with the health authorities. Such legal powers exist in part in the U.S., but they tend to be nullified because free and accessible facilities for diagnosis and treatment regardless of economic status are not everywhere available."

Dr. Kaliski also made this pointed comment:

"The critical problem in America may be said to be . . . in bringing all infectious cases of syphilis and gonorrhea, regardless of economic status, under medical care."

The gist of all this, of course, is simple. We have millions of sufferers who are doing nothing to bring about a cure, or treating themselves, or letting themselves be hurried to the grave by quacks and charlatans. In the Scandinavian countries all sufferers are compelled, by law, to submit to treatment.

Dr. Kaliski should have added a section to his report dealing with the great anti-venereal work now being done in the Soviet Union, where, I believe, some of the methods are even more direct and drastic than will be found in the countries covered in this survey.

\* \* \*

Which States don't have capital punishment?

Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Rhode Island, Maine and Wisconsin.

\* \* \*

What's your opinion of Irvin S. Cobb?

I got off Cobb the first time I bumped into his work. About 20 years ago I made a stab at reading what was then a best-seller, and advertised as a masterpiece of wit and humor—*Speaking of Operations*. I found it dismal stuff, filled with the old chestnuts about doctors, hospitals and operations. I put the man down

as a fourth-rater, and I've never had occasion to revise my estimate of the unfunny clown.

Recently, Cobb broke into the columnist's trade, as a substitute for the late Will Rogers. I see his piece every day in *The Kansas City Star*, and still believe he's terrible. In politics, economics, religion and the general run of social questions, the man's a rank, dumb reactionary. I don't mind reading after a smart conservative, for there's much that can be said for the conservative's side of the argument, but Cobb's just a plain case of backwoods provincialism, with hatred for anything that suggests social justice for the dispossessed, suspicion of all intellectualism, complacent acceptance of any orthodoxy, provided its old, and a set of "ideas" that are so well worn that they fit into the grooves of conventionality without the hint of friction. I thought Will Rogers pretty bad, but compared to Cobb the Oklahoma cowhand was a combination of Mark Twain, Rabelais and Jonathan Swift.

And now, to top off his career, Cobb is to take Will Rogers' place in the movies. I've seen him in a few things and can say in all honesty that it makes me violently sick just to have to look at his ugly mug. I don't mind a homely face like that which belonged to Will Rogers. At least one could look at him without wanting to reach for the aspirin. But this Cobb—he isn't a homely guy—he's plain, god-awful, monstrosously, unnaturally, disgustingly, decadently, unhealthily ugly. Why parade such ugliness before the world? Cobb should, as a measure of social service, keep that mug hidden. He makes me think of those bottled embryos one sees in carnival side-shows.

Does a bird have the same number of feathers throughout the year?

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, says there's "a definite seasonal variation in the number of feathers on most birds, amounting to a natural adjustment in dress to the needs of the season."

What is America's favorite dish?

The National Restaurant Association took a vote on this question among Senators, heads of States,

businessmen, athletes, executives, teachers, writers, actors and others. The biggest vote went to steaks. Next came corned beef and cabbage. I agree that the steak should come first, but I'm not so sure about corned beef and cabbage, though I admit I'm fond of the dish when cooked properly. I'd put ham and eggs or bacon and eggs ahead of corned beef and cabbage anytime and anywhere. And I believe I could always sandwich in a platter of rainbow trout ahead of corned beef and cabbage. And even then there'd be room for a pair of lobsters, served whole, with drawn butter. But let's not get into an argument on the subject. I still stand with the masses in preferring a thick, tender, juicy, sweet chunk of steer.

Several married male friends of mine have been having trouble of late with what they call lipstickitis. Is there a cure?

One certain cure is to refrain from kissing the woman—at least on the lips. But that, of course, is asking what amounts to the impossible, nature being what it is, so let's turn for advice to the Fifth Avenue beautician, a Mr. Robert, who has been appealed to by men who've been put on the spot because of give-away signs of lipstick. He says to kiss the gal lightly—yet squarely—on the lips, but at the same time being careful to do no roaming around because that causes a smudge. If the lady insists on putting a new application of lipstick on her kisser after each smack, tell her—politely but firmly—that such a habit is wasteful of good lipstick, is unromantic, and makes a man's handkerchief look like a wounded soldier's bandage. Our swanky beautician then busts out with this piece of advice:

"After the final goodnight kiss, the gentleman should apply cold cream to his lips from a portable bottle, erasing the lipstick by rubbing carefully with the index finger inward from the lips' outer edges." Ain't pure science wonderful?

Can you supply me with Walt Whitman's description of the common soldier in the Civil War?

Walt Whitman, who served as an army nurse, wrote numerous notes on what he saw. The quotation you seek is probably the following:

"Such was the war. It was not a

quadrille in a ballroom. The active soldier, with all his incredible dauntlessness, habits, practicality, tastes, language, his appetite, rankness, his superb strength animality, lawless gaits—will never be written—perhaps must not be and should not be.”

\* \* \*

What is the meaning of “reading your shirt”?

During the World War the soldiers in the British army described the quest for lice as “reading your shirt.”

\* \* \*

Does the business of teaching Contract Bridge to the public bring big financial returns?

The May, 1936, issue of *The American Mercury* says that Ely Culbertson, who is the big-shot of the Bridge racket, figures his yearly income at \$675,000, this way:

Lectures, conventions, teacher's fees .....	\$200,000
Books .....	100,000
Business investments (playing cards, score-pads, etc.) .....	100,000
Film shorts .....	100,000
Josephine Culbertson (syndicated articles, lectures, lessons) .....	65,000
Syndicated column in some 200 dailies .....	30,000
Crockford's Inc. (Bridge Club) .....	25,000
Technical advice .....	20,000
Radio .....	15,000
Magazine articles .....	15,000
Commercial endorsements ....	10,000

\* \* \*

I was interested and amused by your reference to Benjamin Franklin's letter to the Royal Academy of Brussels, which deals with the problem of applying chemistry to the task of taking the offensive odor out of the wind that people vent. Could you tell me how I might get a copy of this masterpiece of Rabelaisian humor?

The original of this delightful letter is in the possession and is the property of the U.S. government, and can be found at Washington among the unpublished correspondence of Benjamin Franklin, purchased by the government. The letter was written while Franklin was our ambassador to France. For his own amusement, and the entertainment of the ladies and gentlemen of aristocratic France, Franklin wrote a series of Rabelaisian pieces, some of which he printed on his own press near Paris. These later came to be known as the “Passy Press Papers.” They were much sought after among the intellectually elite, where Franklin was accepted

as a shining example of sophistication and quiet humor. Franklin, who was a Don Juan and a Rabelais rolled into one—who lived a lusty life and always found time for the gusty, earthy things—who liked to taste life's saltiness—would feel ill at ease among our present-day conventional, sissified, respectable, colorless, dull, dignified, prissy, goody-goody statesmen. Personally, I consider Franklin's letter on breaking wind much finer than Mark Twain's “1601,” and that, as I've said before, is one of my favorite pieces of naughty literature.

\* \* \*

What is the house's percentage in roulette?

A wheel that has 36 numbers and the 0 and 00 has 38 pockets. The odds against the player are 37 to 1. If the player wins, he's paid 35 to 1, leaving two units for the house. The house's percentage is therefore exactly  $5\frac{5}{19}$  percent. This means that even when the roulette wheel is straight, the chances are against the player. As 0 and 00 are house numbers (all betters losing when either comes up, except when 0 or 00 is chosen by the sucker), the trick most often used is to control those two units through a magnet, forcing the ball to fall where it's wanted by the house. When it goes where it's sent, all bets are automatically wiped out, to the profit of the house. The spinning ball responds to the electro-magnet because it's been loaded with steel shavings. If you want to break up a game, just bring your own little magnet with you and apply it to the little ball. You'll soon receive a lesson in gambling-house etiquette. Another favorite trick is to have a device which controls the width of the pockets, causing the ball to fall where it's wanted.

\* \* \*

What is the proportion of deaths in appendix cases?

About 1 to 112.

\* \* \*

I work with a man every day, but he pays no attention to me. I've long made up my mind that he would make a good husband, but can't get a fall out of him. Any suggestions?

The Russian scientist, Dr. Boris Sokoloff, once claimed that any woman who has spotted an eligible man can marry him within a reasonable

time by repeating these four simple words on every conceivable occasion: "You are so wonderful." Try them.

\* \* \*

Is there any State in the Union that's debtless?

Nebraska is the only State that has no debts. On May 6, 1936, the treasurer reported a balance of \$21,123,935. Nebraska has neither an income nor a sales tax. In 1935, the State property tax, per \$1,000, was \$2.15. Since 1875, the Constitution of the State has provided that no debt for more than \$100,000 may be incurred. A large road-building program and the new \$10,000,000 capitol were paid for on a cash-in-hand-and-right-on-the-barrel basis.

\* \* \*

What is aelurophobia?

It describes a morbid fear of cats. It's reported that Napoleon had such a phobia.

\* \* \*

What's the origin of the word "Limeys," with reference to Englishmen?

English sailors who went on long trips in their sailing ships became afflicted with scurvy because of the lack of fresh vegetables. This disease was fought successfully by supplying the men with lime juice—an unconscious discovery of Vitamin C. The nickname "limeys" was adopted to describe these drinkers of lime juice.

\* \* \*

Editor, The American Freeman:

I think that during our correspondence for the last 15 years, you can judge that I am about as hardboiled and skeptical and free from superstitions as any of your correspondents, or as you, yourself.

Granting this, it may interest you to have a glance at my experience with telepathy, or you can call it mind-reading or thought transference, if you prefer.

Many years ago, in my study of psychology, I noted that certain clairvoyant powers could be induced in hypnotic subjects. I had also met one or two individuals whom I thought had this power present naturally.

A peculiar, striking incident happened to bring such a subject under my immediate observation soon after arriving in California.

Sitting in a small parlor group, I was showing some pictures of snow which were taken in a little town called Kendallville. There was nothing about the pictures to indicate where they were taken. A gentleman standing beside me,

to whom I had just been introduced that evening, said to me, "Hand me the picture, and I will tell you where it was taken." Immediately I thought, "This fellow is evidently a mind-reader and I will test his powers." I handed him the picture and continued passing others around but I deliberately held in my own thought the word "GOSHEN." I imagined that I could see an electric sign showing the word "GOSHEN." In about 15 seconds, he handed the picture back, saying it was taken in Goshen. I said, "You are right." My wife corrected me, saying—"Why no, the picture was taken at Kendallville." I said to him, "That is true. The picture was taken at Kendallville, but I told you mentally to say Goshen, and you said it, so you answered correctly."

Later on, I became very well acquainted with this man, who could at any time invariably tell me what was uppermost in my thoughts. Many queer things have developed along this line of investigation, and with this particular man I observed that he could easily and readily "read" the mind of a trained thinker who could and did concentrate on a given thing, while it was very difficult for him to do anything with an ordinary individual whose mind is continuously on the hop, skip and jump.

I only add this incident to your great store of information because in this there was no preparation, no collusion and no element of uncertainty. So it can be done!

Los Angeles, Calif. WILL H. KINDIG

\* \* \*

How much of the earth is still unexplored?

About 10,000,000 square miles, or 18 percent of the earth's land. This is larger than the North American continent.

\* \* \*

How many muskrats are trapped yearly in the U.S.?

13,000,000, according to the Biological Survey.

\* \* \*

What are the chances, in poker, of getting: 1. A straight flush; 2. Four of a kind; 3. A full house; 4. Three of a kind; 5. Two pairs?

1. 1 in 62,000. 2. 1 in 4,000. 3. 1 in 600. 4. 1 in 50. 5. 1 in 20.

\* \* \*

What are the ticket-holder's chances in sweepstakes?

Dr. Aaron Bakst, of the Department of Mathematics in Teachers College, Columbia University, answers your question as follows:

"If 5,500,000 tickets costing \$2.50 each are sold, the chance of winning

one of the 14 prizes of \$150,000 each or the lesser prizes of \$75,000 and \$50,000 is 1 in 390,000. The chance of winning any of the smaller prizes is 1 in 2,500."

\* \* \*

What are the chances to win in Numbers Game?

Our Harlem friends (and those at other points) are victims of the worst gambling device ever invented, from the viewpoint of the player. The chance of winning is only 1 in 1,000,000,000, according to the Columbia University mathematician, Dr. Aaron Bakst.

The same authority has figured some of the chances in dice, with the following results:

"In rolling dice, a person has four chances out of 18 to win on the first throw. After that it becomes more complicated, but can be computed. The chance of getting a seven on the first roll is 1 in 6, and of getting an 11, 1 in 18."

All this, of course, is on the assumption that the game's straight. Dr. Bakst submits the following comments on games of chance:

"My theory is that there are no dice that are not 'loaded,' whether artificially or accidentally; no roulette wheel that is perfectly balanced and, in fact, no machine of any sort used in gambling that is absolutely perfect.

"Of all forms of gambling, sweepstakes and lotteries, if honestly run, are the most innocent. The policy racket or numbers game is the worst, with the chances of winning almost nil. As for the possibility of 'beating the horses,' I have not yet been able to fathom this game."

\* \* \*

Your numerous reviews of the financial and economic situation in Germany, as outlined in your books of questions and answers, lead me to ask if you can support these dire conclusions with quotations from independent sources?

During the past two years I have given my readers many resumes of data indicating the eventual collapse of Germany's economic state. I could, in support, draw on the comments of the financial editors of our greatest newspapers—particularly the *New York Times* and the *New York Herald Tribune*—Wall Street commentators, financial weeklies and monthlies, the news reports of impartial foreign correspondents on the scene in Nazi Germany, and the like, but I believe

I can give you two quotations that will settle your doubts, once for all. I know that many of my anti-Fascist readers want to believe the worst about Germany—and Italy, too—but they want their beliefs to be supported by facts, not mere wishes, and in this I praise them for their intellectual sobriety and caution, for it also has been my editorial policy to rest my case against Fascist economy only on verifiable information.

The two quotations I shall give you are from such a thoroughly independent, impartial and disinterested source as the publication called *Commerce Reports*, issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The particular reports I shall quote below were the department's summarizations based on dispatches from its commercial attaches stationed in Germany. The first quotation is from the issue sent out during the first week in May, 1936; the second, from the second issue in the same month. These two quotations—and they are commendably brief—give complete, unwavering, unquestioned support to every point I've made since I first began discussing the economic results of Hitlerism. The first quotation:

"Although the outward picture of business conditions was substantially unchanged in March, there was increasing evidence that the financial burden was growing and that the strain on the Reich's finances was intensified. The short-term borrowing during the past three years practically exhausted liquid resources of savings banks, commercial banks and other credit houses. The difficulties of rediscounting its employment and armament bills were illustrated during March by an announcement that contractors and manufacturers working on Government orders are now obliged to keep these bills for a specified period and not to pass them on for rediscount to their banks."

The second quotation:

"Foreign exchange resources, even to pay for necessary food imports, have been scanty, and the gold reserve has recently reached an all-time low that deprives it of significance as a backing for the currency. The long prosecution of present economic policies has brought with it higher prices, a scarcity of essential commodities, the practical monopolization of the capital market

for State purposes and pressure upon security values. Unemployment is provided relief by the stimulus to industry arising out of rearmament. It is becoming more difficult to control prices, especially under the growing burden of taxation, the rising price of raw material and the necessity to increase freight rates in order to ease the deficit burden of the railways."

The above two quotations read precisely like summaries of my own editorial pieces, which, of course, they're not. They lead us to expect serious crises in the near future—perhaps during the present year. Hitler, of course, will try to circumvent these dire possibilities, but here he will be able to act only in character—in other words, he will try to blackmail countries like England and France into making loans to his tottering economic regime. But here we find reliable reports which indicate that the financial powers in these two countries are quite aware of what is taking place in Hitler's vast prison, and the conclusions agree unanimously that loans to Hitler would be so much money thrown away. Hitler will try to get foreign money by threatening war, but even here I doubt he'll get anywhere, especially since Leon Blum, at this writing, is slated to become France's Socialist premier. Blum, we can believe, would be most unlikely to give financial support to an individual and a governmental policy which are poison to him. Blum, one of the most civilized men in all Europe, would hardly be the man to drain his own financial institutions to strengthen a form of governmental tyranny and persecution that is anathema to all decent-minded people. He knows that Hitler has put guns in the hands of hundreds of thousands of young men—and by guns I mean all the highly mechanized weapons of modern warfare—but this armament program was carried out at the expense of the people's bread baskets, their standards of living, and everything else that they enjoyed in such fair measure under the Republic. Germany is doomed—by its own maniac. What will Hitler's answer be? War?

\* \* \*

Which insect lives longest?

The longest lived insects are the 17-year cicadas (locusts). When hatched,

they dig their way into the ground, where they live for 17 years. They are about the size of ants and get their food from the sap from tree-roots. About June of the 17th year they leave the ground and come forth as the winged, singing insects we are so familiar with. Once they leave the ground they have a short existence—only a few weeks—during which they mate and lay their eggs for the next crop of 17-year locusts. The eggs laid in 1936 will stay underground until 1953. Our locusts aren't the same as the 17-year locusts described in the Bible, which were long-winged grasshoppers. Our locusts are comparatively harmless, and therefore unlike the ancient pests, which were great destroyers of crops. But our locusts certainly can make plenty of noise—a singing which I've always found pleasant, especially towards the quiet close of a long, hot summer day. The South has a species of locust, known as 13-year cicadas.

\* \* \*

Recently I heard an American Legion speaker laud war because it creates heroes. Please comment.

Anatole France answered our patriot's point this way:

"To love war because it makes heroes, is to love croup because doctors and nurses die in trying to save the child."

\* \* \*

What are the chances, in bridge, of getting 13 cards of the same suit? Also, 12 cards of the same suit?

The chance of 13 is 1 in about 153,000,000,000. The chance of 12 is 1 in 300,000,000.

\* \* \*

Do you believe the public's really honest?

Mr. Dooley, the late Finley P. Dunne's delightful creation, answered your question perfectly: "Thrust iverybody but cut the ca-ards."

\* \* \*

At what age do chorns girls get the boot?

Search me. The Metropolitan Opera Company of New York has a chorus "girl" who's over 60 years of age. It's a fact that many of the "girls" in the choruses of the Jewish musical comedy companies on New York's East Side are grandmothers, with a sprinkling of great grandmothers. Such "girls" are strongly unionized—the good old war-horses of the pro-

fession. At the frothy top—night clubs, swanky or frayed, and the Ziegfeld type of musical shows—a gal of 30 is considered an old hag and is shunted to the bone-yard.

\* \* \*

How many men sat in the Constitutional Congress?

The Constitutional Congress of 1787 had 55 members, but the final draft of the Constitution was signed by only 39. It took four months of argument, debate and discussion to work out this document.

\* \* \*

Recently the pro-Mussolini Fascists of Philadelphia were denied a permit for a victory parade by the mayor. Please comment.

Mayor Wilson's ban, according to his statements, was based on the fear that a demonstration would arouse the Negro population and perhaps result in riots. While my anti-Fascist views are as strong as the next fellow's, I feel the mayor should have permitted the parade, even though it would shock the decent element of the city, black and white.

Such a "victory" parade would amount to nothing less than a public display of the horrors of Mussolini's slaughter of helpless Ethiopian men, women and children. Such a pageant would be disgusting to every American who believes in international justice and decency, but still another matter is at stake—a high principle—free speech and free assembly. However wrong we may consider these Italian dupes of Mussolini, we should insist on their right to express themselves, so long as they do not break out in overt acts against individuals or groups of their own or other races.

The mayor could have granted the permit and then instructed the police to arrange a schedule and route that would be unlikely to impinge on the Negro section. On the other hand, the Negroes could have answered, not with riots or other forms of violence, but with a mourning parade that would publicize the barbarous behavior of bloody Mussolini and his gangsters—this mourning parade also protected by the police.

My point is simply this: we musn't consider free speech a precious heritage merely so long as our own ideas are protected, and when unpopular or unpleasant sentiments are express-

ed to turn around and approve of denials of full civil rights. The ideal of free speech gets its genuine test only when unpleasant, wrong-minded groups seek to air their views.

\* \* \*

Does cancer strike at both sexes equally?

Women are more subject to the disease.

\* \* \*

You ought to be ashamed of yourself for trying to give your readers the impression that Benjamin Franklin was given to writing off-color literature. The founding fathers were superior men who had big jobs to do and therefore had no time for erotic frivolity. Cancel my subscription.

I'm sorry to lose another reader, but I don't know what to do about it, except to insist the record is on my side, and a subscription cancellation won't change it. Our school-marms have succeeded in establishing the legend that the founding fathers were a lot of plaster saints and pious angels, so when a realistic editor like myself looks below the surface and finds they were real, red-blooded he-men, he finds himself doubted or scoffed. However, no real student of the period will doubt me when I say Franklin really was the author of the excruciatingly funny letter to the Royal Society of Brussels, in which he proposed, with humorous solemnity, that science do something about the problem of—well, I've already described the theme of the letter, so I see no reason for going into the matter further. As I've written elsewhere, the letter will be found among the Franklin papers in Washington, so if my outraged reader will write to the Librarian of the Congressional Library he'll find I've not been spoofing. Of course, the Librarian won't be able to supply him with a printed copy of the letter because it's deposited with him in manuscript form. I was able to describe its contents because it happens that I've been fortunate enough to obtain a copy of this precious masterpiece of humanistic wit. And, while I'm at it, let me add that I still think Franklin was one of the greatest men of his day, and if he were living today he'd be one of our outstanding personalities. The fact that Franklin could forget the solemn things of life long enough to indulge in Rabelaisian spoofing

isn't anything against the man. He merely succeeded in making himself more human—and that, to my notion, makes him more endearing.

\* \* \*

Why do they call Veloz and Yolanda "the world's finest dancers." While we must admit they are very fine, this seems to us rather tough on some of the other fine dance teams we have seen at different times. Furthermore, how do they rate \$8,000 a week?

The explanation is very simple. These dancers employ a press agent and ad writer who believes in earning his salary. Talk is cheap, so why not make his dancing employers the best in the world while he's at it? There are dozens of dancers who are far superior to this pleasing couple.

As for the salary, I simply don't swallow it. Eight thousand smackers sounds like another press agent story. I'm reminded of a deal between two breeders of registered hogs, each anxious to maintain a reputation for high prices. Said Hiram: "I'll swap my boar for your sow." Said Ephram: "OK by me, but let's not swap. I'll sell you my sow for \$5,000 and buy your boar for \$5,000." "OK by me," said Hiram, and the deal was put through. The next day the *Kansas City Star* printed both their pictures—along with pictures of the hogs—and told an amazed world how rich they were getting selling hogs at \$5,000 each. To return to our artistic dancers, an \$8,000 salary means \$416,000 per year—which I say is the bunk.

\* \* \*

What's the difference between a doughnut and a cruller?

The doughnut has the hole. That's all.

\* \* \*

1. What's the difference between dunking and sopping? 2. How are the best doughnuts made?

1. Dunking is when you dip a doughnut, let's say, into your coffee and let it get soaked good and plenty. But sopping is something entirely different. When you want to move some gravy from your plate to your palate, you take a hunk of bread and use it to mop up the gravy, and that's sopping. But if you let the gravy soak into the bread, it ceases to be sopping and becomes dunking. We must keep these tremendous differences clear. A sopper might never

be a dunker, but a dunker is usually a sopper. Ketch on? Dunking will never die, because it's a separate and distinct gustatorial delight. If you eat a doughnut, and if you sip your coffee, you're just sipping coffee, but when you let that doughnut get half-way soggy while being dunked in that coffee, you have achieved an entirely new creation. The chemical action has brought forth a new joy that can't be had in any other way—and that, my friends, gives the scientific explanation why dunking will be here as long as humans appreciate the finer things. In this country—probably a partial result of the insipid propaganda of our major and minor Emily Posts—dunking is socially scandalous, but in Europe dunking has an ancient, respectable history and is socially acceptable. I stand with the Europeans.

2. Doughnuts have been found in Oklahoma caves, were they were made thousands of years ago by Indians, according to Dr. E. B. Renaud, Colorado Museum of Natural History. I believe the Bible refers to doughnuts, when it speaks of "cakes of fine flour mingled in oil."

And while I'm dwelling on my beloved doughnuts, let me pass on a recipe written by Major Helen Purviance, of the Salvation Army, who made the first doughnut for our Doughboys in France, in August, 1917, and who, before the Armistice, handed out 1,000,000 doughnuts, without a single complaint. Such a record of sound, solid achievement entitles her to serious consideration when she offers to pass on the secret of her great art. It's this way:

"To one cup of sugar beaten with three eggs, add cup of milk, two tablespoonfuls of melted butter and half a teaspoonful of lemon extract. Put cup of flour into sifter and add three heaping teaspoonfuls of baking powder, one of salt and one-quarter-full of grated nutmeg. Sift into liquids and beat together, adding enough flour to make a not-too-stiff dough. Cut and fry in leaf lard, keeping the fat at almost boiling point."

\* \* \*

How many ships do the leading countries lose yearly?

*Lloyd's Register of Shipping* reports that the 10 leading shipping countries lost, in 1934, the following



number of ships of more than 100 tons:

	Vessels owned	Vessels lost	Ratio
Brit. Dominions	2,173	22	1.01%
Norway	1,901	19	1.00
France	1,459	14	0.96
Great Britain, Ireland	7,107	52	0.73
Italy	1,031	7	0.63
Japan	1,949	13	0.67
Germany	2,032	13	0.64
Holland	1,407	6	0.43
Sweden	1,309	4	0.31
United States	2,560	8	0.31

During the last six years American ships lost 657 passengers.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth in the statement that the opera is just about dead in the Soviet Union?

Instead of being dead, the opera in Russia is thriving. Recently Paul D. Cravath, head of the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York, visited the U.S.S.R. for the third time, during which he not only studied the operatic productions of Moscow and Leningrad, but inspected theaters in Rostov, Tiflis, and Yalta. This authority, in an interview which he gave in Odessa, said Russia has 30 permanent opera-houses, as against only four in the largest cities of the U.S. Mr. Cravath added the opinion that "the Soviet opera is better produced than the American opera."

\* \* \*

What does it cost to insure the new British ship, *Queen Mary*?

The S.S. *Queen Mary*, the world's largest ship, is insured at \$24,000,000. The cost of insuring the hull and machinery alone will be \$300,000 yearly. The British government will assume 38 percent of this expense.

\* \* \*

Why can't our growers ship ripe melons to market instead of green ones?

Ripe melons would rot before reaching the consumer. But this problem can now be solved by giving the ripe melons a coat of paraffin wax before packing.

\* \* \*

Is it accurate to describe the Rhythm Method of Birth Control as natural?

In the sense that the Rhythm Method doesn't depend on devices or chemicals, it's natural. Dr. Robert M. Yerkes, of Yale University's Laboratories of Comparative Psychobiology, in a report to the National Academy of Sciences, said

that the Rhythm theory received support from observations he made among chimpanzees. Incidentally, this showed further that the method is really natural. Dr. Yerkes found that "in hundreds of chimp matings the beginnings of life occurred only during a period of about six days at approximately the middle of the feminine sexual cycle." As is generally known, the chimpanzee's biological equipment is very close to that of humans, and since the sexual rhythm is found among these simian cousins of ours it may be concluded that the Ogino-Knaus conclusions have achieved new support, though the actual working of the method is by no means fool-proof. There's a great deal that substantiates the Rhythm Method, but additional research will have to be done before the method's difficulties can be ironed out. It seems to me that the Rhythm method, like the artificial methods based on devices and chemicals, will never be perfect, but it's probably true that a combination of the Rhythm Method with chemical or mechanical contraceptives might result in sure birth control.

\* \* \*

1. How much did St. Peter's, in Rome, cost? 2. How long did it take to build it? 3. What is its seating capacity? 4. Is it the world's largest church?

1. \$50,000,000. 2. 176 years. 3. 54,000 persons. 4. Yes.

\* \* \*

#### HE ADMITS HE'S DARN CRITICAL

Editor, The American Freeman:

I have just been reading the May issue of *The American Freeman*, and notice you say Mt. Everest is the "world's highest mountain."

Permit me to point out, that the term "highest," when used in a world sense, takes on a changed relationship to what it has when used in a restricted sense, as all terms must.

The fact of Mt. Everest being 29,000 feet in height (above mean sea level) does not mean that it projects farther out into space than all other elevations of land—which is the broad or world sense of the term "highest"—farthest out from the center.

You have not allowed for the equatorial bulge of the earth. Everest, you will see, on your map, is approximately in 28° N. latitude, which places it far down the equatorial bulge, so that it does not project so far out into space as some mountains on that bulge.

Chimborazo, in Ecuador, has that hon-

or, being roughly two and a half miles "higher" (out) than Everest.

Pardon me for being so darn critical. I will be sending for some more mental stimulant in the near future.

Vancouver, B.C. JACK LESLIE

\* \* \*

I've seen press reports that the Pulitzer Prize for poetry went to Robert P. Tristram Coffin. As I am unfamiliar with his works, don't you think it would be a good idea to let Freeman readers see a sample of his art?

The 1935 prize went to Mr. Coffin's book, *Strange Holiness*, from which I select a typical poem, entitled "The Pheasant":

A pheasant cock sprang into view,  
A living jewel, up he flew.

His wings laid hold on empty space,  
Scorn bulged his eyeballs out with  
grace.

He was a hymn from tail to beak  
With not a tender note or meek.

Then the gun let out its thunder,  
The bird descended struck with wonder.

He ran a little, then, amazed,  
Settled with his head upraised.

The fierceness flowed out of his eyes  
And left them meek and large and wise.

Gentleness relaxed his head,  
He lay in jeweled feathers, dead.

\* \* \*

Is there any truth to the report that it never rains in London on certain days?

The only fact to support this is the curious coincidence that London, during the past 50 years, has never had rain during the morning of March 16.

\* \* \*

How much, on the average, does the earth curve per square mile?

Eight inches.

\* \* \*

How much do the American people pay on their life insurance policies?

Since 1930, premiums have amounted to about \$3,000,000,000 annually.

\* \* \*

From what race did the American Indian come?

Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, anthropologist, National Museum, says the Amerind, the American Indian, "is an offshoot of the earlier yellow Mongolian stock."

\* \* \*

Is it possible for a layman, without laboratory equipment, to tell the dif-

ference between butter and butter substitutes?

There's a very simple test which never fails. Put a dab of butter in a hot frying pan, and it'll prove it's butter by forming whitish bubbles. On the other hand, oleo and other butter substitutes will melt down and spread like grease, without bubbling or sputtering.

Another reader asks what makes a "sizzling steak" sizzle. He refers to the dish served at public restaurants and hotels wherein the steak, brought on a hot platter, sizzles for some minutes after it's put before the diner. Here, of course, is just another clever chef's trick, for a cooked steak doesn't sizzle. The chef smears a chunk of butter on the hot dish, and it's the butter, not the steak, that sizzles.

\* \* \*

I have seen numerous references to Hitler's homosexuality in periodical literature. Please comment.

Konrad Heiden, in his new book on Hitler, published by Knopf, writes that the great fairy's "personality is based on an abnormality which specialists in the by-ways of sex will understand, and that there are documents to prove this." This quotation is taken from a summary which appeared in the May 12, 1936, issue of *The New York Times*. As I haven't read this particular book on Hitler, I can't say whether or not the author refers directly to the documents, but I can repeat in all earnestness that the Nazis were hurried about destroying the famous Hirschfeld sex clinic in Berlin, shortly after Hitler took power, in order to burn that sexologist's incriminating records and documents. In this particular case, the documents didn't refer to Hitler as a patient, for he never was treated at Hirschfeld's distinguished institute (its founder was a Jew), but it is a fact that a number of Nazi homosexuals were patients there and referred in numerous instances to Hitler's sexual behavior with persons of his own sex. So far as is known, Hitler never took treatments for his homosexuality, because he never wanted to be cured. He had flirted with a few women, and, finding them sexually uninteresting, returned to his first love. It's an established fact that Hitler, in

all his 47 years, has never had a sexual affair with a woman. It's claimed that Hitler has refrained from homosexual conduct since he became Germany's dictator, and that this, in a measure, accounts for his ruthless murder of his man-lover, Captain Roehm, on June 30, 1934. (Captain Roehm, a confessed homosexual, was Hitler's favorite lover and friend for more than 12 years.) Hitler and Roehm, known everywhere in Germany to be homosexuals, attracted thousands of their kind to the banners of Nazism during the period when the organization was preparing to take power. It became one of the jokes of all Europe. If you found a fairy in Berlin or elsewhere in Germany, you were pretty sure to see him in a brown shirt.

\* \* \*

I am anxious to secure at least two of Joseph McCabe's larger works—Peter Abelard, and St. Augustine and His Time. I note you are announcing the publication of a McCabe bibliography. In the meantime can you tell me where the above books can be secured. I understand they are out of print.

The only suggestion I can offer is to get in touch with a good second-hand bookstore.

\* \* \*

#### DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA

Editor, The American Freeman:

In your last issue you list among anti-democratic countries, Russia. I have just finished reading Sidney and Beatrice Webb's two-volume book on the Soviet Union, and it seems to me that we must begin to consider the question of democracy or anti-democracy in Russia a little more carefully, and not jump recklessly into print with statements such as yours. There is evidently emerging in the U.S.S.R. a type of democracy as yet quite unknown to western civilization. It may soon be recognized that there is more real democracy in permitting everyone to participate in deciding questions of which he can be expected to understand something, and then elect others to the next higher step up the pyramid until the highest authority in the Union is reached, than merely extending the franchise to everyone to exercise in the election of the highest officials in the land directly, with little or no voice in matters affecting their everyday life and environment. Berwyn, Ill.

H. C. RYAN

Comment: I have, on several occasions, written about the Russian citizen's opportunity for democracy through the unions, cooperatives, the

army, etc. But the real sense in which I used the word anti-democracy was with reference to Russia's denial of free speech, free press, free assembly, the suppression of the right of minorities to organize and express their policies, and the ruthless persecution and punishment of holders of various shades of left philosophy that aren't acceptable to the Stalinites. I have written hundreds of columns in praise of Russia, its aims, its social and industrial progress, its friendly concern for culture, education, Freethought, etc., but all these commendable things can never blind me to the simple fact that civil rights—as they are understood in western democratic countries—do not exist in the U.S.S.R., and I won't consider Russia a completely civilized country until these rights are granted and protected.

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How did you react to the sermons of Popish priests and Protestant preachers delivered on the occasion of Mother's Day?

The mother theme is always popular, along with home and flag. But it seems to me that the clerical mind, when concentrated on this "divinely beautiful" topic, should stop long enough to interpret the words the Bible says Jesus addressed to his mother Mary: "What art thou to me?" If Jesus ever lived, and if Jesus ever said those words, he couldn't qualify as a sermonizer on the mother theme, were he to return to this mud-coated ball of iron.

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Glad to hear that Marcet Haldeman-Julius is writing again for your publications. What will she do in addition to the three issues of The Reviewer?

The three Reviewer issues have already been written by her and will soon be ready for distribution to Reviewer subscribers. (10 issues of The Reviewer cost only \$1, Canada and foreign, \$1.25.) She is now at work on an interesting, informative book, which will be called *The Lindbergh-Hauptmann Murder-Kidnap Case*. This will fill a large book, 5½ x 8½ inches, and will contain about 45,000 words. As this book is still in the process of being written we are unable to give the public an exact date for its publication, but will make announcements in the near future. Meanwhile, don't miss the three

issues of The Reviewer which will contain her writings.

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Please comment on the vote taken on whether our schools should teach the facts about "isms."

In May, 1936, Dr. George Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion, published in many newspapers his report on a nation-wide vote taken on the following question:

"Should schools teach the facts about Communism, Fascism and Socialism?"

Dr. Gallup says ballots were sent to 100,000 representative Americans, thus sampling public sentiment from Maine to California. Most of these ballots were distributed by mail, but many were handled by 200 staff interviewers who asked for votes in sections where it was not practicable to mail ballots.

The result shows that, for the country at large, 62 percent favor factual education regarding these three isms; 38 percent are opposed to any kind of education on these subjects, even when the teacher follows a policy of teaching only the facts, without personal opinions or conclusions.

Our college students are the most liberal on this question of academic freedom, their vote being 95 percent for the facts; 5 percent against the facts. This shows a healthy condition among our students, though an old, uncompromising believer in free speech and free inquiry like myself can't get over wondering why even 5 percent of the student body could vote against a factual review of these three tremendously important subjects. How a student could ever become educated without knowing about Socialism, Communism and Fascism is quite beyond my powers of understanding.

Our students are even more liberal than their teachers, according to this poll, for only 88 percent of our college teachers voted Yes; 12 percent, No. All teachers voted: Yes, 87 percent; No, 13 percent.

Of all groups, our men and women on relief, strange as it seems, are the most reactionary, for they voted 55 percent Yes; 45 percent, No. This makes them more conservative than the Republican voters, who registered their opinions this way: Yes, 59 per-

cent; No, 41 percent. Democrats voted: Yes, 62 percent; No, 38 percent.

Socialists, according to Dr. Gallup, voted 85 percent Yes; 15 percent, No. This is a little difficult to understand. Why should Socialists vote against free inquiry regarding "isms"? Perhaps these 15 percent would have voted 100 percent Yes if they had been asked whether or not our students should be taught the facts regarding Socialism, their fears being only with regard to Communism, or, perhaps more completely, Fascism.

Small towns, as expected, are more conservative than the great centers of population, in this poll, their average vote being: Yes, 58 percent; No, 42 percent. Cleveland is the country's most liberal large city, in the matter of academic freedom, its vote being: Yes, 70 percent; No, 30 percent. The most reactionary are Detroit and Baltimore, which tied at 53 percent, Yes; 47 percent, No. The average for the large cities was 58 percent, Yes; 42 percent, No, which happens to be the average vote for the small towns, thus showing that there are degrees of liberalism among our larger communities.

The facts would indicate that while there is a powerful minority in favor of academic suppression, the substantial majority of our people favor free inquiry. Such a vote should convince our legislators, who would gag education, that the country at large is opposed to any laws that are intended to prevent our teachers from answering questions about the main isms. There are no state laws against teaching the facts of these three isms, but there are other strong forces at work which tend to frighten many teachers from taking up subjects that simply must be studied if the graduates are to have something akin to an understanding of the world they are to function in. Many teachers, of course, are too dumb to study up on these subjects, so are opposed; others, to be sure, are reactionaries, somewhat on a par with the men and women on relief.

The District of Columbia, which is ruled by Congress, has a ridiculous law which compels teachers and other public school employees—including even janitors—to affirm, when

they draw their salary checks, that they didn't "teach or advocate" Communism since they drew their last pay. This affirmation—on which their jobs depend by congressional action—also covers any activity outside the schoolroom. Such a sentiment, if the Institute's poll is accurate, is completely out of line with the educational ideas of the general public.

The Sisson bill, now before Congress, would revise this law for the District, permitting teachers to give the facts regarding forms of government different from our own, but at the same time demanding an oath of loyalty to the Constitution. The Hearst press and a number of Senators and Congressmen—including the notorious Thomas L. Blanton, of Texas—are fighting against the adoption of the Sisson bill, it being their contention that the District's schools shouldn't be permitted to teach their students the simple facts of governmental and social institutions.

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What does it cost to run the N.Y. police department?

\$60,000,000 per year.

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Please comment on recent events in Germany, Ethiopia, France and Spain.

*Germany.* The two most important recent happenings in Germany were the remilitarization of the Rhineland and the demotion of Dr. Schacht. Hitler's decision to send troops into the Rhineland was just another step nearer to the great war that the pansy is aching for. Here again another treaty, solemnly signed, was spat upon by the Fascist murderer and tyrant. Here, of course, was another instance of the dictator's necessity to cover up economic discontent at home by a sensational military diversion, timed perfectly to whip up a new hysterical wave of patriotism. But marching soldiers can't save Fascism's false economics, as Mussolini can testify, so the great day of reckoning, put off slightly, must still be faced. In the Rhineland reoccupation, Hitler resorted to one of his favorite tricks—talking "peace" while chasing his dupes closer to the clutches of Mars. His offer of a 25-year "peace" pact with France was too obvious to fool anyone in Europe, outside of Hitler's propagandized and doped subjects. As Russia's foreign

minister, Litvinoff, properly explained, such a pact with France would mean only one thing: An attempt to tie France's hands so that Germany could march eastward and destroy the U.S.S.R. That would mean a localized war, not peace. . . . Hitler's decision to demote Schacht, and give many of his powers as economic dictator to General Goering, is merely carrying out what I said months ago—the first real sign of Germany's economic crack-up would make itself plain when the more conservative economic policies of Schacht would be repudiated by the Nazi gangsters because they would inevitably compel the militarists to slow down their vast spending program, a spree that has caused German wages to go down and the cost of living to rise. Once the direction of Germany's economic policies are taken over completely by the Nazis—and Schacht hasn't yet been entirely removed from the scene, at least at the time I write this—then will come the final mad scramble of the insane militarists, the complete collapse of Germany's financial house of cards. At that point, Hitler, moved by economic problems at home, will put on new shows, particularly in the East, and they, of course, can be depended on to bring on what Germany under Hitler has made inevitable—a new, great war. Russia is to be the great "enemy," the beast that must be destroyed in the name of Germanic "civilization"—but it seems to this observer that destroying Russia isn't going to be as simple as Hitler imagines, even if he allows himself several more years of preparedness. Russia used to be chaotic and weak, even with all its millions of cannon-fodder—but those days are gone. Russia today is strong—perhaps the strongest single government in the world. Russia most certainly doesn't want to fight, but fight it will if the militarists of Germany or Japan move one inch onto Russia's vast domain.

*Ethiopia.* Haile Selassie's armies in the north collapsed before Mussolini's mechanized armies because the defenders failed to follow the tactics of guerrilla warfare. Instead of making frontal attacks on the Italians or standing in solid masses as the Fascists poured their heavy artillery, bombing planes, tanks and poison gas

at them, they should have scattered into the mountains. (I told them to do that a year ago, but it seems that my military advice isn't wanted. Here I go to all the trouble of telling them what to do, and they placidly ignore me. Well, you see the results.) Mussolini—in the name of "civilization"—has slaughtered about 250,000 helpless Ethiopian men, women and children. But, what does this great "victory" mean for Mussolini, outside of "prestige" and "glory"? Exactly zero. The Ethiopian adventure has emptied his treasury, destroyed his foreign trade, driven away the tens of thousands of tourists who kept Italy in pocket money so many years, dislocated the industrial system, and antagonized most of the civilized world. Ethiopia, under Mussolini's blackshirted blackguards, won't solve Italy's social distress. If anything, it'll continue keeping the Italians close to the standards of so many coolies in the worst famine districts of interior China. Italy, a poor country, paid almost \$1,000,000,000 to rape a country that will cost new hundreds of millions instead of bringing the revenue Mussolini is so desperately in need of. As for his new Roman Empire, a look at the map will show him that he hasn't even begun. The old Roman Empire covered most of Europe—Spain, France, some of England and Germany, Austria, the Balkans, parts of Asia and all of North Africa that's near the Mediterranean. There are a good many powerful countries interested in this vast territory, and Mussolini, with all his bluster, could hardly take over 10 acres of it. But Mussolini, like Hitler, knows the value of putting on a show for the people back home. They're screaming for the new Roman Empire now, but the great laws of economics still operate—even in Italy. Fascist economics is the code of a group of gangsters—and no nation can live, in this day and age, on nothing but violence, parasitism, hoodlumism and blackmail. Fascists know how to steal what others have produced, like all gangsters, but they can't produce, they can't distribute—they can only throw the machine out of whack and disrupt civilization. Mussolini and Hitler are busy digging their own graves, which

wouldn't be at all bad, except for the appalling fact that the graves they are digging will be big enough to hold millions of innocent victims.

*France.* The People's Front of Socialists, Radical Socialists and Communists has brought the French people, and all civilization, a step forward in the direction of true democracy, anti-Fascism, fair treatment for the members of all races, liberty and progress. As I write this, Leon Blum, the leader of the Socialists, hasn't yet taken the premiership, but this seems to be only a formality which will be decided by the new Chamber of Deputies when it meets in June. France has shown the world that it's not impossible to combat Fascism when it shows its ugly head. For a time, it looked as though the Fascists might capture France and turn back the wheel of progress a thousand years. France's own Hitler was getting ready to suppress every organization of free workers, persecute the helpless Jews, make Capitalism join up with gangsterism and in other ways destroy the glories of French civilization in order to establish an authoritarian state under a dictatorship of Fascist hoodlums. But the liberals, radicals, Socialists and Communists got together and proved to all France's reactionary forces that a move in the direction of a Fascist dictatorship would mean a civil war in which the masses of the people would stand solidly behind the Left forces of Blum and the other members of the People's Front. There's little doubt that Blum, once he takes power, will outlaw all Fascist organizations because of their development of para-military bodies. As I've written many times before, a democracy has the right to defend itself, and French democracy and freedom, under Blum, will be on the alert to stamp out every organization that attempts to strangle the French masses in the vise of Fascism. I predict that France, under Blum, will make real progress. The forces of Democracy have learned their lesson. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. The French are vigilant. The government of Leon Blum will grant no concessions to Fascist barbarism.

*Spain.* Promising things have been happening in Spain. The people of Spain are awake. They are in action.

United action of all liberty-loving Spaniards—fearless and energetic friends of freedom, democracy and social progress—resulted in the destruction of threatening Fascism. Spanish Fascism was combined with the most corrupt forms of Clericalism—a terrible enemy to face—but Spain met the dragon and cut off its tail and most of its heads. What's left is writhing in the dust. The high dignitaries of the Church have fled. The Fascist politicians are in jail, where they belong. Democracy has been rescued in Spain. Fascism, which came within an ace of giving the country a blood-bath, is now in disorderly retreat. The masses are so aroused over the conspiracies and brutalities of the rotten Fascist-Clerical gangsters that they have broken through the barriers and burned down numerous churches and monasteries, in order to show the clericals what they really think about their conspiracies against the Republic and its free institutions. Spain is one of those countries that the priests always claimed to be "solidly Catholic," but once the grip of the clericals is broken we see that the masses aren't Catholic at all; that they are, in fact, so anti-Catholic that they are ready to go to the most violent extremes in order to prove their implacable antagonism. Now that the masses have saved Spain from the Fascist-Clericals, we should see a period of social progress that will bring the great Spanish people among the leaders of civilization. The great enemies of the people—Catholicism, Fascism and Capitalism—are on the run in Spain.

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How much does it cost, in electricity, to run a fast elevator in a great skyscraper?

The Empire State Building has the highest-going elevator, 986 feet, but the RCA Building has the fastest elevator in the world, going up and down a shaft of 828 feet. Its rate of speed is 1,400 feet a minute. It makes this round trip, with one stop, in 91.2 seconds and uses up 11.7 cents of electricity per trip.

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How safe is it to ride on a passenger elevator?

The Elevator Division of New York City's Department of Buildings re-

ports that in a single year there were deaths at the ratio of 1 to 196,000,000 riders; injuries were at the ratio of 1 to 40,000,000. The mechanism was blamed for only 5 percent of these accidents, the rest being the fault of the operators or passengers.

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The claim is often made by Catholics that if their parochial schools were closed, the State would be put to additional expense to provide the additional schools needed to educate their children whom they now provide for themselves, while as taxpayers they now help maintain the public schools as well. Please comment.

While it's true that the Catholics are themselves paying the cost of their parochial schools, this is done because the American people won't tolerate State subsidies to religious schools. Several attempts have been made by the Catholic hierarchy and their political tools to switch at least part of the expense of running their schools on the shoulders of the general taxpayers, as they succeeded in doing in Canada and other countries where Rome is able to assert its will.

The Catholics are certainly not being compelled to run their parochial schools. Since they have assumed this expense voluntarily, the least they can do is to stop squawking about the money they must cough up. It's true, of course, that our public schools would have to expand their plants somewhat to take care of the students of these religious schools, should their student body be transferred to the State's free institutions, but this is a duty which the American people are ready to assume when our Catholics call on them for action.

Since our secular government gives them a way of avoiding the expense of their dual school system, they should have the decency to cease their whimpering over the money they are compelled to pay for a line of priest-and-nun-operated institutions that produce students on a par with the lowest intellectual elements in the Holy Roller and other subnormal religious sects.

The facts produced by *Who's Who* condemn the parochial schools from beginning to end. Catholic graduates of these parochial schools make *Who's Who* on what amounts to almost zero—rubbing shoulders with Seventh Day Adventists—while the

graduates of our secularized public schools establish achievements of distinction, including scholarship, in something like 10 times the proportion of Catholics.

The Catholic Church being the most reactionary and dogmatic church organization in the world—the most uncompromising in its superstitions and hatred of true culture—couldn't run parochial schools on any other basis than as a feeder to the Church's decayed intellectualism. The result is a record of scholarship that compares with the world's worst, while the secularized public schools that are devoid of religious influences compare with the best.

The Catholic authorities, naturally, must have their parochial schools if they are to "train" future members—or shall we be candid and call them dupes? Expose these Catholic youngsters to secular education and they cease being the priest's pet victims.

The Catholic racket rests on capturing the young when they're too immature to resist its intellectual tyrannies. But such a program costs money. Who should pay for it? I say the Catholics. If they get tired of this expense, let them clean up their intellectual sewers and turn the children to more worthy institutions of learning. They'll save money while they're at this, but here the priest is more far-seeing. If the Catholics were to save the expense of the parochial school system, the supply of Catholic members would be lessened, with the sad consequence that the income of the priest would be curtailed. So the disgusting swindle in the name of education continues apace.

Can a snake kill another snake with its poisonous bite?

An African cobra attacked an Indian cobra at the New York Zoo, and the latter apparently succumbed to the poison.

Your figures on the quantities of paper used in making our money interested me, but I saw no prices quoted. Have you the dope?

During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1936, the U.S. Treasury will pay 37c per pound for the paper used to print money. The new contract calls for 825 tons. In 1934, the same paper cost 30.25 cents. This stock

contains 75 percent linen and 25 percent cotton.

The Department reports that paper money lasts longer now, perhaps because of the depression, the dollar circulating less. At present, a dollar bill lasts about nine months. Larger bills last about a year. The Department pays seven-tenths of a cent for each bill's manufacture. Since cutting down the size of our dollar bills, the government is saving about \$2,500,000 per year in paper alone.

I talk through my nose, and sing that way, too. Can you recommend a song that won't sound bad if sung nasally?

"The Last Roundup" was written to be sung through the nose.

How much gold has California produced?

In 1935, California produced gold worth \$30,429,000, which is the greatest since 1862. If all the gold mined in California during the past 88 years were made into a solid block, it would be 17 feet and six inches in each dimension.

Which letter in the English alphabet is used most?

"E."

Is it true that Russia has platinum money?

Two attempts were made to coin platinum money, but neither experiment worked, so the idea was abandoned. I have no information on why this coinage wasn't acceptable.

How long does it take an alligator to reach maturity?

From 40 to 60 years. Its life span is somewhere between 100 and 200 years.

Are termites growing more numerous in this country?

P. A. Hayward, head of the Forest Products Division of the Department of Commerce, and considered competent to discuss the problem of damage done by termites, has issued a government bulletin which says the termite's reputation has grown worse and worse during the past few years because the public has become more termite conscious than ever before, but that their actual powers of destruction have been grossly exaggerated. He calls attention to the opin-



ion of the Department of Agriculture's senior entomologist, who is looked on as the world's greatest authority on termites, that termites don't do the harm they're supposed to. He adds that there's nothing new about the presence of termites—we've been having them right along in limited parts of the country—but we never paid the attention to them in the past that they're getting now. He denies that new species of termites have been invading this country from tropical lands. He says that even when termites come into a building they don't do as much injury to property as is commonly supposed, though he admits they sometimes cause considerable losses. The bulletin from which I have drawn the above information says that buildings infested with termites should be gone over once or twice each year, with all rubbish removed and foundation surface cleaned carefully. Simple, inexpensive precautions can limit the activities of termites in a season or two. So, if you have termites in your home, fight them; if you haven't, don't worry about them. That, at least, is what the governments say.

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Frankly, your statement, made about two years ago, that Mussolini's draining of the Pontine Marshes, as an engineering job, compares only with the public works program of one of our first class rural counties has me flabbergasted. I had the idea it was another Panama Canal, at the very least. However, what clinches your argument is the overwhelmingly convincing fact you brought out—that this great Fascist "achievement" cost only \$20,000,000. This is just one more instance of your ability to puncture an ocean of propaganda with the rapier of FACTS.

It didn't take me long to get the measure of Mussolini's vast bluffs as a tremendous builder. A book, entitled *Under the Axes of Fascism*, by Gaetano Salvemini, a professor at Harvard, gives many facts that will support those who hold that Mussolini's "achievements" are purely on paper. A review of this book, by Arthur Livingston, in the May 17, 1936, issue of the *New York Herald Tribune's* book section, takes the following comment from our professor:

"Nothing the Fascist regime has done is as serious an enterprise as

the Eighth Avenue Subway or the Washington Bridge. It is just a prejudice of literary men that every time an Italian sharpens a lead pencil a miracle has taken place."

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When the *Hindenburg* made her recent trip from Germany to Lakehurst, did her owners have to pay the U.S. for the use of the hangar and other airport facilities? What does such a trip cost? How much for fuel, oil, etc.?

Uncle Sam gets paid every time the *Hindenburg* dirigible uses our naval station at Lakehurst, N.J. There are various charges, beginning with a rental of \$200 per day for the use of the hangar, \$100 to tow the ship in or out of the shelter, \$100 each time the ship is moored at one of the masts to take on fuel, gas, oil, passengers, etc. In all, the charges for the first visit were about \$1,000. The *Zeppelin* stayed at Lakehurst three days before beginning her first return trip.

The first trip cost about \$35,000, which covered everything from parking at the air station to fuel, labor, overhead, insurance, food, etc. If the ship were to meet adverse weather conditions and require as much as 70 hours to make the trip, the cost would be \$40,000. Passenger revenue, on the basis of \$400 per passenger, amounts to about \$20,000. There are, in addition, freight and mail, both of which can't be figured now because it's hard to even estimate what this source of business will amount to should the company decide to continue operations after its first 10 trial trips.

While at Lakehurst, after her first trip, the *Hindenburg* took on 1,500,000 cubic feet of hydrogen to replace that which was permitted to valve away because of a lessening load of fuel. It cost \$2,000 to replace this hydrogen. It took 12,000 gallons of fuel oil (for the four Diesels) at a cost of \$660. About \$650 was spent for lubricating oil.

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I am a farmer and live in a neighborhood that is without electricity. Can we do anything about this?

You should get in touch with Morris L. Cooke, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C., who will supply you with an application blank, which, if properly filled out, may entitle you and your neigh-

bors to loans under the government's \$410,000,000 rural electrification program.

It's important to remember that you, as an individual, can't get a loan from the REA; you must organize a cooperative association of the farmers in your section, which usually is a minimum of 100 members on a 30-mile line. This organization must be run on non-profit principles.

The government, should it decide to act on your application, will not make you a gift of the money; it's a loan, which your cooperative must pay back over a period of 10 to 25 years, with interest at 2.75 percent.

Once you are given the facilities for rural electrification you are expected to use 100 kilowatts per month, which, I might add, is asking for a light load, for this amount is only about 50 percent of the average for city and country families. Even in this the REA is liberal, for during the period of getting started you will be permitted an even lighter load, should you decide to use the juice sparingly. However, REA expects each family to put in at least two or three electrical appliances, in addition to the usual methods of consumption, though reasonable time will be given each family to take on these additional uses.

You, as an individual who wants to get a cooperative started in your section, should get your neighbors together in a meeting. Explain what you want, and if the others agree to join in with you, the government will send a field agent to show you how to get the job of organization completed. The field agent will then decide for you whether you shall take your juice from a government, state, municipal or private source, the decision being based, of course, on local conditions. The matter of rates will be studied for you by this field agent, who is an expert in this line and will see to it that you are protected by a fair contract. If the rates are too high, REA will refuse the loan to your cooperative.

You can't draw any kind of salary for "promoting" the cooperative society. Your work must be contributed for the common good. However, you are permitted to incur "reasonable expenses."

Only about 800,000 farms now have

electricity, in addition to the 40,000 farms which, during the past 12 months, have received REA aid to the extent of about \$12,000,000. There are 6,000,000 farms still without electricity, and it's to remedy this deplorable situation that REA is making available \$410,000,000 which may be spent during the next 10 years. From this it's plain that the government isn't appropriating enough money to electrify the entire farming community, but a long step will be taken in that direction. If the plan works as expected—and it seems practically fool-proof—it's likely that REA will be given additional funds for expansion.

REA will lend your cooperative the money to pay for the wiring, and this includes the expense of wiring your house. However, should you want additional money to pay for electrical appliances, this money will have to come from RFC. This dual arrangement is temporary, for there seems to be a likelihood that REA will be given additional authority to underwrite the purchase of fixtures, appliances, etc.

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Why do zoo lions have greater manes than those in their natural habitat?

The mane is worn only by the male lion. The reason his mane is more magnificent when in captivity is because he doesn't subject it to wear and tear in the wilds of nature.

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What part of each dollar taken in by patent medicine companies goes into advertising?

The Association of National Advertisers reports that it made inquiries among 287 national advertisers regarding the amount spent in advertising compared to sales. It was found that proprietary medicines headed the list, with an outlay of 34c for advertising from each dollar of receipts. Next followed drugs and toilet articles, with 28c; soft drinks, 15c.

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Are spiders insects?

It's inaccurate to refer to a spider as an insect. Let me summarize the facts:

1. Spiders belong to the arachnids, and these, in turn, belong with the insects to a wider class known as the arthropods. This category is about on a par with science's broad way

of calling men, birds, fish, and the like, vertebrates. The fact that a man can swim doesn't make him a fish, any more than the fact that a spider crawls makes him an insect. There are several important differences between spiders and insects.

2. Spiders have eight legs; insects always have six.

3. Spiders never have wings; insects have four, usually, though there are some insects which, during the processes of evolution, have lost a pair.

4. Spiders never have "feelers," or antennae; insects have them.

5. Spiders' eyes are tiny; insects' eyes are usually large.

Today I decked myself in a swanky Palm Beach suit, which I expect to help me fight the summer's heat. Out in your country do you wear summer suits to fight the heat, or do you still wear cowboy outfits?

Personally, I have a number of white duck pants and a couple of suits made of Irish linen, which I find pleasant, even though my garb qualifies me as a "white pants Willie." Of course, none of the men around here wear cowboy clothes, so I can't tell you how well such attire will enable one to fight the scorching sun. Just to look at the business is enough to give me a coat of perspiration.

I notice that the Oklahoma Congressman, Percy L. Gassaway, goes through the summers in Washington—and that city's plenty hot—wearing a 10-gallon hat and boots. He claims his prairie attire is cool, especially the high-heeled boots, even though they look hot. (By the way, his boots are topped with ornate crimson and green trimmings.) Gassaway argues that when he takes a step forward (the boots are covered by his pants' legs) the boot whiffs a breeze up his leg. "Why, man," he exclaimed recently, when called on to defend such goings-on in summer, "this is a miniature air-conditioning system." He also defends the high heels with the argument that they keep his "dogs" from the hot earth or pavement. That's somethin' to think about. As for the \$30 big-brimmed hat, the Congressman urged:

"The wide brim acts as a parasol and keeps off the sun, while the crown is so tall that it's a sort of

insulation against the heat. I don't know how cool folks keep in these skimpy city clothes because I've never worn them. But I'll bet I'm a lot cooler."

I don't know what fellows like myself would do with one of these big hats while in a Ford coupe, such as I drive. There wouldn't be room between the head and the top of the car. And getting in or out would be a chore. Besides, when it's really hot I don't wear a hat at all, though you're liable to find one sitting around somewhere in the car.

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As I understand it, the *Hindenburg* was built on principles established in the *Graf Zeppelin*, only larger. What did the *Graf Zeppelin* do?

The *Graf Zeppelin* was built in 1928 and is still in service, flying between Germany and South America. Its log shows, from its initial trip to the end of 1935:

Travel time .....	13,357 hrs. 53 min.
Distance traveled (miles) .....	847,420
Passengers carried .....	11,929
Persons carried (incl. crew) ...	32,962
Mail carried (pounds) .....	78,600
Freight carried (pounds) .....	111,500
Number of voyages .....	505
Ocean crossings .....	111
(Of these in the South American service) .....	103

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How much money did the Metropolitan Opera Company pay Caruso?

Enrico Caruso—probably the greatest tenor who ever lived—joined the Met in 1903, and during the next 17 years sang 607 times, for which he was paid \$1,690,935.62, which is at the average rate of \$2,785 per performance, after knocking off a few dimes. He always drew a full house. The company never lost a dime on this golden-voiced singer. Caruso was by no means a money-mad artist. Offered \$4,000 a night, he protested that \$2,500 would be quite enough.

Without waiting to be asked, let me add a notion that's been crawling through my cranium ever since I've been reading reports of mounting deficits at the Met. The government, which has been so lavish with money for other projects, should give this great institution a subsidy, perhaps shared by the State and Federal treasuries. Most countries in Europe take state-subsidies to the opera as a commonplace.

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