

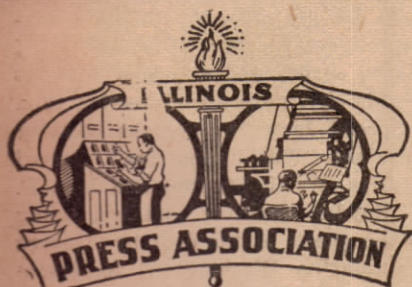
Mt. Pulaski Times

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BY MT. PULASKI TIMES
Mrs. John L. Eyrse, Editor

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 1932



WHAT WILL THE GROUND-HOG SEE?

Last Tuesday was Candlemas Day. For some reason or other this ancient church holiday has long been associated with weather forecasts. A very old English folk rhyme runs thus:

If Candlemas be overcast,
Then the heft of winter's past.
If Candlemas be clear and bright,
Then winter'll take another flight.

Out of the belief that if the sun shines on Candlemas Day we are in for six weeks more of cold weather has arisen the American myth of the ground-hog which is supposed to come out of his hole on February 2nd and pop right back again if he sees his shadow.

These are, of course, purely northern myths, from the regions of ice and heavy snows. There is usually, about this time of the year, in the northern latitudes, what is called locally "the February thaw." Several deceptively mild days do often bring woodchucks and even bears out of their winter hibernation, and once in a while time mild weather continues into spring. But so far as we are concerned, nobody ever caught the ground-hog in the act of looking for his shadow, and nobody has ever proved that the condition of the skies on Candlemas Day determines how much longer we may expect cold weather.

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There seem to be some indications that the financial and economic skies will seem a good deal brighter on Candlemas of this year than they did last year, and we only hope that people will stop being scared of their shadows about February 2nd and put themselves and their money back to the sort of honest, hard work which is the only road back to prosperity.

TAKE PROHIBITION OUT OF POLITICS

There seems to be a lot of excitement in Washington and among politicians on the question of whether or not the question of repealing the eighteenth amendment should be submitted to the people of the United States for a national referendum vote. Because the proposition has its origin on the wet side of the question, a great many eminent dries are opposed to it.

We would hate to see the next presidential election complicated by the prohibition issue. We think that issues far more vital to the welfare of the nation ought to occupy the public mind during the next campaign. Prohibition is a question which almost everybody approaches emotionally, and which obscures all other questions when it is one of the issues in a political campaign.

It seems to us that there is a very simple, practical and effective way of taking prohibition entirely out of the next presidential campaign. That is for both parties, Republican and Democratic alike, in their national conventions next June, to adopt a platform plank, agreeing to put through a resolution for a national referendum on prohibition. That would absolutely insure the referendum, because whichever side was victorious would be under a pledge, and neither party would be in a position to block such a move for political reasons.

We do not know of any intelligent dries who think that the sentiment of the country is wet. We know a great many wets who are sure that public sentiment would be overwhelmingly against prohibition. The only people who could oppose a referendum are the wets who are afraid that the country might vote dry, and the dries who are afraid that the country might vote wet.

We know this suggestion will not appeal to the folks who want to keep the prohibition issue in politics. We offer it just for the reason that we don't believe prohibition has a proper place in national politics.

ONE MAN'S GUESS By Bruce Barton

New York has been so thick with gloom that we have had to carry flash-lights at mid-day. Men talk about "thirty years of bad business" and "the collapse of the capitalistic system" and "the end of the gold standard," etc.

Millions of dollars in cash are hidden in safety deposit vaults.

Since all the authorities have proved wrong, and one man's judgment is as good as another's, I venture to

publish my little guess as to what is and what is not going to happen.

It has been the record of history that times of great tribulation result in the removal of great abuses.

Said Lincoln in 1864: "At the end of three years' struggle, the nation's condition is not what either party, or any man, devised or expected. God alone can claim it. Whither it is tending seems plain. If God now wills the removal of a great wrong, and wills that we of the North, as well as you of the South, shall pay fairly for our complicity in that wrong, impartial justice will find therein new cause to attest and reverse the justice and goodness of God."

If the Civil War had ended quickly it would have settled nothing. It dragged through four weary years, but it abolished slavery.

If the present depression had been easily cured no good would have come of it. It is so bad, so world-wide, that it is compelling the peoples of every nation to realize the two fundamentals which were set forth convincingly in Sir George Paish's book, *The Way to Recover*.

1. We are compelled to realize that the old-time insular, nationalistic thinking is out of date in a world which has been shrunk to a neighborhood. No nation can prosper unless all nations prosper. Tariffs and reparations and international jealousies are shackles on trade and means less prosperity for us all.

2. If trade is once freed from these shackles, including the worst, which is international suspicion, the future has possibilities beyond our wildest dreams. The consumptive power of humanity is unlimited. Even in the most advanced nations the standard of living is still low. There are potential markets enough to keep all our resources employed, and to make all of us well to do.

I, therefore, am optimistic, not because this is a minor depression but because it is so very serious, so world-wide, so packed with suffering for everybody.

Before it is finished we shall be compelled to effect international economic reforms that we never should have considered in prosperous times.

And when we do get business going again our prosperity will amaze us.

State News

According to Frank T. Sheets, chief highway engineer, contracts for \$717,144.79 worth of state highway and bridge construction which were let on January 7, brought the list of awards made since January 1 up to \$1,288,512.24.

According to Rodney H. Brandon, director of the department of public welfare, the per capita cost of caring for persons in the charitable and penal institutions of the state was \$347.55 in 1929. In 1930 this cost had dropped to \$316.11 and in 1931 was reduced to \$309.14. Director Brandon estimates the 1932 per capita cost will be about \$274 for a total charitable and penal population of 44,000.

While cleaning dirt away from the top of a ledge or rock at the Chester prison quarry, a group of convicts uncovered several skeletons believed to be those of early French settlers or members of George Rogers Clark's expedition. Warden James A. White ordered the excavation stopped, pending communication with the state his-

torical society.

The Egyptian Poultry show, the fourth annual exhibit, was held in Harrisburg, January 19-21. There were many exhibits from southern Illinois schools and seven silver cups were given for exhibits and skill in judging.

Chicago has been chosen as the meeting place of the Democratic National convention. The meeting will take place on June 27, two weeks after the Republican National convention is held in the same city.

Circuit Judge Charles G. Briggie, of Springfield, was appointed, on January 8, judge of the southern Illinois federal district by President Herbert Hoover. The new office was created by an act of congress at the last regular session.

In an address at a Boy Scout meet-

ing in Danville, Governor Louis L. Emmerson declared that every dollar spent in conserving boys through such movements as Boy Scouting will be repaid by the savings made in penitentiaries, and that Scout membership makes a boy a square-shooting, upstanding, hard-hitting, clean living leader.

Governor Louis L. Emmerson has announced that he will not be a candidate for a second term. At the end of his present term he will have completed 16 consecutive years in state office. He served three terms as secretary of state.

Sharp advances in the prevalence of scarlet fever, whooping cough, and pneumonia marked the course of health conditions in Illinois during the week of January 3-9.

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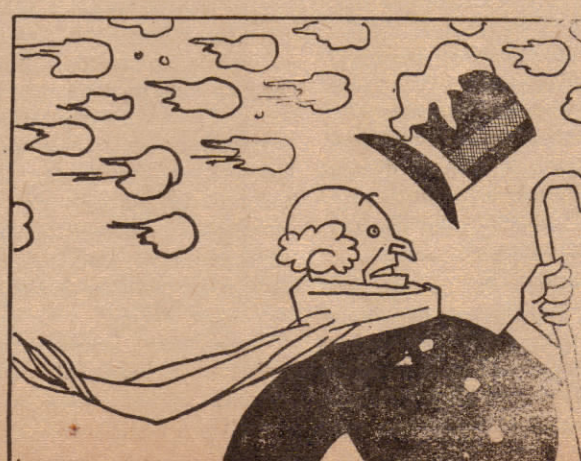
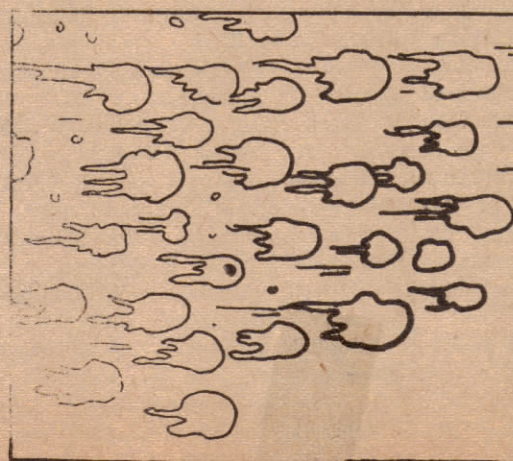
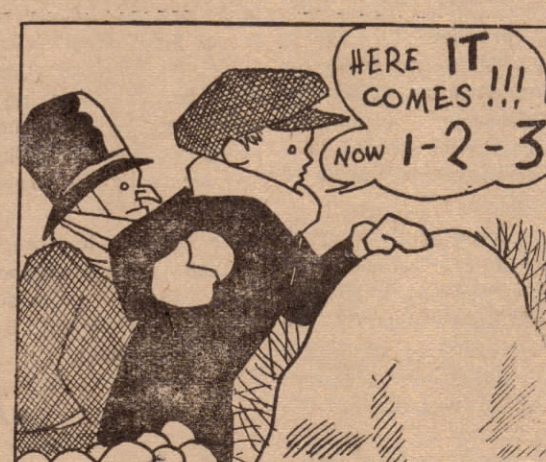
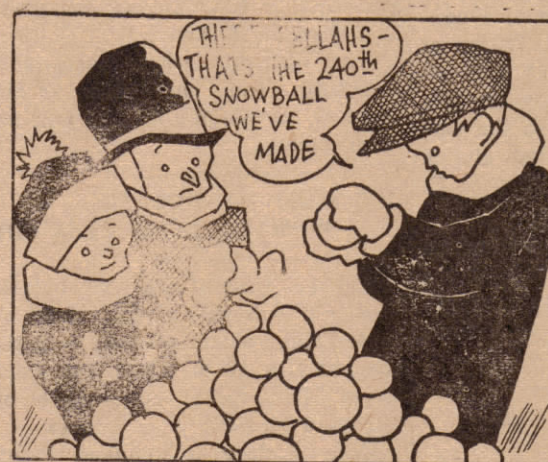
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By Ed Kressy



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