

# Topics of The Times

Popular notions on Common the arithmetic of ordi- Terms nary things are aston- Defined. ishingly vague. Here are a few basic commodities that everybody is talking about nowadays:

1. GOLD. A pound of gold is worth about \$250. A ton of gold would be worth about half a million dollars. The people in the newspaper pictures holding small white bags of gold coin are not carrying the wealth of Golconda; it would be nearer \$2,500. A woman worth her weight in gold would command only \$35,000. That is perhaps why the author of Proverbs quotes her value in rubies.

2. BEER. A liquid barrel is thirty-one gallons. That is 124 quarts. That is 248 pints. That would be about 500 glasses. A Federal tax of \$5 a barrel and a State tax of \$1 a barrel should mean something over one cent on the glass.

3. BANK. A bank is an institution which in its ideal state is at the same time 100 per cent solid and 100 per cent liquid.

4. PRESIDENTIAL TERM. It used to be four years, from March 4 to March 4. It is now only 3 years 10 months 2 weeks, up to Jan. 20, 1937. That obviously is why Mr. ROOSEVELT is losing no time.

Does France really Error intend to show that Reluctantly she loves us better in Admitted. March than she did in December? In that case the long-deferred \$19,000,000 war-debt instalment ought not to be much longer deferred. A swift act of contrition will often more than repair an original fault. The bad impression created by the French default of Dec. 15 would have been completely wiped out if within a short time the disputed payment had been made. People then would have said that with France it was a matter of principle and not a quarrel over a niggardly sum.

The chances of such a favorable reaction in American opinion obviously grow slighter as time passes. Payment when it does come will not be the dramatic gesture it would have been three months ago. It will look more like a grudging concession. And besides, people might begin to ask whether it is the money due last Dec. 15 or the approaching June 15.

KREISLER and RACH- Relief MANINOFF will each for play a concerto at the Musicians. fifth and last concert of the Musicians Emergency Aid which WALTER DAMROSCH will conduct at Madison Square Garden on April 3. It is expected that for the whole series something like 70,000 patrons will have contributed more than \$30,000. The number of musicians who have received direct aid or have found work through the efforts of the emergency committee is about 600. The depression first attacked the rank and file of the profession. It is now making itself felt among the leaders, including concert artists of established reputation.

Something is to be written on the credit side of a grim ledger. In these hard times there is manifest a growing appetite for good music. At every one of the Madison Square Garden concerts the top gallery, seating more than 5,000 persons, has been sold out. At some concerts there were hundreds of standees at twenty-five and fifty cents. It may be a very expensive way of spreading musical education among the people, but it is a fact that some music lovers of the future will trace their initiation into a knowledge of great composers and great players to the bitter depression of 1932-33.

When the nations have Texas succeeded in forgetting Fears each other's existence, the Aliens. next step will obviously be to apply the same principle at home. That the idea is already catching on is shown in the following circular issued by a Texas business firm:

"Nothing's wrong with Texas, except entirely too many of us get up in the morning at the alarm of a Connecticut clock, button a pair of Ohio suspenders to a pair of Chicago pants. Put on a pair of Massachusetts shoes, wash in a Pittsburgh tin basin, using Cincinnati soap and a cotton towel made in New Hampshire, sit down to a Grand Rapids table, eat pancakes made from Minneapolis flour spread with Vermont maple syrup, and Kansas bacon fried on a St. Louis stove. Buy fruit put up in California, seasoned with Rhode Island spices, sweetened with Colorado sugar, and pay our bills with a check made in New York. Put on a hat made in Philadelphia, hitch a Detroit mule fed on Oklahoma gasoline to an Ohio plow, and work all day on a Texas farm covered with a New England mortgage, send our money to Ohio for tires, wondering why Texas taxes are \$2.75 per acre while Ohio farmers pay \$1 tax and drive on paved roads, and at night we crawl under a New Jersey blanket to be kept awake by a bulldog, the only home product on the place, wondering all the time where all the money went in this wonderful State of ours."

When more pressing business is out of the way President ROOSEVELT might ask Congress for special powers to make intelligible some of those new atomic theories.

One can understand how beverage stocks would soar in Wall Street, but why United States Steel, in view of the imminent disappearance of armor-plated basement doors?

Nazi violence began to subside the day after the party won 200,000 local offices all over Germany.