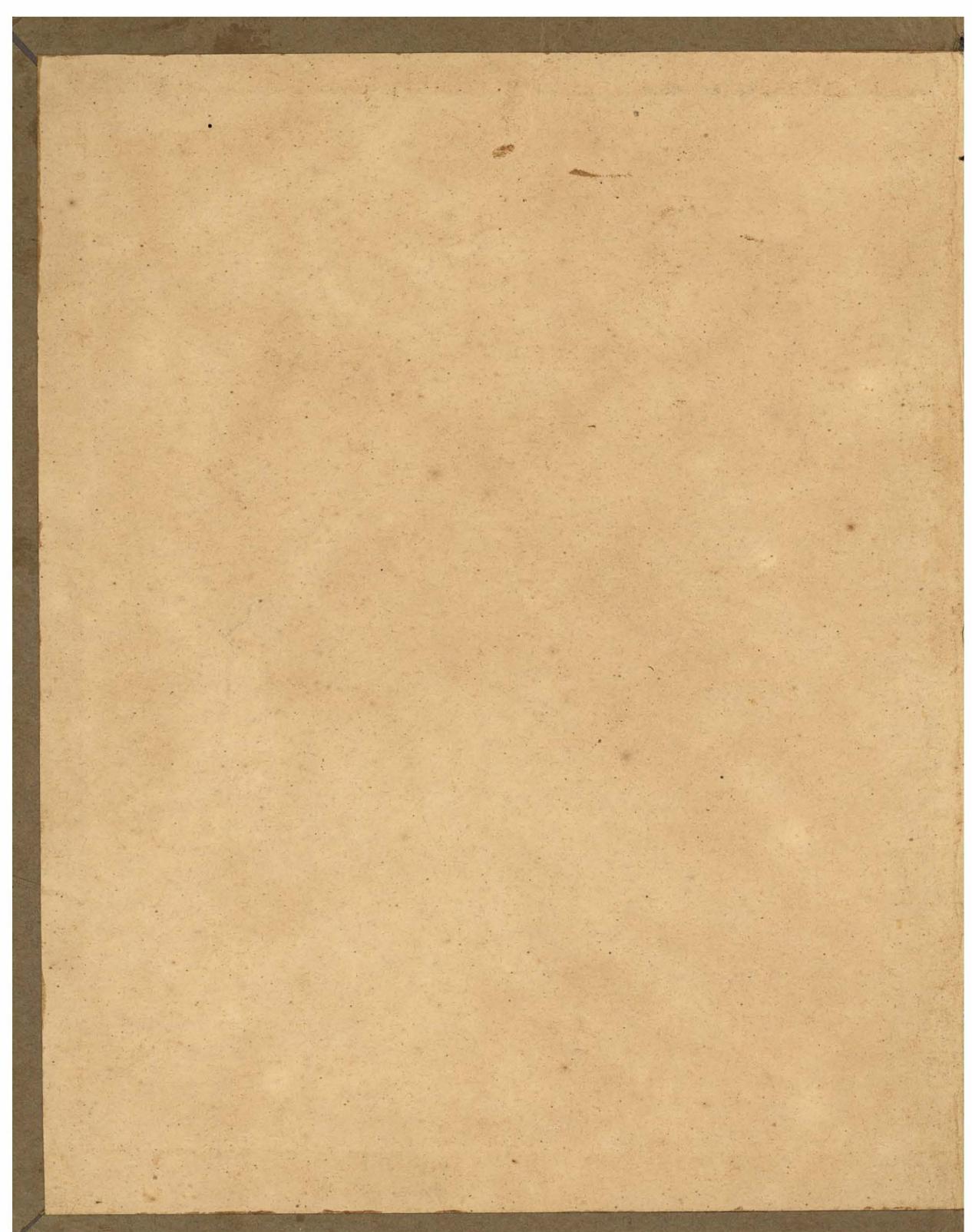
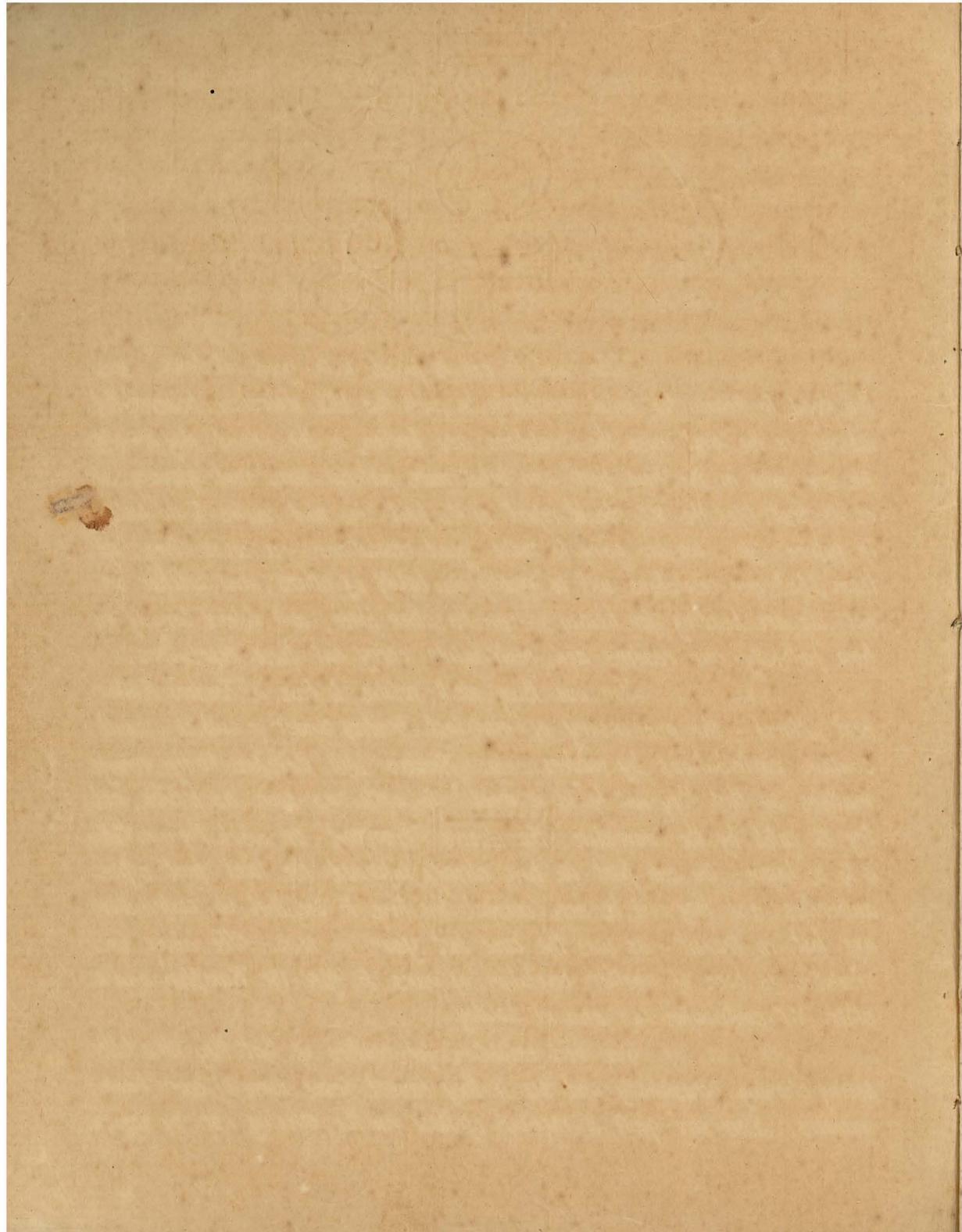


The Varsity Circle.





January 1833





The Varsity Circle

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions," and the road to heaven too must necessarily be, with this little distinction however, that whereas in the first case the resolutions are broken, in the second they are kept. We are now in the New Year and what more natural than that glancing back at its past life the V.C. should repent of its past sins and resolve to do better in future. Yes, we are going to make good resolutions — a whole string of them, but our resolutions will be mostly on behalf of others; and, whether or not we are heading for heaven — or the other place, will depend largely on how faithfully our readers and contributors carry out these resolutions.

For one thing we'll resolve to have a Readers Number next March — the anniversary of our last Readers Number, — which will contain contributions by readers only. Readers will therefore kindly arrange matters so that they will be "in a mood" to write as soon as possible, and try to catch by the "narrative" the elusive "tomorrow" on which their article is to be begun. On our part we have already informed the local post office authorities and they will be more careful this time to see that no contributions are lost in transit — as was the case last year. -- N.B. The above resolution is born of another resolution of ours to give the Rambler and other V.C. contributors an annual holiday.

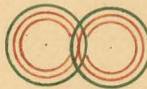
Our next resolution for readers is that they do a little spring-cleaning occasionally and see if they cannot trace some of our back numbers. There are quite a number of these on the missing list by now, &

and unless matters improve soon we will be constrained however reluctantly to rally together our V.C. Sleuths from all other directions and put them on the job. We have not yet got a complete list of the missing magazines, but we hope to within a month. Perhaps before that time some of our readers will think of dusting their old book shelves, and start making discoveries.

Our third resolution will be for V.C. contributors, and we'll resolve for them that they will commence their articles for the February Number today - now, and hand it over to us tomorrow.

And as for ourselves we truly and solemnly resolve that in spite of all impediment and drawbacks, and all foreseen and unforeseen circumstances we shall and will and must get this our January Number out before the 28th of February 1933.

Life is a horse
With a bridle and bit -
It will drive you
If you don't drive it.



GOLDEN RULE. 1933 Version : "Expect to be done as you would like to do others."





THE RAMBLER

What do you say, dear reader, to rambling about the ways of parting. No, I am not thinking about the ways and means of parting company with you and the T.C.; that I'll only do if I get a better opening elsewhere. But we shall consider in this short article (it has got to be short, because I have not much to say) the different manners in which people enjoy each other's company. I have yet to come across the man who can part with me without his lingering, not that I am very pleasant company, but I have such a knack of sticking on to people that they cannot but stay on. I usually chat longer than is necessary and when I get up to go, I always expect my host to accompany me to the door; and at the door usually some topic or other crops up and we fall to talking for another half-hour or so. He then comes to leave me at the garden gate, and at that place we again make a station until in the end he actually tears away from me or I from him (this latter of course is very rare).

Often-times I go to a friend and declare most solemnly that I must leave him in half an hour; but that half hour passes and yet I cannot part, for, if the company is interesting I like to stay on, and if it is not, then I would like to make it pleasant before I leave it. Thus I often stay on and make the pleasant dull by over-indulgence, or, if unpleasant already I only succeed in making it still more so. No, I am not a bore, and often my companion too likes to be longer with me. But of course you have a right to form whatever opinion you like of me and if I bore you as 'The Rambler', you may call me so.

And now, since I have promised to be short I must close up my shop for the present; but as far as possible I always like to part with a joke and at present some four jokes come to my mind. I am not in a mood to sit and select the best of them, and besides, giving all the four will fill so much space. It is the raining season now and a school-boy might as

well come dripping wet to class in the hope of a holiday. Once such a boy was asked why he had not used his umbrella and he replied that he wanted to defy the rain; so the teacher asked him to defy the wet clothes and stay on. But let us now come to one with regard to the most interesting subject in the world, woman (the subject is an interesting one for men, of course). There was a ~~cant~~ certain gentleman of my acquaintance who used to pass on his books one after another to his sweet-heart (who of course did not recognise him to hold the same ~~receri~~ reciprocal relation to herself), and when asked his reason for doing so, replied that he wanted his books to be consecrated by her touch. I cannot end this series of jokes better than by telling you that the philosopher has been defined as a blind man in a dark room, trying to find a black cat that is not there!

The Rambler.



It is a hopeful sign, remarks one surveyor of the present situation * that millionaires have ceased to multiply. We'd like it even better though if they'd begin to divide.



Boiled down, Japan's grievance against the Chinese is that they occupy China.



"There is too much love in fiction" says a literary critic. Judging by the ~~large~~ number of breach-of-promise cases, the reverse is also true.



"Poverty-Stricken Count Weds Untitled Heiress" — Headline.... No imagination. The headline should have read : "A Count Marries Account."



OUR DIARY

FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 1932

So, the new year has come at last. What has it in store for us? Time alone will reveal. Perhaps it will usher in a period of renewed prosperity; perhaps on the other hand it will only accentuate the misery and suffering of the past year.

Times are indeed bad! The past few years have been lean years for all, every succeeding year worse than the other. Will this year be another in the chain of bad ones; will it be yet another, yea, and a worse phase of the hard times which have been so persistently dogging our very footsteps; or will it be one that will break the string, and stand out as the turning point in the fortunes of the world. Prosperous times will not visit one nation and pass over another. It goes against the very grain of things, - against the law of nature for we are so dependant upon one another for the necessities of life that there can be no prosperity, except it be general. Treaties and pacts may be made ad libitum, tariff walls may be built as high as ever, yet there is a law governing these things which will last for ever - a law which in its own good time will effect an adjustment in the affairs of men and of nations.

I'm not thinking of socialism, nor do I vision a common-wealth of nations. No, nations will retain their identity as long as the people that go to make them retain their individuality. There is no need for an amalgamation of the world for world peace and prosperity. The trouble today is that we are all suffering from an acute depression, and all suspecting one another of being the cause of it. Let times improve and then our relations with one another will also improve. And then, when good times have at last arrived 'round the corner, let our politicians and economists and trade magnates go cautiously. Let them remember that the present chaos is the result of their own folly and recklessness and want of foresight, and let them beware of falling into the rut again. Let them build up their resources with the future well before them, and not think only of the present - the immediate present.

So They Say

Whatever other purpose the recent Academy held by the Men's Sodality of St. Peters has served, it has proved beyond the vestige of a doubt that there are quite a number of celebrities in Bandra who have missed their vocations.



An employer says labour wouldn't be satisfied with the five-day week. Maybe the movement will eventually be for a five-day week-end.



For original ideas we must hand it over to the Bandra Municipality. Who else could dream of cultivating water-plants in one half of a 'tank' and use them to reclaim the other half.



At last the world has arrived at equal division of capital and labour. Nobody can find any work, and nobody has any money.



Maybe if M.G.M. only waited a little longer before filming their "Ben Hur", they might have been able to borrow an idea or two from the "Teachers and pupils of St. Joseph's Convent."



The January 1st Number of the 'Standard' was not out until after the 15th of the month. If this state of affairs continues the V.C. will be constrained to sue them for infringement of patent rights.



THE CINEMA

"The curse of mankind, the plague of humanity, the eyesore of society, the mockery mockery of decency, the shame of civilization" — these and many other such abuses have been heaped on the Cinema. This creation of modern science has been misused and abused till its primary function is scarcely recognisable.

Fresh from the recesses of unknown laboratories of the world's scientists this child of inventive brains was brought into the world mainly for educative purposes; but snatched from its home and its poor surroundings, this innocent child was brought up in vice and sin by mercenary film-magnates to fill their over-flowing coffers, by pandering to the low taste of millions who want filth and were willing to pay for it.

But Truth has risen triumphant and the Censor has done much to stamp out the evil, aided by an enlightened public, who, after the gloss had been rubbed off, have realised that broadmindedness need not include indulgence of immorality and Art need not be mere sensuality.

The Cinema is slowly but surely regaining its lost place in the Scientific and Educational world. Never in its life of a score or more years have producers been so eager to have pictures of educational value and interest, than when they spent millions of dollars, and years of labour to give us the unique opportunity of hearing "Africa speak" or of following "Trader Horn" through desert wastes and jungle wilds, nay even of taking us to the "East of Borneo", or of making us live the lives of our ancestor "Tarzan the Ape-Man". Need further proof be given of the realization of this craving in the Public Mind for such educative films, when the Fox Corporation, M.G.M., Paramounts and Columbia are all vying with one another for the best production in this sphere?

But why restrict ourselves to mere educational films. I take it that you have seen the immortal "Ben-Hur"; need we a Gandhi & to

inspire us with flaming patriotism when those four words vibrate our very heart-strings - "I am a JEW." And with Jackie Cooper in the "Champ" need we even the commandment "Honour thy father and thy mother?" Nay, nay, leave these outstanding mighties on their pedestals, and come to the lower order. Shall we see "All Quiet on the Western Front" to realise the folly of our ways and the uselessness of rank hypocrisy : shall we spend the evening with the Vagabond King and learn from that beggar-monarch that an ideal in life can do more than a thousand precepts or sermons; that a kind deed and a gentle word of understanding and sympathy can accomplish what months of imprisonment and torture would only make more difficult to achieve.

Where shall we go, whither shall we turn ? Speak you of repulsive bathroom scenes and half naked chorus-girls, not to refer to bed-room scenes that show bad taste ? These things must be ! Leave them to themselves, and they too shall soon take their turn to oblivion ; you have even now a fairly good variety to choose from.

Shall we step in to learn the psychology of husbands from the "Husbands' Holiday"; or shall we see the evils of bribery and corruption in our judges and guardians of the law in "Night Court"? Would you prefer to go round the world in Eighty-Minutes," or perchance to "Just Imagine yourself living in 1980.

Shall we leave these for other folk and turn to the lighter Metrotone News and hear the Native Savage of the Fiji Isles sing on their moon-lit shores or or gaze upon the glamourous Hava dancing languidly under the swinging palm palms. Would you like the Pathé Gazette with a special supplement of the Derby, or Paramount's special the "Final Test Match" or British Movietone's "The great Boat Race? Why not try a ride in Fox's Magic carpet and fly round the world over the tops of Egypt's Pyramids, or over the mighty rush of the Niagra Falls, or float over Everest's peak unconquered yet, or gaze down at Etna's crater slumbering still ? All these and more are at your beck and call; behold the work of Man !

Oh, I forgot ! You are a lover of Nature. Well, well, shall we see how the King Butterfly is born or would you have the Queen Bee reign amidst the drones ? Maybe that wont satisfy you either; I must say you are very difficult to please; anyway I'll try another change. Ha, ha ! how you recoil ! why, such things actually happen : surprised are you ? 'Tis but one of the millions of filthy huts and vermin hot-houses that exist in India today. The people who live in them scarcely realise the danger and those who are in the know care not to help them. And now you are seeing the havoc that a single Fair in India can do, when scores and scores are swept away by Cholera, and what's + worse, - often Plague.

And now you say "stop", and stop I surely will, but not before you admit that you are satisfied that, be it in Comedy, or Tragedy, Romance or Adventure, we shall still find enough therein to satisfy our craving for intellectual recreation. And now with the Talkies can we want more ? Swept off our feet by a Jeanette Macdonald or thrilled to action by a Tibbet; set a-tingling by a Chevelier, or dreaming old-time dreams with a Gaynor, we might well fear with Shakespeare that "surfeiting, the appetite may sicken and so die".

G.P. Pereira.



An astronomer says that as stars grow older they decrease in weight. Quite obviously this astronomer knows little of Hollywood.



A writer says that marriage does not prevent a woman public speaker from pursuing her career. On the contrary, it means that she has provided herself with a permanent audience.



YE MUSES

Here are the things I mean to see
(With luck) in 1933.

I'll rise benignant, wise and strong
Before the second breakfast gong.
And if the morn be not too murk,
Will strive to do a spot of work,
'Ere the impatient clocks suggest a
Light luncheon and a short siesta.
I'll struggle with my dull routine,
Till 4 or even 4.15.
And hie me straight to home and grab
(After a flutter at the Club).
For dinner I will be content
With seven courses (six in Lent).
I'll smoke (for I have high ideals)
Only before and after meals.
And (barring whisky and champagne)
From wine and spirits I'll refrain.
My spouse shall have the final word,
Save when I'm certain she has erred.
True to the ancient aphorism,
I'll be in bed by 2 a.m.
And, if I'm very, very ill,
I'll let a lawyer draft my Will.

THE MACHINE

"Let the shoe-maker stick to his last" is a saying which has without doubt stood the test of ages. Still, the shoe-maker cannot always be making shoes. For a change, as much as for recreation and diversion he may take to something else; for instance he may learn to play the saxaphone, and, if in his first attempts he sets the neighbourhood on edge with ghastly sounds resembling a cat and dog fight, we shall not be too hard on him shall we?

So far I've mostly contented myself with writing on frivolous subjects, and I must confess I'd never have thought of going off the groove were I not at this moment rather hand-pressed for a subject. To be honest I'm never at my best on a serious topic, but I'm going to see this through even if it costs me my present self-esteem or my past reputation. At the worst my attempt will be a miserable failure but on the other hand, its success will open out to me new walks of life and fresh avenues of research. The attempt is worth the stakes, and I'll make it.

And, having come so far some of my readers may perhaps think that I'm just making much ado about nothing. — I am! Being just now in a very confidential mood I don't mind admitting things (still there's a limit, and certain intimate questions would not even now evoke an answer) and I'll say this, that I'm merely trying at present to fill the pages at all costs because I am afraid I won't have enough to say on the subject I have chosen for my article.

The subject I have decided to write upon is "The Machine". It is a topic which is very widely discussed at the present moment and it was a recent statement of the "Rambler" ~~relt~~ relative to it which turned my mind in this direction — although I will not say that I never thought on the matter before.

Of course, were it not for the trade depression — for this awful business slump, the like of which has never been experienced before, & the machine would scarcely have come to be the subject of such universal discussion. Slave as it was meant to be, it would have continued to work for and enrich

its masters, and nobody would have given it even a second thought. Such has been & our actual experience in the days of our prosperity not many years ago. Then the machine was never thought of except as a labour-saving device and a means of making millionaires and multi-millionaires. That was when the machine was fulfilling its ~~funet~~ functions, or, to be more correct - when current conditions made it appear so, and people were deluded into the satisfaction that all was well and normal.

But things are different now. Conditions have changed and dreams have been shattered, and we now find ourselves heading towards a state of affairs that is every day becoming more and more impossible. As to why these things have happened I will not even pretend to answer. The matter is beyond me - nay, beyond even our world economists, for, the very continued existence of the trouble ~~for~~ for such a long time now is sufficient proof that they either dont know either what is wrong with business, or how things could be improved. However, be the reason what it may, here we are in the very depths of an industrial depression ~~of~~ of unprecedented dimensions, and among other things the machine is blamed for the mishap.

The charge against the machine is three-fold. In the first place it is contended that the machine is the cause of the over-production which is claimed to be at the bottom of the present economic break-down.; in the next, the machine is blamed for throwing thousands of men out of employment, & men who, before the advent of the machine could always find some work to do. And finally it is said that the machine is the cause of the unequal distribution of wealth which has in so many countries had a reaction in the shape of a chronic class hatred and communistic drives.

Still, when one looks back through the pages of history, one cannot help but take a more optimistic view of the present state of affairs and realise that with but a little clear-thinking and right-doing, all will yet come right. Away back in the nineteenth century when the hand-looms were replaced by efficient machinery which threw thousands out of employment and earned the opprobrium of whole communities, men were as pessimistic about the future economic situation as they are at the present time. But their fears were soon

to be allayed, for instead of increasing unemployment, the textile industry did an unthinkable thing - it gradually created more jobs and absorbed more of the population. And the cause of this seeming miracle was not difficult to find. Efficient machinery meant reduced overheads, cheaper products and consequently more extensive markets. The increased demand meant increased production which in turn meant wider employment, and thus the circle was complete. But there was one flaw in the system, a flaw which was not noticed then, not because it was less of a flaw, but merely because there were other conditions counter-balancing or even rather concealing it, and otherwise preventing it from being seen in all its reality - but of this later. After all, labour-saving devices need not mean unemployment, and the revolution which the machine introduced into textile industry should have taught us a lesson - but it didn't.

One of the big reasons attributed by people for the existing economic chaos is the overproduction of commodities both manufactures & agricultural products. But "over-production" is indeed a poor term to use for describing a state of affairs which is considerably worse than that. Self-deception unfortunately has always been a characteristic feature of our present generation, and it is therefore quite understandable that what should properly have been termed "mal-distribution", should be fondly be called "over-production" and left at that. All things considered, the world with all its efficient machinery is yet not able to cope with the normal needs of the people which though seemingly satisfied are in reality very far from it. We must do without a car or with one meal a day not because we don't need a car or are satisfied with but one meal, nor because there are no cars or foodstuffs to be had, but merely because, being "broke", we simply cannot afford these things although they are there, and rotting for want of purchasers.

Another big crime of the machine is that it has taken the bread out of the mouth of thousands of families by driving the wage-earners out of employment, and for the solution of this difficulty we haven't to go further than to the very next objection to the Machine - that it only

helps to effect a very unequal and unjust distribution of wealth. If we are able to find a way out of this third objection we will have won a triple victory for we will then have found an answer to the other two objections to the machine, as these in fact are merely the outcome of this unequal distribution of wealth.

This third objection I need hardly mention is a real one, the only one in fact, for it is the abuse of the machine by profit-seeking capitalists that has to a great extent been responsible for the present state of affairs. I'm not so sure of it, but I think one could even even be excused for blaming the whole depression, if not on this abuse of the machine, then at least on the same human greed and avarice which has led men to exploit the machine and human labour.

It has been our short sighted policy with regard to the machine that has worked our downfall. Men thought of the machine not as a means of benefitting humanity as a whole but merely of enriching themselves at the expense of those less fortunate mortals who were dependent on them for a living. Our greed and selfishness has been our misfortune, for, though when conditions were abnormal, prospects did look rosy, now after years of adjustment we find that something is wrong somewhere, and while trying every possible remedy for the trouble we are deliberately blinding ourselves to the one and only remedy that can effect a sure and a permanent cure.

And, what is this something which is causing the whole trouble and which holds the magic cure to all our ills? The experience of the past should have revealed it to us and served as a lesson for the future, but unfortunately it didn't. Machinery by its very nature replaces human labour - is meant to replace it. But machinery also cheapens things to an extent that puts them within the reach of the millions and so secures a market large enough to enable more men to be employed as long as the demand for the product continues - and here comes the crux of the whole matter. The great thing is for the demand to continue - not only to continue but to increase in proportion to the population. Now, so long as the relative wealth of the consumers and manufacturers can be maintained at a ratio that is conducive to the prosperity of both, the

demand must of ~~as~~ necessity keep pace with the population. The maintenance of this ratio is by no means an easy matter but it is a result we have to achieve if we are at all serious about getting out of the rut into which we have fallen. At every turn we are bound to be faced by complications that would make the situation impossible seem impossible of solution - but there never was any real achievement without a corresponding struggle.

Still, while it is all-important that we preserve this ratio of wealth between the employing and the wage-earning classes, it is all the more important that the wealth of the latter should be spread over as many workers as possible so that the greater proportion of the wages will be returned to circulation and keep business going. This plan will mean reduced wages by all means but that only in the initial stages, for, as the movement gains momentum, conditions must eventually improve with the result that wages in all probability will even rise to higher levels than at present. But this is not all that must be done if continued prosperity is to be achieved. After all, the Machine does not exist solely for the benefit of capitalists and millionaires. The working class have a right to a greater share of its benefits than falls to their lot at present and the sooner this fact is realised the better it is both for them and for their employers.

When all is said, the Machine stands for saving in time. We want more leisure, but we want leisure while still retaining our jobs. The advent of the Machine has without doubt gradually done away with a lot of drudgery of former days, but is this all that it can achieve? Surely not! The work of the Machine has only just begun. Its ultimate mission is a unique one, for its sole purpose will be to provide as much unemployment as possible for the employed. Things have now come to a pass when we must provide as much work as possible for as many workers as possible by giving them less hours of work and more of leisure. After all, if civilization is to make any real progress we must try and arrange matters so that the education of the masses will be a matter of more easy attainment &

than at present, and the only conditions under which this is possible is more leisure and sufficient wealth

Reduced hours of work - that is what we must work for, and when we have got it in a sufficient degree we will be on the high-road to an ideal state of affairs - a veritable era of prosperity with no more fear of hard times. At the outset this will mean a sacrifice to employers but it will never-the-less be a gilt-edged investment with promises of big returns. It will mean employment not only of men but of money too - money which at present is idle while millions are out of work and starving.

And more leisure for the millions will mean a wider outlook for them, more interests in life, more "outside" occupation, new needs, and new demands. And to cope with these demands new industries will spring up, more hands will find employment, more wealth will be distributed and re-distributed, and man will have reached the zenith of his ambition - the betterment of the human race in general and the establishment of mutual relationship between the two now conflicting classes - Capital and Labour!

A. Rodrigues.



Our politicians are perfectly familiar with all the questions of the day. The difficulty is that they don't know the answers.

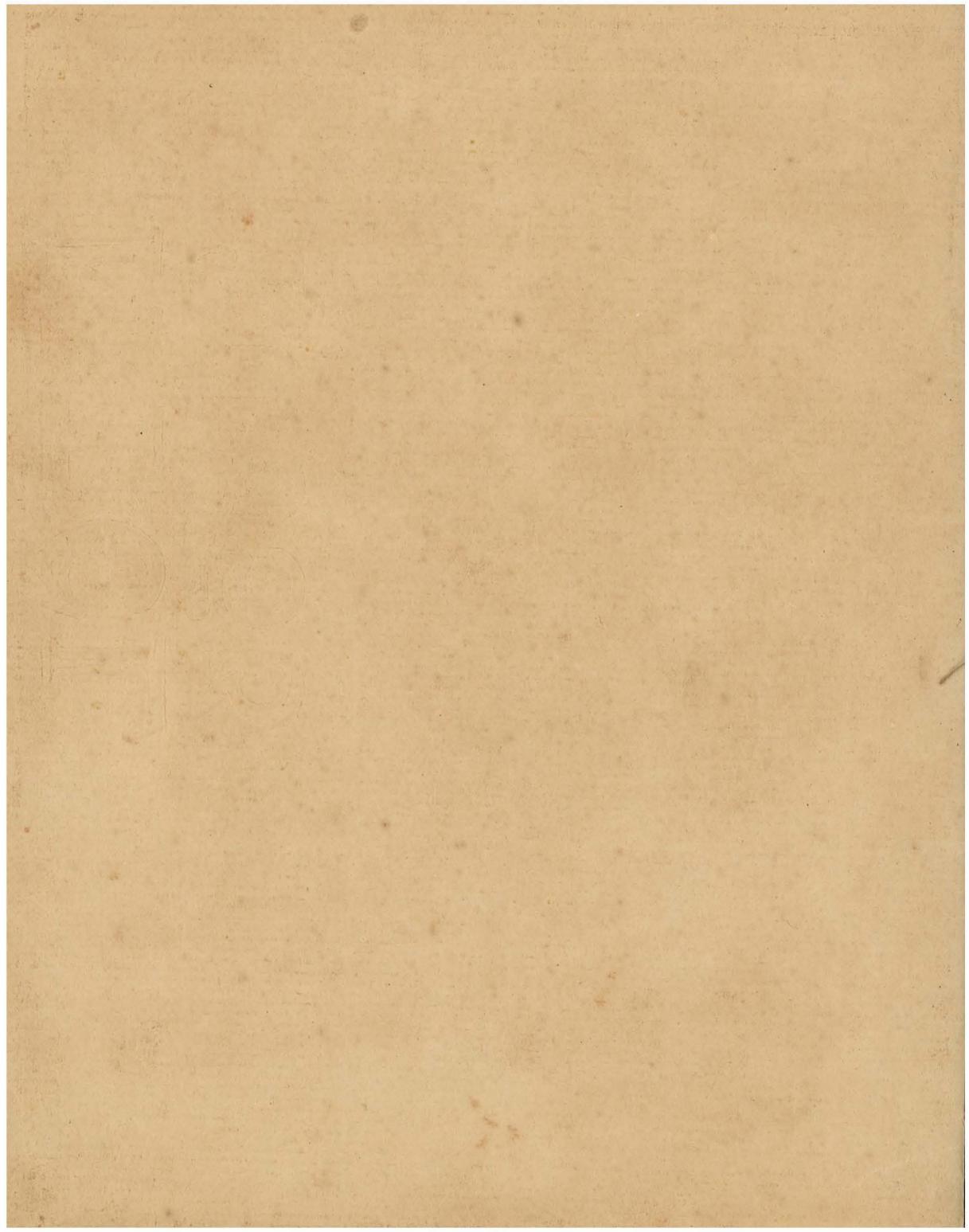


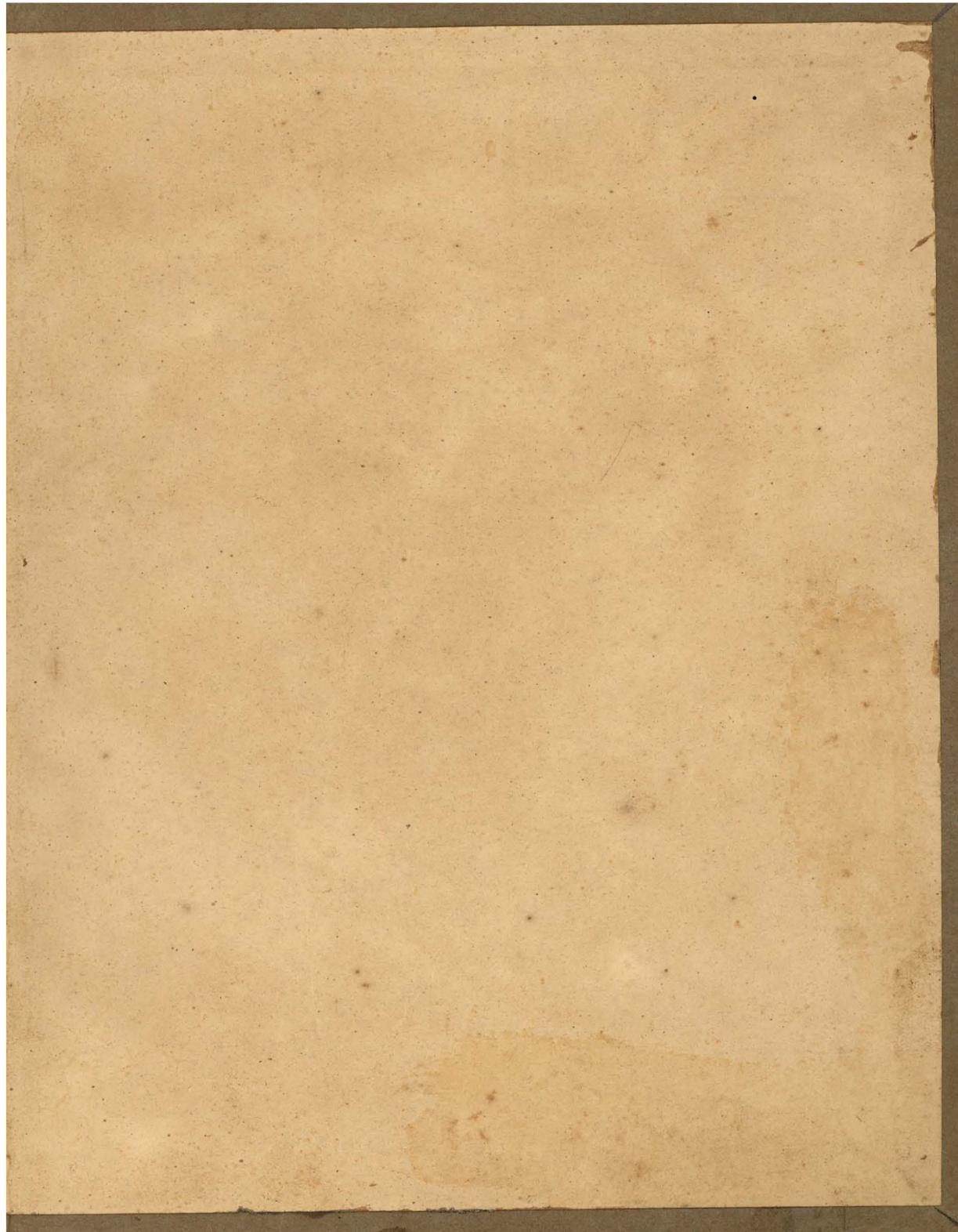
Science tells us now that life began in a few puddles of hot water in a polar depression. And the depression and the hot water are still with us.



Insects, says an eminent entomologist, compete with man for the food supply of the world. But even that wouldn't bother us so much, if they didn't go and regard us as part of the food supply.







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