

what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

How to Be Fair. SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—Every time the heirs to an undivided estate start litigating, I think of a decision which had in it more wisdom, more common sense and more fairness than even King Solomon's inspired justice.



I can't remember whether 'twas a ruler upon the throne or a judge upon the bench who handed down this ruling. But two brothers fell out over a proper division of their father's possessions. Accordingly, they carried the dispute to a higher court of the land.

So his majesty, or his worship, or his honor, as the case may have been, said:

"Let the older brother apportion the property into what he regards as two equal shares—and then let the younger brother have first choice of the shares."

But, of course, the lawyers couldn't have favored the plan. It was too beautifully simple to suit any lawyer in any age. The American Bar association would just naturally despise it.

Cemetery Salesmen. I RECEIVED a letter from one of our plushiest cemeteries. We have some of the plushiest cemeteries on earth; it's a positive pleasure to be dead out here.

I was urged to invest in a highly desirable lot, for only a few thousand smackers; or buy a perfectly lovely crypt—slightly more expensive, but most luxurious.

Through some private whim or pique, I failed to answer this tempting communication. Today I received an appealing follow-up letter. I gather that, if I neglect this splendid opportunity, I'll live to regret it. Or maybe I won't.

Such thoughtful attention merits response. I'm replying as follows: "Dear gents: Space in a graveyard is the last thing I shall require. When that time comes, somebody else will do the shopping. Trusting these few lines may find you the same, yours gratefully."

But if a representative calls in person—as he will—I'm a gone gossling. Those slick talkers always do get me. You just ought to see my collection of oil slicks. Now, there's something that does need burying.

Making Juleps. SOME disputatious soul seeks to reopen the ancient debate over the proper recipe for julep. I decline the invitation. Since the Dred Scot decision nothing has stirred up as much bitter controversy south of the Ohio river.

North of the Ohio river doesn't count. The Yankee conception of a julep is calculated to make a host of sleeping Kentucky brigadiers rise up from their respective Bourbon casks and start giving the rebel hiss.

Naturally, the only perfect julep is the Paducah julep. Just drop in next summer and sample the real product on its native heath—not at a saloon, where the bartender is likely to have heretical ideas, such as using preserved fruits and even putting the sugar syrup in first, which amounts to downright crime—but in the private home.

Western Superiority. IN BORNEO, tigers slay such an incredible host of natives that the yearly mortality is proportionately almost one-ninth as great as the average number of persons who will be wiped out in traffic fatalities on American highways during any given 12 months.

In India, owing to the refusal of those benighted Hindus to destroy any living creature, 20,000 inhabitants annually are killed by venomous serpents, whereas, in this country, in 1936, we spent only 15 billions for crime, or 15 times as much as we spent on national defense; yet managed to let many poisonous human snakes go free to build up murder statistics.

In Japan, geisha girls are protectively licensed and governmentally licensed and protected, which is indeed an affront to the principles of an enlightened people who patronize so-called world's fairs that are dependent on unabashed nudity for popular favor, and shows dependent on foul lines and nasty situations.

IRVIN S. COBB. Copyright.—WNU Service.

500 Women at Science Meet. Not a single man among the 500 scientists at a conference in Moscow, Russia. All the speakers as well as all the members of association were women. One was V. P. Lebedeva, a professor of medicine. Another, Professor M. L. Rokhina, stated that the number of women students in the universities had grown from 16,700 in 1914 to 183,000. Half the total number of doctors in Russia are women. Most of the women "scientists" are found in medicine, chemistry and biology.

News Review of Current Events PLANS A BUILDING BOOM President Offers Program to Congress . . . Revision of Taxes Not Likely Before January Session



Japan is pushing her conquest of China not only in the Yangtze valley but also, and especially, in the northern provinces. Here is seen a Japanese tank unit rumbling along the road to Taiyuan.

Edward W. Pickard SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Building Boom Wanted. REVISION of the existing housing law in order to facilitate a building boom was asked by President Roosevelt in a special message to congress. He said such legislation would ease the flow of credit and open great reservoirs of idle capital to fight the business slump.

Specifically, the President recommended changes in the housing act which would:

- 1. Reduce from 5 1/2 per cent to 5 per cent the interest and service charges permitted by the Federal Housing Administration on loans made by private institutions.
2. Authorize the housing administrator to fix the mortgage insurance premium charge as low as 1/2 of 1 per cent on the diminishing balance of the insured mortgage instead of on the original face amount, and to 1/4 of 1 per cent on the diminishing balance of an insured mortgage where the estimated value of the property does not exceed \$6,000 and where the mortgage is insured prior to July 1, 1933.

Both house and senate bills, it was predicted, would be modified because of the President's immunity to veto the legislation unless it was put on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. He insisted the farm bill must not interfere with his plans to balance the budget.

After French Throne. ALARM of the French government over the plotting of the Cagoulards or "hooded ones" that led to the arrest of many rightists and the raiding of hidden stores of weapons and ammunition was far from baseless. Evidently there was a real conspiracy to overthrow the republic and set up a dictatorship and eventually a restored monarchy. The government announced, however, that the plot had been wrecked.

Duc de Guise. From his place of exile in Belgium the Duc de Guise, pretender to the throne of France, issued a manifesto announcing he had decided to try to regain the throne.

President Goes Fishing. HAVING put the tax and housing problems up to congress, President Roosevelt left for Miami, Fla., where he embarked on a fishing cruise. Accompanying him was Assistant Attorney General R. H. Jackson, and the two discussed plans for legislation that would let the government proceed against the "bad" trusts without injuring those that are considered "good."

No Time for Tax Revision. THERE is no kidding the country," said Senator Barkley, majority leader of the senate, as he gave out the sad news that it would be impossible to formulate and pass a tax revision bill in the brief time remaining to the extraordinary session of congress. The senator had just been conferring with the President, and his statement dashed the hopes of those who believe ailing business is in dire need of such assistance as revision or repeal of the tax on undivided corporate surpluses and capital gains. Mr. Roosevelt had said he was in favor of tax revision as soon as congress was ready for it. But such legislation must originate in the house, and the subcommittee of

the ways and means committee that has been studying the subject had not yet reported. So it appeared almost certain that action must be postponed until the regular session which starts in January.

This was highly displeasing to a large number of congressmen, and Representative Celler of New York called together some 60 of them to consider the possibility of emergency action. "Business can't wait," said Celler.

Farm Bill Reported. MARVIN JONES of Texas, chairman of the house agricultural committee, submitted the house farm bill, together with a majority report defending the measure and calling for speedy enactment so that the rise of mounting crop surpluses which are depressing market prices may be offset.

The house bill is less drastic than the senate version, but it was denounced vigorously in a minority report which declared it was "unconstitutional, unsound, un-American," likely to "work to the detriment of American agriculture," and threatening to "dislocate" foreign and domestic markets.

Chino-Japanese War. JAPAN'S armies were slowed up by rain and mud in their advance up the Yangtze valley, but as there seemed no likelihood that the Chinese line of defense would hold, the Nationalist government moved out of Nanking, scattering its departments among a number of cities. American Ambassador Johnson and his staff moved to Hankow.

The Japanese commanders in Shanghai took over full control of the city and its customs office. They demanded that the international settlement and French concession officials hand over the city's four leading citizens as hostages. Most prominent of these was T. V. Soong, brother-in-law of Dictator Chiang Kai-Shek.

The Far East conference in Brussels, unable to accomplish anything to end the Chino-Japanese conflict, adjourned.

Peace Talk with Utilities. RESTRICTION of the construction and expansion activities of the privately owned public utilities being recognized as an important factor in the current business recession, President Roosevelt began a series of conferences with the heads of these concerns. He seemed to be in a conciliatory frame of mind and sought to lessen the utilities' fear of the effect of government policies, but without making any concessions. His first caller was Wendell Wilkie, president of the Commonwealth & Southern corporation, and next day he talked with Floyd Carlisle of the Niagara Hudson Power corporation.

Though he appeared amiable, the President at the same time was sending to various congressional committees and federal agencies a report by the New York state power authority, whacking friends and agents of the private utilities for "propaganda" against public power development. It presented figures to show the government could produce water power at a much lower cost than private utilities could produce power by steam plants.

Walters of Idaho Dies. THEODORE WALTERS, assistant secretary of the interior, died of pneumonia at the Naval hospital in Washington following an emergency gall bladder operation. He was sixty-one years old.

Walters was selected by President Roosevelt in 1933. A former resident of Caldwell, Idaho, he had been prominent in Idaho Democratic politics for many years.

Small Town Spending. AUTOMOBILES, more food and better clothing are the most urgent desires of small-town families. That was the implication presented in a matter-of-fact analysis of surveys of the spending habits of families in 46 villages in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

The study, made by the bureau of home economics, showed that when income increased among these cross-section village families, it was usually followed by a rapid rise in expenditures for food and clothes and even more marked jumps in the proportion of income spent on automobiles.

In income ranges from \$250 to \$2,499, food expense for wage-earners' families jumped from an average of \$180 to an average of \$339; clothes from an average of \$25 to an average of \$186; expense for the family car from an average of \$14 to an average of \$315.

Green Opposes Labor Bill. WILLIAM GREEN, president of the A. F. of L., practically broke with the administration by denouncing the pending wage and hour bill as unacceptable to labor and demanding that it be sent back to committee for revision.

Green assailed the national labor relations board and declared it no longer is safe to permit a government board of that kind to administer laws governing labor relations with employers.

Proposals of Labor. NEARLY everyone has a plan for stopping the current business recession. Now comes the American Federation of Labor with proposals to check it by strengthening mass purchasing power. The federation's six-point program suggests:

- 1. Maintenance of wages and employment at the highest possible level with firm determination to avoid wage cuts.
2. Raising of wages in any industry where sustained demand and profitable operations make it possible.
3. Stimulation of production and employment in heavy industries by encouraging plans for plant expansion and equipment purchases; encouragement of building in all classifications. The federation recommended "special measures . . . to make credit available to business."

4. Improvement of labor's buying power by prompt payment of unemployment compensation when it begins in 22 states next January.

5. Action on measures to promote business confidence.

6. Improvement of employer-employee relations through management recognition of unions, and union co-operation "to cut costs by improving efficiency."

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Toys Go Realistic for 1937



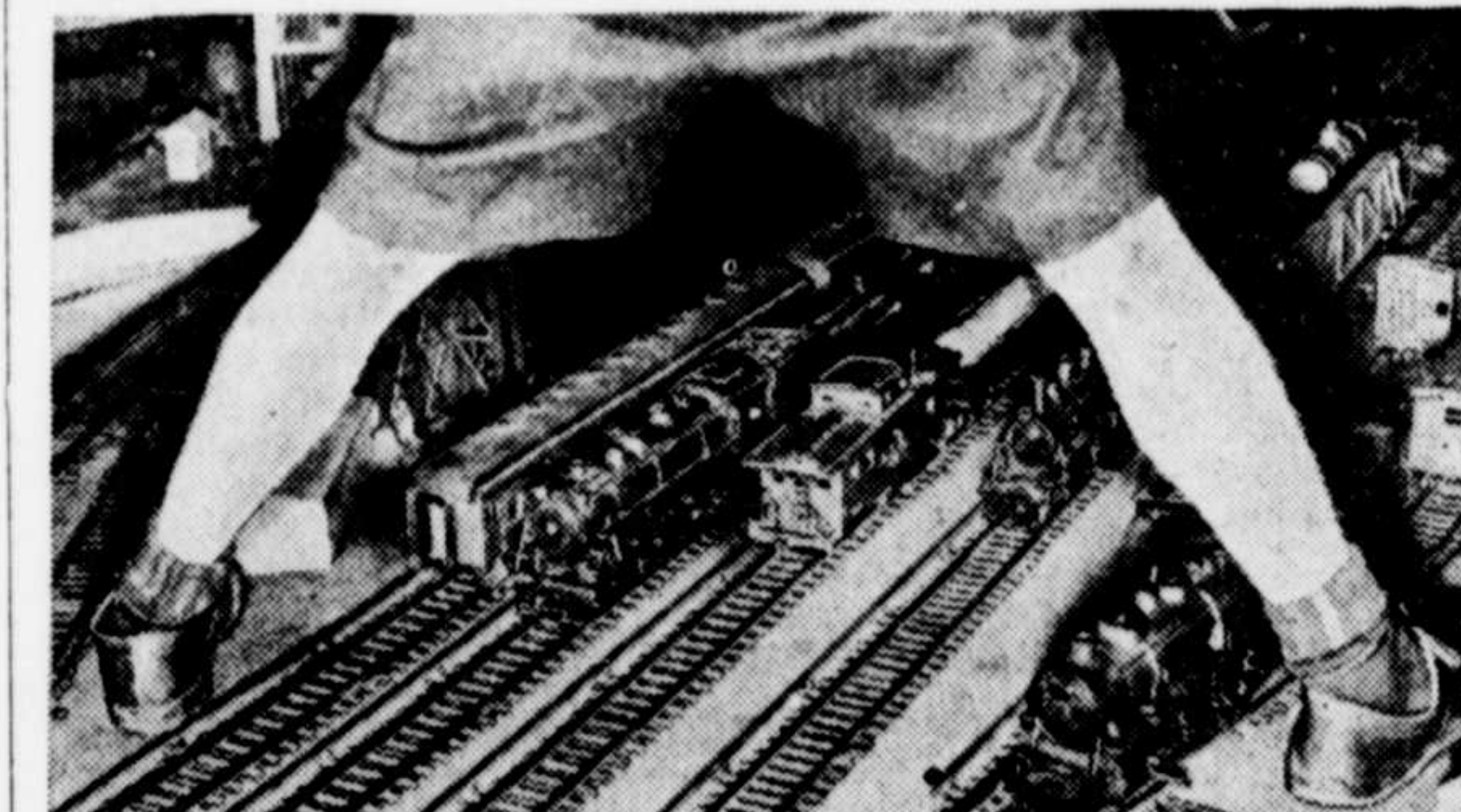
Young transportation tycoons will have a real Christmas this year. Miniature trucks, airliners, tractors and buses are faithful copies of the real thing.



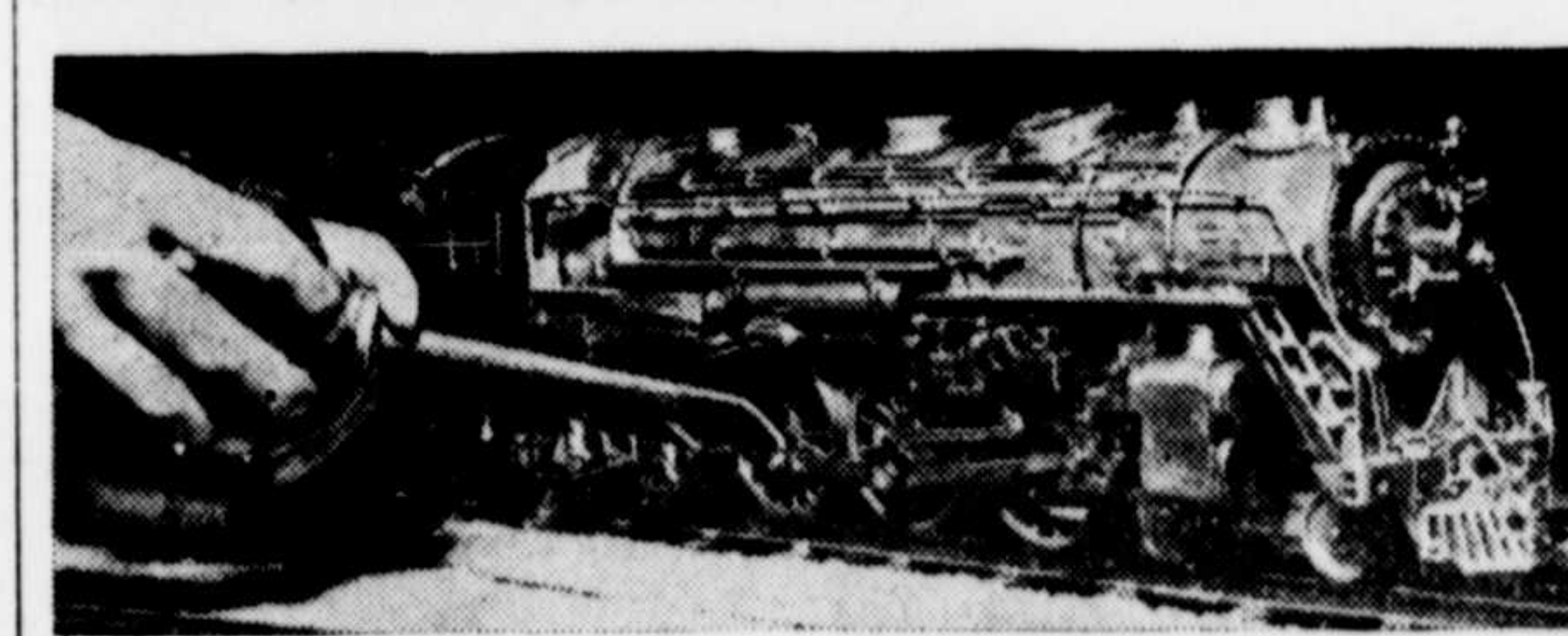
Music lessons can be fun even on Christmas day if a girl can learn on her own little true-tone piano or foot-powered organ. Keyboard diagrams and real songs supplement the time-honored exercises of Czerny and scale practice nowadays. Most of these miniature instruments cover three full octaves, so simple two-staff pieces can be played.



Streamlining for sidewalk "motor cars" is more advanced than ever, and now includes door-grips, radiator caps and headlights. Added innovations are the enclosed "rubble-trailer" and perforated disc wheels on what children are already terming, very, very professionally, the "tractor."



Track layouts this year are almost as perfect as real ones, with wooden ties and innumerable switches. This plan would be a little too fancy for most boys, but many a rattle track will be laid through America's front parlors during Christmas week!



Oil for the wheels, another realistic note.

Women Democrats To Name Officers

BETHESDA, Md.—Officers of the Woman's Democratic Club of Montgomery County will be elected for the ensuing year at the annual luncheon meeting of the organization at the Kenwood Country Club Monday at 1 P. M.

The officers will be chosen from a slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee, which consists of Mrs. Philip J. Fischer, Mrs. William T. Young, Mrs. Ralph Wells, Mrs. Arthur L. Reynolds and Mrs. Paul Clark.

Maryland Auto Permits Lagging

BALTIMORE.—Less than 250,000 of the 450,000 auto operators licensed to drive in the State of Maryland have applied for a registration of their permits, according to figures released by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles here.

This leaves more than 200,000 to apply within five weeks before January 1. Applications are now being received at the rate of about 18,000 a day, but that will take care of only one-third of the number to be filed. A total of 40,000 daily will be necessary if all are to be registered by the first of the year.

Lakes Unsuitable for Fish. Lakes covering 8,300 acres in the Croatan National forest, of North Carolina, because of their lack of aquatic vegetation are unsuitable for fish.

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Cocobola, Central American Wood. Cocobola is a Central American wood that has been used in the cutlery trade for more than 50 years. In appearance it is one of the most striking of woods, with peculiar shades of red and orange shot through with bands of jet black. It is extremely hard and heavy, and being more oily than most of the rosewood group, to which it is related, is so difficult to glue that it is not used to any extent for furniture except novelty pieces.

Muskmelon and Cantaloupe. Many persons are puzzled by the names muskmelon and cantaloupe. Horticulture states that the term muskmelon is the proper one to apply. The cantaloupe is really a small melon used for forcing in European greenhouses. This name, however, has come to be used for most of the certain kinds of melons. It is purely a trade name and is given to what is actually a muskmelon.

The Knout, a Heavy Whip. The knout was the official instrument of punishment formerly used in Russia, consisting of a heavy whip of leather thongs artificially hardened, twisted with wire and sometimes hooked at the ends. One hundred strokes were considered equivalent to a sentence of death as the victim seldom survived. On account of the severity of the punishment Nicholas I issued an order substituting punishment with a lighter whip of three thongs known as pletl.

Old-Fashioned Remedies Favored by the Japanese. The Japanese boast of the most fantastic medicines, and the country folk go in for "cures" which, to a European, would seem a good deal worse than the disease, notes a writer in Pearson's London Weekly.

A widely-used cure for fever consists of placing a poultice of earthworms on the patient's stomach, because Japanese believe that this will draw the fever out.

Anyone suffering from a sty or other eye trouble is advised to lie down and sprinkle salt on the stomach. Burned clay, raked out of old cooking stoves, is another cure-all. Eaten slowly, it is supposed to banish any kind of sickness.

The effects of eating too many oysters are supposed to be removed by eating powdered oyster shell, and this cure is also widely used for indigestion and similar ailments. Heartburn—not the indigestion kind, but that which comes from blighted affections—can be soothed by eating a few toads.

But the most widely-used treatment consists of sticking pins into one's anatomy. According to the Japanese way of thinking, there are more than 300 different parts of the body into which a pin can be stuck, each part being the location of a different disease.

Babies, however, are not considered strong enough to withstand these cures, so the Japanese mother deceives the germs of disease by hanging a notice outside the house informing all germs that the baby is not at home.