

MODERN BLUE LAWS

WHAT U. S. Senator McCumber must be a White Rat. He says: "The best thing that could happen to the American people would be the closing of every theatre and place of amusement in the United States for the next ten years."

I wonder if we really send people with such ideas to make our laws, or do they get that way after they get there. Here is State Senator Smith of Oregon introducing a bill the other day which forbids the use among other "intoxicants" of coffee, tea, milk, ice cream, soda water, roast veal, "and other intoxicants."

We have a few of these fool laws up in my home state, New Hampshire. But they were wished on us many years ago, and have never been wished off again. For instance, we have a law prohibiting a man from kissing his wife on Sunday. There isn't a word against kissing some other fellow's wife. It is also illegal to cross a river on Sunday, to build a fire on Sunday, to cook on Sunday.

But at that I don't see that our old blue laws are any worse than these later-edition ones noted above.—Will M. Cressy, in Bridgeport Life.

FUNSTON NEVER FORGOT

FROM a contemporary comes the following interesting little story indicating the manner of man General Frederick Funston was.

Says this friend: "I was detailed to get an interview with General Funston several years ago, upon the occasion of a brief visit in the city. After considerable difficulty I located him out near the Palms. It was a melting hot day and he had but a short time to stay in Los Angeles but he had heard that an old comrade who had been wounded in an engagement in the Philippine disturbance was living in a tiny cottage somewhere in the vicinity of the Palms, and he was climbing the hills out near that little suburb oblivious to the discomfort of the errand in the desire to cheer this poor fellow. From him I learned, among other curious things, that the same caliber gun does not shoot so far on sea as on land, because of the elevation. He was a quiet man without any display, there was no fluster or stir to mark his presence; but, as you know, he was a master tactician."

NO WONDER

Poor Colonel Roosevelt! A great warrior whose son Quentin would rather study than drill: an evangelist of the gospel of large families whose daughter has been a wife for seven years without being able to become a mother. No wonder he wants to go to war!

THE KAISER WAS ENRAGED

The New York Times publishes a story from Paris to the effect that the kaiser was just sitting down to table when the news came that the

United States had broken off diplomatic relations, and that he flew into a violent rage directed principally against von Bernstorff who, he complained, had been lacking in tact in handling "the hypocritical English pastor at Washington," meaning the president. Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg finally succeeded in appeasing the kaiser's wrath. The story is said to come from the kaiserin, and if true would indicate that she gossips indiscreetly about her husband.

QUICK-SOIL RADICALS

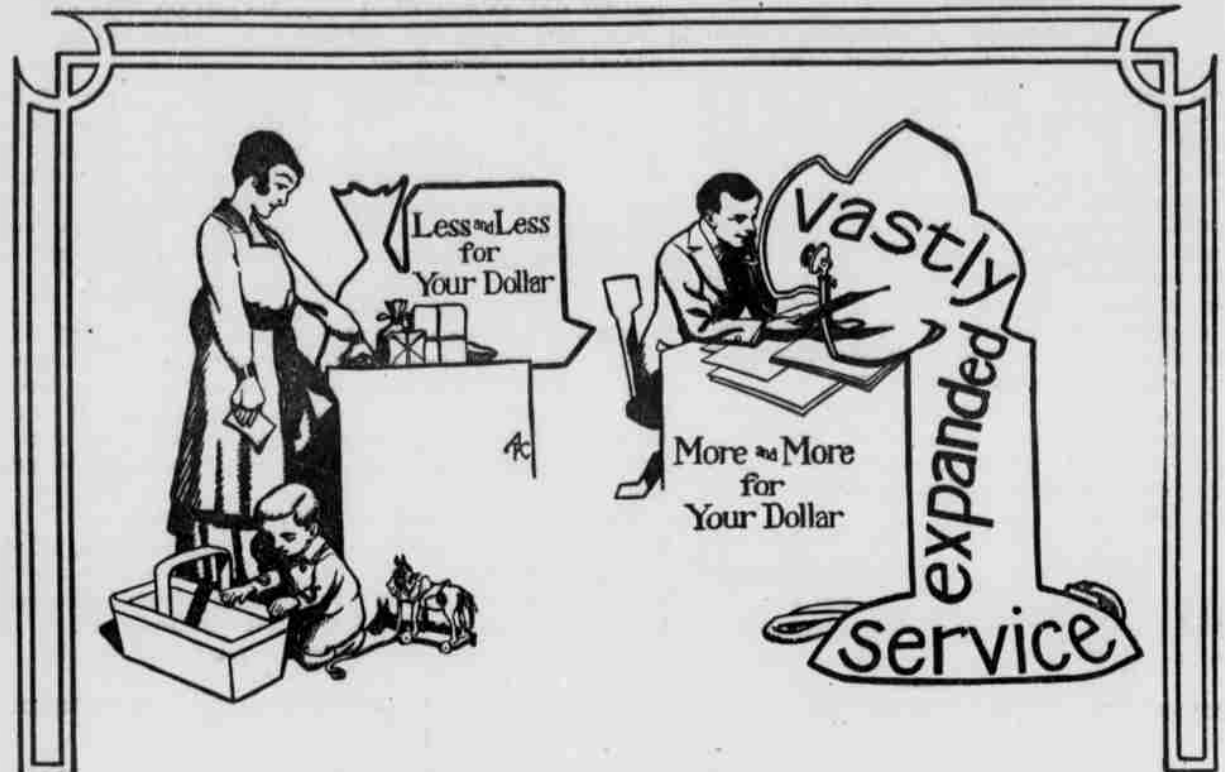
There is a whole caste of quick-soil radicals in America who came into being in anger and feed on resentment. They make a religion of wrath. They conceive anything like critical examination or calm thinking to be treachery. As a consequence they never take root in fundamental soil, they never bear any fruit except small, bitter, misshapen berries.—George Soule in the New Republic.

HAPPY IDEA

The railway board had met to consider the case of old Tom Jones, who in a train accident had become deaf.

"Well," said a director, "old Tom has been with us a long time, and we want to find him a new job. What do you suggest?"

"I know," said the chairman. "Let's put him in charge of the complaints department."—Tid-Bits.



An Economic Problem

While the cost of nearly every necessity of life has been steadily increasing, the rates for telephone service have remained practically the same.

The buyer of foodstuffs, although paying much more, receives but sixteen ounces to the pound. On the other hand, the telephone user is constantly receiving more and better service and paying the same or even a less rate than he did a few years ago.

Gradually the value of telephone service has been increased by a constant increase in the number of telephones added to the system and by improvements and refinements in the telephone art.

Steadily, too, the cost of every piece of equipment and of all supplies, copper wire, iron wire, poles, hardware, etc., used in the business of furnishing service, has increased enormously.

In other words, our revenues have not increased in proportion to increased value of the service or in proportion to increased cost of furnishing the service.

This presents a serious problem in which the public and the Company are mutually interested.

The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Co.