



Wide World

SOMETHING NEW IN TRANSPORTATION

for Henry Ford, at least, who recently looked over an old New York horse car with a view to purchasing it for his museum

Whether the fuel gases employed to drive a vehicle are expanded in a cylinder to drive a piston, as in the ordinary internal-combustion motor, or in another kind of cylinder or rocket to react merely against the air or even against the vehicle itself according to the Second Law of Newton (action and reaction opposite and equal), is intrinsically immaterial. Rockets of sufficient energy and speed will most certainly climb, and the height to which they will climb depends directly upon the energy made available. Professor Goddard, the physicist, of Clark University, has long been performing research on super-rockets designed to reach high altitudes and permit meteorologists to explore the atmosphere above the height—some twenty miles—to which their actual explorations have already reached. Such rockets would doubtless discharge the products of the combustion of monatomic hydrogen.

When and if the earth's envelope of air is passed, they will actually speed up by about one-fifth. Laboratory experiment has proved this fact beyond a doubt, for Professor Goddard's rockets when fired in a vacuum actually strained upward with more pressure than in the open air. This silenced summarily those who could not shake off the belief that a rocket can move only by pushing back-

ward against some outside medium. If the Germans, behind the confusing screen of the foreign newspaper reporter, are making use of the facts about rockets already known to scientists, there is no intrinsic reason why their rocket plane cannot reach as yet unattained heights.

Mr. Ford Views Aviation and the Presidential Year

HENRY FORD, as he arrived in New York Harbor on his return from Europe, was persuaded to make some remarks on prosperity in this Presidential year and on aviation.

"The Presidential election has nothing to do with industrial prosperity," said Mr. Ford, according to the New York "Times," thus assailing a cherished tenet in the American political creed. And he continued: "Business will keep on being good through the summer and fall without any regard to the outcome."

When asked about aviation, Mr. Ford's face lightened. "Some day," he predicted, "there is going to be a machine that will equal the imagination of man. Whenever a man imagines a thing, he can sooner or later produce it. That's what I think. It will be an airplane that won't have to go ninety miles an hour to rise or the same to land. It will settle down quietly in a small space

and it won't be dangerous. It will come but, of course, there will have to be a lot of changes. We may not be near the idea yet; but it will come." He quoted Thomas Edison as saying that a bird flies well because it is ninety-five per cent bird, while a man flying is ninety-five per cent man. But he added, "It may well be that the airplane of the future will not develop along the lines of bird."

It was to his son Edsel, however, that he referred his questioners when they made inquiries about specific aviatric matters, as, for example, whether Colonel Lindbergh would be connected with his factory in making airplanes.

To a fellow-passenger he said that 2,600 former convicts are in his employ; and that ninety-five per cent of them when given employment went straight.

Brazil Stays Out of the League

WHEN Brazil failed to obtain a permanent seat on the Council of the League of Nations in 1926, she announced her intention to withdraw. Recently an appeal by the League to Brazil not to insist upon her resignation has found her unwilling to change her stand. Spain, after quitting Geneva at the same time for the same reason, has accepted the invitation to return, but the great South American republic finds no reason for changing her mind.

The Brazilian Government offers its collaboration in the League's humanitarian endeavors, in the World Court and in international conferences. The assent of the Council would establish precedent in favor of allowing resigning members to continue to take part in some of the activities under League auspices.

In Geneva, Brazil's response is interpreted as leaving the way open to rene membership. But her present persistence in declining to stay in the League makes a significant break in the ranks of its Latin-American adherents.

A Silly Poet Is Paroled

THE foolishness of David Gordon, who landed in jail because he wrote a second-rate poem, was equaled only by the patriots who wished to have him kept in jail for the full period of an indeterminate sentence which might have run three years. Now that he has been released on parole, his poem, "America held under the New York State law to be obscene, will be forgotten. And Gordon will have opportunity to acquire a degree of maturity.

Gordon's type is familiar enough

The Outlook

Really named Goronegsky, he attended one of the huge high schools in New York. Poor, far more ignorant than he believed himself, he was oppressed by the turbulent wealth of the city and was roused to violent protest. His protest took the form of a poem in which there were several vulgar, possibly offensive lines. It was published in the "Daily Worker," a radical journal, and his arrest followed.

He was tried in Special Sessions Court and sentenced to an indeterminate term before any one was well aware what had happened. Then it was discovered that he had won a scholarship at Wisconsin University and that he had even entered college while his case was on appeal. The sentence seemed far too severe and agitation was begun. This ended in a parole, and now Gordon is free again. He has learned, at least, that a minority will fight for liberalism in the land he has railed against.

In granting a parole to the misguided, but hardly dangerous, poet the New York authorities seem to have acted with wisdom unusual in such bodies. He had been "guilty of writing a very bad and vulgar piece of poetry," but additional punishment would merely add to his "exaggerated self-esteem." He served, in all, thirty-five days.

The Indiana Primaries

THE defeat of Mr. Hoover in both the preferential vote and vote for delegates in Indiana was by no means unexpected; but to his political friends it was nevertheless a disappointment. The thirty-three Convention votes from Indiana were gathered in by what has been generally regarded as the anti-Hoover coalition. The votes were nominally for Senator James Watson. That Senator Watson himself can be the nominee of the Republican Convention is inconceivable. As a power in Indiana Republican politics he has survived bitter fights and even more damaging scandals in the organization; but as a National figure he has never risen above the stage of party manager and dispenser of patronage. The result in Indiana is not so much a triumph for any one candidate as a sign of the strength that can be used by a political organization when it is directed against a candidate.

Indiana's recent political history has been soiled by the corruption of Republican office-holders. There was hope that the outraged citizenry would follow the example of that in Illinois and revolt against the party management. So far as there was a revolt it seems to have been confined to cities and towns. The



Acme

THE BREMEN FLIERS IN PHILADELPHIA

Captain Koehl, Major Fitzmaurice, Baron von Huenefeld, and Mayor Mackey, of Philadelphia, at the statue of Admiral Barry, in front of Independence Hall

rural population, being apparently willing to exonerate Senator Watson himself from responsibility from the scandals, seems to have been too deeply engaged in the agricultural revolt and too easily swayed by the stock arguments against Mr. Hoover to call for reform.

Indiana, therefore, if we may judge by the vote in the primaries, seems ready to let the record stand of being corrupt and contented. The loss in the primaries, particularly in view of the situation in Pennsylvania, is not so much Mr. Hoover's as Indiana's.

Police Brutality

THE majority of people believe, no doubt, that police brutality is a thing of the past. Somehow it is rarely emphasized in newspaper stories. The average citizen, reading of the "third degree," interprets this to mean merely prolonged questioning. It does not occur to him that prisoners are still beaten with rubber-hose bludgeons, their faces disfigured by the fists of burly detectives. The horrors of "the back room" at the precinct station-house rarely come to light.

But now three former United States attorneys and three former district attorneys of New York County, members of a committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, have called for an investigation into the use of force by the police in obtaining confessions. Defendants in criminal trials frequently retract confessions offered by the police and claim they were beaten into making them. The Bar Association's committee states, out of its intimate experience, that "many of the accusations are well founded." A resolution was adopted calling for an inquiry by the State Crime Commission.

Needless to say, it is always the poor prisoner who is clubbed into confessing crimes he has not committed. The wealthy man is protected by attorneys. It is significant, in view of the Bar Association's action, to recall a recent decision by the Court of Appeals. Robert Weiner, a fish peddler, had been convicted in New York State of murder in the first degree and sentenced to die in the electric chair. He spent months in the Sing Sing death house. But the