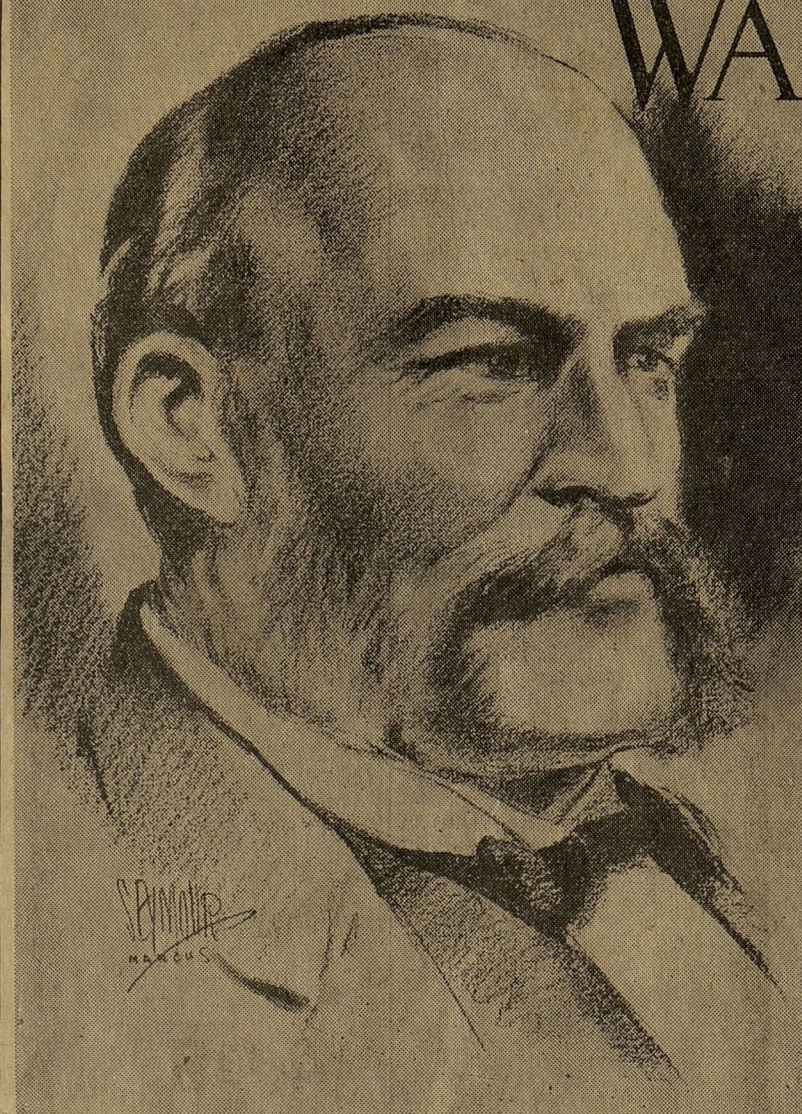
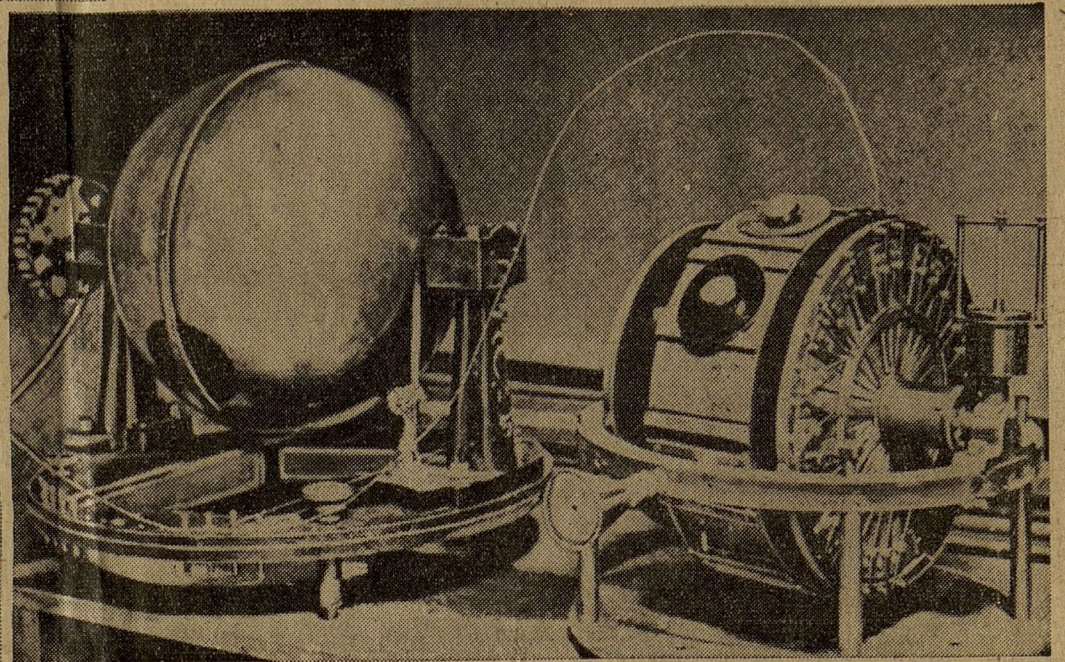


## WALLINGFORDS ALL-



JOHN WORRELL KEELY.



This globe motor and "etheric" engine are two of many motor arrangements with which Keely hoaxed a generation.

### Sound Financiers Fell for "Invention" Puzzling Scientists

Next to love, fiction's best bet is the rogue. In "Get Rich Quick Wallingford," the late George Randolph Chester penned a rogue, part Till, part Ponzi, that in the middle 1900s stirred the nation and "Wallingford" became synonymous with something for nothing—or aren't we all? Here follow a few real Wallingfords (and Mrs. Wallingfords) all of whom took until it hurt—them. No. 1, Rogue Keely. Take him away, turnkey . . .

By ASA BORDAGES,  
World-Telegram Staff Writer.

John Jacob Astor went secretly to Philadelphia in October of 1895 and in that strange house of wonders, the grim house at 1,420 N. 20th St., he saw marvels that human knowledge could not explain. He saw the miracles that made men believe John Worrell Keely, ex-cabinetmaker, ex-band leader, ex-headwaiter, had "scaled the rocks which barricade earth from heaven and brought down fire which is divine."

For Mr. Astor witnessed a demonstration of the mysterious force discovered by Keely, the force called "etheric energy," a force described as "the governing medium of the universe," as the trunk of an infinite tree from which stem the little branches of electricity, heat, light and magnetism. The demonstration was Keely's proof that he spoke the simple truth when he'd said:—

"I propose to run a train of cars from Philadelphia to New York at the rate of a mile a minute, and I will draw the power out of as much water as you can hold in your hand. A bucket of water contains enough of this vapor (etheric energy) to produce a power sufficient to move the world out of its course."

#### Opened Machines.

The witnesses were suspicious, of course, but the tall, rawboned inventor opened his machines for inspection so none could doubt that the manifestations he produced "could not be caused by any known force." Then, bushy-browed eyes peering at them from a gravity face adorned with a sweeping moustache and sidewhiskers, he told them how he would perform his wonders. Basically, his theory was this:—

Ether was the medium of all force. The vast energy imprisoned in the etheric atoms of the universe could be released by the disintegration of these atoms and so placed at man's

disposal for every use for which power was needed.

No fuel was needed to liberate this etheric force, but only a little water poured into a cylinder of one of Keely's weird, gleaming machines. The vibration caused by the striking of the proper musical note, or combination of notes, then provided "an introductory impulse" which "so increases the oscillation of the atoms as to rupture their etheric capsules," thus releasing the etheric force.

#### Had Harmonic Chart.

Years of research had enabled Keely to draw up a harmonic chart by which he could determine the proper musical notes to provide the impulse for the vibratory disintegration, notes that varied according to "the masschord of the aggregation" of atoms to be disintegrated.

This sounded screwball, and Mr. Astor probably raised a doubting eyebrow. If he did it stayed raised, but not from doubt.

For Keely placed a heavy weight in a tall glass tube with a little water. Sympathetic wires—examination convinced the witnesses there was no possible contact with electricity—connected the ends of the tube with a small, shiny, spherical "disintegrator," which was placed on a zither lying on the table.

Keely struck a single note on the zither. He remarked that he had given the vibratory impulse to liberate the etheric force. And the

astounded Mr. Astor saw the weight rise slowly in the tube.

Keely poured a glass of water in a metal receptacle, struck a note on a tuning fork—and "in thirty seconds had generated a force powerful enough to lift a 700-pound iron weight at the end of a six-foot fulcrum."

#### Used Fiddle Bow.

He rasped a fiddle bow across a tuning fork—and created power "equal to a pressure of 25,000 pounds per square inch."

He bottled some "vaporic ether" from a disintegrator and put it in a vaporic cannon. Then, without gunpowder or any other ascertainable force, he fired a lead cannonball against an iron plate with such power that the ball was flattened.

But all this was child's play, merely the prologue to the demonstration of the "harmonic engine," the machine by which etheric force was to be made to do the work of the world.

Keely poured a tumbler or two of water into a glass standpipe connected with one of the retorts of his engine. He struck a note on a tuning fork. The wheels of the engine turned. He picked up a harmonica and, as he strolled idly across the room, began playing "Home, Sweet Home." The faster he played, the faster the engine whirred.

#### Two Men Powerless.

Two men then bore their full weight upon a brake lever, exerting all their strength to stop the harmonic engine, but they couldn't even slow it down. As they gave up, panting, Keely casually struck a single note on a tuning fork. The engine stopped. He struck another note—and the wheels spun madly in the opposite direction.

Such were the wonders Mr. Astor must have seen that October day, wonders which earlier had moved Professor Joseph Leidy, of the University of Pennsylvania, to declare:—

"The day may come when a girl might sit down in her father's house and run his mill by playing the piano. I see no possibility of deception. There is no explanation of the effect thus produced, except by a vibratory force such as Keely assigns as the cause."

A Mr. Samuels, Mr. Astor's electrical expert and his associate in storage battery development, was even more impressed:—

"There's no use devoting any more time to electricity. Here's something far better."

And Mr. Astor, the dashing "Colonel Jack," father of the present John Jacob Astor, nodded. This fur trader's

grandson knew a good thing when he saw one.

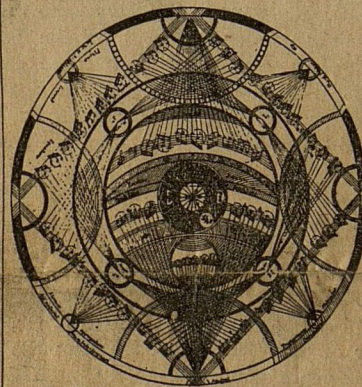
"I'm pretty willing to put up all the money that may be needed," he said.

The New York press reported that Mr. Astor was forming a combine to include William K. Vanderbilt and "other New York millionaires" to back Keely. A group, including William Cullen Brewster, president of the Fifth Ave. Trust Co.; J. K. Lorimer, H. O. Ward and Mr. Astor agreed to erect a new laboratory building for Keely in New York and to put up "several millions of dollars" to finance his efforts to complete the harnessing of etheric force.

#### Brooklyn Man Helped.

Such was the triumph of the whiskered enigma, this hulking fellow hailed as "the modern Prometheus" and damned as "the modern Cagliostro," this jack-of-many trades who was born in Philadelphia on September 3, 1837, grandson of a Baden-Baden bandmaster and son of an ironworker.

His story was that he had accidentally discovered the existence of



Keely humbugged the rich with this "musical power chart" which he said explained his "etheric" power discovery.

etheric energy early in the development of his marvelous "Pneumatic-Pulsating-Vacuo" engine. C. G. Till, of Brooklyn, worked with him on that engine and long later said:— "I have known him to sell and pawn everything of value in his house to obtain means to continue his investigations. . . . I am sure that he will eventually give the world the greatest boon that has been received by it since the advent of Christianity."

But to the world Keely was just a crackpot until he convinced Charles B. Collier, an attorney, who called a meeting of "bankers, merchants, scientists and practical engineers" at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in 1874. John J. Cisco, banker and former United States Sub-Treasurer, was there, and so were Charles G. Francklyn, the shipping man, and William B. Meeker, banker.

The next day Keely was handed \$10,000 and stock in the new Keely Motor Co., which issued 20,000 shares of stock at \$50 a share (later increasing the issue to 100,000 shares) and prepared to take over exploitation of the motor when he perfected it.

The 3,000 shareholders, most of them New Yorkers, eventually included such leaders in finance and business as George H. Peabody, Jonas Walker, the broker; John J.

Smith, of Baker, Smith & Co.; E. L. Ackerman and Radcliffe Baldwin.

Keely held his motor as merely incidental to his investigations of etheric energy, but by 1879 the World was jubilantly reporting demonstrations that proved "the Keely motor is no longer a visionary speculation to be scoffed at but must now be regarded with the seriousness of an accomplished fact." The World belittled any opinion Thomas A. Edison might have on the subject "until he has succeeded better than he yet has in solving the problem of the electric light."

But as Keely still discarded engine after engine as imperfect, as he still drained away the company's money for experiments and living, the stockholders demanded that he reveal the secret of his motor. He defied them, even destroying his apparatus and going to jail for contempt rather than reveal his secrets before his investigations were completed.

#### Widow to Rescue.

To Keely's rescue came the fabulous Mrs. Bloomfield Moore, nee Jessup, the elderly Philadelphia widow whose millions came from the paper manufacturing firm of Jessup & Moore. Despite the bitter opposition of her son, Clarence B. Moore, she turned on a golden faucet from which for years, with rare interruptions, flowed a stream of dollars to finance Keely and support him. She willed him her \$60,000 home. And to the end, year after year, she gave him at least \$250 a month for his living expenses.

In 1891 reporters found that Keely "lived in broadcloth and tweeds, among oil paintings and raw silk upholstery, behind brownstone steps and horse block and silver door plate" in his own fine home at 1,632 Oxford St., Philadelphia. The carpets were "of costliest texture" and "on every side were evidence of wealth and culture."

As tirelessly as she shelled out money to Keely, Mrs. Moore turned out books and articles in defense of Keelyism, declaring that the force he used to run his machines was the same that "draws the planets together"; that he was developing a superairship powered by the force that "regulates the planets in their recession from each other."

#### A New Philosophy.

Mrs. Moore revealed that Keely's research had led him to a new philosophy, a philosophy which made clear that in etheric force he had discovered "the tangible link between God and man," a philosophy that would "explain all unexplained phenomenon."

She proclaimed that the secret of the Keely motor "demonstrates incontrovertibly the separate existence and independent activity of the soul of man." And his discovery of etheric force "heralds to the scientific world what the Star of Bethlehem heralded to mankind morally."

She brushed aside the recurrent charges of fraud, citing the money and labor he expended in research, citing the broken bones, partial paralysis and temporary blindness he suffered in his struggle to complete his mastery over etheric force.

The offer of John Jacob Astor

(Continued on Page Twenty-five.)



**New York World-Telegram**

AND THE EVENING MAIL

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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1938.

**Code of Silence.**

Commenting on the Coster-Musica financial soarings, J. Mahlon Buck, president of a Philadelphia wholesale drug concern, is quoted as saying:—

*"The banks were impressed with Coster's ability to make money—and he had shown great ability to make money fast."*

Therein is the biggest part of the answer to the question everybody now asks:—

How could he do it?

He did it by genuine financial genius, albeit tainted with inveterate rascality, relying on the readiness of banks and investment houses to accept and admire big dollar-sign success without worrying about its background.

Coster was not the first high-flying crook to use a money-making gift and the manners of a great financier to wangle more money out of bankers for vast ventures hidden behind an impressive facade.

Nor will he be the last, unless investors and stockholders get new benefit from such lessons in the shape of protection requiring greater prudence and caution among lenders of capital.

That's why it now becomes so important to find out who, in circles of expert, responsible finance, knew or ought to have known something, at least, about the real Coster and his undercover activities.

Coster couldn't have done it ALL by himself.

He had to count, in no small degree, on the naivete, carelessness or connivance of others.

Nor is ignorance any longer a valid excuse for directors of a corporation grossly misdirected by a president to whom they "leave everything."

\* \* \*

By a coincidence comes the resignation of Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, University of Chicago president, from the board of governors of the New York Stock Exchange.

This is a one-man protest against the board's refusal to continue investigation of the Richard Whitney case, Dr. Hutchins insisting that public interest requires a probe of evidence presented before the Securities and Exchange Commission "tending to show that members of the Exchange or their partners knew of Richard Whitney's criminal conduct or of the condition of his firm some months before its failure."

The SEC report on the Whitney case scored "the unwritten code of silence" behind which "Richard Whitney, as a member of the Stock Exchange fraternity, was able for years to hide his misdeeds."

Here's another instance of Wall Street "fraternity" instinct to conceal what it knew about wrongdoing as long as possible—and later to turn aside from and forget, as quickly as may be, the disastrous consequences!

\* \* \*

Dr. Hutchins' letter of resignation is another sharp reminder that only the courage to go back and try to fix responsibility can help safeguard investors against Wall Street's easy-going attitude toward tottering brokers or crooked borrowers who play fast and loose with other people's money.

Whitney's clients were, most of them, in no position to know the truth about his plight. Stockholders could hardly have suspected Coster.

The vigilance, probings and warnings are expected from Stock Exchange, banks and financial interests that make a specialty of credit and base thereon their bid for public confidence.

Bid that implies big duty.

**Hopkins and Commerce.**

Most Washington predictions indicate that Harry Hopkins will be the next Secretary of Commerce. If he is appointed we hope he makes good in the biggest possible way. For, with a nation all out of fiscal balance and with only one clear path to economic recovery—vastly increased business volume—the

Commerce Department should be just about the most important Cabinet position for the next few years.

We say we hope. But candor compels us to express the opinion that there are several hundred thousand men in this country who would be better selections.

Hopkins, by record and experience, is just about as sympathetic to commerce as Tom Girdler would be to the union labor movement. What Hopkins knows about the problems of business would almost exactly cancel what Girdler knows of the social virtues and benefits of collective bargaining.

Each Cabinet post—Commerce and Labor—is a pressure group position. Each secretary, therefore, should be selected with the idea that he will have his heart in his job.

Hopkins' pulse runs low, toward business, as Girdler's does toward labor. In both instances it is a case of the devil and holy water.

**Toward Real Security.**

Congress and the country are indebted to the Advisory Council on Social Security for the months of study devoted to proposals to amend and extend our system of national old-age insurance.

In reading the council's final report one cannot fail to be impressed by the great amount of labor and thought which went into its preparation. Members of the council are not candidates for office and therefore are not engaged in trading illusory promises for votes. They are not promoting any panacea nor building any political pressure organization, and therefore are not engaged in baiting hopeful oldsters into paying dues.

Instead they are twenty-five outstanding citizens—educators, business leaders and representatives of organized labor—who in February, 1937, were asked by a special Senate committee to make this exhaustive study. Having concluded their work, which entailed great sacrifice of time from their private affairs, they have submitted their recommendations to Congress for whatever action that body wishes to take.

\* \* \*

The council's final report will not please the Townsendites and other dues-collecting organizations bent on solving all problems by ballyhooing a single idea. Nor can it be expected to silence such politicians as Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who seems to think an expedient way to win Republican ballots is to promise \$60 a month to the aged without regard for how the money is to be provided.

But those who sincerely want our present old-age security program expanded into a real system of national insurance as rapidly as may be consistent with the country's ability to pay will in our opinion applaud the report as a progressive and far-sighted document.

The recommendations include:—Starting payment of insurance benefits in 1940, rather than in 1942 as the present law provides; boosting the average of benefits payable in the early years, recognizing that the worker covered into the program late in his employable life has not been able to build an adequate annuity credit for himself; providing for the payment of annuities to widows and dependent children of insured workers who die either before or after the age of 65; the immediate blanketing in of seamen, employees of banks and of charitable and religious and educational institutions, now excluded from insurance coverage; the inclusion, by 1940 if administratively possible, of farm and domestic employees, the government to contribute one-third of the eventual costs of the insurance program, deriving the revenue from some source other than the pay roll tax by which employer and employee groups each pays its one-third.

\* \* \*

There are many other recommendations, concerning which there will be much dispute in Congress, including the council's indorsement of the present law's requirement boosting the pay roll tax by 1 per cent in 1940. But the council's report provides a sound basis for Congressional consideration of security problems. To balance off the additional expenditures that will be necessary in liberalizing the benefits in the near future the council suggests contraction of some of the greater benefits promised in the distant future when persons now young will be old. Wisely, we think, the council holds that the eventual total cost should be no larger than was contemplated under the original Social Security act, saying:—

"The pattern cannot be larger than the cloth; the degree of security afforded must be limited by the national income and the proportion of that income properly available for any specific purpose.

"No benefits should be promised or implied which cannot be safely financed . . .

"We should not commit future generations to a burden larger than we would want to bear ourselves."

**Press Keeps Itself Free  
An Example to Congress**

By RAYMOND CLAPPER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—I have been reading the letter on freedom of the press, which President Roosevelt sent to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary.

The President takes for his text some straightforward shop talk, which Grover C. Hall, editor of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, recently addressed to his fellow editors. Mr. Hall, in a bulletin of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, was urging his fellow editors to maintain the highest traditions of journalism and to be alert to protect the integrity of their news columns against the "influence of the counting room."

Mr. Roosevelt insists that there has been no infringement on the freedom of the press by his administration, and he says convincingly that one only has to read what the newspapers say about his administration to prove it. But he believes freedom of the press is endangered from within and cites the shop talk of Mr. Hall to prove it.

**Advertiser as "Censor."**

Not only Mr. Roosevelt but a good many politicians here think that an advertiser, duly equipped with horns and pitchfork, sits as censor in every newspaper office. Having been a Washington correspondent for twenty years I wouldn't know much about business office pressure on editorial departments. Editors and publishers vary, I suppose, as do politicians in the extent to which they resist the pressure of special interests. Good publishers know that the value of the advertising space they sell increases with the general confidence which readers have in the integrity of the newspaper. Short-sighted publishers, like short-sighted politicians, get caught up with in time and lose both readers and advertisers.

The example of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in actively discussing the importance of preserving the integrity of their news columns is one which Congress might well follow, particularly now when one of its conspicuous members is exposed as a front man using his position in the House of Representatives to lobby legislation sought by the ill-fated drug company controlled by the crook who just shot himself.

Any newspaper that was as full of planted speeches and "payoff" puffs as the Congressional Record would be hooted into bankruptcy by its community.

It just happens that recently I heard a successful publisher of one of our larger Middle-Western metropolitan dailies describe his efforts to obtain a much-needed municipal improvement in face of opposition by his principal department store advertisers. He felt that his merchants were short-sighted in their opposition, but he was unable to convince them. Then he proceeded to short-circuit them and to enlist the support of more civic-minded leaders. As a result of his work the improvement was put through, and it is now under construction.

**Editors Study Machine Politics.**

Incidentally, politicians may be interested to know that one of the questions to which some editors are giving much attention now is the interlocking relations between machine politics and crime and corruption. The prosecutions of Thomas E. Dewey in New York have aroused other communities, and efforts of civic groups to break up these alliances are finding their leadership and chief support in the press. Municipal government has become, in many cities, a racket in which politicians tie up with crooks in all sorts of deals at the expense of the community.

What politician, do you suppose, came down to Washington twenty-eight years ago and wangled a Presidential pardon for Philip Musica and set him free to begin life all over as de luxe crook? Who is it that fixes things for crooks in every big city? The newspapers or some politician? Who is it that grabs up real estate just before the City Council decides to buy that very parcel? The newspapers or the brother-in-law of some politician?

The worst indictment of the American press is its futility—the fact that after fighting public graft and corruption for 150 years politics still is what it is.

**Questions-Answers.**

Inclose a 3-cent stamp for reply when addressing any question of fact or information to the World-Telegram Service Bureau at Washington. Legal and medical advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. Be sure all mail is addressed to World-Telegram Service Bureau, 1,013 13th St., Washington, D. C.

Q. Did the Dutch resist the English when they seized New Amsterdam (New York)? A. No. The Dutch Governor Stuyvesant wanted to resist when Colonel Nicholls appeared in the harbor with a strong English fleet on August 29, 1664, but the appeals of the city authorities and the clergy restrained him from fighting against overwhelming odds.

Q. What is the population of New York City's Chinatown? A. In 1930 it was 3,862. More recent figures will not be available until after the 1940 census.

Q. Can a patent be obtained for a method of doing business or keeping accounts? A. No; inventions must consist of some apparatus for performing the task.



**Catholic Co**

From

By C. W. Reginald Foster.

It is with considerable amazement that I read the reply of the Rev. John H. Holmes to the suggestions of Father Ignatius W. Cox, S. J., concerning the plan for impartial application of relief to the starving populace of loyalist Spain.

Since it is almost incredible that a man of Dr. Holmes' intelligence could believe that a priest or a minister of the Christian Church could advocate the withholding of mercy to millions of innocent sufferers, and in particular to seem to find it in the words of a man so universally known for his humane and salutary works as Father Cox, I must reluctantly regard the insinuations to that effect with which he begins his letter to be a gratuitous attempt to prejudice the case and begot the issues and will pass on to the point under discussion.

This, it would seem, in spite of the strenuous attempts to attack the mild and generally ineffectual sympathies of Catholics in America for the nationalist cause, is in reality the point which Father Cox makes and which Dr. Holmes avoids, i. e., that the starving myriads of loyalist Spain should get aid and food at the earliest moment, and that in large quantities. . . .

It certainly is not too much to ask, if Catholics are to participate in the great and good work of succor to starving Spain, that the collection and administration of that relief be unaccompanied by a fanfare of hurrahs for the politics and ideologies of the loyalist government, that it be not used as a means of propaganda for un-American doctrines of any design, and most of all, that it be administered in a manner so as to minimize the danger of rendering material aid to the military forces of the loyalists.

These are mild and reasonable requests and are followed by splendid suggestions for the working out of the problem. Wherein is there aught to condemn, either in the Catholic viewpoint or in Father Cox's expression of the same?

Yet from this point Dr. Holmes springboards into a general attack upon Catholic opinion on the subject and a defense of a governmental policy in Barcelona which he would perforce have to condemn were it