

Regret at WFA's Passing.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

THE TIMES editorial "WFA's Good-Bye," regarding Admiral Byrd's departure from Little America, greatly impressed me. I am sure that I, as well as thousands of other readers, eagerly awaited the daily messages from the base. It is with a feeling of regret that we will not read any more of them, but will have to be content to hear from them when they arrive home.

I would like to say a word in praise of Russell Owen, whose wonderful descriptions were so widely read, and I hope that upon their arrival home they will be given a cordial and rousing welcome.

VICTOR FRIEDMAN.

New York, Feb. 20, 1930.

Inventing the Steam Engine.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In your issue of Feb. 23 you mention James Watt as the inventor of the steam engine. He was not. His patents were for "improvements in the steam engine," and as far back as 1764 he had been watching the Newcomen steam engine pumping mine water.

Watt's principal improvement was the condenser. He knew the Newcomen engine well, long before his patent date. As at the time of his earliest invention the crank was patented by some one else, he had to resort to another mechanical movement. It was not Watt who watched the teakettle lift its lid by the force of the steam therein, but the Marquis of Worcester.

ROBERT GRIMSHAW.

New York, Feb. 24, 1930.

A President's Way.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Your editorial on "President Hoover's Prosperity" in today's issue is rather apologetic, to say the very least. Never in the history of the United States has a President's career been less colorful. The lack of leadership in the present incumbent stands out so significantly that in color it is about nil in comparison with two recent but impressive Presidents, namely, Roosevelt and Wilson.

I believe if Hoover were to allow things and events to remain quiet or chaotic for another year, with an attempt to familiarize himself with the fundamental principles of political philosophy, the last two years of his incumbency might amount to something less cog-wheelish.

JOHN A. BAKER.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1930.

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