

The Nation's Business

(A Series of Articles by National Leaders Published Exclusively in This Territory in The Herald.)

"The Obligations of an American," by Lemuel Bolles, National Adjutant, The American Legion.
 "Evolution of School Systems," by James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor for the United States.

I. "The Obligations of an American," by Lemuel Bolles, National Adjutant, The American Legion.

Editor's Note—Lemuel Bolles, national adjutant of the American Legion, talks like a soldier fights, straight from the shoulder. The following should give food for sober reflection to all American citizens who desire to see our nation purged of all that is evil in its civic and political life. He handles the grave questions that face our nation without gloves, and draws conclusions as sharp and distinct as is possible for any man regardless of his opportunities or abilities.

If America (the United States) ever goes crumbling away to political and economic ruin the fault will lie not from the enemies without but the citizens within, not guilty of crime commission but guilty of as grave a fault, omission of the very duty that gave them their freedom.

If all the blood and tears, all the great effort and unselfish love and devotion that has gone into the erection of the United States is to be wasted the fault will lie at the door of you and your neighbor and history in the centuries to come will point a pitiless finger at you and yours and declare that the greatest advance in human government the world ever knew was lost because you and yours failed to do your duty, a simple, easy, duty that should be a joy and a matter of untold pride.

America stands today in the path of a destructive force. Not a whirlwind to tear and rend but a slow, creeping, insidious, relentless force that attacks the very heart of your country, drains the strength and power and hopes and dreams of their being and will never pause in its blight until you and yours have been aroused.

Today in the United States, where popular government has reached its highest development, a large portion of our citizens have abandoned the effort to exercise any of their political rights. So, in increased measure, the urgent need exists for bringing home to every individual his own responsibility for self assertion in political life.

In war the qualified man who fails to take arms in defense of his country becomes abhorrent in the eyes of his decent fellows. The obligation to take arms at such a time is no greater than the obligations of peace in the life of any good citizen. If the necessity arises, he renders his service in the discharge of his civic duties. But this is not true of all. Every country has its Bergdolls and every age its slackers. They occupy an unenviable place in public opinion; their children will live to blush at mention of their names.

The Political Slackers.

But with the political slackers—many of them are respected citizens. We find them in every community; the business man who is too busy to register; the working man who will not take time from his tasks to cast his ballot; the housewife who thinks that a woman's place is in the home; the society woman who cannot be bothered; the average of Tom, Dick and Harry who don't take enough interest in the welfare of their communities to keep informed of the time and place of the elections. All of these constitute an alarming proportion of our adult citizenry who have a right to exercise a share in the direction of our political destinies, but do not.

There is not an ill in American life today which cannot be cured, and today promptly, if each voter will inform himself as to issues with the means at his immediate disposal.

There is not a weakness in our social structure which cannot be bolstered if individually and conscientiously we try to discharge the obligations and exercise the privileges granted us by the Constitution of our United States. Political bosses, machine rule and graft are impossible in that community where the citizens are awake to their responsibilities; where they measure up to the obligation resting upon the individual. In every community there is that element, always in the minority but bound together by selfish interests, thriving upon corruption of public officials and special privileges, the very existence of which is a malicious menace to democratic institutions.

In the lowest classes of society there is a dangerous criminal element, ever crouched to spring at the throat of decent society and to fatten itself from the results of riot, turmoil and destruction.

Well organized governments are constantly alert to curb these elements. They have but little hope of success by an open breach of the peace. Driven to cover and crowded to a sullen observance of the more obvious forms of law and order, they work to bring about their ends by more devious routes. These hardy partisans are present in force at the polls. They are never too busy to cast their ballots. They are never too busy to lavish time and effort for the candidate who will best serve their needs. They are clamorously in line when the rewards are being distributed.

Unfair Attacks Made

The responsibility of the individual does not, however, cease with the casting of his ballot, nor does it begin there. It begins first in development of a proper attitude toward our public institutions and toward our public representatives. Office holders in the United States have borne such attack and misrepresentation and have become the target of such destructive bombardment that it is almost impossible to get the right kind of men to list themselves for office or to accept public appointment. Political campaigns though forced to disinflect on recent years, are yet too frequently perfervid competitions in personal vilification. A man of ideals offering himself for public office must be unhesitant to withstand misrepresentation; to have his motives questioned; to have the most intimate details of his personal and private life stripped and distorted to satisfy the passion of that breed of politician to whom nothing is clean.

As individuals we can force wholesome conditions in American life by flintily refusing to associate ourselves with political followings in which such damnable debased tactics are countenanced.

When the successful candidate has attained public office, he then ceases to be, in the minds of many of us, an honorable, patriotic citizen. Years of honest life among us are discounted and we begin to look upon him, too often with suspicion. Whatever he does appears tinged with improper consideration, done not wholly for the public good. And despite all, the man in public life today who does not spend each waking hour in sincere and unselfish endeavor to serve his city, his state and his country is the exception to the rule. The greater proportion of mistakes made by men in public office are errors of heart and not of head.

How many public servants, having given the best that was in them to the office which they held, have been returned to their neighbors broken in health, sick at heart, misunderstood, their honesty smirched; left to finish their barren days reflecting on the acid ingratitude of the public.

Individually we can correct this condition by standing steadfastly by the officials we have elected to public office. Doubtless we elected them because we had faith in their judgment. Doubtless we selected them from among their fellows because of their fitness for the task and because of their particular qualities as American citizens. We cannot expect a human being to be right all of the time. We can expect him to be humanly honest and sincerely and humanly fallible. America is secure against assaults from without. If that majestic structure which has been reared by dint of so much suffering and sacrifice ever crumbles it will be the result of the careless indifference of the individual American into whose keeping has come this greatest of all responsibilities.

II.

"Evolution of School Systems," by James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor.

Editor's Note—James J. Davis is known in labor circles throughout the United States. The mere fact that he was made a member of the President's cabinet at a time when the keenest brain of the nation were needed to guide its destiny shows in itself that he is a man whose opinions must be respected.

The national system of education needs reformation. It has stood still in its fundamentals while every other art and science has advanced.

The American youth of today is being turned out of schools not fitted to give his best in the battle that an ever growing complex economic situation demands. He is being bedecked with educational "pretties", a dress uniform that must be cast aside to give place to the dull drab of the working garb and the time he loses in making that change is a precious time of strength and enthusiasm, of plastic years that yield too easily many times to the fingers of circumstance and environment, of ideals that may be shattered by the rude hand of necessity.

Children should be trained to appreciation of the finest things in life but they can never secure those fine things unless they are equipped to expend to best advantage every power nature gave them at birth and America's educational system today is neglecting too many of those powers and feeding to excess others.

We Americans have long been justly proud of our free public school system. For the more easy-going life we lived a dozen years ago it did very well. Now, it seems to me, our deepest, fundamental notions of what a system of schooling should be are in need of a complete reshaping. We have been sending our children out into the world to work their way upward, but with blunted tools in their hands. Now they need more accurate

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An Appreciation

Mrs. Kays, who is leaving the McVicker Beauty Parlor, for Sterling, Col., wishes to express her sincere appreciation for the generous patronage that has been accorded her during the past months.

Her work in Alliance has been a pleasure at all times.

Patrons are advised that the McVicker Beauty Parlor will reopen soon with an experienced operator in charge, announcement of which will be made later.

Mrs. George K. Kays

Christmas Gifts

It's about time to think about Christmas Gifts. See our lines of Ivory Goods, Stationery, Ladies' Purses, Toilet and Manicure Sets, Candies and Fountain Pens.

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THIS Christmas giving of useful and practical gifts will prevail throughout the land. Nothing could be more useful or practical than Electrical Appliances. With them one can wash, iron, sew, clean, cook, heat, light, or in fact anything; quickly, easily and economically. Thousands of homes are made more efficient, more pleasant and happier with Electrical Servants. The burdens of the housewife are lightened, allowing more time for closer comradeship with the children; for more attention to social duties, etc. Every member of the family benefits from the Electrical Home, we give these few suggestions to help you select appropriate and useful Christmas gifts for your loved ones.



Electric Toaster—Toasts two slices a delectable brown on both sides in a couple of minutes. Complete with six feet of cord and plug.



Electric Coffee Machine—Coffee and cold water in the percolator; put in the plug. In 7 or 8 minutes you serve it—piping hot. \$10.00 Up



Electric Iron—Every home that is wired needs an iron—always ready.



Electric Grill—A dainty and appetizing meal can be cooked on this grill; four heats. Complete with six feet of cord and plug. \$12.50

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