

# EDITORIALS

## The Omaha Guide

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, MAY 4th, 1935

### How Long Can We "Take It"?

There is at least one calling that hasn't been depressed during the past few years. Not only has it held its own, but it has managed to go forward and put more and more good round dollars in the till. That calling is Tax Gathering.

According to a recent editorial in The Los Angeles Examiner, officeholders of the country now receive about Five Thousand Million a year in tax paid salaries; and the amount is steadily rising.

Public payrolls list over 3,250,000 people; and that list is constantly lengthening.

Last year over 90,000 new names were added to the Federal payroll alone; in addition to increased political employment in practically all of the 175,000 subordinate governments the country has to support.

Every citizen has to chip in to pay the bill the politicians create. The people pay it directly, through income, property and security taxes. They pay a larger amount indirectly, through taxes levied on everything they use; from a pack of cigarettes to the winter fuel. A recent estimate places the cost of government at over thirteen thousand million dollars a year; nearly one-third of the nation's income.

In the words of The Examiner, "All the unnecessary governments and all the superfluous politicians are demanding and imposing more and more taxes on industry, more and more taxes on productive pursuits, more and more taxes on the public generally." The American people have shown they can "take it" when it comes to paying taxes; but serious observers are beginning to wonder how long the people will permit official waste and extravagance to absorb money that is needed for jobs, industrial expansion, home building; in brief, for recovery.

### Japan's Trade War

A headline in a New York daily recently proclaimed: "Japan Looms as Workshop of the World." The writer of the article quoted Clarence H. Matson, manager of the foreign commerce department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce as saying:

Japan can buy raw cotton from us, spin it and sell us the finished cloth at a price we cannot possibly hope to meet.

She is gradually squeezing Great Britain and the United States out of the textile market. It is of course, her cheap labor and low priced government control power. She is able to undersell us in our own electric light bulbs despite our duties of from 20 to 30 per cent. Rayon threatened partially to displace her silk trade. She went in for its manufacture and today is flooding the foreign markets with it. She is selling us around 50,000,000 yen worth a year.

A motion picture was shown in New York City which gave an idea of the growth of Japanese industry. Scores of Japanese boys and girls were depicted in a factory turning out incandescent bulbs. At another plant a small army of girls were making stockings for the export trade, and in another picture where candy was being made, pounds and pounds were being shipped to the United States for consumption by way of San Francisco.

While jingoistic speeches and newspaper articles are utilized to convince the American public that there are grave prospects of this country and Japan engaging in battle in the future, the Japanese are really waging a bloodless conflict against other nations—an economic war. Cheap labor and the installation of modern machinery are their chief weapons.

Can the United States successfully compete with Japan in our domestic and foreign markets by adopting a thirty hour work week and appreciably increasing the wage scale at this time? Would a fact finding conference of organized labor officials with heads of the State and Labor Departments at Washington to determine just how much concession industry can give to labor and make the desired progress, help clarify a situation which becomes more ominous each day.

### Make This Test

During the past ten years an aggressive drive has been concluded to destroy the private utility industry. It has taken tangens, but the end sought has never varied.

A substantial part of the public has been swayed by anti-utility arguments. The anti-utility politicians are good speakers. They are persuasive. They know the art of the half truth. They are able to select facts that fit their case; and, slide gilby over other facts that would injure it.

Here is a little test as to the legitimacy of the war on the utilities that any one can make: Think

back thirty years, if you can, and recall the type of gas and electric service you had then.

Even in big cities, service was inefficient and expensive. In smaller towns, interruptions occurred almost daily; rates were so high that only few could afford to even light their homes well, much less employ gas and electricity for other purposes.

Now think of the service you receive today in big cities and small hamlets alike. Rates are the lowest in the world. Breakdowns are practically unknown. Power is almost literally "as cheap as air" used abundantly, it costs the average home but ten cents a day.

That progress has been made under private management. I has been financed with private capital. The public's interest has been safeguarded by state commissions. Shall we continue that; or shall we turn one of our greatest, most necessary and most progressive industries over to the tender mercies of the politicians?

### Battling Adversity

The American farmer is learning the truth of the old saying that "Troubles never come singly."

Last year the most disastrous drought of recent times gripped a vast area that normally is the most productive in the nation, and destroyed grain, live stock and other produce. This year dust storms are being equally destructive.

Adversity such as this demands the most aggressive, intelligent and courageous action possible. I call on every quality of mind and spirit the farmer possesses. And, it tests to the limit the farmer's principal weapon in his fight for stability; the agricultural cooperatives.

The co-ops and their members are no faltering. They are not giving in. As problems increase and grow, they simply work harder. Questions of production, of price levels, of supply and demand, of governmental policy towards the farmers, are being subjected to the microscope of hard logic.

Under these conditions, it is impossible to believe that the farmer will not pull through. And when he does, and the farm skies clear once more, he will have added an inspiring page to agricultural history.

### Winning The War on Arson

Two more states, West Virginia and Kansas have adopted the Model Arson Law sponsored by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This brings the total of states having the law to 35.

Not long ago arson was a fairly safe and one of the most profitable of crimes. Prosecuting authorities were lax in apprehending the criminals. Evidence was difficult to obtain. Laws were inadequate. The result was that arson cost honest citizens many millions of dollars each year; and, infinitely worse, took hundreds of innocent lives.

Now the efforts of fire prevention workers are beginning to take effect. Using the Model Arson Law as basis for action, constant watch is kept for arsonists. All suspicious fires are thoroughly investigated. Arson gangs are listed, and a constant check is kept on their activities. Once evidence is obtained, it is turned over to the proper officials and the way paved for successful prosecution. Prosecuting authorities, now that it is possible to obtain convictions in arson cases, proceeded much more decisively and promptly than they did in the past.

The 15 states which still lack the Model Arson Law should adopt it. No crime is more despicable than arson; none is more menacing to life and property. And, with the aid of proper legislation and concerted action, it can be reduced to the minimum.

### The Changing Weather Cycle

Writing in the California Journal of Development, S. Parker Friselle, a prominent agriculturist, points out that California appears to be entering upon a new weather cycle; a period of copious water supply, in sorely needed contrast to the past two decades of deficient rainfall.

This opinion is not based on guesswork, but upon an exhaustive study of precipitation records and weather trends during the past 85 years. Mr. Friselle is convinced that the theory of cyclic succession determines climatology. In other words, dry and wet years will come in groups, precisely as the Middle West now seems to be entering into a disastrous dry period after a long series of years in which precipitation was adequate.

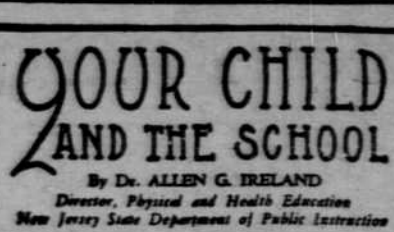
The effects of this California and adjacent areas will be highly beneficial. The menace of aridity that has overhung farms on the Pacific Coast will be eliminated; streams and rivers that have been dry or sub-normal will resume their flow. And, of great importance, the change in the weather cycle may provide a natural solution to the irrigation problem.

As precipitation increases, the necessity for development of large irrigation works will disappear, and the cost of irrigation generally will be decreased. That will be of obvious economic advantage to all the peoples of the areas involved.

### Silver Grows Scarce

Silver is growing increasingly scarce. The American government's silver purchase program, whereby thousands of ounces of the metal are purchased in the world market from time to time, has absorbed much of the available supply.

In addition, foreign governments which hold large quantities of silver, such as China, are showing disinclination to sell, for fear that their banking and currency systems might be disrupted as a result.



By Dr. ALLEN G. IRELAND  
Director, Physical and Health Education  
New Jersey State Department of Public Instruction

### Substitutes

Most adults today can remember the hard work of their fathers and grandfathers. Wood had to be chopped and fields plowed. It was a long day they spent at heavy muscular labor. Even the store keeper, the minister, the doctor, the postmaster, and most of the women had their back-bending chores.



Their was a rugged existence. And from it they acquired the stamina, the strength, and the constitution that has been no small factor in the successes of this young nation. They were unconsciously obeying a law of nature which states that "growth and development take place through activity." No great analysis is needed to contrast our time with those days. Automobiles, buses, elevators for the slightest errand. Gas, electricity, no trees to fell. Push buttons, gadgets, devices in great number save the steps which to our ancestors brought vitality. And we hail with joy every invention which promises greater ease and luxury.

Combined with competition, speed, short cuts, tension, greed, this change is our loss. It will be a disastrous loss unless we pay more attention to providing the right kind of substitutes for the young generations. Those substitutes are, and will be to an increasing extent, playgrounds, golf courses, tennis courts, gymnasiums, swimming pools, parks, and beaches. In them lies our hope for preserving the vitality, the organic power, which has been the birthright of the American people.

And here is the reason of course why educators the world over are urging these facilities and asking for trained leaders to guide our children.

Why do children sometimes develop aversions to certain good foods, such as milk? One reason is suggested by Dr. Ireland in his next article.

### Don't Burn the House

By E. Hofer.

In a recent editorial, Collier's says: "During a hundred years politicians have been berating soulless corporations. Vast volumes have been filled with laws intended in one way and another to hamstring and throttle corporation business."

"The struggle has not succeeded because the American people decided that the corporation was a useful working tool. In spite of every repressive statute, corporate business has grown. When the government itself takes up a new business activity, its first step is to organize a corporation. A campaign to outlaw holding companies is now being waged in Washington."

"If history is a guide to the future, the services performed by holding companies will be continued regardless of what laws are passed. Of course, wrongdoing by corporations, holding companies or individuals ought to be outlawed. Of course law-breaking or the betrayal of trust or responsibility in any circumstances ought to be prosecuted and punished."

"But it is futile and stupid to outlaw a form of organization in order to prevent the commission of a crime. We don't have to burn up the house in order to fumigate it."

"We have kept our heads and used judgement during long and anxious years. It would be tragic, now that we have advanced so far on the road to recovery, to destroy agencies which rightly conducted will prove highly useful in the management of our business and the reemployment of our normal productive powers."

Recent events indicate that the views expressed by Collier's is shared by the bulk of the American people. Since committee hearings on the proposed holding company law began in Washington, the Congress has been literally flooded with letters from voters concerning it; and the vast majority of the letters, according to the Senators and Representatives of both parties who received them, have said that the law should be either defeated or thoroughly revised. The letters came from people who had invested their savings in holding companies; and faced whole or partial loss of money they had depended on for old age.

They came from people whose jobs would be imperiled if the law were to pass. And they came from a legion of citizens who have no connection with holding companies, but have a patriotic interest in doing what they can to defeat unsound and dangerous legislative policies, and to advance sound ones.

The other day Wendell L. Willkie, President of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, which is considered to be one of

the best organized, best managed and most useful electric holding companies in the country, presented to the Senate a number of specific suggestions on which holding company legislation could be based. Under his plan, state regulation would be maintained, and it would be supplemented with federal regulation to take care of cases where no state regulatory power exists, or where it cannot be successfully invoked. State and federal bodies would be given the statutory power to prevent any and all abuses which critics of the holding company say exist.

That is the sound, the sensible and the fair solution of the issue. A law which would destroy a multitude of companies, along with the investments and jobs they have created, in order to prevent abuses by a few, cannot be justified.

### Is the Negro Too Religious?

Denver, Colo., May 2—Sharp differences of opinion were voiced here Monday afternoon by the Reverend G. W. Henry, ex-moderator of the Western Baptist Association, now State Missionary, and Fritz Cansler, Executive Secretary of the Glenarm Branch Y. M. C. A. on whether Negroes are too "religious."

The tilt between the clergyman and the Y Secretary followed a statement by the clergyman that "Negroes have too much religion already."

Cansler asked permission to answer the Baptist divine and proceeded to puncture the Reverend's contention at all points. Cansler averred the Negro is rapidly becoming the one least concerned with religion and Christianity. In support of this statement, he cited "the many empty pews, the lack of interest in organizations formerly sponsored by young and old, as signs of decreasing interest in the church and the religion and Christian principles for which the church stands."

### Tells What He Would Do.

In a peculiarly effective and caustic vein, Cansler said, "If I were a minister, I would cease repeating the 'meaningless' formula which has been used to depreciate the importance of religion in our Racial life. The Negro has not 'got too much religion,' as the good Reverend has just said. We need 'more' religion in its real and abiding interpretation."

**Negro is Not Over Church'd.**  
"We are not 'over church'd.' If the Negro in Denver whom we have even the right to expect to be interested in the church and its program, were to go to church here next Sunday, there would not be half enough seats to accommodate them at any one time."

"But," said the well known Y secretary, "religion is still a powerful force in life, and even hard-boiled students of economics are beginning to admit that there is no hope for the present civilization, unless we can somehow capture for this generation the Spirit of Jesus and put into application as a remedial measure for the widespread confusion and disorder, the principles which Jesus enunciated in the Sermon on the Mount."

Continuing, Cansler said, "No, it is not 'less religion' we need as Race and Nation, but rather 'more religion.' He issued a clarion call to the group of ministers at the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance before whom he took sharp issues with Reverend Henry, "to talk, teach, preach and live religion, and ever more to emphasize religion as the solution of the so-called 'Race Problem' and every other problem which now baffles lawmakers and challenges our very existence as a nation."

—By the Continental Press.

### The President's Inconsistency

By R. A. Adams

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

In his "social security plan" the president has gone farther than any one of his predecessors. He seems to have drawn from the socialists, communists and other ultra radicals many of the things incorporated in his scheme.

These things are representative of social principles which commend themselves to all. They mean industrial and economic revolution of the most drastic nature. In undertaking these changes the president is gambling with his own future, for if they fail he will be held responsible for whatever may ensue. More, he is endangering the most vital material interests of the nation, for failure means to the national interest wreck and ruin. Viewing things from this angle one is inclined to believe the president to be sincere and his actions motivated by genuine altruism.

But when we consider his actions in bringing back rum, with its vicious progeny, with unhappiness, the poverty, the utter waste, and the indisput-

able destruction it is impossible to harmonize this sin against men, women and children by the president who is chiefly responsible for this moral

retrogression of America. To this case apply the adage, "Consistency, thou art a jewel."

## SHARECROPPERS IN A STATE OF PEONAGE

Startling Revelations Bared; Conditions Pitiably Among White and Negro Sharecroppers Alike; Committee Releases 250 Page Report After Year's Study

### DISTINGUISHED LEADERS OF RACES ON COMMITTEE

Report Calls Forth For Drastic Readjustment of South's "Excessive Devotion" to King Cotton.

### ADVOCATES CONCENTRATED REFORM

Washington, D. C. May 2.—The committee on minority groups in Economic Recovery, after a year's study of conditions among white and Negro sharecroppers in the Southland, made public the startling findings of its study in a two hundred fifty page report here Wednesday in which attention of the public and officials was directed to the dire need for a complete overhauling of the South's excessive devotion to King Cotton.

The report which was summarized in advocates among other things:

Drastic readjustment of the South's antiquated system of credit.

Immediate remedial steps to remove the appalling and unbelievably low economic status to which Negro and white farmers; mostly sharecroppers are assigned.

Readjustment in the south's policy as regards land tenure. Drastic readjustment of the south's long-time excessive devotion to King Cotton as the source of greatest revenue, livelihood and support for the majority of the inhabitants, the south having held onto cotton as its chief staple from prior to the days of slavery to the present.

Financed by a fifty thousand dollar appropriation from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation, the committee which made the twelve month study was composed of:

Edwin R. Embree, president of the Rosenwald Foundation, Chicago; Prof. Charles S. Johnson, head of the Department of Social Research, Fisk University, Nashville; and Dr. Will W. Alexander, Director of the southern commission on Inter-racial cooperation and likewise President of Dillard University, New Orleans.

The Committee made its report to the Department of Agriculture more than a month ago, but was not made public until last Wednesday. Dr. Alexander and President Embree said the report had also been brought to the attention of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Among other things the voluminous two hundred-fifty page report said:

"With declining exports and increasing foreign cotton production, the South stands face to face with a choice," the committee found.

"It may choose continued regimentation of agricultural production with subsidies for released lands and relief for displaced tenants and agricultural laborers."

"Or it may decide that this too great a price to pay for concentrated land ownership. In such a case America might well follow the example of Ireland and Denmark and embark upon a program of government aid to peasant proprietorship."

**Not Merely a Negro Problem**  
The report says the situation constitutes not a Negro problem, but a tenant and sharecroppers problem alike, in that both races of the farming classes are "in a state of peonage that approaches slavery."

Continuing, the report further said:

"As a matter of fact, the Negro no longer furnishes the bulk of cotton tenants." There are 1,091,944 white tenants in the south to 698,839 colored tenants. While one may not be surprised to note that over half the Negro tenants are croppers, it is startling to learn that over one-third of the white tenants are in the same poverty stricken class.

The recent flareups between plantation owners and sharecroppers and tenant in Marked Tree, Arkansas and other sections which have attracted attention of countless millions in and out of America, are but indications of how tense is the situation and pitiable the conditions are among both white and Negro tenants and Sharecroppers. Violence and intimidation on the part of landlords in some sections have greeted the attempts of the tenants, Sharecroppers, and those interested in them to make better and

more tolerable their conditions. The Federal Government sent an attorney in a several of the southern states to study conditions after repeated reports had been made that the NRA code was being flagrantly violated and farmers and sharecroppers had been illegally evicted and otherwise mistreated.

—By the Continental Press.

### Proverb and Parables

By A. B. Mann

#### "A Still Tongue Makes A Wise Head"

Here is another true saying. In simple language it means that it is more profitable for one to listen than to talk and have others listen to him. Listening he will be receiving, learning, increasing his store of knowledge. Talking, he is giving out, exhausting his store. And always the former is more profitable than the latter. Then the listener shows wisdom by silence when talking would reveal his mental weakness.

Especially true is this saying as it applies when one is tempted to use harsh words which will hurt others or that will cause strife and ill-will.

### White Writer Exposes Conditions in Southern Farm Areas

New York—CNA—A typical instance of the brutal oppression and sharecroppers in the South suffered by Negro farm tenants was graphically told by Erskine Caldwell, famous white Southern novelist, in a series of articles in the New York Post, metropolitan daily last week.

#### Landlord Beats Negro

A Georgia landowner describes his treatment of Negro sharecroppers in the following manner: GEORGIA LANDOWNER: "We know how to treat the blacks like they ought to be treated. I had black tenants last year who moved into one of my cabins, and the first thing he said was he wanted some steps built. I didn't pay and attention to him and he said something about it again. I told him to shut up. He talked back, and I jumped on that nigger and gave him the worst beating he'd ever got in all his life. He was in bed a week, he was that beat up. The next time I saw him he was as meek as a scared kitten."

That's all they need—just a show-down to see who's running things." The articles stated further that poor white tenants and sharecroppers are also victimized by the "system of economic slavery" under which both the poor whites and Negroes are forced to live. Caldwell's article declared that: "The white tenant farmer has been forced away from the rich productive soil of the plantations to the stony acres and steep, barren hillsides of the uplands. Here he can make practically nothing."

The articles also charge that the "crop control plan as it is practiced in the cotton states of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, penalizes the tenant farmer and enriches the land owner." Continuing the indictment of the New Deal AAA program, Caldwell lays the blame for this condition on Federal plans of so-called "rehabilitation." He states:

"Present methods of Federal crop control, the pressure of the landowning class, and the machinery of terror can bring only one thing, and that one thing is slavery."

The sharecroppers Union in Alabama, an organization of 10,000 Negro and white sharecroppers, is conducting struggles to combat the horrible conditions under which Negroes and poor whites are forced to live in the farm areas. Similar sharecroppers activities are being carried on in Arkansas, Georgia and Mississippi.

### POLICE SHOOTING PROTEST UNPROVOKED

New Haven, Conn.—CNA—Negro and white workers here packed the Odd Fellows Hall to protest the unprovoked police shooting of Tracy Woods, a 16-year-old boy.

Eye witnesses to the shooting testified to Wood's innocence and declared that the policeman, without justification, fired upon the youth. The meeting was held under the auspices of the International Labor Defense.