

Out Our Way

By Williams



Either Chain or Political Control Destroys Newspaper Independence

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Mr. R. L. O'Brien, formerly editor of the Boston Herald, thinks the press is retiring from the field of public opinion. He says the usefulness of the press as a public servant has declined with the development of chain newspapers and the rise of advertising.

How has the populace in much of the country been getting along without it for several years? There are even big cities in the country without a single newspaper hypocritical enough to pretend that it is tightening the battles of the people.

If the owners of newspapers are content to peddle them as if they were nothing more than business concerns, then the law is powerless to preserve the press as a quasipublic institution. Mr. Gannett flinched from the revelation that his newspapers were associated with the International.

Where "Tall Coin" Grows. From Minneapolis-Journal. If football players have been subsidized at the University of Iowa, then the Western conference severance of athletic relations with the Hawkeye school have been made immediately effective.

Lobby Legislation. From Omaha Bee-News. Reports are coming into the secretary of state from lobbyists who attended the late session. They are supposed to be statements of salaries received and expenses incurred by members of the "third house" who showed the other members what to do.

as to the charges and supporting proof, should have been freely given to Iowa and to the public, in case of immediate severance. And if supporting proof is lacking, then no en. pending results of an unadvertised investigation.

Especially unfortunate for the cause of the countercharges was their selection of Minnesota as a university toward which they might point accusing fingers. Maj. John L. Griffith, the Judge Landis of the Big Ten, blows that particular line of defense clear out of the ground.

with the retort that, in the matter of clean athletics, Minnesota's record is the best in the conference. If the present story clears the football atmosphere in the Middle West, with possibly similar results elsewhere, much good may come of it. We do not share the fears of alarmists that pending revelations will wreck the Big Ten. If any Big Ten schools, through their alumni or otherwise, have been carrying their zeal for gridiron supremacy to the point where it is being made peculiarly worthy the while of a good football player to attend one university rather than another university, then the fact that such recruiting has become known will doubtless lead to eradication of the practice.

College football has a storm like this every so often, and each storm is followed by new and better safeguards against professionalism. Silly Censorships. From Cedar Rapids Gazette. A Boston bookseller has been notified by customs authorities that Candide, one of the masterpieces of Voltaire, is obscene or indecent within the meaning of section 305 of the tariff act and sections 211 and 243 of the United States criminal code. The books of the French philosopher were seized by the collector of the port of Boston and a volume was referred to the treasury department for a ruling. The treasury bureaucrats uphold the collector of the port.

This is merely another demonstration, if another was required, that intelligent people of the nation are restive in their acquiescence in jobholders who probably consider Harold Bell Wright, Alice Hegan Rice and Eleanor H. Porter as the acme of literary excellence. It is not difficult to understand why a jobholder with such literary standards would object to Candide. To a wholesome mind the book is no more indecent than Jack-the-Giant-Killer or Goody Two Shoes. It is the thought conveyed which is offensive to jobholders.

Candide is nothing more than an ironical attack on the philosophy of Leibnitz. The latter was a German philosopher who formulated 170 years ago a philosophy which has been popular with bureaucrats from time out of mind. Leibnitz taught that this is the best of all possible worlds and that whatever is right, jobholders take to such philosophy with the readiness that cats lick up cream. It means that the status quo has been settled for all time and that bureaucrats will draw their pay for ever and ever while they are free at the same time to meddle all they please with the business of other people—especially intelligent people.

Voltaire hated jobholders and he hated fanatics who made easy and congenial jobs for the former. Goodness knows he had suffered enough from the tribe while fretting in the Bastille or fleeing across the border to Switzerland or England where he could write his thoughts without interference. So when the philosophy of Leibnitz came to hand Voltaire smiled one of his bright ironic smiles and wrote Candide. Europe sent up such a roar of laughter that jobholders everywhere howled curses and philosophy of Leibnitz suffered a decided slump in the intellectual market. Needless to say the bureaucrats of the period took effective steps to bar Candide from all communities where they were pre-eminent. They were certain then as they are today that this is the best of all possible worlds and that whatever is right is right—so long as jobholders draw their pay.

Many Studies of Crime and Law Enforcement Have Been Organized and Some Still in Progress

From the New York World.

When Mr. Hoover first announced his plan of a law enforcement commission he was speaking of prohibition. The occasion was his address of acceptance at Palo Alto. He said in the Stanford Stadium that he still believed prohibition to be an "experiment noble in motive," he added that "common sense compels us to realize that grave abuses have occurred;" and he thereupon promised his inquiry. Since then the nation has always thought of the investigation as bearing primarily upon prohibition. It still thinks so, for it studied the personnel of the president's commission chiefly in the light of their records as wets or dries. It will continue to do so. The president may talk, as he has recently done, about narcotics, smuggling, the jury system, the police and court procedure. But for the nation at large prohibition sticks out like a sore thumb, and it will inevitably preoccupy the attention of the country.

The Chicago Crime Commission; the Baltimore Criminal Justice Commission; the Crime Commission of Los Angeles; the Kansas City Law Enforcement Association; Cleveland Association for Criminal Justice; Missouri Association for Criminal Justice; San Francisco Section on the Administration of Criminal Justice; American Crime Study Commission; American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology; Society for the Prevention of Crimes, etc.

Prof. Andre Moriz of Harvard university protests vigorously because the government of the United States will not permit him to import copies of Voltaire's classic, Candide, for use in his classes. He says: "The literary decision of the United States customs creates for all professors of literature a 'cas de conscience.' There is not a course on the literature of the Eighteenth century where the reading of the Candide is not a part of the assigned readings."

We are getting farther and farther away, in these United States, from the theory that men and women are competent, and entitled to rule themselves, to determine their own ways of life. We are displacing that theory with the kindergarten theory of government and of society. And we are making, not the home, not the school, not the church, but an Uncle Sam with epaulets on his shoulders and a birch rod in his hand, the master of the kindergarten. On occasion he throws down the rod and grasps a policeman's bill.

Study Sun to Predict Changes in Climate. WASHINGTON.—Daily studies of the intensity of the sun's rays soon may make it possible to forecast the general march of solar energy for a year or more in advance. Regular periodicities have been discovered in variation of the intensity of the rays, according to Dr. C. C. Abbot, Smithsonian secretary and director of the astrophysical observatory. If the periodicities continue to prevail, not only may there be a forecast of the general trend of the sun's energy, but prediction of climatic and terrestrial changes dependent on the sun. Solar radiation has been found to rise to a feeble maximum in the spring months and fall to a marked minimum in the autumn. Three observatories of the Smithsonian institution, situated on mountain tops in desert localities of southern California, southern Africa, and Chile, are co-operating in the studies.

There is not much point in retreating straw which has been flailed and re-flailed; and the country rightly expects the president's commission to go beyond the work of all these bodies. How can it go beyond? Perhaps in various ways; but the most evident and urgent is in dealing with prohibition. For prohibition presents the hugest, most baffling and most glaring problem of law enforcement in American history. It is the one law which millions of Americans have deliberately and determinedly violated for reasons which satisfy their consciences as sound and right. These millions are in general an excellent body of citizens. They have included one president; many congressmen, governors and judges; the great mass of business and professional leaders in our cities. They would not think of violating other laws. In violating this one they involve many federal, state and municipal officers in malfeasance and corruption. They also, and more alarmingly, enlist the services of a great criminal organization below the pale of respectability; and this organization, thus enriched and strengthened, torments cities like Chicago and Philadelphia with gang murder, thuggery, blackmail and other cardinal crimes. This is a situation such as has probably never existed in any other great state in modern history. It will continue to exist; and to study it adequately in all its bearings might well take all the time, energy and wisdom of Mr. Hoover's commission.

Censorships, Law Tyrannies and Federal Paternalism Impose Severe Strain on Theory of Free Citizenship

From the Omaha World-Herald.

Their political and social theories, happily, were in conformity with their religious theory. God had created them responsible beings, had given them a conscience for their guide, had planned they were to acquire merit on earth and salvation hereafter by encountering temptation, knowing it, resisting it, making a free choice between good and evil. Not only did they not need a government for a moral mentor and commandant; such a government would interfere with the unimpeded working out of the divine plan. It was a noble and inspiring program, that promised to produce a virile, free and self-reliant society. But it is the program no longer. And the very institutions that should have combined to uphold it have joined to conspire for its overthrow. The church has scrambled to unload its moral responsibility upon the government; to make Uncle Sam the guardian of its flocks. Schoolmen clamor for a federal department of education to take supervision over their task. All too many homes abdicate to legislatures and policemen in the performance of duty to children. In groups big and little we agitate for governmental control over our personal lives, in order that all alike may conform to fixed rules and rigid standards. Science and industry and commerce combine to carry the process along, so that everybody eats the same food, wears the same clothes in the same styles, reads the same "book of the month," sees the same movies, plays the same games, lives in like houses similarly furnished, thinks the same thoughts, and shares throughout in the universal surrender of individualism. We started as nonconformists and have become conformists. We were to have few laws, a limited government, and we have more laws and a stronger, severer government than any other civilized people. We who were to control ourselves, fashion ourselves, are fashioned and controlled and ordered by the Frankenstein we have created and perverted. We have consigned ourselves to the kindergarten in a timid anxiety for an easy safety and an enforced morality that has no virtue in it. That was not Thomas Jefferson's plan, or God's, as the sturdy fathers understood it, but it is what we have drifted into.