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JOHNSON, COOLIDGE AND THE COURT.

Hiram Johnson's address at Cleveland undoubtedly contains the substance of what he rests his case on so far as the presidential campaign is concerned. Chiefly, this is the lack of definite foreign policy for the United States. As a matter of history, the United States has never had a continuing foreign policy, save that which is expressed in the Monroe Doctrine. This, briefly, is notice to the world that we insist on being allowed to manage our own affairs, and concede the same right to all others. Washington's advice to his fellow countrymen has been adhered to faithfully. Senator Johnson merely went ahead in that course.

His opposition to the League of Nations is well established, and he bases his objections to the World Court on that. In this, however, he will fail to satisfy a very large number of American people, perhaps a majority, who sincerely believe that the United States can take some part in the affairs of the world without sacrificing any of its independence. Men as devotedly patriotic as the senator from California have held this opinion. When Grover Cleveland was president, the thought of a World Court got considerable attention. So it has run through the years since. The Peace Palace at The Hague was constructed with money furnished by an American, and the idea it represented was fostered by Americans, who participated in all the councils held there, adhering strictly to the agreements reached. Just because The Hague conference did not bring about all that was hoped for does not argue their entire failure, nor did they decrease in any regard the influence of America.

The United States may withdraw from any participation in the settlement of world problems, and still exist, but the wisdom or even the prudence of such a course may be doubted. As the most powerful of all nations of the world, prosperous, wealthy, growing, it would be ridiculous should this country decline to take on any part of the burden of the rest of humanity.

Senator Johnson's criticism of the World Court that it lacks the authority to enforce its decisions, or to bring an offender before it, deserves careful consideration. At present and through all ages, peace has depended on the willingness of nations as such to submit themselves to established justice and to the observance of agreements expressed in treaties. The alternative to this is arms. In the World Court is presented a plan that might serve to minimize the necessity of armament. No act of any American president received more general or stronger approbation than that of Mr. Harding in calling the Washington conference. The League of Nations is just now following the example there set by requiring that the smaller nations of the world reduce their naval establishments. Such a tendency should not be overlooked, for it does signify in some measure a determination to try negotiation and conciliation rather than force in the settlement of disputes.

The argument that the World Court is a creature of the parent is not conclusive. The entrance or keeping out of the court will not relieve the United States from the effect of its long practice of submitting to arbitration grievances, complaints or disputes that might lead to war. Our government has ever maintained its dignity and firmly insisted on its rights, but it has also ever maintained a conciliatory attitude, and has drawn the sword only when all other honorable means have failed.

Senator Johnson's views are entitled to respect, for they are held by an able man, whose patriotism is beyond question. But others who are equally wise and patriotic differ both with and from him on the point at issue. Mr. Coolidge is an ardent advocate of the World Court, and this joins the issue squarely between the leading figures in the republican pre-nomination campaign. The issue rests with the voters.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM PARIS.

Paris is the headquarters for prophets as well as politicians, deposed monarchs, American expatriates, and other things that give the gay capital its claim to tourist attention. Once each year, if not oftener, these seers burst forth with such lugubrious predictions as make one wonder if they never see anything bright in the depths of the crystals they gaze into. Battle, murder and sudden death fill their programs, and disaster, disappointment, war, plague, pestilence and famine make up the trimmings.

Especially for America, and particularly the middle western part of America, is 1924 of horrid portent. What is worse, a lot of folks will worry over these predictions, for some still concede to wizards, necromancers and soothsayers power of divination. For 12 months, or until a new prophet arises, the words of the Parisian practitioners of magic will cling to memories that might be devoted to something else, and instead of being mindful of blessings enjoyed and dangers missed, these minds will be filled with apprehension of calamity to come. Any sort of disaster, big or little, will serve to confirm the prognostication, and things that happen in the ordinary course of events will be taken as proof of the accuracy of prediction.

Too bad that this is true. If the jugglers who, as Shakespeare puts it, "palter with us in a double sense," had promised good crops, pleasant weather, peace and prosperity, as they easily might have done, they would have been just as popular. Thank the lord, most of us will sing Frank Daniels' old song: "Saver of sooth and prophet old, Reader of riddles wise, Shall we believe what we are told, Or shall we surmise?"

Sometimes intelligence rejects prophecy, and if there is a time when skepticism is justified, it is when a crystal gazer undertakes to foretell in advance the events of a year.

Quite a lot of shirts manufactured by convicts in the Nebraska penitentiary, but what has become of that binder twine factory that the demopops were going to install for the salvation of the farmers some 20 or 25 years ago?

LOST MOTION IN GOVERNMENT MACHINERY.

The plan for reorganization of the government's administrative bureaus, as arranged by Walter F. Brown, is to have detailed consideration by a joint committee of congress. Unless sentiment has greatly changed at Washington, it is probable that the program will be modified in many regards before it is adopted.

The need for a better location of some of the functions of government is apparent. In the past new bureaus have been created and attached to one or another of the departments, frequently with little or no reference to the specific scope of the department. This has had the bad effect of providing for duplication and overlapping, the danger that always is present when the extension of governmental activities is undertaken. One other point is to be considered, and that is the rapid growth of government within the last few years.

One item in Mr. Brown's plan is certain to draw great opposition. That is the consolidation of the Army and Navy departments. Some administrative economies could be secured by this means, but men who have grown wise in the management of affairs see serious objections to the proposal. The nature of the service is so widely different and so varied in all respects that it may be questioned if any real saving will be accomplished by the expedient of displacing one cabinet officer and continuing the general administrative features of the two departments under a single head.

Provisions for the relocation and consolidation of certain bureaus will bring a great deal of discussion. Principal of these will be the suggestion that the roads and aviation bureaus be taken from the Interior and Postoffice departments and placed under Commerce. Reason for this may be found in plenty, for both have to do with transportation, and the better co-ordination of that work is certainly desirable. On the other hand, question may be raised as to the removal of rivers and harbors from the War department to be given to the Interior. At present, and for many years, the work has been done by army engineers, who are otherwise almost without employment in peace times. These men are of the highest type professionally, and their work has been well done. To make the shift suggested would entail the reformation of an engineer corps, not an impossibility, but certainly an added expense.

Other contemplated changes are subject to similar criticism. What really is needed is a close study of all the requirements, to the end that unnecessary service be curtailed, and that the ends of efficiency and economy be considered, that the people may have good government at the lowest possible cost.

KEEP YOUR EYES, SISTER.

She has seen enough, writes a young woman to a New York paper, offering her eyes for sale. That is a sad admission for anybody to make. Nobody ever has seen it all, and none ever will in this life. Probably everybody has seen enough of one thing to be surfeited, fed up, on the spectacle, but who knows what is waiting just around the corner?

Each new day is a miracle, whether sunny or cloudy, stormy or calm. Opportunity is offered with the rising of each sun to do things, to enjoy life, to worship God through honest labor. However humble and obscure one's employment may be, it is necessary to the carrying on of the great business of life. Aspiration need not be checked just because position is lowly. Each day brings another step of how some one has risen to power and affluence from obscurity and poverty, just by dint of steady plugging and making good in one position after another on the way up.

The heights by great men reached and kept Were not attained by sudden flight. But they, while their companions slept, Were toiling upward in the night."

If we were close enough to that young woman, we would advise her not to sell her eyes, or anything else, save her power to work, to do something. Should she take this advice, she will find plenty of use for her eyes. She has used them 23 years, she says, and they have done good service. But she has no idea what she may see the next minute, let alone the next day or the next month. When she has recovered from what seems a mood of despondency, she will find so much use for her beautiful eyes she will marvel that she ever was so foolish.

The mere fact that it is leap year will not suffice any sensible girl to drop her \$30 a week job to propose to some young man who depends upon father for his spending money.

The indications are that when Walter Camp next dons the high powered spectacles he will be able to see some fairly good football players west of the Missouri river.

Italy also protests the American immigration regulations, giving additional proof that life in America is worth something to the liver.

A New Year clergyman predicts the coming of a new deliverer. He will find plenty to fill in his time.

Oregon is our great and good friend, De la Huerta is a rebel, if you want to know the distinction.

Might be a good idea to set some reportorial sleuth to unearthing the fake political diploma mills.

The bashful office is just now finding out how much it really means to some of its admirers.

Those little earthquake shocks may just the throes of the old year trying to shake off its load.

The new year started with what looks like a general schuetzenfest all along the line.

"Success attends bigheads," shrieks a headline. Sometimes it is held back by pinheads.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davis "SMALL TOWN STUFF." "Small town stuff" is a phrase you have heard. If you've chanced where the buildings are tall, And, perhaps, you have been unexpectedly stirred To express your disgust for it all; Or, perhaps, you've observed in a nonchalant way And smilingly taken the quip, And where there was reason had nothing to say By which to remember your trip. But surely you've thought of the wisdom illumine Where buildings are strikingly high, And longed to be out there repairing a fence, With nothing but dust in your eye; And maybe you've laughed as a fellow off will That's tickled plumb down to his toes— When it is a crime if he has to keep still— A shame if he tells what he knows.

"THE PEOPLE'S VOICE"

Editorial from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

To End War. Chicago.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Probably the shortest article submitted to the American peace award committee, in charge of the Edward W. Bok prize, was from Omaha and contained only 17 words. The substance of it was that the day war was declared every one in the country was to be virtually under military rule.

Each one from his wage, income or business, or retain for himself the same amount a private soldier receives as pay, and in addition, for himself, and for each dependent, what it costs the government to feed and clothe the soldier.

This shall continue until the war debt is paid. Strict itemized account shall be kept of every transaction, including the name of party, so accountants can compare reports sufficiently to know they are correct.

Failure to do so subjects the party to court-martial and punishment, the same as for desertion.

This will not win the prize, as no suggestions were made for co-operating with other countries.

If congress fails to do something to end the war, let us begin this or something else over their heads.

If congress fails, I'll submit a suggestion to accomplish it. L. A. P.

Rebels. Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Who have been the most despised creatures during through history? The rebels, betrayers.

It is not a Judean heathen who sent Christ to an ignominious death on the cross, but one of His own, the betrayer Judas Iscariot.

Are there not church member business men enough, yes, right here in Omaha, who might have influence in the church and in the community?

Can any one find even a semblance of a line drawn in business generally which will distinguish the church member in business from the non-church member? In known combinations for large profits do not all share alike in prices charged? If Jesus Christ were to appear on earth today would He find a line of demarcation between the church member in business and the man who makes no profession of church affiliation?

If Jesus was to appear on earth in bodily form and attend the Sunday morning church services would He find His professed followers in their places in church or would He be compelled to go to the golf links or to the picture show to locate them?

Perhaps this might indicate some of the things which might be mentioned as to what is the matter with the church, but many more can be readily found.

GEORGE W. HAWKINS. 2520 Ames Avenue.

These Railroad Watchmen. Fremont, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I happened to be in Shelton, Neb., when I read a communication in The Omaha Bee over the signature of Oscar Olson, in which he complained about the Union Pacific requiring the watchmen to work 12 hours a day.

The old gentleman who guards the Shelton crossing what he thought about the matter. He said that he worked 12 hours, but that this was necessary, for the company kept no man there nights. The company works watchmen 8, 10 or 12 hours, as conditions require, but as each man gets paid the same, there is no dissatisfaction.

The Shelton watchman in no way shares Oscar Olson's opinion and is well satisfied with his job.

My business is not defending the railroads, but Oscar Olson's article implies that all watchmen work 12 hours. I believe the erroneous impression should be corrected. It is my understanding that when 24-hour service is maintained that the watchmen work only eight hours.

Oscar Olson says that he believes that the government should control the railroads because the watchmen work 12 hours. As long as ranking falls to know a perfect government it is perhaps best that we should live under a government which is legislative and executive powers are divided between a legislature and a supreme court, but with a perfect man at the helm, a unified authority such as we have in the United States.

Let us have a government, we can get better results and more effective administration.

Recognizing the people as the government, I believe in government control. Let us reduce freight and passenger rates by first reducing salaries, hair cuts, shoe soles, clothing and almost everything except farm products.

If Oscar Olson wants government control under some man as Secretary Fall of Teapot Dome fame, or William H. Taft, who gave \$100,000.00 worth of Calumet all hands to the Southern Pacific after having immortalized himself in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, I opine to the contrary.

CLARENCE RECKMEYER.

Nautical History. Fort Calhoun, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: The fundamental belief in Noah's Ark and the modernists is that the ark was a floating city. The ark was 300 feet long, 50 feet wide and had three decks. How the news got out to the animals, birds, snakes, bugs and to the people, we do not know. Probably some Jonah or Peter the Hermit gave the alarm, but, anyway, they came to the ark to be saved from the flood that was to come to drown out everything that existed on earth. In the ark the animals, birds, snakes and bugs, all came in pairs, male and female. The crowded condition of the ark? Well, there were a million species of animals, birds, reptiles and insects in the ark that are in the world now. How they all lived there in the ark with only Noah and his three sons to attend to them, we do not know. The modernists' God decided to drown out the world except eight grown married folk, and we suppose they helped to take care of the animals.

CHARLES STOLTENBERG.

Absentminded. The barber on my block had a sad experience. A flapper came in to get her hair bobbed. There is money in this business, and he thought he might please her so much that she would bring in her mates. But after bobbing her hair he absentmindedly started to father her for a shave—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Not Considerate. Flapper—Look here, father, I wish that you wouldn't leave my millinery bills lying around on the table just when Arthur was on the verge of proposing—Judy.

"From State and Nation"

—Editorials from Other Newspapers—

A Pattern for Party Platforms. From the Minneapolis Tribune. A dispatch from Washington has it that if Calvin Coolidge is to be the republican nominee for the presidency he will not be content with a party platform that is not simple in terms, concise in form and direct to the point at all stages.

One who reads the president's message to congress can well believe the dispatch exactly reflects the Coolidge mind. In that address, which he delivered orally, the president did not say a word about the tariff. He had things to say, and he said them in the fewest words and plainest language he was able to muster, and at that sort of muster he is a master. He did not strive to make any reader believe he was saying something else. He picked his adjectives to illuminate, not to obscure.

He sent out phrases so that there could be one and only one interpretation.

It will be possible to write a republican platform as clear, straightforward and understandable as the Coolidge message to congress, but it will not do for this purpose to trust the writing of it to some of the old hands who have scratched their heads trying to make black seem white, and vice versa. They are the gentle behind closed doors to find the most circuitous route to an apparent end, rather than a straightaway course to a real end.

President Coolidge has set a most admirable example in the framing of a state paper. If the republican leaders, whoever they may prove to be next year, will find another example in framing a party declaration of principles and policies, they will have earned the gratitude of millions of voters who judge parties by what they do, rather than by what they say, but nevertheless wish that the saying shall be plain and that it shall be squared with by the doing.

Mr. Coolidge gave himself up to no false pretenses in stating his case and course, as he sees them. He would not like to carry a banner at the head of his party in a political campaign under false pretenses.

The more one thinks of the dark and devious ways of many politicians of all parties, the more respect one feels for the frank statesmanship of Calvin Coolidge.

Rural Teachers' Salaries. From the Kansas City Journal. The vital necessity for an Education year, rather than an Education week, such as has just closed, is shown by the United States bureau of education, which has just made public the results of an exhaustive survey of rural schools throughout the country. About half the counties are represented in the tabulation.

According to the survey, there are 97,728 one-teacher schools in the country, the average annual salary being \$725. In only six of the 48 states does the annual salary reach \$900, while the highly creditable showing is made that only 427 teachers of one-teacher schools 2,160 receive less than \$300 annually. Four thousand five hundred and eighty receive from \$300 to \$500; 5,584 receive from \$500 to \$600; 16,422 receive from \$600 to \$700; 16,432 receive from \$700 to \$800, and 20,282 receive from \$800 to \$900.

The low salaries prevail for the most part in 12 states; in Indiana and Ohio the minimum salary for rural teachers is \$400, regardless of the length of the term, and in New York it is \$500 for a term of 40 weeks.

In the two-teacher schools the average was only a little higher—\$733 for 23,624, while 1,138 receive less than \$300. In 19 states the average exceeded \$900.

In the cities a better showing is made. Elementary teachers in cities of 2,500 to 5,000 population receive an average salary of over \$1,100, in cities of 5,000 to 10,000 the average reaches \$1,200, in cities of 10,000 to 20,000 it is \$1,277, in cities 20,000 to 40,000 the average is \$1,481, and in the larger cities the average salary has already gone beyond \$1,875.

It is idle to deny that the showing with respect to the rural teachers is discouraging in the extreme. That the most desirable results cannot be expected under the conditions now prevailing.

Don't Know What Family Is. From the Livine Age. A questionnaire circulated among young people working in one of the large Moscow factories dealt with their attitude toward family life. Several of the replies indicated considerable confusion in the young persons' minds as to what a family really was.

Some confessed that they did not know. No one spoke of a family as a circle dear to one's heart, where one lives among kindred who understand and love him. Most of the replies indicated little tenderness for the mother. She is described as "an educator," or "a person having authority," or "a manager," or "a housekeeper," or "a cook." Fifty-four young persons gave the last of these definitions.

If the answers showed little evidence of affection for the mother they showed no indication whatever of this sentiment for the father. In every instance he was defined as "the family manager," or "a good provider," or "the worker," or by some kindred term.

Communists interpret these answers as proof that children brought up under modern industrial conditions never learn what family life and family sentiment are. Critics of the present regime in Russia attribute the character of the replies to the fact that young workers spend most of their time, when not at the factory, at their clubs and in other communist organizations, and not only see little home life, but grow up in an atmosphere unfavorable to its development.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of December, 1923. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public.

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

Mentor Brown of the Kearney Hub, noting that Hiram Johnson has promised to issue another pronouncement in January, renders thanks for the tip and assures us that the Brown cyclone cave is in readiness.

Class Barnes, the old-time democrat who edits the Madison Star-Mail, is greatly puzzled. He cannot understand why Congressman-Editor Edgar Howard always sees red when confronted by a democrat and acts like Mary's little lamb when confronted by a republican, especially if that republican is one who has not been roped and branded by President Coolidge. The amity existing between the democratic brethren of the Third Nebraska district is really touching to see.

The Pierce Col asserts his belief that Adam McMullen is the strongest candidate yet filed for the republican gubernatorial nomination.

Noting that a Los Angeles woman is named Etta Barnes, Editor Botkin of the Gothenburg Independent says it reminds him of the last restaurant steak he tried to eat.

The York News-Times voices an objection to the primary laws that there is too much red tape, and expense for the benefits accruing.

The Farmer-Labor Herald is a new newspaper venture at North Platte. It is edited by Joseph Gilbert and its avowed purpose is to "act as a medium of information concerning economic and political."

The Palmer Journal remarks that a lot of fellows who are trying to get into the political hand wagon are going to get into the dung wagon by mistake.

Dan Webster of the St. Paul Phonograph denies some soft impeachment in this department and challenges the pilot to a snow shoveling contest. Challenge accepted, and as the challenged party the pilot names pick-forks as the weapon, July 3 as the date, and the place some neutral point between Omaha and St. Paul.

Gene Huse of the Wayne Herald, after delving in Biblical lore for a considerable season, emerges with the stupendous information that Delilah started the bobbed hair fashion.

Abe Martin



Wives are wonderful things—they either want t' spend ever' thing, or save ever' thing. It seems like it takes an 'unusually smart feller t' git by with a good education. (Copyright, 1924.)

The Spice of Life

"There's a man outside, sir, that wants to see you about a bill you own him. He wouldn't give his name." "What does he look like?" "Well, he looks like you'd better pay it."—Life (New York). Shop Foreman—You ain't one of them blokes who drops their tools and scoots as soon as knock-off blows, are you? Lily White—Not me. Why, I often have to wait five minutes after I put me tools away before the whistle goes. —The Sydney Bulletin. "Why do people cry at weddings?" "Well, I imagine those who have been married themselves start it, and the others join in."—Boston Evening Transcript.

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