

March of Events

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EDITORIAL

OSCAR DePRIEST THE LAST MOHICAN? Congressman Oscar DePriest got scant applause Sunday of last week at his patriotic musical in the House office building when he paid a tribute to the loyalty of colored people to the government in times of peace and war.

For one thing, that is a peroration now worn fairly thin. Intelligent people are beginning to realize that there is something wrong with the head so willing to lick the boot that is kicking it.

Another damper upon that audience was William Tyler Page, white, ancient clerk and jobholder in the House, who first insulted his audience by telling it he had a black mammy, and then insulted Mr. DePriest, his host, by telling him that he was the last colored man who will be elected to Congress.

What he actually said was that Mr. DePriest is the last of the Mohicans.

As to the mammy business, many white people do not think that it is a special mark of distinction to have had a black mammy, or in good taste to brag about it.

Need of a wet nurse indicates that the mother was unable to function normally and had to call for help.

To many a baby a cow or a goat is a wetnurse. Nobody can say this makes us more tender toward a cow than toward a goat.

Long experience with the fellows who talk loudest about their black mummies has taught the AFRO to watch them carefully.

Mr. Page and many of his neighbors born on the Eastern Shore of Maryland had black mummies. They also lynched two colored men within a year.

—Afro-American.

YES—YOU'LL PAY.

IN a recent editorial on excessive taxation, the Philadelphia Dispatch said: "If the rich are made to pay, the rich will find a way to pass the burden down the line, so that in the end every penny of these burdensome taxes will be paid by the average man. He may not realize that he is paying it, because it won't reach him in the form of a direct tax. But he will pay it just the same, just as he always paid it, and always will. He'll pay it in increased rent, in a surcharge on everything he eats or wears or uses. He'll pay it in reduced wages. He'll feel it for many a decade to come."

That old fallacy of taxing the rich to help the poor was never more dangerous to the public welfare than it is now. We, as a people, have watched cities and states and the federal government appropriate and spend millions—and we've sat by and said nothing, thinking that none of it would come out of our pockets and that some of it might go in. We've been conscious of waste, of extravagance, of graft, of duplication of effort. We have thought that wealthy individuals or great corporations were paying the necessary taxes.

Unfortunately, there aren't enough wealthy individuals or big corporations to pay the cost of government. They can't meet even a small percentage of it. Over-taxing individuals wealth simply drives it into tax free bonds and takes it out of productive enterprise where it would provide jobs, payrolls, purchasing power. And when we overtax business, we simply increase the cost of everything we use. Business has no magic means of creating money. Everything that adds to the cost of a commodity or a service, including taxes, must be passed on to the customer purchasing it.

Yes, the average man pays the bulk of the cost of all units of government. He bears the burden of waste and inefficiency. And he is the one who, by united action can cure an intolerable condition that means recovery.

RECKLESS WALKERS.

ARE you a safe walker? If you can't make an honest answer in the affirmative your life and health is literally in peril.

Last year automobile—pedestrian collisions accounted for 37 per cent of the 756,000 accidents which occurred on the streets and highways of this country. Deaths resulting from accidents comprised 45 per cent of the total of 29,500 fatalities. In other words, pedestrians were involved in more than a third of all traffic misadventures

and the chance of fatality was greater than in other types of accidents.

Pedestrians crossing in the middle of the block proved the most hazardous—that caused 31 per cent of the fatalities. Careless walking on highways was responsible for 17 per cent. Children playing in the street came to 13 per cent. Walking out from behind parked cars into traffic accounted for 11 per cent, with the balance of 28 per cent laid to miscellaneous causes.

The careless pedestrian is a menace just as is the careless driver—but he receives less attention. Crossing against signals—playing hide and seek with parked cars—walking along rural roads with his back to oncoming traffic—these are some of the surest means of court-ing death. Think over your walking habits—and correct them.

A NEED—AN OPPORTUNITY

THE greatest potential business development in this country today is that of building, equipping and furnishing better homes, according to the American Builder.

Recent official surveys show that millions of Americans live in homes without plumbing of any kind—without kitchen sinks, running water, indoor toilets or bathtubs. Rural homes are particularly bad in this respect—lack of modern conveniences and comforts is the rule in many sections, rather than the exception. And more than half of the entire population of the nation lives in houses that do not meet the accepted requirements for a decent level of living.

Here is a great need—and a great opportunity. It's not only an opportunity for raising the standards of housing, but for providing jobs and payrolls, for stimulating a thousand industries, for putting money into circulation.

America needs homes—and she needs the jobs and investment opportunities that home construction and modernization will provide.

When the boom starts, costs are going to rise—and rise fast. Supplies and materials and skilled labor will, as compared with present levels, be at a premium. The wise property owner, by building and repairing now, can spur recovery—and, at the same time, obtain a genuine bargain for himself.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

The Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill is now before you for consideration in the Senate and the Ford Bill, which is identical, is before the House of Representatives.

We the undersigned writers, publicists and editors of the United States, take this means of urging immediate passage of this legislation, which has been declared constitutional by Charles H. Tuttle, former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and other eminent lawyers whose opinions are a part of the official record.

Far too long has America been held up to shame and ridicule throughout the world because of the un-restrained activities of lawless mobs which have lynched and even burned human beings at the stake. Among the victims have been white and 94 of them have been women.

The argument that the majority of lynchings are in punishment of rape has long since been exploded by impartial examination of the facts, which reveals that less than one-sixth of these victims have been accused of sex offenses. No part of our country has been immune to this crime and the evil is spreading with alarming rapidity. State governments have clearly and unmistakably manifested their unwillingness or their inability to prevent lynchings or punish lynchings. A solemn obligation therefore rests upon the federal government speedily to enact this legislation into law.

UNNEEDED HORSEPOWER

Writing in Public Utilities Fortnightly, Herbert Corey recently said: "The Columbia Basin (hydro-electric) project is a plan to double the present supply of power in a territory which is now using only one-third of the theoretically available supply."

The question that brings up is: How will the government create a market for this surplus power it is to create? The only answer is: By using its innate advantage of taxfreedom, plus subsidization from the public treasury, to undersell both heavily taxed, privately plants—and small municipal plants serving the same area.

It's an amusing fact that a group of municipal utilities in the Pacific Northwest have joined in a protest against threatened federal competition. They too are tax free—but they can't offer competing rates. And the private utilities, representing the savings of thousands of investors, are in a still worse predicament.

As a result, the Columbia River project—like various other projects of the sort, distributed about the country will create hundreds of thousands of horse power of unneeded electric energy. It will deprive counties and states and towns and the federal government itself of millions in taxes paid by private plants. It will menace investments, and throw men out of work. It will, in case of an operating deficit absorb more tax money. And the public, which has more power than it can use, now will foot the bill.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

An average of \$10,956,164 a day was distributed by life insurance companies in the United States in 1933, according to statements of Arthur F. Hall, president of the Lincoln National Life Insurance company.

"Life insurance companies paid out more than \$40,000,000 last year in death claims, loans on policies and other payments to policyholders," said Mr. Hall. This is probably twice as much as will be paid out by our government in 1934 in federal relief." Mr. Hall pointed out that during the past four years life insurance companies have put into circulation in the United States more than

\$17,000,000,000. This included more than \$13,500,000,000 in death claims and payments to living policyholders; and \$3,650,000,000 in loans to the United States government, to corporations and to property owners.

"The ability of life insurance companies to hold the confidence of the investing public is due to the fact that life insurance has kept its promises. Those who sought safety found it in life insurance and will continue to do so.

"Only three cents of each dollar of the income of the people of the United States it put into life insurance. The fact that 87 cents of every dollar left at death is derived from life insurance proves beyond question that life insurance is the surest and safest way of providing support for one's own old age, as thousands of annuity owners testify today.

FARMER COMING OUT OF THE RED.

THERE is good news for the farmer in a late Department of Agriculture report. The farm price index on March 15, was at 76 as compared with 50 a year ago. (The 1909 to 1914 average equals 100).

In addition, the index of prices that farmers pay for the things they buy was 120, as compared with 100 a year earlier. In other words, the price he pays has risen but 20 per cent, leaving him a substantial advantage.

A great deal of the credit for that must go to the farm cooperatives. They have put in what is possibly the hardest working, most aggressive year in their history. They have brought home to their members the necessity of crop curtailment. They have steadied markets, and held up price levels in the face of strong adverse conditions. They have had a commanding voice in agricultural commodities.

Those are definite achievements. And during the present year, the co-ops are carrying on their campaign for better, and more prosperous farming with unabated energy and vigor. The outlook is better than at any time since 1928. The attitude of the average farmer toward his cooperative is more understanding—and more enlightened.

"Until private industry is made profitable and attractive, and the rewards of success are made available to business men, there can be no full recovery from the depression."—David I. Walsh, United States Senator from Massachusetts.

COL. E. HOFER

The death of Colonel Hofer on March 18th signed "30" to one of the most dramatic and colorful careers in Oregon newspaper history. He was a leading figure in state, civic and development enterprise in Oregon for 45 years.

It can be said of Colonel Hofer that he would be the first to smile, perhaps a little disdainfully, at a formal eulogy. To those who came in contact with him his occasional eccentric moods were as endearing as his most serene ones. You were aware always, even when he had passed 75 of his amazing vitality—and, much more important still, of his youthful viewpoint. You were aware of his hatred of hypocrisy and of sham—things which were no part of him. You were aware of a direct, a brilliant forcefulness, that found outlet in crisp phrases, in turgid epigrams, that you would not forget. Prominently, Colonel Hofer represented a disappearing figure—a newspaper man of the old school. He surrounded himself with the things he loved—family, friends, gardens, pictures, books. He was always proud of the fact that he was a "country publisher." He was no worshiper of money. In people he loved genuineness and loyalty—their positions of prominence were secondary to him. He would have felt highly honored to know that the Negro bootblack who shined his shoes for years, attended his funeral. There can be no finer, no more accurate characterization of him than that.

The Colonel did not acquire his outstanding qualities by chance. He came from a line of borderers who fought and died for personal liberty. He was without fear and without malice—and he never scorned a good fight when the cause in his opinion, was justified. He stood unflinchingly for what he believed to be right, but he was without false pride which makes a man hold a position when events have shown him that he was in the wrong. He had a hatred for crooked politics and sharp practices. He was opposed to paternalism in government and top-heavy officialism which crushes individualism. He conducted, through the medium of the printed page, aggressive disagreements of opinion with other editors—and it is a testimonial to his character that some of those with whom he differed most vehemently were, at the end of his life, his devoted friends.

Colonel Hofer was born in Clearmont, Iowa, in 1855. He entered the newspaper business with his father on the McGregor News, McGregor, Iowa. He moved to Oregon in 1889 and with his brother, the late A. F.

Hofer, acquired ownership of the Daily Capital Journal, Salem Oregon.

THE MAGIC KEY

In commenting on problems faced by agriculture, particularly those concerning international exchange of farm products, C.O. Moser, vice president of the American Cotton Cooperative Association said that cooperation is the magic key to success—"cooperation in production, cooperation in moving products into market, and cooperation in regulating their exchange value."

The best proof of that lies in the experience of the immediate past. It is not an exaggeration to say that agricultural, a year or two ago, was faced with complete chaos. Markets were disorganized and prices had fallen far below the cost of production. There were tremendous surpluses of almost every agricultural commodity—and more were constantly being produced. At that time the cooperatives started a determined and aggressive campaign to cause farmers to pull together for the common good, and to urge the passage of essential legislation.

That campaign was a success. Prices are low—but they are rising, and are substantially better than they would have been had the cooperatives not existed. Markets are becoming stabilized. And the work of the cooperatives finds its reflection in federal legislation designed to carry the farmer through the present period of stress.

The cooperative movement is the farmer's insurance for the future. It deserves the support of every citizen in bringing and keeping good times.

FIREMAN SELLERS SAVES WOMAN CLING TO WINDOW SHUTTER

Washington—(CNS)—Trapped on the fourth floor of a burning apartment house on tenth street, Miss Jesse Harris, 27, climbed through a window and clung to a shutter by her fingertips until a fireman raised a ladder and carried her to safety.

Miss Harris, who was clad only in pajamas, lost her grip as Fireman C. C. Sellers, white, reached for her from the top rung of the ladder and dropped into his arms. The fireman, although severely jolted, held onto her and carried her to the ground.

Meanwhile Mrs. Mary Clark, 60, had been assisted from the second floor of the four-story building by other firemen, who reported she was nearly overcome by smoke.

USING YOUR MONEY TO CREATE UNEMPLOYMENT

What would you think of a program to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to produce something of which the nation already has surplus, and throw thousands of men out of work?

You would oppose it. If the opinion of Senator Metcalf of Rhode Island, is correct, that is precisely what tax free, federally-financed hydro-electric projects are doing.

It is assumed by the senators that hydro-electric projects undertaken by the government will displace 53,000,000,000 kilowatt hours of electric energy now generated by fuel plants which use 40,000,000 tons of coal annually. A miner, on the average produces 1,000 tons of coal a year. As a result, unnecessary government power development would be responsible for throwing 40,004 miners out of work—in addition to corralroad and other workers whose jobs, directly or indirectly, depend on steam electric plants.

There might be some excuse for this if there was a power shortage. But private electric systems are now capable of producing 25 per cent more energy than the nation uses. They are adequately prepared to meet any prospective demand. They sell electricity at very low rates—and they contribute tremendous sums to government in taxes. The political power program, menacing as it does a legion of jobs and billions of dollars worth of investments, is a genuine threat to sound recovery.

PRIEST ADMONISHES PARENTS TO FORGET MYTH ABOUT STORK

Cleveland, O.—An admonition to parents to drop the stork myth in explaining birth to the child comes from Rev. Felix Kirsh of Catholic university, a speaker at the conference on family life.

It is better to give the child instruction in sex matters a year too soon than too late, he declared before a thousand parents and educators attending the conference.

Parents have placed the responsibility for sex education, which he said rests entirely with them, too much in the hands of pastors and school teachers, the priest asserted.

The younger the child the less embarrassment there will be for both parents and the child he added, when the time comes for a clear explanation.

BLOCKING FUTURE DEPRESSIONS

The American people, consciously or not, are busy erecting a mighty economic barrier against the possibility of future depressions.

They are doing that by buying life insurance—and more life insurance. The trend of sales has been steadily upward for a number of months. Men are finding job. Many families are enjoying regular and dependable incomes for the first time in years. And life insurance, through one or another of the many policies it writes, is able to guard against almost any human exigency. It protects one's family and dependents—and it likewise protects oneself against one of the greatest of all human tragedies, a poverty-stricken old age. It rebuilds depleted estates—or creates new ones. It assures an education for one's children—and it covers loss in case of business reverses.

Life insurance is the friend of good times. It is the unrelenting enemy of depressions. During the five trying years that have passed it has carried thousands of families through economic storms, and kept them from want and distress. And, with more citizens showing greater realization of its possibilities, it will do a still finer work in the future to assure financial independence.

NEGRO CORRESPONDENTS POURING THOUSANDS OF COMPLAINTS INTO WASHINGTON

Washington—(CNS)—Complaints by the thousands are pouring into the Departments here in relation to the working of the AAA, NRA, FERA, as they relate to Negroes throughout the country. The White House alone is in receipt daily of several hundred "complaint letters from Negroes" addressed to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

Clark Foreman's recent newspaper article "Negro Seen As Gainer in the Recovery Deal" seems to have stirred up many to state just how they have been left out of the new deal picture.