

EDITORIALS

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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, MARCH 16, 1935

INDEPENDENCE—THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

"In my opinion," writes Roger B. Hull in the Life Association News, "the extension of social security contemplated by President Roosevelt will not conflict with the vast and vital services of life insurance, but rather will emphasize their individual and social values and will kindle in the heart of every true American a keener resolve to obtain them for himself and for his family."

"Government never can go anywhere near half as far as American citizens will require, in this business of assuming the burdens caused by both natural and man made calamities. I still have confidence to believe that the majority of our citizens do not want a socialistic solution of these problems. They do not want an all embracing paternalism."

For every American who is satisfied to depend on governmental aid in meeting the exigencies of old age and economic misfortune, a dozen determine to solve such problems through their own thrift, foresight and work. We are not a dependent people—and in spite of all the arguments of those who wish to make us cogs in a great bureaucratic machine, individualism is still the dominant American characteristic.

Millions of Americans are now working toward social security through life insurance and other mediums. They are the citizens who make this country—and who will maintain it.

THINGS ONE REMEMBERS.

By R. M. Hofer.

In Wisconsin, the legislature has spent its valuable time, and the taxpayers' money to pass a law making it "unlawful" to give away either hot dogs or "fresh fish" as a free lunch with a ten cent stein of beer. The tavern keeper may, however, give away cheese, crackers, pretzels, popcorn and "cured fish," with a glass of suds. It is not stated whether the customer has to stand up or sit down while eating his crackers or cheese.

The Oregon legislature refused to pass a law legalizing the sale of cocktails with meals by legitimate hotels and restaurants. You must buy a bottle in Oregon from a state liquor store or patronize a "speakeasy."

The Statue of Liberty still stands in New York harbor, however.

Oregon has a governor, General Martin, retired army officer with a long and honorable record, who set his foot down and told the legislature that he didn't want any new tax laws or increases in old ones.

No better psychological influence could be offered the people of any state than to show that a state can perform its essential functions and meet its essential obligations today without imposing further tax burdens on an already over-taxed people.

More power to public officials like General Martin.

We are developing a political philosophy that not only invites the people, but urges them to get their noses in the public trough on the theory that someone owes them a living.

It has become good politics to give the people a nice, red, five cent stick of political candy for ten cents in taxes. So long as the people can be kept ignorant of the fact that they are really paying for the candy plus about 100 per cent additional for political overhead to handle it, just so long will they clap their hands and cry for more.

But a lot of good folks are getting a stomach ache from too much political candy.

They are going to ask questions when they find what their candy is costing.

COPPER ON THE MEND

The world copper situation seems on the mend. Last year copper production totaled 1,240,000 tons—a substantial advance over 1933. World consumption totaled 1,230,000 tons, likewise a gain over the preceding year.

Still more encouraging is the fact that world copper stocks are declining. In 1933, they totaled 570,000,000 tons, and had dropped to 4 hundred million at the end of 1934.

Copper stability is coming slowly in the United States, which has excessively large stocks on hand, and which is consuming less copper, in relation to total world consumption, than is considered normal. However, the situation is clearing somewhat and that, coupled with brightening world outlook, speaks well for the future of the red metal.

THE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST.

The Saturday Evening Post had a fine editorial commenting on the time worn argument of politicians that there is no more "free land" to be had from the government; hence, vast sums of money must be appropriated to provide "social services" for the people.

nalistic governmental policies which crush initiative and private enterprise.

TWO KINDS OF COOPERATION.

The farmer has learned that there are two kinds of cooperative effort.

One kind obtains cooperation through governmental fiat—through a process of regimentation, whereby the farmer's actions are dictated by a bureau in Washington.

The other kind is obtained through the work of the farmer himself—when he and his fellows join and support a farmer controlled cooperative organization.

The first kind of cooperation may be necessary in a temporary national emergency, but if it is continued indefinitely the American farmer will undergo drastic and unhappy change. Once a free man, he will become a serf. Once an independent entity, thinking and working to advance his own independence could avail him little.

The second kind of cooperation does not destroy independence—it builds it. It makes for individualism and development of character. Farmers who band together in cooperative organizations to fight their battles and thrash out the issues affecting them, are hardly likely to become, under the thumb of bureaucracy.

Which kind of cooperation does the average American farmer want?

CITIES REDUCE ARSON FIRES

Reports issued by the fire departments of two large cities prove that incendiary fires can be reduced if the correct methods are employed.

From Kansas City, Mo., comes the statement that in 1932 there were 61 arson fires there causing losses of \$712,309; in 1933 there were 67 such fires, accounting for losses of \$160,656, while in 1934 the number of arson fires decreased to 36 and the resulting losses to \$50,590—a remarkable reduction indeed.

The report from Atlanta, Ga., shows an equally striking reduction. In 1933, incendiary fires accounted for losses of \$72,314, while in 1934 the number of such fires decreased to 30 and the losses to \$11,242.

By "correct methods" is meant the effective cooperation of all interested authorities. The Kansas City report mentioned the National Board of Fire Underwriters among other organizations that had helped make the record possible. This organization has long assumed a position of leadership in the fight on incendiary fires. It has established arson squads in most of the large cities, employ many skilled investigators and assists police and fire departments as well as fire marshals in combating arson. It has aided many cities to form their own arson squads and is ready to cooperate at all times with district attorneys and all proper authorities.

If the crime of arson is to be fought effectively it is highly important for district attorneys to vigorously prosecute the criminals involved.

An important part of the effort to reduce the number of arson fires has been the enactment of model arson laws in the majority of states. These laws have been of great assistance in bringing fire criminals to justice, as previous laws sometimes obstructed rather than aided in the prosecution of arson cases.

The battle against this "crime of crimes" merits the support and cooperation of all citizens. Everyone can help by reporting any suspicious incidents in connection with fires that come to their attention, and by urging their district attorneys to put forth aggressive efforts to obtain conviction.

SOCIALISM VS. RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM

From a practical standpoint, Paul Smith, financial editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, sums up the political aspects of the crusade against the public utility industry, in a masterly manner. His comment was inspired by the demand for \$750,000 of tax funds to investigate the American Telephone and Telegaph Company. In part, he said:

"The writer does not care whether any particular utility is 'right or wrong.' That some holding companies may be 'bad' and some 'good,' he does not doubt. That some rate structures may be 'fair' and some 'unfair,' he readily admits. That some utility managements may be 'smart' and some 'dumb,' some 'honest' and some 'dishonest,' he believes not only possible but among the facts of life. Those things are beside the point.

"The fact remains that a definite, destructive, campaign has been launched against the public utility industry. Some of the campaign is open and above board, some subtle and insidious, like certain phases of certain PWA grants to communities and states. The attack has been mapped out, pushed, promoted, energized and pressed in New Deal headquarters, Washington, D. C. There is no use dodging the issue.

"If 10,000,000 utility investors and all utility managements want to wave the white flag and surrender their economic position, that is their business.

"But even if peace at any price is their desire, they are not going to get it from the politicians today. This public utility thing is stock in trade to a large share of present day politicians. Peace would liquidate their stocks in trade.

"As soon as one sector quiets down, they will attack another. Their scouting force will find, somehow, enough Indians in the brush to 'justify' each new attack in the public eye. It is war, and like other forms of warfare, will bring stupidly uneconomic costs.

"There will be the cost of unnecessary construction; public competition with private enterprise; gradual socialization; growing taxes to fill the gaps of inefficient political operation and, worst of all, perhaps, the cost of depreciation in the value of securities held by hundreds of thousands of small investors.

"And the scene will not change while millions of voters sweetly accept political indictment of the public utilities."

Mr. Smith speaks frankly but the situation justifies it. The present campaign is unfair, unnecessary and un-American. The seeds of destruction of private enterprise that are being sown, will sprout in other places to the infinite damage of other industries, unless the political utility baiters are stopped by an informed public revolt against demagoguery that is promoting socialism instead of rugged individualism.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual

The best way to appraise any nation's success in recovering from depression is to view it in the light of the experience of other nations which face the same problems and are battling the same depression. During the last few years, the American press has carried scattered and unrelated comment on foreign pains and losses, but, at least so far as the lay reader is concerned, nothing has been issued that gave anywhere near a clear prospective of actual conditions.

Now, in an article in Foreign Affairs, Willard L. Thorp, Chairman, Advisory Council of the NRA, and Professor of Economics at Amherst, has adequately performed that difficult task. As part of a general article on World Recovery, Mr. Thorp has assembled statistics from all the major powers covering the four most important barometers of economic conditions: Industrial production, unemployment, wholesale prices, and value of foreign trade.

Socially speaking, the unemployment record is the most important. In this field, Mr. Thorp's figures cover the representative period from August, 1932, to August, 1934. They show that Germany had the best luck in putting men back to work—its unemployment declined by 54 per cent. Australia declined by 39 per cent, the United Kingdom by 25 per cent, Japan by 21 per cent, Canada by 16 per cent, the United Kingdom by 25 per cent, Japan by 21 per cent, Canada by 16 per cent, and Italy by 8 per cent. Three countries—France, Czechoslovakia and Poland—show a rise in unemployment. The United States was at the middle of the list, being under Canada and above Italy, with an unemployment decline of 12 per cent.

When it comes to per cent in wholesale prices, the United States leads the rest of the world. From 1932 to a late month, prices in this country advanced 20 per cent—twice as much as in the second country, Japan. England showed a 5 per cent rise, Germany 4 per cent. A large group of countries, including Poland, France and Italy, showed declines. It is an interesting fact that in many countries, government has attempted to keep prices down—while the American administration has gone to extreme lengths to force them up, believing that high prices are essential to business recovery. However, they proved to be a mixed blessing—you can put prices up, but can't make people buy. With present trend of Administration policy, it is doubtful if further advances will be registered. There is a better chance that the general index will go down.

The tables on foreign trade show that Japan and the United States have had the best experience, based on a comparison of the third quarter of 1934 with the third quarter of 1932. Our exports rose 51 per cent, and our imports 45 per cent, while England's rose 18 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. Poland, Germany and France showed declines in both phases of foreign trade, while Austria, Australia and Canada showed moderate rises. Japan's exports went up 51 per cent and her imports jumped 122 per cent—a trend which, if continued, will result in a serious international situation inasmuch as she is sending much more money out of the country than she is getting in.

The most representative index of all is industrial production. To make this comparison, Mr. Thorp selected the lowest three months each country had since January, 1932, and related them to a late three-month period. In this comparison, the United States stands exactly in the middle of the list, with a gain from the low point of 30 per cent. Canada is first, with 57 per cent, followed in order by Germany, Sweden, Japan and Czechoslovakia and then the United States. Under us, is the United Kingdom, Poland, Austria, France and Belgium.

There are the figures—and even the most cursory analysis shows that improvement in this country has been little above the average. We have done more by law to promote recovery than any other comparable nation, but are little farther achieving it.

Later business figures than Mr. Thorp was able to give, indicate continued advances throughout the world, with a few exceptions. At home, business commentators are optimistic—many of them seem to believe that we are due for a slow but steady improve-

ment that will not be abruptly checked, as have the rises of the past.

Americans who wish to understand the Italy-Abyssinian imbroglio—which is of international importance inasmuch as it is complicating the already chaotic European situation—would do well to think of it in the light of the Japan-China issue.

Like China, Abyssinia is an independent power—and like China, it is a hundred years behind the times. Italy, like Japan, is an up-to-date nation which needs new territory. China possesses a wealth of mineral resources, which Japan wants—and Abyssinia possesses a wealth of gold which Italy wants.

If Italy and Abyssinia fight, it seems inevitable that the latter will lose. Victorious Italy would then establish an Abyssinian protectorate—and reap the rich rewards.

SUB-COMMITTEE TO REPORT ANTI-LYNCH BILL FAVORABLY

To Okey the Measure Without Delay; Renewed Pressure on Individual Senators

N. A. A. C. P. Hits Defeatism Talk Washington, March 15th.—The Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, with only one minor change, will be reported favorably out of the sub-committee of the Senate judiciary committee Monday March 11, it was learned here today. The full judiciary committee is expected to follow the recommendation of its sub-committee and report the bill favorably to the Senate within a few days.

The speed with which the bill has been handled in these first stages is due in a large measure to Sena Frederiek Van Nuys of Indiana, chairman of the sub-committee. Senator Van Nuys has been tireless in attending to details, in conducting the hearing and in looking after the general welfare of the measure.

More Intensive Effort Needed.

Now is the time for even greater efforts by citizens who want this bill passed, said a statement from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. More and more pressure must be put on the individual senators. Resolutions, petitions, letters and telegrams should be sent to senators telling them the bill is coming out of committee for action and urging them once again to work to bring it up for a vote and to vote for it.

One senator from a middle western state told the N. A. A. C. P. today there was increasing sentiment for this bill in the senate, because of the success of the federal government's action against kidnaping. In addition to sending letters, organizations and individuals are urged to make personal contact with the senators from their states, or senators whom they know, whenever any representative of the organization is in Washington. Some of the national organizations have representatives stationed in Washington and others have members who go to the capital frequently. Personal conferences with senators will help tremendously.

No Defeatism, Says N. A. A. C. P.

Enemies of this bill are alarmed over the huge public sentiment aroused in its favor, the N. A. A. C. P. said today, and are using every means to block consideration of it in the Senate.

"One of the first tricks is to sound the note of defeatism in advance," the statement said. "The propaganda has been issued that the bill 'has no chance.' Even colored people, who ought to be fighting with their last breath against lynching, have taken up this vicious falsehood. The organizations who are backing this bill admit no defeatism philosophy. We're fighting and we invite every one else to fight. Now is the time to grow tired and pessimistic.

"The mere fact that the legislature of the state of Georgia has taken the trouble to adopt a resolution opposing this bill shows the lynchers are alarmed. If this bill did not have a chance, the Georgia legislature would never stop to notice it. Mississippi would never call out 700 troops, mount machine guns, and transport a prisoner in an all steel train.

"We urge especially that voters bring pressure on their ward committee, their district leaders, their city alderman and councilmen, individually and collectively, their county chairmen and their state chairmen to write letters to senators on this bill.

"Finally, we need funds. We cannot flood the country with literature because we haven't the money. We can't keep a man on the job in Washington constantly because we have no funds. This fight cannot be won on wishing; it takes cash."

Checks should be sent to Mary White Ovington, treasurer, N. A. A. C. P., 6 Fifth Ave., New York.

TALKING IT OVER

By Mildred Bronson.

"LIFE AND YOU."

Live for something. Have a purpose
Drifting like a helpless vessel
That can not to life be true.
Half the wrecks that strew life's ocean
If some star had been their guide
Might have long been riding safely

But they drifted with the tide.
Dear friends, I presume, I am right in using the above phrase, 'Dear Friends.' At least, I hope so. I am asking everyone of my readers to read the above poem through slowly. It is true? Yes, it is, and how very true.

Living for something. Everyone no matter who, race, creed or it, has some purpose in view. If you will watch a small child, two or three years old, when they play. They have some purpose in view. If they are playing with their blocks, they have a purpose. It may be to build something. It may be to look at a picture on it. But there is some purpose behind their child-like play.

Take grown people, for instance, in their social life. It may be just a game of cards, whist, bridge, etc. When you sit down at the table, you have a purpose in view. If they are offering a prize, your purpose, your ambition is to win that prize.

When a child starts to school it has a purpose.

So, my friends, you see it is confronting you, no matter what you do. But we will look at a different side of it now, the business side, your career, my career.

Take our little poem, the first two lines.

"Live for something. Have a purpose."

And that purpose keep in view."

What a different place the world might be if everyone was living for something. If everyone had a purpose and was constantly struggling to conquer the same. If always before their eyes, and in their minds, was the everlasting thought of what position they were doing to hold in life. If everyone had his mind set on something high, this world would be so different. People would have no time to lie, gossip, criticize others. The reason my friends, that our people, may I say, the majority of my people have so much time to lie, such dreadful lies as they can tell, gossip, something they know practically nothing about, just what someone else has told them. May I recall the Mills Brothers recording, "I heard." That's what me, I only heard." That's what the majority of my people talk about. Just something they heard, and each time you hear it, it has a little more added to it. If my friends, they had some purpose in life, would they have time for all of this so-called gossiping and lying? No doubt emphasis on the word, "No." Why? Because their minds and their time would be on their purpose. They would be constantly thinking and striving for some way or something to lift their position in life.

Take the next two lines of my poem, Friends.
"Drifting like a Helpless vessel.
That cannot to life be true."

If, my Friends, you, in life, have no purpose, no ambition no guiding star, but go from day to day, drifting through nothing, just drifting with the crowd, you are no good to yourself nor to anyone else on earth, and if you will pardon the expression, often would be better off dead.

We will go on to the last four

EDITORIALS OF THE WEEK

Abolish the Reality.

At a prominent New York gallery a scheduled exhibition of pictures and sculpture by contemporary artists, announced as "An Art Commentary on Lynching," has been canceled because of protests from unrevealed sources. Though the show was conceived by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was sponsored by a long list of prominent writers and educators, including such as Charles A. Beard, Harry Elmer Barnes, Witter Bynner, Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Fannie Hurst.

The aim was to present distinguished art with a social message, rather than mere propaganda. A famous print by the late George Bellows was typical of the type of work included. It would not have been a pleasant show. There were pictures of men burned and hanged by mobs, of a mother holding a child aloft for a better view

lines of my poem.
"Half the wrecks that strew Life's ocean
If some star had been their guide
Might have long been riding safely

But they drifted with the tide."
How true, my Friends, so very true. No purpose, no ambition, no guiding star. Without these three, one cannot expect to get any place in life.

My Friends, may I say this. That as long as you have a purpose in life, have an ambition to be something, there is not much danger in your getting into trouble because you will not have time for foolishness of any kind.

And in case, some of my dear Friends and Readers have been drifting with the crowd, may I leave this poem with you, with the hope that these two poems and my subject may strike someone and will cause them to see their mistakes and turn before it is too late.

Though your lamp of Life is burning

With a clear and sturdy light
And it never seems to flicker
But is always shining bright.
Though it sheds its light unbroken
For a thousand happy days
Father Time is ever turning down
The wick that feeds the blaze.
So, it clearly is your duty, if you have a thing to do.

To put your shoulder to the wheel, and try to push it through.

If you're upon a wayward track,
You better turn about!
You've lost the chance to do it,
When the light goes out!

Speak kindly to the woman who is waiting for your praise
The same as you used to do in those happy courting days.

She likes appreciation just the same as me and you
And it's only right and proper that you give her what she's due.

Don't wait until your lamp is burning dim and low
Afore you tell her what you ought told her long ago.

Now is the time to cheer up and put her blues to rout
You've lost the chance to do it when the light goes out.

Stop putting matters off and setting dates ahead.
For tomorrow's sun will find a hundred million of us dead.

Don't think because you're feeling well you won't be sick no more.

Sometimes the reddest pepper has a wormhole to the core.
Don't let a killing habit grow upon you soft and still

Beause you think that you can throw it from you at your will.

Now is the time to quit it when you're feeling strong and stout
You've lost the chance to do it when the light goes out.

Now, I'd rather die with nothing than to have the people say
That I had got my money in a robbing, grasping way.

No words above my resting place from any tongue or pen
Would have a deeper meaning than she helped her fellow-men.

If you've got some money and you want to help the poor
Don't keep a starving off 'till you have a little more.

If you're upon a miser's track
You'd better turn about
You've lost the chance to do it when the light goes out.

So, my Friends, we will bring to a close this most interesting topic on 'You and Life, hoping that it may help someone along the road of life.

Have a purpose, my Friends, always, keep it before your forevermore, and you will, nine times out of ten rise to wealth and glory.

of a similar shameful sight, and the like.

But in Walter White's "Rope and Faggot" there are photographs of actual lynching no less revolting than these; and, bringing us even closer to reality, others have appeared not so long ago in daily newspapers. As long as the crime of lynching itself continues, it seems a little bit foolish for anybody to be protesting against an art by a comparatively small number of people.

The New York show may yet be held where protests to stop it will be unavailing. If graphic reminders that we have permitted the evil to persist are so uncomfortable we may be moved to do something about it—such as pass the federal anti-lynching measure now before congress.

—From the Miami, Fla. Daily News, Feb. 19th 1935.

In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.—Tennyson.