

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, OCTOBER 5, 1935

CAN LOUIS "TAKE" IT

WHEN the "brown bomber" walked unscathed from the ring in the Yankee stadium, he had shown that he could take the best that MAX BEAR could hand him. The twenty-fifth consecutive victory of the young Negro, his twenty-first K. O., was one of the finest performances ever seen in a prize ring. LOUIS outpointed the Californian in every way, and displayed a machine-gun rapidity of attack that overwhelmed his opponent. One of the sports writers estimated this afternoon that JOE landed 500 blows in something over eleven minutes of actual fighting. That probably is a record in a contest between experienced "pugs".

JOE will now seek a match with SCHMELANG, and if he gets it while he is in anything approaching his present form, he is expected to dispose of the German as readily as he laid out the big BAER on the floor. Then, after JIM BRADDOCK has cleaned up all the money he can hope to make before the public demands that he defend the belt, LOUIS will face him. Unless BRADDOCK shows himself a much better fighter than he appeared to be when he took the title from MAX BAER, on June 13, JOE LOUIS is almost certain to be heavyweight champion by midsummer, 1936. And as he will not then have reached his 23rd birthday, he may hold the title for five years.

There is only one proviso: It is that JOE can take the reign of dollars as sensibly as he took the rain of punches. Last night he received \$200,000—more money than he could have dreamed three years ago of earning in his whole lifetime. Although he was married just before the fight, he will be tempted to every sort of folly and extravagance that can be cooked up by men and women who want to share in "easy money." He will have to fight those three baleful "P's" that have worsted many a man—publicity, power and prosperity. That trio stopped old "JOHN L" when no fighter could. They ruined poor JACK JOHNSON, the only Negro who has ever worn the heavyweight belt. If JOE can beat them, he will prove himself more than a great pugilist.

WHEN THE DARK ANGEL RIDES

THE motor vehicle is no respecter of persons. Hardly a week passes without newspaper headlines telling of the sudden death of some statesman, industrial leader or other celebrity.

A few recent names on the roster of those who died because of carelessly or recklessly driven motor vehicle, comes readily to mind. Not long ago, Colonel T. T. Shaw, the famed "Lawrence of Arabia," was killed when he fell from his motorcycle, which was driving at 80 miles an hour. Only a week or two ago the wife of the Secretary of Interior perished when the car in which she was riding at high speed skidded in loose gravel and overturned. Just before, the beautiful Queen Asrid of Belgium met her death—when her husband, driving the roaster in which she was riding, looked away from the highway at a road map, and ran headlong into a tree.

These tragedies become known in a million households, because of the prominence of the victims. But they are no worse, no more tragic, than the thousands of similar deaths which occur annually and make, instead of headlines, a mere item on an inside page of the newspapers. Recklessness, carelessness, incompetence—these are the scarlet trinity, which cause so much needless grief, so much unnecessary suffering, so great an economic waste. When one of them takes the wheel, death rides, too. The Dark Angel does not always strike—but there is a limit to how long he can be withheld.

Care, caution, competence—these constitute the trinity which can prevent automobile accidents, major and minor ones alike. The issue must be put squarely up to each driver—it is purely an individual problem, and will always remain so. Traffic laws and enforcement can do nothing if the public will not cooperate. Will you?

THE LYNCHING CURVE

THE lynching curve after its abrupt turn from eleven victims in 1828 and ten in 1929 to twenty one in 1930, fell in 1931 to thirteen, and in 1932 to eight, the lowest recorded level. In 1933 without apparent reason, it rose to twenty-eight, but in 1934

was down again to fourteen with fifty five threatened lynchings averted by official vigilance. These figures in themselves are depressing enough but their hopeful significance is seen when contrasted with an average of 165 mob victims a year for fifteen years beginning with 1882, and with 100 a year over the forty year period ending in 1921. Geographically also the habit is being pushed off the map. While in 1892 no less than 33 states shared the guilt of lynching, only eight states reported lynchings in 1932, and as few as five in 1928. A determined purpose to end mob violence is growing among officers of the law, as evidenced by increasing vigilance in the protection of prisoners and the occasional use of force when mobs refuse to listen to reason.

Another significant factor in the situation is the association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, Organized in 1930 by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, this association now has branches throughout fifteen states and a membership of 23,000,000 women. Each of these women has signed personally a pledge repudiating lynching for any cause whatever and pledging herself to do everything possible for its suppression. Every important newspaper is also consistently exercising its influence to the same end.

ANOTHER DREAM

THE assassination of Senator Huey Long is having the expected result—what Time characterizes as the "highest, most profitable political dominion that the nation has ever known" seems to be rapidly breaking up, as lesser men fight for the lost leader's place.

It has also caused a great change in the political future. It seems to have eliminated the chance of a radical third party next year—and to have also eliminated the chance of a major split in the Democratic party. Senator Long, according to a book he completed just before his death, planned to run in 1936; felt certain of election.

WHO OWES YOU A LIVING?

MILLIONS of people are being educated in our country today to believe that someone owes them a living. The laws of nature do not seem to recognize this doctrine.

Just go out into primitive country and see who owes a living—you will soon find that your existence depends on your ingenuity and initiative.

Governments were organized to go nature one better and make it a little easier to live and to take care of the helpless whom nature would otherwise unceremoniously remove.

But today millions of perfectly healthy, able-bodied people are being taught to loaf at the expense of the savings of others, instead of to rustle for themselves.

Such a system can endure only so long as there are stored-up savings to confiscate, then the inexorable laws of nature will prevail.

An epidemic of pests completely devours a tree or a field of grain, and then the pests die. Nature does not owe them a living.

The same thing can happen to governments and to the human beings who make the governments—if they eat up their capital to maintain idleness, they will eventually find that nature refuses to hear their demands that "someone owes them a living."

This may not be a pleasant-sounding philosophy, but it is a fact which honey-coated, political cure-alls try to hide.

BOOMERANGS

LAWs designed to give artificial aids to small business, at the expense of large business, often act as boomerang.

An example of this is provided by an editorial in the Corinth, Mississippi, which says: "Without reference to the merits or demerits of chain store tax law, independent retailers and others who have supported such laws in the past are beginning to feel misgivings.

"They recall that retailers, as a class, have been exposed to perhaps more forms of special taxation in recent years than any other one group of business men. Now they see Florida, for example, in its latest 'chain tax law' raising the license tax on a single store from \$5 to \$10 and imposing gross receipts taxes on independents as well as chains. Small wonder if these forms of 'chain store' taxes may not open the way to like levies upon themselves."

Thus does the boomerang work. Directed at the chain store, it returns and strikes the independent when legislators search for still more revenue. It strikes back at the consumer, by increasing prices special taxes, levied against either chain or independent stores must be passed on to the buyer. And it strikes at a hundred other industries, a consumer purchasing power is reduced by every dollar of taxes levied.

The tax gatherers are never satisfied. Let them get their grip on one business, or one branch of a business, through special taxes and they will never stop until they have gone farther. And those who were supposed to benefit will be the worst sufferers.

THE WAY OUT

(By Loren Miller)

(Special to CNA)

PEACE AT ANY PRICE

Fourteen Missouri farmers who blocked a federal mortgage foreclosure sale have just been sentenced to from one day to three years imprisonment. "Your action is dangerously near to treason, and certainly rebellion and insurrection," Judge Albert Reeves told the men.

Nor did the fact that they had banded together to save a neighbor from dispossession and ruin excuse their conduct in the eyes of the judge who asserted that he had "sought in vain for some amelioration circumstances."

The sentence and the sentiments of the judge are in in passing contrast to the sentiments of a Mississippi judge who happened to be trying a Negro farmer at about the same time. While the jury was deliberating a mob seized the defendant and hanged him.

The southern jurist simply remarked that the sheriff hadn't recognized any of the lynchers and indicated that he might call the grand jury some time next spring. There are judges and judges, it seems.

FARMERS AND FARMERS

But the difference in sentiment goes far deeper than personal differences between northern and southern judges. It's my guess that much the same things would have happened had the judges changed benches for the day.

MOBS AND COURTS

There will be those who will object violently to these conclusions on the ground that the Mississippi lynchers were alting as a mob while Judges Reeves was enforcing law and order. The distinction is too easy. Some times it is pretty hard to tell where the mob leaves off and where the courts begin.

For example, there is little doubt that the southern judge and the sheriff were working hand in glove with the mob. In effect, the judge passed a sentence of death on Higginbotham and handed him over to the lynchers instead of to the regular hangman.

Whether farmers are checkmated by a mob or by prison sentences is a little beside the point. It makes no difference to a man fighting for his home and his right to earn a living whether he prevented from doing so with or without benefit of the statutes made and provided as the lawyers say. Either way, he is out of luck.

NO DIFFERENCE

This is a lesson that it's pretty hard for Americans to learn. Most of us have pateristic belief in the courts and in the theory that they are fair and impartial. But behind every law lurks the fact that somebody wrote it and somebody has to enforce it. Common sense is enough to let us in on the fact that laws in the south are made by and for the benefit of the land-owning class.

That same common sense ought to lead us to see that northern laws are made by and for the benefit of the rich corporations and mortgage holders. The South has a tradition of enforcing laws outside the courts; the process is more gentle in the north where the courts carry on without much outside interference.

Mississippi farmers get lynched; Missouri farmers go to jail. And all the while the few gobbles up the land in both sections and leave the farmers' families to starve. There is a distinction in methods but in difference in results.

Metal rings have been invented to be placed on top of kettles to hold other cooking utensils so that two or more articles of food can be cooked at the same time on a single gas range burner.

With the exception of matches and a limited amount of pharmaceutical and toilet preparations the Philippine Islands depend entirely on foreign countries for chemicals and allied products.

BULLETS FELL ON ALABAMA

By BRUCE CRAWFORD

Our committee that went into Alabama to investigate abuses of civil liberties really was shot at, though Governor Bibb Graves asserts the contrary. We were not seeking publicity for ourselves, as the Governor told the press; we were seeking publicity for conditions which Alabama doesn't want uncovered.

The committee—myself from Virginia, Jack Conroy from Missouri, Emmett Gowen from Tennessee, Shirley Hopkins from Massachusetts and Alfred H. Hirsch of New York, secretary of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, which organized the trip—went first to Birmingham to test the constitutionality of the Downs literature ordinance. This city law makes it a crime punishable by \$100 fine and six months imprisonment to possess more than one copy of a radical publication. We distributed copies of The Nation, the New Republic, the New Theatre, the Labor Defender, the New Masses, and the Daily Worker in front of the City Hall. For possessing copies of these publications more than sixty persons, white and Negro workers and their friends, had been arrested. Many, after being released, had been kidnaped by vigilantes and beaten up. The vigilantes are mainly corporation "dicks" who capitalize the race prejudice and hundred-percentism of the ignorant population.

Although the press reported that Chief of Police Hollums "received" us with "measured courtesy" three of our group, myself included, were seized by city detectives and forcibly ushered into the City Hall. Miss Hopkins and Mr. Hirsch were fingerprinted and photographed. An officer struck Hirsch on the ear when he refused to answer a question. But we "weren't arrested!"

Chief Hollums sidestepped a test of the ordinance. "This literature does not violate our law," he said, flipping the pages and barely noting headlines. I sat before him for an hour, asking as well as answering questions. Officers, reporters and hostile onlookers crowded around. "If this literature doesn't violate your ordinance," I ventured, "why do you arrest people for merely possessing it?"

"But we turn them loose," he hastily assured me with a smile. "Yet such arrests break up their perfectly legal activities," I returned, "and after you do release them they are kidnaped and beaten. Can't you discourage these arrests?"

"Well," replied the chief, painfully smiling, "we have a certain element here, some anti-radicals, that do things we don't always approve of. This literature isn't unlawful, but it contains what offends some people. Besides, the ignorant working people shouldn't be allowed to read such literature. It stirs them up. Why, before these radicals began scattering such stuff, the nigger would come holding up his hands when a white man called to him. Now the niggers are uppity."

"Nobody, white or black, should have to come holding up his hands," I said. This sounded crazy to him.

"They're too ignorant to have this stuff," he added. When asked why they were ignorant, he guessed it was because they didn't read. When asked why they didn't read, he allowed it was "because they are too ignorant."

In came a detective with two typewritten sheets. "I took these out of that woman's handbag, Chief," he said, dutifully.

The chief ran his eyes down a page, but it was clear he didn't intend to find any unlawful dynamite. "Miss Hopkins had volunteered to carry two circulars which went even farther in a revolutionary way than the publications. "They won't put a woman on the chain gang," she said. The circular was my composition, addressed to "Workers of Birmingham, white and Negro." It urged them to resist and war in which the rich would profit and the workers would do the fighting. It contained an obscure passage from Daniel Webster to the effect that liberties for the many vanish when wealth concentrates. No quotes were used, nor was Webster's name mentioned. Likewise a buried statement was lifted from Lincoln—this was also passed off as ours—to the effect that when government ceases to serve the majority of the people, they have not only the constitutional right to change it but even the revolutionary right to overthrow it. This made a hot circular—provocative enough to land a Birmingham steel worker in jail for life. But Chief Hollums' face reflected no red when he looked at it.

Proverbs and Parables

By A. B. Mann

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

A Fool and His Money

There is reason in the adage, "A fool and his money soon part." This is because a fool, or a foolish individual will not know the real value of money, will not know how to use it nor how to keep it. And always there are those who will take advantage of such and individual and deprive him of what he possesses. The condition of the world today is due to the actions of the people who made money and had money, and spent it foolishly. This comotes that ability to make money will avail little unless people have the wisdom to save and spend judiciously.

Striving for Mastery

By R. A. ADAMS

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

All who for mastery may strive, Must oftentimes themselves deprive And fond desires must sacrifice, For mastery demands such price. Who'd wvni in life's exciting race, Or would ascend to highest place, Must lay aside all that would tend To hinder when they would ascend. All who would make of life, the best, In purity and helpfulness, Must exercise complete control Over the body, mind, and soul. And, only those who vict'ry win, Over all selfishness and sin, Can others help, who, striving, would Attain unto the "greatest good."

MAXIE MILLER WRITES

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

(For advice, write to Maxie Miller, care of Literary Service Bureau, 516 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, Kansas. For personal reply, send self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

Woman 40, Never Been Married, Lonesome—Wants Companionship—Don't Marry Without Love. Cure Might Prove Worse Than the Disease.

Maxie Miller: I am a woman, forty and never been married. I am lonesome and want some companionship. A man is coming to see me and has asked that we get married. I don't love him. In fact, I loved one man and lost him and that's why I never married anybody. Do you think I ought to marry this man?—Old Girl.

Old Girl: Again, I must emphasize that marriage without love is a sin. It is a sin against both of the "high contracting parties." How can you expect to be happy? And if you can't have happiness you'd better remain as you are and continue to be lonesome. There is not much to this thing of learning to love after marriage, so you'd better be careful lest your cure prove worse than the disease.—Maxie Miller.

ALTA VESTA

A GIRL'S PROBLEMS

By Videtta Ish

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

Alta Vesta from her Father—No. 18 Dear Alta Vesta:

Some things in your letter were very amusing and others were very serious. I am sure they are more serious than my little girl knows. I shall try to give you light on some of these subjects or some of these problems, for really all such are problems which tax us to solve.

To begin with, Jesus was a man. He had human parents. He was born much as are all other children. He was a little baby and grew up to be a big boy and finally a man. He had flesh and blood; He got hungry and thirsty; He became weary, we would say physically weary, meaning his body got tired. All these show He was a man.

Then, Jesus was more than a man. He was the son of God. This nobody can explain or understand. But, religion is not founded on what we know, what we can prove, but on faith, what we believe.

The Bible tells us Jesus died, was crucified on the cross, to save the world. We cannot understand this, so we just believe it and go on. This Jesus who died on the cross and was buried arose again on Easter Day, the Easter Day we have been writing and talking about.

Well, this has been a long letter, and a very serious one. Lots of love to you and Aunt Cornelia.

Your Dad

WEEKLY SHORT SERMON

By Dr. A. G. Bearer

(For the Literary Service Bureau)

Lessons from the Ant

Text: Go to the ant thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise—Proverbs 6:6.

The ant is a small insect. It has meagre strength. As far as known its span of life is short. But, it sets an example worthy of consideration and its activities are worthy of emulation.

Industry is one of the ant's strong points. Look at a bed of these little insects and note their ceaseless activities. Did you ever discover an ant sitting or lying down? Who ever saw an ant otherwise than busy? So theirs is a lesson of industry—activity.

This work of the ant has a purpose. The little insect is securing and storing food for itself and its family, such to be used during the long, cold winter.

There are thousands of men and women who are indolent. Children of today are very much given to sluggishness. There are thousands like the sluggard mentioned who, in the morning plead for "just a little more sleep."

Because of the government help given during the depression, thousands of people will never be willing to work hard and regularly again. So this necessary boon to the people will prove a bane, in many cases. To all the classes mentioned in this article is commended the words of this text—Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.

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