

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 time.

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Two Notable Victories

VICTORY is an inspiring thing. When it comes on the front of struggle for democracy, its effect is like an electric current. It throws new light upon old issues. It generates new energy, it stimulates new forces.

Two such victories have come in the struggle of Negro America to enforce the Constitution. These are victories which flow from the New Deal. They are victories which rebound to the credit of progressive America, as a whole. True, they are victories for which the Negro people are, in particular proud.

On the other hand, comes the victory through the New Deal Supreme Court. The Oklahoma Registration law by which Negroes were disfranchised, has been declared invalid by the highest court of the land. The Supreme Court is becoming an agency for the extension of democracy. What a wonderful change has been wrought in this institution! Long has the Supreme Court placed a protecting arm around "Democratic Primary Laws," Grandfather clauses, or other maneuvers, whereby democracy has been defeated and Negroes denied the vote.

Now this court comes to the fore. It is again the weapon for progress that Jefferson and Lincoln sought to make of it. It is again expressing itself against the feudal program of the Southern landlord, a program President Roosevelt called 'akin to fascism.'

BOTH of these victories will have far-reaching effects upon the struggle to protect and extend democracy at home. Both will strengthen the New Deal forces. Both will draw the Negro people and the great progressive stream, now rising, closer together.

This is certainly but a small part of the rewards of these forward steps.

The approach to these victories differed. The Miami case was won in the streets. Courageous men and women defied the masked gangs of Big Business. It was the employment of mass pressure, carried out in order to win and exercise a legal right.

The highlights were courage, love for law and justice, the willingness to fight, and if necessary, die for these things which progressive America holds more dear than life itself. These are the chief characteristics of the action carried through by Negro Miami.

A WAVE of admiration and happiness cannot fail to sweep through those who love liberty. In Miami, the "law" was in the hands of those whose respect for hooded gangs is greater than their respect for "law and order." Miami in the black skin stood on the Constitution. Reaction in Miami "lied" on the Constitution.

The Oklahoma victory was won in the courts. But in this case, the court was only reflecting the will of the people. The court was the expression of the people's demand for a new day.

Both victories flow then, from the people. The first, directly, and through mass action. The second, indirectly. Both forms of action are necessary to democracy.

On the basis of both victories, thousands will be enheartened to go to the polls. On the basis of both victories that section of the white South which has been disfranchised through the "poll tax" will be enheartened to fight against this method by which Big Business steals votes.

And people will see each other more clearly. Those who desecrated mass action now see its value. Those who may have spoken disparagingly of the courts now see that the courts can be a weapon protecting the people's rights when they are in the hands of the "friends of the people."

Deep in our hearts, we should rejoice at the further clarity of these two victories, won in battle, bring to the struggle for democracy. A profound understanding of how progress is won through struggle is the result.

And can you not see the indomitable spirit of the Negro people and their inexhaustible optimism, as reflected in these victories?

Defeats lie behind us. Some defeats are ahead. But there is ultimate victory where there is unity.

RAILROADS ON PARADE

One of the exhibits at the great New York World's Fair has almost literally "laid 'em in the aisles." That is the exhibit put on by America's railroads, under the title "Railroads on Parade." It is not only an industrial exhibit, but a revue, complete with music, story and dancing, and it has met with the overwhelming praise of cynical dramatic critics, as well as the general public.

It's a fitting thing that the railroad show should be outstanding at the fair, for the railroad industry has been outstanding in American history. It wasn't much more than 100 years ago when the first steam locomotive a tiny, show, uncertain thing compared to the splendid roaring monsters that serve us today, was put in service. And men are still living who can remember when the Golden Spike was driven at Promontory, and the two great oceans were linked with spans of steel.

In that brief century which has been the life of the railroads, this nation has come from a relatively poor, undeveloped country to its present position of world leadership in industry, in finance in commerce, in the arts, in all that makes a civilization. And there is not a single achievement in which the railroads have not played a part—and, very often, a dominant part. It was the railroads that made possible the winning of the West, and the establishment of great cities, farms and industries in a once barren land. It was the railroads that made possible the development of our great Eastern industrial centers, which give jobs to teeming millions and swiftly and economically serve consumers thousands of miles away. It was the railroads which immensely broadened the market for the farmer, to the extent that a citrus fruit grower in the South can sell his wares in Chicago, and a potato producer in New England find buyers in the Southwest.

Robert Coleman of the New York Mirror, writes that the railroad show at the fair "deserves a 21 gun salute." There can be no limit to the salute the railroads deserve for their enormously important role in building this vast nation of ours.

SPENDING DRUNK MUST END

It a recent address, Senator Pat Harrison made this very apt observation on present day government fiscal policy: "I received a postal card the other day, and penciled on it was this wholesome expression: 'You can no more spend yourself into prosperity than you can drink yourself sober.' That fellow had something. While I have never been so unfortunate as to visit one of the Keeley institutions, I am told that the practice to effect the cure is to make the patient sick at first by too much drink and then to continue the treatment by a gradual tapering off into sobriety. We have experienced in Washington an excess of the initial treatment. The time is ripe for tapering off."

Certainly the theory that it is possible to spend a nation into prosperity has been thorough exploded by now. We have tried it for seven years, and basic conditions are about as bad now as they were at the worst of depression, and unemployment about as high. And the hard facts, gathered from generations of experience, demonstrate conclusively that a debt ridden and tax ridden nation is likewise a depression ridden nation.

Senator Byrd of Virginia, another Congressional advocate of economy and fiscal sanity, recently said, "We have never enjoyed prosperity or substantial business expansion when the total tax collections—local, state and national—exceeded 12 per cent of the national income." Today something over 20 per cent of our national income is being collected in taxes. And 30 per cent of our national income is being spent by government, the difference being represented by deficits which are added to our all time high public debt.

We can have economy when the people really want it—when selfish sectional interests which demand more and more money for their pet projects see the folly of their ways. The nation is heading for tax delirium tremens unless it tapers off soon.

BREATHING SPELL

Most of us have found out by now that we have been wrong all along if we went by slogans and labels, such as the Scotch are dour and parsimonious the Chinese are peculiar, the Germans are stodgy, the Spaniards are gay, the Irish are light-hearted, the Americans are tomahawk wielders and the French are penny pinchers. Contact with representatives of all these and other peoples brings home to us the truth that all nationals are pretty much the same and have their due quotas of good and bad moral and habits.

We are thinking particularly of the French people, who are reported to be returning to the authorities, in ever increasing numbers, the recently distributed gas masks for which they were to be charged \$2 each. During the last few days the rush to return gas masks by Parisians has become so great as seriously to hamper routine business at the police stations in charge of this work.

This strange procedure can hardly be set down to the proverbial French thrift. Surely not one of those who turned in the gas masks values his or her life at less than \$2. So we must come to the conclusion that this minor incident in the life of Paris is better evidence than can be brought by all the international commentators in support of the reassuring belief that the war scare in Europe has passed for the time being.

For a while, anyway, the tension in world affairs has been relaxed. Other news now takes over the front page.

The refusal to pay \$2 for safety indicates there is no immediate fear of menace against safety and that the people of one country in the center of the European cauldron are busy about other things.

BIGGER AND BETTER

That old time favorite, In the Good Old Summertime, has an especial significance this summer, with the nation starting on the road to economic recovery.

It is not apparent at this late day what inspired the composer to write the roundelay with its joyous lilt and elation, but if he were to write it today all the world would understand and be in sympathy with him. Artificial inspiration from a jug of cider would be superfluous.

A business superstition as old as, if not older than, the summer song maintained that when summer came in the window business flew out the door. The "summer slump" was a reality to the business man because he believed in it and did nothing to stop it.

This summer is a living refutation of that superstition. Instead of slumping, business is experiencing a rebirth, a revival. Summer is making business, not killing it. It cannot take all the credit, but no one is in the mood for quibbling over such trifles at such a time.

It is a good old summertime when people are returning to work, when all lines of retail business report appreciable sales gains, when the building industry gets its first substantial taste of business in years and when money starts to flow again.

Where The Sun, Sand and Water Meet

Measure the coastline of America—over 12,000 miles of it. Multiply that by 4,000 and you have the number of people within easy riding distance of a spot for ocean bathing—for fun and frolic on the ever changing sand.

People young and old come with but one desire—the kiss of the sun, the tang of salt water and the caress of a summer breeze on their skin.

Today the beaches are crowded. The "seashore" is just another name for vacation. But once upon a time only a very few people patronized the beaches. That was before printing had gone to work—before printing had built resorts and filled them with visitors—before printing told the joy and fun of it—the cost of it—how to get there and what to do when you arrived.

People want action, life and living, when printing tells them how and when and where to fulfill their desires; printing spells profits in three dimensions—for the buyer, the seller and the printer. Right now printing can sell vacations to millions—plus everything that will make the vacation a thing of joy.

Success is easy. Just go where a lot of people with money are idle and set up some kind of quack.

Another nice thing about devoting your life to the service of others is that you never are out of a job.

There are two kinds: those who hate anything that injures the country and those who make money out of it.

No wonder conversation is a lost art in America. You can't converse without somebody who will shut up and listen.