

LIFE, LIBERTY . . .

Last week, on Ivy Day, Mr. Willard Wilson, the Ivy Day orator, delivered what was probably one of the finest of such orations heard in many years. Mr. Wilson deplored the economic conditions into which he and his classmates are about to venture. As a first step in solution of the problem, he suggests solution of the educational deficiencies. He deplores the existing bubble which pictures the inherent right of advanced education, and in its stead would expound the principles of realism.

Sunday, the editorial writer of a local newspaper, gave to youth a challenge to fight for the advantages they would have. In a letter reprinted in the "Student Pulse" columns this morning reference is made to a truly enlightening and inspiring address made by Nebraska's Senator Norris on receiving the Cardinal Newman award "for distinguished service to his country." Altho the award and the address were made seven years ago, the thoughts and arguments presented are even more timely today than they were then.

Says Mr. Norris in part: "Is our civilization breaking down? Is our government structure giving way under the terrible problems now encumbering the road of human progress?"

"With food rotting in numberless storehouses, millions of our people are starving for something to eat. We are freezing because we have too much fuel. We can scarcely cover our nakedness, because we have manufactured too much clothing. It is plainly evident that something is seriously wrong with our civilization. Everyone acknowledges that the burden of permanent feeding and clothing an army of 12,000,000 unemployed is too great for organized society to bear. Unless we meet this situation, unless we solve this question, our civilization, our government, our constituted society must fail.

"The mad and selfish rush for money, the unexplained desire to accumulate wealth at all hazards, has for a century been one of the evil influences in our civilization. Wonderful developments in improved labor-saving machinery have all added to the difficulties and helped precipitate the crisis. The year 1929 was regarded by many people as the high mark in our prosperity, but reliable statistics demonstrate that by improved machinery installed since that date we could today manufacture and produce all the goods that could be consumed with 6,000,000 less men than were employed at that time.

"Emergency relief is imperative to save the institutions of our civilization, but when we have achieved that accomplishment we have only postponed our difficulty. We are not fair to pass this question on to our children. We ought to give to our posterity a world of opportunity freed from this ominous threat.

At the close of every war, the wealth of the countries engaged is possessed by less people than owned the property at the beginning of the war. The World war being the greatest in all history has had a tremendous effect in that direction. During four years all the people of practically all the nations of the earth were bending all their energies in one direction to destroy property and human life. It is an economic axiom that society in general has to stand this loss. It is a burden coming all at once, and it has been almost too much for humanity to bear.

"There is no doubt if we let matters float and do nothing to save the situation, when a new adjustment takes place, the property of the country will be owned by a much smaller part of the people than own it now. It is evident that if we want to save our civilization, if we want to save our system of government we must do something now, and we must be willing to suffer the disastrous changes which must take place in order to save it.

"The right to acquire property and make unlimited profits is a sacred right. Laws which gave this permission were framed in accordance with the conditions then existing, and when changes in economic conditions occur, then new laws must be

enforced to protect the rights of the humanity. That the personal liberty of individuals will be modified cannot be denied, the personal liberty of man is always a relative one, and he cannot exercise this liberty in a way which is destructive of the rights of his fellow men.

"I am not claiming that this change will not involve some sacrifice. We will have to give up some of our cherished ideas about the rights of property. About all that is necessary, however, is to put some humanity into our statute books.

"When it is evident that labor working eight hours a day, with the machinery of modern times, produces more than can be consumed, the very life of our civilization will cry out and demand the law which limit the hours of labor. If we desire to preserve our civilization intact, we must take the necessary steps to bring about such preservation. Where such action infringes upon the rights of those who are seeking unlimited wealth the rights of society must prevail, and the rights of property must be submissive. All along the pathway of history there stand the tombstones of dead governments, because the people failed to preserve the rights of man as against the rights of property.

"An unreasonable accumulation of money and the ultimate ownership of the property of the country in the hands of the few is now admitted to be dangerous to the perpetuity of any government. Man has forgotten the duty he owes to humanity in his mad rush for wealth, and yet the warning is written in the canopy of heaven.

"As a permanent remedy we ought not only to shorten the hours of toil but we ought to limit the right of wealth to entail itself from one generation to another. The progressive inheritance tax would make it impossible for the property of one generation to be passed on intact to the people of a succeeding generation. Such a tax could be collected with less hardship than any other tax ever conceived by man.

"Our forefathers said in that immortal declaration that the objects of government were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Life and liberty are included in the pursuit of happiness; and, so, if our forefathers were right, we can put it all in one sentence: 'The object of government is to protect the happiness of the people comprising the government.' If the object of the government is the happiness of the people in the government, then it follows that there must be some humanity in government. It must become a religion—a religion that does not consider the conditions which may exist beyond the grave, but confines its consideration to happiness in this life.

"A satisfied citizenship is necessary either in the preservation of the rights of man or in the protection of the rights of property. A nation of happy prosperous satisfied people means the protection of society, and likewise and to the same extent it means the protection of the rights of property. Respect for law is one of the requisites of stable government. It is in a government where the people live in their own homes, where the farmers are getting a profitable price for their products, where the toiler in the workshop is getting an honest wage, and is laboring under decent respectable conditions, that the rights of man and the rights of property are both preserved in every legitimate respect.

"The difficulties which, therefore, we are faced with at the present time, and the dangers that confront us, if we meet them fairly and honestly and with the supreme desire to shape things as to increase the happiness of all people, will fade away and we will find that all that is necessary is to be honest with our fellow men, and to give equality to all people alike, and that by so doing, instead of these difficulties, and these dangers, being a menace, they will, if we thus meet them, and thus solve them, become a blessing to all humanity, and in that day, which I hope is not far distant, there will be placed upon the willing shoulders the new responsibilities of the new civilization."

Student Pulse

Editors Note: The following letter is a copy of one sent to Mr. Willard Wilson, senior in law college who last week delivered the annual Ivy Day oration. Mr. Sibley, the writer, is a Lincoln business man who has retained his youthful viewpoint while watching four sons attend the university, the youngest of whom completed his education only two years ago.

Mr. Willard Wilson, Ivy Day orator Dear Mr. Wilson,

Today's editorial in the State Journal, "The cry of 1939" is much to the point but it leaves much unsaid.

The struggle of the present, and into the future, is going to be one between the "Haves" and the "Have nots". In Europe the whip hand has been seized by the dictators, and their action is not solution, but the contrary.

In this country it is up to us to do the job in a democratic way, and it is going to be the job of your generation to make this advance, with courage and directness, being fully aware that it will take persistent effort, plus time and patience, to accomplish anything. It did not get this way in a day or a year, nor will it be remedied in a short time.

The forces of entrenched private and corporate wealth are a unit and have plenty of money to buy the best brains available to protect their position. The "Have nots" are not a unit, unfortunately. So the first job is to define the objectives and the method of their accomplishment, and then try to get the "Have nots" organized behind the effort to take the shackles off of free enterprise in business activity and give your generation a chance to look at the sun.

I know of nothing which more nearly gives your generation a correct look ahead than the address of our Senator Norris, when he was awarded the Cardinal Newman Award at the University of Illinois in 1933 for distinguished service to his country.

I am enclosing a copy for your information if you are interested.

Yours very truly William M. Sibley

NO KICK.

To the Editor:

Thursday the Innocents for next year were tapped. For the first time in many years there were no Barb chosen for this honor. I expect that quite a number of the independent students will raise the cry that they were cheated out of representation in the society by dirty politics in the fraternity factions.

The great majority of Barb men have no reason to kick though, the fault is entirely their own. We have a fair system of elections here now that prevents any underhanded work at the polls, and the selection of the Innocents is closely supervised by a faculty committee in order that the men

selected are as nearly as possible the choice of the junior and senior men as indicated by the nominating election.

The Barbs failed this year for two reasons. First, ninety per cent of the men eligible to vote didn't take the trouble to name their choices. Second, there were no Barb men with the combined qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, and popularity to really merit the honor of being an Innocent. Perhaps some of them had as much right to be tapped as some of those that were, but that is a question for debate.

Even though I am quite active and interested in Barb work, I should have regretted seeing any Barb made an Innocent for purely political reasons as much as I dislike seeing fraternity men chosen for the same reason. I believe that the Innocents should be chosen for their character, personality, leadership, and actual service to their fellow students and the university instead of choosing those with a long list of impressive-looking activities and a record of faithful political activity as, unfortunately, the tendency is now.

When we can produce more Barb men of the caliber of Bob Simmons, I insist that they be made Innocents, but I do not believe that some one not deserving the honor should be tapped merely because it is the custom to select one Barb every year.

The Barbs have plenty of potential Innocents in their numbers even a fraternity man will admit, but they seem content to sit back with their hands folded maintaining that they can't do anything because the fraternities run everything on the campus. If they would enter into the extra-curricular activities open to them, they would have plenty of chances of success.

One thing they cannot blame the fraternities for running is the Barb organization. Tomorrow night the Barb Union will elect its officers for the coming year. It will be difficult to find men who know enough about the organization to be entrusted with its direction for the coming year. When the independent men don't take interest enough to work for their own organization, how can they expect to become Innocents?

Very truly yours,

ART HENRICKSON, Editor Barb Bulletin.

Dr. M. L. Grant of Iowa State Teachers college has a personal-library cross-reference file of 85,000 cards.

Filings for awards due Wednesday

Five scholarships available for students

Students interested in five scholarships available this spring, are advised by the office of the dean of student affairs to file applications before Wednesday, May 10.

Scholarships are available for freshmen and upperclassmen alike. Upperclassmen must have completed 24 hours the previous year and are required to carry at least 12 hours during the semester for which the award is granted to be eligible for the prizes. All grades must be of satisfactory standing to be considered by the committee.

The five scholarships and their respective endowments are as follows: Dr. George Bowman award of \$90; Edward Lang True memorial of \$80; the William Hyde scholarship of \$75; and the endowment of \$50 established by Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Clark in memory of the late Judge Jefferson H. Broady.

The freshman award endowed by W. J. Nickel carries an award of \$20 to the freshman who has completed his first year of work under the greatest duress.

Alpha Kappa Psi hears address by Don S. Cozad

Don S. Cozad of the National Bank of Commerce spoke on the phases of banking Wednesday evening at the Union to actives, new initiates and alumni of Alpha Kappa Psi, professional bizad fraternity. Friday, eight members of the society spent the day in Omaha as guests of several business houses there.

Daily Nebraskan

Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice in Lincoln, Nebraska, under act of congress, March 3, 1879, and at special rate of postage provided for in section 1108, act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 26, 1922.

Bulletin

Phi Tau Theta, Methodist fraternity, will hold a business meeting this evening at 7 o'clock at the Wesley Foundation. Plans for the annual spring banquet Friday night will be completed and arrangements for the regional meeting of the fraternity to be held in Lincoln May 13 and 14 will be made.

Kosmet Klub actives will hold an important business meeting at the Kosmet Klub office at 7 o'clock this evening. It is essential that every member be present.

To attend dance school

Miss Shirley Bennett of the department of physical education for women will attend the sixth annual session of the Bennington School of the Dance at Mills college in California this summer.

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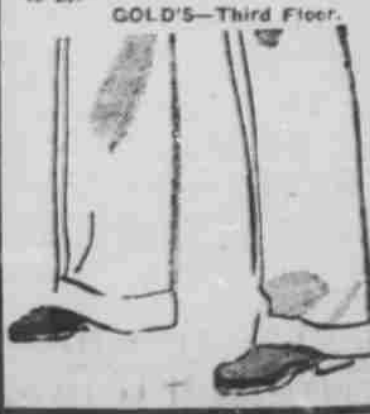
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