

The Indianapolis Times

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RABBITS AND SOME MEN

AN INDIANAPOLIS hunter returns from the rabbit chase. He has not had a good day, for the tail of only one bunny protrudes from his bag.

All his life this rabbit spent in fear. In fear he gathered his daily food. Trembling at every sound he lay in his hole when the day's tasks were done. He was afraid of the falling leaf, of the chirp of the cricket in the night and of the footfall of a child.

If he could have been magically transformed into a man, he would have been one of those men who fear to express an honest opinion lest they might injure themselves in their business. He would have been one of those men who whisper against the evils that bother the community, but fear to speak out. He would have been a furtive man who never tells how he votes and will take both sides of a question, fearing to favor either.

Rabbit men! Unfortunately, there is no open season on them.

BLUNDER OF A CENTURY

BLUNDERS which literally make the hair stand on end to contemplate; blunders which have already cost the people of the United States billions of dollars and will cost them untold billions more; blunders which may yet reduce half the world to a shambles and result in a flashback on you and yours terrible to contemplate, have been committed cumulatively by your representatives in Washington during the last two years.

Secretary of State Hughes tells us, and truly, that the German reparations question is a world problem directly affecting the United States. He admits that unless it is quickly settled, what is already a disaster in Europe may spread around the world. It has already cost American farmers at least \$10,000,000 and merchants and business men generally incalculable additional amounts.

Other ranking officials admit reparations is the key to the world situation and that unless it is settled shortly, horrors yet undreamed of await Europe and, by repercussion, corresponding sufferings over here. We are even now preparing to feed 2,000,000 starving children in Central Europe this winter and no man can foresee the end.

Thus Washington at last confesses we are all inextricably bound up in an issue which less than a year ago it said was no concern of ours. When we had the chance to settle the problem, we turned it down. Congress turned it down, stupidly and short-sightedly, on the ground it was Europe's business and not ours. It was either lack of gumption or rotten politics. Take your choice. With the blood of our American boys we had bought the right to have a say in the making of peace, including the right to sit on the reparations commission which today virtually holds the fate of the world in its hands. Our interests are vitally at stake, yet we have no voice in the matter.

Whatever happens now, we have only ourselves to blame. We let petty politicians barter away what we paid for with good American lives—the right to help make the world secure, to help stave off another war, to help keep war-breeders from invading our homes and driving off our breadwinners to make cannon fodder of them on far-off battlefields.

We had the chance but we threw it away. They are beginning dimly to realize something of all this now in Washington and are trying to make repair.

We hope it is not too late.

WHEREIN GEORGE TELLS US

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, that English-Irish scribbler, has been at it again. He tells an English educational journal that the marks of an educated man 'are intellectual and moral imbecility.'

That is bad enough, left as it is, but George prescribes a remedy. It is "the destruction of civilization by educated men."

This involves incidentally, he explains, the destruction of educational institutions and the consequent escape of mankind from education to "the comparative sanity and mental competence of savagery."

It will be seen at a glance that George is not in love with education. He doesn't say so exactly, but his deportment indicates it. He couldn't be more savage about it, were he not civilized.

Perhaps we are enjoying "the sanity and mental competence of savagery," even now. There are signs that may be read as we run. Take the man who obtained savage delight by placing a slimy frog in his wife's bathtub, for instance. Or that other one who grinned savagely because his wife became frantic when he made a daily pastime of setting the family dog on her. Or still the other one who found his savage kick in feeding lighted cigarette stubs to innocent monkeys in a zoo. Or, again, that nice, motherly woman who exploited her sanely savage ideas of charity by beating a weak little girl she had "taken to raise" until paralysis and heart trouble sent the child to a civilized hospital and the woman to a savage jail. Or the thousands of other instances of like savage character that mark, not the destruction of civilization, but the need of it.

Always there is to be found some mental structures that fail to comprehend education and civilization, but it is not due to the fault or falsity of the latter. What we really need and want is more and more civilization of the right kind and less of Shaw and his mental vagaries. We have too much savagery now.

WALL STREET is overjoyed with the extra dividends many companies are declaring. These announcements have made almost as big a hit in the Street as Secretary Mellon's tax reduction proposals.

SENATOR CUMMINS advocates holding the Republican national convention in Des Moines, because it would be like saying to the farmers, "Yes, we shall give your claims careful consideration." They've all heard that tune before.

THE Association Against the Prohibition Amendment has discovered "evidences that the Anti-Saloon League is 'smuggling to the Administration.'" Is this an indication that the Coolidge regime is not as frigid as generally reported?

STATE Department says Japanese are "rigidly obeying gentleman's agreement." Labor Department says "11,571 Japanese entered California last year." Something lacking in the coordination department.

MARKETING PROBLEM IS TOUGH ONE

Cooperative Associations Are Suggested as Palliative or Cure.

THIS is the fourth of a series of articles on the agriculture problem written by Herbert Quick for the Indianapolis Star. He is a former editor of Farm and Fireside and is himself a West Virginia farmer. This article is on "Co-operatives for Marketing."

By HERBERT QUICK

THE farmer sells for what the buyer is willing to give. He buys for what the seller asks. This has been his complaint always. I heard it when I was a child. It is all the complaints of the farmers today.

One remedy strenuously advocated is cooperation. It offers the most hope of any of the palliatives suggested. It works. Take the case of the Eastern Shore truckers of Virginia and Maryland, for instance; though I might take the raisin growers, the cotton growers, the wool growers, the poultry men, the grape growers, the apple men, or many others in many places. But the Eastern Shore Truck-Growers Association will serve as an illustration.

There are 50,000 farmers in this association. It cooperates in marketing its truck crops. One year it handled \$19,000,000 worth of products.

It has a trade mark. These 50,000 men act as a unit. Their trade mark stands for quality in their crops.

Are Next Informed

They have men on the markets to look out for their interests. They keep informed as to the demand. They can divert their shipments from a market that is glutted to a place of scarcity.

They can not cut out all the middlemen—at least, they can not as yet sell direct to the consumer. But the profits are shown by the increase in the value of farm lands devoted to raising their crops.

These cooperatives all over the country, when they get going, cooperate in many ways besides selling and standardizing of their output. They buy fertilizers and other necessities cooperatively. They have men employed who study their problems. They can delve into the mysteries of the railway freight schedules and can get the best rates the law allows, which the individual man can not do.

They can ship in and out in cars. They can often maintain their own commission men on the great markets. They can know just what their grades are, as in cotton and tobacco. In livestock they can maintain breeding rings to pass breeding animals from neighborhood to neighborhood. They can improve their breeds. They can standardize butter and cheese. They can ripen their cheese properly. They can and do hosts of such things.

Cooperation Hindered

Cooperation in the United States among the farmers has been hindered rather than helped by the various organizations of farmers which have made the most noise. The Grange, the Gleaners, the American Society of Equity, the old Farmers' Alliance and the present American Farm Bureau Federation have been organizations of farmers as farmers.

The cooperation of such organizations as the Eastern Shore Truck Growers is mainly cooperation in selling. We have all heard of Rockdale cooperation. Senator Brookhart makes it the chief plank in his platform and his trip to Europe makes him all the stronger in its advocacy.

The Rockdale cooperation is the system worked out a century ago by the weavers of Rockdale, and has succeeded because it is just. It has grown to enormous proportions. It grew up in a city. In a word, it attempts to eliminate the middleman in buying. Senator Brookhart is laying out a much larger program than a mere organization of farmers in disputation.

Has Its Limitations

After the great farm smash in 1920 the National City Bank called attention to the fact that this would depress morally and financially about half the people of the United States. Cooperation has its limitations—but it would help the cities a great deal.

But there are two sides to cooperation—the farm side and the city side. The great cooperative societies of England are mainly city cooperatives. The great cooperatives of Germany, Italy, Scotland and England which come, or used to come, to America and buy their cotton for mills, wheat for their flour, their cheese, butter, meats and the like, were cooperative societies of city people.

Cooperation will not be in position to do everything it can do for the farmers or for the city folks until there are cooperative societies in the cities which will do business with the cooperatives of the farm. When this comes to pass there will not be such a crime as the present, with wheat going down in price as bread gets dearer.

A Thought

I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame.

I was father to the poor; and the cause which I knew not I searched out.—Job 29:15. 16.

TIS not enough to help the feeble up. But to support him after—Shakespeare.

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