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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."—Dante.

Mississippi Surrenders

Up from Florida came blowing a strange wind. And from Mobile Bay to Maurepas Lake the Gulf Coast awoke, stirring out of a sleep of centuries.

The wild beauty of this wooded, winding shore became suddenly a reproach, reminding its people how long they had taken pleasure and neglected profit.

These friendly, happy homes, scattered haphazardly through pine and oak, they must be made from rustic retreats into millionaire mansions. These miles long, rotting piers, along which little groups at dawn and dusk went bathing, they must be made into concrete causeways. And these languorous, laughing waters of the Sound must be so filled with tourists and investors that nevermore would porpoises come rolling at sunrise.

There must be progress and prosperity, and the soil must be a thing not to own, but to sell.

And so, Theodore G. Bilbo has been elevated for the second time in his tempestuous life to the governorship of Mississippi.

There can be little doubt that this man's return to power, against such bitter opposition, was due in part to the new culture along the coast. Nor can there be doubt that his victory is fraught with novel possibilities.

Until James K. Vardaman, once Bilbo's master, led the political revolt of 1910, Mississippi was controlled autocratically by an ante-bellum regime, by an aristocracy of planters, centering in the county Delta, of which John Sharp Williams was the last elegant warlock. For in Mississippi, alone of southern States, the Old South lingered.

Vardaman drew his support from what the planters were pleased to call Cow Country, his followers being a rabble of small farmers, strengthened here and there by little bands of artisans in the miniature Mississippi cities.

Such was the political machinery inherited by Bilbo, and, even as it had not prevented Vardaman from going to defeat in 1918, so it was unable to save Bilbo in 1923. Seeking to return in 1923, Bilbo was vanquished quite as completely as Vardaman. The old regime, though battered a bit, still ruled.

But a new Bilbo went up and down the State in 1927, and he spoke a new language. Was Mississippi the last State in the South to feel the crushing might of industrialism? Then Mississippi must change. Was Mississippi still a pioneer land? It must be no longer. Mississippi, land of opportunity, beckoned through Bilbo to the wealth of the world, for Mississippi was a good place for millionaires to live in and would be even a better place to die in. There would be a few restrictions on pleasures and no inheritance tax upon wealth.

This, in a State that had limited by law the amount of soil a foreign corporation could own, in a State whose largest city numbered only 35,000 souls, this was something new. And when the ballots were counted the coast, as well as the Cow Country, had gone for Bilbo enthusiastically.

To the North it was a victory for tolerance, proving that a governor of New York might yet carry the South, for Bilbo won despite bitter attempts of his opponents to make him appear a servant of Catholicism.

To the South it was something more. It was, perhaps, the passing of the last fragment of a civilization that was elsewhere gone forever. It was, perhaps, the final bow of an aristocracy of song and story to an aristocracy of production and profit.

The Eagle and the Ostrich

The village librarian was homeward bound with a book under her arm.

"Whatcha got there, Miss Mildred?" the town character asked as she passed by. "Is that a learnin' book you takin' home, or jest a readin' book?"

Which is not so foolish as it sounds. Books generally may be classified under the one category or the other. Most books are read either for what we can learn from their pages, else just for the fun of it.

"How Europe Made Peace Without America," by Frank H. Simonds, expert on foreign affairs, is both kinds of a book at one and the same time. Every thinking American should read it. They will learn a lot and find real enjoyment while doing so.

The book is not one to be synopsized. It needs to be read. First Simonds gives you the European background against which the events following the World War must be viewed to be understood, then he pictures the events themselves. The making of the Treaty of Versailles with personal side-lights on its makers; America's part in the treaty and why the treaty failed; the various positions of France, Italy, Britain, Germany and the rest; and the meaning of the Ruhr, the Dawes Plan; Locarno and so on down to the present day—it is all there.

The final chapter—"America and Europe"—alone would make the book worth while, recapitulating in vivid fashion the world situation to show why America has lost her popularity abroad. We can not follow a policy of let-the-rest-of-the-world-stew-in-its-own-juice and expect foreigners to love us. Instead of constructive leadership from our statesmen in these matters, Simonds makes clear, our politicians merely follow what they believe to be the popular trend. Instead of leading the parade to a higher moral ground they timidly follow the band-wagon of public sentiment wherever it may wander.

"American foreign policy," the writer says, "is based upon popular estimates of European conditions rather than upon any actual appraisal of existing conditions. All our proposals abroad are addressed to our electorate at home. Notes sent to foreign governments are invariably directed at the domestic voter. Secretaries of State are occupied mainly with the thought of the repercussion in the United States; what the responses evoked in Europe may be are unimportant by comparison."

"Thus," Simonds concludes, "in recent years, it has never been quite possible to escape the disquieting suspicion that while the American Government continues to cherish the eagle as a domestic symbol, it is to the ostrich that it turns instinctively for an example in all questions of foreign policy."

No criticism was ever more justified. While it is painfully apparent that America is becoming increasingly unpopular the world over, instead of trying to find out why this is so, and check it if we can, we deliberately bury our heads in the sand and refuse to see the gathering storm.

A Change On the Border

For more than a century Americans and Canadians have lived side by side without a fort or soldier or ship guarding the border. This happy state has often been instanced as an example of international concord which other countries might copy. But those days are to be no more.

We are to increase our prohibition patrol along a small stretch of border from 200 to 400 men, bringing the total force of the dry army on the line to more than 600. It may also be necessary to dot the Great Lakes with destroyers assigned to the coast guard's prohibition squadron. The international bridge, recently dedicated with effusive references to the millennium, will have heavy guards posted at each end.

Strangely enough, it is the Canadian government which has requested these warlike measures. They have not been resorted to as a means of keeping out Canadian liquor so much as to prevent American liquor from flowing into Canada. Since prohibition our bootlegging gentry have exported alcohol to Canada, evaded payment of the tax and undersold the home market. Some of the poisonous stuff has sickened and killed Canadian subjects.

We submit that all this is a curious commentary on prohibition enforcement and the evils which the dry laws have brought in their train. After seven years and the expenditure of more than \$200,000,000 we find that evasion and violation of the law have assumed such a widespread character that it places a strain on the good nature of our neighbors.

Isn't it time for the sensible element of our law-making body to undertake revision of the dry act so as to make it an enforceable and commonsense proposition, if that is possible?

Why There's No Profit

The Government spent about \$3,500,000,000 for a merchant fleet during the war.

Therefore President Coolidge, as reported from Rapid City, concludes that a Government merchant marine is a complete failure and should be discontinued.

Is the President's conclusion a fair one?

Most of those ships were thrown together helter-skelter as part of the Nation's effort to win the war. They were in about the same class as artillery shells, bought at any price, and wooden caskets, built hastily and at great cost because the need was urgent.

Would anybody argue that we shouldn't manufacture any more shells because those used during the war are now of no value?

Then, too, there is the fixed shipping board policy of transferring ships to private owners as soon as they start to show a profit. In this manner the Government has deliberately prevented itself from making a profit from its merchant marine.

Perhaps private interests are prepared to build up a merchant marine adequate to the needs of the Nation. Indications thus far are that this is not the case. The Senate Commerce Committee which began its exhaustive inquiry into the subject convinced that the Government should get out of the shipping business, now believes the contrary. It believes the Government should face the fact that a real American merchant marine can only be provided by the Government and that the Government should set about providing it.

A crusader against alcohol told an Indiana audience that 21,000,000 people who drank before the prohibition law went into effect have quit completely. The other 90,000,000 in the country seem to be getting it all.

A ranger in Africa reports he killed three elephants with one bullet. We live in a machine age, it's true, but the spirit of Aesop has not passed from the earth.

Chicago police are going to carry nightsticks again, says a dispatch. The obsolete will return if you just give it plenty of time.

Maybe after Coolidge is through being President he will settle down.

The Lawyers' Union

By N. D. Cochran

The lawyers have the only trade or profession that has practically all the tools for self-government. They dominate all National and State legislative bodies and generally occupy the big jobs in the executive branch of government. So they are responsible for most if not all the laws which regulate our daily life.

Besides, there is in every State, and probably in every county seat, a bar association. In all essential it is a labor union, the principal difference between it and the bricklayers' union, for example, is that lawyers don't do much work with their hands and are not classified as laborers.

All judges, being lawyers, are members of the union. They and the other members of the union have power to regulate admission to the practice of law, and to bring about such changes in judicial procedure as they may deem desirable.

Through the power of courts to disbar members of the bar—or union—and thus prevent them from practicing law, the members of the union can protect the public from crooked lawyers. They have power to punish the army of crooked lawyers who are in league with professional criminals, and in effect participants in and beneficiaries of crime.

One noted member of the lawyers' union, Clarence Darrow, once made a speech to the prisoners in the Illinois penitentiary at Joliet; and he told them that the real reason most of them were there was that they didn't have a smart lawyer.

That may be slightly exaggerated, but there is much truth in the statement. All of us know enough to believe that criminals could not escape punishment so easily if it were not for the cunning of tricky lawyers in finding loop-holes in laws enacted to protect property and life.

And we ought to know that the lawyers themselves, through the great power of their self-governing union, can do more than all the rest of us combined to promote justice and make law effective.

Unfortunately, however, the honest lawyers, who we believe, are in the majority, do not make the best use of the power of their union. Oh yes, a crooked lawyer is disbarred now and then. Sometimes a lawyer may go to prison, but there are entirely too many lawyers living off of crime and criminals, too many lawyers using their knowledge and cunning to find holes in the meshes of the law through which their criminal clients may escape.

Having all the power they need to make their profession a self-governing body and to bring law and justice near enough together to be on speaking terms, why don't they do it?

M. E. TRACY SAYS:

As America Grows, Europe Is Bound to Fade by Comparison, or Putting It the Other Way, as Europe Fades America Is Bound to Grow.

United States with 250,000,000 people and a League of Latin-American nations are what Dean Inge of England visualizes as the dominant sources of world power at the end of the twentieth century.

The Dean began, like prophets of old, foretelling the decadence of his own people, and forced himself to picture the rise of others as a natural corollary.

But what is there so novel or startling in the thought?

As America grows, Europe is bound to fade by comparison, or putting it the other way, as Europe fades, America is bound to grow.

The Dean is merely arguing what the near future will be because of what the near past has been.

One hundred years ago, England, France, Germany and Spain were each much larger than the United States. Today none of them is. What more natural than to suppose the drift will continue for another hundred years?

Changes Often Unheralded

Writing in 1778, Elkanah Watson predicted that the United States would be a nation of from ninety to one hundred million people by the end of the nineteenth century.

He had far less to go on than Dean Inge, but made a wonderfully close estimate. He foresaw a change of which there was little indication, while the Dean foresees one of which there is every indication.

The trouble is that great changes usually take place without much indication, and in that lies the Dean's real difficulty.

Other Powers Traced

Populations do not increase regularly and uninterruptedly, neither do nations rise.

Three thousand years ago Egypt had as great a population as it has today, if not greater, while Babylon flourished where there is a desert now.

Rome was a much larger city under Augustus than it is, or is likely to be, under Mussolini.

Four hundred years ago the Pope divided the western world between Spain and Portugal, as though settled the matter.

Two hundred years ago France controlled the bulk of North America.

Undiscovered laws of nature govern the birth rate and the destiny of empires.

The United States may have a population of 250,000,000 at the end of this century, as Dean Inge predicts, and then again it may not. Certain scientists have declared it would never go much beyond 200,000,000.

Latin-American League

As to the rise of Latin-American and the possibility of its republics forming a league, that is a most interesting subject to speculate on, and one which should concern us quite as much as Europe.

League, or no league, Latin-American is bound to come to the front very rapidly from now on, not only because of its large productive areas that are open to development, but because the restrictions we have placed on immigration are certain to turn Europe's overflow in that direction.

If North America could increase from 10,000,000 to 100,000,000 during the last century, it is not unreasonable to suppose that South America may increase from 50,000,000 to 200,000,000 during the next.

Neighbors Grow Up

At present we are dealing with a score of comparatively weak neighbors in this hemisphere, and are shaping a policy toward them which is rooted in that thought.

The Monroe Doctrine was based on the conception that they were utterly incapable of taking care of themselves, and out of that doctrine has developed a patronizing attitude on the part of our country which they must find humiliating.

It is all right to play the big brother toward little brothers, so long as they remain little, but when they grow up, it is likely to have its drawbacks.

Latin-American nations are not only growing up, but they are being drawn together by a common fear of the United States, just as we were once drawn together by a common fear of Europe.

If we continue such a policy as we are now pursuing toward Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and some other countries, Latin-American is almost sure to become pro-European.

Whether such a situation would threaten war, it would certainly affect markets and industry.

That such a situation is in the making, any one with the intelligence of a 10-year-old child should be able to understand, and that we ought to take it into account more than we do should be equally apparent.

The great weakness of our foreign policy toward Latin-American consists in the fact that it ignores everything more than a week off. It presumes that conditions will remain as they are indefinitely, that the United States will continue rich and populous, while republics to the south continue poor and sparsely settled, which is a conception that our own history should blast as utterly absurd.

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The First and Second A. E. F.—No. 2



Spanish Charm Will Be Found in the Ballroom at Indiana Which Opens Tonight With Grand Ball

By a miracle of the builders' art, Spain's most enchanting charms have been brought to Indianapolis, and are to be found in the new Indiana ballroom, which opens tonight.

Dance in this ballroom whose walls are, by magic Spanish palaces, whose balconies are draped with Spanish shawls, and whose windows are hung with brilliant awnings.

Dance with salt sea breezes adding a tang and a zest to the air we breathe. Dance to your hearts' content to the music of Jack Pitzer and Marion McKay and their "Kings of Tempo."

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