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

Contempt of Court

It is fortunate that Attorney General Gilliom refuses to permit a pardon by Governor Jackson to end the contempt case against Rev. E. S. Shumaker, sentenced to the penal farm by the supreme court.

Not that it matters much whether Shumaker serves or not, but it does make some difference for the future if it is definitely determined that the power of the Governor to pardon is not absolute.

It will be of still greater service if it calls to the attention of the legislature the necessity of defining powers of the courts to punish for contempt, especially the power of lower court, and provide methods of preventing judicial tyranny.

The actions of Judge Dearth in exercising his contempt powers in the case of George Dale amounted to a public scandal and Dale was somewhat reluctantly pardoned by Governor Jackson when public sentiment ran high.

The line between criticism of court actions which make the proper administration of justice impossible and criticism which constructively fights for justice is not always clearly marked.

But it is certain that in every case justice will suffer nothing if there are some check upon the actions of the judge who takes offense.

Certainly it is against all American ideas that any official, even a judge, be clothed with all the powers of prosecutor, witness, judge and executioner.

In every contempt case, except those committed in the presence of the court, the verdict should be rendered either by some unbiased judge or by a jury to pass upon the facts.

Freedom of speech should mean more than a phrase and no person, either by the spoken or printed word, should be terrified by the idea that a judge has arbitrary power over his liberty.

The minority opinion of the supreme court charged that this newspaper was in open contempt of the court, because it differed with the majority opinion of the court in the case of Shumaker.

This newspaper has maintained that Shumaker should have been punished, not for his misinterpretation of decisions and perhaps libel of judges, but for his open effort to use his political power to influence, secretly an by indirect methods, the final judgment of the court.

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are the two great safeguards of liberty.

The whole power of courts to punish for contempt and of the Governor to set aside the judgment of a branch of government of equal authority, should command some attention from the lawmakers.

A Matter of Duty

Certain aspects of the recent election make it more imperative than ever that congress perform the plain constitutional duty it has shirked for eight years—reapportionment membership of the house so that states are represented more fairly according to their population.

Each state's representation in the electoral college is equal to the number of its senators and representatives. If congress, as directed to do every ten years by the Constitution, had reapportioned after 1920, a certain group of states would have had twelve more representatives—and electoral votes—and certain other states would have had twelve less, than they now have.

Statisticians have figured out that with a switch of less than 500,000 popular votes, Smith would have gotten 269 electoral college votes and the election, a majority being 266. But five of the states given to him in this tabulation, including three he actually carried—Rhode Island, Louisiana and Mississippi—with Missouri and Nebraska, each have an electoral college vote of one more than they are entitled to, which would have then made his total under reapportionment 264, or less than enough to win.

That's one side. But California is entitled to three more votes than she has and Michigan one more. Both are states which you couldn't have pried away from Hoover with a crowbar. So that in the event of a close election we would have had a double injustice to the Republican candidate and a double gain for the Democratic and possibly a minority President—as the result of the inaction of a Republican congress.

According to present population, the injustice is growing. A certain group of states now has twenty-three more votes than it is entitled to and another group twenty-three less, both in the house and in the electoral college. And by the census of 1930 the wrong probably will be greater.

Even disregarding the obvious injustice of the present situation as to legislation we should not have another presidential election in 1932, possibly with passions running nearly as high as they did this year, with a total of fifty votes out of proper line in an electoral college of 531 votes.

Radio and the Spellbinder

Yes, the radio is going to work wonders in politics by way of putting out the hay, straw, and alfalfa. As time is money when the microphone is busy and much too expensive for windy local spellbinders, most of those long-winded and terribly tiresome speeches of introduction have been boiled down. Toward the end of the campaign, some of them were cut out altogether by not turning on the mike until the real speaker was ready to cut loose.

We learned something during the late campaign, just as broadcasting stations finally learned, that the best broadcaster wasn't a comedian bent on advertising himself. It won't take long for political organizations paying for time on the radio to learn to let the speeches of introduction go to the crowd in the hall, but not to the big audience listening in.

This may be tough on local windjammers, but it will have a restful and soothing effect on the air audience.

Even the amateur vociferators won't last long. They are not worth the price. It didn't take listeners long to learn to tune in on the big guns and tune out on the firecrackers.

Probably the most serious result of radio campaigning will be the necessity of shutting off the applause, the cheers, catcalls, boos and any other kind of human noise you can think of. There is really some benefit in that.

Campaign speeches come after the baseball season is over and noise has had time to accumulate in human lungs that had been busy hollering at the game. They enjoy the same sort of explosion as campaign meetings, for partisans don't have to under-

M. E.
TRACY
SAYS:
"The Tenth Anniversary of Peace Finds Us Getting Back to a Point Where We Can Think Soberly and Sensibly."

stand what the orator is saying. They can yell anything.

Knowing whether he is a Republican or Democrat, the audience knows when to cheer and when to boo. You cheer your own man and boo the other fellow. It makes little difference whether the argument pro or con is good or bad, even though most of it is con.

Shutting off the noise to save time and money on the radio was about the toughest job orators tackled during this year's campaign. All tricky politicians need do until some way out is found to fill the hall with their partisans with instructions to cheer the speaker so long, loudly, and enthusiastically that he won't have time to get over his hysterical abandon?

Having a war to end war, we we could put that problem aside.

Having discovered that Kaiserism was the source of all evil, and having beaten it, we could look forward to a more or less sinless world.

By way of good measure, we were going to hang the Kaiser, make Germany pay all the bills, form a League of Nations and realize Tennyson's poetic vision of "The Parliament of Man; the Federation of Man."

Altogether, the radio gives great promise of making American politics saner and more comfortable. To get away from the noise of the crowd, even the presidential candidates will have to cut out public meetings and do their talking from a studio.

The big thing about it for the listener is that he can shop around on his dial and have some choice of speeches. On his magic carpet he can attend a meeting at San Francisco, switch himself immediately to New York, or to St. Louis, Chicago or anywhere else; or even turn the darned thing off at any moment, take a nightcap, and go to bed.

Save Cumberland Falls

Flowing through the wild mountain woodlands of Kentucky, the Cumberland river at one point drops in a broad sheet of water over a precipice sixty-seven feet high, forming Cumberland Falls, as beautiful as Yosemite and, so some say, more beautiful than Niagara.

This wondrous sight just has been made available to visitors over a crude road hewn out of the mountain by citizens of Corbin, Ky. Those who have seen the falls come away singing their praise.

But nature lovers are not alone in their discovery. The Insull power interests also have found the falls. The Cumberland Hydro-Electric Power Company, an Insull subsidiary, has bought 2,000 acres about the falls and has filed an application for a permit to build a dam to divert the water. The federal power commission will hear the application Wednesday.

If the permit is granted, the water will be taken from the stream and run through a tunnel to the power house below the falls. A little trickle of water will be left where now is a thundering cascade.

The federal power commission is composed of the secretary of war, the secretary of agriculture, and the secretary of the interior. The latter is Roy O. West, formerly an attorney for the Insull interests.

Granting of the permit is opposed by the National Conference of State Parks, the Izaak Walton League, and the Cumberland Falls Preservation Association. They say the recreational value of the falls is greater, from a purely economic viewpoint, than their industrial value. They want the falls set aside for a state park.

Our disposition is to agree with these conservationists. In any case, the matter is not one on which the power commission should take hasty action. It should not be disposed of until every side has been heard, including those persons merely who wish to serve the public interest.

The season is almost at hand when the duck hunter's wife begins to visit the lawyer's office.

David Dietz on Science

Potato Points the Way

No. 205

THE story of scientific progress from one point of view is a series of lucky incidents. Somebody left something lying around. Radio-activity was discovered because Becquerel left some uranium ore lying around on a photographic plate. Later, to his great surprise, he found an impression on the plate.

The discovery of x-rays was very much similar.

Every important physical laboratory in the world at the time possessed tubes called Crooke's tubes, which

every one knew it until Rontgen found it out.

Robert Koch, now extraordinary associate of the imperial health office of Berlin, in made one of the most important discoveries in the history of microbes—hunting by leaving a potato lie on his laboratory table.

Lucky incident, one might say. But let us pause and reflect. Such lucky accidents are always happening. But no one knows it.

A lucky accident becomes so only because there is a genius like Becquerel or Roentgen or Koch to interpret it.

Koch had left half of a boiled potato lying on the table. Some time later he found a collection of little colored spots on the surface. One was gray. Another was red, a third violet, and so on.

Many men might have done for the janitor and told him to carry the potato out.

Instead, Koch sat down and began to think.

Research workers all over Europe—for by now every university laboratory was crowded with potential Kochs and Lister and Pasteurs—were trying to find a way to grow colonies composed entirely of one type of microbe.

But no matter how careful they were, a microbe of some other sort would drop from the air into their solutions, and then they would have a mixture of two kinds of microbes instead of a pure strain.

The microbe verified the fact. Each drop was a pure strain or colony of one type of microbe.

A boiled potato was all the apparatus needed to solve the problem worrying all the microbe hunters of Europe. Microbes naturally get mixed up in liquids. But when one fell on a solid surface it grew into an uncontaminated colony.



Back to Normalcy?

From an economic standpoint, we have made a rapid, if not a complete recovery. The people of this nation are in comfortable circumstances as far as the balance sheet is concerned. They are not only well-fed and well-clothed, but a majority of them can afford automobiles, Victrolas and receiving sets.

When it comes to social conditions, the record does not look so well.

Vice and puritanism have combined to create an unnecessary degree of commotion and discontent.

Crime has increased, divorce has increased, jazz has increased, wise cracking has increased, the craze for slogans has increased, the output of frivolous literature has increased and the influence of prejudice has increased.

"Back to normalcy" still leaves us some way to go.

Daily Thought

And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I Cor. 15:30.

DANGER comes the sooner when it is despised.—Syrus.



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Fasting, As Cure for Epilepsy, Unproven

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine.

In 1921 the suggestion was first made from a scientific source that starvation as a method of treatment would have beneficial effects in epilepsy.

This disease has been known almost from the beginning of time. It is described in ancient Roman works as the "falling" disease, and it was described by Hippocrates as the sacred disease because people in his time believed that it represented a special act of some higher power.

For many centuries men have fasted at every possible hope with a view to controlling its manifestations.

Today it is known that the number of convulsions may be controlled by certain drugs, but this is no cure, merely temporary relief.

All sorts of special diets have

been tried, including milk diets, vegetarian diets, meat diets, salt-free diets and similar combinations, but again without sufficient scientific evidence to establish any one of them as specifically valuable.

In many cases in which digestive disorders were present, proper attention to diet and bowel action has resulted favorably, as it would result favorably in a person with such conditions who did not have epilepsy.

The starvation method was first used in the seven years that have passed from a period of several weeks in an attempt to test its virtues.

Many investigators have reported a lessened number of convulsions or a reduction in the severity of the convulsions during the fast.

However, as a method of cure, starvation treatment has been dis-

appointing and its results essentially negative.

During the scientific investigation of the method, however, it was found that abstinence from food was associated with the production in the body of a condition called ketosis, associated with the appearance of certain chemical substances in the blood.

This condition could be induced by feeding a person a diet which contains large amounts of fat as compared with the amount of sugar taken into the body.

Experiments are now being made on the use of such diets, and it is found that they will obtain results just as good as can be obtained by fasting without the associated general disturbances and mental attitudes that are the accompaniment of starvation.

The new diet is called geogenic diet because of the substances that it produces.

The change is now being made.

Hoover is the man they must deal with, if at all, for the next four years, or perhaps for the next eight years.

Both from the standpoint of Washington and of Moscow, therefore, it appears that the time is approaching for unofficial feelers.

Whether such feelers result in eventual diplomatic recognition would depend upon Moscow's acceptance of the rather hard bargain which Hoover is apt to drive on the three-fold issue of debt funding, property claims and propaganda.

In diplomatic circles here the tendency is to emphasize the importance of the "recognition" of the soviet government, by the General Electric Company, and of the general growth of American-Russian trade, as creating a favorable background for Dewey's mission.

The General Electric contract, announced three weeks ago, provides the first long-term American credit to Russia, amounting to \$26,000,000 for purchase of electrical equipment over an eleven-year period. The contract's significance is heightened because it involves a satisfactory but unpublicized settlement of the General Electric's claims arising out of the Russian revolution, which are typical of American property claims hitherto helping to block diplomatic recognition.

THE recent unprecedented growth of American-Russian trade and commercial contacts is described in the current issue of the Soviet Union Review, just out. It says:

"Soviet orders placed in the United States during the year ending Sept. 30, amounted to nearly \$100,000,000, as compared to Russian orders of approximately \$40,000,000 before the war. During the year a number of important contracts were closed with American industrial and technical corporations. Chief of these was a contract with the International General Electric. An agreement was concluded between the Radio Corporation of America and the Soviet state electro-technical trust for exchange of patents and information and for technical assistance from the Radio Corporation."

On one side are trees and shrubs, and on the other, poles and trees. If signs such as have been installed at Twenty-First and Sherman drive were put there, several lives might be saved.

Mrs. P. C. Fixit: Please see if you can't get a warning signal or bell erected at East Sixteenth street and Sherman drive. That is a very dangerous crossing as you can not see a train when approaching from the west until you are absolutely on the tracks.

On one side are trees and shrubs, and on the other, poles and trees. If signs such as have been installed at Twenty-First and Sherman drive were put there, several lives might be saved.