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

No Mussolini Needed

Human nature is much the same, whether you find it in the president or the brakeman of a railroad. And because it is so difficult for any of us to learn the art of self-government, we find it necessary for organized society to protect itself from ignorance and greed by resorting to political government for relief.

A period of severe legal regulation of railroads was inaugurated some years ago. The railroads brought it on themselves, simply because they didn't know how to govern themselves in their own as well as the public's interest.

Now one railroad president complains of too much interference by political government. President Hannauer of the Boston & Maine is the complainant. He says reduction of rates has been in part purely a matter of politics; and complains not only of the pressure of congress on the Interstate Commerce commission, but also of organized labor on legislative representatives.

Then this troubled executive turns to Mussolini, saying: "Mussolini would have this job done by experts well qualified and answerable to him for correct solution. We don't want to be governed by Mussolini, but we must get the same results through an enlightened public opinion, which can come only from more attention to the subject by men equipped to lead in the matter."

What President Hannauer wants is Mussolini tactics without a Mussolini. But doesn't he prove by his own complaint that railroad management isn't competent to manage the railroad business and get along with the public? Certainly nobody is in better position to influence the public attitude toward railroads than the men who run the railroads; and if the public attitude is unfriendly, it isn't the fault of a public that attacks railroad management merely for the fun of the thing.

There must have been a cause, and railroad management must have been responsible for the cause. Everybody who knows anything about the earlier history of railroad financing and management knows there was a cause.

In the meantime, there has been a slow, but steady development toward self-government in industry. There are men of vision in the industry who see this and are helping it along by intelligent treatment of the public interest.

If all executives were as wise and far-seeing as some few are, both the public and labor would be glad to look to management for justice instead of going to political government.

The railroad industry doesn't need either Mussolini or Mussolini tactics. What it does need is the vision, intelligence, and understanding necessary for self-government. When it gets these the public will let the industry govern itself. In the meantime governmental regulation is not only necessary, but imperative.

Shirt Studs

Once he was just a little boy.

From the valley of the shadow he came.

Out of the nowhere into the here," and through the ills of childhood he went, as do all babies everywhere, with father and mother suffering the anguish that all fathers and mothers suffer when baby is ill.

And health, and childish prattle and play, and the Christmases and the birthdays. And the first day of school and the other milestones that mark the path from the cradle to maturity.

It is the story of every baby that ever was born and of every parent.

Then the father became rich: A Titan in the '90s, and a Croesus when the reaper called; and something happened in those years.

There was a quarrel over marriage, and bitterness which money alone could not assuage.

There was a break soon after the mother's death, and riches alone failed to prevent—perhaps they helped cause—the bitterness that grew between father and son.

And so in the will of the rich man, that bitterness is dramatized:

"I give and bequeath my white pearl shirt studs to my son, Allan A. Ryan."

The parting message from the father, who left \$300,000.00, to the son who once was the little baby.

Ironical last testament to the most pathetic of all estrangement; the hatred between father and son.

Did all his wealth and all his power compensate Thomas Fortune Ryan for the bitterness which he took with him to his grave?

We think not.

A Serious Matter

Accounts of the killing of a suspected rum runner and the wounding of his companion by coast guardsmen on Lake Ontario differ.

The coast guardsmen, in their official report, say the motor boat carrying the two men was proceeding without lights, that it ignored warnings to stop, and that it made a "deliberate attempt" to ram the government boat.

They assert also that clearance papers were found indicating the craft had carried ale, that they had orders to seize the boat on sight, and that they learned from customs agents in Canada that a cargo of ale had been taken aboard. No contraband, however, was found.

The wounded man, according to dispatches, said he was tinkering with the engine of the boat, which was disabled, that two warning shots were heard, and that a few seconds later the machine gun volley was fired which killed his companion.

It is important that a thorough inquiry be made, and that all facts surrounding the encounter be learned.

Killing a man is serious business. If the government agents fired to save their own lives, they acted within the law.

If they did not, it is quite another story. It will be recalled that coast guardsmen a few months ago fired on an innocent citizen, Jacob D. Hanson of Buffalo, in this same neighborhood, and that Hanson died some weeks later after becoming blind and suffering great agony.

Chris Dew, who was with the agent accused of shooting Hanson, was one of the crew of the government boat involved in the present incident. Also there have been numerous instances in recent months where coast guardsmen have fired upon and boarded pleasure craft in the Great Lakes. Complaints to Washington have been frequent and the conduct of the coast guard has been criticised in congress.

No one expects an officer to sacrifice his life, or to take unnecessary risks, but dry agents have been no-

toriously quick on the trigger. That is why inquiries are necessary in affairs of this kind, where there is a variance of testimony. The swarm of government agents must realize that killing a citizen is not a casual matter, lightly to be passed over.

Business Is Good

Business is good and getting better. The country is prosperous.

We have more of this world's goods—individually and collectively—than ever before in history.

Farms and factories are producing more and more with less labor. Foreign trade is booming.

These cheering facts we learn from the annual report of the secretary of commerce.

"The volume of production and consumption for the year as a whole and the physical quantity of exports and imports were very large, unemployment was relatively unimportant, and the rate of real wages and the standard of living of the masses of the people remained higher than anywhere else in the world," said the report.

Power production, building construction, sales of department stores, chain stores and mailorder houses all showed increases, and most of them were the highest ever recorded. Railways "continued to furnish adequate and efficient service and enjoy large traffic and revenues."

Exports were two and a quarter times greater than during the five-year period preceding the war. The output of farm products has increased 55 per cent since beginning of the century, and factory output 180 per cent.

"It is obvious that there is produced for each person in the population a far greater volume of goods and services than at the beginning of the century, which means of course a greater advance in living standards," the report said.

An effort is made to measure improved material welfare with statistics. Saving deposits, for instance, grew from 16½ billions in 1921 to 26 billions in 1927. Life insurance increased from 35 billions to 64½ billions.

There were a million and a half passenger autos produced in 1921, and nearly three millions in 1927. Sales of radios, electric refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and bathtubs vastly increased.

Such is brief the picture. There are dark spots, of course. The condition of agriculture has not improved with that of industry and trade. The population has increased 55 per cent since 1900 and but 32½ per cent more persons are employed in major industries, which creates the serious problem of what to do with the workers who have been displaced.

By and large, however, conditions are such as to give real cause for thanksgiving. Nowadays we hear little talk of a "living wage," which meant the minimum income on which a family might provide itself with food, shelter and clothing. The average American wants more than that, and most of them seem to be getting it.

Nature's Way

Despite the fact that this is an age of mechanical inventions, the age-old forces of nature can still be enlisted to advantage in doing the work of the world.

The Biological Survey of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture have been experimenting on new methods of helping farmers rid their orchards of destructive grubs and insects; and one of the best ways has been found to be the enlisting of an army of insect-eating birds.

As for the people of Mexico, it is more

sacred than any parent's notion, especially since parents may be utter strangers in qualities and in temperament to those they usher into life.

A father and a mother may be a mere vehicle, transporting lives from nothingness into being; there may be no more affinity between them than between the ship and the bananas it brings from the tropics.

As for the people of Mexico, they have shown tenacity of purpose, as well as national consciousness. No one can review what they have passed through since the Diaz regime came to an end without recognizing qualities that bespeak for them a happier future.

The man who pushed a peanut eleven miles with his nose ought to make a good reporter. He has a great nose for news.

Actors in the talkies can not wear mustaches or whiskers, as they interfere with speech. Some of the plots, however, will furnish the whiskers.

David Dietz on Science

Professor Wouldn't Look

No. 222

SECRETS of the heavens were revealed for the first time when Galileo turned his telescope upon the heavens. The mountains of the moon, the satellites of Jupiter, the phases of Venus, all these were revealed for the first time to Galileo.

It was in 1609 that Galileo turned his little telescope upon the heavens.

But strange as it may seem, there were men in Galileo's day who did not want to find out anything that helped cause—the bitterness that grew between father and son.

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