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

The Senate Progressives.

For some months there has been an epidemic of journalistic ridicule of the senate progressives. Finally the American Mercury has succumbed with a particularly vicious attack.

Most of these critical articles make an exception of Senator Norris, giving him a clean bill of health. That is not surprising. Norris is bigger than the other progressives; indeed, at times, he seems to overshadow the whole senate.

In intellect, in parliamentary skill, in courage, in sheer character, he is a great statesman. His principal lack is political ambition and the will to leadership.

As for the others, much is made of the point that Shipstead is a dentist, Nye is a country editor, La Follette is the son of his father, Blaine is a poor speaker, Brookhart is slow moving, Howell is a school teacher, Frazier is a nick, Wheeler is a small town prosecutor, and so on.

All of which makes them easy victims of a certain type of wisecracker or snob, but which has precisely nothing whatever to do with their ability as public servants.

Judged by standards of perfection, they are not a completely effective lot. But compared with the standpat senate majority they look pretty good. In most cases they had to have more courage and more intelligence to break into the senate, because they were proscribed and fought by their local political organizations.

Once in the senate, they have for the most part voted right, voted for the people's interest and against special interests.

They are chiefly responsible for uncovering the oil scandals, for the public utility investigations, for salvaging some constitutional civil liberties, for opposing imperialism in Nicaragua, Mexico and elsewhere, for saving Muscle Shoals, for restraining excessive military and naval appropriations, for reforming tax rates and forcing publicity on large tax refunds, for challenging bad presidential appointments, for championing the issues of good government and clean government in practically every senate fight.

These men do have their weaknesses. Some fall for the society racket, some talk too much and study too little. Some weaken under the loneliness and discouragement of being so often on the losing side. And their faults of course are magnified, just because every one, even their enemies, somehow expect more from them than from the standpatters.

But when one considers what these ridiculed progressive senators are up against—the wealth, the political rings, the government bureaucrats, the archaic rules and traditions of the senate, the overpowering size of the conservative majority, and the all too frequent indifference of the public—one marvels that the progressives have accomplished so much and remained so faithful to their unpopular ideals.

A Senator Is Appointed.

The attempt of Governor Clyde Reed of Kansas to involve President Hoover in the selection of a senator from that state was an ill-advised political maneuver.

The President, under any circumstances, is the last person who should be asked to dictate the appointment of a senator. A senator represents the state, and not the President of the party of which the President is leader. His selection should be purely a state function, and interference by the President properly would be resented by the people of a state.

Henry J. Allen, the new senator named by Reed, after he had called on Hoover, long has been a political enemy of Vice-President Curtis, whom he succeeds.

Reed's purpose apparently was to give the impression that Hoover had approved or advocated Allen's selection, which would have been important to Reed in the state's inter-party political warfare.

There is nothing to indicate that Reed succeeded. Hoover apparently made no suggestions of any kind. He could not criticize Allen, who was his supporter from the beginning, and his publicity manager during the campaign, even had he wished. Nor could he urge Allen's appointment without being involved with Curtis and the old guard organization of Kansas.

And by the same token Hoover was not in a position to reprimand the Governor or others for their effort to use him.

Allen in the senate probably will be able properly to represent the people of his state, but there is nothing in his past career to indicate unusual ability. He was a Bull Moose leader when Roosevelt ran against Taft and Wilson but like many others abandoned that cause when it appeared to be hopeless.

As governor for four years immediately after the war, his most notable achievement was creation of a state labor court for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes, which widely was hailed by reactionaries who were attempting to wrest from the workers some of the gains made during the war. The court was a complete failure.

When to Use Brakes.

An oversaturated stock market often has been compared to a soap bubble, sometimes to a toy balloon. It might be compared also to a toboggan, or even a high-powered auto going at tremendous speed.

Considered as a bubble or balloon, the way to avoid a burst is to stop pumping air into it. The time to stop is before the bubble gets too big. Considered as a toboggan, the one place at which it can't be controlled is just at the bottom of the hill, where it has acquired its maximum speed. Considered as an automobile, the time to apply the brakes is not at the moment the railroad crossing is reached.

The stock market spree has been on for two years or more. The market has been "expanded" for eighteen months. What if the federal reserve board had taken notice of it sooner? What if it had acted slowly, deliberately, but firmly? What if it had called attention to expanded crooks loans and had announced that, at the end of thirty days, if the expansion were not therewith remedied there would be an advance of the rediscout rate? What if it had repeated this process every thirty days until the swelling was reduced?

Isn't there a safe and easy way to stop an auto, or save a balloon?

President Hoover ought to call in Charley Curtis for some of those sessions with the medicine ball, Charley being the only living vice-president who is also a medicine man.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

"If Prohibition Really Has Triumphed Why Should a Hooligan Party Make the Front Page?"

WASHINGTON, April 3.—President Hoover is in no frame of mind to make oil conservation an excuse for the federal government to further encroach on state rights. He said as much to the regular press conference Wednesday.

Not only as chief executive, but as a former member of the conservation board which was created during the Coolidge administration he feels that too much drilling is the chief difficulty to overcome and that drilling is a purely intra-state affair, which the federal government has no power to regulate.

No one familiar with the situation will dispute this. Punching holes, especially in privately owned land, has led to most of the waste. Too many of them in a given field is undesirable for several reasons.

1. They drain oil so fast that storage, or efficient distribution becomes impossible.

2. They squander an incalculable amount of gas.

3. They reduce the underground gas pressure which forces the oil upward into pools.

Drilling for oil, except on the public domain, is obviously a matter for the states to regulate.

Triumph of Prohibition

A WRITER in the Washington Star chronicled over the past 150 of the capital's elite attended a bone-dry Easter breakfast, telling how it caused high society to buzz with discussion and describing it as an "epoch-making victory for prohibition."

To us who have been taught that the exceptional is news, all this sounds very strange.

If prohibition really has triumphed, why should a hooligan party make the front page?

It was the first of its kind, as the writer admits, though prohibition has been in effect nine years, and though President Hoover's attitude is credited as responsible for it, his two immediate predecessors were quite as dry as he is by profession at least.

Ordinary folks will be pardoned for suspecting that prohibition hardly can be hailed as victorious until more than one dry social function has graced the nation's capital.

Some people believe that warts

can be removed by tying as

many knots in string as there are

warts on the hands and then burying the string at midnight in the

light of the moon.

There are as many charms and

magical formulas as for the removal of

warts as there are different races and

tribes of human beings.

All these charms are based on the

fact that warts sometimes dis-

appear without any treatment what-

ever, going away as mysteriously as

they have come.

The exact cause of warts is not

definitely known. Some people be-

lieve that they have their origin in

a nerve stimulus to the skin, others

that they are associated with the ac-

tion of some special germ.

All cures of warts that involve

burying something at a distance or

or the reciting of charms of one sort

or another are relics of the days

when people believed in magic.

Among English country people

warts are cured by touching them

with stones, peas, rags and so on,

and then throwing the substance

away or burying it at a crossroad

where the chance of some one else

picking up the disease is good.

In Cheshire, warts are rubbed

with a piece of bacon and the bacon

is then put under the bark of an

ash tree. The villagers believe that

the warts will appear as knobs on

the tree.

Modern scientific medicine gets

rid of warts either by destroying the

blood supply through the use of the

electric needle, after which the wart

will fall off; by treating the wart

with the X-ray, or by application

of strong acids, which burn away

the extra skin.

Nobody knows what Doheny and

ex-Secretary Fall talked about when

they met at that rodeo down in Ariz-

ona, but you may rest assured that

they spent most of their time, trying

to figure out some way to ad-

vance the interests of the American

people.

Washington is excited because the

Japanese cherry trees are in bloom

two weeks ahead of schedule, but

what the boys in Washington are

interested in is the blooming of the

plum tree.

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHN-

SON, our former ambassador to

Italy, called Lundborg, the Nor-

wegian, the crowning hero of the

Arctic.

With Lindberg and Byrd right

here under our own flag, Johnson

should not have to go clear to Nor-

way to find a flier entitled to wear

any crown he has to bestow.

Nine out of ten voted for Fascism

in the recent elections in Italy where

the Fascists controlled the election

machinery, which is heavier count-

ing than our politicians do when

they control the boards. Our coun-

ters are satisfied to count the other

fellow out; they seldom annihilate

him.

We see where President Hoover is

throwing the medicine ball in the

White House grounds and anything

in the form of Presidential exercise

is all right, so long as Hoover does

not throw the ball!

Chicago barbers want to charge

\$1 for a hair cut and they are en-

titled to it, if they guarantee their

customers immunity from being

shot while in the chair.

REASON

By Frederick Landis

Hoover Will Do a Great Service If He Cleans Out G. O. P. Leadership in the South; It Has Been Terrible.

PRESIDENT HOOVER will perform a national service if he fumigates Republican leadership in the south, for it has been terrible.

Southern delegates to national Republican conventions have been bought and sold on the hoof until honest delegates felt as if they were sitting in the stockyards—and remember, most of the crooks have been white men.

The prince of Wales must have thought the funeral of Marshal Foch was to be a cakewalk, for he wore a brilliant scarlet uniform, with a peacock of medals on his chest, and on his head a bearskin bonnet, two feet high.

It makes it seem like old times to have the Governor of Louisiana facing impeachment, right after the Governor of Oklahoma has been fired.

Illinois and Indiana, who are trying to forget, hope that it will not become an epidemic.