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

The Chinese-Russian Row
The world will watch anxiously the progress of the dispute between the Chinese Nationalist government and Soviet Russia, fearing a new war.

Both governments are reported to be massing troops in preparation for possible hostilities, following seizure of the Chinese eastern railway by the Nationalists, and the expulsion of the Russians who were participating in the management of the road. Both the Japanese cabinet and general staff have met to consider the incident, and the Japanese government is said to be prepared to send troops to Harbin if war develops.

The situation is such that a clash easily might be precipitated.

The Chinese Eastern railway long has been an important factor affecting the peace of the far east. Built originally by Russians, it has been operated since 1924 jointly by Russians and Chinese. The treaty providing for this stipulated that the Russians were to refrain from spreading communist propaganda. The Chinese long have been dissatisfied with Russian conduct under the treaty. Their immediate excuse for the seizure was the charge that a raid on a Russian consulate at Harbin disclosed clearly that the Russians were violating the treaty.

Japan's anxiety arises from the fact that she claims a special position in southern Manchuria, where she operates the South Manchurian railway, and has important concessions and large investments. Japan fears that the action of the Nationalist government toward Russia may indicate an eventual policy of the same kind toward her.

No one doubts that Japan would use arms to defend her position if this became necessary, or that she would dispatch troops in event of war, to protect her interests. A year ago Japan was prepared to intervene when the Nationalist government was trying to bring Manchuria under its control.

Manchuria is almost as large as California and Texas combined, and has a population of 30,000,000. Its climate and topography resemble Iowa and the Dakotas. It is a good farming country and is rich in minerals.

Neither Russia nor China is well prepared for a war, though the Russians are said to have a large army, well drilled and well equipped, six divisions of which are along the Siberian railway between Lake Baikal and Vladivostok. Chinese forces in Manchuria consist of fifteen divisions with experience in war and fair equipment but poor organization.

The Soviet government has sent a plenipotentiary from Moscow to Harbin to negotiate for a diplomatic settlement of the row. It is to be hoped that the mission will succeed, for the Russian people have suffered much in recent years, and if they go to war, it is likely that others will become embroiled.

Safe Flying

There is something dramatic and tragical in the spectacle of aviators beating against the gales with their airplanes and risking their lives on the gamble of crossing the Atlantic.

But that is not half so important to the people of this city as the fact that every day an airplane operated by the Embry-Riddle company leaves the airport at a certain hour and arrives on the minute at either Cincinnati or Chicago.

The Atlantic flights may be experimental or just plain adventurous. The flights by the air mails and the commercial companies are fast becoming a part of the transportation system of the land which will reduce the time of all travel.

The one condition which is important is safety and each and every day more and more men and women are discovering that the danger of air travel in commercial planes is scarcely greater than by any other means of travel.

There are three factors that make for safety. The first is a carefully inspected machine. The second is a carefully trained pilot. The third is advance knowledge of air conditions so that there are no unexpected storms or air currents with which to contend.

The addition of passenger service to the mail contract is a real advance. It means a saving of time for those who believe their time is valuable. Time saved adds to the total of human living.

Instead of seven or eight hours by automobile or five and a half hours by train, the air service reduces the time between this city and Chicago to one hour and forty-five minutes. Another thirty minutes in a luxurious Packard limousine, furnished to the passengers, delivers the traveller from the air port to the Loop.

Only one thing threatens the great, swift advance of air transportation. Flying may become, very quickly, too monotonous for the traveler. Looking down on forests, fields, villages, rivers and cities may not have the appeal that scenery offers from the land levels. The lack of thrill, the absence of the physical sensation of speed, may limit its patronage to those who value time and want speed above any other considerations.

Any change in methods that saves time for human beings should be encouraged after the safety factor has been solved. Cities which encourage and stimulate the use of speed savers, whether in manufacture, communication or in transportation, the three activities in which it is important, have a better chance to grow than those who move more cautiously and conservatively.

The People of Kentucky

A brief has been filed with the federal power commission alleged to represent the views of 200,000 inhabitants of the state of Kentucky.

The brief was prepared by a firm of attorneys and advocates the leasing of Cumberland Falls to the Insull interests for fifty years for development as a power project.

In presuming to speak for the people of Kentucky, the attorneys no doubt have in their possession the names of the 200,000 inhabitants who favor the ruin of one of the most picturesque natural beauty spots east of the Mississippi to provide Insull with another source of profit.

They appear, say the attorneys, for "those who desire a working place for the honest poor rather than an additional loafing ground for the idle rich."

It is remarkable the liberties that can be taken in a legal document.

We do not believe that many Kentuckians, when possessed of the actual facts in the Cumberland Falls dispute, could favor the Insull proposal.

If the Cumberland Falls were the only water power in Kentucky and if getting electricity in that

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

The Chief Weakness of Our Amusement Field Lies in Its Willingness to Glorify Everyone, Except Those Who Know How to Amuse.

MENDELL and Reinhart get a stage contract which promises to net them from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a week.

No one begrudges them the good fortune, but in its background some creditable actors and artists are starving to death.

The fact that public curiosity can be made to pay is less important perhaps than is the fact that theater must conserve and reward its own profession if it is to remain a self-supporting institution.

In the long run, a good show by those who know their business is better than a poor show by those who have attracted attention in some other line.

Stick to Knitting

THESE is danger in not letting each industry stick to its knitting.

If aviation does not include sufficient honor and reward for those who make good in it, it will fall, and so will the theater.

This idea that one line of endeavor can borrow from another, that it can sidetrack those who have spent their lives in promoting and developing it and survive by temporary excitement is wrong.

The chief weakness of our amusement field lies in its willingness to glorify every one, except those who know how to amuse.

A Great Citizen

Success and greatness, the two goals which have most inspired men of achievement, came to Dr. Lafayette Page, whose passing the city mourns.

He made contributions to medical science which won for him the praise and recognition of his own profession. More important, his discoveries added to human life and reduced human suffering.

His interest in medicine was prompted by his interest in his fellow men. That was shown by his devoted service during the war, and perhaps even more, by his inspiration of the movement that finally erected a hospital for children to the memory of James Whitcomb Riley.

His own profession will pay him lasting tribute as a leader and a scientist. His city will remember him as one who gave impetus and often direction to its finer impulses and who never failed it in any need.

People who believe there is no devil never have opened their window and doors on a hot night to get all the breeze and then had to listen to somebody next door running the scales on a cornet.

Why doesn't the National Safety Council issue some kind of bulletin instructing mothers how to keep ashes out of the baby's eyes?

A summer school is an institution established in order that the old varsity lineup will be intact in the fall.

It isn't the saturation point of the automobile that worries the pedestrian so much as the saturation point of the driver.

Perhaps it's just as well for some of our congressmen that the wheat crop in some of the foreign countries has been hit hard by bad weather conditions.

Professional parachute jumpers make good incomes, but not all people would lower themselves to do it.

A wealthy New Yorker left his fortune to a woman who had rejected him. Who said there is no gratitude?

A Denver man told police he had lost his canary the other day, so they sent out the flying squad.

David Dietz on Science

Man and Machines

No. 408

CLARENCE DARROW contended in a debate a few months ago that man was a machine. Rabbi B. R. Brickner, debating him upon the subject, undertook to point out certain differences between a machine and an organism.

He called attention to the fact that no one ever had seen a lot of little steam engines playing about in the yard in front of a big steam engine.

One of the characteristics of living organisms is reproduction. In its simplest form, it consists merely of one individual splitting into two halves. The ameba, for example, a microscopic animal consisting of a single cell, behaves in this fashion.

Theoretically, the Negro has his rights in most northern states, but practically he finds it hard to exercise them when the excuse for trouble arises.

Just now the Negro inhabitants of North Platte, Neb., are leaving town by every possible conveyance.

One of their race shot a policeman and then fled to a house, where he was trapped and committed suicide.

The excitement led to threats of mob violence. Negroes, of which there were about 200 in the town, were ordered to leave and most of them are doing so as fast as possible.

Something of interest might be said by this man who was dead and is alive again, but he will not speak.

The attending physicians say severally that Breggertti has an excellent chance now, but that he must exert his will-power or it may be lost.

It is to be hoped that he will be well again, but he will not speak.

He simply lies silent on his hospital bed and glowers at the rescuers.

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