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

"One of Our Boys"

A man is known by the company he keeps.

A company sometimes is known by the man it keeps.

The United States Petroleum institute, spokesman for the American oil industry, has re-elected Harry F. Sinclair to its board of directors.

The Russian Viewpoint

It sometimes is good to get the other person's point of view.

When Secretary Stimson dispatched a note to Russia, by way of France, reminding the Russian government of its obligations under the Kellogg pact, most of us enjoyed a thrill of self-righteousness. There was Russia and China apparently about to do one another to death over the question of the Manchurian railway.

A fair-sized war seemed imminent and if the World War taught the world anything, it was that anybody's war is pretty apt to become everybody's war. In keeping with most other peoples, the American people want peace. They do not wish to engage in war themselves and they do not want the orderly business of the world upset by war anywhere.

So our disposition was to cheer when our forthright secretary of state took the matter in hand. From our point of view, the situation seemed simple enough. Russia would have to listen to our secretary of state, especially since he had taken the precaution to persuade a lot of other signatories of the Kellogg pact to send similar notes to Russia.

Now, however, we get the Russian point of view. Russia, says her secretary of state, at the time France delivered the American note, was engaged in direct negotiations with the Manchurian government.

(These negotiations now are said to have been successfully completed.) Under the circumstances the action of the United States looked to Russia like unjustifiable pressure on the negotiations—in other words, an unfriendly act.

Well, we'll have to admit that it might very well look just that way in Moscow.

Finally, the Russian spokesman could not forbear expressing a little amazement. He just couldn't; he said so in so many words.

"The Soviet government," he said, "can not forbear expressing amazement that the government of the United States, which by its own will has no official relations with the Soviet, deems it possible to apply to it with advice and counsel."

To be completely candid, Russia's amazement is not altogether unnatural. Indeed, the Russian government could have been amazed when it was asked to sign the Kellogg pact and when its signature was accepted, despite our refusal to admit officially that the Russian government really is the Russian government.

However, this little stinger in the tail of the Russian note is not the important thing. The important thing is that Russia declares she has effected a peaceful settlement of the Manchurian dispute. If this is true we can accept the rebuke. It should be easy to submerge our embarrassment in our satisfaction over the avoidance of war.

As for the Kellogg pact, its value to the world is not lessened in any degree. That, we believe, will be made clear if Russia's announcement of peace in Manchuria proves to be premature.

Why Courts Are Crowded

President Hoover in his message to congress called attention to congestion in the federal courts and recommended increased forces in the offices of United States attorneys, marshals and court clerks. He also urged modification and simplification of procedure in trying petty offenses.

Chief Justice Taft, in reporting on the conference of the senior circuit judges, urged the measures Hoover suggested. Taft recorded that additional judges recently authorized by congress have finally been named, and that the business of federal courts is steadily increasing.

Court congestion is bad. It defeats justice. Criminals not brought to the bar promptly avoid conviction or escape with light sentences. Accused persons who are innocent must remain under a cloud. Those unable to make bail are forced to remain in jail without trial. It is agreed that delayed punishment detracts from the restraining influence the law is supposed to exercise on society.

Prohibition is the principal cause of court congestion. The number of federal offenses over which federal courts have jurisdiction has increased during the last decade, it is true, but it is the Volstead act and other dry laws that have swamped the courts. They provide the largest single class of cases.

Mrs. Willebrandt's report for the last fiscal year, just out, contains interesting statistics. There were 56,786 criminal prohibition cases in the federal courts during the year, 7,455 injunction petitions, and 10,961 civil actions. It is notable that out of 47,100 convictions, 43,163 were obtained by pleas of guilty and 3,913 by jury trials.

This means that to combat congestion the courts were willing to accept guilty pleas in return for imposition of light sentences. Fewer than half of those convicted went to jail, the average sentence being 147 days. The rest were fined an average of less than \$180.

The net result is that the advocates of measures like the Jones five-and-ten law as a crime deterrent have defeated their own purposes. Guilty pleas are accepted to avoid endless delays and hopeless court congestion. The courts bargain with offenders.

The remedy may lie in the multiplication of courts and increasing the number of their officers, which will mean sending a continually larger number of persons to jail. There must be a limit somewhere, however, beyond which we can not go. Otherwise, we will reach a point where every citizen is either a judge, prosecutor, clerk, deputy marshal, bailiff, court stenographer, juror, or defendant.

Federal Finances

President Hoover's budget message to congress reveals that federal finances are in sound condition. A surplus of \$225,581,000 is in prospect for the fiscal year ending June 30, next, and a surplus of \$122,788,000 is expected the year following.

The showing is such that the President believes the contemplated reduction of \$160,000,000 in income taxes is fully justified. He recommends that the reduction apply to 1929 income taxes payable in the calendar year 1930, but hopes that the benefits of lower rates may be extended to succeeding years as well.

The budget for next year calls for appropriations

of \$3,830,000,000. This is \$145,696,000 less than was appropriated for the current year, but \$50,000,000 more than the estimates of a year ago.

Moreover, nothing is included for the federal farm board, which this year required \$150,000,000, nor is allowance made for deficiency measures which will require probably an additional \$150,000,000. This indicates a sizable increase in expenditures next year.

Receipts this year are estimated now as \$408,000,000 more than was expected a year ago, while expenditures will be about \$243,000,000 more than original budget estimates. Increased income tax payments account for three-fourths of the unexpected revenues, due to abnormally large individual incomes during 1928. Presumably stock market profits provided much of this.

What effect the stock market collapse will have on 1930 income tax payments the President does not predict. Half of the 1930 taxes will apply to this fiscal year and half to next. The government will not be in a position to know definitely until income tax returns are filed March 15, but the confidence of the treasury that conditions are sound will be shared generally.

Highways of the Air

Air aviation developed in the United States has been largely a federal, municipal and commercial advancement, with states and counties not participating.

The day is at hand when this no longer will be the case, because states and counties must of necessity play their part in expansion of this new industry.

In 1926, a total of 5,800 passengers was carried in airplanes in this country. In 1928 the figure rose to 49,700 and this year likely will see the 100,000 mark passed. However, with only federal assistance, the industry can go only so far and that period soon will arrive.

Unless the states and counties take a hand, there will be a marked slowing up in development, so far as private flying, particularly, is concerned.

The automobile never became a real factor in long-distance travel until the states and the federal government joined in creating federal-aid highways. Cost of these highways has been, roughly, \$25,000 a mile, a figure which swells largely when maintenance cost is added. The development came so private individuals might travel far and wide in their automobiles.

Federal-aid highways of the air now are being advocated in aviation industry and it is not surprising because long-distance flying can be accomplished only over marked routes with ample landing facilities, night lighting of airports, radio beacons and other safety devices.

Growth of the air mail, which up to a few years ago marked the only aeronautical progress in this country outside of the army and navy, has brought about 15,000 miles of lighted and improved airways, mostly paid for by federal government. An appropriation of \$5,408,000 was provided the last fiscal year and this probably will be increased to nearly \$8,000,000 for the pending year.

As in highway development the federal government will establish transcontinental routes only in the paths of the air mail planes. Lateral routes must be supplied by the states and that is where state and county governments must figure.

So far only four states have seen the necessity of aerial highway development—Idaho, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. Others will be forced into it and must begin to give serious thought to the subject.

Municipalities are doing their part creating airports, but it is noticeable that communities in certain states are more progressive along that line than in others.

Figures worked out on highways of the air show

a cost of \$2,300 a mile, including lighting at \$732.

Maintenance will be around \$320, it is estimated, much cheaper than \$25,000 a mile for highways.

The states either can act in advance of pressure from their citizens, or await the time they will be forced to do so. Just how progressive or backward they may be will be judged at a not too distant date by the course that they take.

REASON By FREDERICK LANDIS

QUEEN MARY of the House of David insists that her late sovereign, King Ben Purnell, had something like a million dollars buried with him.

Needless to say, the queen believes in the resurrection of the body.

In Canada a man was tried, convicted and sentenced to death in three days, but in this country, Dr. Snock, who made a detailed confession of his guilt, was tried for weeks and finally found guilty and now the supreme court of Ohio has granted him an indefinite continuance, so his case may be appealed.

Do you wonder that we have ten times as many murders as Canada?

One of the greatest difficulties about keeping house these days is to keep the dog off the registers.

OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN proposes to elevate the stage by offering a leading part in his play, "Sweet Adeline," to Dorothy Mackaye, who has just been released from prison, where she served a term for concealing information relative to the killing of her husband.

Speaking at Indiana university, Bertrand Russell, English philosopher, said that twenty years from now two nations would be able to destroy each other's cities in two hours' time.

This would frighten one, were it not for the fact that this very thing can be done right now.

There is much humor in Mexico's ratification of the Kellogg anti-war treaty, since it means merely that Mexico has so many wars in her own family that she hasn't time to take on any with strangers.

Secretary of Labor Davis proposes an eight-hour day for the wives of workingmen, but who will work the other eight hours?

Down in New Jersey an aged couple were about to be thrown out of their old home because they could not pay a mortgage, when an unknown benefactor took care of the obligation and in addition guaranteed the payment of their taxes for the rest of their lives.

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The budget for next year calls for appropriations

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Stimson Wrote His Note on Russian-Chinese Situation Just at the Wrong Time.

FATE is a capricious wench, sometimes playing mean little tricks on humble folks, sometimes shaking thrones with her raucous laughter, sometimes leading civilization through the mire, only to console it with hidden treasure in the muck.

Comes Charles Speth, the human pin cushion, a man seemingly with cut the sense of physical pain, sidling his way into the Newark, N. J. police station, and confessing to the murder of an aunt fifteen years ago, whose wrath had pursued him until he couldn't stand it any longer.

To complete the irony, a learned psychiatrist informs us that body and soul are one.

After experimenting with thousands of plants, Thomas A. Edison decides that goldenrod offers the best prospect of a cheap rubber supply.

Goldenrod, the bane of farmers and hay fever victims, which we have been trying for years to exterminate. Can you beat it?

Where we once destroyed goldenrod to make room for a good hay crop with which to feed old Dobbin, we may destroy hay to make room for goldenrod with which to provide tires for the flivver.

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Russia High Hats World

IF SECRETARY STIMSON had written his note with regard to the Russo-Chinese situation last August, it might have done some good.

Or, after putting it off for months, had we waited only a few days more, he could have saved himself the trouble.

At it was, he waited just long enough to shoot as the bird flew, waste his powder, and give Russia a chance to laugh.

But, instead of accepting the chance in a good natured way, Russia made it an excuse to high-hat the world.

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When Russia, or any other nation for that matter, declares that the Kellogg peace pact implies no obligation on the part of the signatories to back it up, she does little less than defy ordinary common sense.

Though the Kellogg pact creates no machinery for its enforcement, its very nature implies such obligation.

Specifically, it binds those nations that have signed it not to make war.

But as a general proposition, it binds all to prevent war.

In all essentials the Kellogg pact is a declaration of policy which all signatory nations agree to support.

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Soviet Is Insulting

UNDER such circumstances, it is a gratuitous insult for Russia to say that the United States or any other government has no right to interfere if she chooses to invade China, regardless of her obligations under the Kellogg pact, especially when the interference involves no more than good advice.

Does Russia imagine that she can stop the mouth of civilization, or prevent the human race from expressing itself with regard to a method of settling international controversies which it has induced?

Taking up another point which Russia raises, what made the Kellogg pact inapplicable to the Manchurian controversy?

Did invasion cease to be war because a railroad was at the bottom of the row, or did a treaty cease to be binding because China was involved?

The Soviet government declares, we are informed, that "the Soviet-Manchurian conflict can be settled only by direct negotiations between the Soviet Union and China on the basis of conditions known to China, and already accepted by the Mukden government."

What does that amount to but an out and out declaration that no one has a right to interfere, because this is our war?"

Furthermore, what kind of a war would it be that could not be defended on the same ground?

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Situation Was Bad

INTERPRET it any way you will, but Russia has taken the position that the Kellogg pact is all right when it applies to her.

The adoption of such attitude would, of course, destroy the Kellogg pact. But, thank heaven, other nations have a finer sense of moral obligation than Russia.

Though the result of this first test of the Kellogg pact is hardly what you would call inspiring, it should not be taken too seriously.

The situation was not at all auspicious.

First, China was too demoralized to act coherently. Second, a Chinese faction seems to have been responsible for the trouble. Third, the trouble was started in such way as to give Russia just ground for complaint. Fourth, when Russia appealed for redress she found that Manchurian and Nanking authorities could not agree. Fifth, outside nations paid little attention to the situation in the beginning. Sixth, when outside nations finally concluded to take a hand, it was discovered that Russia and China had arrived at an agreement.

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What is the best time of year to transplant and trim a maple tree?

In the early spring before any of the buds have burst. Transplant it in a rainy spell when the group is soft and save as much of the root as possible. A six or eight foot maple tree can be planted successfully if care is taken about saving the roots. The transplanted tree should then have the crown trimmed down as the newly transplanted roots are not as able to take care of the entire tree as before. After transplanting it is a good time to trim out the branches so that the tree will be symmetrical.

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If the Hoovers eat all of those six Thanksgiving turkeys, donated by obliging friends, we can see a lot of business ahead for the secretary of the interior.