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

A Laboratory Case

If congress were really in earnest in desiring facts concerning prohibition enforcement it might send a committee to the northern part of the state to get the history of law in the Calumet.

Until China achieves self-mastery, she never will be able to hold her own against foreigners.

A Lesson in Diplomacy

President-Elect Ortiz Rubio of Mexico as a guest in Washington is receiving unusual hospitality and honors. Mr. Hoover is breaking precedent by calling on him as though he already were the president of Mexico.

How different the atmosphere now and four years ago! Then the White House and the state department were exhibiting a peculiarly bigoted and bullying attitude toward our smaller neighbor to the south. Secretary Kellogg was achieving the heights of diplomatic insult by announcing that Mexico was "on trial before the world."

Perhaps there are many explanations for the change in relationship between the two governments. But we are inclined to believe that most of the credit should go to the Mexican and American peoples.

The state department's belligerent policy failed really because the American people would have none of it. They simply did not believe the silly propaganda spread by Washington. Their attitude toward intervention was that we should tend to our business.

Also the Mexican people kept their heads. They seemed to realize in some intuitive way that the American nation, as distinct from the temporary Washington administration, was not an enemy, but a friend.

Of course such sanity and friendliness on the part of peoples can not be fully effective in diplomacy except through officials.

And it was the good fortune of Mexico to have in Washington—and still have—an ambassador with creative faith in the permanent friendship between the two countries, Senor Tellez. Belatedly Washington also chose a wise man and a fair man to represent us.

It is very certain that the records of federal or local enforcement showed no activity for three years and that the Calumet was as wet as Lake Michigan on which it borders.

Apparently the bootlegger was safe if he paid tribute in money or votes to the political machines of the counties and cities.

When the first gesture of enforcement was forced by public opinion, federal officials found it easy to indict several hundreds of violators. The dragnet included officials and criminals.

Congress might be interested in what happened when Washington was compelled to send special prosecutors to aid the district attorney who had selected the time set for a grand jury probe as most favorable for a vacation, and who, later, said that conditions justified martial law.

Congress might be interested in the outcome of indictments drawn by its expert when politicians and policemen were accused of being hijackers, rum runners and bootleggers.

Congress might be interested in learning why federal officials were unable to locate Burke, most famous of killers, when he was pointed out by newspaper reporters as the man who made the deal for importation of fraudulent votes in the last federal election and his address given to them.

Congress might be interested in the murders of two witnesses who had appeared before the grand jury and given testimony of election frauds and the protection of crime.

Congress might be interested in the attempt to murder a newspaper man who was most annoying in his persistency in offering evidence to federal authorities.

The battle between Borah and the other drys might have a chance of resulting in something more than a debate were congress to send a committee to Indiana and put the activities of the various agencies of law under its microscope.

Electoral frauds, bootlegging, bank robbing, indifference or incompetence of officials seem to be tied in the same package. Why not take off the cover?

The Nanking Gesture

If a revolution could be wrought by executive decree, the Chinese government on Jan. 1 would abolish—as planned—the extraterritorial privileges enjoyed by foreigners in that country for eighty years.

But the answer is, of course, that basic changes are not achieved so easily.

Despite Nanking's strong abolition edict, it is highly probable that foreigners on Jan. 1 will have about the same special privileges they had the day before and the year before. This is especially true of the so-called treaty ports, such as Shanghai, where most of the foreigners live.

There are several reasons why Nanking's proclamation is not apt to prove as sweeping in fact as in theory. The best reason is that the Chinese government is weak and divided, while the foreign powers are strong and fairly united on this issue.

Washington and most of the other powers take the position that the special foreign courts for foreigners, covered by treaties, can not be abolished without due process and mutual consent.

In China there is an unanswerable argument for abolishing extraterritoriality. It is an infringement of her sovereignty and independence.

But there are certain practical conditions which have prevented her in the past, and probably will continue to prevent her in the near future, from achieving full sovereignty. Recurring civil wars have drained her strength as a nation and prevented unification, without which modern reforms can not be carried out.

Hence she has not attained the codification of her laws and the reform of her courts, which the powers always have insisted must precede the elimination of special foreign courts.

Rightly or wrongly, the United States government and others will not give up extraterritoriality until China has a working native system to replace the foreign system.

And since China is not strong enough to defy the powers, as did Japan and Turkey when they wiped out extraterritoriality, the only intelligent alternative seems to be for her to negotiate with the powers a gradual and conditional relinquishment.

That such compromise alternative is necessary so late in the day of Chinese nationalism doubtless is

the greatest sport on that old river was the game of shiyan.

They call it hockey now, because they play it with a ball and with manufactured clubs, the players wearing gaily colored suits, whereas we just used an old tin can and a crooked limb cut from a tree and as for wardrobes, we were not strictly the last word in fashion.

But oh boy, the fun we had.

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