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

Another Dry Bogy Crumbles

In the old days when physiology was the hand maiden of Puritan morality, one of the horrors used to frighten pupils from the perils of the cup was the assurance that if one drank heavily and begat children, the said offspring would be feeble-minded, physical monstrosities, or moral degenerates.

Karl Pearson, eminent British eugenicist, investigated many family records to ascertain the truth of this assertion. His results were highly negative. Children of inebriates, not themselves defective, seemed to show no physical or mental defects, however deplorable their rearing by addict parents.

But human beings can not be experimented on freely or rapidly with respect to problems of heredity. So Professor Stockard carried on experiments with guinea pigs in the United States. He reported that guinea pigs which consumed alcohol daily produced weak and defective offspring and that these defective traits were transmissible in perpetuity.

Such conclusions were of the utmost importance for human heredity, so British eugenicists began to carry on similar experiments. After nine years, they now have reported. The results are not reassuring to the W. C. T. U. They wholly fail to hear our Professor Stockard's claims. As the report expresses it: "On no essential point has it been possible to find any confirmation of Professor Stockard's results."

The core of the British findings is that though parents well preserved in alcohol may be grossly unfit to take care of children once born, they may produce healthy and normal offspring. In short, the objections to parentage on the part of chronic alcoholics is sociological rather than biological.

No More Bloody Kansas

Governor Harry H. Woodring of Kansas deserves the praise of humanitarians and scientific criminologists. He has refused to be stampeded by the hysterical demand for revival of capital punishment.

The severe punishment psychosis which has triumphed in so many states found him impregnable. He vetoed the bills recently passed ordering electrocution as the maximum punishment for first-degree murder and robbery with fire arms.

The Governor took the sensible view that certainty of punishment was more effective than theoretical severity of punishment in repressing crime. "It is axiomatic," he said, "that it is not the severity, but the certainty, of punishment that deters the criminal."

For this the Governor could cite with propriety the example of England. He also could bring in as evidence Warden Lawes' book, which shows clearly enough that the anti-capital punishment states have as good a record in repressing murder as the capital punishment states. Dr. Calvert, the eminent British authority, upholds the same view.

Governor Woodring could have gone even further and proved himself a scientist as well as a sane humanitarian. This he would have done if he had stated that it is neither severe nor certain punishment, but certainty of arrest, conviction and individualized treatment, which ultimately can repel crime.

In the Land of the Liberty Bell

The mayor of the City of Brotherly Love is said to have rung the cracked Liberty Bell with a hammer recently. We trust the gentleman had a sardonic sense of humor. Or perhaps he recognized that liberty, like the bell, is cracked in Pennsylvania.

At the time two young girls were being convicted of sedition in Philadelphia and sent to prison for a term of ten to twenty years. They were charged with handing out leaflets to national guardsmen urging them to attend an anti-war meeting and help prevent another imperialistic war.

If we recall our history aright, a very seditious document was let loose upon the world from Philadelphia early in July, 1776. Further, the very Friends who founded the Pennsylvania colony never have been exactly enthusiastic about war, imperialistic or otherwise.

Moreover, it was in Philadelphia that Samuel Bryan wrote the famous "Continental Letters," the fiercest criticism of our federal Constitution. When has William Z. Foster said anything worse than the following about our Constitution:

"The new Constitution, instead of being the panacea or cure of every grievance so delusively represented by its advocates, will be found upon examination, like Pandora's box, replete with every evil. The most specious clauses of this system of ambition and iniquity contain latent mischief and premeditated villainy."

Why is there no serious study of local history in the great Keystone state, where eight persons have been convicted of sedition in the last five years?

High Cost of Illiteracy

Illiteracy's toll in crime and other social evils is all too well counted. As machines increase leisure, illiteracy will become more and more a costly social burden. Few, however, realize the direct burden of illiteracy on business.

Alfred K. Stern, director of the Julius Rosenwald fund, says it is time business is shaking this burden from its shoulders.

The illiterate has neither money to buy manufactured goods nor the means of learning about them through the ordinary channels of advertising."

Some \$2,000,000,000 is spent annually in advertising in the United States. This mean \$20 per capita out of a \$750 per capita income. Illiterates are economic deadwood. Were each of the estimated 5,000,000 American illiterates able to read, the upward pull of advertising would begin operating to raise each to a buying unit.

The national advisory committee on illiteracy is doing one of the nation's most important jobs. The new census, it is said, will reveal considerable reduction in illiteracy.

So long as there are men and women unable to read and write, we can not, however, call ours a successful civilization.

Proving Too Much

There was so much public protest when Senator Herbert of Rhode Island instead of Senator Wagner of New York became chairman of the senate committee to study unemployment insurance, that an official explanation was made. Senator Glenn, the second Republican member of the committee, explained that Herbert was chosen because he was an economic expert.

That explanation did not answer the obvious fact that custom and courtesy to the author of the investigation resolution, as well as Wagner's superior knowledge of unemployment insurance, should have dictated his election as chairman.

But it did take away some of the sting in the

charge that Herbert never had shown interest in the unemployment debate in the senate.

Now it appears that the explanation explains too much. Informed by the Republicans that Herbert was an insurance expert, the Democrats looked up his record. They found that he was registered officially in Rhode Island as a lobbyist or agent for half a dozen fire and life insurance companies, and that he also has acted as an insurance company lobbyist in other states.

With such connections can Herbert bring to the investigation of government unemployment insurance the objective and impartial mind expected of the committee chairman? Apparently the country is going to have a chance to find out, because Herbert has the job and is holding on to it.

But Don't Go Near the Water

Isn't President Hoover going too far when he orders all American officials with special passports to stay out of Russia? Does he not know that this includes senators and representatives who have found it necessary to go to Russia for first-hand information, just because the administration refuses to permit consuls and an ambassador to represent the United States there?

Congress has been very patient with the Presidents who have blocked diplomatic recognition since 1917. But when an administration violates the rights of senators and representatives, the result is apt to be a course it has.

Assuming—as the President seems to assume—that a brief visit and study of Russia might poison and communicate our senators, have they not theinalienable right to travel where and when they please and on any kind of passport which their official position merits?

Our guess is that the senators and representatives can and will take care of themselves in this argument.

The sympathy goes rather to poor Mr. Stimson. As secretary of state he decided that he could not conduct foreign policy intelligently without getting some facts about Russia.

He appointed a special assistant and was about to get the facts, when the White House decided that no American official hereafter could visit Russia. That is to throw the state department back where it has been for the last thirteen years of ignorance and dependence upon second or third hand information about Russia.

The state department will go swimming, but it won't go near the water.

For Better Families

Sanity and fine humanity distinguish the decision of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America to approve "careful and restrained" birth control of married men and women.

For many years this matter has been bogged with superstition, prudery and ignorance. The result has been misery, unhappiness, broken health and unbalanced minds.

It never will be possible to estimate the tragedies that could have been prevented, the moral crises that could have been averted, the lives that could have been saved, if we had had the courage to look at this problem years ago as intelligent adults instead of fearful primitives.

The United States wheat has too much of both wheat and silver, while China has too little.

If we could arrange to loan China silver with which to buy our wheat we would be killing two birds with one stone.

At the same time he would be helping to rehabilitate China, not only by giving her financial support, but by enabling millions of her people to get a square meal.

It is only a matter of time until enlightened public opinion will demand that government follow the lead of the churches and modify existing laws to make birth control knowledge available to all, instead of to the few.

If it comes a little watery, no one will blame you if you cry over split milk.

You've got to be tight-fisted to succeed as a prize-fighter.

IT'S REAS... BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THERE'S one thing about this depression that makes it the most remarkable in the history of the world—there's no place to work and there's no place to work.

Henry Ford chinned himself six times the other day down in Florida, according to the papers, but this is nothing, for any number of senators have been known to chin the senate for six days.

There's one thing about this Mahatma Gandhi you have to admire and it is his refusal to commercialize his fame.

If he were willing to write a testimonial for just one little liver pill he could get enough to buy swans for the pool and iron dogs for the lawn, but he doesn't seem to have any business judgment at all.

J. B. PRIESTLEY, the English author who is now lecturing in this country and making fun of us, appears to be doing a wonderful business.

There are enough Anglo-maniacs in the land to make such a mission as Priestley's highly profitable.

We wish there were some way to ship them all to England.

The papers say that Admiral Byrd's overcoat was stolen from him in Jacksonville, Fla., but what is a man who's been at the south pole, doing with an overcoat in Jacksonville.

There seems to be a concerted effort to publish every instance of a world war soldier's blowing his money, but we'll venture the percentage isn't any higher than among other folks.

Most of us have been working at it for the last twelve years.

How long must an alien live in the United States before he can apply for his second citizenship papers?

We have only to put our motion picture stars in the diplomatic berths now occupied by politicians.

We would not remove General Dawes from the court of St. James, because he has great misfortune, as much perhaps as one can gain without being on the screen.

But we would remove Ambassador Edge, now at Paris, and put Douglas Fairbanks in his place.

Then we would send Bull Montana or Tom Mix to Berlin in the place of Ambassador Sackett, but our greatest stroke would be to send Joe E. Brown to Rome in the place of our present representative there.

Joe is just the man to do business with Mussolini. Their declarations are so much alike.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

We Face the Necessity of Taking Steps to Increase the Consumption of Our Goods Abroad or of Forcing Curtained Production at Home.

CINCINNATI, March 24.—The federal farm board announces that no government funds will be available for purchase of 1931 wheat. Only those who expected the impossible are surprised.

A surplus can't be removed by the simple process of having the government buy it, though some good-hearted politicians seem to have thought it could be. The government now is holding 200 million bushels of wheat from last year's crop which nobody seems to want, except at prices that would demoralize the market.

Of the \$500,000,000 originally allotted to it, the farm board already has tied up \$300,000,000 in loans, commitments, or purchases. With such a vast amount of wheat on its hands and such a limited amount of money with which to stabilize other crops, the farm board virtually was compelled to adopt the course it has.

Not Enough Logic

THE plan of farm relief represented by this unsuccessful flier in wheat appears to have originated in the idea that surprises were more imaginary than real, that they were manufactured largely by speculators to scare producers and depress prices at the end of each season, and that they had a habit of disappearing as soon as speculators came into possession of the crop.

There too, there was the idea that if even a majority of people throughout the civilized world had what they needed, there would not be a surplus of wheat, or much of anything else, and having bought the surplus, the government would be able to find means to step up competition.

A good deal of logic in both ideas, but not quite enough.

Owing to a change of conditions which increased production, especially in Russia and Argentina, the surplus of American wheat has become a reality. Owing to a change of conditions which made it impossible for millions of people to buy what they needed, especially in China, the market for wheat has been reduced.

China May Be 'Key'

IT may almost be taken for granted that President Hoover's reported intention to take up the silver situation on his return from the West Indies was inspired by the wheat situation.

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Need Cash and Credit

WITH regard to wheat and silver, as well as many other commodities, we face the necessity of taking steps to increase consumption abroad, or of forcing curtained production at home.

Increased consumption abroad is the only reliable road to better times. It involves something more than the ballyhoo of salesmanship, however. While the slump in our foreign trade may be partially accounted for by an unwise tariff policy, it should be obvious to every one that a great many people are not buying goods from us for the very simple reason that they can't, that they have neither the cash nor the credit.

U. S. Must Be Banker

IN the long run, we must develop our foreign trade the same way that we have developed domestic trade, by a liberal and scientific method of financing it.

The notion that debt-smothered foreign countries will or can provide us markets while we hang on to our money bags is ridiculous.

If the United States would be merchant to them, she must first act as a banker, and that, too, in a way big enough to fit the exigencies of the situation.

Because of our preposterously solvent condition, we have it within our power to produce billions in foreign trade by helping some other countries get back on their feet—notably China, Mexico, Cuba and Brazil.

It is only a matter of time until enlightened public opinion will demand that government follow the lead of the churches and modify existing laws to make birth control knowledge available to all, instead of to the few.

It's the difference between a twenty-year endowment policy and a twenty-payment life insurance policy?

An endowment policy combines life insurance with a savings investment. The amount of the policy is payable to the insured, if living, at the end of a certain term of years, or to his beneficiary at death during that period. A twenty-payment life is a limited payment life policy, which is the same as an ordinary life policy, except that the total premiums payable instead of being distributed over the whole life, are limited to a fixed period of years, after which the policy is paid in full, and the face amount is payable at death.

A collaboration begins with a conference. And so two days later we conferred. "Just now I'm terribly busy, and so don't feel that I'll be able to do much of the research on the biography."

"My idea is if you're willing,

that you should go out and get all the facts and bring them in, and then we'll assemble them together and I'll do the writing."

Which European countries have presidents?

Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Switzerland.

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