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

A Real Tragedy

He could stand poverty and privation. He could not stand humiliation. And so, he killed himself in a room in a poorhouse at Evansville, where he had been taken when he could no longer support himself.

That is the story of a man once known as the best furniture salesman in the state, a man whose kindly smile, knowledge of his job and personality helped to build an industry in that city.

Came age, a broken bank, the loss of savings and with it the physical ailments that come with the years. He tried up to the last to earn his own living. But in these times it proved too hard a job and so, his money gone, his relatives dead, there seemed to be no place for him but that Elizabethan institution "over the hill."

On his very first day he preferred death to the long years of institutional life, branded and set apart as just another inmate.

Those who assassinated the old-age pension measure after it had been passed by the legislature, through insistence of the Eagles lodge and humanitarians generally, might read this item and reflect. They may revise their estimates of "dolts."

They might with profit to themselves and to the state look into the stark eyes of the man whose crime was that he was old and penniless and learn a lesson of man's inhumanity to man.

They even might be converted to a system which does not drive men mad with the horror of almshouse life and to self-inflicted death rather than the disgrace and monotony of such existence.

That may be too much to expect. But some day there will be men or a man in the statehouse who can pity old men and old women and who will permit the people to write laws that are kind.

Ready to Fight

Day by day the public protest against the present suicidal tariff law grows wider and louder. The six million unemployed are discovering that the tariff which killed foreign trade closed the factories in which they were making a living two years ago.

The merchants are discovering that a tariff which helps cause unemployment leaves customers without money to buy the merchants' wares. The manufacturers are discovering that a tariff which forces foreign retaliation closes the market abroad which took their surplus production and made their profit.

The bankers are discovering that the tariff which prevents foreign nations from selling to us impoverishes those nations to the point where they may be unable to pay their debts to us.

All these discoveries were made a long time ago by the economists and experts in international trade—as witness the protest of the 1,038 leading economists who appealed in vain to President Hoover and congress to prevent enactment of the Hawley-Smoot monstrosity.

After a year of costly experience, business leaders and conservative politicians are joining in the demand for downward revision. General Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad and former Republican national committeeman from the arch-protection state of Pennsylvania, and Representative Snell of New York, conservative Republican candidate for the speakership of the house, are typical of that belated awakening.

Meanwhile, in Washington, many speakers at the International Chamber of Commerce convention are pointing out that these tariff barriers are one of the chief causes of the world depression and impediments to revival of prosperity.

Therefore, this is an auspicious time for the formation of the new council for tariff reduction, announced Thursday. The council is to include several hundred prominent manufacturers and lawyers, as well as editors and economists.

In its letter to George Theunis, president of the International Chamber of Commerce and former premier of Belgium, one of the leaders of the lower tariff movement abroad, a provisional committee of economists of the new council stated:

"Our members realize that lowering of tariff walls is the paramount necessity to permit economic laws to act in restoring world trade and national prosperity, a necessity pressing upon the several nations, and especially our own country, which, unfortunately, has led in the enactment of skyscraping tariffs."

Among the signers were such recognized authorities as Irving Fisher, F. W. Taussig, Edwin R. A. Seligman, Edwin F. Gay, Norman H. Davis, Robert Underwood Johnson and Harry A. Garfield.

The best part of this announcement is that the new council is not to be merely another resolution-passing organization, but a fighting unit. The council stresses the unwillingness of the political parties to face the issue, and proposes to make congress act in line with the majority demands of the country for tariff revisions downward at the next session.

That is good news. When a representative fighting organization gets into action the politicians will begin to listen.

Yellow Dogs Depart

Yellow dog contracts are on their way to join the debtors' prison and the inquisition in a better-for-gotten past.

Following the debate over Judge Parker, when thousands of folks learned about these contracts for the first time, a wave of sentiment against them has swept the country.

At that time Wisconsin was the only state barring the yellow dog contract. During the last winter and spring, four others have joined her. Oregon, Arizona and Colorado acted first, and Governor George White just has affixed his signature to such law in Ohio.

The case against the "yellow dog" contract probably never has been better stated than in the Wisconsin legislature which forbids it.

Laying down the broad principle that terms and conditions of labor should result from voluntary agreement between employer and employee, the statute says: "Government authority has permitted and encouraged employers to organize . . . in dealing with such employers, the individual unorganized worker is . . . to exercise actual liberty of contract and to

protect his freedom of labor, and thereby to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment."

"Therefore, it is necessary that the individual workman shall have full freedom of association, self organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing, to negotiate terms and conditions of employment, and that he shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor . . .

"Yellow dog" contracts hereby are declared to be contrary to public policy and shall not afford any basis for the granting of legal or equitable relief."

The Fate of Bad Men

Killer Fred Burke, "the most dangerous man alive," wanted by Uncle Sam and eighteen states for many murders and some \$1,000,000 worth of robberies, escaped the chair by being sentenced to life under Michigan's anti-capital punishment law.

Gangster Al Capone, Chicago's "public enemy No. 1," may go to jail for six months for contempt. Gangster Legs Diamond, New York's Capone, who was arrested twenty-two times, is out on bail for assault.

The killer of four San Diego women and girls in as many brutal, cold-blooded murders still is uncaught. For the corruption of the federal government in the shameful Harding administration's oil scandals, one man went to jail for six months for contempt. For the purchase of judgeships in New York there have been a few dismissals.

Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, innocent of murder, but guilty of militant union activities, are serving terms equal to Killer Burke. Mooney would have been hanged but for the intervention of President Wilson. Both have been in prison fifteen years.

We continue to teach school children that American justice is a blindfolded goddess who punishes bad men and protects the innocent accused, who never discriminates between rich and poor, who can never be "reached."

Can we permit such discrepancies to bedevil our moral standards and bewilder our young people?

Gotham Versus Sodom

One hastily pictures Sodom teaching New York City citizenship ideals or the principles of civil liberties. But the distinguished publicist, Gerald W. Johnson, suggests in Harper's Magazine that Gotham may learn something from Sodom.

In the latter place people were safe in their own homes from the wrath and violence of those with different moral ideals. But in New York City of late a woman in her home is in a more precarious condition than upon the streets, if a vice cop or stool pigeon essays to frame her.

"Sodom itself was a safer place of residence than a city in which the police are capable of 'framing' any woman, innocent or guilty. In Sodom, as Lot's experience when he stood at the door and argued with the mob proves, one at least could hope for a measure of safety while he remained indoors.

"But in New York, if the stories are true, a woman is in more danger from the police while she is indoors than while she is outside, where she may at least hope to have witnesses of any outrage."

The least we can ask of New York is to catch up with Sodom in its respect for the liberties and immunities of the human individual.

As Bryan Untiedt watched Mr. Hoover sweat through a medicine ball session at the White House recently, he must have said to himself: "I'd rather be light than President."

In Vermont, where a cow is pictured on the state seal, we suppose the party chiefs are called political bosses.

As Bryan Hampden, stage star, called New York critics short-sighted when they gave unfavorable reviews of his performance. That's not the way to act, Walter.

Hoover traveled to Cape Henry, Virginia, to honor the landing of John Smith. The fact he got wet there indicates he might have got John all mixed up with Al.

Asked how she was getting along, the facetious telephone operator replied, "Oh, just plugging along."

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THE other day Mrs. Hoover took Bryan Untiedt, the boy guest from Colorado, to the national zoological gardens, but it would have been a greater thrill if they had him come when congress was in session and let him behold all the different kinds of Republicans and Democrats.

A cable from Berlin states that Professor Einstein thinks of spending his future winters in California, which will be most mortifying to the go-getters of the state of Florida.

It's now up to them to counter by landing the late King Alfonso.

There's a lot of promise in the activity of the federal law enforcement machinery in Chicago, which just has arrested twenty-three leading gangsters for being engaged in the booze business, but what has paralyzed the federal arm all these years?

TWO women have been temporarily accepted as jurors in the Kirkland case at Valparaiso. Those who are in favor of "woman's rights" regret the placing of women on juries in cases where the testimony is so incendiary that jurors ought to be supplied with gas masks.

By taking her life in her hand and remaining by the bedside of her son, Crown Prince Michael, Helene of Rumania proves that she is something far greater than a mere queen—a real mother.

The Reno divorce court is handing out decrees with lightning rapidity.

America is the land where a divorce case is tried in five minutes and a murder case in five years.

How much better it would be if this condition was reversed!

ITALY and France are again at swords points. This trouble would be settled in five minutes if Premiers Mussolini and Briand had to do the actual fighting, instead of passing the buck to the innocent bystanders of their countries.

Of course it is important to remove this cataract from the eye of the king of Siam, but what this world needs is an operation on the leading rulers of Europe which would enable them to see a century of peace, instead of constantly visualizing "the next war."

If two of the best men in any neighborhood constantly think and talk about fighting each other, there will clash sure as fate, and it's the same proposition with nations, which are only bundles of men.

M. E. Tracy SAYS:

No Fortress, No Contract, No System Ever Can Take the Place of Honest, Straightforward Thinking.

NEW YORK, May 8.—There is merit in the argument that the price slump warrants a re-examination of war debts.

Debts, whether private or public, are affected by any change in the general price level.

The farmer who owes \$1,000 must produce one-third more to pay it off with corn at 75¢ a bushel than with corn at \$1.00.

Reversing the proposition, creditors or consumers could buy the same amount of corn with 2% of the money.

For the sake of stabilization, it is desirable to keep contracts, no matter what hardship they involve, but there comes a time when stabilization is served best by recognizing the influence of realities.

Even Gibraltar Is Jarred

HERE is nothing so solid or permanent in this world that it can't be jarred. Geologists say that target practice has weakened the rock of Gibraltar, and that if something isn't done to prevent the damage, it will lose out as a symbol of impregnability.

In the final analysis, the security of man-made institutions is far more dependent on men than on anything else.

No fortress, no contract, no system ever can take the place of honest, straightforward thinking.

Another Citizenship Ban

ANOTHER alien has been denied American citizenship because he refused to take the oath "to bear arms."

He is Alexander Dougal, a Scottish minister, and he told the court that while he would be willing to go to the battlefield and aid the wounded and help in hospital work, he could not engage conscientiously in any combatant activity.

In denying his application, Justice Luther said that no conditional citizenship would be granted to foreigners.

"The deny citizenship" the justice said, "to any man who seeks to impose a condition or a reservation on the oath to defend the country."

Why Not All of Us?

IF aliens should be compelled to take the oath "to bear arms" as a requisite of citizenship in this country, why not the native born?

On the other hand, if such oath is not required of the native born, why should it be required of aliens?

Outside the fact that no alien can become President of the United States, citizenship means exactly the same thing whether acquired by birth or by naturalization.

Just as every native-born American has the right to become a pacifist or a conscientious objector at any time, the naturalized alien can do so fifteen minutes after taking the oath of allegiance.

Hurt the Innocent

WETHER we're promoting the proper kind of patriotism by all the requirements and regulations in regard to citizenship for aliens, we're causing a lot of trouble for innocent people, and them.

Here is Mrs. Emma Dent Uhler, mother of a five-months-old baby, whom the immigration authorities won't admit because she was born in Canada and whom the Canadian authorities won't allow to remain in Canada because she married an American.

Now what great, constructive purpose is either serving?

A Scientific Souse

SOMETIMES you wonder whether the idea of trying to be smart has not become an obsession with everybody.

Danish scientists induce seventy young men to get drunk so they might study the particular and peculiar effects of alcohol on different individuals, just as though 10,000 years of experience had not furnished more than enough evidence.

And what did they learn that any old soot couldn't have told them?

Some of the victims went under fifteen minutes after taking the first drink, while some kept their heads more than an hour. Those who hadn't eaten for three or four hours were the first to become wacky. The effect on some was to make them ugly, while others giggled and still others went to sleep.

In any case, we'd staged such a performance, we would call it just a plain souse, but science elevates it to the dignity of an experiment.

Court Turns Socal

MAGISTRATE GOLDSTEIN of New York makes some pertinent observations in the "Law Journal."

Most of the cases that come before him, he says, are social rather than legal.

He finds himself handling more cases in one day than does a court of general sessions, or the supreme court, in one month.

"The issue is handling, or managing," he remarks.

When he sat in the traffic court he found 900 defendants all summoned for 9:30 in the morning, though the courtroom had only 150 seats.

Do sweet potato vines bear flowers?

In the extreme south, sweet potato blossoms, especially in Florida and the lower Gulf region. In the Virgin Islands they flower profusely. The flowers resemble the morning glory, but are much smaller. They flower about mid-summer.

How many breweries were in Illinois, Minnesota and New York in 1918?

Illinois had 63; Minnesota, 37, and New York, 114.

Prohibition, the way I see it, is not a success and never will be. Did you ever see one else ever hear of our county and state institutions being as full and running over from the sale and drinking of whisky back in the good old days, as we are now? Do our cities get any revenue from the rum seller of today?

If all intoxicating liquors were made and sold by our government, as in pre-war days, the money that our government gives to the Anti-Saloon League would have gone a

Speaking of Grand Canyons

