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

The Principle of '76 in 1931

We fervently celebrate the Fourth of July from Maine to California, from the Rio Grande to the Kennebec. Patriotic speakers risk high blood pressure in invoking and praising the spirit of the fathers who won our independence. Cannons boom, rockets glare and firecrackers sputter. A hundred are blazed for life, scores die from lockjaw and hundreds are maimed in ostensibly doing honor to Tom Paine, Thomas Jefferson and the liberty bell.

Suppose, however, we put away for a moment the hum of motor cars and motor boats, oratory, noise and bluster and get down to the real principles of '76. How much do we know about them and how much do we really honor them? Are they as dead as the paintings on the walls of a prehistoric cave in southern France?

The great representative thinkers of 1776 were Tom Paine and Jefferson. Paine's "Common Sense" was the chief revolutionary tract. Jefferson's Declaration of Independence was the great political manifesto. The patriots of 1776 were a small group of desperately harried men who adopted the Declaration of Independence to help the campaign for French aid and to prevent the success of the British plan of conciliating the colonists.

The principles of '76 are conveniently assembled in Jefferson's famous paragraph from the Declaration:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government."

In short, the fathers stood for revolution; human equality before opportunity and the law; the abolition of special privilege; natural rights; the dominion of the people; and the reduction of the powers of government to the lowest point compatible with social well-being.

How does 1776 fare in 1931? Paine is either forgotten or held in disrepute by respectable persons. Even that great tribune of the people, Roosevelt, called him a dirty little atheist. He would be blacklisted seven times over by the D. A. R. if alive today. Jefferson has come through a little better as the mythical founder of a still extant political party. But many a person is in prison in this country today for mouthing Jefferson's doctrines, and thousands are being deported for holding similar views. Imagine Jefferson's welcome before a national organization—the D. A. R.'s—which insisted on muzzling Hamilton Fish. Within the last few months, in the very shadow of Independence Hall and the liberty bell, two little girls were sentenced to ten years in prison for handing pacifist pamphlets to ex-servicemen.

What about equality before the law and equality of opportunity? On the one hand we have the due process clause of the fourteenth amendment, the greatest juristic bulwark of special privilege ever constructed by human ingenuity. On the other we find injunction and contempt proceedings against labor, in which a prejudiced judge may act as judge, investigator, prosecutor and jury, rolled into one, passing on the validity of his own acts. These are only examples, and overlook entirely the disparity in ordinary justice between the man who can hire Max Steuer or Clarence Darrow and the poor defendant who must accept a green or reluctant lawyer appointed by the court. Equality of opportunity is hollow sham in a country where on one end we find 500 men with annual incomes averaging \$2,500,000 and on the other some 7,000,000 men out of work altogether with more millions of hungry and ill-clad dependents.

Revolution is outlawed. No less than thirty-two states make its advocacy a felony. Even a liberal federal judge has upheld the barring of a reputable magazine from the mails because it uses revolutionary phrases. The D. A. R. blacklisted America's most popular clergyman because he used the word revolution in an address.

Special privilege is rampant in tariffs, utilities, tax favors, injunctions, due process decisions, and the like. Popular sovereignty is a mere form when small cliques of men nominate our rulers and engineer the passage of oppressive amendments and laws. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness mean little when a man can not get a job, buy a glass of beer or speak out fearlessly in the language of the men who once made this country a free land.

It is the privilege of any one to prefer the spirit of 1931 to the spirit of 1776. But let him not imagine that they are one and the same thing or that we have preserved the heritage of the fathers. If the price of liberty is eternal vigilance, we have slept at the post of duty.

The Poor House

Public sentiment should force an immediate change in conditions at the county poor farm, even though politically minded board of commissioners insist upon using the misfortunes of aged and the decrepit to reward machine protégés.

The grand jury declares that the treatment of the inmates at the farm is outrageous and cruel.

When an inmate, desperately ill with tuberculosis, made the same charges to a grand jury, he was promptly arrested and on the testimony of attendants at the farm, sentenced to 90 days in the penal farm.

No charge had been made against him until after he had voiced his protest. Then he was immediately arrested. The time of his alleged offense was previous to his testimony before the grand jury. It is only a fair deduction that he is on the penal farm for denouncing the cruelties that are practiced in that institution.

A poor farm is, by its very nature, barbaric and cruel. It punishes those whose crimes are poverty, old age and sickness with humiliation, disgrace and solitude. It is a relic of the days of Queen Elizabeth. It exists only because we are still cruel and savage and ignorant in our social thinking.

Many other states have adopted old age pension laws. That great crusade by the Eagles fraternity has conquered a large share of the territory of this nation. It is gaining national recognition.

In this state the legislature passed such a law last winter. The Governor vetoed it, and in his one and only personal appearance before the legislature, read veto message. He was in at its death.

It is bad enough to continue the system of almshouse care for the poor and the afflicted and the aged. It is worse when these institutions are brutalized. They are bound to be brutalized in states where old age pension laws are vetoed as being a part of the dole system. Veto measures are sure to encourage savagery

who happen to be at the head of such institutions or employed in them to be more brutal.

The only question is whether the people of this country, being officially warned of such brutalities, will stand for political protection for this savagery.

One good way of celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence might be to write a letter to the county commissioners demanding freedom from brutality for the helpless wards of the county.

Mis-Out or Come?

Crashers will be interested in learning that explorers for the University museum have recovered a dice which was in use 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, proving that the ancients knew the game.

Thus rolling the bones, so often frowned upon, acquires the dignity of antiquity, like archery, battle-dore and shuttlecock and other sports.

But, we fear, there was crooked work on the banks of the Tigris.

The numbers on the Mesopotamia dice are arranged so that the five is opposite the four on the cube, and the two is opposite the three. Now every one knows a pair of such dice would never match up to show the lucky seven all around—the two and five should be opposite, and the four and the three.

Maybe some ancient player was palming his dice. Or perhaps some victim threw them away in a game and demanded a new pair. Too bad the scientists can't tell us.

The Pig Crop

A pig survey just concluded by the department of agriculture shows that the spring pig crop is good, being 2.5 per cent greater than last year. Also there is a marked increase in the number of sows kept for fall farrowing.

So it is calculated that the fall crop may be a fifth larger than last year.

Probably everybody ought to cheer at the prospect of plenty of pork chops and bacon next winter.

But consider the poor farmer. He's getting under \$6 for his pigs, the lowest price in a generation. He couldn't get a decent price for his corn, so he turned it into pork, and now the price of that has tobogganed.

Of course the farmer should have cut his production of pigs. He had plenty of advice of this sort from Washington, but we suspect he'll derive small satisfaction from that.

There seems to be no way out except for the farmer to eat his own pigs.

Pensions Never Stop

The new fiscal year witnesses the passing of the United States pension bureau, which for nearly a century has distributed payments to veterans of our various wars and their widows. The country's pension system, in fact, antedates the Revolutionary war, but the bureau was not established as a separate agency until 1833.

During its life the bureau paid out nearly eight and a half billion dollars to 2,763,000 soldiers or their dependents. The rolls now contain 450,000 names. Twenty-five years ago the number was just under a million.

The bureau long was the center of political controversy, particularly in the '80s and '90s, when men of the Grand Army of the Republic were a powerful political group whose favor was curried by those seeking office. It was natural that successive pension laws liberalized payments.

Now the veterans of the World war occupy the center of the stage. General Hines, director of the veterans' administration, in a recent speech, said approximately a million ex-soldiers and their dependents receive benefits that cost about a billion dollars a year. This is more than 20 per cent of all federal expenditures.

During the year two million veterans had received bonus loans amounting to nearly \$800,000,000. Half a million veterans had filed claims under the new law allowing compensation for non-service connected disabilities. Veterans' hospitals housed 35,000.

There is every evidence that history will repeat that benefits will grow more liberal as the veterans advance in age and become more powerful politically. The tendency has already become apparent.

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

THE king of Denmark has made Holger Hohris a knight of Danebrog for flying the Atlantic. But we wouldn't fly over the large Volsleid exhibit to become any number of knights of Danebrog—what ever that might be.

When they make you a knight they tap you on the shoulder.

It's a great deal like being tapped on the shoulder and told that your gas bill is past due.

Not content with financing Germany, we are now thinking of financing South America.

Let's get all the kick we can out of the amability of our customers while they're borrowing from us, for they'll be vituperating the daylights out of us a little later on when we ask them to come across.

BANDITS have invaded golf clubs near Chicago and robbed the athletes in the dressing rooms. Any day we are expecting to hear that bold, bad men have walked out on a baseball diamond and kidnapped a pitcher before 50,000 Chicago spectators.

We are strong for the Declaration of Independence and for George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, but we do not rise and salute the flag when children wake us at 6 a.m. by shooting firecrackers one week before the Fourth of July.

There's one thing about these French debates over our plan to have a year's moratorium on war debts that makes us overflow with laughter and it is the charge that we are a crafty, designing people.

Bless your life, in international affairs, the United States is the largest Rube in captivity.

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M. E. Tracy SAYS:

Tools Represent Ideas Born of a Terrific Struggle for Existence, but We Never Think of Them in That Light.

NEW YORK, July 4.—In this day of unexpected discoveries and startling inventions, it is easy to trace the effect of mechanical progress on social, moral and even religious concepts.

Average people find little difficulty in understanding how apartment houses, automobiles, broadcasting and other innovations have altered not only their habits, but their views.

It is probable that the same thing has been true in other ages. As Carlisle says, man is a tool-using animal.

His power to appropriate, adapt and create instruments includes far more than what those instruments enable him to do in a material sense. For one thing, their mere manufacture has greatly increased his ability to think.

Toilers Slighted

THE idea that civilization is a by-product of abstract dreamers has been emphasized out of all reason. Thoughts translated into creations of wood or metal have received scant credit compared to those expressed in words.

Until very recent times history ignored the workaday world.

It appears to have been taken for granted that men who toiled could not think, and that the implements by which they lifted themselves out of the jungle, built better houses and made possible a healthier type of life are not to be mentioned in the same breath with the songs they sang.

Tools Are Ideas

THE value of a thing can best be determined by considering how well we could get along without it. Now, what would happen if we were to suddenly lose all of our tools, especially those of a common variety, such as axes, scythes, saws, hammers and nails?

No one regards them as of very great consequence compared to proverbs, precepts and poetry, but just what would life be like if they were to disappear suddenly.

They represent ideas, of course, frequently born of a terrific struggle for existence, but somehow we never think of them in that light.

The chances are that no poem ever cost such mental labor as the production of the first, or represented any higher degree of imagination, but somehow we can't see it that way.

Statistical studies of diseases are important, because they show physicians the kind of work for which they must be prepared.

One organization which makes examinations of men and women at periodic intervals recently has compared the rates for disease among men and women as determined by the examination of 12,618 people.

The results included workers of all types, housewives, clerks in stores and those serving in the various professions. Many of the conditions from which the women suffer are connected with childbirth.

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Art and Ability

FEW contend that beauty and utility are inseparable, but in accordance with any one principle leads to perfection in accordance with all others.

I such a philosophy has any basis we owe a great deal to those things which have been brought into being and prepared for practical use.

Take an ax handle, for instance, a French telephone set, or the body of a modern automobile, and you will see how art has not only combined with utility, but been helped by it.

Designers have contributed a great deal, no doubt, but the criticisms and suggestions of those actually using these appliances have contributed to their perfection.

Injustice to Doers

IT has been that way since the dawn of consciousness.

Men confronted with the actual problem of doing a thing, whether physical, moral or artistic, are mainly responsible for what we know or think we know.

By and large, however, these men are unknown.

By and large, the spectators who watched from a safe distance, or even gathered their information second-hand and then wrote what they said or heard, are given the lion's share of the credit.

By and large, we pay vastly more attention to the record than to what it records.

All this has led to an exaltation of tale-tellers and commentators which, no matter how deserving they may be, does a grave injustice to those achievements given them something to tell or criticize.

Questions and Answers

What are the superstitions concerning the wearing of an amethyst and a garnet?

The garnet is supposed to give and preserve health, drive away vain thoughts, and reconcile differences between friends, strengthen the heart and increase riches and honor. An amethyst is supposed to dispel sleep, sharpen the intellect, prevent intoxication, give victory to soldiers and protect from sorcery.

What day did Nov. 16, 1912 come on?

Saturday.

Where was the William H. Block department store located before it moved to the present location?

On the south side of Washington Street, near Meridian street.

Were any members of the company which went to Africa to film scenes for "Trader Horn" killed?

Give the cast of the motion picture, "Check and Double Check?"

Amos, Freeman F. Gosden, Andy, Charles J. Connell, Jean Blair, Sue Carol; Richard Williams, Charles Morton; Ralph Crawford, Ralf Harolde; John Blair, Edward Martindel; Mrs. Blair, Elinor Crawford, Rita LaRoi, Kingfish, Russell Powell.