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

Calling Their Bluff

Muscle Shoals is on the congressional legislative scene again. In both houses bills have been drafted; in the senate one has been reported. It is around the Norris senate bill that the new controversy will swing.

For years farm organizations and others have clamored for utilization of Muscle Shoals in the manufacture of cheap fertilizer. The new Norris bill makes this mandatory.

The country has been told by President Hoover that Muscle Shoals should not be operated by the government, but should be leased. Hoover's Shoals commission urged that preference among lessees be given to an organization of farmers. The Norris bill provides for this, permitting the government to retain only the power facilities.

Norris and others have insisted for years that the Shoals power facilities must be made available to states, counties and municipalities as a national yardstick with which to measure private utility costs.

The new Norris bill provides for this, and makes arrangements for construction of transmission lines to transport this power.

Norris has gone so far in the leasing provisions of his bill that he practically has given carte blanche to those who want the nitrate plants leased, suggesting that if his leasing provisions are too harsh that they rewrite them.

His only conditions are that the lessee must produce fertilizer, and that the lease shall not give the lessee a direct bonus from the federal treasury.

The President's commission has demanded that the government build Cove Creek dam in east Tennessee as an integral part of Muscle Shoals; the Norris bill also provides for that.

"The Norris bill, in short, calls the bluff of those who have been seeking to turn Muscle Shoals over to the power interests, while hiding behind American agriculture by claiming that the Shoals should be used for the farmers.

The Norris bill protects Muscle Shoals for the taxpayers, whose millions paid for its construction.

The Camel's Nose

Be not deceived by the general sales tax propaganda that it is only a temporary expedient. Powerful interests are eager to substitute a system of consumer taxes for our traditional tax system. They will work for its extension.

At recent ways and means committee hearings, United States treasury experts let it be known that they fear the sales tax as a permanent change.

"I have one definite conviction," testified Dr. Thomas Sewall Adams, fiscal adviser to the treasury. "That is, that it is not worth your while to adopt a Canadian sales tax for a short period of time, because to put it over you ought to have an administrative machine so well built up and so large that you would not be justified in creating it for a temporary tax of two or three years."

"I agree with Dr. Adams," said E. C. Alvord, a treasury specialist opposed to the general sales tax. "As an emergency measure I think it would be subject to very serious consideration as to whether it would be worth while to interject the entire machinery for a short period of time."

Alvord added that the only way to make the sales tax work as an emergency measure is to give the treasury complete arbitrary power and "vest necessary finality in the administrative officers."

Canada imposed the sales tax as a war measure. After bitter assaults from farmers and workers, who pounded the rate down to 1 per cent, the tax now is up to 6 per cent. France took it as an emergency in 1914 and still has it, in spite of vigorous popular opposition. Since Emperor Augustus began it in the year 9, nations have tried this easy but insidious impost upon the people's necessities. Great Britain and the United States so far have held out against it. Congress should not be fooled into thinking that this general sales tax plan is merely to "balance the budget in 1933."

The two-year "emergency" sales tax will be, if it passes, the camel's nose in the American fiscal tent. Once the nose is inside, the camel is apt to follow.

The Whipping Post

Delaware on Saturday made its contribution to civilization by staging a public whipping in the yard of its Newcastle county workhouse.

While seven men convicted of theft stood with hands tied aloft and back bared, Warden J. Elmer Leach, a bitter opponent of whipping, was forced to flog each man with a great cat o' nine tails. Each man got forty lashes. After this, the men were treated in the hospital and began serving their regular sentences.

Delaware at least is open in this brutality. Unlike many warden who beat, torture and break men in the darkness of prison cells, Leach wielded his whip before spectators.

Such punishment, of course, brutalizes its victims and makes them more revengeful toward society, without acting as a deterrent to others. In England, not so very long ago, men were hanged in the public square for pickpocketing. While the crowds watched, other pickpockets went among them, stealing in the very shadow of the gallows.

Vienna Tackles Housing Problem

It has been suggested sensibly that the housing problem in the United States offers one constructive way out of the depression.

Millions live in repulsive tenements or hovels. Why not put some private and public capital into building decent living quarters, thus furnishing work for unemployed capital and labor, and creating civilized living quarters for American citizens?

An indication of what can be done is provided by the experience of Vienna. Her achievements are described by Professor Robert E. Chaddock in the American Journal of Sociology.

Vienna had to work under terrible handicaps. The peace treaty left the city an unnatural metropolis, containing one-third the population of Austria, with the supporting hinterland shorn away.

The great city was left high and dry, compelled to import most of her food and raw materials. She had to compete with the new states which had been favored specially by the treaties. She was crushed by taxation and by financial burdens imposed by the treaty.

Standards of living were abominably low. If Vienna could overcome such conditions, any American city should have easy sailing in any plan of municipal housing.

Down to 1919, housing conditions in Vienna were a menace to health, decency and efficiency. Three-quarters of all domiciles consisted of small flats, of two rooms or less. Overcrowding in limited quarters

was atrocious. The typical flat was built and equipped as follows:

"It provided a kitchen and one other room, constructed in large units by speculative builders. Many rooms had no direct light and air, or opened on a shaft of such limited area as to be entirely inadequate.

"The lavatories and running water usually were situated in the common hall and were used by several families on the same floor. Very few dwellings had gas or electricity. The houses, as a rule, covered practically the entire site, providing inadequate courts and no play space except the streets."

The post-war government of Vienna jumped into this situation with energy and resolution. It reorganized the taxation system in such manner as to make profiteering in rentals no longer possible and to reduce land values.

The city bought up about one-third of its entire land area. The new tax system thus gave them funds and land on which to build.

Since 1919, Vienna has spent more than \$100,000,000 on these municipal apartments, and the program is being continued actively. Compare with the pre-war flats a typical flat in a new Vienna apartment:

"It consists of a very small entrance hall, a kitchen, one larger and one smaller room, and a lavatory—covering in all 430 square feet. All have lavatories and running water within the flat. Each flat has electric light, a gas stove for cooking, and a small metal stove burning coke for heating, both furnished by the municipal gas company.

"The flats are arranged in units built around large courts, with gardens, playgrounds, and sometimes wading pools for children in the center. . . . The building must not cover more than one-half the area of the site, and often occupies less. All rooms have direct light and air. . . .

"In buildings housing 300 families or more, a central steam laundry has been constructed, equipped with the most modern devices. Here housewives may do their own laundry work. Central baths for tenants are provided in the large housing units. . . . Kindergartens to the number of 100 already have been established in these municipal buildings."

These flats rent for 7 shillings a month (about \$1.05). There is a slight additional charge for use of the central laundry and baths. The rental is designed to take care of upkeep of apartments.

The good results already are apparent. Vienna's working population can live in decent quarters at low cost. Number of householders has increased greatly in spite of shrinkage in the population of the city as a whole. Infant mortality and tuberculosis rate already have been lowered notably.

Such is the challenge of poor old Vienna to the new, prosperous, and powerful cities of the west, with their foul tenements.

More Snoopers

A bill before congress which deserves little attention and less consideration is that sponsored by Representative Green, which would create a bureau of investigation in the department of labor.

Unsatisfied, apparently, even with Secretary of Labor Donak's remarkable record for finding and deporting aliens, Green wants to create a new bureau "to conduct investigations into violations of the laws of the United States, particularly by aliens who advocate the overthrow of the government of the United States."

The federal government already employs some 4,500 spies, snoopers and undercover men, engaged in the sort of work which Americans once thought reprehensible and dangerous.

These men constitute a menace to the liberty of Americans far greater than the menace of aliens. Japan insists that the Shanghai problem is entirely different from the Manchurian. One would judge to be true, just from the fighting.

When Ely Culbertson, bridge czar, was about to undergo an operation, he probably said, "Your cut doctor."

A scientist has just perfected what he claims is a perfect stabilizer for ships. If he really wants to be famous, he should start on one for business.

Once upon a time there was a disarmament conference delegate who wouldn't battle for his plan for peace.

The Literary Digest poll really should have provided three squares to check. One for the dry, one for the thirsty and one for the wets.

Dry rot costs lumbermen millions, says a scientist. But just think how much it costs the United States government.

The rich can't stand any more taxes, says congress. Well, that's all right. Of course the poor can.

Reading the writing on the wall, "Puddler" Jim Davis turned wet. Which makes him a bigger puddler.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE National Education Association, at its recent Washington meeting, adopted the usual resolutions of approval for the Constitution and also urged its teachers to continue to impart respect for the Constitution and all its amendments.

I wonder myself just how many teachers have read the Constitution since they left grade schools. It is not very long, and in simplest terms is merely a code of laws similar to those set up in every state and city. The body of the document explains governmental functions and how they should be carried out.

The amendments, all save one, confer a right upon the people or upon a part of the people. Only the eighteenth takes away a right. All the others dispense justice to some portion of the population in need of it. God is not once mentioned in it.

It can be no stretch of the imagination to be called sacred, if by sacred we mean unchanging and unchangeable.

WHAT our teachers ought to do, it seems to me, is to sit down with the children and study this Constitution of ours. Hitherto, we have taken out our enthusiasm for it in rather bad oratory, until, to a good many of us, it has become something of an old woman's fetish.

To attempt to make a strait-jacket of the Constitution is almost as bad as teaching youngsters to flout it. Its true worth lies in the fact that it is, always has been, and heaven grant, always will be, a flexible document.

The American child should be made to understand, first of all, that he is superior to the Constitution, because as a citizen of the republic he can help to change and improve the laws by which he is governed.

He never should be led to believe that any legal code can not be altered when necessity arises.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

What Some Politicians Mistake for a Red Revolt Is Nothing but Natural Resentment Against the Unbearable Pressure of Taxation.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Bewilderment at Washington is the result of inaction. Instead of doing things, the Hoover administration has been trying to convince itself and every one else that there was no need. Instead of calling congress last spring, as it should have attempted to blunder through alone.

The nation comes to the brink of a precipice without warning, much less without a program. One dominating obsession stands forth amid the confusion. The budget must be balanced with cash, no matter how it is wrung from the people. Naturally enough, there is a wild scramble to make the other fellow pay.

Warning Ignored

THE blow could have been softened by rigid economies, though no more rigid than the people have had to accept. The pressure could have been eased by judicious borrowing.

The fact that neither course found favor shows woeful lack of foresight.

This government did not go into the red over night. There has been ample time for those in authority to acquaint themselves with the true condition of national finances.

It required no super-man to realize that the revenue must sink with eight millions out of work.

Billion-Dollar Squeeze

UNDER a tax system like that of the federal government, lower revenue means lower earning power on the part of taxpayers. Income taxes are down for just one reason, and that is the shrinkage of incomes. The tariff fails to produce because foreign trade is not what it was.

Most every one admits that free capital and liberal credit are essential to recovery, yet the government proposes to squeeze another billion dollars in cash out of the people.

The government proposes to do this, moreover, while bootleggers gather in an equal amount with which to finance organized viciousness.

Sales Tax Curbed

THE sales tax was seized upon as an easy way out. Adding 2½ per cent to manufactured goods was not difficult to authorize, or figure. Besides, the big boys could pass it on to the ultimate consumer in the form of a price boost and, perhaps, make a little for themselves while doing so.

The ultimate consumer has nothing to do with it. Usually that doesn't count for much because he is a forgetful, if not a forgiving soul.

But he seems to have made himself heard this time. At any rate, quite a few congressmen have sensed the iniquitous thing that was about to be done, and have created what approaches a stampede in opposition to it.

Like all stampedes, it threatens chaos for the moment, with the possibility of some pretty raw substitutes. Already, it has led to the re-enactment of war-time income tax rates by the house.

Taxpayers Revolt

DEMOCRATIC LEADER RAINY professes to see Communism in the future, which is absurd, but which indicates how strained the situation has become.

What some politicians mistake for a red revolt is nothing but natural resentment against the unbearable pressure of taxation. All over this country people are being driven out of business and out of their homes by the constantly rising cost of government.

Because of the country's reduced income, taxes have risen automatically by 30 or 40 per cent during the last two years; that is, it requires 30 or 40 per cent more effort on the average man's part to pay them.

And now government leaders want to increase federal taxes by about 25 per cent. In addition to the rise caused by diminished income, that would mean a jump of one-half, if not more, since 1929.



GERMAN DRIVE BEGINS March 21

ON March 21, 1918, the great German drive began, with an attack in great force against British positions on a fifty-mile front from Arras to La Fere.

Nearly one million men were hurled against the British lines by the Germans, who claimed they had broken through the British lines and had advanced to a depth of more than five miles in places.

British divisions opposing the drive were clinging stubbornly to their ground north of Arras, but were forced to fall back in other portions of the front.

German losses in killed and wounded for the first day of the great battle were estimated at more than 50,000.

All available British reserves were ordered into action, as the gravity of the situation became apparent. The objective of the German drive, it was believed, was the separation of the British and French armies.

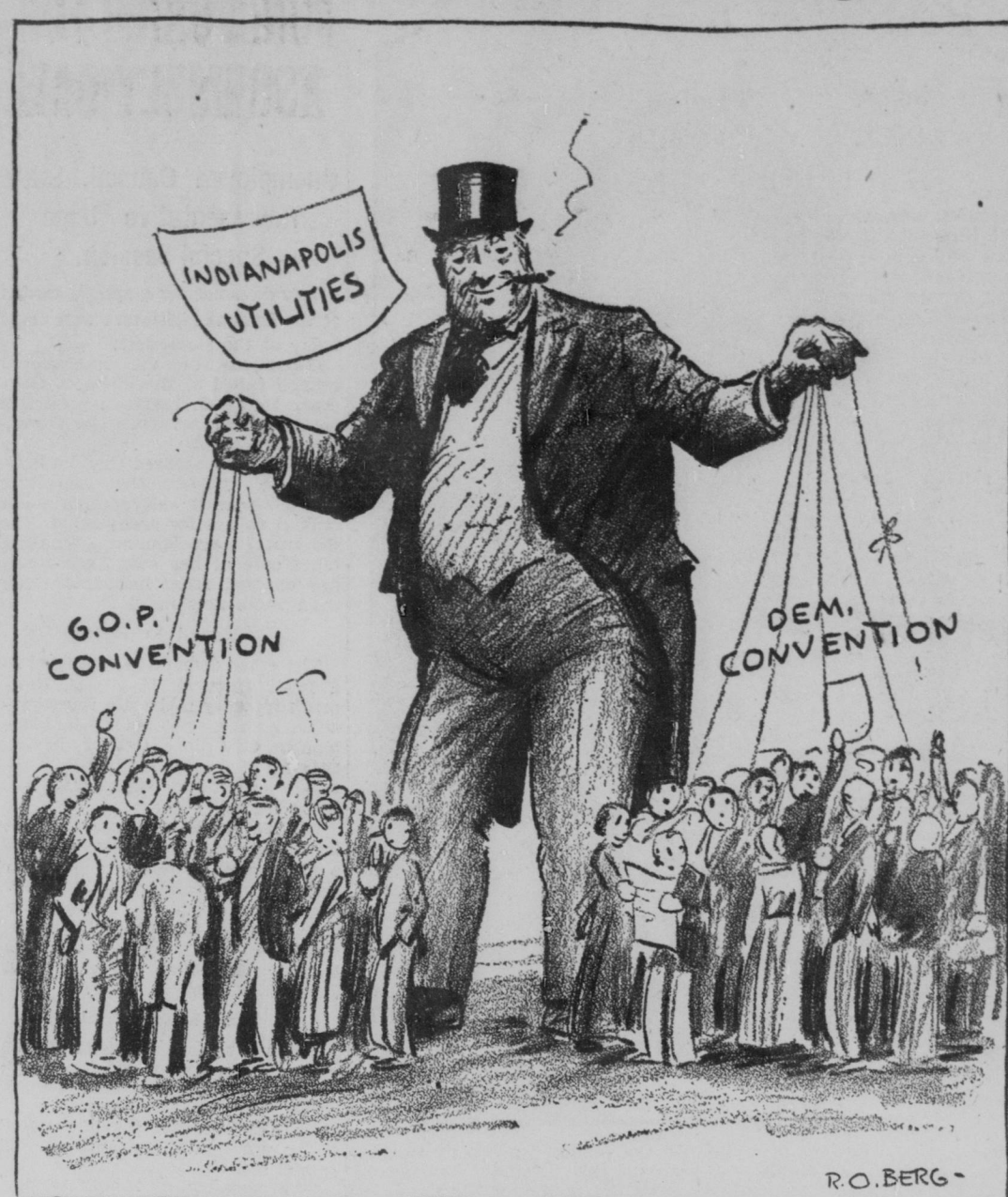
Questions and Answers

Is the historic Washington elm at Cambridge, Mass., still standing? It died and was taken down in 1923.

How many stores are operated by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company?

In February, 1931, the company had 15,727.

Your Vote Can Cut These Strings



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Several Cures Are Known for Warts

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine.

AMONG the most common growths on the human skin are warts of all types. Almost every body has a "cure" for warts and some rather foolish idea of how they originate.

Warts sometimes disappear spontaneously, but the disappearance usually is credited to the fact that some one has murmured a potent charm at midnight in a cemetery or buried a string containing as many knots as there are warts.

A wart causes little trouble, but it can grow awfully large in the form of a price boost and, perhaps, make a little for themselves while doing so.

The only time warts cause trouble is when they are situated in places where pressure makes them painful. There seems to be some evidence that the wart is an infectious condition caused by a filtrable virus,

or an organism so small that it can not be seen under the microscope.

However, it can not be easily infectious since there are many people who are in contact with warts but never have them.

The ordinary wart can be removed by many methods: sometimes merely through softening by the application of corrosive chemicals; sometimes by cutting or sandpapering; and sometimes by the application of an electric current, which kills the blood supply and causes the wart to fall off.

This last process is painful, but the pain may be eliminated through use of local anesthetics. The X-ray sometimes is used to cause the disappearance of a wart.

Nitric acid, glacial acetic acid, and chromic acid are also used. There always is the danger, however, that the burning will extend deeper

than the wart and as a result an unsightly scar will be left.

One of the most painful types of warts is that which occurs on the sole of the foot. There seems to be plenty of reason for believing that these are infectious, since they occur particularly in young people in schools and gymnasium classes who go barefoot around the gymnasium or the swimming pool.

Such warts may become so painful as to interfere with walking. Their treatment demands the most careful consideration of a competent physician.

The hard skin on the bottom of the foot must be softened, the wart removed, and the damaged tissue protected by proper bandages and antiseptics during the process of healing.

Sometimes electrical methods are used for destroying these warts, but this also demands the most careful help of an expert.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

SINCLAIR LEWIS is quoted as expressing the opinion that John Dos Passos, more than almost any other American author, is the "father of humanized fiction." This seems to me a strange judgment, for to me the most striking quality in "1919" is its unreality.

Such literary labels as "romanticism" and "realism" are neither definite nor searching. Sherwood Anderson, for instance, can become romantic over mud flats along a river, and Lewis himself made a research workers' laboratory the scene of one of the most stirring sentimental novels which I know.

For my own guidance, I divide writers into just two groups—"the quick" and "the dead." As far as my emotions go, Dos Passos belongs among the dead. The gift which he undoubtedly possesses was the way of flesh in the great war.

That conflict cut in two vital ways across the souls of those who lived through it. Some came out incredibly mellow, while others were also scarred beyond redemption because of bitterness.

The War With a Smile

I DO not like the hoopla boys who thought the whole thing was jolly and heroic and that it might be a good idea to have another go at it after a little pause for rest and bleeding. And yet I am not at all sure that they have done more to make peace perilous than those who never could quite awaken themselves from the nightmare in which they tossed and were tossed.

It is customary to class the grim brothers as realists, while the rest are hopelessly romantic. I scarcely would deny that "Three Soldiers," by Dos Passos, contained more truth than anything by Coningsby Dawson. But each of them is in a trench from which he can not crawl to see life whole. The war was a fact—an overwhelming fact—but it was not existence in its entirety.

The realist who prides himself on perfect vision makes the pretense that it did not touch his capacity for clear-headedness. But say to him, "Just try to write a line about anything," and it will become apparent in three pages that the spell is still upon him. All the characters in his book will behave like soldiers under fire.

And war is not truly the intensification of human nature, but its negation. The fundamental basis of human psychology is the will to live. But for this secret spring there would be no such thing as history or prophecy.

Under the pressure and the compulsion of war it is trodden down. A sergeant says, "Come on, boys; do you want to live forever?" Now the normal answer to that is, "Why, of course," but, propelled by the curious pull of mass paranoia, soldiers rise up out of the wheat field and charge forward blindly to certain death.

Done a Score of Times

WHENEVER anybody talks of the new world which is to be better, he is told not to be foolish, because "you can't change human nature." But the answer to that familiar objection lies in the fact that war has done just that a score of times and that peace might do it once.

To me the strangest thing about modern warfare is its lack of passion. Certainly nobody firing a gun at a foe ten miles away can be anything like as fighting mad as an individual having a row with somebody in a speakeasy.

Many emotions came to men in trenches, but they came in minutes. Even fear gets to be blunted. After days and weeks and months, it comes to be a dull ache rather than an acute agony.

It was, as the communiques said, a war of attrition, which meant that death sapped and mined the soul of the individual even before any shell or bullet claimed the soldier.

The Dead Hand of War

AND so I do not understand just what Sinclair Lewis means in saying that Dos Passos is perhaps the father of humanized fiction. In the novels of Dos Passos, it seems to me that the characters move and speak and are motivated like people in a shell hole, whatever the situation.

They drink without joy, and they sin without gusto. There is plenty of lust, but practically no passion.

Dos Passos introduces plain, blunt words upon many occasions, but

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SCIENCE

BY DAVID DIETZ

Millions in the United States Never Have Learned to Use Tooth Brush.

A CAMPAIGN to educate the nation in the elementary facts of care of the teeth has been announced by the American Dental Association, an organization representing 36,000 dentists.

It might seem to the casual reader that tooth paste advertisement and radio programs have made the nation "tooth brush conscious," but the officers of the association are responsible for the statement that there are between 90,000,000 and 100,000,000 in the United States who have not yet learned the value of the regular use of the tooth brush.

They estimate that there are only about 25,000,000 people in the United States who take as complete care of their teeth as modern dental and medical knowledge makes possible.

The association is particularly concerned with the proper care of the teeth of children.

"Thousands of children grow up in poor physical condition because their teeth have not received proper attention in the formative period," Dr. Martin Dewey, president of the association, says.

"The 6-year-old molars especially are neglected, because even some enlightened parents fail to recognize them as permanent teeth."

Grandparents Help

SCIENTIFIC wit once said that the way to have good teeth is to start with your grandparents. This is like the advice for living long.

It is a fact that the tendency to long life is hereditary. The same thing also is true to some extent with regard to good teeth.

In the case of teeth, however, the subject is open to more control. Good teeth do demand, to a considerable extent, upon the child's mother.

Deficiencies in the mother's diet in the months before the birth of the child now are believed to be one of the chief reasons for a child developing poor teeth.

This fact is recognized by physicians, who now see that expectant mothers are given advice concerning their diet.

Many intelligent people, however, who take good care of their teeth, will wonder why cavities appear in them, nevertheless. This is one of the mysteries which the medical world would like to solve.

The medical world does not know the reason for the decay of teeth. The only advice which can be given to people is to pay regular visits to the dentist's office so that decay can be noted and remedied before the damage is great.

Many scientific laboratories are working to study the cause of decay of teeth.

Cause of Decay

A NUMBER of theories have been advanced to account for tooth decay, or "dental caries," to use the scientific term.

There are two schools of thought. One blames dental caries upon bacteria. The other holds that it is caused by conditions within the body.

In other words, it may be that changes within the body render the teeth