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

A New Constitution

Today's selection of candidates for office again demonstrates the necessity of a constitutional convention which will return the government to the people.

The primary has been criticised, and it has its grave faults, but even at its worst, it is better than the best convention as a method of giving the people a chance to name their own candidates for office.

But not only in the primary, but in the election, government by the people is made impossible by the length of the ballot and the large number of elective offices.

Even the best intentioned citizens find it difficult to make a choice in so wide a field. The citizen with the selfish motive, the utility groups, the seekers for special privilege, those who want to use offices for graft and pillage find it much easier to write their ballots.

No citizen should vote for more than one representative in the lower house nor for more than one state senator if the theory of representative government is to be made a reality. When he has to pick eleven representatives and four senators, it means that he really picks none.

A new Constitution is needed and needed badly if the people ever hope to control their own government and not be at the continual mercy of professional politicians.

Democratic government has been destroyed by making a farce of democracy through its application to offices that should not be elective but appointive.

If the state ballot was limited to the election of a Governor and auditor and legislative offices to one representative from a definite and small district, the people could exercise better judgment and many of the present evils would be eliminated.

The short ballot must come or self-government goes.

The Real Confession

It is Uncle Sam, not Al Capone, who confesses as the gangster starts on his way to prison to serve eleven years.

Capone laughed at the law and grew rich by supplying other citizens who did not believe in a particular law with the means of satisfying their appetites.

It is true to say that if respectable citizens, those who engage in industry and commerce and finance, had not bought his liquor, Capone would have remained a poor thug, beaten by the cops, jailed for his brutality.

But because prohibition made vast profits possible, this Neanderthal became a power in politics, gave birth to police and federal agents, ruled with a machine gun and became a duke of America.

He could not have prospered without recognition from the rich and the powerful. He reduced murder to a pastime and bribery to a science.

But for none of these crimes is he being punished. He is sent to a prison cell for failing to divide the profits of his bootlegging, his vice, his dope, his murder, his blackmail, with the government.

Had he paid his income tax to Uncle Sam, he would be free and doing business as usual.

It is not a pretty picture. But it should cause some thought by those who really want this country to remain the land of the free under the law.

When the government is reduced to the sad expedient of sending to jail only those who refuse to pay taxes on the profits of crime, the people should ask themselves whether there is something to be done about it.

An American Tragedy

How can Henry Ford be a tragedy? He is a billionaire. He is by repute the master business genius of America. He is the idol of Russia. He long has been the symbol of enlightened capitalism.

According to Jonathan Leonard in "The Tragedy of Henry Ford" (Putnam, \$3), he is a tragedy for much the same reason that western civilization is tragic. Both combine oxcart ideas and ideals with an automobile and airplane technology.

Ford still lives intellectually and emotionally in the age of his youth. But he has done more than any other American to create the new America which he fears and detests. Leonard suggests that Ford even dislikes his cars after they have passed into the hands of others.

The whole spectacle of Ford's career is epitomized in his experience with the Wayside Inn. He bought this famous Massachusetts place and restored it to the bucolic character of Ford's early life. He then presented the state of Massachusetts with a million-dollar highway to keep the Fords and other cars away from the Wayside Inn.

As a business genius, Mr. Leonard points out that Ford hit upon a few basic ideas before others had been bright enough to grasp them, even though these notions were rather obvious. Ford's espousal of them does not so much reflect unique credit upon him as discredit upon his competitors. These conceptions were efficiency, mass production, standardization of product, high wages and the free advertising which goes with humanitarian gestures.

These things put into practice made Ford peerless in his field for a time. He was the real mogul of the Model T epoch. But this has passed and so has Ford's dominion, whatever his wealth and product today. People finally demanded not only a cheap car, but one which would run without endless putting and repairs.

The Dodge car supplied this need. Next there came a demand for diversity and beauty in cheaper cars. Competitors met this demand. When Ford capitulated and put his Model A on the market, it was too late, says Mr. Leonard, for him to recapture his fading hegemony in motordom. If he had made the change four years earlier, he would have taken on another acception of prestige sufficient to have hovered over him richly to the grave.

The greatest of the Ford tragedies is probably the collapse of his humanitarianism. His apologist, Mr. Marquis, once said: "The impression somehow has got around that Henry Ford is in the automobile business. Mr. Ford shoots about 1,500 cars out of the back door of his factory every day just to get rid of them."

"They are but the by-products of his real business—the making of men."

In the light of this assertion, Pages 229 to 239 of Mr. Leonard's book make very interesting and relevant reading.

The great speed under which men have to work, the fifteen minutes for lunch, the monotony of the work, the fatigue at the end of the day, the fear of the stool pigeons and spies in the service department at the shop, the inquisitorial snooping into the private life of workers after hours all tend to make the worker's existence a vast strain on his physical being and nervous system.

Moreover, of late years the hard times so have reduced the working period that even high daily wages

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Man Always Has Been the Creature of His Own Possibilities.

NEW YORK, May 3.—British

scientists split an atom. Eighteen Texans are charged with stealing oil in million-barrel lots.

The mayor of Pittsburgh faces trial on forty-five counts of malfeasance in office.

Canadian police subdue and corral a crowd of nudists by spraying them with itch powder.

Two orphans discover not only that they are heirs to \$500,000, but that they are relatives of Hindenburg.

Dr. William J. Humphreys of the United States weather bureau says that if the world's average temperature were to rise by two or three degrees, the ice cap would melt and many great cities be destroyed by the resultant flood.

But many never have been able to share in

approval of the ridicule heaped on Ford in connection with the peace ship, the Chicago Tribune suit relative to Ford's alleged anarchy, his ill-fated venture into anti-Semitism and his being outwitted in the Muscle Shoals episode.

From the record it seems that the country was spared much through being deprived of Mr. Ford's type of engineering genius in the White House. There is little evidence that he would have done better with the great engineer we did try.

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approval of the ridicule heaped on Ford in connection with the peace ship. History ultimately will brand this as one of the few rational moves during four years of world insanity.

France and the U. S. A.

The apparent victory of the left liberal groups in the French elections is a ray of hope in the otherwise dark international scene.

In Germany the drift is toward the reactionary right, with Hitler and his Fascists victorious in Prussia today and probably in the rest of the Reich soon.

In England, the tories rule behind the thin screen of a national coalition government and the powerless prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, who no longer represents labor.

In France the Tardieu government has co-operated with British tory policy in foreign affairs. The result has been a strong bloc of European powers aiding Japanese imperialism in the far east—at least to the extent of preventing the League of Nations from forming a united front with the United States to preserve the peace treaties in China and Manchuria against Japanese aggression.

Tardieu's government also has helped to prevent effective progress toward disarmament at the Geneva conference. It has delayed a settlement of the reparations issue. And it has tried to set its eastern European military satellites against Russia.

If Herriot and his group are as successful in the run-off elections next Sunday as in the first voting last Sunday, the Tardieu ministry is expected to fall and to be followed by a left liberal government.

It is true that their only hope consists in leaning on society and that a great crowd of individuals can do much, even though each individual does little.

It is not true that romance has been extracted from the moonlight, or that organized business leaves less room for an independent career.

It is true, however, that many people are infected with the notion that their only hope consists in leaning on society and that a great crowd of individuals can do much, even though each individual does little.

Even though foreign policy was not a major issue in the election, and even though there is no chance of the anticipated left government making fundamental changes in French foreign policy, Herriot, on the basis of his past performances, can be expected to modify the extremes of Tardieu imperialism.

Specifically, a left government in Paris would be more conciliatory toward Germany. That is a necessary atmosphere for successful reparations negotiations, upon which improvement in European political and economic conditions depend.

Effect of a change in French cabinets upon the world disarmament conference would be beneficial, at least to the extent of modifying the nationalistic attitudes and fears which now poison the Geneva air.

Whether a Herriot government would revert to the earlier Briand policy opposing Japanese imperialism, or would continue the virtual entente formed by Tardieu with the British tories and Japanese militarists, is too early to predict.

The new cabinet's far eastern policy, however, hardly could be worse than Tardieu's, and it probably would be better. The same is true regarding France's Russian policy.

Probably at no time since the World war has the international crisis been so grave as now, and at no time has France's political and economic power been greater.

It is difficult to see how international peace can be maintained and international prosperity revived unless French policy becomes more conciliatory.

From the American point of view, the most dangerous aspect of the entire situation is the apparent intention of France and Britain to isolate us in the far east—a setup which encourages further Japanese aggression and which easily might, in the end, lead to war with, with the United States holding the bag.

Therefore, American interests are involved vitally in the French election and any modification of French foreign policy which may result.

Both marriages and divorces are decreasing, the census bureau says. That's easy. It's a cinch you can't have divorces without marriages.

That man in Missouri who claims he is Jesse James shouldn't feel hurt at not getting much publicity. Jesse would be a lamb in wolves' clothing in these days.

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