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WHY THE MONTH?

Is it possible that one month more of prison will turn Theodore Luesse from a riot-inciting Communist into a conservative flag waver?

That would seem to be the explanation of the action of the prison farm board in chopping down his fine.

As a matter of law, Luesse is now in prison because he is broke and without funds. When arrested for making a speech at an eviction proceeding, he was taken to police court and sentenced to sixty days. That seemed to be the limit of his offense in the opinion of the city court.

He protested his innocence and appealed. When he got into the criminal court, the judge made a speech and Luesse was sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$500. His year sentence was served long since. For eight months or more he has been held because he could not pay the fine, working it out at a dollar a day. If he had been a dangerous gangster, he would have had money to pay the fine and would have been free months ago.

Governor Leslie refused to remit the fine on the theory that Luesse refused to recant his weird economic theories.

Now the board has consented to cut down the fine so that he can be free in one more month.

During that month he will, of course, reform. He will come out sweet and good natured. He will undoubtedly tell his friends of the beneficent law that gives freedom for money to those who can pay fines and gives jail to those who have not been thrifty or acquisitive.

Let it be hoped that in his reorganization plans, Governor McNutt will not overlook the I. Q. of members of a board which deals with human beings in this manner.

THE RIGHT OF CITIES

During the campaign, the successful party pledged itself to set the cities free in the matter of owning and operating their public utilities.

For years the utilities have always found the public service commission a good friend when the fixing of rates for city-owned plants was under consideration.

The rates were always higher than necessary.

The utilities can not stand the light of comparison with well managed public plants.

If there is to be any real advantage from public ownership it should come through furnishing service at the lowest possible cost to the domestic and industrial customer.

The progressive mayors of cities, especially those which own one or more utility plants, demanded that the cities have the right to fix their own rates.

That is the reasonable view. If a city has the capacity to operate such a plant, it should have the capacity to know how much should be charged for service.

Now it is proposed that cities can escape the regulation of the state only by a vote at an election.

If the citizens wish such regulation, they should have the right to get it by a vote. But it should not be thrust upon them and citizens put to the expense and trouble of an election to escape.

The utilities want the proposed plan. They would much rather take chances on exorbitant rates from a commission than they would from the real owners of municipal plants.

That the new commission, when organized, is expected to be free from the utility control that came with huge campaign contributions is beside the point. The principle is the same.

It may be said that the proposal is not a whole-hearted redemption of the fervent promises made before election. The cities must be really free to own, operate and manage their own affairs.

WHILE CONGRESS FIDDLERS

The folly of congress in delaying hunger relief is dangerous.

Only seventeen working days remain of the seventy-second congress in which to pass the La Follette-Costigan and Wagner bills. The former, carrying a \$500,000,000 appropriation for state grants for family and transient aid, is on the senate calendar. The Wagner work relief bill is not yet reported.

Every delay takes its toll in human misery. A half-million American families, social workers report, are being deprived of adequate food, clothing, and shelter. Thousands of children go to school hungry.

Diseases due to malnutrition are spreading. Semi-starvation," reports the joint committee on unemployment, "is sweeping across the country with the ravages of a plague in its wake." Many states and cities have exhausted their relief funds.

Now icy winter weather brings it new curse of suffering and death to the destitute.

In the face of such facts, what can be said of a congress that fritters away its few precious days in unproductive routine?

Relief can be voted quickly. Senator La Follette and his relief colleagues should take the floor and keep it until the money is voted. This should come before everything. Delay means starvation.

THE WORLD AND JAPAN

Despite the defiant attitude of her official spokesmen in Geneva and Tokio, the Japanese government should think twice before rejecting the league's demand to withdraw from conquest in Jehol and Manchuria.

In making these demands, the league's committee of nineteen in effect is speaking for the world—not only for league members, but also for Russia and the United States.

No one nation, however powerful, can defy the rest of the world and survive. She can do so for a while, but in the end she will find her position of isolation impossible.

In forming their unified front against Japan, the neutral nations are not acting in any hasty or partisan spirit. Japan has been given many months to recover sanity. Instead, she has continued and widened her conquest.

Neutral nations are concerned only mildly with what happens to Manchuria as such, either as to the welfare of the Manchurians or the loss of neu-

tral trade which has resulted from Japanese dictatorship.

The issue for the neutral nations goes much deeper than that. The choice for them is whether they shall permit Japan to scrap the world treaty machinery, or whether they shall save that machinery. Self-interest dictates that the neutral nations go to war with the treaty breaker, Japan. That is not contemplated, and should not be. They can save the treaties by showing that they themselves respect the facts sufficiently to withhold diplomatic recognition and economic and financial support from the violated territory.

Events are working for the neutral nations against Japanese militarism. Internally, Japan is weakened by the strain of war expense and sacrifice; wars breed revolution. In Manchuria, Japan has conquered only in name; as long as she remains, she must wage virtually continuous war to keep down the revolting patriots.

Meanwhile, she is provoking her two giant neighbors, China and Russia, to prepare for war against her.

All that the neutral nations have to do is to keep their own record straight in peaceful enforcement of the treaties—and wait. Time will bring Japan to her senses.

EMERGENCY FARM RELIEF

"Senate," says a headline, "to concentrate on emergency farm relief."

That means that a senate subcommittee on banking and currency has made the only intelligent decision: To report some emergency bill to ease the farm mortgage debt burden, rather than to try to write and report a full-bodied measure within three weeks. Permanent relief must wait for the new congress.

From a senate sub-committee to the White House for signature is a long and rocky road for any bill, especially in the closing days of this last lame duck session.

However, if senate Democratic leaders actually want to do something for farmers who are about to lose their farms and homes through foreclosures, and if house Democratic leaders have the same desire, there isn't the least doubt that such bill as the senate now is "concentrating" on could be passed by the new congress.

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Obviously, it's time to act; and if congress wants to act, it can do so quickly.

MR. FORD IN REVERSE

Mr. Henry Ford proposes to make little factories out of big ones and scatter them over the United States. There now are 5,300 manufacturers making Ford parts. There ought to be 50,000, says Mr. Ford.

He foresees an early scrapping of his River Rouge plant, the world's most elaborate factory, and farming out much of its work to the thousands of small plants.

The new and little Ford plants will be built in rural communities where power is available. Workers can live on small farms and raise their food. The Ford idea goes even farther. It contemplates "growing" Fords on the farms.

Auto bodies can be made from the cellulose of corn stalks, steering wheels from soy beans.

Has this master mechanic of the world of bolts and human robots come to realize that a civilization separated from the soil is doomed? Does he feel, with so many others, that we have reached the point of diminishing returns in our skyscraping cities?

The Ford plan of decentralization seems to fit into the ideal of President-Elect Roosevelt for a new type of American community, one half-rural, half-industrial.

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Just Plain Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

America's embattled farmers have not yet fired their second shot destined to be "heard round the world," but it may be that their localized revolts against foreclosures will mark the beginning of a new epoch in history.

One of these occurred in a community in Oklahoma where I once lived. It was at that time the stamping ground of Kansas-bred farmers, all of whom had been reared in the traditions of Appomattox and the sacredness of the protective tariff.

The members of the Grand Army of the Republic are timid. A woman is more reckless, particularly when she cares about something.—Edna St. Vincent Millay, poetess.

Unless proselytizing disappears from intercollegiate football, the game will be dead ten years, or else frankly in college, as a professional sport.—Professor Philip Badger of New York university.

There is nothing particularly fanciful in finding a present-day text in this scriptural story. One need not be a prophet like Ezekiel to see with his own eyes that we have not yet even begun to call upon the winds from all the quarters of the world to complete the task of animation.

In those deep-set eyes that never fail, in the suggestion of a smile that has tears in it, in features marked by the signs of hard struggle, the sight of high resolve and the wonder of pity, we see what America is, what it means, and what has made it.

For Lincoln embodied the genius of our country as no one else has done, uniting the sagacity of Benjamin Franklin and the sensitive sympathy of John Woolman. With a mind relentless in truth, he gained a heart limitless in charity, and this union of mind and heart has made him a star to follow, a type of that to which men would entrust their very souls.

Chaperons can not take the place of character.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President-elect.

Prachers are talking about moral questions without knowing what the word moral means.—Clarence Darrow, Chicago attorney and agnostic.

In Valley of Dry Bones

No doubt a fierce light beat down upon that white fragment, so that the white fragments seemed almost to dance before the prophet, but with his own eyes he saw them rise up and come together. Not till then was it possible to call upon the winds from all the quarters of the world to complete the task of animation.

Whether in the home or in the church, exhortation to goodness is about the most idle waste of breath. People do not want exhortations. They want examples.—The Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of Riverside church, New York.

My philosophy is to enjoy all good things on this earth. Don't miss anything, but be moderate in every respect; then you will live long and be happy.—Dr. Adolf Hitler, 78, noted Viennese surgeon.

Individuals who die exist no more than they did before they began life; no more than they did before the species to which they belong had been produced in evolution.—Professor Herbert S. Jennings, geneticist of Johns Hopkins University.

Men are timid. A woman is more reckless, particularly when she cares about something.—Edna St. Vincent Millay, poetess.

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They may be responsible for suffering and disability and, by interfering with work and with creation, make life distressful.

The pain itself is not so significant as the details of its nature.

In other words, exactly where is the pain felt? Does it move about? Is it constant or does it come and go?

It is true that these old faithfuls, Kansas born and Republican bred, are not so vigorous as they once were. They are aged and broken and ruined by the very powers they so long have defended: victims of the precious tariffs at whose shrines they have worshipped; dupes of the patronage system they have shouted to encourage.

All of which merely proves that men essentially are the same. Take his ham away from a Republican and he becomes as radical as any "red."

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Another Reconstruction Corporation Here



It Seems to Me by Heywood Broun

IT is written in the Book of the

Prophecy Ezekiel in the thirty-seventh chapter that the hand of the Lord was upon him and set him down in the middle of a valley which was full of bones. And the prophet observed: "There were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry."

And the Lord said unto him, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And Ezekiel answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest."

Then did God cry out in a loud voice that these fragments should live again and breathe. "There was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together." Before the astonished eyes of Ezekiel "the flesh came up upon them."

"But," adds Ezekiel, "there was no breath in them."

"Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God: Come from the four winds. O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army."

It is a fact neither rudely masculine nor softly feminine, but something in it makes one think of

the mother and the boy behind the man, giving us a glimpse of what life means, of what lies hidden in the hearts of the lowliest, of the worth and dignity of all noble human living.

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