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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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CANCER GERMS

UPSETTING to conventional ideas about cancer is the announcement from the National Institute of Health of the United States public health service stating that Drs. T. J. Glover and J. L. Engle have produced cancers in a guinea pig through use of germ cultures from a human breast cancer case.

This may prove to be the most important news of the year. It is certain that the claims of these two physicians, not government scientists, but using Uncle Sam's facilities with the kindly co-operation of the public health service scientists, will meet with opposition from other cancer researchers and practitioners.

It is important that such experiments be checked and rechecked by independent experiments. But from such research beginnings have come the conquest of other dread diseases of the human race.

As yet there is no hope for cancer cure or treatment resulting from this work by Drs. Glover and Engle. Cancer patients only will waste time and money by bothering them.

Probably there are several different kinds of cancer. The Glover-Engle discovery may mean that one kind of cancer is germ-borne and possibly communicable.

But it is much too early to draw conclusions. We only can hope for fruitful results from the beginnings made.

LABOR LEADERSHIP

SIGNIFICANT of the changing spirit of America is the labor conference in Washington called by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins.

Through such representatives as Sidney Hillman, Donald Richberg, William Green, A. F. Whitney, John P. Frey and others consulted by the administration, 30,000,000 wage earners have become vocal. Out of these official conferences should evolve a vital American labor program, not only for emergency relief, but for basic reform.

Here union labor speaks to its government not as an outside pleader, but as friend and co-worker. So far, President Roosevelt's program, except in minor details, has been labor's. He backed direct federal relief grants and won the forestation project.

Now he is studying the practical aspects of united labor's demand for a great public works program, coupled with the shorter week plan to absorb the millions of unemployed and prime the pump of industry through resumption of buying.

Agreed are both labor and the administration that emergency measures will not suffice. "The time has passed," Secretary Perkins told the sixty-five labor men, "for the government to sponsor negative and static labor policies. What is needed is a positive and dynamic program."

The spokesmen for some 5,000,000 workers have agreed on the general lines of this dynamic program.

The rail brotherhoods and the American Federation of Labor proposed: Federal hunger relief up to one billion dollars; labor representation on all relief boards; a public works program of possibly \$5,000,000,000, to be supplemented by federal loans to localities for self-liquidating projects, like slum clearance; minimum wage laws for women and minors and general wage increases; unemployment insurance by states and Wagner federal aid bill for such insurance; child labor abatement; mortgage relief for workers' homes, 90 per cent of which are mortgaged; immigration restriction; federal bank control; protection of education; Black-Connery thirty-hour week bill; national economic planning.

Particularly significant is the Hillman plan. "It is necessary, as a measure serving the interests of the whole public in this emergency," in the judgment of his group, "to establish control over wages, hours, and labor conditions on a nation-wide scale.

We, therefore, recommend that the President, as an essential part of his emergency program, call upon congress for immediate enactment of legislation which shall require the secretary of labor to establish a labor board in any industry in which he shall deem it necessary to do so."

The advantage of this plan is that it would restore mass purchasing power, which now is desired by enlightened employers, but blocked by sweat shop competition.

Restoration of buying power is the issue—for labor, the farmer, the professional man, the business man, for everybody.

A MENACE TO THE CITY

A MENACE from which the city has been virtually free for months again is assuming serious proportions. It is the menace of the mentally deficient man or woman who turns in false alarms of fire.

Four false alarms were turned in on the north side early Friday morning. The first was at Forty-sixth and Guilford; the second, Park and Thirty-sixth; the third at Park and Thirty-second, and the last at Thirty-third and Illinois. Two young men, questioned, were released.

Several fire companies and police squads rushed at top speed from the scene of the first alarm to the second, third, and fourth.

The cost of this useless and perilous endeavor mounted into hundreds of dollars. Scores of sleeping residents were awakened. Lives of policemen and firemen were periled.

No man who is fully sane will turn in a false fire alarm. Any sane person easily can visualize the appalling tragedy that might result. One need only recall the crash of Nov. 1, 1931, in which Lieutenant Lewis Stanley was killed at Sixteenth and Central and several others injured, to realize what can happen.

The city council, on Nov. 16, 1931, passed an ordinance which provided a maximum penalty of \$300 fine and a maximum six-month sen-

tence in jail for any one convicted of turning in a false alarm.

The maximum penalty should be imposed by any court before which the offender appears. Every citizen should consider it his duty to report any suspicion to the police.

The man who turns in a false alarm ranks near the No. 1 berth among the city's public enemies. He should be scotched mercilessly.

STORIES OF ATROCITIES

THESE stories of anti-Jewish atrocities on the part of the Hitler government in Germany are dreadful—if they are true; but it might be the part of wisdom for us to reserve decision on them for a little while until we get a better idea which tales are based on substantial facts and which ones are pure rumor.

A little more than fifteen years ago we had another crop of atrocity stories from Germany. We went for them hook, line, and sinker at that time—and have been ashamed of our credulity ever since. We don't want to make the same mistake twice.

That the American people sharply will condemn any government which persecutes helpless minorities goes without saying. But we might do well to defer the condemnation until all the returns are in.

REPAIR THE ROOF

THOUGH the New York legislature may not know it, other states will be influenced by its action on the pending unemployment insurance bills. Unless the nation's largest, richest, and most progressive industrial state is prepared to go forward with compulsory reserves to combat future unemployment, the national movement for this essential reform will slow down.

The issue is insurance versus charity. It is not a question of whether money will be provided for the jobless. It is a question of how the money shall be provided.

Americans should be the last people in the world to need persuasion that insurance is the better way, and the more honorable way.

In fact, most Americans are persuaded of the necessity and justice of compulsory state unemployment insurance. This applies not only to labor and social workers, but also to the desire of leading employers.

The Governor and his party are committed definitely. But the danger is that the pressure of other legislation and administrative matters will crowd out this measure.

We do not profess to pass upon the relative merits of the Wisconsin or Ohio plans, or of the several bills now before the New York legislature. There is room for honest disagreement over the details.

Those who would postpone actual payments by industry until the unemployment and pay roll indexes register substantial improvement have a right to be heard.

But that New York and other states should pass compulsory unemployment insurance laws of some kind now while the storm is upon us, without waiting for the sunshine to make us forget to repair the roof, is clear to all who remember our fatal inaction in other depressions.

JAPANESE FEAR OF AMERICA

ONE of the oldest of all axioms is that there are two sides to every question.

Somehow, too, it is the first thing that gets forgotten when relations between two great powers become strained. Each side can see only its own interpretation of things.

Misunderstanding feeds upon its own fruits, grows as it feeds—and presently leads the two nations to a position where war is more than possible.

For this reason every American ought to ponder over the interview given in New York recently by Yosuke Matsuoka, the Japanese statesman.

Mr. Matsuoka remarked bluntly that his people are quite as disturbed by the "American menace" as we ourselves are by the "yellow peril."

He pointed out that while Japan has no fortifications or naval bases in American waters, we have some in far eastern waters, almost under Japan's doorsill.

He pointed out that for twenty-five years prominent Americans have written books and made speeches calling on the nation to get ready for war with Japan. And he added:

"We always have known that we had no capacity to wage war successfully against the richest and the most secure nation in the world. We therefore—we as a whole—have been given to believe that your arguments about your 'necessities for defense' against a Japanese danger had design behind them.

"At times, and not far distant times, you spoke in terms, and displayed naval force in the Pacific, that caused our people no little anxiety.

"It will take more than a statement that you are concerned mainly with maintaining anti-war machinery to allay our popular anxiety."

All of this is both surprising and enlightening.

We always have looked on ourselves as a peace-loving nation faced, in the Pacific, by a designing, hard-boiled, and militaristic power—Japan—from whom almost anything might be expected.

And now it develops that the Japanese feel that the exact reverse of all this is true. We fear what they may do, they fear what we may do—and misunderstanding and suspicion increase year by year.

There are two sides to every question. It is a good thing that we are able, at this stage of the game, to get a look at Japan's side.

TOM MOONEY'S NEW TRIAL

SO Tom Mooney is at last to have his day in court! What the upshot of this surprising new development in this famous long-drawn-out case may be is beyond telling.

That it will be next to impossible for the prosecution to gain a conviction seems obvious; but whether such a result would bring a pardon for the charge on which the man is now in prison is not at all certain.

A pardon for Tom Mooney has, in the past, seemed to be one of those things which are theoretically possible, but practically unattainable.

It would be well, meanwhile, for friends of the prisoner to remember that right now they can do him more harm than good. By keeping his case alive they have done him a great service; by agitating too fervently, now that he has won a victory, they can—so perverse is human nature—cause a revulsion of feeling that would make his release more implorable than it was before.

JUSTIFIABLE OPTIMISM

THAT the new feeling of optimism prevalent in this country is shared by impartial observers overseas is made evident by a speech recently delivered in the house of commons by Neville Chamberlain, chancellor of the exchequer for the British government.

"Looking over the world," says Mr. Chamberlain, "one can see indications that the industrial situation is likely to improve within the next few months.

"A few weeks ago any one looking at the situation in the United States could have done so only with a feeling of gravest anxiety. Today, thanks to the initiative, courage, and wisdom of the President, a change has taken place which is almost miraculous."

Our optimism seems to be justified. We aren't out of the woods, of course—not by a long shot. But we are, at last, on the way.

BUILDING UP BUYING POWER

JAMES D. TEW, president of the B. F. Goodrich Rubber Company, has issued a statement declaring that as an industrialist he heartily is supporting President Roosevelt's farm bill.

The interesting thing about this is that Mr. Tew's rubber company uses vast quantities of cotton, and will find its manufacturing expenses greatly increased if the bill boosts the price of cotton as the administration expects it to do.

"We feel very strongly," says Mr. Tew, "that in the interest of the farmers and the welfare of the country as a whole, it is our duty to forget selfish interests and back up wholeheartedly the efforts of our President in restoring stability to the economic life of the nation."

For this project cuts both ways. It might boost the prices of raw materials, but if it did it would also add greatly to the farmer's purchasing power; and Mr. Tew and his brother industrialists might discover that if their operating expenses rose their sales would rise even more rapidly.

CLEARING THE AIR

A BRIEF dispatch from New York the other day read as follows:

"Major W. E. Gladstone Murray of the British Broadcasting Corporation arrived today aboard the liner Majestic en route to Canada, where he will aid in reorganizing Canadian broadcasting along the lines of the British system, which bars advertising."

The average American radio fan, reading this, is likely to murmur, "Lucky Britishers—and Lucky Canada!" and to wonder, idly and wishfully, if it wouldn't be possible to bring Major Murray south of the international line for a while, after he gets through with his job in the Dominion, which, after April 1, will limit advertising to 5 per cent of the broadcasting period.

Bernard Shaw said the other day he'd always known the American people were deaf and dumb. We were dumb enough to read more of Shaw's books than any other country, but we'd be glad to have him give our ears a good rest now.

New York Police Commissioner Mulrooney expresses surprise that so many New York girls carry guns. Well, they've been carrying powder for a good many years.

Bank advertisers that it still is a good idea to put something away for a rainy day. We agree. We're saving up for that summer vacation, too.

A banker not only may be down, but these days some of them are out.

Time, tide and President Roosevelt wait for no man.

M. E. Tracy Says:

ACCORDING to Mr. Matsuoka, "the territorial integrity of China," as assumed by the nine-power pact, is a fiction.

Well, we guess it is, and we guess that the independence of Manchukuo, as advertised by Japan, also is a fiction.

Indeed, there would appear to be quite a few fictions with regard to the Far Eastern situation, for some of which neither China nor Japan is responsible.

How else, for instance, can the idea that the western world ever intended to do anything about it be described?

No doubt, men always have dwelt in an atmosphere of dreams, but they seem to have lived in it with peculiar tenseness and glibility during the last fifteen years.

There is the German republic going to smash in spite of all the high hopes, and the Russian republic going right on in spite of all the depressing prophecies.

THERE is the League of Nations, an admitted reality, but apparently doomed to lose a member every time it attempts to settle a hot argument.

There is the Monroe Doctrine, which we Americans regard as sacred for the western hemisphere, but insist that no other government or section of the world has a right to copy.

There is the notion that trade can be stimulated by tariffs and that as long as we refuse to call it war we maintain peace, no matter how many people we kill or how much property we destroy.

There is the belief that outsiders can make a government do what they want, if they express themselves vociferously enough.

But why on? We have speculated and failed, the trouble being that we started out to pre-empt certain theories instead of making experiments.

Fiction or reality, we have assumed certain things to be so, regardless of what human experience seemed to indicate.

China was to be loved, coddled, and protected as the good kid, no matter how wildly she ran amuck.

By the same token, Japan has been looked upon as the bad kid, largely because of her brightness and ambition.

ALL nations were willing to "uphold" the integrity of China provided it did not cost them too much, but there was selfishness, as well as dumbness, in their attitude.

To begin with, each was afraid that some of the others might get too big a slice of China if she fell apart, while all were intrigued by the ease with which she could be brow-beaten and exploited as long as she remained intact.

When China became a republic, the western world calmly closed its eyes to reality and joined in a glad chorus of jubilation around the fiction of a new world.

China would be able to throw off a pre-Christian form of government and become just like the most modern democracy over night, because she was lovable and accommodating.

Isn't It About Spring Housecleaning Time?

