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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1933.

SECRETARY PERKINS LEADS

NOW that inflation is in the offing, quick passage of the short work week and minimum wage bill is more necessary than ever. Just as labor suffered first and worst in the deflation period, so labor will be the last to profit by inflation.

In the past the lag between the rise in prices and in wages has been about two and a half years. Unless that lag can be prevented this time, mass purchasing power will not be increased rapidly enough to lift us out of depression.

As Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins Tuesday told the house committee in her testimony favoring the bill, the object of this legislation is to spread purchasing power. Those who expect inflation to bring prosperity without a companion measure of this kind forget that increased efficiency of industry and displacement of men by machines has resulted in an estimated excess labor supply of about four million.

That is to say, even if industry were suddenly to revive to the 1929 level, we still would have a serious "permanent" unemployment problem.

The only way to solve this problem is by spreading the work among a larger number of workers. It is the share-the-work idea which has been approved by so many thousands of employers throughout the country.

But, as we have learned by experience, unfortunately the share-the-work plan becomes merely a share-the-misery system, unless unscrupulous employers are prevented from making low wages lower.

Without the minimum wage, the basic purpose of the legislation from the employer's point of view; namely, to increase mass buying power and thus revive and stabilize business, is defeated.

All this was explained in the vigorous testimony of Secretary Perkins. She speaks not only out of her own long experience as an expert in labor and industrial problems. She speaks also for the business leaders who have appealed to the administration for protection against sweatshop competition in many industries, which rapidly is driving reputable companies into bankruptcy.

Of course there are short-sighted business men who oppose this legislation, just as there are ignorant and selfish bankers who have obstructed the Roosevelt bank reform program. But in neither case should ignorance, prejudice, and fear be allowed to block the nation's progress up and out of depression. The only employers who will be hurt by this legislation are the sweatshops. It will drive them out of business. That will restore honest competition for the employer who pays decent wages.

Mass buying power can not be created merely by inflation, controlled or otherwise. After the country gets more and cheaper dollars, there still will be the problem of getting those dollars into general circulation.

That must mean larger pay rolls. The short work week and minimum wage bill prepared by Secretary Perkins not only is to safeguard labor, but also to protect employers from suicidal competition.

A CLEANUP IN SIGHT

I DON'T care who this investigation hits. We intend to get to the bottom of this receivership."

This declaration of Circuit Judge Earl Cox, in the State Savings and Trust case, is the first statement of hope given thousands of depositors in defunct banks of the city in more than two years.

Secrecy and apparent inaction which has marked the receiverships of the closed institutions has been a blight on the city and has intensified the depression for many who saw their savings of years vanish overnight, as doors of the banks clanged shut.

Now they can begin to hope again. If there is any chance for even small dividends out of the wreckage, this investigation should reveal it. If there has been crookedness in conduct of former officers or receivers or their attorneys, the inquiry should bare it and bring swift punishment to the offenders.

Justice has lagged sadly. Three years have gone by since some of the banks closed. Judge Cox is showing the way to action. If there is to be a thorough investigation and a grand jury inquiry, as intimated, it will be up to the judge of the criminal court and the prosecutor to give whole-hearted aid to Judge Cox.

If the matter is allowed to languish and die, it will be a blot on justice in Marion county.

COMMUNITY FUNDS

COMMUNITY FUNDS and other charity financing organizations throughout the country very properly will be thoughtful over the fact that Cincinnati's fund campaign, one of the very few conducted at this time of year, has got off to the poorest start of its history.

It is well known now that tax funds and not the community funds are feeding the hungry. Sound effort to make people understand the supplementary job of private social work has been too largely suspended. It has been the easy way to go after money on an appeal for the hungry and the sick.

It is much harder to make people understand that vital supplementary problems of care of the aged, of the mentally incompetent, of the poorly socialized, of the orphan and the deserted widow, of the undernourished and the debilitated, lie almost as close to the heart of a sound society as to actual feeding, clothing, and housing of the needy.

Re-education of the people in these essential social services will have to be carried out

POSSIBLE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

ADVISES close to the President have reported that if Russia is recognized, Professor Jerome Davis of Yale university may be sent there as ambassador. Who is Jerome Davis and what are his qualifications?

He is one of the foremost experts on Russian affairs in the United States. While the czar still was in power, he went to Russia along with Ambassador Francis, who had been appointed by President Wilson. Dr. Davis immediately was placed in charge of all prisoners of war in Turkestan.

While there he became acquainted with General Kuropatkin, commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the Japanese war of 1904. Finding that the soldiers were treated miserably, Dr. Davis secured the permission of the general to open a Y. M. C. A. unit.

After the revolution and while Kerensky was in power, President Wilson sent the Root diplomatic mission to Russia. This commission came in contact with some of the soldiers, who were loud in their praises of the work of Dr. Davis in Turkestan. The Root mission immediately wired him to come to St. Petersburg. He was placed in charge of all Y. M. C. A. work in Russia.

His work in establishing Y. M. C. A. huts along 1,500 miles of battle front was so completely acceptable that Secretary of War Newton D. Baker asked him to remain in Russia for duration of the conflict. Although he was opposed to Communism, the value of his work was recognized even by the Bolsheviks. Lenin personally gave him an autographed photograph.

After the armistice, Dr. Davis returned to the United States, speaking widely against further intervention in Russian affairs. He believed that this military adventure could not be successful and merely would create and validate claims against the United States government at international law.

At the time this position demanded great courage, for public opinion was hostile to an impartial analysis of the Russian situation. History, however, completely has vindicated his attitude.

Because of his command of the Russian language and his knowledge of Russian affairs, he was appointed by the Inter-Church World Movement to make a study of the Russians in the United States. His findings were published in two volumes, "The Russian Immigrant" and "The Russians and Ruthenians in the United States."

In 1921, at the time of the famine, Dr. Davis proposed that America extend relief to the starving peoples of Russia. Various business leaders declared that much relief would be unacceptable to Lenin.

Dr. Davis made an emergency trip to Russia, found that the American relief would be welcomed, and reported back to Secretary Hoover.

Beginning in 1921, Dr. Davis joined the department of sociology at Dartmouth college. In 1924 he was called to the chair of practical philanthropy at Yale university, where he has been ever since.

In the summer of 1928 he went to Russia as correspondent for the Hearst press, being one of the first Americans to have an extended interview with Stalin.

In 1927, after attending the meetings of the International Chamber of Commerce at Stockholm, Dr. Davis flew into Russia with Edward A. Filene, well-known business leader of Boston. At this time he interviewed Stalin for five hours and syndicated a series of articles for the N. E. A. newspaper service in America.

Because of his knowledge of Russian affairs, he has done extensive expert consultative work on Russia and has contributed the yearly article on Russia for the annual of the Encyclopedia Americana. He also has addressed the national meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science in 1924, 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1931, usually on Russian problems or issues related thereto.

In 1932 he was chosen to head a distinguished group of social scientists visiting Russia. They traveled more than 8,000 miles in Russia, going freely wherever they wished.

A TRIBUTE TO ACTION

OUT of the mouth of a staunch Republican and a former Hoover appointee comes about the best tribute we have seen to the Rooseveltian philosophy of action and experimentation as contrasted with the rigidity that characterized the preceding administration.

Charles A. Miller, former president of the R. F. C., says:

Even the impending inflation, which seems to be necessary rather than voluntary, may turn out to be a good thing, in spite of our old and conservative economic notions.

If the new radical school of economic thought can get us into a worse scrape than the old-fashioned conservative did, I shall be surprised. Our economic future is in our own hands.

A courageous leader can do more for us than all the wisdom of the economists, and we seem to have one.

It is our duty to give Roosevelt loyal backing and not to expect miracles from him. He may make mistakes, but still we must back him up. The only way to be sure of avoiding mistakes in this crisis is to do nothing, which would be the greatest mistake of all.

THE MOONEY TRIAL

BUT for its serious implications, the second trial of Tom Mooney in San Francisco would be a Gilbert & Sullivan burlesque. It is a trial without a real prosecution, without state evidence worthy the name.

On suggestion of an honest San Francisco judge and at Mooney's request, the state is retrying Mooney on the last undisputed indictment of seventeen years ago. A verdict of acquittal will not free the famous prisoner. It only will publicize the great wrong he has suffered through these years of imprisonment.

How flimsy was the state's case against Mooney and Billings in 1916 is shown by the attitude of District Attorney Brady, the present prosecutor. Mr. Brady is unfriendly to the trial because he believes Mooney innocent.

He indicates he will not even present the transcript of the state's old case. Being a prosecutor, he is loath to go on trial without a case.

Mooney was convicted on the word of one man. The judge and jury in the first trial now admit that had not Frank C. Oxman appeared at the eleventh hour with his eyewitness story, Mooney never would have been found guilty. That the late "honest cattleman" has gone to his reward is immaterial to the case; his testimony today would be worthless.

Even former Governor Young, who denied Mooney a pardon, called Oxman "nothing

more than a publicity-seeking romancer," who was ninety miles from the scene of the crime he professed to have seen. The other state witnesses either have confessed or lied themselves out of the picture.

Some day Mooney will be freed, whether by United States supreme court order or by pardon from a new Governor. It is important for California and America that the state courts pave the way by writing Mooney down on their books as guiltless.

NO POLITICS IN SCIENCE

POLITICAL appointments should play no part in the conduct of the scientific bureaus of the federal government.

When President Roosevelt nominated Dr. Lyman J. Briggs to the directorship of the national bureau of standards, repeating a Hoover nomination unconfirmed by the lame duck senate, he heartened the intellectual world.

Whether Dr. Briggs is a Republican or a Democrat is unknown and unasked at the White House. In fact, Dr. Briggs does not know himself. His job is science, not politics.

In the famous "patronage handbook," which, pursuant to congressional request, listed the noncivil service jobs in the government, the following were listed as potential plums: Surgeon-general of the public health service, commissioner and deputy commissioner of fisheries, commissioner of patents, director of bureau of mines, director of coast and geodetic survey, chief of the weather bureau, director of geological survey.

Great confidence will be created by President Roosevelt if steps are taken to continue in office the efficient nonpolitical incumbents and then insure adequate scientific and intellectual qualifications of future bureau heads by placing them under civil service, just as is the case with most of the scientific bureau heads of the department of agriculture.

A THIEF'S MISTAKE

THERE always is something funny about the errors of a law-breaker; and in these days of weighty problems it is rather refreshing to read of the lamentable mistake made by a thief in Mineola, Long Island.

This chap was out to swipe some young cedar trees from a roadside nursery. He was to grab them, a friend was to drive up in his car, he was to jump in with the trees, and they were to speed away.

It worked out—so the robber thought—just fine. He grabbed the trees and ran to the curb. A car slowed up, he flagged it, jumped in, dumped the trees in the back seat, barked "Step on it, Joe!"—and then discovered that he had, by mistake, climbed right into a police squad car.

The gentleman is now in jail, meditating on his mistake.

Conductor Stokowski has presented a concert by an invisible orchestra. All right for music lovers, but how about us fellows who keep awake at concerts only by keeping our eye glued on the kettle-drummer?

University of California scientists achieved a temperature of 459.1 below zero. They can get a still worse one if they will put a thermometer beside Mrs. Ella Boole while she reads reports of the success of the 3.2 beer.

Don't know how Premier MacDonald and President Roosevelt will get along, but as for Herriot, we presume he can be depended upon to be quite franc.

Two-thirds of the human body is water, says a medical report. Some smart fellow will probably have it incorporated any day now, and sell stock.

M. E. Tracy Says:

ON April 23, 1616, a fairly prominent and substantial citizen died at Stratford-on-Avon. The town was duly shocked, but not unduly impressed.

Mr. Shakespeare always had paid his bills promptly, lived well, and minded his own business. His business, however, was something of a mystery to the home folk and had kept him in London most of the time until recent years.

It had to do with play-writing and play-acting, the neighbors told each other in a hazy sort of way, and they wondered how he could have made so much money at it.

Well, the big-wigs were pretty liberal toward those who furnished them entertainment, and Mr. Shakespeare must have made quite a bit with them. It wasn't every man who could retire at 50 and take it easy. Must be something to this theater game, after all.

Had any of them read, or seen Mr. Shakespeare's plays? A few, perhaps, but not many, and those few hadn't found much to rave about.

It took a century for even the best minds to discover that a genius had been on earth, and still another century for the world to make constructive use of his work.

And now he is going out of date again, as part of the ages which modern machinery has made obsolete.

We are all for expertness these days, with slight regard for anything which can't be reduced to a set of rules. We don't care for philosophy, unless it can be stated in formulae or enforced by statute, or for psycho-analysis, unless it can be bought for so much a consultation.

Like Beethoven's music, Mr. Shakespeare's work is too involved.

We want things made plain and snappy. The ignorance of the mid-Victorian era, when they read Shakespeare, makes us laugh. We are enlightened, you understand, even if we do lack sense to govern ourselves and find it necessary to reinvoke state paternalism.

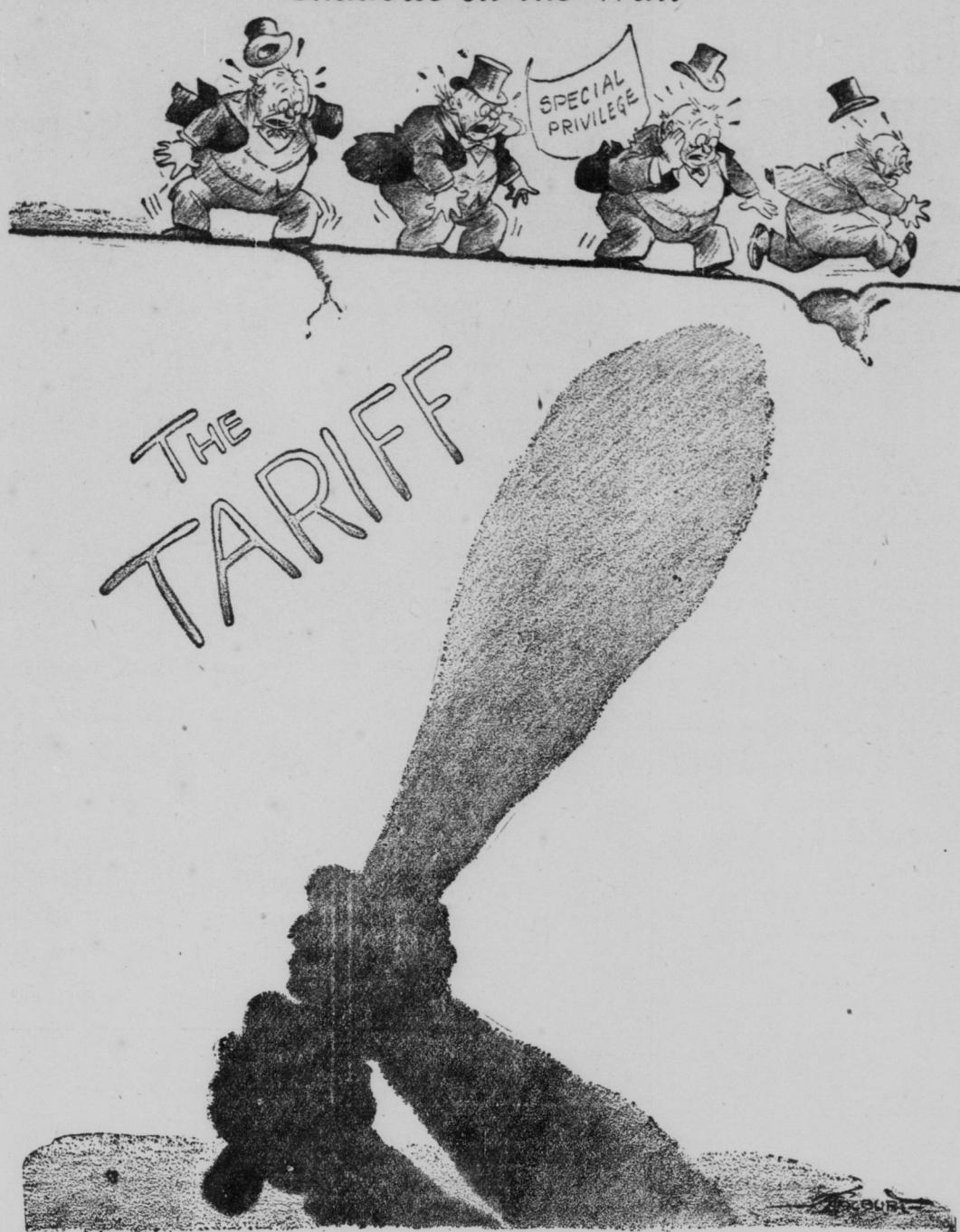
We acknowledge that Mr. Shakespeare was a great man in his time, but times have changed. How could a man who never drove an automobile know much about human character?

Why, we can carry one voice to half the world, and with that triumph, who cares what the voice has to say?

OUR ideas are being translated into power, speed, and noise. If that is not enough, we'll translate them into dictatorship.

Mr. Shakespeare was the first great apostle of individual thinking, but how can we tolerate individualism and regulate traffic?

Shadows on the Wall



The Message Center

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By Subscriber.

Your taxpayer of April 24 said some pretty harsh things about Governor Olsen, but I doubt whether they will be very effective from this distance.

Then Mr. Taxpayer gets on the great, unwashed horde. What a name for millions of unfortunate. We will grant him a few who just won't work and still have plenty of deserving poor. If there is a prize for selfishness and intolerance, it should be his. I suggest a Christian's head on a golden platter as appropriate.

One of the reasons that the great horde is unwashed is that they have been cheated out of their share of soap by "thrifty" and not too honest people.

Mr. Taxpayer, for your vacation this summer, allow me to suggest a trip to the Chinese war zone. Among this great, unwashed horde you will find untold misery, maimed and dying men, perhaps brought on by somebody's thrift. You should be delighted.

By F. J. Rogers.

A recent letter in your columns signed "Disgusted," speaking of the "basket stuffs," seems to me a particularly short sighted and vicious attack on a large number of our citizens who merely are victims of a system.

There may be abuses here and there in the administration of poor relief, but the same as in our government mail subsidies and other treasury grabs, but no reasoning person can draw general conclusions from specific instances. No doubt

Alcohol May Benefit or Harm User

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

chemists, pharmacologists and others, went over the thousands of remedies that are available in the United States Pharmacopoeia and in the National Formulary, and selected 200 to which the name "Useful Drugs" should be applied.

In this book it is pointed out that alcohol is used externally to harden and cleanse the skin; its astringent action permits it to serve as a counterirritant.

The fact that alcohol is strongly antiseptic in concentration of 70 per cent, gives it a high usefulness in surgery.

Internally, according to "Useful Drugs," alcohol acts as a narcotic; excessive doses depress and paralyze the central nervous system.

On the other hand, small doses of alcohol or alcoholic liquors produce the state of euphoria that has been mentioned.

When a small dose is taken into

on charity makes the taxpayer pay industry's wages.

Mr. "Disgusted" should note that he and other taxpayers are paying for industry's follies. The recipients of charity are not at fault, according to the well informed.

Abraham Lincoln stated in a message to congress on Dec. 3, 1861, "Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and never could have existed if labor had not existed first. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration."

Only the Socialists and other Leftists are aware of this today. Men conquer nature. May he not conquer man-made environment, frozen into institutions? What man has done, man may do. The deliverers from this chaos must be the producing masses of hand and brain, augmented by the aristocrats of heart and mind, who see and feel the suicidal folly of "our betters."

Men must be given the right to work and only those men who produce should share the wealth thus created.

So They Say

A few years ago any one who had a pair of white spats and a love nest on Park avenue could become a banker.—F. H. La Guardia, former congressman.

Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, not even to profit by it, but to cause it.—The Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

the body, the breathing rate is slightly stimulated, the blood vessels are dilated, and the circulation modified.

Alcohol also is burned in the body and serves to a restricted extent as a source of energy.

There are many records of experiments which indicate that alcohol in large doses taken over long periods of time may be harmful.

Because of its effect on the nervous system, it may have a detrimental effect on precise mental operations, such as are involved in typewriting or target shooting.

However, the depression or inhibition of the controls may speed up some mental operations. Certainly alcohol loosens the tongue.

Finally, there does not seem to be any good evidence to indicate that alcohol taken over long periods of time in small amounts appreciably shortens the life of any normal person.

Next—Differing views on the use of alcohol as a medicine.

A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

TRUTH often is hailed as treason. For this reason the professional soldier has walked in an aura of reverence. His person has been sacrosanct. We have spent a great deal of money educating him for strutting and then have bowed the knee to his parades.

It seems to me, therefore, that it is high time the civilian also had a spokesman. Because, while the soldier defends us, we in turn support the soldier. He is but one part of the social and political entity we call these United States.

He has his duty and important as it may be, it is no more important than ours.

There has been much loose talk about the nobleness of the military profession. Some of it is, I think, exaggerated. I would not take away one jot or tittle of credit from army and navy men, but it occurs to me that these gentlemen are apt to forget or overlook entirely the rights of the taxpayer.

They expect us to be forever patting them on the back and paying

them compliments, but they seldom reciprocate.

WE train, educate, and support the professional soldier and sailor. In turn he is supposed to guard our interests on land and sea. That is his job. Sometimes it is

dangerous, but, in the main, it is no more strenuous or hazardous than that of the citizen who takes his chances in a highly competitive society.

The military man is necessary to our welfare, but then, we also are necessary to him. Without the civilian to sweat and slave, the soldier would not survive long.

And consider this: The only class in the United States now enjoying economic security is the military class. While millions of us suffer malnutrition and even hunger, the soldier eats well. While many are clothed in rags, he is resplendent in regimentals.

While we go bowed under heavy tax burdens, he walks erect, free of such loads. While we face with fear a poverty-stricken old age, after duties done, he retires on a pension.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, April 26.—I often have wondered just how much useful information actually is gathered by the sort of espionage which the British did in Russia.

Of course, I am not rating England as a lone offender, although it often has been said that its secret service is the most elaborately organized in the world. However, it is undoubtedly true that practically all the nations have a willingness to play "I spy."

And these reports and maps and photographs are stored away against the coming of the great day. Obviously it might well be beneficial from a military point of view to know just where the enemies' munition factories lay and their capacity for production.

But in the event of war a vast amount of rechecking would have to be done of these surveys. And in any case I am staggered by the price which so-called civilized nations are willing to pay for the stuff their agents dig up.

Counting the Cost

I DON'T mean just the cost of running bureaus and departments of espionage, but the fearful toll exacted in mutual hate and distrust and suspicion.

The foreign office tradition is that the head man never shall be informed as to the workings of his country's spy system. Appropriations for such work are not brought in under that name, and there is no opportunity for questioning or debate.

And so when a critical situation arises the distinguished stuffy shirt who happens to be the titular head of the department always is in a position to issue indignant denials and to declare with a straight face that no such thing could have occurred, since he never issued a single order empowering any of the captured agents to collect information.

This is supposed to protect the head of the foreign office, but it seems to me that the system makes a sucker of him. He may spend days and weeks and months negotiating for some treaty or other with a neighbor nation and then see all his work blown into smithereens by the carelessness of a hired hand who has allowed himself to be caught with the goods.

And since espionage is a devious thing involving counter espionage and counter-counter spy work, the secret agent always is under the spell of detection. He must deal with crooks, thieves and all kinds of shabby and shady persons. The net result would seem to be that he is not only an international menace, but actually a danger to his own country.

More Harm Than Good

EVEN judged by the most materialistic and militaristic standards, his potentialities for hurting his cause are much greater than his chance of turning up anything of vital value. He is one of the men who make the world of the world so exceedingly jittery.

It is on his account that armies must be kept to wartime strength or beyond. His blunders give aid and comfort to those who would have the waters swarmed with warships and the highways of the air filled with the surface of the sea. For him and his kind we build bombers and scout planes.

Even if the secret agent never gets caught, the nations of the world know that he is on the prowl. His soft-paddling footfalls are heard in the palaces and in the mountain passes. Rudyard Kipling sang his praises and made him a hero.

It would be foolish to deny that circumstances may demand of him both shrewdness and personal courage. But I wish somebody would write a good adventure story showing him up in his true light as the gnat of the nations.

The most pitiful part of it all is that there really isn't any advantage in the end for the countries which play the game. If the Kingdom of X has managed to get hold of all the vital military secrets of the Republic of Y, you can depend upon it that Y is equally aware of what is going on across the borders.

Haunted World

IF any two nations could get together in a non-spying arrangement and really mean it and convince each other that the compact was on the level, much time and energy would be saved. And also some wars.

One of the best ways to bring about a war is to live in constant dread of its coming and to bristle with preparations for the event.

I wonder if it might not even be a good idea to issue formal invitations whenever a new munitions factory is to be opened. The note could be addressed to the various heads of espionage throughout the world.

It might read: "We know that you boys are going to be interested in our new plant for making shells. We know that sooner or later you will find out about it. And to avoid the bother and the trouble of having our workmen bribed and betrayed, we are holding afternoon tea in the assembly room from 4 to 6 on Friday afternoon. P. S.—Don't forget to bring your cameras and sketching pads."

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Strange Girl

BY EVE STANTON

Back of the ages, where the centuries slept,  
Once I have touched your hand and kissed your hair,  
Brushed lips to lips, and ever silent kept.

A tireless vigil, while you slumbered  
Once you were blind, and only knew the touch  
And once I only whispered in the night,  
Ever your eyes were closed, and loving much  
I was your patterned vision, and your light.

You will not know my face, nor see my eyes  
Shining with recognition through the years.  
It will be yours to gaze in swift  
To see a stranger suddenly in tears.  
And you will never know such eyes as these  
Have been your vision through the centuries.