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NEW DEAL FOR BUTLER?

THE most recent row at Butler university is of far more importance than whether or not Dr. Walter Athearn made a good president. It has raised the question of whether any educator can efficiently and successfully run the institution if he is to be a mere puppet of three local trustees.

We do not think so. We predict that the trustees will have a difficult time persuading any first-class educator to succeed Dr. Athearn unless they give evidence of a distinct change in their meddlesome policies. Trustees are intended to advise, not to administer.

The best proof that Hilton U. Brown, Hugh T. Miller and Emsley W. Johnson, the three trustees who dismissed President Athearn, are not competent administrators lies in their handling of the present difficulty. If they had a good case against Dr. Athearn they should have stated it. College presidents should not be laid off like piece workers in a southern textile mill.

It is patent that there is something seriously wrong with Butler. Only a few years ago its academic standing was dragged in the gutter by charges that the institution was merely a racing stable for athletes. A little later the president resigned. Now comes the Athearn case.

Surely the local trustees, who apparently make a puppet of the university president, can take little pride in such a record. Butler enjoys exemption from local taxes. This exemption means higher taxes for every property owner in the city. Therefore the taxpayers have a right to demand that the institution be run along liberal and useful lines. It must not be a pocket university at the mercy of the whimsical conduct of a few men.

Hilton U. Brown is a distinguished citizen with an admirable record as a newspaper man and an educator. If he wishes to administer Butler let him move his office to the campus and assume the title of president. He has the power. Now let him assume the responsibility or turn it over to a first-class educator and then let him alone.

CARRY ON

FIVE business leaders have withdrawn from the NRA industrial advisory board and one of them, Gerard Swope of the General Electric Company, has proposed that an enlarged Chamber of Commerce take over much of the work of the NRA code authorities. The first public reaction to this news is to suspect that there has been a serious disagreement within the NRA and that big business is trying to pull out. This is denied. The five who are withdrawing say that this is merely part of a plan to rotate these NRA advisory offices among a large number of business leaders.

In justice to Mr. Swope, Mr. Teagle and the others, it must be said that most of them have given real service to the NRA. On the basis of that record, we can not believe that they consciously are trying to injure the NRA now.

But regardless of their intentions, their departure at this time and in this manner is, in fact, having a bad effect. These are very critical days for the new deal and especially for the NRA. Certain employers, newspapers and politicians are out to wreck the program. The attack comes from two sides, from those who say the administration is going too far and too fast, and from those who say the administration is not going far and fast enough. In addition certain organizational weaknesses have appeared in the NRA and other administration agencies. Moreover, there is a seasonal business decline.

The country now is coming to the vital test of the NRA, the time of inevitable division between the actual friends and enemies of the NRA. The period of lip-service and ballyhoo, when every one was for NRA because no one dared to oppose it openly, is about over.

If Mr. Swope, Mr. Teagle and their colleagues are real friends of the NRA, it is most unfortunate that they have chosen this particular moment to give ammunition to those false propagandists who are spreading the report that the NRA is breaking down.

Now and in the coming months NRA needs the vigorous and loyal support of all its friends.

For the same reason, this is the wrong time for Mr. Swope to launch his program for a national organization for self-government of all industry. He has had this idea in one form or another for several years. Industry had plenty of time during the Hoover administration and the early years of the depression to begin some of the planning and self-discipline which leaders of the Swope type desire.

But whether the idea is a good one or not is largely an academic question today. The NRA is already in existence. The NRA came into being by default, after industry had failed to cure itself. The vast and inspiring program of a threefold partnership between industry, labor and government is being tried. We are midway in the experiment.

To talk of modifying the experiment before it is well under way, to talk of turning back part of the government organization and authority to a private business agency which as yet does not even exist on paper, seems to us to be the height of folly and unfairness.

General Johnson says he is in general sympathy with the Swope plan as something for the distant future, but he adds that strong labor organizations would have to balance capital organization and that the government should retain the power of absolute control and veto.

The White House, apparently, knows nothing of the Swope plan and is not interested at this time. The administration is and should be much too busy getting us out of the crisis.

Even if the Swope plan were superior to the NRA theoretically—which we doubt—it would not be wise to swap horses while crossing the stream.

This country is in no condition to stand further months of debating plans and organizing agencies to fight the depression. We are in the midst of the battle, in the middle of a campaign of action. There isn't time to go back and start a new advance.

The way out is not back, but forward. We must carry on.

WORTHY PROJECTS

MUCH has been written about the sad condition of the thousands of young Americans who have had to abandon college work because of the poverty of their parents and the growing scarcity of opportunities whereby a student can earn his way through college.

So far, however, most of this talk has been nothing more than dolorous lament. Now, however, it seems that somebody proposes to do something practical along the line of seeing to it that this very important group of American youth shall be headed toward constructive careers rather than misery, despair and gaudium. I offer herewith a letter which I have received from Mr. John Stuart of the American Student Union, who can be addressed in care of "Common Sense," 155 East Forty-fourth street, New York City.

"A few weeks ago Grover Whalen, head of the New York City NRA appealed to a group of New York university students to aid in the recovery drive. At that time, it would have been pertinent to ask Mr. Whalen what the blue eagle is doing for students as a class whose economic problems are as vital and pressing as those confronting the populace at large.

"It seems that no other section of dispossessed Americans has been neglected as flagrantly by the federal recovery aid programs as the college undergraduate who has been forced to discontinue his course of study because of straitened finances. With academic training incomplete, the undergraduate's chances of earning a decent living in professional fields are very precarious. No one will employ an engineer, for instance, without a degree which implies an adequate preparatory education in the rudiments of engineering.

"The undergraduate usually does not become a common laborer because his white collar conditioning and associations have affected him too deeply to make the change. And even if such work or any other employment were available, the economic breakdown has reduced the number of jobs to the extent that only older men and women with dependents are employed in what few jobs there are. Undergraduates, in this position, come to rely more and more on their families for the support which their people find it difficult to give them.

"In short, life is none too pleasant for any one unemployed, especially the person whose college career and future plans suddenly have exploded and thrown him into the maelstrom of the jobless and destitute.

"I am, at present, conducting a survey of the number of undergraduates who have been financially unable to return to college in the last three years. My aim is to find out what amount of money would be necessary to help these people return to school for the completion of their courses and the incidental maintenance while they are studying.

"It would be quite possible, after the figures are obtained, to ask the federal government to finance the project. It is obvious that this scheme has more far-reaching effects than immediate aid for the undergraduate. Hundreds of unemployed college instructors would be reinstated and there would be a general reduction of the present retrenchment in the budgets of higher schools.

"I realize that the project would hit many snags before it could be put into operation. Those difficulties could be ironed out in time. The great problem at this time, however, is to arouse public opinion and to win public support for the idea."

Another excellent innovation in the educational field is the establishment of a school for labor action in New York City. Tom Tippett, A. J. Muste and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr will be among the leading instructors. Such names as these insure that the institution will be devoted to the inculcation of reliable information and a dynamic spirit. For those unable to attend the Brookwood Labor college systematically, this should constitute an admirable opportunity in helping to train labor to meet its enlarged opportunities and responsibilities in connection with the new deal.

BOOTLEGGING IN HERITAGE

THE bootlegger is a product of modern times. He originated in the United States, but he has a way of appearing in almost any country where people want something which is prohibited by law. His latest appearance is in Germany; and there, of all things, he is peddling—grandmothers.

It happens like this: In Nazi Germany a man hardly can hope to get a job unless he can prove that he has "untainted Aryan blood" way back to the third generation. Consequently there is a huge demand for family records to prove that one's grandparents were suitably Nordic.

A lot of people aren't eligible for such document; others are eligible enough, but have no papers to prove it. So there is a brisk business in forged papers. For a price, the German bootlegger will help you prove that your blood is strictly German-gentile for three generations back.

Of all forms of bootlegging the world has seen, this surely is one of the oddest.

BELETED, BUT WELCOME

PUBLIC applause for the actions of Albert H. Wiggin, former board chairman of the Chase National bank, isn't being heard in any very great volume these days. But there is little doubt that general approval has greeted his action in giving up the contract by which that institution retired him on a life pension of \$100,000 a year.

This pension, to be sure, was an affair between the bank and Mr. Wiggin. Yet the business of a financial institution of that size is, to a great extent, the public's business, too; and considering the various revelations made before the senate investigating committee, that \$100,000 pension was a thing the public could not swallow without great difficulty.

In surrendering his right to it, Mr. Wiggin displays for public opinion a regard which might, quite profitably, have been displayed a good deal earlier in the history of his relations with the Chase bank.

REVOLUTION IN POLITICS

ONE of the things that may be changed almost beyond recognition by the times we now are living in is the good old American game of politics.

Even before the new deal, it was a common saying that it took a highly trained expert to tell a Republican from a Democrat with the naked eye. Today the situation is even more puzzling.

A sample of the confusion is to be found in the matter of tariffs.

The Smoot-Hawley tariff act, passed by a Republican congress and signed by a Republican President, was a target for Democratic oratory almost from the day it became law. It figured in the campaigns of 1930 and 1932. Democrats beat their breasts and called on the heavens to witness that this bill was throttling trade. Many got themselves elected on that issue.

And what have we now, with a Democratic administration?

About the only thing the last congress did in connection with the tariff was to increase the President's power to shut out foreign goods through the flexible-rate provision. The whole doctrine of economic nationalism—under a President whose party traditionally opposes that doctrine—has been pushed forward to a greater extent than at any other time within a century.

Furthermore, it is reported in Washington that actual embargoes will be laid under the new price-raising policy. The maligned Smoot-Hawley bill, far from being too high, seems to be too low.

If all this is confusing, it is not more confusing than some of the other things that have been happening.

Certainly it is no stranger than to see the party which always stood for states' rights and a minimum of interference by the federal government putting forward a program under which the federal government has more power than the devoutest follower of Alexander Hamilton ever dreamed of giving it.

As a result of this scrambling of the eggs, it is not so hard nowadays to tell Republicans from Democrats. A Democrat, it seems, is a chap who looks like a Republican—and vice versa. And the scrambling process is by no means over.

The inexorable logic of events is twisting our politics out of all the old forms. What we are going to have when we get through is a complete mystery.

The one safe bet seems to be that an extensive realignment of political thought is beginning to take place.

"FIRST COME I"

THE ins and outs of the financial dealings indulged in by Albert H. Wiggin, while he was head of the Chase National bank, made highly instructive reading for us ordinary folk who never were bank stockholders and are only the most modest kind of bank depositors.

Mr. Wiggin's personal corporations which traded in the bank's stock on the market did very well indeed, it seems. They made a profit, in fact, of something like \$10,000,000. The bank's affiliate corporation, however, which also traded in bank stock, made only \$156,000. Mr. Wiggin explained to Ferdinand Pecora, senate investigator, that there was a difference in the way they operated, and the statement is not at all hard to believe.

All this, perhaps, is really no concern of ours. But it is enlightening, somehow, a glimpse at the way things were handled behind the scenes in the gay world times that preceded—and helped cause—the crash.

Cambridge university scientist tells us brains are dying out. There's no sign of brains ever being alive.

M. E. Tracy Says:

THE dream of a dollar so well managed that it will buy the same thing at the same price yesterday, today and forever, drags us into deep water. As a general proposition, we don't want to buy the same thing. What we want is something new, something different, something better. The machine age has taught us more than how to pep up production. Its greatest contribution is an itch for change and novelty.

Just now, we are all het up over the kilowatt-hour rate, but suppose somebody were to stumble on a practical method of producing cold light? Would we give a whoop about what the local company charged for electric illumination? Our grandparents haggled strenuously over the price of sperm oil, tallow candles and kerosene lamps. Our great grandparents drove hard bargains over oxen, spinning wheels and laid-down butter. A price index for 1870, or even 1900 would mean little in this good day.

Many of our major industries and common commodities were not in existence fifty years ago. Modern civilization owes vastly more to substitution than to its capacity for turning out more of a given product. We couldn't live as we do without tin cans and refrigeration. They have revolutionized the kitchen, the grocery store, the hotel and the marketing system.

CHANGE has been our chief stock in trade. Can we abandon it and continue to progress?

Time was when men could talk about production and consumption of given commodities as though they were fairly well stabilized, when people looked for little in life except so much eat, wear and provide shelter and fuel.

That time has passed unless indeed we are prepared to interfere arbitrarily with the natural processes of human development. Our great field of endeavor, as well as adventure, our great lie in utilizing the machinery at hand, but in devising different and improved machinery. Our greatest joy comes from the triumph of human ingenuity over limitations with which we were previously surrounded.

We have reached a point where the provision of sheer necessities should present no problem, where we should be able to give all people enough to make them safe and comfortable as far as food, clothing, shelter and warmth are concerned.

WE have more than an adequate supply for existence wants, if they were properly distributed. In order to make sure of its proper distribution, planned economy is not only desirable but essential. But let us be careful to distinguish between existence wants and emotional wants. The latter are not to be underestimated or dealt with in such a way as to retard their upward pull.

Planned economy will prove a tragic failure, unless it leaves the door wide open for those activities and enterprises which rest on change, unless it encourages that spirit of venturesomeness and pioneering which has created such a gulf between the twentieth and eighteenth century.

As a matter of fact, the real blessing of this machine age consists of the time and energy it has liberated for experimental and educational work.

'Pocket University'



:: The Message Center ::

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire

E. H. Sothern

By James P. Voorhes.

Memories of the days when E. H. Sothern—popularly called—and I were actors of small parts in the John McCullough company persist in claiming utterance. Aside from the greatness of Sothern's merit as an actor, was his thorough loyalty as a citizen of America. After several years' separation from active work on the stage, I found myself in Washington occupying a place in the government. Mr. Sothern had not forgotten our earlier association, and when I brought to the attention

Questions and Answers

Q—Is alcohol ever used in thermometers in the place of mercury?

A—Sometimes it is used, especially for temperatures below the freezing point of mercury, which is 40 degrees below zero.

Q—Will a solid steel ball sink to the bed of the ocean?

A—Yes; because the specific gravity of the ball is greater than that of the water, at any known depth.

Q—Can a game be patented?

A—Game apparatus can be patented, or a design patent can be obtained on a game board. The rules can be copyrighted, and the name of the game may be registered in the trademark division of the United States patent office.

Q—When did the bow and arrow originate?

A—Their origin never has been traced. Flint arrow heads of Aurignacian culture date back, according to anthropologists, from 25,000 to 50,000 years, and probably arrows without stone points were used for unknown ages before that.

Q—How many persons committed suicide in the United States in 1931?

A—20,068.

of the congress the bill to accord national consideration to the theater, Mr. Sothern's response was immediate and spontaneous. Advanced in fame, merited place at the head of his profession, he was unflinching in his advocacy of American recognition, and most generously gave me a place in his recollection of old acquaintance. Throughout his life, I recall, he retained an ethical value for the American recognition, which already had spread to England, reviving the movement there for the state theater, and later as a memorial to Sir Henry Irving, to England as Mr. Sothern stands to America today.

Chronic Acid Endangers Health

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

While you are admiring the bright chromium fittings on your automobile, consider the men who make them. Some of your golf clubs, too, may be chromium-plated, some of the plumbing fixtures in your home and other household hardware.

Chromium also is used in manufacture of safety matches, in photographic work, in printing, in the dyeing industry, in the manufacture of colored glassware, in the rubber industry, and in many other processes.

So you see that a large body of our population is affected directly by this single metallic element. Only lately, however, have health authorities been able to awaken the public to the hazards in these industries.

Chromium acid is the substance used. In chromium plating, a low-voltage electrical current is passed through the chromium acid solution and this causes the chromium to be deposited on the metal.

The workers in plants in which chromium is employed come into contact with the chemical through handling the dry material, through moistening their hands in solutions, or through being exposed to vapors or sprays arising from the solutions.

The matter is of interest to health because this substance may be extremely irritating to the skin and may bring about severe inflammation.

Moreover, exposure to rather concentrated materials may result in formation of ulcers which penetrate deeply and heal with difficulty.

One of the most serious forms of attack on the human body, however, is inflammation of the membranes which line the nose. Whenever an ulcer occurs in these membranes, it is serious, because it may penetrate through the tissues, with a resulting secondary infection and with serious effects on the body as a whole.

So general has the use of chromium become and so frequent the injuries resulting from it, that one of our largest insurance companies has found it advisable to issue a bulletin for information of the public concerning the hazards and the best methods of prevention.

Of great importance is some means of ventilation which will draw off contaminated air and the dust arising from the processes in the rooms in which chromium is used. It is important that strict cleanliness be established whenever articles are transferred from a vat to a tank or to the racks in which the material is held.

:: A Woman's Viewpoint ::

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

UNHAPPILY, the most significant foreign news of last month was not displayed in the newspaper headlines. It was, nevertheless, in point of importance to future history, worthy of an extra Here it is.

The British Labor party, in its convention, pledged itself not to participate in war hereafter and, if necessary, to adopt a general strike to prevent hostilities.

This is the voice of the people. To me, it sounds more like the voice of God than any authoritative statement that may have been issued from His self-styled prophets who are European leaders.

Peace is by no means a dead issue. Amid the general clamor of the belligerents it sometimes may seem to be, but out of the martial uproar there is always to be heard the cry of those who believe that peace is a finer cause than war. As a form of encouragement, remind yourself that they are to be found in every nation, big and little, under the sun.

Books continue to pour from the presses of every country. Books that contain information, facts, statistics, about the frightful futility of war; books that inflame the imagination while they remind us of the devastating economic and emotional reactions that followed the last world catastrophe.

Storm Jameson and Vera Brittain, in England; Henry Barbusse and Andre in France; Eric Remarque and the Sveig brothers in Germany; Charles Yale Harrison and Lawrence Stallings and Beverly Nichols, the last of whom has just published in America "Cry Havoc," which is a damning indictment of our lack of common sense in this matter—all these and hundreds more work constantly with tongue and pen for peace.

Though the sword is mighty, the pen is mightier still, and mightiest of all is the typewriter. It will continue to be so long as men can read and reason.

The British Labor party, I take it, loves England. Its expression is the finest flowering of patriotism, because only thus can Britain's power and existence be preserved. For the time has come at last in human history when the warrior is not the savior but the destroyer of his country.

It Seems to Me

—BY HEYWOOD BROWN—

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—These are extremely critical days for NRA and it seems to me that great confusion still exists in the minds of many people as to the purposes of the act.

Through the prestige of the President and through the extraordinary personal appeal which General Johnson has for most of the writing men in Washington the eagle made a superb take-off. In the early days of the flight the opponents of NRA, although powerful and numerous, were not articulate. But now they have come out fiercely and frankly in their opposition. To be sure, there have been attacks from several sides from the very beginning, but the important foe of NRA is large scale business.

William Randolph Hearst argues against NRA, and it seems to me that he is utterly wrong and commendably frank in the statement of his position.

Binding Up Old Wounds

IT is perhaps irrelevant to note that for almost the first time within the memory of any man now alive Colonel McCormick, of the Chicago Tribune, and Mr. Hearst are on the same side. It is also a little strange to find Mr. Hearst's economic and political opinions nestling in a hospitable spot on the front page of the New York Herald Tribune.

The charge of William Randolph Hearst is that NRA is delaying recovery. He has written:

"If industry is stimulated to recover or even allowed to recover it will fulfill in due time all the requirements of the NRA."

And later on he adds, "The NRA is simply a program of social betterment, nothing else, and industry can accept and endure this program only after it has recovered—not before."

Now, if I understand these statements correctly Mr. Hearst is saying that prosperity must come first at the top and that when bigger and better dividends are in sight the employers will see to it that the benefits are passed along to the employees. Industry has made a note and filed it away. The notation reads, "Don't forget that something must be done about social betterment in due time."

Progress of "Due Time"

THERE is one easy way by which to determine the exact date of the arrival of "due time." It comes into being at the precise moment that watched pots begin to boil. Generations have lived and starved and perished to the poorhouse while "due time" still lingered around the corner.

It is obvious, of course, that fewer men are out of work in times of piping prosperity than in days of deep depression. But even at the very peak of the Coolidge-Hoover spree millions were idle. There easily could be a very considerable return of industrial prosperity without anything approaching a solution of unemployment. Even during the depression labor saving machinery and cheaper processes were being devised and invented. Industry in America today can achieve a greater measure of prosperity at the top than we have ever known and still leave anywhere from six to ten million out of work.

Mr. Hearst's theory seems to be that when the business man feels a little safer and a little more comfortable he will tackle the problem of want and panic cycles by instituting of his own free will programs for shorter hours and higher wages.

This seems to me highly unlikely. It certainly can be said that in the past such things never were done save in a few isolated instances. And even in those hours generally meant an increased speedup in the plant or factory.

After Passing the Crisis

POSSIBLY Mr. Hearst means that the NRA machinery should be laid aside for the present and then taken up again when business has bettered. I would like to bet Mr. Hearst two of my dollars to one of his that in the event of a recession in the matter of codes and codifying it will be wholly impossible to establish any scheme along the lines of NRA.

The cry already has gone up to tell me how to run my business." It is being uttered at the coverlet and saying in a low, frightened voice, "Doctor, is there any hope?"

It was a pretty tough siege. The patient finally awoke, and when the surgeon knocked at the door the convalescent called: "Get away and never come back. Nobody's going to tell me how to run my health."

To today's captains of industry all over the land are announcing that it wasn't the operation at all which had anything to do with the betterment of business. I refer to the little affair in which part of the gall bladder of business was removed. Oh, no, wasn't the operation! It was some of Aunt Sally's onion tea that did the trick—an old family remedy that had been right in the cupboard all the while.

If "due time" seems to you soon flying, join with all the others in flapping robes at the blue eagle. But mark the fact that when the eagle flies away it isn't coming back.

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God's Gold

BY MARION NEAL

God saw the autumn wind sweep down

Upon the lonely country way

To steal the flowers from nature's crown

And snatch from trees their leaves so gay.

God saw the roadside cold and bare,

So where the common people trod,

Each pathway gleamed with treasure rare

When He gave them the golden rod.

Daily Thought

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.—Acts, 8:22.

To see and listen to the wicked already is the beginning of wickedness.—Confucius.