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CLEAN UP THE STREAMS

ONLY twenty-nine days remain for Indiana cities to obtain federal funds for eliminating stream pollution. Applications for these government loans must be in Washington before New Year's day. Many communities are letting the chance of a lifetime slip by not availing themselves of this aid.

Municipalities should act immediately. Indiana's streams are known throughout the world because of the prose and verse the state's authors have written of them. Greed and carelessness have changed those same streams from things of beauty and health to pestilential open sewers. Must we have a serious epidemic before our public officials act?

There is another advantage in constructing adequate sewage disposal plants now. Prices are lower than they are likely to be for many years. Taxpayers actually will save money by building during 1934. Unquestionably the legislature and the courts are going to force a cleanup of Indiana's streams eventually and stubborn cities may find that their delay has been extremely expensive.

If these disposal plants are started within the next few months thousands of worthy, unemployed citizens will be given jobs and hundreds of building material firms will sell supplies.

The state conservation department is doing all it can to persuade communities and individuals to stop poisoning our rivers. It has accomplished much already, but it can not do the job singlehanded. The public must swing in behind and demand that their city officials act.

SOUR GRAPEFRUIT

AL SMITH'S criticism of the new deal is sour. First it is the public works and civil works administrations. There is room for constructive criticism of these policies. But, unfortunately, the Happy Warrior is so full of feeling these days his shots miss the mark.

If he had stressed the dangers of uncontrolled currency inflation and given the President credit for escaping these dangers to date, Al probably would have been listened to by the public and the President. Instead, he misinterpreted the Roosevelt policy and engaged in calling names. And the public gave him a shrug of the shoulders.

Now he drops in with a belated blow at the public works administration. It is true that Secretary Ikes was slow in getting the program under way. But friendly critics of the administration did not wait until December to discover that fact. They pointed it out last summer. Without calling names they were able, by publishing the facts, to move the administration. During the last two months the federal government has moved as fast as humanly possible in this matter. Upward of \$3,000,000,000 has been allotted from the \$3,300,000,000 fund. Responsibility for recent delays rests with certain state and local authorities and private contractors rather than with the federal government.

Of all the criticisms of the new civil works administration which might have come from Al Smith, the most unexpected is that it will "further discourage private initiative." That is his reaction to a program which in the end of the second week is an estimated 2,000,000.

Before Al started wisecracking about lemons and grapefruit, in the old days he used another line very effectively—"Let's look at the record." If Al will look at the record he will find that "private initiative" carried only 26 per cent of the national relief burden even in the early years of the depression. Even President Hoover, who originally delayed federal aid on the same absurd plea that it would destroy private initiative, discovered that the alternative to federal relief was starvation.

CHILD NUTRITION

NOW that the well-rounded woman is the vogue again there will be an internal expansion. Gravies, butter, pastries and white breads are taking their place on the menus. Women are murmuring that they had forgotten that eating was so much fun.

There is another group in America who have forgotten, too. You see, it has been so long since they have had a warm, appetizing meal. So very long since a table spread with food has been more than a little match girl's dream.

The United States children's bureau estimates that: "Today somewhere in the neighborhood of one-fifth of all pre-school and school children are showing the effects of poor nutrition, inadequate housing, and lack of medical care."

It seems a little cruel that women laugh lightly about the number of calories to add or subtract while children wonder if the hollow places in their stomachs will go on hurting forever and ever. No one means to be unkind, of course. But thoughtlessness doesn't relieve a perennial emptiness in the stomach. There isn't much to do about it except to supply the vacuum with baked potatoes and milk and oatmeal. Stomachs are biological hangovers. Science, with all its understanding of atoms and relativity, can't do anything about them.

A child can't be expected to locate Madrid and Tokio and Bangor, Me., on pink and blue maps when his stomach is empty and his head light. He doesn't care that wheat is the chief export of Minnesota and corn grows in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois when he never sees the finished product.

If we would give up some things that we don't need the situation would be relieved immediately. In 1933 the United States spent \$325,000,000 for drinks and narcotics, \$35,000,000 for confectionery and chewing gum,

and \$1,075,000,000 for cosmetics and personal adornment.

It is woman's privilege to be beautiful and every man's privilege to do what he pleases with his pocket money, of course. But anybody knows that people—men and women and children—need food. It comes first on the list of necessities. Even the children of Israel, who spent forty years journeying through the wilderness, received a supply of manna at breakfast time every morning. But nothing is said of beads or tobacco.

The children aren't asking for luxuries. They don't plead for birthday cakes with pink candles; cookies with frosting and a raisin in the middle; bread spread half an inch thick with jam. They just want something to eat.

It may be the return of the curved era is a good thing. Women will take an interest in foods again. And as they begin to cultivate a taste for rich and fattening dishes they will realize how much small boys and girls need them, too. They will grow hungry. They haven't for a long time.

The stomach shrinkage among children is much more alarming than the tilt of a cocked hat or the matching of rouge and lipsticks. Children aren't created free and equal. Environment is never balanced. But they do have stomachs. Teachers sometimes believe that Johnny Jones or Mary Smith is dumb when that isn't the case at all. He is just hungry. He doesn't know how to beg for a dime—or a potato or apple. It is more important to banish malnutrition in children than it is to cultivate the rounded slope, however much your favorite gentlemen like it.

COMMON SENSE IN GOVERNMENT

ONE of his weekly articles on the state of the nation, the distinguished publicist, Mark Sullivan, laments that men able to use calculus and the higher differential equations are coming into the government at Washington. Specifically, he attacks Mr. Mordacai Ezekiel for his attempt to state statistically the demand, supply and price of hogs in the United States for some years ahead. Mr. Sullivan jokingly alludes to such equations as "hagarithms" and goes on to say:

"That sort of thing, statistic like that and charts and graphs and curves, are the main-spring of the government as now administered. How it would surprise Grover Cleveland to return to the White House and see a President of the United States in 1933 with his desk covered by immense charts, charts from the department of labor, from the treasury, from the reconstruction finance corporation. One chart contains the line called 'purchasing power,' and another line called 'productive capacity.' To make the line of 'purchasing power' rise above the line of 'productive capacity' is the principal present purpose of the NRA. The spirit of the administration can be exposed roughly as one which undertakes to manage the country on the basis of these charts."

It is possible to put a very different interpretation on these developments in Washington. To many it means the first real effort to bring government thoroughly up-to-date. The fact that men like President Cleveland had not the slightest grip on the mathematical and scientific facts which have created the modern world is one reason why we are in our present mess. Many other Presidents were even worse off in this regard. Even Woodrow Wilson, a university president, was blissfully innocent of modern science and engineering and relied upon the rhetorical methods of the age of Cicero.

Our modern material civilization has been built up by the use of calculus and higher mathematics. It is not unreasonable to assert that a comparable intellectual equipment and apparatus are needed to control our institutional life. Without the calculus and higher differential equations, we could not build a complicated machine, a skyscraper, a bridge, a subway, a railroad, a large ocean-going ship, an electric lighting plant, a telephone, telegraph, cable, radio or any other representative manifestation of modern mechanical ingenuity.

If this be so, how can one expect to run a government, which is far more complicated than any machine or engineering project, without at least some appreciation of the function of higher mathematics. We may be glad that there is a man in the White House whose perspective has advanced beyond long division.

It is high time that our statesmen should begin to think in terms of modern science instead of relying upon the rhetoric and hot air which has dominated politics from Pericles to many of the present spellbinders in the United States senate.

Professor Sprague should have realized what his harsh letter meant at such a critical moment; should have known that it would be accepted as nothing less than a signal for opposition by every disgruntled politician and financier; should have foreseen that many shallow-minded people would have taken it as an excuse for substituting under-handed and under-mining tactics.

I happen to be one of those who disagree with the President's gold-buying experiment except as it may be employed to determine where the dollar should be pegged, but I certainly would not lift a finger to interfere with it, or help those who would jeopardize the government's credit for the sake of proving they are right.

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Still, there is a real need for common sense in the background of government by statistics. Here Mr. Sullivan makes a telling branch of the government spending millions to increase farm acreage through reclamation projects, while another branch of the government is spending more millions to buy up and retire already productive farm acreage. Or, again, we have one phase of the recovery program devoted to increasing mass purchasing power so that men may get enough to eat and to cover their backs. At the same time, the farm relief agencies are buying up hogs to reduce breeding and the pork supply and are plowing under many acres of cotton. All this is designed to raise farm prices, thus making it more difficult for the city worker to supply his material needs.

The best way for the administration to escape from this kind of criticism is to go over-wholeheartedly to the theory of the "plenty economy" and relentlessly refuse to curtail production until it is certain that enough is being produced to meet the legitimate consumption needs of every normal American. Taking this as the basis for judgment, it will be hard to show that there has ever been a great deal of excess production in this country except in certain luxury industries.

THE LESSON OF SAN JOSE

THE San Jose lynching should mean something more important and far-reaching than mere notification to the would-be kidnappers of the country.

The administration of justice in America, publicly declared Chief Justice Taft of the United States supreme court, is a disgrace to civilization, and America, with all of her churches, schools, intelligence and enterprise, is the most criminal country in existence.

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When the people of any otherwise orderly

and in every respect fine community rise, face

legal authority's machine guns and bombs,

batter down their own jail and hang their own

citizens in their own public park, there is

something more in it than madness for venge-

ance, to whatever extent such madness is

is caused by the frightful brutalities of the

crime perpetrated, something much more seri-

ous than notification to the kidnappers of the

country. There is in it a terrible demonstra-

tion of utter popular elimination of confidence

in the administration of justice.

Laws against capital crimes are written in

the books and the constitution of the people

guarantees every accused person the benefits

of a fair trial. Of deadly threat the times

when the administration of justice is written in

the hearts of communities in terms of mad-

ness for vengeance and hopelessness of the

speedy administration of justice.

And there will be more of the same, unless

there is decided reform in the administration of American justice.

JUSTICE DENIED

CONVICTION of one of the Scottsboro de-

fendants in the third trial yesterday would seem even more terrible but for the hope that the United States supreme court will set aside the verdict as it did in the first trial. In the second trial the trial judge him-

self threw out the verdict.

It is unthinkable that these Negro boys shall be executed on contradictory and discredited evidence. There never was anything but the flimsiest case against them. Since one of the two girls confessed that her earlier testimony was a lie, there has been no real case.

Judge Callahan's charge to this jury was so unfair that he even failed to tell the jurors how they might acquit until the defense counsel protested. The state's attorney confessed that his own speech to the jury was "an appeal to passion."

It was a partisan trial drawn on the color line. Justice was denied by race prejudice.

BETRAYING THE VICTORS

CONGRESSMEN, says a Washington cor-

respondent, are getting ready to do a

little gunning for Dr. Arthur E. Morgan,

chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority,

when the next session opens.

One reason is that the Tennessee Valley

program was a bit slow in getting under way.

The other is that Dr. Morgan has been abso-

lutely impervious to the appeals of patronag-

ing politicians who want to hand out jobs

to party hacks.

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