

# It Seems to Me

by  
HEYWOOD BROUN

NEW YORK, July 30.—The hero of the most popular novel ever written in America always has seemed to me to be a villain. I refer, of course, to Uncle Tom who had the cabin. Uncle Tom was pious. He was kind and he was faithful, but he never had the spirit of a gnat. Recently, I have heard complaints about individuals who feel that the world owes them a living and I have known those who banged a little too arrogantly upon the table and exclaimed, "Where are those damn ravens?"

Yet on the whole, I must protest against this attitude as against that of the folk who curse for every crust.

It has been said that it is an evil thing to hand a stone to those who cry for bread. I will go further and maintain that it is insufficient to say, "Here is your loaf." Man ought to be better than his needs, even his ambitions. Possibly the most useful type of good American is the man angrily referred to as an agitator. And he will be very wrong indeed if he tries to deny the impeachment because it is an accurate word for most honorable function. Uncle Tom was pleased, or at any rate satisfied, with that estate to which it had pleased Providence to call him. He basked in benevolence and felt that friendliness and kind words placed him under an obligation which he never could repay. And yet before he died under distressing circumstances he paid in full heaped up and running over. His comparative comfort depended upon the warm whim of an individual.

Uncle Tom was not smart enough to assert his bounden rights. Like some of his imitators in the economic field he was inclined to say, "I'm entirely satisfied with things as they are. My master treats me very well. There is nothing which I need or pine for. Why should I organize and agitate myself in making demands. I have privileges and so I do not need to worry about rights."

## The Hero—Simon Legree

LITTLE Eva died and went to heaven and Uncle Tom was sold down the river. Paternalism simply wasn't good enough as a protecting influence. Unfortunately, even bitter experience was not enough to teach Uncle Tom his lesson. To the day of his death he lived wrapped in the heresy that all his troubles lay in the fact that he came at last into the hands of a mean master instead of a kindly more

The author of the narrative made it a little difficult for her chief character because she, too, was touched by the heresy which betrayed him. Through the years Simon Legree has been accepted as the deep dark villain of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." On many occasions I have seen the dramatic version of the novel and I must confess that I always have had a sneaking liking for Legree. There was and is for that matter, a certain candor and frankness about the man. He never said, "This hurts me more than it does you." He did not pretend to be a liberal or a distant cousin of Lady Bountiful. I can understand his irritation at the peculiarly annoying personality of good old Uncle Tom.

When anybody announces that he will continue to love you even though you thump the breath out of him his attitude does constitute a sort of challenge. I trust that in Simon Legree's place I would have behaved myself with better grace and virtue than he manifested. And yet I feel that on many occasions I would have been annoyed with Uncle Tom if he persisted in being so outlandishly grateful for the mere privilege of hanging around without being kicked in the pants.

**Needed—An Agitator**

A N agitator could have done a great deal for Uncle Tom, particularly in the days when he was being killed slowly with kindness. His famous utterance to Legree which goes, as nearly as I can remember, "You may own my body, but my soul belongs to God," was spoken much too late in life. He should have flung that into the teeth of his kindly master. It was not the lashes of Legree, but the pats on the head from the first plantation owner which ruined both the soul and stamina of Uncle Tom.

When he was the chief pal of Little Eva he had ample opportunity to escape and make a break for freedom. In those days Uncle Tom could have gone across the ice without benefit of bloodhounds. He failed to assert his rights because he felt that he did not need them.

This is a dangerous practice and a fatal philosophy. It is always a mistake to let your rights slide until they are jeopardized. If anybody waits until that eleventh hour he is likely to find himself frustrated and beaten back. If you fail to exercise a right it atrophies.

I have known men to say, "Why should I get hot and bothered about free speech? At present there is nothing about which I wish to complain."

To him it should be said, "The time will come, Oscar, it will." Indeed, I feel so strongly about the matter that I am willing to say that the stone gained by demand graces the free man's table better than the bread of benevolence.

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## Today's Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

THE ether, the Einstein theory and Dr. Dayton C. Miller of Cleveland are back in the scientific headlines this week. Cables from Paris are responsible. Professor Emanuel Carvalho, on the basis of experiments made by Dr. Ernest Escandon, director of the Paris observatory, says that the ether exists, that the Einstein theory is wrong, and that Prof. Miller's experiments with the interferometer are correct.

The Einstein theory, as many readers know, owes its origin to the famous Michelson-Morley experiment, first performed by the late Dr. A. A. Michelson, the "high priest of light," and the late Dr. Edwin W. Morley on a hill in Cleveland Heights, O. The year was 1887.

Michelson and Morley, by comparing the speed of light in different directions, sought to measure the speed of the earth through the ether of space. It was assumed in those days that all of space was pervaded by a medium known as the ether upon which light and radio waves traveled.

Between the two theories, the relativity theory and the quantum theory, there was no longer any need for the ether and most scientists gave up this nineteenth century notion.

But while the world of science in general accepted Einstein's pronouncements, Dr. Dayton C. Miller of Case School of Applied Science was never satisfied with Einstein's interpretation of the Michelson-Morley experiment.

Dr. Miller repeated the experiment with Morley in 1906. Subsequently, after Morley's death, and when the world-wide interest in the Einstein theory arose after the World War, he began a new series of tests with the interferometer. Between 1921 and 1931 he made a long series of exhaustive tests.

THE magnitude of the effect measured by Dr. Miller is too small, however, to account for the motion of the earth around the sun.

If, however, it is assumed that the earth drags the ether with it to a certain extent, the results which he gets can be explained as a motion of the entire solar system through space at a velocity of about 200 miles a second.

As a result of these claims of Dr. Miller, other scientists have undertaken to repeat the experiment. These include Dr. Kennedy in Dr. Millikan's laboratory at California Institute of Technology, a number of astronomers at the Mt. Wilson Observatory, Dr. Piccard of stratosphere fame, and Dr. Joss of Jena. All of these experimenters reported results in agreement with Einstein and in disagreement with Miller.

# ROOSEVELT AND THE NORTHWEST

## President Will Visit Huge Dams Rising to Chain Columbia River

BY WILLIS THORNTON  
NEA Service Staff Writer

PORLAND, Ore., July 30.—When President Roosevelt lands here on his way back to Washington from his Hawaiian vacation, these great dams are to create new "inland empires" comparable to those in the Tennessee and Colorado valleys. Succeeding stories will tell of the Grand Coulee, Ft. Peck and Upper Mississippi projects.

The two huge dams being built to harness the Columbia at Bonneville and the Grand Coulee are well under way. But they are only a part of the general plan to develop the entire Columbia river basin with a series of other dams, navigation and irrigation projects that will virtually create a new empire on a par with those rising in the Tennessee and Colorado valleys.

Since the coming of the white man, the Columbia has been known and used as a mighty avenue leading from the sea far into the interior of the northwest. But it has never been put to work, either for navigation, power, or irrigation, to realize anything like its possibilities.

The Columbia rises in the high mountains of British Columbia, and then, turning southward, enters the United States to drain most of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and through tributaries, western Montana. Turning westward it cuts through both the Sierra Nevada and coast ranges, and winds through the vast plain between those mountain chains.

In cutting through the mountains, the great river develops steep rapids which have always been one of the great potential sources of electric power in the country.

Now it is to be developed, navigation extended as far up as the Snake river, and a promise of irrigation brought to nearly 200,000 acres of now arid and unproductive land.

When the cruiser Houston has wound its way up 100 miles of the lower Columbia, the presidential party will sight Portland, largest fresh-water harbor on the west coast, nestling below Mt. Hood on the Willamette river where it enters the Columbia.

And the President will realize that the making of that river channel and the building of this fresh-water port is a triumph of planning and determination such as he now hopes to repeat and extend farther up the river by the new dams.

THE lower Columbia once had only a narrow, shallow channel of shifting sandbars, and navigation was hazardous and difficult. Now, by extensive planning and public works, the channel is fixed and deep, and the port has ample docking facilities for the great trade in grain and lumber that takes ship here direct for Liverpool and the ocean ports of all the world.

Forty miles up the Columbia above Portland, the foundations of the Bonneville dam are completed, and the seventy-two-foot structure is beginning to rise.

Cross half a mile high tower above the construction camps on either side. Upstream is the roar of Cascade rapids, soon to be stilled forever by the rising waters behind the dam. Back of the cliffs

rises the majestic ever-white cone of Mt. Hood, 11,000 feet tall.

Ships will sail over the submerged rapids and pass the new dam by means of locks. Even the salmon, which work their way up the river each year by leaping up the falls and rapids will be provided a "fish ladder" by which they can pass the dam. Two railroads and two highways must be moved from territory that will be under water.

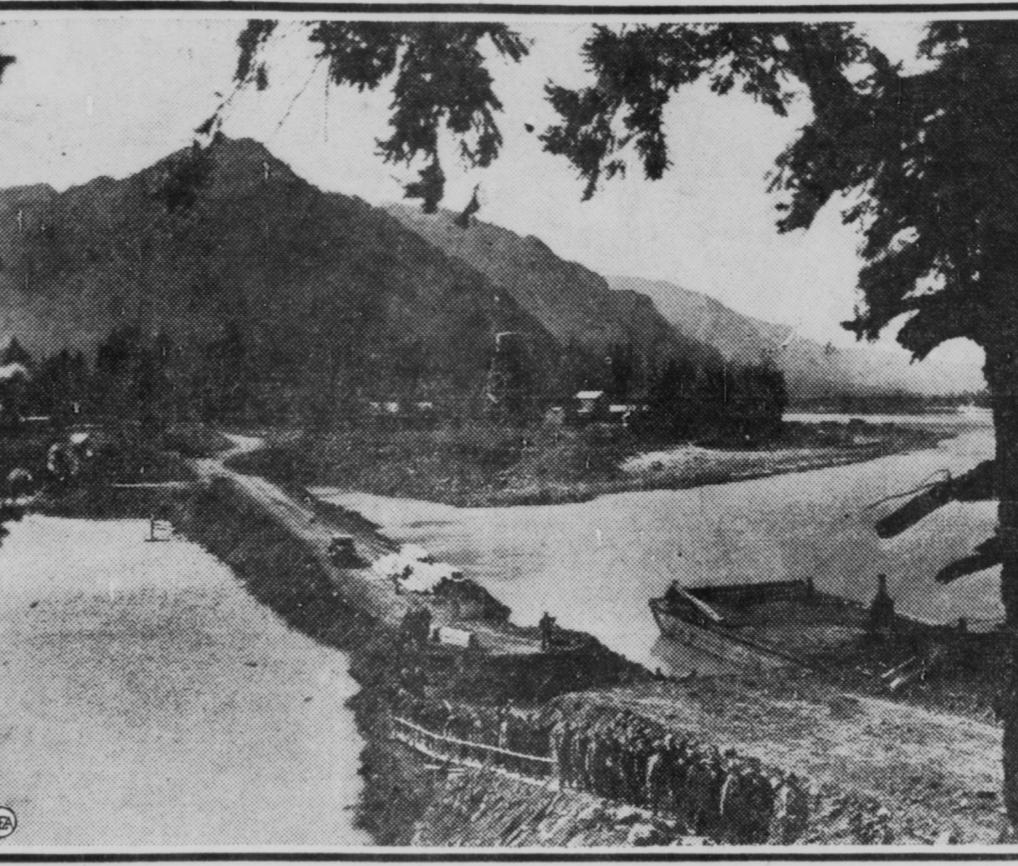
THE \$11,000,000 just allotted by Public Works Administrator Ikes to the job should bring it close to completion.

Work started last year with an original allotment of \$20,000,000. The dam itself and six units of the powerhouse are being built with PWA funds, but other power units may be added later if needed. Fifteen hundred men are now at work on the preliminary work at Bonneville.

When the dam rises to its full height of seventy-two feet it will create a huge lake behind it and make slack water as far up the river as the Dallas and Celilo falls, sixteen miles upstream. When the power units are all installed they should produce 450,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, or 600,000-horse power.

THE plans for the Bonneville dam project have a peculiar significance because of the fact that it was here that he made his campaign speech on electric power and river development. Now he will see with his own eyes the actual building of the projects he was planning and visioning even before his election.

NEXT—The Grand Coulee, vast power and irrigation project that aims to create a garden spot where rich, thirsty soil now cries for water.



some time in the future, to make up a complete system of river control and use like that visioned for the Tennessee valley. Here, too, development of cheap electric power is expected to bring industries to the valley, and to open up a new era of farm life by bringing electricity to the country.

IN the plains between the mountain ranges are thousands of acres of rich volcanic soil, but which are useless for farming because of lack of water.

With controlled irrigation it can be made most fertile and productive and can be put under cultivation to replace the huge tracts of poor land that are being bought up by the government and re-tilled from time to time.

The President's visit to Portland to inspect the Bonneville project has a peculiar significance because of the fact that it was here that he made his campaign speech on electric power and river development. Now he will see with his own eyes the actual building of the projects he was planning and visioning even before his election.

NEXT—The Grand Coulee, vast power and irrigation project that aims to create a garden spot where rich, thirsty soil now cries for water.

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Above—Cofferdams at the point between wooded mountains where a huge powerhouse will rise at Bonneville Dam . . . and begin putting to work one of the great rivers of the world.

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