

It Seems to Me

by
HEYWOOD BROUN

NEWTON D. BAKER is one of the latest mourners at the tomb of individualism. His deploring is done in a recent magazine article in the *Atlantic Monthly* which is called "The Decay of Self-Reliance." Like many other members of the Jeremiah faction Mr. Baker turns his eyes back to the pioneer days. He says that the concept of the state was that it should "protect the individual and so by freeing each to develop his highest capacity, multiply the varieties of men, and capture for the common good the achievements of the most imaginative and valiant persons."

I wasn't around when the pioneers were doing their pioneering, but for that matter neither was Newton Baker. I believe the story of the rampant self-reliance of our forebears is more than a shade exaggerated. Certainly there was regularization of an onerous and punishing sort in the days when the west was won. Surely the men who laid the tracks across the plains were not functioning without discipline of a rigorous sort. The individuals were all in "Wall Street" reaping the profits.

If one wishes to go even farther back into American history it is well to remember that the Pilgrims while still on the Mayflower signed a compact for communal co-operation and it was decidedly socialistic in its details. If Mr. Hoover had been in the neighborhood he no doubt would have looked askance at this radical invasion.

Every One for Himself

INDEED, the stock from which the ex-President sprang also went in quite heavily for what is now known as regimentation. Am I not correct in remembering that at Quaker meetings the women and the men are divided arbitrarily?

It is true of course that the Quakers managed to get along without regularly ordained ministers. Each man was privileged to speak when he felt that the spirit moved him. Indeed the whole Protestant revolt was individualistic in its theory of the sinner's going directly to God with his petitions and without benefit of an intermediary. But it would be far-fetched to say that the Protestant movement was in all ways a force for individualism as against co-operative effort.

I might cite a few of the ventures which the Protestant groups have made into regimentation. There was our old friend prohibition and we still have the drive for Sunday enforcement, not to mention anti-cigarette leagues and the denunciation of dancing by the more hard-shelled.

No, I do not think that Protestantism ever argued the laissez faire theory to the extent of permitting each black sheep to go to damnation in whatever way he pleased. The pioneers of America carried with them the morality and the economics of their favorite book, the Bible. The history of Israel is throughout the story of famine and defeat at all stages where the tribal spirit waned. The triumphs were those of organization. And there is no break in the New Testament, either. It has been pointed out by scores of religious teachers that Christ preached the doctrine of an economic brotherhood of man and there can be no brotherhood without regimentation.

American Tradition Differs

BUT one does not need to go back as far as the B. Scriptures to find an American tradition wholly at variance with rugged individualism. Of course, hell-starter-ism has cropped out from time to time in the annals of our nation. A little more regimentation among the Yankees at Bull Run would have shortened the Civil War. Valley Forge was the most tragic period of the American revolution since it marked the bitter months when every man was on his own, self-reliant, if you please, and therefore utterly useless in the business of beating back Great Britain.

Joy came at Yorktown when the American army not only had achieved a welded machine but also had gone to the length of international co-operation with the French.

Not all the lessons of the futility of the laissez faire doctrine need be drawn from the history of conflict. Even before the great depression one need only to drive through New England and note the abandoned farmhouses. Each one stood as the tragic monument to some rugged individual who had tried to solve the problems of a complicated industrial world wholly on his own initiative.

The lessons of Israel are the lessons of America and of all the world. Without organization man will perish off the face of the earth. But it is his right and bounden duty to say when regimentation is mentioned, "good enough but not until I know by whom and for what purpose."

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Today's Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

DR. DAYTON C. MILLER's ether-drift experiments are back in the center of the scientific spotlight as the result of a paper on the velocity of light read this week at the opening session of the Cleveland meeting of the National Academy of Sciences by Dr. F. G. Pease.

Dr. Pease, famous astronomer from the Mt. Wilson observatory, reported a three-year investigation with his apparatus designed by Dr. A. A. Michelson, the "high priest of light," to measure the velocity of a beam of light in a vacuum.

The apparatus consisted of a mile-long pipe line from which the air was extracted. The speed of light was measured with the aid of apparatus of the highest accuracy as it flashed back and forth across a system of mirrors in the pipe line.

The measurements, made hundreds of times from 1931 to 1933, gave figures for the velocity of light ranging from 186,157 miles a second to 186,163 miles a second.

The first reaction of the average layman would probably be that a difference of six miles in 186,000 wasn't very much. But from the scientific standpoint, it is considerably too much. Accordingly, the Mt. Wilson astronomers began a check to find out what the cause might have been.

THE Einstein theory of relativity and other related modern theories of the universe are based upon the postulate that the velocity of light is constant and that no experiment can show any difference in the velocities of two beams of light.

The assumption was first drawn from the Michelson-Morley experiment performed in Cleveland with the interferometer in 1887. The purpose of the experiment was to detect the earth's motion through the ether of space by comparing the velocity of light in various directions.

Dr. Dayton C. Miller, who succeeded Dr. Michelson as professor of physics at Case, has always refused to accept the interpretation that the experiment gave a zero result.

Between 1921 and 1931, Dr. Miller made a long series of exhaustive tests with the interferometer.

AS a result of these experiments in which he made hundreds of thousands of readings upon the interferometer, Dr. Miller has maintained that the experiment gives a small but systematic effect which was also present when Michelson and Morley performed the experiment.

This could be explained, if it is assumed that the earth drags the ether with it to a certain extent, as the result of a motion of the entire solar system through space at a velocity of about two hundred miles a second. This figure, incidentally, agrees well with recent calculations of the speed of the rotation of the galaxy.

The Mt. Wilson astronomers made some repetitions of Dr. Miller's experiment but failed to get results which agreed with his.

Questions and Answers

Q—Has a Negro ever held the office of United States secretary of the treasury.

A—No.

THE NEW DEAL AND THE JONESES

650,000 Homes Saved by Federal Loans; Typical Family Amazed

The Joneses have turned to figuring out the New Deal in their own way, despairing of ever understanding it as presented in the complicated explanations of the experts. Talking it over at the supper table and in their living room in the evening, they're rapidly getting a clear idea of what it's all about, as this article, sixth in the series, shows.

BY WILLIS THORNTON

CHAPTER SIX

I PICKED up Frank Wilson tonight and drove him home with me," said Pa Jones. "He'd just come from the Home Loan office and his application for a loan on his place had been O. K.'d. You know the little white house over on Jefferson street that he built five years ago? He'd fallen behind on his payments during the six months he was laid off. Was afraid the insurance company was going to foreclose. But now he's all set, and he's got a new government mortgage at a lower rate and longer time."

"If he gets back in the mill this fall, as he expects to, he'll pay off in good shape. He certainly seemed relieved about it."

"Yes, I know Mrs. Wilson through the Home and School League," Mrs. Jones contributed. "She was just about sick this last couple of months about their losing their home. I can just imagine how relieved she'll be."

"Gee! That's still another field where the government is stepping in and doing the banking, eh?" John Jr. commented.

gage interest and principal) to the government.

And when the HOLC stops loaning, there is further help for mortgaged homes in the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund. Under the housing act, this federal fund is to insure and guarantee home mortgages up to 80 per cent of a valuation based on 1926 value of the property.

THIS should tend to relieve the

\$21,000,000,000 of existing home mortgage debt, and thus draw still further private funds into home construction.

As most HOLC mortgages run fifteen years, we can be sure that for the next fifteen years the government is going to have a hand in a gigantic real estate business, collecting interest and principal, seeing that insurance is paid and repairs kept up, on something like a million homes.

About one of every seven mortgaged homes will be dealing with this gigantic government corporation as mortgagor. And right now the government is the biggest owner of real estate in the whole country, with some five million dollars' worth.

Here again, the government faces the possibility (some say the probability) that many will not pay, and that the government may be either forced to conduct wholesale

foreclosures or take big losses.

Chairman John H. Fahey has

predicted that while there will be

leniency in cases of need, every

means will be used to make people who can.

Applications for HOLC loans

have now been stopped, as it is

felt that private credit has been

loosened up enough to carry the

load.

THE Federal Home Loan bank

system administering these

loans now has nearly 3,000 mem-

bers with assets of three billions.

They get their money from twelve

regional banks of the system, and

loan it to home owners.

All regional banks are on a

profit basis, and seven have de-

clared dividends.

"What I can't see," John Jr.

puzzled, "is this: What good does

it do for the government just to

take over all this mortgage debt?"

There's just as much debt, isn't

there?

"How are the home owners, and

the farm owners any better off for

all this shuffling around?"

"Well, take Frank Wilson's case

as an example," said Pa Jones.

"He had a balance of \$6,500 due

on a 6 per cent mortgage. But

the company owning the mortgage

was willing to take \$5,000 in 4 per

cent HOLC bonds for the mort-

gage, because, of course, with the

government guarantee, they're

safe.

It's going to insure depositors

in about 11,000 building and loan

institutions, if that many can

come up to requirements. Maybe

only half of them can make the

grade right away, but if all 11,000

can be included, that'll mean an-

other eight billions in stock and

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