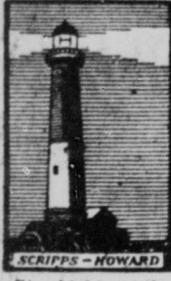


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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Phone Riley 5551

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1936.

BROWN SNOW

WHEN President Roosevelt signed the farm act, he said:

"The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil."

As if to emphasize the President's warning, another dust storm struck the Panhandle areas of Oklahoma and Texas. "Visibility diminished to zero," said a press dispatch.

Writing from Oklahoma City, Thomas L. Stokes, political correspondent, recently described the oil derricks which rise beside that city's skyscrapers:

"I saw their spidery forms against a background of dust, a pinkish gray cloud hovering over the city, swept up in one of a series of dust storms which pre-sage a return of last year's calamity."

"In the derricks and the dust clouds you have the symbols of the despoiling of this country out here—the ravaging of Oklahoma's two chief resources, her oil and her farm lands, by those who lust for quick profits and think not of the morrow."

And a few days later came dispatches from New England, describing the "brown snow" which fell, leaving specks of Texas sand on the window panes, green shutters and white clapboards of New England homes.

Yet there are some who say the farm problem is local.

For the soil problems of the Western plains, to be sure, the new farm program does not provide an adequate solution. It might have sufficed if it had been put in effect before the sod was plowed up to grow \$2 wartime wheat. But erosion has worked so fast and ruthlessly that in a great part of this area no plan of crop rotation, by which a farmer can gain a livelihood, is feasible. According to Dr. Paul Sears, author of "Deserts on the March," the only possible way to check those drifting sands is to restore a grass cover and leave the land to decades of nature's patient healing.

And this involves also the moving of stranded families. Fortunately, the Resettlement Administration already has launched in the dust bowl a \$10,000,000 program of land purchase, land resodding and moving of families to more fertile areas. Dr. Tugwell's organization has here a magnificent opportunity to do something really worth while.

IT is for the millions of fertile acres as yet only slightly wasted by erosion that the new soil conservation and domestic allotment farm act is intended. The government will spend a half billion dollars a year to induce farmers to plant less land in crops which take the soil's fertility and expose it to the wind and the rains, and plant more land in legumes and grasses, which build fertility and bind the soil against erosion.

If every cent of it were borrowed money, the financial burden passed on to future generations would be more than compensated for by saving a heritage of soil from which those of the future can get the food and fibers they will need for existence.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

WHEN United States Lines laid up the Leviathan contrary to the terms of a contract it had with the government, it became liable for payment of a \$1,000,000 forfeit.

Secretary of Commerce Roper, however, waived collection of the \$1,000,000 on condition that the company build a new liner. This deal obligated the government to put up at least \$7,500,000 from the construction loan put, notwithstanding the vigorous condemnation of that fund by President Roosevelt in a message to Congress.

Roper specified that invitations to bid on construction of the new ship should be sent out not later than Sept. 16 last. When that day arrived no invitations had been issued. Instead, Roper issued a statement. He said the Commerce Department had instructed the company to revise its plans to provide greater safety for passengers. How he could order revision of plans he had not seen, he did not explain.

Accordingly, he extended to Nov. 16 the limit for requesting bids and stated that construction must start not later than Dec. 16. To date, not only has no construction been started, but the construction price hasn't even been decided.

So, once more Roper has set a new deadline. This time it is April 1. Again the reason given is revision of plans. And again no really satisfactory explanation for the delay is volunteered.

Is the Secretary genuinely interested in rescuing our merchant marine from virtual extinction or is he merely acting as a steamship agent?

IF WASHINGTON WERE A CANDIDATE TODAY

IF George Washington were alive today he would stand no chance of election as President, The Living Church, Episcopal organ, declares.

In support of this statement, an editorial points out that Washington would be opposed by the following elements:

1. By the American Legion, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Liberty League, because he was a known radical of revolutionary tendencies.

2. By William Randolph Hearst, for the above reasons and also because he was born an Englishman.

3. By President Roosevelt and the New Dealers, because he believed in the Constitution and in rugged individualism.

4. By Bishop Cannon and the Methodist Board of Prohibition, Temperance and Public Morals, because he believed in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and kept the best cellar in Virginia.

5. By the Roman Catholics and Missouri Synod Lutherans, because he was a Mason.

6. By the Atheist Society, because he was a churchman.

7. By the Negroes and the Civil Liberties Union, because he kept slaves.

8. By the Communists and other radicals, because he was an aristocrat and a capitalist.

9. By the aristocrats and capitalists, because he believed in democracy and the rights of the common man.

10. By the League of Nations Association and the Internationalists, because he warned of entangling foreign alliances.

11. By the isolationists and hundred percenters

because he entered into a treaty of alliance with France, and welcomed Lafayette, Von Steuben and Kosciusko as his allies.

12. By the conservationists and the Amalgamated Fruit Growers of America, because he cut down the cherry tree.

THE TOLEDO PLAN

THE best commentary on the effectiveness of the Toledo Plan for Industrial Peace, which various cities are studying, exists in the dry-cleaning industry involving 1500 employees; of a textile workers' walkout involving 400 men; of a laundry strike affecting 12 branches; of a large dairy company walkout; of two major strikes in automotive accessories plants—these are the achievements of the Toledo Peace Plan as the public has known them.

But there have been many settlements of threatened industrial difficulties quite without publicity. There have been behind-the-scene meetings of employer and worker, engineered by the Peace Board, which have settled disputed points, kept men at their jobs, pay rolls on the upgrade and Toledo in peace with national upturn.

Toledo is pretty strong for the Peace Plan today. There was much skepticism last summer when it was first proposed by Edward F. McGrady, Assistant Secretary of Labor. Both labor and employers feared some of their prerogatives might be taken away.

No one contends that the plan is perfect. Not every one favors it. But the fact remains it has done more for industrial peace in Toledo than anything else the city has had.

THE Peace Board is composed of 18 members. Five were chosen by labor, five by the employers, and eight by Ralph Lind, secretary of the Cleveland Regional Labor Board, who has been temporary chairman of the local Peace Board.

The board has an executive secretary, L. S. Harding, whose salary up to this time has been paid by the Federal government. The government is now withdrawing this aid and a local plan of financing is being considered.

Sometimes Secretary Harding alone, other times

Mr. Harding with Chairman Lind, still other times one or both working with a small panel of the board's membership, have worked out these settlements.

The board has no legal rights and it can compel no one to give up anything.

It has settled strikes and averted others by acting as a meeting ground for both sides where points at issue could be considered, with particular regard for the community's welfare. Its sole force has been public opinion. The newspapers have backed the board solidly.

The first Peace Plan settlements came in July, when a restraint strike and a dry-cleaning strike were settled. In August, the textile strike seemed imminent, but Chairman Lind effected an agreement between the textile workers' union and the management. The same month there was a laundry strike, and it was settled quickly.

In September, drivers, dockmen and inside workers of a large dairy struck. A panel of six Peace Board members was in session five hours with representatives of both sides and obtained settlement. Chairman Lind alone settled a serious auto accessory plant strike in October.

The most recent major settlement has been in the dispute at a spring manufacturing plant, where 425 employees were out. Differences seemed irreconcilable, and it took time for the Peace Board to get the disputants together. The plant closed down for weeks, but finally the board was able to effect a settlement.

This was the only protracted strike Toledo has had since the Peace Plan became operative.

MACHINES MAKE JOBS

MACHINES often are accused of causing unemployment. Actually they do the reverse, according to the Machinery and Allied Products Institute.

Study of current employment figures shows, according to the Institute, that "employment is higher in intensely mechanized industries, in comparison to pre-depression levels, than it is in occupations in which few or no machines are used."

Citing particularly the printing trades, women's clothing manufacture, baking, petroleum refining, automobile and airplane manufacturing, the Institute says:

"Almost without exception in such industries as this where machine methods have been developed to a high degree volume of production has increased to such an extent that more workers are needed."

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

TO remain young is the chief desire of the American woman, says a professional dispenser of advice to the ladies. Next, it seems, she would like her romance to be unending, and after that she wants financial security.

All of which is a large order.

Wanting all this is nothing unusual, of course. Mortals always have dallied with the idea of Utopias and fairy kingdoms and miracles worked with magic. Old cemeteries are planted with alchemists who spent their lives seeking a formula for making gold.

The woman who hopes to stay young very long after 40 is evidently too much preoccupied with self. If she expects the thrills of first love to last a lifetime, she exists in a dream world. And when she wants financial security without turning her hand to earn it, she is a parasite on society.

These stories about us which appear so often nowadays in the daily papers must be taken with a grain of salt. After all the American woman is merely a figure of speech. If she exists at all, it's dangerous to generalize about her. For the minority gives leave to the loaf.

Behind the popularity of amateur radio hours lurks the hidden dream—the dream of quick, easy money, of public adulation, of unearned fame. Women even more than men have been seduced by that dream. Hollywood has made us beauty conscious; the word "glamour" has hypnotized us. And when the cold-creamed vacuity of an Edna Wallace Hopper face can raise in so many shekels, why tend the spinning wheels? So reasons the modern girl. But it's the other kind of woman upon whom society always depends—those who nurture the children, nurse the sick and help the men. There is no formula for staying young; there is a formula for feeling young—be useful.

FROM THE RECORD

SENATOR LEWIS (D., Ill.), rising to attack war debt defaulters: Mr. President, I presume this honorable body will conclude that in discussing the matter I am about to bring to the attention of the Senate I am seeking to emulate the character which Carlyle introduces in his Sartor Resartus, claiming that persistency with obstinacy may finally reach some final result, even if not a favorable one.

Senator Couzens (R., Mich.): Even some of the dumb bankers who have run the banks during the depression and prior thereto were able to show great improvement in the year 1935.

Squaring the Circle
With THE HOOISER EDITOR

ON the first "spring" day, with the temperature around 45 again, an old gentleman with a wing collar and a cane walked along Delaware and seemed to enjoy himself . . . fifteen persons stood around watching three men dig a hole at Washington and Illinois—st to fix a steam pipe . . . a young couple came out of a store on Washington-st talking so earnestly about their purchases that they ran into a man . . . six small boys played baseball in the park at 30th-st and Fall Creek-blvd . . . a block up three smaller boys had kites in the air . . . two boys had kites in the air at the War Memorial plaza.

The settlement of a strike in the dry-cleaning industry involving 1500 employees; of a textile workers' walkout involving 400 men; of a laundry strike affecting 12 branches; of a large dairy company walkout; of two major strikes in automotive accessories plants—these are the achievements of the Toledo Peace Plan as the public has known them.

But there have been many settlements of threatened industrial difficulties quite without publicity. There have been behind-the-scene meetings of employer and worker, engineered by the Peace Board, which have settled disputed points, kept men at their jobs, pay rolls on the upgrade and Toledo in peace with national upturn.

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