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Dr. Vance On Law Observance

Rev. Joseph A. Vance, in his sermon from the pulpit of his church, the First Presbyterian of Detroit, Sunday night made an eloquent plea for the observance of true Americanism, especially with regard to the prohibition law. He asks: "Where shall the real patriot today take his stand? Can he pick and choose as to what laws he will obey and what he will defy?"

Answering Rev. Vance's question from our viewpoint, we would suggest that he ask himself this question: "where shall the true minister of God today take his stand? Can he pick and choose as to what laws he will obey and what he will defy?"

In the face of his recent declaration for capital punishment, in which he vigorously goes on record as willing to violate the law "Thou shalt not kill," we wonder how so intelligent a mind as Dr. Vance possesses overlooks the apparent inconsistency of his preaching. His only excuse, as we see it, is that with all his wisdom Dr. Vance merely failed to obtain the correct understanding.

How can an excellent preacher, sheltered and somewhat secluded from the evils of a cosmopolitan metropolis, expect all of his congregation to come any nearer to obeying a federal statute than the exemplary spiritual leader does in obeying a Divine mandate?

A Local "Big Leaguer"

A few evenings ago, during the annual summer meeting of the Michigan Press Association (Michigan weekly newspapers) the officers of the Association banqueted a group of prominent Detroit advertising men. The chap at our right about the festive board was Schuyler L. Marshall, editor of the Clinton County (Mich.) Republican-Burnett, at St. Joseph. Across from us sat Vern Burnett, of Brookside Drive in this village. Marshall relates that years ago he was more than once rocked little Vern Burnett to sleep, and then he went home from the banquet and wrote this nice piece about one of Birmingham's residents:

"During this short trip—we were absent from St. Joseph four hours—we met another big leaguer. Many St. Joseph people have just graduated from high school here. We refer to Vern Burnett. Vern has a high batting average and is fielding faultlessly in the General Motors league. We can't tell exactly what position he plays—we believe it is secretary of the Purchasing Division of that motor organization. As any rate Vern has prominent office in the General Motors building, employs a private secretary and has a whole army of secretarial help in his department.

We know that he, like Charlie Gehringer, goes to bat for his company in the big cities of the country—travels from one end of the country to the other. Thursday evening Vern with other General Motors officials and a group of advertising men, met with a group of weekly newspaper publishers at the Book Cadillac hotel. The meeting was to consider business-advertising. Vern was called upon to speak, which he did briefly and effectively. He told us funny stories nor did he play to the grandstand. We appreciate him and we thought how much alike Vern Burnett and Charlie Gehringer were in the way they performed their tasks."

Billboard Blemishes

Members of the real estate business, at their annual convention in Boston a few days ago, registered alarm over the growth of billboards throughout the country; they passed a resolution asking the federal government to look into the situation. Here is what the realtors determined to do:

"We believe outdoor advertising where it detracts from the sightliness of residential areas and mars rural scenic beauty is unfair to the general public and the property owner.

"We believe that billboards or other outdoor advertisements should not be permitted where they form a dangerous or unnecessary traffic hazard.

"We believe that the natural beauty of our country as a public heritage to be conserved and the gigantic expenditures by the public in its highways as an investment to be protected.

"RESOLVED, That the National Association of Real Estate Boards request the Department of Commerce of the United States to investigate and make recommendations concerning the possibilities of just regulation of outdoor advertising.

"RESOLVED FURTHER, That this Association tender to the Department of Commerce the full cooperation of its officers, directors and legal counsel and the co-operation of the member boards in conducting this investigation.

"This continues the conflict of human interests; the realtors would protect natural beauty against the damaging effects of certain kinds of outdoor advertising, thus requiring billboard and other outdoor advertising groups to make their craft more aesthetically.

Officials of the Village of Bloomfield Hills, to Birmingham's north, have already started to settle the billboard problem, and Birmingham is investigating the matter.

What Are National Morals?

There are many nations, and many, many people upon this earth; no two thumbs are engraved with the identical patterned lines—and no two minds are exactly alike in their appraisal of life, or their reaction in the social order. Differences will exist, even though some of them are only of hairline width.

For instance, take the problem of national morals; read what Murl DeFoe, discriminating editor of the Charlotte (Mich.) Republican-Tribune says regarding drinking and horse racing in Canada and the United States:

"The Devonshire running race meeting is on in Windsor and the runners always attract a good many from the American side of the river, the gambling feature more so, no doubt, than the actual sport. And this brings up the thought that in all our discussions about crime waves, England and Canada are most always cited as perfect exhibits of law respect and observance. We hear the claim so often it must be true but over against all this testimonial for British purity and virtue there is a strange complex.

For example America has, by legal process, at least, proclaimed itself a dry nation; Michigan does not, legally again, recognize horse race betting. Yet Canada, or in this case the government of Ontario, through its authorized law making body, sanctions the sale of intoxicating liquors and the government takes five per cent of horse race gambling through the operation of the pari-mutuel plan of betting. With us both practices are outlawed as morally wrong while Canada sanctions both for profit. How by any moral or legal comparison is Canada deserving of its super reputation, in this country, as a nation of superlative governmental ideals?"

Editor DeFoe is more than correct in his comparison; Canada and England are able to keep down their law violations because they refuse to make laws beyond popular reach and popular acceptance. The United States may be compared to the inebriate who signs a pledge to quit drinking, and then violates it on one or more days each year; Canada and England refuse to take the pledge, and thus continue to drink every day.

The real question is this: is a drinking man (or nation) better off, or worse off, to cut down on drinking by signing a pledge (or passing a law) than a drinking man who signs no pledge and continues daily drinking? Our own notion is that the man who signs a pledge to quit drinking (and then violates it on certain occasions) may be a hypocrite, but he's on the way to perpetual sobriety, at least. It is, therefore, perpetual sobriety necessary, or desirable?

It's A Better Way

During the past 30 years 4,290 Americans have been killed, and 96,000 injured, as the result of Fourth of July celebrations with fireworks; we are now on the verge of a national movement to eliminate this vast instrument of destruction, as witness Michigan's first year of no fireworks, and the resulting few fatalities or injuries. Birmingham and vicinity benefited, too.

Rapid, indeed, are the scientific changes that have swept over the world during the past fifty years; and just as rapid are the changes in mass thinking that are sweeping away old customs and traditions—some of them good for us, a few of them, perhaps, not so good. Among the good things, we believe, is the movement to outlaw the use of fireworks on Fourth of July.

In place of the void created through the outlawry of fireworks to celebrate the birth of the independence of the United States, there will be given other means of reminding the American people of the struggle its forefathers had when founding the nation; the new devices by which we shall remember this struggle will be less physical, more spiritual—as perhaps manifested by the growth of international tolerance, the brotherhood of mankind, against the momentary explosion of dynamite and gunpowder in fireworks.

American citizens should never forget the meaning of Independence Day, or July Fourth; it marked the creation, among men, of a new ideal in human relationship, and has left to the world its finest example of democratic government. The gaining movement among the States in this country to prohibit fireworks not only results in the saving of life and property, but also offers further proof of the foolishness of dynamite and gunpowder upon the occasion of any national display, even when showing off battleships.

AS FAR AS MICHIGAN'S supply of salt is concerned, state geologist R. A. Smith now declares that it will not be exhausted for the next 30,000 years. That is the news we've been waiting for—will someone please pass the onions?

Nothing New Under the Sun

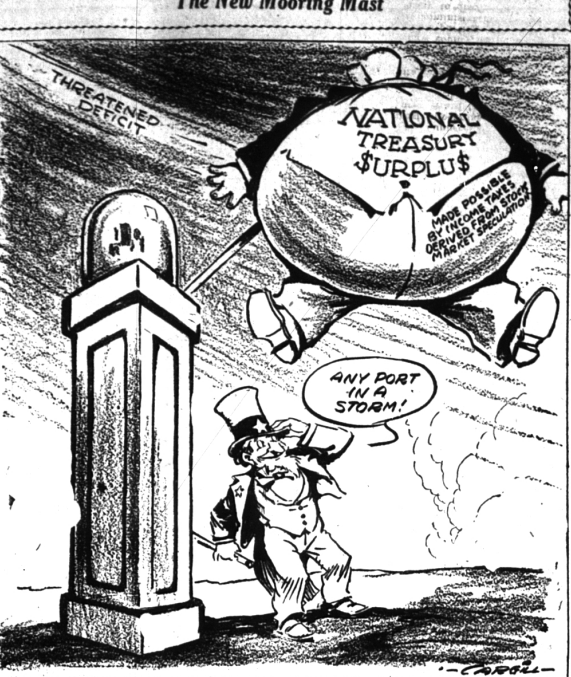
IF ALL THE COMMERCIAL fishing nets used on the Great Lakes were placed end to end, they would reach from Pittsburgh to Paris. And, if used on land, they'd probably catch plenty of suckers.

AS ONE WHO USES the Detroit River as a means of supporting the ferryboat upon which he rides Canadaward, we have often mused of late when we witnessed a small craft speeding about; we have mused about the mission of the craft, whether it was merely used for pleasure, or for profit. Querier, isn't it, how one is inclined to think the worst about something outside one's self; which leads us to this opportunity for observation: all is not wet that glistens upon the sparkling water.

AS A GREAT AREA of, for instance, clay, may reveal immense diamond lodes in the Kimberly district, so may there creep out in an individual who represents great kindness, peace, and tranquility, a streak of noise. That's why "Dad" Adams, for fifty years editor and publisher of the Fowlerville, (Mich.) Review, laments the passing of fireworks as a part of the modern Fourth of July, for he says "we can't help feeling that Americanism is losing something by shutting off all this noise."

SOME WEEKS ago the Rochester (Mich.) Clarion published some comment about a certain titan-haird schoolmarm who went to a large Detroit hotel dining room and, over her coffee, or hot chocolate, smoked a cigarette with much proficiency. Joe Haas, over in Holly, has since remarked that the people of his town are still patiently waiting to see what brand of "cokes" she has been smoking. If anything like a golden sputter shimmering against a bank of low-hung clouds, it'll be a lucky incident in some advertising man's life, won't it?

The New Mooring Mast



WHO'S WHO AND TIMELY VIEWS

OPERATION OF DEBENTURE PLAN EXPLAINED

By MARVIN JONES, Congressman from Texas.

(Marvin Jones was born near Valley View, Tex. He is a graduate of Southwestern university, later obtaining an L. B. degree at the University of Texas. In 1907 he was admitted to the bar and began practicing at Amarillo. He was elected to congress from the eighth Texas district in 1917 and has been re-elected each term since. During the World war he served in the tank corps. He is a Democrat.)

The so-called export-debenture plan, stated in simple terms, merely provides for the use of part of what the federal government collects in tariff duties on foreign goods and paying an export premium or bounty on surplus agricultural commodities shipped out. Its purpose is to make the tariff effective on products of the farm and ranch, just as it is now effective on manufactured articles. For illustration, let us assume the existence of a surplus of wheat which must be shipped abroad.

The exporter, whether farmer, co-operative association or other person, would receive from the United States treasury a certificate showing the fact and the amount of such shipment abroad. This certificate would be known as an export debenture. It would be accepted by the government in payment of any import duty on any commodity whatever coming into this country.

The value of the certificate would be 21 cents for every bushel of wheat exported; it would be negotiable and could be used directly or sold to any importer who could use the debenture at its full face value in payment of the customs duties on any goods which he brings from the outside into America. The plan would operate in a similar manner on all other surplus farm commodities.

Its immediate effect would be to increase the price of all wheat in America. 20 cents per bushel, which would mean millions by way of increased prices to the wheat growers of the United States. It would mean millions in increased prices to the cotton growers of the south, and to the growers of other surplus crops.

This has been the effect in every country that has tried it. The whole domestic price level of the commodity rises the amount of the debenture.

As an independent proposition no one would advocate it. But as a part of a system no one can deny its logic and justice. It is merely restoring to the surplus farmer what is now taken away from him by force or law in the form of increased prices on tariff-laden articles.

Every objection which has been made against the debenture plan applies with equal force to the tariff system. So long as the protective tariff remains the policy of the country, the debenture plan, or some similar one, must also apply in order that there may be governmental justice and democracy of opportunity.

Of course, in spite of the late spring there are a few early spring cantaloupes on the market, or maybe there's some substitution going on, for we see by the papers that eight cantaloupes have been stolen from a Maine park.—New York Evening Post.



An Attractive New Home In The Quorton School District \$15,250

A splendidly built new house, on a heavily wooded lot 70 x 150, in the fashionable Quorton Lake District. Four bedrooms, sewing room, living room, dining room, kitchen, heated garage, electric refrigeration, etc.

Shown by appointment only.

Colgrove Buck & Tillotson REALTORS

Friendly Thoughts - By G. Dewey Kimball. The smile upon the face of youth—inexperience, hopeful—is like an expectant dawn eagerly awaiting the world it has come upon... G. DEWEY KIMBALL FUNERAL DIRECTOR Ambulance Service 408 N. WOODWARD AVE. PHONE 510

Dinner Stories

No Monoplist The difference between a cop and a traffic cop is in what you get a chance to slip in a word or two to the traffic cop.—Notre Dame Jugger.

Try the Dead-Letter Office Colored Employee to Express Agent—"Boss, what would you do 'bout that boss? He done at up where he's gwine to.—Cleveland Leader.

Encouragement for All A famous sword swallower is appearing at a continental circus. We understand that he started quite a modest way with green peas and a knife.—London Opinion.

We like the slender and willowy type of woman if she doesn't resemble too closely the weeping willow.—Life.

We never thought we would live to see the day when a bride's hope chest would contain a muggle, a leash and a box of puppy biscuits.—Life.

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