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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1936

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

. . . . In Which We Answer The Question: "Why Should The U. S. Spend More For Peace, Less For War?"

Three weeks ago I published an editorial entitled "Spending 12 Cents for Peace; Spending $11.00 for War!" And shortly thereafter came a sizzling letter back to me from Nelson Brown, who, with his dad, Vernon J. Brown, publish The Ingham County News, at Mason. The younger Brown, upset by my suggestion that the United States give its State Dept. more funds with which to nurture and assist in international friendliness, asks me some pointed questions, as follows:

Dear Mr. Averill:

I have just finished reading your editorial on "Spending 12c for Peace" and can't quite see the connection with Department of State appropriations and peace. I don't pretend to be an expert on foreign affairs, but it is my opinion that the smaller appropriation available for sending emissaries to foreign countries will result in smaller chance for war.

Do you believe that the World Court and the League of Nations are effective? Do you believe that the United States should mix in European and Asiatic affairs, and that such mixing would bring peace? Do you believe that a person proves his patriotism by taking the poltroon's oath not to fight, no matter for what cause? Do you believe that the present crop of long-haired professors and downy-chinned college boys who march in anti-war parades are good citizens.

I have no intent to deride or belittle the peace crusade you have undertaken in your paper. I have asked these questions because I am interested in the methods you use to reach your sincere conclusions, because I know you are sincere.

Knowing that you are two-fisted in your own life and in publishing your newspaper, I can not understand why you are so set against any of the virtues which heretofore have been regarded as patriotic. I really can not understand your extreme pacifism regarding national affairs, when you are so militaristic, or so appear, in your own life. Certainly, you don't compromise every issue which arises in your own business and in your own life. You fight them out. This nation, too, may have just cause for fighting some things out, I believe.

I would rather spend $11 for a bodyguard than to spend 12c for a psalm singer, had I the duty of going out to arrest Alvin Karpis or Al Capone.

Very truly yours,
NELSON D. BROWN.

In reply to which I thus write:

Dear Nelson:

Thanks for your inquiry, and the opportunity it affords for setting forth, though briefly, my reasoning regarding national policy for the creation and maintenance of peace.

In the first place, I contend that peace can come only when nations carry on their activities with the idea of solving their problems through THOUGHT, and not mere BRUTE FORCE. It is easy, as history reveals, to engage in a war. However justifiable some past wars may have been in the light of needed reforms, there is no logical reason today why nations should shed blood, unless actually invaded by an alien enemy. You and I can, I know, agree completely upon this point.

Civilized people today are supposed to settle their differences through means beyond the realm of physical combat! Within a nation, we know, it is customary to carry one's troubles into court for redress of wrongs; lynchings, hangings, and similar mob "justice" is outlawed in practically every land worthy of the name of respectability—even though, at times, a few of them occur.

Every reasoning human urge today suggests that individual and group differences be settled by peaceful means. Within a State or a Nation, this is the general and accepted rule. Perhaps this may be attributed to the fact that no State has an army or navy with which to fight another State, and, of course, our Nation nowadays doesn't mobilize the defense machinery against any section of the country. It is only when differences arise beyond international boundary lines that the thought of using an army or a navy becomes an active part of many persons' thinking.

Do you not agree with me that, since the only reason now remaining for a war anywhere on earth arises from economic necessity, even such a settlement of differences holds within its womb nothing of profit for even the victor? Do you not agree that the World War upset world amity, however justifiable it seemed at the time? In war, the victor receives but a military victory, not a monetary gain. *Look but to the present status of every nation that engaged in the World War to prove this point.*

At best, war is but the frenzied and brutish weapon of one or more nations who, unable to settle differences through arbitration, resort to the law of the jungle. "We can't win 'em with argument, so let's beat 'em with force," they say.

So what?

Well, let me refer to "Spending 12 Cents for Peace." I disagree with you heartily when you make light of the value of a State Dept. in maintaining international friendliness. While some of our foreign emissaries may have been stupid, in the long run they serve a useful and helpful purpose. Every time I visit your town, for instance, I like it better; why? . . . because I meet people I know and like. My point in this regard is that, if a nation can spend 12 billions annually for its crime bill, as we do in the United States, why can't we spend more than about four billions annually for education?

If we can spend $11.00 annually for national defense for every 11 cents we spend for maintaining our Dept. of State, then why not a few dimes more for this only active governmentally supported peace agency we have?

Now let me answer, to the best of my ability, your remaining questions.

You ask: "Do you believe that the World Court and the League of Nations are effective?" Answer: No, I don't. The Italian invasion of Ethiopia, the Japanese invasion of China, prove that the League and World Court haven't yet solved the problem of preventing war. But haven't they done much to stay it? Haven't they been a focal point through which the evil of national imperialism has been revealed to more human beings than at any time in human history? *Haven't* they held in abeyance at least a portion of Italian and *Japanese imperialistic aggressiveness*? And, right now, aren't they the only agencies through which the world eventually hopes to work out enduring peace? You and I, as newspapermen, know how, even in the best of intentioned courts in our own land, justice doesn't always prevail. Yet both of us would rally to the defense of the judiciary if it were threatened with being outlawed, and replaced with the rule of an early American mining camp, wouldn't we?

You ask: "Do you believe that the United States should mix in European and Asiatic affairs, and that such mixing would bring peace?" I repeat, the United States should attend to its own business so long as other nations appear desirous only of imperialistic conquest. I don't have to get into a fight because some of my neighbors engage in fighting, do I? And I won't—unless they start in on some of my own children or family, or endeavor to take my property. Personally, I favor the United States financially supporting such an agency as the League and World Court, although I believe the time is not yet ripe for our country to risk its own peaceful desires by being subject to entering a war on foreign soil at the political mandate of other nations. I believe there are definite national and international economic problems to be settled first—problems that can be settled only when the world is ready to study and apply ECONOMIC LAW. For, Nelson, I am convinced that future wars are unavoidable until greater economic security is obtainable by human beings under a different concept of exploitation than now exists. *(For further understanding of what I mean please read Henry George's Progress & Poverty.)*

You ask: "Do you believe that a person proves his patriotism by taking the poltroon's oath not to fight, no matter for what cause?" Answer: No, if he is a poltroon, a lazy, cowardly person. *But I do grant anyone the absolute Christian right to be a pacifist.* If a man takes such an oath as a plain matter of principle, I can respect him just as I would have respected the Nazarene when, while suspended from a cross, He said, pityingly, "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." I know a bit about the artificially stimulated heroism of the war mood myself—I've presided in the engine room of an ocean-going vessel when German submarines menaced the safety of navigation. *And I've seen the hideously maimed survivors who yet don't know "what the hell I fought for."* (I've often said that one good way to prevent war is to make illegal military bands and the arm-waving of beautiful girls as they line the curbs while soldiers parade. Stripe war of its romanticism and artificial glamor.)

You ask: "Do you believe that the present crop of long-haired professors and downy-chinned college boys who march in anti-war parades are good citizens?" Some of them, I am willing to believe, are darned good citizens, if they are sincere. If they seek only sensationalism, or are poltroons, then I have no use for them. But I do believe in the efficacy of honestly conceived "anti parades"—whether they be sandwich men placarding a sweat-shop factory, suffragettes seeking the right to vote, or, if you please, a regiment of stern soldiers marching to stem the invasion of alien enemies upon our national soil.

In your last paragraph you write: "I would rather spend $11.00 for a bodyguard than to spend 12 cents for a psalm singer, had I the duty of going out to arrest Alvin Karpis or Al Capone." Well, Nelson, so would I. *But, when Johnny America starts out to fight Johnny Bull, I don't figure that the English cousin is either Karpis or Capone.* He undoubtedly is some young British chap who hopes to live his span of life with his parents, sisters and brothers, a wife and kiddies of his own, perhaps—a decent chap who takes up the sword because of economic maladjustment that reaches its focal point through his country's (and this is universally true of every nation) need for riches beyond its own boundary; no, the average soldier isn't a Karpis or a Capone, and it's of him and his family, him and his heart-hunger for peace that I am thinking of—and that I know you, too, are thinking of when you read my answers to your letter.

I know that there can be things worse than war, but I also agree with Franklin that "there never was a good war, or a bad peace." And with Wellington, who said "the next dreadful thing to a battle lost is a battle won." And with Bovee, who declared "every war involves a greater or less relapse into barbarism. War, indeed, in its details, is the essence of inhumanity. It dehumanizes. It may save the State, but it destroys the citizen."

While admitting the subject to be a large one, I hope that you now understand better my reasons for writing an editorial entitled: "Spending 12 Cents for Peace; Spending $11.00 for War!"

With best personal regards,
Sincerely yours,
GEORGE R. AVERILL.

SOME DAY WE WOULD LIKE to see a comparative statement of the per capita costs of operating Birmingham as against other communities of a near-size. We suggest that the City Commission use some of the spare time of some of its employees to make this investigation.

"FISHWORMS CAN'T SEE RED" says a bulletin from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in Washington. "They can't see any color, 'cause I've used 'em trvin' to get rainbow trout in many streams," moans Harry S. Starr, local trout expert.

MOB SPIRIT is the attitude taken by a gang of cowards who do the thing they're all afraid to attempt individually.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

By THEODORE H. MILLINGTON

Bogus Money Again

The Frazier-Lemke Bill, once dead in a committee pigeon-hole, has come to life again in Congress. As formerly, it emanates financial and economic nausea. Its proposition to print greenbacks for refinancing farm mortgages is nothing short of an attempt at legalized thievery. Thievery—because any attempt by law to force a mortgage owner to accept unsound money in payment of his interest and principal without his consent is highway robbery and thievery.

But it is claimed that these greenbacks will be made legal tender etc. ad infinitum. We are paying farmers money to prevent overproduction. So why weep over farmers who lose their farms under the mortgage? Why pay one set of men money to destroy and pay another set of men to enable them to continue production? Why not let them lose their farms, put them on the welfare and then pay the mortgage-holders to keep their farms out of production? That would be New Deal consistency if not wise. But it is claimed that the Frazier-Lemke Zill is not a donation party. They claim it is a business proposition.

Robbing Peter to Pay Paul

To claim any such thing is like claiming that paying a debt with a rubber check is a bona fide payment. Greenback or printing-press money is nothing but bum checks that cannot be cashed. Oh, they may circulate at par for a while, just as a bad check may, but sooner or later they will become valueless.

On January 1st, 1782, it took **five hundred Continental paper dollars to buy or equal one silver dollar.**

Why Money Inflation?

If a country in a period of distress has lost its precious metals so it cannot back its currency with gold or silver, it is then forced to resort to printing-press money; but today there is no such excuse for the United States to go on printing-press money.

Plenty of Gold Base

Of the ten and one quarter billions of gold in the U. S. Treasury, nearly eight billion is held in trust for the banks to back our currency. The nearly five billion of this which belongs to the Federal Reserve can be expanded to twelve and one half billion which, plus the silver money, would amount to nearly fifteen billions of currency.

The Government owns two and a quarter billions of this gold, of which one billion and eight hundred million is tied up in the Stabilization Fund until Jan. 1st, 1937, and four hundred and forty nine million is in the General Fund for international and industrial use.

After Jan 1st the Government could issue one billion and eight hundred million in gold certificates against its one billion and eight million of free gold. So when we can increase the **sound money supply** by more than eight billions, why go crazy and print three billions of bogus money? It will be time enough to resort to that when the Government can no longer finance itself by borrowing.

The total money issued in the United States today is about ten billions but, within our present laws, it can be expanded to about **nineteen billion dollars of sound money**—that is, its value will still be measured in the world-market value of the gold behind it.

When gold is needed for commerce or import paper currency issued according to present law, can be used to obtain such gold, provided only that proof of need is satisfactory.

In other words, we are still on the gold standard, but we are not an unlimited redemption fund. **Any kind of printed money not redeemable at all is not sound money.**

Money in Circulation

One hears much loose theorizing about the quantity of money in circulation determining prices—that is, the more money the higher the prices. But look at these figures of money in circulation:

We have about the same amount of money in circulation today per capita as we had in 1917 and 1918, and, **during the depression years,** we have had and still have more per capita than during the boom years from 1924 to 1930. During the period from 1917 to 1935 the national money stock has grown nearly 200%. From these figures it will be seen that the "quantity" theory is not dependable. More money does not necessarily make more or better business.

More Credit Needed

It is not more money we need, but **more credit.** Not more Government credit, but more commercial and personal habit.

But because credit depends for its liquidation upon the earning power of the borrower and earning power depends upon employment, credit is not forthcoming unless the borrower possesses the earning power to meet payments of the loan.

It is **employment** this country needs, and not phoney laws making it legal for a man to pay his just debts in phoney inflation money.

Lower the Cost of Living

Increase the buying power of wages and incomes by lowering prices to the final consumer. That will increase consumers' volume of purchases, increase employment, increase earning power, increase commercial and personal credit and get everybody busy so they can pay honest debts with honest money.

If the Frazier-Lemke Bill should be passed, as it probably will be, President Roosevelt must and will veto it. He can afford to lose a few votes and those supporting the bill can tell their constituents they did their best. No doubt they "**planned it that way**".

Sauce for the Goose Etc.

If farm products brought war time prices would the farmers insist on paying their debts at the same rate of increase?

I wonder if the mortgage holders were the farmers and the farmers were the mortgage holders, would the farmer still insist on having Frazier-Lemke Bill passed? It is a poor rule that does not work both ways.

Gives Evidence

Caller—What is your dear little boy going to be when he grows up?

Weary Mother—I don't know. Judging from the wall paper and everything else he touches I think he will be a finger-print expert.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER

The Other Chap Says - - -

WOMEN AND WEALTH

Few of us have little or any idea of the part women play in the economic life of the Nation. To most of us it will come as a matter of surprise to learn that women own 65 per cent of $11,000,000,000 of the country's savings accounts, 41 per cent of all public utility stock, 48 per cent of all railroad securities, 31 per cent of all real estate, with a face value of more than a hundred billion dollars. Ownership of so much of the Nation's wealth results naturally in the payment of high taxes by women, an amount estimated at $2,160,000,000. The problems confronting women, therefore, are much greater than mere matters of home and family. We must recognize this and we should provide for a broad education of our daughters along economic and financial lines. Command of so much wealth implies responsibilities for which women should be prepared. It is not enough that an heiress may be a splendid duke in skirts, but that she know something about the duty which another half of wealth owes to society.—Ex-change.

MEET EM CONVENIENTLY

It may be all right to allow Chairman O'Hara to run the state Democratic campaign from Jackson prison and very likely the state administration would be willing to see that he has proper facilities for meeting visitors, but the Wilkowski situation is different. If he is to be given charge of the local campaign the state Senator, who is also Secretary of the Democratic county committee, should be transferred to the House of Correction. To ask Detroiters to go clear out to Jackson to consult with the Democratic campaign manager would be an injustice that should not be imposed by our fair minded Republican administration.—Detroit Courier.

EXTERIOR

I close my door upon the world
And those who live across the street
No count of my status care,
May think my house is spruce and neat.
My beds may go unmade till noon,
My floors unwaxed, the dishes day.
My chairs may be encased in dust,
My cupboard below—in disarray;
But if my ruffled curtains hang
Truly graceful, honest and crisp
Made
I know exactly how the rest
If I have swept my promenade.
Has opened my door in Faith,
Gay
And polished every window well
Just what transpires behind the
curtains
Hodge-Podge or order who can
tell?

Beatrice McDonald.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Tugwell's RA Issues a Report, Explaining Its Many Activities

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON.—The Resettlement Administration, under Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell, is sometimes referred to in Washington as the "administration nobody knows."

Unlike most New Deal agencies, efforts of which are confined to a single problem or phase of federal activity, Resettlement is concerned with a wide variety of problems. The scope and complexity of its activities have led to considerable criticism—some well-founded, but much based on general misunderstanding of its program.

An elaborate "interim" report issued recently explains the aims and progress of the Resettlement Administration, usually referred to as RA.

The report shows the three major phases of the program to be:

1. Purchase of millions of acres of submarginal land for conversion to proper usages—parks, forests, grazing land, and wild life conservation sanctuaries.

2. Transfer of thousands of families from bad to good land, and experiments in transferring urban families to ruralized suburban communities.

3. Rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of farmers, by loans and by farm and home management advice, thereby reducing rural relief rolls, plus emergency grants to other distressed farmers.

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RA has been allocated $275,000,000 from the four-billion-dollar work relief fund. Of this, $72,813,000 has been spent.

Under the first phase, the government is buying 9,343,000 acres of the estimated 100,000,000 acres of sub-marginal land in this country. More than 55,000 men from the relief rolls are converting the purchased land. Total cost is expected to approximate $50,000,000.

About 6000 families living on this submarginal land are to be established, if they so desire, in rural resettlement projects. Others who sell their land will be able to relocate themselves.

THE resettlement program involves establishment of rural communities of 50 to 500 homes each. These will be the center of farm and pasture lands. Ninety-two such projects now are completed, under construction, or have final plans approved.

A 40-year repayment plan, with 3 per cent interest on the loan, is provided. Co-operatives for growing, processing, and marketing of crops will be encouraged. Communities will be incorporated under state laws and will be subject to local taxation.

This part of the program includes the much-criticized subsistence homesteads, which RA inherited from the old division of subsistence homesteads in the Department of Interior. Planned as agricultural-industrial communities, they cost much more than estimated, and the industries necessary to provide employment have not moved in.

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MORE spectacular are the four "greenbelt" suburban resettlement communities, where thousands of city workers, with annual incomes of $1200 to $1500, will be re-housed in rural locations at low cost. The homes are expected to rent for about $6 a month a room.

The rehabilitation program, involving loans totaling $94,000,000 to some 600,000 farmers, is the biggest RA job. The rehabilitation theory is that it is cheaper and more humane to advance small loans which will keep distressed farm families self-supporting than it is to keep them on relief.

Loans run from $50 to $600 and are repayable in two to five years.

Only farmers who cannot borrow anywhere else can get loans from RA. Mortgages and liens are taken on property and crops, and the farmer agrees to operate his farm in accordance with good agricultural advice and a budget which takes into consideration probable expenditures and probable income.

Such farm management plans have as one object teaching the farmer to diversify his crops to provide food for his family instead of depending on a single cash crop.

Random Remarks

Rudy Vallee, singer:
"No man can write good songs on an empty stomach."

Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate:
"I think profit ought to be only reasonable."

Roger W. Babson, business statistician:
"Our economic and social problems are fundamentally religious problems."

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt:
"The more you forget your birthdays as you grow older, the younger you stay."

Nancy Astor, Member House of Commons:
"We women must go ahead of the politicians and build for generations unborn."

Alfred M. Landon, Governor of Kansas:
"The average family spends one-fourth of its income for taxes; whether the family knows it or not."

Annette Kellerman, swimmer:
"It isn't fashionable any more to keep the same husband too long."

George Hemann (Babe) Ruth, ex-Sultan of Swat:
"Fame is spotlight one minute and a ball-park the next."

Joe Louis, Negro heavyweight:
"You won't believe this, I guess, but I don't like watermelon."

William E. Borah, U. S. Senator from Idaho:
"Propaganda is never absent in any emergency, foreign or domestic. It is more than a profession—it is also a racket."

James A. Farley, Democratic National Chairman:
"Big business was the first element in this country to learn how to organize and how to march on Washington with a demand that Congress grant its wishes."

Dean A. Fales, Professor of Automotive Engineering:
"The big men in the automobile industry today are the art and craft men."

J. Edgar Hoover, Federal sleuth:
"The political alliance with crime exists in State after State, municipality after municipality."

Inconsistent

Talk about inconsistency! A while back Jimmy Walker announced that he was going to give up his old habit of staying up all night, and now he has adopted an infant.—Boston Herald.

Six Years Too Late

Harvard, following the histories of 1,700 school children from entering primary to graduating from high schools, finds that future undevelopables can be picked out at the age of six. But that's six years too late.—Boston Globe.

Jots 'n Jest

AFTER an X-ray examination, a Kansas City, Kan., physician told Mrs. Andrew Cates she was to be the mother of twins. Triplets arrived, proving X still the unknown.

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A device that counts grains of sand for analysis of sediments has been developed by a University of Chicago scientist, thus throwing PWA workers out of jobs.

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The Duke of Kent, on visiting Cape Province, was hailed as "Mighty Elephant" and the natives of Transvaal called him "Lord of the White Cliffs." Contraction: "White Elephant."

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Statistics show that, in 1934, world rubber shipments totaled 1,010,000 tons and exceeded shipments of all previous years, but that may be stretched a bit.

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