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Some Day More People Will Have More Of Everything

The Eccentric is among those who take pride in the material accomplishments of modern civilization and particularly in the great strides made in the United States.

We should not in our admiration lose sight of the steady fact that many of the advances of finance and the comforts of industry are not available to the average citizen of this country. We may boast of our high standard of living but, when it is examined in the light of possibility, it is not anything to become excited about or to be the subject of undue boasting.

It seems plain from a study of history that mankind has made tremendous progress. The lot of the average human being today is far superior to that endured by inhabitants of the globe some years ago. This improvement is encouraging but should not blind us to the imperative necessity of broadening the standard of living for all of the people in this country. In fact, eminent thinkers express the idea that most of the problems of the world itself will be solved when all peoples enjoy the real comforts that have become possible through the developments of modern research and industry.

Curbing Subdividers

From the pen of. Vernon J. Brown, outstanding Republican member of the Michigan State House of Representatives, and publisher of the Ingham County News, at Mason, comes some sound advice regarding the use of real property. We re-print Mr. Brown's comments here—not only because they tell the truth about the recent "land boom," but they reveal just how an important member of the State Legislature feels about the problem. Writes Representative Brown:

"The Michigan planning commission has been in existence for some considerable time. Occasionally there have come from it reports of varying nature. Most of these reports have been along the line of land use, conservation, highway planning, preserving the natural resources of the state and similar objectives. Much of the planning undertaken has been of the academic type which attracts little attention. Much of it might be classed as highly idealistic and impractical.

"Recently however, the planning commission has touched upon a subject worthy of popular consideration, a subject of vast importance to every property owner in the state. It is the subject of proper and reasonable control over the land subdivider.

"No single activity in the entire state has brought so much financial loss to so many people as the unbridled land subdivider. Individuals, banks, building and loan associations, trust companies, contractors and material men, all have been 'taken for a ride' because real estate speculators have been able to buy land acreage, set some stakes, hang out some flags, hire a band and a balloonist—and then proceed to sell small home sites at ridiculous prices.

"There are sufficient city lots already sold by subdividers to gullible investors, all located within 50 miles of the Detroit city hall to adequately provide homesites for 10 million people. During the 1920's 74 lots were sold for every 25 families which came to that area. Counting those who live in tenements and apartments the ratio is more than four to one. Thousands of these lots are now buried underneath a blanket of municipal debt and special tax assessments far out of proportion to their actual value. In Redford township of Wayne county alone the subdividers sold innocent victims of their racket a total of 27,139 lots on which only 1160 structures of all kinds have been placed. Seventy-three per cent of the unimproved platted property is delinquent for taxes for 1935 and previous years while more than 10 per cent of the homes are facing the tax sales of 1935.

"Such a condition not only results in loss to the actual purchasers of these particular lots but the general situation gluts the market for any and all lots.

"The planning commission cites these conditions as reasonable cause for doing something—doing something to wipe these unrepaired home sites from the present real estate market and doing something to prevent a recurrence of the same unwise procedure as soon as a short public memory forgets how it was fleeced between 1920 and 1930.

"Other states have done something about this racket. Michigan certainly should face the problem. Perhaps real estate may be considered a utility and its development subject to supervision like our railroads, telephones, gas and electric service, even the commercial use of our highways."

Cecil, The Shears, Quick!

Friedrich Von Schiller's play, "Don Carlos," is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a good run in Germany. One line is loudly applauded by the audiences. Margin's Posa appeals to King Philip to end the Inquisition saying, "Sire give us freedom of thought." We are neither prophets nor sons of prophets, but we venture the guess that those six words are due for a shearing. It is interesting to note however, that there is still freedom of applause.

Business Offers Future For Young Man Of Ideals

Can a young man become a businessman and keep his ideals? Are there places in business for those who are not "hard-boiled?" These are questions which face many a graduate this Spring. Edgar L. Heermance, author and economist, answers them in the Rotarian Magazine.

"Not only is there a place for idealism in business, provided it is of the practical, intelligent type," says Mr. Heermance, "but also there is not much place for anything else. The demand is for management, and management in its various aspects is about the most idealistic calling I know of. The man who thinks only in terms of profit or salary will make a very poor businessman.

"Thirty years ago," he reflects, "the answer probably would have been 'No.' Business and idealism were kept in separate compartments. The typical businessman drove a sharp bargain. A competitor was an enemy. Customers were victims to be plucked. Men did things in business they would not have thought of doing in private life. There is the story of the old deacon who called down to his clerk: 'Sam, have you sanded the sugar?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Have you watered the vinegar?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Have you wet down the prunes?' 'Yes, sir.' 'Well, then come up to prayers.'

"But a change has been coming—a change that is well nigh revolutionary. It is not only the rapid advance in technology. Our world has come of age, as Siegfried said. We are no longer living under frontier conditions. A satisfied customer is a firm's greatest asset."

Do We Face State Tariffs?

Many citizens of the United States fail to understand that the forty-eight States of the union are the greatest free-trade market in the world, with no tariffs, quotas or restrictions to the free exchange of goods.

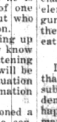
The protection of interstate commerce by the Supreme Court in numerous decisions broadly defining the term has had much to do with the development of nation-wide business. Not many of us vision a condition in which each State would have the right to block the goods of other States from entry within its borders unless the goods meet certain requirements but the possibility is beginning to interest business men who look ahead.

Consider, for example, the decision of the Supreme Court that manufacturing is not interstate commerce and that farming likewise is interstate production. Add to this that the court has held that a State can bar prison-made goods from another State, with the implication that it can bar other goods not up to State established standards of wages, price or labor relations.

What happens? Well, let us suppose that a minimum wage is set by law in one State and, to protect manufacturers, goods from commonwealths with lesser standards barred. Let us consider a farm product, such as milk. Under a New York law the price is fixed by the State and the Supreme Court has approved the law. The implication is that milk from other States can be barred. The field is wide open.

Already some of the States have attempted to bar goods from across the border and, with the way cleared, might not various States seek methods to give particular advantages to the manufacturers and farmers of their domain? Does this mean legalization of State AAA's and NRA's? We ask the question because we know of one State legislator who has already suggested a State AAA in his commonwealth in order to build up its agriculture!

We do not attempt to answer the problems that business men and farmers must face in the future. Either the national government must regulate these products or the States will do it themselves. What will the final result be? Frankly, we have no way to tell.



Practical Paragraphs

By John Edwin Price

THE PERSON OF PERFECT BALANCE

The man or woman of poise maintains a perfect balance. We once knew such a man. He appreciated fully the power of his own personality. He marshaled it to comprehend a whole plan of action. He was unable to comprehend a whole self-sufficiency. He was mindful of their powers and abilities.

In fact he realized that in some things others were smarter than he. But this realization did not let him forget for a moment that a man may direct a horse whose strength is greater than his.

This man had developed marvelous reasoning powers. He could use these powers as a leverage to move in his desired direction these superior abilities of others. These reasoning powers also enabled him to choose an even course between foolish plunging on the one hand and the stagnation of those who are afraid to take any risk at all.

Such a person knowing that in the main he is right, is not above listening to the advice of one who may know some few details perfectly but who is unable to comprehend a whole plan of action.

In other words a person who would be going up in life often listens to what others think they know about short-cuts to the top although such listening may be no indication that the heard advice will be heeded. In fact when he has reasoned the situation out by himself in the light of other information he may disregard it.

The person of poise who has clearly envisioned a main traffic artery he intends to follow to a certain destination does not get "all balled up" because he mentally entertains many suggested detours.

One reason why the poised individual can listen graciously to the suggestions of others is that while not belittling his own judgment or that of his advisors, he can always hold action in abeyance until he has checked his intuitions and their opinions against the facts which bear on the case.

Sometimes he gets at the truth by a friendly discussion with the advisor. At other times he gains new slants on the situation by arguing for his most recent advice's views in the presence of someone who holds strongly to opposite opinions.

The rational balance of the person of poise is not upset by exuberant agreement or flattery. Neither is its equilibrium thrown off by severe criticism. He either listens calmly without giving any indication of his real reaction or he contests the point quietly in such a manner as not to reveal that the discussion has gone beyond his present knowledge. If he feels that he needs further light before committing himself he leaves the subject open to be again taken up later.

He strengthens his confidence in himself and likewise others' respect for him by frequently discussing in detail the phases of subjects with which his knowledge and experience makes him thoroughly familiar.

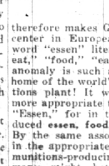
JUST TO MAKE IT HARDER

'My Country, 'Tis of Thee'...

By T. H. MILLINGTON

What's In A Name?

We become so accustomed to the use of names of things, persons, cities and countries that very seldom is thought given to the meaning of any word used as a name.



T. H. MILLINGTON

Take for instance the name "Essen," which is the name of the German city in which is located the famous Krupp munitions works. So great is this institution that it dominates continental European armament interests and therefore makes Germany a storm center in European politics. The word "essen" literally means "to eat," "food," "eating." What an anomaly is such a name for the home of the world's greatest munitions plant! It would have been more appropriate to name Chicago "Essen," for in that city is produced **essen, food,** for the world. By the same association of ideas in the appropriateness of a name, **munitions**-producing Essen in Germany might better have been named "Schlager," because that word means "fighter," or "killer." Or it might have been named "Krieger," which means "warrior." But to name it **Essen** seems, of all names, the most inappropriate. One cannot eat guns or bullets, yet these are, in German, Essen (food) products.

Essen Active

So far so good. But what do we find today is the function of the city of Essen? It still produces guns, and employs 60,000 to 100,000 men. The number claimed depends upon how big a bluff a German wants to make . . . But the number is big enough, and its products voluminous enough to make, not only Europe but all the rest of the world tremble more or less, depending on the distance from Germany.

Origin of Name

But just as Essen owes its origin to the famous Benedictine nunnery founded there in 873, which became a famous eating (**essen**) place for pilgrims, merchants' caravans and other travelers, so today, because of the guns it makes it is preeminently the place that enables Germany to eat, (**essen.**)

Essen must make "essen."

Let us suppose for a moment that Germany after the War had submitted to her defeat and indemnity; suppose Hitler had never happened; suppose Germany permanently had turned from her hereditary warlike inclinations;—would her neighbors on the continent, across the seas and across the Rhine, north and west, now have any fear of another European war resulting from a German invasion? Hardly! But in that case, so Germany claims, what with her war indemnities, her loss of world trade, her tremendous loss of man power and vast expenses consequent upon the war and defeat, Germany could not **essen,** (eat.)

So what to do! The great factories at Essen had stopped belching black smoke over German Rhineland, and most of the 75,000 or 100,000 employees were idle. Essen must again be stirred to activity, but how? The World War had left the world uninterested in guns, and the Peace Treaty forbade Germany to rearm. To sell munitions to foreign countries in such quantities as Germany would have to sell so she could "essen" could not possibly be done unless—ah, here's the thought—**unless fear of aggression or invasion existed somewhere,** and that **Somewhere** must envision the need for vast defense armament. But alas, other countries in the outside world had their own vast munitions plants which could supply any and all ordinary reasonable defense requirements. So, unless a extraordinary demand—and preferably a somewhat hectic and world-wide demand, crowding all munitions plants to capacity—could be created, competition would practically shut Germany out from foreign munitions business. Especially so, because Germany having lost the War, also lost her friends among the nations, just as a man, having lost his money, also loses his friends.

The ordinary method of a nation when out of food is to buy abroad; but that takes gold or an exchange of goods. The first of these was checked off because Germany had only a very small amount of gold to spare, and she has less now. The second method—exchange of goods—manufactured goods—was checked off because most of her goods would compete with the products of other industrial countries who also, to recoup the financial losses of the War, must provide employment for their own unemployed in the very products which Germany wanted to sell to them.

No gold with which to buy food —limited opportunity for exchange of goods—as Germany saw it, it was her Armageddon. What more natural than that the cunning German mind should turn to Essen? To live, she had to "essen." The Essen plants had, before the War, meant prosperity—had in fact embodied her world ambition, "Deutschland ueber Alles." Essen had meant the magic power that would lay the world prostrate at the feet of Germany's emperor. Was not Krupps still there in Essen? Was not Krupps just as complete and the German engineers and mechanics just as efficient as before the war? Surely they were. The German brain bents faster at the memories of her past pride in the challenge to the whole world that lies in the vast Essen works. Yes, **Essen** in German, means "to eat," and Essen should again mean **food** for Germany. But how? Who would dare to challenge the Allies by violating the treaty which forbade re-armament? Could the Allies induce their peoples to consent to and support new military operations to carry out reprisals for attempted treaty violations? Serious questions, these. Crafty and cunning Germans brooded. Oh well, there might be an invasion, but generous Americans in such case would send its Red Cross to feed the people, and that made the possibility of invasion appear to be the lesser of the two evils—starvation or invasion.

When Hitler appeared on the horizon he exemplified these thoughts to the German people, and his acceptance by the people was inevitable and rapid. From then on, progress has been kaleidoscopic. Germany began drilling and re-arming stealthily, growing bolder as she advanced, until at last she has thrown all caution aside and boldly has repudiated all treaty obligations and restrictions.

But while Essen was again blackening the sky for her re-armament she still did not represent **eating** to Germany. To do that, Germany must sell munitions abroad. Her only possible customers were the small central European countries who, like herself, were short of gold. But they had wheat, barley, tobacco, nuts, leather—food. The magnet of Krupps at Essen must draw **essen** and raw materials to Germany.

But by now Hitler had been in and out of accord with all his neighbors so often that a war scare had been created. An offer to sell Krupp munitions in exchange for food etc. was regarded by Germany's southwestern neighbors with reluctance. Why should Germany want to help re-arm her potential enemies in a possible future war? But it was emphasized that Germany had to eat, and the Central Powers were long on food and raw materials but short on guns, airplanes, and warships. So trade was established. Such goods and foods taken by Germany in exchange for guns, etc., which she does not need, she sells to countries which have gold. And with that gold she buys nitrates, tin, copper and other things for munitions making. So again, in Germany and to Germans, Essen means **essen,** (food.)

About the Future?

But now that this has been accomplished, does Germany want war? I think not. Not in the very near future. She has less than $50,000,000 in gold, and not enough food supplies for even a small war. But she has proved that to rattle the sabre and talk threateningly to foreign nations creates solidarity at home and fear of war abroad, and so increases her sales of munitions, and that Essen again makes "essen," (food.)

It is significant that Hitler had the backing of Krupps and Essen as soon as he had demonstrated his organizing ability and ruthlessness. Ruthlessness and cruelty in their impatience, overthrow Democratic processes."

Hitler

What does all this make of Hitler? Window dressing! He has be-ribbe,—and endued—some think that he is fast becoming Germany's Frankenstein.

There is of course the possibility that Germany may succumb to the old trick of human nature and so eventually believe her own shams, and claim that to protect herself she must invade some country. We shall then see how great are the munitions she has been selling. But in the meantime, Germany cannot use our gold for any war; and that is the good result of the President's gold policy.

Some Times True

A lawyer got into an argument with a physician over the relative merits of their respective professions.

"I don't says that all lawyers are crooks," said the doctor, "but you'll have to admit that your profession doesn't make angels of men."

"No," retorted the attorney, "you doctors certainly have the best of us there."

Kittenish On Keys

Anna—Miss Prue is a very proper young lady.

Grace—Very much so! She wouldn't accompany a young man on the piano without a chaperon.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Economy Program Faces Real Test in Handling Relief Issue

WASHINGTON.—All this talk of economy may have the effect of persuading Congress to cut the relief appropriation, but probably won't. The administration has asked for $1,500,000,000 to spend on relief.

A group in the House led by Congressmen Maury Maverick of Texas, and Jerry Voorhis of California, wants the appropriation boosted to $2,500,000,000. The group claims about 240 votes. At the other extreme is a bloc determined that relief money shall be cut to $1,200,000,000 or a billion dollars. Neither bloc is believed to be strong enough to put over its own program, but these may be expected to cancel each other out in the skirmishes.

The U. S. Conference of Mayors keeps up effective pressure here against attempts to reduce federal contributions to local relief expenses. This organization insists there are already 600,000 employables on direct local relief who are eligible for WPA, Harry Hopkins says the figure is only 350,000.

The municipal executives believe that even if the administration gets the $1,500,000,000 it has asked for, the new appropriation cannot last WPA beyond next February unless the present program is sharply curtailed.

When the President made his request for relief funds, assurance was given that the federal work relief policy would not be changed. This suggested to some here that Roosevelt was considering the possible need of another deficiency appropriation for relief by next March or April, which would jump the cost of relief for the fiscal year 1937-1938 much above $1,500,000,000.

There are about 2,850,000 persons on WPA rolls now. Adding other available funds to $1,500,000,000 and deducting sums for other work programs, Hopkins estimates a monthly average of 1,720,000 could be kept on the rolls during the fiscal year. Hopkins describes this amount as "an irreducible minimum" and says he can get by on it and keep up the present policy only if there is continued pickup in private employment.

According to Hopkins, if the appropriation should be cut to $1,000,000,000, that amount would provide for an average of fewer than 1,000,000 WPA workers.

Mayors of large cities where the relief problem is chiefly concentrated insist that it cannot be expected states will appropriate or tax adequately for relief. They point out that in many cases legislatures of industrial states are controlled by representatives of rural counties where the people refuse to spend money on urban problems, thereby making cities depend on the general property tax.

The relief fight is largely over the question whether federal taxes shall be raised to maintain present relief standards, or whether the nation shall operate with a locally administered dole paid with federal assistance.

RANDOM REMARKS

Lynn Fontanne, actress:

"Why should we tell our ages when we can show a young appearance?"

Herbert K. Minsky, whose shows have been closed in New York:

"We tried to elevate burlesque and see what it got us."

Stanley Baldwin, British Prime Minister:

"I get all kinds of letters, some people telling me I am every kind of fool and others telling me I am rather a great man."

John R. Mott, Y. M. C. A. executive:

"Everyone is predicting war and preparing for it, and that is the very thing that will prevent it."

Ruth de Young:

"Many women are more concerned with the color of their nail polish than with the character of their public servants."

George Norris, U. S. Senator from Nebraska:

"Congress cannot do good work when everybody is suffering from the heat."

Sidney Hillman, labor leader:

"Labor has nothing to gain and everything to lose when people, in their impatience, overthrow Democratic processes."

William Pearson Tolley, President, Allegheny College:

"There is considerably more danger of a fascist state in the United States than of anything resembling communism."

Thomas Parran, Jr., Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service:

"At least two-thirds of maternal deaths in this country are due to causes that are preventable."

Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary:

"If this kind of thing (the destruction of Guernica) is repeated and intensified on a larger scale it is going to mean a terrible future for Europe."

Charles Evans Hughes, Chief Justice, U. S. Supreme Court:

"The firm and true administration of justice is the primary concern of civilized society."

Jots 'n Jest

Story says outcome of Pacific fleet maneuvers to be kept in dark indefinitely. Probably like this Spanish war story.

• • •

What became of the sitdowns? It's getting so that talk of a balanced budget is news again.

• • •

Writer charges Congress works only 18 days this session, but you'd never know it judging from the Congressional Record.

• • •

Survey shows 18,000 gas wells were tapped in United States last year. We remember a few were brought in at our luncheon club.

• • •

Unemployment census said to be difficult to make. So many of the boys move around the first of each month.

TREASURE CHEST

Into the misty dimness of the past
They go, although unwillingly the heart
Relinquishes its hold—so lothe to part
With them we are, knowing they could not last—
The silver slanting rain, the summer's flowers,
The joyous ecstasy of perfect hours.

Today may hold dull weariness and sorrow
And diverse untold cares for you and me,
Yet all the past is safe in memory,
And countless ungleaned treasures wait tomorrow,
Threading the pathway of our nights and days,
Weaving the mottled pattern of our ways.

—Beatrice McDonald

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