

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. EASTMAN

GOOD FROM WAR

WARs are terrible things, it goes without saying, but for every thousand evils spawned by conflict, there are probably four or five good things resulting. Inventive genius, spurred by the necessity of finding new ways of killing more people and destroying more property in a shorter time, sometimes discovers things which are valuable in peace. One such beneficial result is the tracking of the Leftist Front and the Communist Myth. A great many liberals and radicals are getting a new slant on things.

A re-orientation of liberalism is needed for a long time for the "intellectual" fringe of the population, which provides more leadership than you think, has long been addicted to fuzzy thinking, sentimental thinking. I am referring to the school of thought which finds expression in magazines like New Republic and The Nation, and believes that socialism is the ideal economic system; that business men are exploiters and generally to be distrusted; that just about anything labor does is right; and that just about everything Roosevelt and the New Deal have done is and is trying to do is well.

Now many of their ideas are all right, and things which they advocated years ago are now accepted as sound, conservative doctrine. It would be a mistake to ignore this school of thought if we are to be progressive for the future. But since the ideas are all right, and things which they advocated years ago are now accepted as sound, conservative doctrine, it would be a mistake to ignore this school of thought if we are to be progressive for the future.

For example, in the field of labor relations and leadership, it is only needed at the present time. The right to organize and bargain collectively is pretty well recognized, but since the industrial revolution has been won, there any reason for continuance of violence, racketeering, and monopolistic practices to keep union running? The so-called liberals are silent on this point, rattling of their own liberal thinking is declared, and proposed in strong-arm staff by labor-management? Both ought to be dropped, but the "Pinks" are not the least concerned.

The same unrealistic thinking has for years applied to socialism in general. Karl Marx was unquestioned, the dictatorship in Russia was regarded as something transitory, something which would pass away when that backward country finally found itself. Evils of the American system have been subjected to a critical review, but the Russian experiment have been glossed over with unbridled sloppiness.

Doing Somewhat. But the war has cracked the facade. Stalin's collaboration with Hitler, the Soviet war on Finland has been too much for all but the most bigoted minds. Now the New Republic is whodung it up for war, and snipers periodically at the Communists who are doing somewhat trying to follow the ever-changing party line which emanates in Moscow.

But the liberal-radical break with Moscow comes so belatedly that it proves what snickers they have been. That does not apply to Max Eastman, however, a leading Socialist who finally concluded that socialism does not exist in Russia, and he pointed out the fact in his book on that subject, published in 1937, "The End of Socialism in Russia."

Eastman, in the June issue of Reader's Digest, goes further, and points out what liberal-radicals have been so slow at discovering; that socialism does not exist in Russia, and he pointed out the fact in his book on that subject, published in 1937, "The End of Socialism in Russia."

The American Family

By George



Our collection won't be so good during the summer months. As is deacon I suggest you have a session on opening their pocketbooks as well as their hearts."

Only the Few Really Rule

If America ever lets democracy slip through its fingers it will be because the people are too apathetic to do anything about it.

On Monday, June 9, will be the school district's annual election, but to vote you must register by 8 o'clock this Saturday evening. How many of the electorate will take the trouble and three- or fifteen-minute walk to perform their duty as citizens?

Voting is a fast-disappearing privilege. Only a few millions of the world's people have the right any longer to have their say about government, but in America it is granted as though the franchise grew like grass in the fields. Foreign-born citizens take a different attitude, and more than one study has shown that these people in their new country are much better voters than native Americans.

In the municipal election in Birmingham, last spring, only 11.64 per cent of the population, just about 11 per cent of the population. Apparently, citizenship here is worse than in Ann Arbor.

Religious Training Important

Remember, then, to vote June 9. But remember first that you must be registered. Any qualified voter can cast a ballot on the two-mill tax question, but only parents and taxpayers may vote on other school questions.

While very few people agree when they attempt to define a remedy for the ills of the world, many careful thinkers have expressed the view that the revival of religion is one of the great needs of the day.

The Plight of The British

Observers in Washington report that experts of the Army and Navy are concerned over the failure of the people of the United Kingdom to understand the serious plight of Great Britain.

The experts assert that Germany has a naval and air force nose around the British Isles and is now trying to draw it tight. This is the Battle of the Atlantic. Army and Navy officials, judging the engagement on a strictly military basis, find little to indicate that Great Britain will surely win.

Most of them believe that the British can win only if that it will be necessary for the United States to give her, instead of aggressive aid in ships, supplies and convoys to avert the doom which threatens the British Isles.

Armchair Philosopher

Your bravest and best lesson are not learned through success, but through adventure.—A. Bronson Alcott.

Too Much Coddling

The other day a football father applied at the County Press for a job for his son, a recent high school graduate.

Why did he want to work in a newspaper shop? Would he be willing to do any work at all? Did he have any previous part-time business of a county newspaper shop? Did he take five minutes (talk with the football father) to realize we didn't want the boy but we would like to see his father's letter and his father's letter.

In the first place the boy had never been made to work around the house. He didn't like to work on the farm because he got his hands dirty and he didn't like the bugs and mosquitoes that hung around the bushes. He had a good mind and he didn't want a job to have more responsibility. He thought it would be better to work in a newspaper office.

What is the matter with you? Why did he want to work in a newspaper shop? Would he be willing to do any work at all? Did he have any previous part-time business of a county newspaper shop?

Buddy Poppy Sale

The Birmingham War Relief Program is planning to extend their Buddy Poppy sale to the city of Birmingham.

Local Taxes

Birmingham taxes are light compared to the prospective home owner. Real estate owners often take the opposite view.

Memorial Message From the VFW

Once again in a world of war Americans unite to salute the memory of those who died for their country.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Memorial Day—Lest We Forget



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Find Eccentric's listed here in Birmingham for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential. Editors may in limited space words, but not to be published in the following order.

50 Years Ago May 28, 1891. "If you have any paid in your New," the Eccentric admonished, "don't hitch a horse or cow in the street for feed. If your time is too precious to hold and watch the animal while it eats, hire a cheap boy."

The curiosity shop and ice cream festival, which was given at Liberty Hall, Wednesday evening of last week, by the Y. P. S. C. E. of the Presbyterian church, was attended and a success in every way.

25 Years Ago May 26, 1919. Only 146 persons, women included, voted on the question as to whether or not Birmingham should have a new high school building. There were 96 "yeses" and 50 "nos." The building will cost at least \$147,000.

Harry P. Saker's students gave a very entertaining recital at the home of Mrs. L. G. Green recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mudge moved into the Valentine home on Hamilton street.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar McBride, who soon had returned from a tour in St. Petersburg, Fla.

5 Years Ago May 26, 1931. Royal Gift, wife of Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Fry, of Phoy street, was one of two girls in the state of Michigan to receive a scholarship on Cadet Military Academy, Calver, Indiana. Scholarships are valued at \$2,000 and provided room, board, and tuition for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Day announced the engagement of their daughter, Rose Elizabeth, to that of Mr. William H. Lytle, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Willie Bell. The marriage was to take place in July, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John See as bearing its peak, according to Robert Lytle. He expected that there would be a wedding last before June 15.



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