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Utopia Is Far Off

From time to time you hear sociologists, most of the clergy, and associated minds seeking Utopia that what this world needs more than anything else is "better understanding of our fellowmen and the breaking down of prejudice among races and creeds".

That's a fine and high-sounding panacea for a condition that has plagued mankind ever since the first caveman out-lew his neighbor for the raw meat of a dinosaur.

The trouble is that you can't seem to bring about "better understanding and breakdown of prejudice" within a human family that is dominantly bent upon the acquisition of materialistic gains, without much concern for its potential cultural development.

In other words, people are terrifically engaged in a universal combat to get food, clothing, shelter and some luxuries that they never allow the potentials of their inherent capacity to achieve civilization to grow.

Some of the learned scientists say that mankind, as it is now being developed, will never achieve an earthly Utopia. They hold that the earth is over-populated, which causes mankind to continue its predatory competition for worldly goods—all of which makes man inhuman to man.

There is much to be said, of course, on the evils of the problem. However, we hold that eventually (just when we don't predict) mankind will attain a more peaceful world. To date, he has been able to make technological progress and thus produce more goods in factories, more food upon the farms, than ever in his history. That's all to his good.

Now, having done this, he will next focus his thinking upon the problems of equitable distribution of these goods and foods, and perhaps come up with satisfactory answers.

Mankind's destiny is a high one...high enough to reach a reasonable earthly facsimile of Utopia. But that may take many centuries in the future. Considering how long it has taken mankind to get from caves to where it now is, a few more centuries of struggle and travail to reach Utopia may, indeed be not a waste of time for attainment of the desired goal.

Of course, this may be irritating to this and other intervening generations—but that condition is historically the part of mankind to date. We now enjoy many circumstances unknown to our ancestors, for which their own struggles and sacrifices were made. It is not wrong that we do likewise for posterity.

We could, to be sure, enjoy better conditions today than we do—but we, as a collection of humans, won't make the sacrifices necessary to better the times for our day. No generation ever did, in its own generation.

It required a long, long time to create the heavens and the earth; it takes a long time to simulate celestial orderliness and harmony on a terrestrial sphere.

In the meantime, if he or she wishes and wills to be, individual men and women can reach above the level of mob thinking and acting and bring to themselves quite a bit of the Utopia they vision...bring it to themselves right here and now upon this earth!

Working Toward Our Goal

Last week's decision by the city commission to limit picnic facilities at Springdale Park to Birmingham families is a step toward ultimate exclusion of all outsiders from the park.

Acquired many years ago as a city park, just about everyone but Birmingham residents have been using it. Whether local citizens didn't use it at first and therefore outsiders were permitted in as a means of making park facilities pay for themselves, is a matter shrouded in argument.

But in the past few years various commissioners have noted their constituents mention the fact that local families don't use the park because there never is room for them...everything's being occupied by these outsiders.

away yet, is limiting the golf course to Birminghamites. We hope that day is soon coming.

How to Reduce Taxes

There is always a campaign for the reduction of taxes. Everybody wants the "government" to spend money on favored propositions and, at the same time, reduce taxes.

The way to reduce taxes is simple if that is what people want. Let government eliminate activities that are not essential to the functions of government.

This will cost some people their jobs but it will cut the cost of government.

From Our Point of View

Decision of the J. L. Hudson Co. to build a huge shopping center in Detroit's northeast area proves the acceptance of that old and respected merchandising concern of the purchasing power of the Fourth City's outlying areas. This follows the trend of many other large selling organizations in various parts of the nation, who have realized that congested downtown shopping areas in large cities, with their traffic and parking problems, is causing the public to patronize less congested business centers. As time goes on, Birmingham, too, will no doubt attract the branch stores of metropolitan businesses.

Norman Thomas, six times the Socialist candidate for President of the United States, believes that his party should cease striving for that high office and concentrate its finances and efforts to infiltrate its ideas into more dominant political groups. From a strictly political viewpoint, we believe Mr. Thomas' ideas are more productive of success. However, he was unsuccessful at his party's recent convention in Detroit in winning the deal to his plan. Certainly, the New Deal and now the Fair Deal are rapidly setting the stage for Socialist conquest of the United States.

Miss Nellie Randall met with an accident while preparing one of last week's evening meals. While pouring hot water from the steep into the teapot, in some way the contents of the spill spilled over her left hand making her evening hours very painful.

The possibility of a "price war" was indicated Monday evening when the village commission seeking a license to a third taxi cab company and announced the possibility of a fourth company seeking establishment here. The license was issued over the protest of officials from the two companies now located here.

The widening of the Willis street entrance was okayed by commissioners Monday evening, to eliminate a traffic hazard. The narrowness of the street is a source of concern.

We've never been an admirer of Louisiana's late Huey P. Long, but we agree with him when he said: "When totalitarianism comes to the United States it will come in the name of democracy." That is what is happening here today. FDR espoused the cause of a limited totalitarianism, but President Truman has gone several leagues further, with one we can call Totalitarianism, Unlimited. (And all in the name of "democracy".)

For Harry S. Truman now to come forth with the idea that he is betrothed to business...well, who is holding the shotgun that has brought him to such nuptials? (Oh, yes...must have been the girl's old man, also known as Mr. Politics.) Don't forget this is an election year!

If all the laws that have been enacted during the past 100 years were piled one on another, there'd still be plenty (as there is) skulduggery and wrong going on in human affairs. You cannot legislate ethics and morality in those portions of human consciousness where evil is the nourishing food. There are no wings on the devil or horns on an angel.

The trouble with our times appears to be that we're running out of the necessary time required to correct the troubles of our times.

With the restaurants cutting the pieces of pie smaller and smaller, it looks like Congress should pass a minimum-wedge law.

So They Say... Joel H. Hildebrand, dean, College of Chemistry, University of California, referring to loyalty oath: "Communists will willingly take the oath, because oaths mean nothing to them."

Dean Achesson, Secretary of State: "Free men and free nations everywhere will face increasingly crucial tests in the years immediately ahead."

ANNOYING THE PITCHMAN I



ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

RESTYLING OUR HISTORY BOOKS

Considerable criticism from various quarters has been heaped upon this nation's schools and colleges for not requiring students to take courses in American history.

Now I don't intend to project myself into the middle of the argument other than to mention one thought I have on the subject, and that is regarding the presentation of American history.

I do believe, however, that if more Americans knew something of the history of their country, how it was created, how it was built, that it wouldn't be in some of the problems we are today.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

THE INFILTRATION DANGER

One of the ever present dangers to American freedom is the infiltration of "Socialist" ideas into the lives of our people.

The fact of history reject such a belief but it nevertheless prevails. Most Americans simply cannot accept the idea that a few Communist "cells" or a few Fabian socialist groups are too strong to become critically affected by infiltration of a few Communists or Socialists.

MICHIGAN MIRROR By Genevieve Williams

WILLIAMS HAS A BULL BY THE TAIL

Whether it was courage or foolhardiness, Governor Williams' veto of General Kunzig's liquor control bill from the legislative budget has had the practical effect of grabbing on to an angry bull by the tail.

It remains to be seen whether the governor will let the bull or the bull will throw him. (No pun intended!) The legislature is a cherished principle of good government with many partisans, Republican and Democrat.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO June 15, 1900 Another old landmark, the old Miles house on Fremont street, owned by Ellsworth Randall, has been torn down. This was one of the oldest residences in this place having been built here many years ago.

A cloudburst occurred at Franklin one day last week and the village was almost inundated. Colors were flooded and more or less damage was done to every residence there.

Stanley Peabody of Seattle, Washington, is making glad the hearts of relatives and friends in this vicinity by his current visit here. Stanley looks as though that western country was agreeing with him good.

5 YEARS AGO June 21, 1945 Dr. Dwight B. Ireland has been elected president of the Birmingham Rotary club for the coming year. Mr. Ray Cook was named vice-president; Forbes S. Haxall, secretary and Oscar P. Peterson, treasurer. Committees were appointed for the term at this time, also.

Carl Miller, resident sculptor at Cranford, will be the guest at reception June 23, honoring his 75th birthday. A native of Sweden, Miller has been in Cranford for the past 15 years during which time he has gained fame throughout the United States.

The election of Charles Edwards Post, American Legion, last Friday evening saw Walter Stok named president of the organization. Delegates named to attend the coming convention were L. A. Cady, Slat, Richard Dewey and Arthur Mason.

The contract of Miss Ila Main to teach at Adams school was approved by the board of education at a special meeting last Thursday. Miss Main, whose home is in Fern, has degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Michigan. She has been teaching at Wyandotte.

20 YEARS AGO June 13, 1930 The possibility of a "price war" was indicated Monday evening when the village commission seeking a license to a third taxi cab company and announced the possibility of a fourth company seeking establishment here. The license was issued over the protest of officials from the two companies now located here.

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Internationally Speaking By Eugene Hess

Instructor, U.S. of Detroit

The Oder-Neisse frontier has been declared permanent by the East German Government.

To any observer of German history and mentality this sounds absurd, and it actually is impossible to acquire formally in this state of affairs forever.

What can be done about this fact is an open question, but another aspect also merits attention.

THE RUSSIAN PRESSURE towards this development can only have two implications.

Either Russia wishes to perpetuate the latest state of tension in Central Europe, or Russia understands so little of the actual thinking in Europe and at the same time cares so little about the consequences that other political steps by the Kremlin, foreign or in and apparently quite unusual, might be expected.

The recent claim to a 12-mile territorial zone off-shore instead of the internationally accepted distance of 3 miles shows the independence of these actions.

It matters continue along these lines some more unpleasant surprises might be in store for us, until it breaks.

WALTER KADELL 138 Lakeside

The Little Things

By BEATRICE McDONALD

It is the lovely little things that each Day brings that keep life glad and beautiful.

A sky with clouds like bits of tufted wool. Wide-scattered sunset shades that seem to reach Across the world, music drift at night.

Flowers in bloom, a heart that's free from pain, Hours sun-brightened, wind and snow and rain... And in the spring and autumn, birds in flight. But most I treasure in a passing day. The lovely things that people do and say.