Prisons Remain Crime Schools

Prisons are ever with us, and always will be. They are generally crowded, offering opportunities for first offenders to be schooled in crime by older immates. Guards are underpaid and apt to be brutal and inefficient. Too many prisoners drift back into crime after release.

These familiar conditions disturb Mrs.

Anna M. Kross, New York City's Commissioner of Correction. She wishes to do away with idleness in penitentiaries, and substitute rehabilitation programs.

She would also have examinations of inmates by physicians, psychiatrists and other specialists, so that as many criminals as possible may be redeemed.

COST STANDS IN THE WAY. Many persons resent taxes of any sort, and par-ticularly those spent in improving the lot of criminals. They think that the more prisoners suffer, the less likely they are

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experience of the ages should dis-The experience of the ages should dis-prove this. Too many prison inmates come out embittered and educated in criminal ways. The recent investigation of the Mis-louri state penitentiary shows this to be ways. The recent investigation of the Missouri state penitentiary shows this to be the case.

So far the prison is society's great institutional failure.

German Ruling Is Unique

West German students have won the right to appeal in court against being failed in academic examinations. While such a ruling may appear to be an infringement on the academic freedom of teachers, actually it is a signal victory for the process of democratic education in Germany.

In the past, German students have been

In the past, German students have been In the past, terman students have been failed for other than academic reasons. Thus the government, which ran the schools, had a powerful weapon for limiting education to the few. This weapon led to arbitrary political decisions and numerous inustices.

The new ruling, which allows students

to contest the decisions of examiners in the administrative courts on the grounds that examination rules were applied arbi-trarily or faultily, is a democratic victory.

SINCE THE EXAMINERS' evaluation

SINCE THE EXAMINERS' evaluation of students' academic work cannot be disputed by the courts, the teachers are in no danger of being intimidated.

Such a ruling proves that the seeds of democracy are growing in West Germany. It also shows that in few other nations in the world is democracy so well realized as in the United States, where such practices as failing a university student for other than academic reasons are unknown.

Two Forms of Tyranny

The Secretary of Labor has said that the right to work laws, which are now in effect in 17 states, have done more harm than good.

He is entitled to his views. But it is a significant fact that there has been a flood of comment-from newspapers, publicists, government officials, and others—which holds that he is greatly mistaken.

Henry Hazlitt gave a widely-held opin-

ion when he wrote in Newsweek: "To compel a man to join a union as a condition of holding his job puts irresponsible power in the hands of union bosses and is a gross infringement on the individual's right to work."

union members. This was tyranny and it was outlawed. What amounts to a black-listing of non-union workers is equally as bad a tyranny.

Two Great Facts

It has been said that the most effective

It has been said that the most effective answer to Communist propaganda is an American mail-order catalogue,
The catalogue, in this connection, is a symbol—a symbol of what the American system of free enterprise has done for the living standards of the people.
According to the American Economic Foundation, a Russian worker, reading the catalogue, "would see that air American worker can buy a shirt with one hour's earnings (instead of the Russian's 22 hours), a suit or overcoat with three day's earnings (instead of 12 days), and a pair of shoes with one day's earnings (instead of 12 days)."

If that Russian worker had an opportunity to walk into a typical American retaints.

tunity to walk into a typical American re-tail store he wouldn't be able to believe his

Uncle Sam, through Secretary of State

Dulles, demands that our country be given absolute power of decision as to the use

absolute power of decision as to the use of the A and H bombs against Russia, should that nation start warfare. This simply means that the NATO group of nations will not decide this by any method of joint decision. Well, since the United States develops and possesses most of these nuclear weapons, why shouldn't it make the decision itself?... especially since one never can tell in advance just how other nations will or will not cooperate in time of emergency... as wit-

THE FOUNDATION ALSO OBSERVED

As a youngster, we often were worried and confused by the observations of weather-wise (?) adults. There were two schools of thought on the arrival of spring. One group maintained wed not have warm weather as long as the snow and ice remained. The others were as loud in expressing their opinion that until warm weather came, the snow and ice would stay around. In those years of late spring, our child-mind envisioned a future of "in-between-spring and-winter in the state of the share of the shar

Years ago some employers blacklisted

eyes. The abundance would seem an illuson. And so would the fact that the goods on display are offered at prices within the means of the masses of people, not just

THE FOUNDATION ALSO OBSERVED that Marx' theory that mass production leads to unemployment and impoverishment of the masses is upset by two facts: "The first fact... is that mass production is impossible without mass consumption, and that mass consumption is impossible without an increase in the material welfare of the masses. The second fact is that mass consumption brings aconomic freedom to the masses."

Every American retail outlet is an ex-

Every American retail outlet is an example of those facts.

ness the failure of most members of the United Nations to help the U.S.A. fight the Korean War.

So far as the majority of the human family is concerned, during the past/1954 years Christianity has been presented to it, some have tried it . . . but most have only looked upon it from a distance. Proof

of this is evident as one looks over the

earth today. Eventually, to be sure, it will prevail—each generation, like leaves that fall in autumn, adds its fertility to the "soif of spiritual growth."

"There's that rich Andy Reutor, vacationing on his combuilt trailer. He started out in life as a brakeman the Great Northern R. R.!"

By George

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Ticklers

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

If you already haven't done so, some

If you already haven't done so, some-time during the next four weeks you will be sending to the federal government the accounting of your earnings during 1954. Thus you are or will become familiar with the latest regulations which deter-mine how much Uncle Sam gets from what, you earned last year. Back in 1916, the amounts obtained were computed on a much less demanding formula.

were computed on the formula.

The elders among us will read this and wish they could turn back the clock. The young marrieds will read it and wonder whether they weren't born 30 years too late.

NEVERTHELESS, the following is what the taxpayer had to send to Wash-ington, D. C. 38 years ago, the year this tax camel got its head in the wage earner's

ington, D. U. 38 years ago, the year that as camel got its head in the wage earner's tent:

Everyone with \$3,000 annual income was required to pay one per cent on the amount over \$3,000 if an individual, or over \$4,000 if married and living together. Then an additional tax of:

One per cent on the amount over \$20,000 and under \$50,000.

Two per cent on the amount between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

Three per cent on the amount between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Four percent on the amount between \$70,000 and \$250,000.

Five per cent on the amount between \$250,000 and not over \$500,000.

Much of the world's distress would dissolve if its people would love and let love.

I never cease to be amazed at the fund knowledge possessed by some of my

fellow newspen. Take the case in New York recently when an American bittern, a bird usually found in Georgia or Florida at this time of year, showed up in mid-Manhattan. If someone sent me out to cover the arrival in town of a bittern, I would think that I was being put upon. Not so with the Times reporter.

Off he went with a photographer and he returned with a story and two pictures. He described the bittern as a two-foot bird, drab-green in color, with green legs.

HE REPORTED SOME difference of

HE REPORTED SOME difference of opinion as to whether the bittern has a call that sounds like an ax striking a stake, or "Chunka-lunk" or yet "Oong kachoonk." Still another opinion held that the call went "Plum pud'n! Plum pud'n!" The only thing he didn't get was an explanation of what the bird was doing in New York when he belongs in Florida. Chambers of Commerce would deny emphatically that the bird came North in the hope of finding it warmer.

My experience with birds is confined to reports of the first robin sightled, which usually start coming in any time after the first of December, A consultation with some of the best bird-brains on my staff.

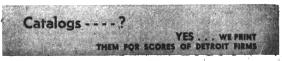
the first of December, A consultation with some of the best bird-brains on my staff, however, resulted in the opinion that the bittern follows people-watching as a hobby and journeyed to New York in search of unusual specimens

The more knowledge a person has, the less he feels he must defend his opinions, decisions or actions. Such defense arises from an identification with the past because of a fear of the future. To search for knowledge is to discover the unknown, To know more of the unknown is to réduce the impact of the future.

Army Lieutenant, Quartermaster Grad

Thousands of people read The Army Lieutenant, Quartermaster Grad

Second Lt. Paul C. Grant, Jr. Lt. Grant completed the school's hore parents live at 1753 Wm. associate quartermaster company hore from the Army's Quartermaster response to the Army's Quartermaster

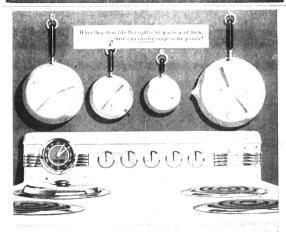


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sarate little hump of ice, the softer some melted from around it. Like rows of lonely hats they stood watting for that "warmer weather" fact that streams we normally Small billocks in pasture and their summits. Their daily melting dided to the general unity age not the country-side was taking on. Persons and animals walking morning the snow would be all across them carried mud onto the sound the sound of the country-side was taken the sound of Happenings of Long Ago

without ceasing at the outse we developed the passing of little wild animals, negligible to fill the wild animals animals and the wild animals animals and the wild animals animals animals animals. The wild animals are neglected to notice that the source-record areas were a little size of the wild be animals.

One Cheerful Note

THIS SQUABBLING

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Brille

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

Edson James will build a barn is summer. He will also rent his



coppa Universa club, a secret liation of young ladies, and mem, was must royally en. Balobus high reductive factor of young ladies, and mem, was must royally en. Balobus high such control and at the home of Mrs. Taber, the Misses Mayme and the such as the su The Alpha Omicron club, a secret

30 YEARS AGO
March 3, 1925
After many years of solitary
rvice, the old Hill school bell
hich, for a general generation or



"The surest way to have hap-piness and peace of mind is to give them to somebody else."

50 YEARS AGO
March 10, 1905
Mrs. Cager is home again with
er sister. Mrs. Andrew Anderson
the hold. The two boys, Master
the hold. The two boys, Master
heir mother and their many
riends are glad to see their run.

Through the kindness of Austin
'arks the ladies' of St. James
hurch were able to serve a road all pronomed it delicious even though
under the side of the control of

merchants greeted us aft-eck's absence.

Edly we hiked the four-ind trip to Sunday school.

Sliding and splashing we

Mrs. Denison and daughters, Re-a and Olive, now occupy a part f Miss Anna Hall's house on tates street. Render will

George Rollins, graduate

J5 YEARS AGO
March 7, 1910
Seven new residences, the value
of which has been estimated at
\$50,000, were approved during February by building inspector James
B. Baynes.

Mrs. Forbes S. Hascall was re-lected president of the Birming-am Woman's club at the annual neeting held Tuesday afternoon in he auditorium of the Baldwin Pub-Library.

The First Presbyterian church is the second oldest of the Bir-mingham churches from the stand-point of continuous history. The Presbyterian church was organized in 1834.

An alert Birmingham high school cage team won its sixth straight district title last Saturday at Walled Lake when the Maples defeated a tired tournament finalist, Fenton high school, 36 to 25.

Dick Forester, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Forester, of 560 Brown street has been appointed assistant 'pro' at Orchard Lake Country club and will assume his distess there beginning the first of April.

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