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Silence on the Florida Front

Those who bubble over so freely with stinging criticism of the New Deal policies whether those policies be good or bad, have maintained a marked silence on the Florida political front since Senator Pepper was renominated as a supporter of the President and his administration.

The primary there was eagerly watched, and had Senator Pepper been defeated, the opponents of the administration would have heralded it as a sure sign of defeat for President Roosevelt.

Commenting in this connection, the Atlanta Journal says:

The Anti-Roosevelt press has little to say about the sweeping victory of Senator Claude Pepper in the Democratic primary in Florida. But if he had been defeated by ever so narrow a margin, such news would have been the text for many an unctuous editorial on "The President's Repudiation." Senator Pepper carried the field against his four opponents overwhelmingly because, in the first place, his record since he was chosen in 1936 to succeed the late Senator Duncan U. Fletcher, has proved the quality of his statesmanship. The Democrats of Florida evidently believed that his renomination, which is equivalent to re-election, would best serve the interests of their commonwealth and their country. His record also has been one of consistent loyalty to President Roosevelt. His principal opponent, over whom he scored a majority of two to one, called him "the Presi-

dent's rubber stamp." The voters, obviously, were not impressed by that hackneyed phrase. They count it to the credit rather than the discredit of Senator Pepper that he supported the party's and nation's leader on a liberal and constructive program. As the first 1938 primary test of the New Deal's popular standing the result in Florida has a significance which will not be lost, even upon those who are silent from disappointment.

Approving Theft

The uncertainty surrounding the economic conditions is not what's rocking this old world today. The stamp of approval given to acts of unfairness, ruthlessness, flagrant violations of every law that tends to promote righteousness and understanding by individuals, groups and even those nations which call themselves Democratic and protectors of freedom and the faith is presenting a greater problem than the unemployed, unfavorable balances of trade, profits and what not.

Robbed of his country and chased from the land of his birth, Haile Selassie has been denied recognition at the hands of the greatest nations in the world. Just a few days ago the dispossessed king appealed to the League of Nations, but the statesmen turned away and straightforward considered recognizing the Ethiopian steal.

Democracy stood idly by on the side line as Italy poured death and destruction on the little country. And now it recognizes the steal, giving its endorsement to an act that has no place in a system pretending to hold high the torch of democracy.

Individuals have compromised with crime. Whole communities have tolerated crime, remaining unconcerned while the claws of immorality and indifference to all that is good and just gnawed away the base of their backbone and rendered them no stronger than the jellyfish of the sea. And now the leading nations of the world lend their approval to such dastardly acts as those practiced by Italy and Japan.

The Source Of Crime

Dr. Frederic M. Thrasher, in his book, "The Gang," points out the source of much of the crime in this country today. The little things, innocent enough within themselves, lead to the crime trail where we merely dismiss them as "boyish stunts."

Professor Thrasher says:

The process of demoralization often begins in "playing hookey" which in itself seems innocent enough. A lot of the fun in sneaking away from school is in going "wid de gang"; boys seldom "bum" from school alone. The gang invites truancy and truancy encourages the gang.

Little Travels to Homes of the Great

By H. B. C.

VICTOR MARIE HUGO

Victor Marie Hugo, was a celebrated French poet and novelist, essayist, statesman, and the recognized leader of the romantic school of the 19th century in France. He was born at Besancon February 26th, 1802 and died at Paris, May 22nd, 1885. He was the third of three sons. In 1808, when Victor was six years old his father was with Joseph Bonapart in Spain, and his mother had taken a quaint house in Paris. At the rear of this house was a little dilapidated chapel, in which a priest lived, a scholar, a man of learning. He taught the children of Madame Hugo. Another man lived in the chapel, who never went out except at night; and he too, taught the children. He loved the youngest boy, and often carried him about the chapel on his shoulders and told him stories of deeds of valor.

One day a file of soldiers came and took this man away. The boys fought in their small way to rescue their friend, but the soldiers formed into squares and marched away with their prisoner. A few days after this happened, a placard was posted saying General Lahorie had been shot. The General, a brave Republican soldier had incurred the enmity of the Emperor some years previously. The tragic death of General Lahorie burned deep into the soul of Victor and to a great extent colored his future life. He became a friend of the oppressed, and fought with all the resources of his command with voice and pen, usurpers, dictators and priestcraft. The latter retaliated by calling Hugo an infidel.

Victor Hugo believed in freedom of expression. He incurred the enmity of Napoleon third, and was exiled for nineteen years, first going to Belgium, to Jersey and then to Guernsey. He returned to Paris from his long exile in 1870, after the Germans had defeated the French at the battle of Sedan, and the downfall of the Emperor. Hugo wrote many poems, dramas, etc. On February 25, 1830, his great tragedy, "Hernani" was played in Paris after much opposition. After "Hernani" came "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," written in five months, a great success. Hugo gave himself to the writing of verses and it was thirty years between the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "Les Miserables." In the interim he turned out volumes of verses, poetry and

plays. Everything he wrote was wildly read. He was a precocious child. Wrote his first tragedy in 1816 at the age of 14. He won the principle prize in a contest at 17, and took another prize at 18 with his poem, "Moise sur le nie". His poetical compositions cover a wide range and were turned out with a rapidity that astonished and amazed the literary world.

Victor Hugo was a lover of children. A man who loves children and their company usually has a large, warm heart. It is said that Hercules assuaged the tediousness of his labors, which he sustained in open and common games, playing with children, this great warrior, the son of Jupiter and Latona, made himself a playmate with boys. Socrates was also fond of boys, and was often seen playing with them. These famous ancients said the companionship of children was "sweet and delectable unto them."

Hugo wrote many great novels, "Les Miserables" ranking among the greatest of all time. "The Man Who Laughs," and the "Ninety Three" are very interesting books.

The time came when France was not large enough for the Emperor and Victor Hugo, one had to go, and it proved to be Hugo. A bounty of twenty-five thousand francs was offered for his body, dead or alive. Through a woman's devotion he escaped to Brussels, and was driven from there to Jersey, thence to Guernsey. It was nineteen years before he returned to Paris—years of banishment, but years of glory. Exiled by fate that he might do his work.

Finally the time came when Hugo had to pay that debt that all men must pay. Where was he to be buried? The Pantheon had been restored. This beautiful building had been sacked and burned by the mob. The first internment in the restored Pantheon was Mirabeau; next came Marat—stabbed in the bath by Charlotte Corday. In the Pantheon, the visitor sees the elaborate tombs Voltaire and Rousseau on which are engraved glowing inscriptions, and from the tomb of Rousseau he sees the hand thrust forth bearing a torch—but the bones of these men are not there. Let Hugo tell why. "One night in May, 1814, about two o'clock in the morning, a cab stopped near the city gate of La Gare at an opening in a board fence. This fence surrounded a large, vacant piece of ground belonging to the city of Paris. The cab had come from the Pantheon, and the coachman had been ordered to take the most deserted streets. Three men alighted from the cab and crawled into the enclosure. Two carried a sack between them. Other men, some in cassocks, await-

ed them. They proceeded towards a hole dug in the middle of the field. At the bottom of the hole was quick lime. These men said nothing, they had no lanterns. The wan daybreak gave a ghastly light; the sack was opened. It was full of bones. These were the bones of Jean Jacques and Voltaire, which had been withdrawn from the Pantheon." The ashes of the man who wrote these words now rest next to the empty tombs of Rousseau and Voltaire. When a visitor is taken to the crypt of the Pantheon, he is first taken to the tomb of Victor Hugo. The sarcophagus on

each side is draped with the red, white and blue of France and the stars and stripes of America. With uncovered heads visitors behold the mass of flowers and wreaths, and their minds go back to 1885, when the body of the chief citizen of Paris lay in state at the Pantheon and five hundred thousand people pass by and lay the tribute of silence or of tears on his bier.

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