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**THE AMERICAN WAY**

**INVESTIGATE YOUR SCHOOLS**

By: George Peck

In several recent articles I discussed the struggles of other nations to achieve economic security. In this column, let's stay in America to talk about our own efforts to attain that much-to-be-desired but elusive Utopia.

Here we sit in the middle of the melee, a child prodigy among nations, just 173 years of age. Like all prodigies our future is uncertain. The next few years should determine whether our growth has been sound, or of the mushroom variety.

Up to 1917 all of us were fairly happy and content. There was

plenty of work, and anyone desiring to make himself moderately rich could do so with a minimum of effort. Then came our 1917 Crusade for Democracy. We entered World War I. This cost us a lot of money, much of which we optimistically thought would be returned to us. The failure of our ex-Allies to pay, plus the demoralized conditions of all world markets, finally threw us into a financial tail-spin. The storm broke in 1929. That was the first real test of American character. We failed to meet the test.

The messy experiments in which we wallowed from 1929 until we were forced into World War II in 1941 cannot be blamed entirely upon our politicians. Nations get ex-

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SCRIPTURE: Mark 4: Luke 13:11-14.  
DEVOTIONAL READING: Matthew 13:10-17.

**Wild Oats Harvest**

Lesson for March 6, 1949

ALL RELIGIOUS teachers of Jesus' time used parables. But the great difference between Jesus' parables and those of his contemporaries, as Rabbi Klausner says, is that his were remembered and theirs were not. People will remember a story who cannot take in a lecture. Jesus almost never told "wonder-tales." His parables are not in the least like Grimm's fairy tales or Alice in Wonderland. Mostly they are about simple ordinary happenings, and practically always about living people or things.

If you said "Kingdom of God" to the average religious person of Jesus' time, he would have replied, "Oh, yes, that wonderful time! The time when these Roman soldiers will be blasted off the earth by the terrible breath of God, the time when every grape will yield barrels of wine and a single grain of wheat can be ground into bushels of flour—the Miracle Age!" The Kingdom of God as Jesus proclaimed it—God's Ideal World—was something quite different from that. Jesus illustrated it not with fanciful wild pictures, but with stories from real life, from the field or the farm-house.



Dr. Foreman

The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of law, not of happen-so-or-of-magic-wands. Jesus was fond of comparing God's Kingdom to growing plants. Every plant is a miracle, it is evidence of God's creative power; but plants do not grow overnight, they grow by the laws which the creator made in them.

**Wild Sowing**

AS WE SAW last week, the most important feature of the Ideal World, or of any world, is the quality of the people in it. So most of Jesus' parables were about people, one of the most famous being this one of the "prodigal son." ("Prodigal" of course does not mean wicked or repentant, but wasteful, reckless with money or other things.) You could find many faults in that young man. One of them—the fault that nearly killed him—was that if he had a calendar he never looked at it. If you take a good look at a calendar you will always notice that there is another day after this one—another month, another year. But the prodigal never thinks about tomorrow, only about today. He sows his wild oats because he has fun doing it. He can say "So what?" fast enough, but he has never asked the question, "—and then what?" Childish, isn't it?

Some people even argue that it is a good thing to sow wild oats, on the theory that the prodigal gets it out of his system and is afterwards a better man.

Nonsense! Is it better for your education to spend several years learning things wrong? Is it better for a garden to let it grow up in weeds for the first three weeks? Is it better for a man's health to spend his childhood years on a sick-bed? That's no more silly than to say that a man is morally better for having been immoral for a while first.

**Prodigal Nation**

IT HAS EVEN been said that we have a prodigal-son civilization. Our generation is pretty busy sowing wild oats. We waste the natural resources of the earth. Drinking has become encouraged by law and made glamorous by the movies. We spend more on liquor than on schools. More money is spent on a single day's horse-racing at a big track than a whole state or province spends on education in a year. The ties of marriage have grown so weak, especially outside the Christian church, that it has not been long since one American city was boasting that its marriage rate had "caught up with" its divorce rate!

**Wild Harvest**

THE PRODIGAL son in Jesus' story went home—but he had to reap his wild harvest first. The modern prodigal, whether individual or nation, seems to misunderstand Jesus' meaning. If God is thought of at all, he is pictured as a benevolent Being who after all doesn't mind our enjoying our little fling. "He will forgive," said Voltaire, "that's his business." That is a total misunderstanding of God.

(Copyright by the International Council of Religious Education on behalf of 40 Protestant denominations. Released by WNU Features.)

actly the kind of politicians they deserve. Most of what was said in our leadership can be blamed upon our own blind, lazy desire to find an easy way out of our troubles.

in the panicky manner of a cancer victim seeking a cure.

Our greatest trouble is that too many among us no longer believe in America. That is the gravest danger we face. The lack of faith is due in large degree to the failure of our educational system to instill an understanding of what America really is and what made her great, into the minds and hearts of American boys and girls. Without that knowledge how can the youth of America be expected to love this country and to appreciate the great heritage handed down to them?

For upwards of 170 years we made great strides toward economic security. This was accomplished through individual initiative, toil and thrift—not through government hand-outs. We did not attain economic security, but came closer to that goal than any other nation. Communistic and socialistic influences in our public schools and institutions of higher learning have been a large factor in retarding our progress.

I hasten to pay full respect to the great number of school teachers who, in the face of many obstacles, are rendering yeoman service in upholding the ideals of loyalty and service to American principles. We must strengthen their hands by eliminating the traitors among them.

If you are worried (and you should be) about this trend to communistic totalitarianism, there is something you can and should do about it. Consult with other patriotic citizens in your community. Investigate to find out if there is evidence of subversive activities in your local school. Carefully read the textbooks to learn whether they are sound in text or full of poisonous propaganda.

If you find that the schools in your community are indoctrinating the students' minds with false ideas, that they are breeding places for Communism, or Socialism, or any other "ism" besides Americanism, go to your school authorities, or to your State Legislators, demand a thorough investigation, to be followed by a drastic purge, if needed. Thus will the American Way be protected from its enemies, and America will be able to proceed on its way to economic security.

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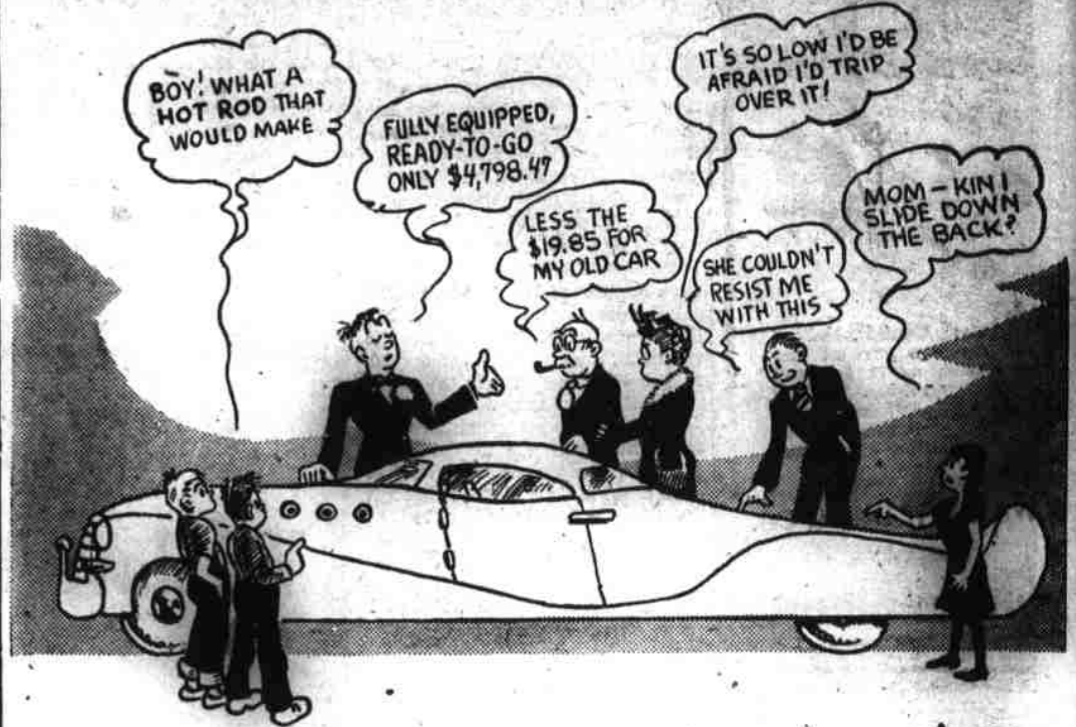


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BEGINNING at a stake on the south edge of the cart road that leads from Curtis Halls to O. R. Quinns on Susan Ann Jones heirs line, and runs with said line South 38 West 19 1/2 poles to a stake near the fence; thence North 2 East 16 poles to a stake on the cart road; thence with said road South 85 East 8 3-5 poles to the beginning, containing 1 acre, more or less, and being the same lands as described in a deed to the Board of Education from Curtis Hall as recorded in Book 164, page 78, of the Duplin County Registry.

A ten per cent deposit will be

required of the successful bidder on date of sale, as evidence of good faith.

Advertised this the 11th day of February, 1949.

R. M. Carr, Chairman,  
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O. P. Johnson, Secretary  
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