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THE MEXICAN TROUBLE

The last communication from Secretary Kellogg to the Mexican Ambassador regarding land laws affecting American oil leases, contains a threat on the part of the United States to withdraw recognition from Mexico.

The real source of the trouble dates back to the Diaz regime when great land estates were built up at the expense of the Indians who were forced to peonage. Many of these estates were leased to foreign oil interests and some of them became great oil fields. Then followed what resulted in three or four internal revolutions said to have been financed in the United States. Concessions granted by the party in power were repudiated by the next party in power until the new constitution was adopted in 1917.

The constitution proposed a change in subsoil ownership by returning the land to the Indians with compensation to all foreigners affected and during President Obregon's first term laws were enacted to enforce the constitutional provisions on January 1st 1927. Under the new laws the government claims title to the subsoil. Those who had worked it might continue in control as long as they lived; but at their death must either dispose of the property to Mexicans or else live up to the laws of Mexico regarding citizenship and land ownership. Those who have not developed the subsoil have forfeited their privilege, moreover no property in the future was to be sold to foreigners. Foreign companies were given a period of years to comply with the law and show that at least a majority of their capital to be Mexican.

These requirements have not been met by American lease owners; hence the action of the State Department. While the United States disclaims any intention to interfere with domestic policies in Mexico the protection of American investments is looked upon as an international question, and Mexico may be forced to grant their concessions.

Mexico has been making a heroic attempt to get rid of foreign influences—just as Japan and Italy has done, and China and several other nations are attempting to do. Mexico takes the position that their courts are adequate and aggrieved parties have a legal remedy. The internal church and state controversy added to a costly Indian war and threatened insurrection puts the screws on Mexico with no light hand because the question of credit is all important.

If one puts poison in a man's coffee to kill him it is a crime. If one puts poison in himself and kills another—its reckless driving.

The United States Supreme Court has decided that an automobile used for illegal transportation of liquor, even without the knowledge or consent of the owner, may be confiscated.

The yellow-back dime novel, once considered wicked, is light reading now. The real naughty books are not new either; they've just moved from hidden recesses to the living room.

THE OLD FASHIONED HOME

Say, what has become of the old-fashioned house, with its sweet perfumed flowers round the door? Oh what has become of the calico blouse, that mother and sister Sue wore?

Say, what has become of the love and the care, that affection made too strong to roam? And where is the family whose absence was rare, in that quaint little old-fashioned home?

I'll ask just once more of that old-fashioned place, where fortunes and sorrows were wed; and I'll find not the answer till I see the trace, of the romance that long since has fled.

But it's no use to sing of the old-fashioned things, that progress replaces with new; for our grandsons will weep o'er the things they can't keep and their grandsons will do as they do.

What has become of the old-fashioned home? It was a wooden wash-tub or a porcelain bath tub or refreshing shower. It has changed the splintered flooring and a patch of rich design. It has witnessed the old hot cook stove turn into a modern gas range or fireless cooker. It has seen a thousand house flies reduced to a struggling few which the good wife soon puts to rout with a silver-handled swatter.

What has become of the old-fashioned home? It has seen the old organ on which sister played "Tra, la, la, la," turn into a radio that chooses the finest compositions from the ethereal vastness. It has seen disease diminished and longevity produced. It has seen the musty stall where the family mare dreamed of oats and hay, turned into a concrete-floored garage where the push-lined motor car honks for gas and oil and trembles to be out on the road.

This has been a wonderful transformation! And in the modern home with all of its conveniences, love still exists and waxes warm where the heart is open and the spirit is right. Righteousness does not diminish with accommodation. The test of virtue is not of mechanics. Invention has not changed human character. Speed, efficiency and sanitation have not contributed to moral delinquency.

It is to rejoice that material welfare has thus advanced. Man's attitude toward, and action in, life has not gone wrong; it has but changed to meet new conditions. Attractions outside the home, and the means of obtaining them, are the real tests of whether or not native virtue can withstand temptation and the pull of intemperance. Modern life is dangerous? Yes. So is a violin. For it can make an audience pray or swear, depending upon the manner and the skill or lack of it, with which the player draws the bow. It is not the instruments of life, but the way we play on them, that counts for good or ill.

SQUIBITORIALS

If it's fit to print we print to fit.

A Japanese steamship company has declared an 8 percent dividend, thus showing that it is able to paddle its own canoes.

The ill-fated Hawaiian plane expedition, followed with the attempt of Com. Harold T. Bartlett to reach Colon from Hampton Roads in non-stop flight, proves that air transportation is generally limited only to the amount of fuel that can be carried.

The Studebaker company proposes to buy a bale of cotton for every Studebaker car sold in the South. This will enable the cotton planter who is broke to buy a motor car on time to get rid of a bale of cotton that cost him what he borrowed from the bank to produce.

A rattlesnake will at least give warning before it strikes, but a slanderer against character and virtue inserts his poisonous fangs in secrecy and at will.

It is hoped to have finished the Fall-Doheny oil conspiracy trial by Christmas. Twelve men will have to have good memories to decide the case after several week of listening to evidence.

COST OF COAL STRIKE

With the approaching end of the British coal mining trouble government experts are endeavoring to ascertain the approximate cost and loss due to the struggle. This has been fixed at two thousand million dollars. More than 1,000,000 mine workers were idle for the first four months of the stoppage, and nearly 800,000 for the whole period and a still larger number are on short time. The workers loss is estimated at 300 millions.

It will be many years before this damage can be repaired—if ever, because the purchasing power of the people has been reduced to a point of merest sustenance. Judging from American standards and methods one cannot refrain from picturing what the result might have been if even half of this great loss had been paid to the million miners in wages—in consuming power. The pitiful part of the whole proceeding is that it is not settled. Nothing is settled until it is settled right.

57,889 SLAVES FREED

After six years of persistent effort the Maharaja of Nepal, India, all slaves in that country of 5,500,000 population are now free. The plan pursued was for government purchase of these slaves, but over 4,000 of the 15,000 slave owners refused to accept any compensation. The result is that for a sum equal to less than \$2,000,000 American dollars 57,889 slaves have obtained their freedom. The Maharaja has thrown open for the benefit of the emancipated slaves available tracts of cultivable waste lands in the hills. The freed men will further receive loans from the State Treasury to enable them to cultivate their fields and earn their own living and no disturbance to the life or trade of the country is anticipated.

RADIO CONGESTION

Because Congress failed to adopt some rule regarding broadcasting radio's domain is warming with conflicting stations on their own wave-lengths. Judge Wilson of the Illinois State Circuit Court, recently enjoined one broadcasting station from using a wave-length that would interfere with the programs sent from another nearby station holding that the investment in property and the education of the receiving public establishes a superiority of right in the particular ether affected.

The situation in radio affairs is rapidly growing worse. Mr. Hoover says that among the 615 stations now operating about 115 should be discontinued to insure orderly broadcasting and the maximum of service to the public.

Besides the numerous land stations some 15,000 vessels plying the seas, send and receive entertainment programs and all sorts of messages. It is altogether probable that no law can ever avoid all the trouble, any more than laws can rule congestion off the streets and sidewalks.

THE MEDICAL LIQUOR PROBLEM

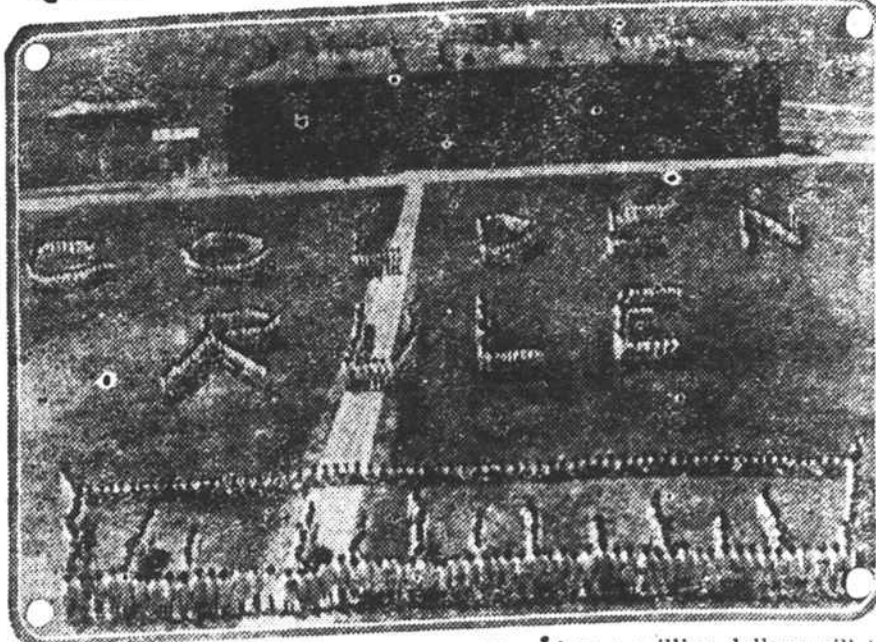
It may surprise many people to know that over three million gallons of whiskey are required for medical purposes in this country, and that bonded warehouses now carry in stock over 15 million gallons, of the 60 million on hand when prohibition was adopted.

General Andrews in charge of enforcement, says that this stock will be depleted within five years, and that the government must arrange for the manufacture of at least three million gallons in order to give it necessary age before being called upon. General Andrews favors the plan of government manufacture and control. Under the present system this liquor finds its way to illegitimate trade, is diluted or "cut" and then resold.

Secretary Mellon is opposed to putting the government into the liquor business and suggests a privately financed corporation which would buy all privately owned liquor in stock and manufacture additional liquor as demanded. At prevailing prices this would require at least \$150,000,000 besides the financing of six or eight warehouses. This would relieve the capital now tied up in bonded whiskey and the banks holding certificates as collateral.

The plan will be presented to Congress which will be compelled to take action if decent whiskey is to be available five years hence. Whether the plan will remedy the conditions complained of is another question—a question that may be solved by a rigid government distribution system.

Quake Destroys "Golden Rule Orphanage"



CABLED dispatches from Armenia indicate that "Golden Rule Orphanage," one of the Near East Relief institutions in Leninakan, formerly Alexandropol, Armenia, has been destroyed by the series of earthquakes that cost hundreds of lives and made thousands of persons homeless. The above picture was taken a short time before the earthquake and was intended in the nature of an appeal to the people of America to observe International Golden Rule Sunday again this year in order that funds might be provided for the maintenance of the orphanage. The building in the picture has been wrecked and the six hundred children who framed the message are living in tents with snowstorms raging and the temperature at zero. More than a million dollars will be required to aid the earthquake victims and to care for the 9,000 children in Near East Relief care in Leninakan until June. To aid them people are asked to observe Golden Rule Sunday by serving the simple menu of a Near East Relief orphanage in their homes and then contributing to the organization at 151 Fifth avenue, New York City. Official reports confirm a total of at least 500 dead, 80,000 homeless, the destruction of 12,000 homes, much property and a large part of the country's food supply. Again the Armenians win their sad distinction to the title of the "martyr nation." But already the work of reconstruction has commenced, under American leadership.



Shades of Color — Partly Black

In that part of Southern Illinois known as Egypt, where Cairo, Karnak, Thebes, Delta and others of Pharaoh's towns contend with Herin and Marion for local supremacy, there is a small, compact manufacturing town of industry and culture. To this town twenty years ago came a young man fresh from an eastern college, strikingly capable and industrious and good looking. He secured employment in the one industry upon which the whole town depended. He worked his way to a position second in importance only to that of the president and chief owner, and became engaged to the president's daughter. The match was considered ideal. Both the young people were social favorites; both were of high character.

When the time came for the young man to ask his employer for the hand of his daughter, the young man explained that he knew nothing about his parents except that his mother, who was the only parent he had ever known, had taken him to a far away town when he was a child and had lived there under an assumed name. When she died, he had worked his way through college and had come west.

His employer, who was a man of strong convictions and democratic opinions, asked him to state these facts clearly to his wife, and also to his daughter. He did this. All three agreed that the young man's story was true and that, as his life among them had been without blemish for many years and his character apparently above reproach, the question of whether he was a legitimate or illegitimate child ought not to interfere with their happiness and the engagement was therefore announced.

Shortly after this, a stranger came to town, looking for the young man, and within twenty-four hours both the young man and the stranger had disappeared. His sweetheart received from him a brief note, evidently written under the stress of great emotion, telling her that for reasons he could never explain to her he could never see her again. Foul play was suspected, and a nationwide search for the young man was made, but he could not be found. Twenty years later he returned to see his sweetheart, who had remained unmarried and was on her deathbed. He stated that the stranger who had come to see him was a lawyer who cleared up the mystery of his birth by revealing to him that he was heir to an estate of many millions left to him by a grandfather who was one-eighth negro. As his mother and his grandmother were full-blooded whites, he was therefore one thirty-second negro, a fact of which he had no suspicion until the appearance of the stranger, whose interest in the case was that he could secure a large fee by locating the heir.

The young man, horrified beyond imagination, had endeavored to get rid of the unwelcome acquaintance by giving him, if necessary, all of the fortune involved, but this could not be done. Moreover, the fact that he himself now knew that he had negro blood in him, made it impossible for him to marry the girl he loved. He only sought in this extremity to find how to get out of his difficulty without revealing to his promised bride the fact that had so filled him with with horror. His immediate and unexplained disappearance was the only solution of the problem of which he could think.

What would you do in a case like this? Or, to put the matter in a less embarrassing manner, what do you think he should have done? He could have arranged with his persecutor for absolute silence and thus could have secured his fortune, and married his sweetheart. Or he could have secured the fortune and then proposed to her to go ahead with their plans to marry. He rejected these plans because he did not want her to know the facts.

Possibly he hoped his disappearance in brutal and summary fashion would put an end to her love for him. It is probable that at his return at the end of twenty years it had not, because he had not told her the facts.

FEDERAL GUARANTEE OF CROP PRICES

Edwin T. Meredith, former Secretary of Agriculture, proposes that a price-fixing commission be appointed by the president, charged with the duty of naming prices to be guaranteed the farmer on cotton, wool, wheat, butter, sugar and corn. The plan proposes that the commission is not to buy any crop, or portion thereof, until one year after harvest, and then only the surplus at the price bid for shipment abroad. By raising or lowering prices of these crops from year to year a production balance would be firmly established after two or three years a protective tariff keeping out imports until our domestic production is absorbed. Mr. Meredith also favored a tax of one percent on these six crops, the money to go into a special guarantee fund to meet any losses on any unforeseen surplus—a sort of mutual insurance. From the consumers' standpoint this plan would stabilize business through stabilizing agriculture and this would mean stabilized steady employment of labor. All agree that agriculture should be a business and not a gamble as it now is.

Nature gives back what she takes—but man tries to keep all he gets.

Sat Up and Took Notice
By DOROTHY DOUGLAS

MAT WINSLOW looked down at the place and in his big steady eyes was an expression that Gene had never before noticed.

"Gene," he was saying seriously, "I told you a few months ago that I loved you and wanted you to be my wife."

"I didn't promise I would marry you," Gene said. "I only told you I loved you. I don't want to marry you now. I have developed into a different type of girl from the one you loved. I don't know whether you'd like my new self."

"Well—it has taken you a long time to get here. I don't know whether you'd like my new self. I don't know whether you'd like my new self. I don't know whether you'd like my new self."

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