

Carolina Watchman

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The influence of weekly newspapers on public opinion exceeds that of all other publications in the country.—Arthur Brisbane.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1933 A FASHION NOTE FROM THE BIBLE

We read a report in a New York paper of a convention of beauty shop people a few weeks ago. According to this report the most interesting things in the exhibits were removable lips, demountable eyelashes, devices to change the shape of the nose, apparatus to hold the ears back, artificial eye-sparkle and little pictures for fingernail decoration.

We began to wonder how women could be so foolish as to think that such artificialities make them attractive to men. But before we had got to the point of raising an outcry against this degenerate modern age we happened to think that we had read something of the sort before.

We looked it up and found it, written more than two thousand years ago by a prophet named Isaiah. "The daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet. . . . In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, the chains and the bracelets and the mufflers, the bonnets and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tables, and the earrings, the ring and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses and the fine linen, and the hoods and the veils."

Perhaps it wouldn't be any use for us to try to talk the girls out of their finery. Apparently Isaiah's threats didn't change feminine nature, which seems to be about the same now as it was in Old Testament days. But we have an idea that the girls of Isaiah's time, like those of today, didn't put on their dew-dads so much to make themselves interesting to men to make other women envious. That, however, is a mere man's point of view.

ON TRIAL

Now that legal beer is here it will be well to keep in mind that the larger problem of the repeal of prohibition remains to be dealt with. The coming year is really a testing time.

If the beer regime is a sane and sensible one, if the business is carried on in an orderly, respectable manner and if politics is rigidly excluded, then an additional argument for the repeal of prohibition will be furnished.

But, if beer licenses are used as a screen for the sale of hard liquor if gangsters are not banished from the business and if grafting politicians trade in licenses, then the dregs in doubtful States may have a greater measure of success.

It is no secret that many sincere leaders of the wet cause, notably Senator Walsh, view the outlook with some trepidation. They fear that laxity on the part of public officials may lead to an extension of the speakeasy activities. There is no question that evasion of the law in regard to hard liquor is made much easier.

The idea of beer legislation is that beer of a mild alcoholic content should go far toward satisfying the craving for alcohol. No

one expects that beer can oust the desire for stronger beverages. If that were so then there would be no need of prohibition repeal. But most people admit the country would be better off if beer and wine supplanted a good sized percentage of hard liquor. It may be that they will not, yet the experiment is worth pushing to the limit.

The main idea is to give beer a fair trial. But the responsibility of that part of the public which ardently desires the repeal of prohibition is clear. We should see to it that none of the old time evils return during this period of preparation for prohibition repeal.

FARM MORTGAGE DEBT

The farm mortgage debt in the United States rose from 3 billions and 320 millions in 1910 to 9 billions and 468 millions in 1928. It has been reduced to about 8 billions and 500 millions at present, the reduction being represented mainly by foreclosures and forced sales. These are the figures compiled by the Department of Agriculture and submitted to Congress which now has under passage legislation designed to relieve the pressure of debt.

This mortgage debt rests on forty per cent of the farms, leaving sixty per cent free. Tenant operated farms are more generally and heavily mortgaged than owner-operated ones.

Individuals hold about 30 per cent of the mortgages, insurance companies 23 per cent. Federal and joint-stock land banks 19 per cent, commercial banks 11 per cent, mortgage companies 10 per cent and other agencies and firms 7 per cent.

The interest charge in 1932 amounted to about a half billion, having dropped somewhat from its high peak, but interest did not drop as far as the volume of debt was reduced as renewals have been at higher rates. The annual interest charge of all sorts of farmer indebtedness is estimated at between 800 and 900 billions at present.

In 1929 property taxes on all farms reached about 777 millions, of which 265 millions was on mortgaged farms. Since 1929 farm property taxes have dropped 20 per cent the nation over. It may be anticipated that legislation passed in the states during the past few months will add very materially to the decrease of the farm tax load.

The national legislation now pending, which was drafted at the behest of President Roosevelt, aims at scaling down the total of the mortgage debts, reducing interest and spreading out payments so that a larger per cent of the farm owners will have hope of paying out.

PUTTING CITY MEN OUT-DOORS

The great value of President Roosevelt's plan for putting a quarter of a million young men at work in outdoor labor, of a kind which is somewhat vaguely referred to as "forestry," seems to us to be that it will probably save most of these men from becoming bums.

As we understand the plan only those between 18 and 25 years old and having some dependent relatives were accepted at first. They applied at an Army recruiting station, armed with a letter, from some recognized local relief welfare association, testifying to their worthiness as objects of relief. They were then put through a physical examination at the recruiting station.

Those who passed these preliminary tests were required to enlist for six months, signing an agreement to perform whatever duties they might be assigned to and not to destroy any Government property. They then went at once on the payroll, at the rate of one dollar a day with food, clothing and shelter included. Each recruit, however, was required to sign an assignment of part of his pay, approximately three-quarters of it, to the dependent wife, mother, sister

or brother, to be paid direct to the beneficiary.

The recruits of this Army of Peace were then sent to the nearest military post for a period of "conditioning," which includes regular exercise and drill, instruction in taking care of their bodies while living in the open, amenability to discipline and the building up of their physical stamina. This conditioning was expected to take from four to six weeks. When completed, the men are sent in squads to the places where they are to labor on public works.

Precisely where this work will be done and what it will consist of is not fully explained as yet. Presumably it will be in the various National Forests, though there is talk of the Government buying a million acres or so of unclaimed land and putting three men to work on that.

It seems to us that the actual work accomplished is of less importance than the building up of the men who do it, getting them into the habit of hard work, enabling them to contribute something, however slight, to the support of others, and taking them off the city streets into the wholesome outdoors.

We shall watch this experiment with interest.



YOU KNOW the name of THE MAN in this story FOR THE very simple REASON THAT he is now A PROMINENT citizen of THE COMMUNITY. At the TIME HE was married he was WORKING FOR a rather MATTER-OF-FACT, hard-BOILED BOSS, and when HE GOT ready to go away TO TAKE his bride, he TALKED THE matter of HIS ABSENCE over with THE BOSS. "How long DO YOU want to be away ON YOUR honeymoon?" asked THE HEAD man. "Well, sir—ER—HOW long, would you SAY?" QUESTIONED our CHAP TIMIDLY? "How do I KNOW?" replied the BOSS. "I haven't SEEN THE bride." I THANK YOU.

LIVES ON SAME FARM FOR SIXTY-FIVE YEARS

Perry, Iowa.—Sidney Doidge, 64 year-old farmer here, has lived on the same farm 62 years. His parents moved there from Illinois when Doidge was 2.

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COMMENTS

PIGEONS

To The Editor: At the present moment I am not so much concerned with the national situation as with the fact that my son has announced that he wants to raise pigeons. He points out that you start with a mother pigeon and a father pigeon and very shortly thereafter you have any number of baby pigeons. He says that food will cost about \$3.65, but it will last a long time. He suggests that the squabs will soon cover the initial cost. He guarantees to service the pigeons indefinitely with no obligation whatever on my part. It certainly looks like a good proposition. But then I have been caught so often before on sure things. You know what these sales talks are. —H. T.

TONSILS OR NO TONSILS

To The Editor: I observed in the paper a letter which read: "The Lord put these tonsils there for a purpose, and I think it inhuman to allow this cutting out, unless threatened by serious complications. Don't let your helpless children be butchered at the whim of a medical man is my ardent appeal for the helpless ones to their parents or guardians."

I wonder if this was really written seriously. I can hardly believe it. Does the author really believe that the prevention of throat trouble is a slight matter? I know of case upon case where children had gained weight and health due to the removal of their tonsils. Perhaps that writer would claim that God gave us an appendix for some purpose and that therefore they should be allowed to remain. Such persons and their beliefs belong to the antediluvian age, no less. —W. E. K.

BEER AIDS BUSINESS

To The Editor: I am not much interested in beer. But I note: "Legalization of beer starts trade boom." "The brewers will buy at varying prices about 10,000 trucks and cars. The yearly upkeep of these will amount to \$20,000,000." "Many millions of bottles and glasses are being ordered. The barrel makers won't be able to catch up with their orders until late in the summer."

Now, if the ladies of the W. C. T. U. and kindred bodies have something equally constructive to offer, then quite a lot of us will be open to reason. I, for one, shall be willing to say: "Let's chuck the beer and go to work for the ladies." But we don't want any "hot air" as to how "the Lord will provide." We wish to know the exact how and where and when.

In the meantime, thirst dwells eternal in the human beast. —F. V.

SHE WANTS TO KNOW WHY THE DOG LICENSE LAWS ARE NOT ENFORCED

To The Editor: Why do some people have to buy dog licenses while others may harbor dogs that are unrestrained and unlicensed for years? If the police can locate hardened criminals, why not law-breaking dog owners?

Why can't a man improve his property with flowers without the chance of dogs destroying them? Why can't he paint his porch without wondering if in the morning the floor will be tracked and posts and doors made filthy by neighbors' dogs.

Why can't a man or child, law-abiding, take his dog, held in leash, for a walk without subjecting the dog and himself to danger of being bitten by a fighting dog whose owner defies the law by letting it run wild?

Why cannot mothers in unfenced sections let their little children play in the yards without the chance of being molested by roving dogs that take possession of the yard and with which it is dangerous to interfere?

Why is the law-breaking dog harbored allowed to go scott-free while dogs on rare occasions when caught must forfeit their lives for following instinct?

Do you think me a dog hater? I've owned, loved and cared well for dogs most of my life, but think people have rights too. —A TAXPAYER.

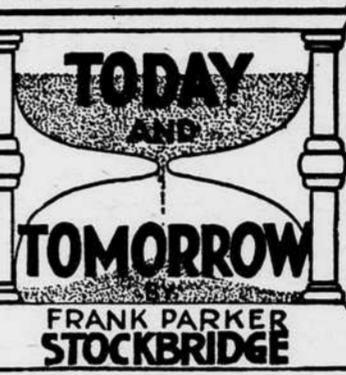
A DIAGNOSIS

To The Editor: This is my idea of prevailing conditions: The World War put our country down and almost made it poor. Prohibition came and took effect and pushed it down some more. —CITIZEN

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The Modern Miracle

By Albert T. Reid



NATIONALISM . . . a kick-back A lot of the world's present troubles are due to an excess of Nationalistic pride. Every nation is trying to be self-contained, and then grousing because other nations won't trade with it!

Every dollar we spend for foreign goods helps some other nation to buy our goods. I believe in America first, but I do not believe in the stupid doctrine which would prohibit me from buying something I wanted because it was made abroad.

Nearly a hundred years ago there was an agitation in this country similar to the "Buy American" movement of today. The party which advocates non-intercourse with foreign countries got the nick-name of "Know-Nothings." Presently we will wake up again to the truth that every obstacle to international trade hurts everybody concerned.

JEW. . . . in Germany Jewish people all over the world are greatly disturbed over the policy of the new "Nazi" government of Germany, under the practical dictatorship of Chancellor Hitler, in boycotting Jewish merchants, doctors, teachers and others.

I talked the other day with an intelligent young German Jew who had been getting letters from home about the situation in Germany. He was not at all worried. His people had written him that they were not being annoyed and that the whole anti-Jewish agitation was directed at a Communist element, mainly composed of Jews.

Another German, a non-Jew, said to me: "Here in America the Jews work like other people. In Germany a lot of them don't do anything but try to make trouble for the Government."

But, of course, the German government has handled the situation stupidly, as it always handles any situation. More than a hundred years ago the great French historian, Guizot, wrote: "There is something in the German temperament which makes them utterly unable to understand the point of view of other peoples."

MACHINES . . . can't think When these hard times are over—and that won't be long now—we shall not go backward but forward. And one thing we may look for is more and more perfection of machines to do our work for us.

When I was a boy I used to admire the muscular development of the men who worked in my uncle's machine shop. Not long ago I visited the same plant, now tremendously changed, and found one of those old-timers still working. He was sitting in a rocking-chair watching an automatic machine do almost exactly the same sort of work he used to do by hand

only many times as rapidly and accurately. Every once in a while he would take a finished piece off the machine and put a new block of metal in its place. "They say the machines will throw everybody out of work," he said, "but I notice it still takes a human brain to tell the machine when to stop and start." That is something people overlook. Nobody has yet made a machine that can think, and nobody ever will.

TELEPHONE . . . another step Everybody who has a telephone must have wished for some sort of an attachment which would answer automatically when the subscriber is away. Word comes from Vienna that just such a device has been invented and is in use there. When one is going to be out of telephone reach he sets the implement to the hour when he expects to be back. Then, if a call comes through in his absence the caller hears a gong ring to indicate the hour when the person called will return. When he returns he finds a record of all calls.

It will be easy to develop that idea into a phonograph record which would say "Mr. Smith has gone to Florida but will be back on the fifteenth," or whatever other message it is desired to convey. Something of that sort will come some day.

TYPEWRITER . . . has' birthday I have a vivid memory of the day when my mother received a letter from her youngest son in Buffalo, with the words printed instead of written with a pen. He said: "This letter is written on a new kind of machine we have got in the office, called a typewriter"

That was almost sixty years ago; about 1876, I should say. The typewriter was only three or four years old then, for the sixtieth anniversary of its invention by Christopher Sholes has just been celebrated.

There was quite a celebration organized by the Young Women's Christian Association. The type-

writer, they held, had emancipated women by making it possible for them to do work in offices. I don't think that is sound reasoning. Hardly anybody but men used typewriters for at least twenty years after the machine was invented. The rush of women into business began in the early 1890's after the telephone people had broken down the barriers that kept women out of offices.

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