

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1935

The Bridge Builder

An old man, traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held no fears for him.
But he turned when he reached the other side,
And builded a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way."

"You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you a bridge at eventide?"
And the old builder raised his old gray head:
"Good friend, on the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way."

"This stream, which has been as naught to me,
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."
—Miss Will Allen Dromgoole.

Anything that contains an eternal truth will never grow old. The poem reproduced above has been copied thousands of times and yet it is new because it inspires one to a realization of the high qualities of life.

We have the picture of an old man bridging a chasm after he had crossed, knowing that he would never need the bridge for his own use but having in mind the youth who would follow the same route.

In order to carry out the truth of this poem we do not have to have the identical experience and literally build a bridge. There are millions of ways in which we can live up to the teaching of the poet.

Governor Aycock was not a schoolboy, and yet he founded the public school system on a sound basis, knowing that future generations of boys and girls would pass along that way and need the facilities of an education. Dr. Pasteur did not expect to be bitten by a mad dog and yet he worked untiringly to perfect a serum to prevent people from going mad. Other cases we could name in which the extent of self-sacrifice for posterity has been marked with distinction.

The extent of the success of the life of an individual will ultimately be measured by what contribution he makes to the well being of the people who are to follow. This does not necessarily mean that the man who leaves millions in order that his son may be a useless drifter and leach, is a success.

One of the greatest things a man can leave to posterity is the influence of a true and wholesome character. Not all of us can start educational systems or induce serums to prevent death and disease, but it is within the power of all to leave in their wake the wholesome remembrance of a self-sacrificing life.

Spring Gardening

A good cure for the "spring fever" attacks of recent days would have been some work in the garden, but inclement weather has caused a delay in starting home gardens for this year.

With the fewest exceptions everybody can grow a garden. There are some people, however, who do not have enough initiative to get their garden plowed, to say nothing of planting and cultivating vegetables.

For the person who has a substantial income and is able to buy everything his family needs, there is little use for a garden, because the more he buys the greater the farmers' and grocers' market. But, on the other hand, there are hundreds of families who are looking to the government for sustenance, and it is especially this class of people that need to grow gardens.

The man who gets started on time is the one who is likely to have a good garden for his eagerness to work in the dirt is evidenced by his early start.

March is the month to get started on a garden by planting potatoes, onions, peas, greens and several other desired vegeta-

bles for early table use. April is the month for planting the bulk of the garden with such vegetables as corn, beans, tomatoes, cabbage, and others.

It is a commendable step the relief agencies took during the past two years when they prescribed that all rural families on relief rolls must make honest efforts to produce food or be cut off from further relief funds.

Dogs and Laws

The most recent legislation concerning dogs is an act to compel everybody to have their dogs vaccinated against rabies. The measure has its good points and its weak links.

While we are in sympathy with anything that will minimize the danger of being bitten by a mad dog or contracting rabies in any way, it seems that the law is going to be just as hard to enforce as some other statutes relating to dogs.

For many years we have had a law prohibiting people from letting their dogs run at large, and yet there is at least 200 stray canines in Wilkes county, this statement being based on information and belief. We have a law requiring a certain amount of tax to be paid on each dog and we believe we are safe in saying that there are hundreds of dogs not even listed for taxes.

Stray dogs recognize no boundaries or geographical lines of any kind and enforcing dog laws presents a big problem. In urban centers efforts are made at times to kill a number of stray dogs, but the supply continues to increase.

If all worthless and stray dogs could be killed the problem of rabies epidemics would be largely solved, especially if dogs owners observed the vaccination act. People who have dogs they care for do not let them run all over two or three townships. They keep them up or in good care. It is the stray dogs that are common carriers for rabies.

THE BOOK

the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains four great treasures.

By BRUCE BARTON

JUDAS MACCABEUS

Judas Maccabaeus' record falls between the Old and the New Testaments and is told in detail in the books which formerly were printed in the Bible in slightly smaller type and called the Apocrypha.

Alexander the Great was kind enough to conquer the world at one of the easiest of all dates to remember, 333 B. C. When he was asked, "To whom do you leave your kingdom?" he answered, "To the strongest." In the division which followed, Palestine was under the domination of Ptolemy, who ruled Egypt. He caused the Old Testament to be translated into Greek. The ancient Hebrew was no longer a spoken language and most of the Jews who could read at all read Greek.

In the subsequent redistributions of authority, Palestine passed under the dominion of a Greco-Syrian dynasty. Antiochus Epiphanes endeavored to unify his little empire by instituting a kind of emperor-worship, or worship of the state.

Many thousands of Jews accepted this bastard form of idolatry, including most of the priests. But there was one aged priest, Mattathias, who revolted and withdrew from Jerusalem, taking with him his five sons, Jochanan, Simon, Judas, Eleazer and Jonathan. Even that retired country village was not secure from the invasion of the new paganism. To his horror, the old priest saw one of his summer neighbors come to render the detested worship, a priest of God leading him in the new idolatry. Full of wrath, the old man killed both the idolator and the priest, and he and his sons fled to the mountains. There they rallied a band of revolutionists. They gathered strength till they were able to meet the armies of Antiochus in open battle, at first with no faintest hope of winning but only with the determination to die fighting for God and their country.

Never was a truly noble cause more valiantly defended. In 166 B. C., Mattathias died, but not until he had seen the struggle on the high road to success. He counseled his sons to make Simon their political leader and Judas their captain, and they did so.

What followed is brilliant indeed. In 164 B. C., Judas actually defeated the imperial armies and captured Jerusalem. The temple was cleansed and rededicated, and the worship of God re-established. For more than thirty years the brothers fought their good fight, establishing again a Jewish dynasty in Jerusalem and making it possible for Jesus to come to a people who still worshipped the God of Abraham. Judas was killed in battle in 161 B. C.

The "manager" of Oliva Dionne, father of the quintuplets, trying to persuade the Ontario government, as guardian of the babies, to do more, financially, for the rest of the family, says "Mr. Dionne was bewildered about everything when the babies were born." It seems quite credible.—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

In a single week recently, Huey Long received more than 84,000 pieces of mail. His clerk must envy the New Englander, who has to shovel out only during the winter season.—Hartford Courant.

It is intimated that the old Republican elephant has been so well trained that it knows its cue to lie down and play dead.—Washington Evening Star.

Today and Tomorrow

MOTORS new fuels

What may turn out to be the most significant news of recent years is the announcement from Germany that means have been developed for driving motor cars with illuminating gas and wood.

One type of truck now widely used, it is reported, uses gas distilled from wood. It carries wood in a rear compartment, and is said to cost 30 per cent less to operate than if driven by gasoline. Other cars have been quickly and cheaply adapted to use illuminating gas instead of gasoline, a tank of gas being carried in place of the gasoline tank. Also there have been developed new types of steam-propelled automobiles, using a variety of fuels, while a new stationary motor for farm use can be operated on coal dust, vegetable dust, dried leaves or pulverized corncocks.

There never has been any question in my mind that the problem of the future supply of petroleum was no real problem at all. The time will come, whenever it is economical to do so, when we will again get our power from vegetable products.

I hear from other sources that aviators have not abandoned the idea of steam engines instead of internal combustion motors for stratosphere flights.

I may not live to see it, but some day, I believe, men will fly around the world between sun and sun, with steam-engines propelling their planes at a height of ten miles.

CODDLING all wrong

One of the troubles with modern youth, as I have often remarked before, is that they have too much done for them and are not thrown on their own resources early enough or emphatically enough. They grow up expecting society to provide a soft cradle for them to ease their way through life.

That is why I applaud the refusal of the New York State Commissioner of Education to order a school bus to make a half-mile detour to pick up one thirteen-year-old boy. Any boy of thirteen who is not a cripple or an invalid ought to be able to walk half a mile to the bus stop, remarked Commissioner Graves.

The first school I ever attended was more than half a mile from our house. I was under five when I began to walk to and from school. In my grade school days it was a mile walk each way; when I got to high school it was a three-mile walk. Nobody had ever thought of providing free and easy transportation for schoolchildren in those days. We didn't get even free schoolbooks. And we grew up with a pretty clear idea that anything we got out of the world had to be paid for, with money or with labor.

INQUIRY to all

I would like to hear from anybody who knows of an actual instance of anybody who has received money from the Federal

Government for not growing tobacco or cotton or corn or hogs or wheat, who had not previously been in the business of growing those things.

Every little while somebody tells or prints a story of some man getting a check from Uncle Sam who has never been engaged in the line of agriculture for the control of which the money was paid. Those have always seemed like fairy tales to me. I can believe almost anything about the stupidity or carelessness of Government employees, this or any other government, but these yarns have strained my credulity.

They have come to the front again by a statement made in all seriousness by an eminent historian, James Truslow Adams, who told of three such instances. Chester Davis, the AAA administrator, came out with a prompt denial. I have no doubt both men believe they are right. It would be a real public service to get at the facts.

I would like to hear from any reader of this column who can furnish the name, date, place and amount of any such payment to any individual who was not entitled to it under the law.

FOOD sky high

Costs to city folk of the principal articles of food have gone up 34 per cent in the year ending last month, the Department of Commerce reports. Eggs are up 80 per cent, meats 41 per cent, dairy products 29 per cent, and so on.

I don't know how much of this increase has filtered back to the farmers who produce the foodstuffs, and how much has been absorbed by middlemen on the way from farm to consumer, but I feel certain that city people won't tolerate much higher prices. Salaries and wages for the general run of city dwellers have not increased in anything like that ratio, many not at all.

If Government would turn its attention to the cost of distribution of food products the cost of living might not rise so fast.

ENCOURAGEMENT . . . to capital

I think the most encouraging news of the past fortnight has been the announcement that two great corporations, Swift & Company and the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, are about to offer

Watch

Next Monday's Paper For Important Announcement

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