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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1935

Patriots used to shout: "Give me liberty!" Now they leave off the last word.—Detroit Free Press.

Governor La Follette said the Progressive party should be expanded slowly. By that time, however, it will be regarded as conservative.—Miami Herald.

Those two life termers who escaped from the reformatory were just volunteer helpers in reducing prison congestion.—Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.

Painless Extraction

Various methods of taxation by painless extraction are being used by state and federal governments. It is very convenient to pay a large sum of taxes in small bits so that "you do not miss it," as the politicians would have you believe, but nevertheless you pay it.

The average individual barely gives a passing thought to handing out a few cents here and there for tax but the thrifty individual who has learned to cut corners in order to economize knows full well that he is paying plenty of taxes in many different forms.

The danger lies not so much in the amount of tax paid as the failure of the individual to realize that he is paying taxes. When a person pays out money for something and knows full well that he is doing so he is going to have a greater interest in learning what he is getting for his money. This knowledge and realization is apt to pass him up if he does not stop to think about how much he is paying.

The Winston-Salem Journal estimates that the general sales tax next year will cost the average family around \$40 for necessities. This is only one of the forms of the celebrated "painless extraction" in taxation. To say \$40 for a year goes home more effectively than saying three cents on each one dollar purchase or one cent on a thirty-cent purchase. The sales tax is only an example. There are the gasoline tax and others that the consumer pays without realizing the amount in a year's time. A fuller realization of the amount of taxes you pay in many forms will give you a keener interest in governmental and economic affairs of the state and nation.

Dogs and Hydrophobia

The edict coming from the city police department to the effect that dogs running loose are to be killed to prevent an epidemic of rabies among the canine and human families is wholly commendable.

The legislature passed a law making it mandatory that all dogs in North Carolina be vaccinated against rabies. Although the law has its good points we never have been enthusiastic about it and question its efficiency and enforcement.

For several years we have had a law requiring people to keep their dogs confined and we are not able to understand how the vaccination law can be enforced any better than the former law, which has been disregarded more generally than even the laws against liquor possession and traffic.

The one sure way to prevent rabies among dogs is to kill the dogs. We are not prejudiced against dogs and a really good dog is a prized possession which the owner will take precaution to keep up and out of the way of stray dogs that are common carriers for the disease that is fatal to man as well as dogs.

Anyone would be safe in saying that 40 per cent of the dogs in North Carolina are of the worthless type and their owners hardly ever know where they are. If they are not going to keep up with them, how are they going to manifest enough interest to have them vaccinated?

If the people who have good dogs will keep them confined and have them vaccinated and if officers will kill stray dogs there will be no rabies and innocent children will not have to suffer the Pasteur treatment or death by hydrophobia.

Playing the Game

Five years ago a young athlete was sentenced to Sing Sing prison for eight to 16 years in a robbery case. Several days ago he was released because of his excellent prison record. He made an effort to join a baseball club, baseball being his profession.

The mogul of minor league baseball ruled that he could not play because of his prison record. The case attracted the attention of the nation and it seems that the preponderance of opinion was for giving the young man a chance in the game. At the time this is written the affair had not been completely settled. Edwin Pitts is the name of the player and Judge Bramham is the baseball boss who said he couldn't play.

In this case we are inclined to side with the young ex-convict. He paid his debt to society for the offense he admits he committed. He served his term in a manner that won the admiration of prison officials. He says he learned his lesson and only wants a chance to go straight. On the surface it looks like Judge Bramham did not play the game according to the golden rule.

Baseball is the young man's profession—his age being 25 now—and if the fact that he served time is to bar him from the game he will consider that nobody cares what he does and perhaps he will drift back into crime. On the other hand if he goes into the game and makes good he will have every inducement to go straight.

Society is endangered in this age by ex-convicts who consider themselves outcasts when they get out of prison and hey usually take up their career where they left off when they were sent up. One of the great problems of today is looking after those who have served time in the pen.

Organized baseball in America is a model organization for discipline and orderliness. It may be that Judge Bramham was over-zealous in his efforts to keep the game on a high plane when he handled the case of the young ex-convict. The executive committee of minor league baseball has been given the case and the nation watches for its decision with much interest.

THE BOOK

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

By BRUCE BARTON

MARY OF MAGDALA

The name of Mary was immensely popular in the time of Jesus because of the love of the Jewish people for Mariamne, the Jewish wife of Herod, who was murdered by him. Hence there are so many women in the New Testament named Mary that we sometimes find it difficult to keep track of them. Foremost, of course, is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Next in order of her importance is Mary of Magdala. Of her early history we know nothing except that she suffered with some nervous or mental complaint.

And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God; and the twelve were with him.

And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities. Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils.

We know the names of a few of the women who followed Jesus on that last journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and "ministered to Him of their substance." Three of them were Marys. Some apprehension of expectation of crisis, some woman's instinct caused them to leave their homes and be His companions in this last stage of His public work.

"Crucified, dead and buried!" Terrible words. The apostolic group was stunned and paralyzed. How the eleven disciples spent the hours from nightfall of Friday till dawn of Saturday, we do not know. But on Easter morning, "while it was yet dark" (John 20:1) these women who had seen Jesus crucified came with spices to anoint His body. They did not know that Joseph of Armathaea and Nicodemus had already performed that melancholy service.

They reached the tomb, wondering who would roll away the stone for them, and behold, it was already rolled away. And the angel said, "He is risen." The others hurried back to tell the disciples, but Mary "stood without weeping." She it was who first saw the Lord.

No wonder Renan, skeptic as he was, marveled at the faith which caused her to see that vision of a living Christ and to proclaim it. He had skeptic's easy explanation, but he said that no sane person ever saw anything that gave to the world such comfort as the vision of love that the Magdalene beheld. Peter and John ran to the sepulchre and found the empty tomb; the whole city knew of it before night.

But Mary's eyes first beheld Him and her glad voice first told the incredulous disciples. In the power of her faith and the blessing of her good tidings only Mary the mother of Jesus deserves to stand before this other beautiful and devoted follower of Jesus, Mary of Magdala.

Lawrence Tibbett wants a national theater. Congress already puts on a pretty good show.—Dallas Morning News.

France Arrests German Aviator—Headline. He may have been trying to start a chain letter.—Indianapolis News.

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

SUPREME COURT DECISION
Washington, June 9. (Auto-caster)—The unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that two of the essential assumptions upon which the New Deal program was based, were invalid and unconstitutional, has thrown the Administration and Congress into a state of confusion which makes the fate of much of the rest of the Administration's program doubtful. When the third arm of the government, the Judiciary, decided that the Legislative arm had no power to enact, and the Executive arm had no authority to administer, laws depriving persons of their property without just compensation, or to regulate working hours, wages and trade practices in business which does not cross state lines, it brought to a halt further efforts in the same direction.

The Frasier-Lemke Farm Mortgage Moratorium Act was declared unconstitutional in that it deprived creditors holding farm mortgages of their property without due process of law. The agricultural bloc in the lower House is groping in the dark for some satisfactory substitute to hold their constituents in line. Belief that the same reasoning which the Supreme Court used in denouncing NRA, applies with equal force to parts, if not all, of AAA, has checked the progress through Congress of the amendments designed to strengthen AAA.

The same decision, as it applies to regulation of hours and wages in intra-state commerce, has put the brakes upon the progress of the Wagner Industrial Relations bill.

These Supreme Court decisions, including the unanimous opinion that the President has no right to dismiss a member of the Federal Trade Commission except for malfeasance in office came just at the moment when Mr. Roosevelt's personal prestige had been greatly enhanced by his action on the Veteran's bonus.

The Bonus Veto
The President's veto message on the bonus bill is regarded by everybody but the Veterans' lobby as the most statesmanlike utterance he has made since his inauguration. It is also regarded as an extremely smart political move. It gave all of the boys on Capitol Hill a chance to go on record as friends of the veterans, a chance of which they promptly took advantage, and it unquestionably gained for the President a great deal of conservative support. Every President since the war has vetoed a bonus bill. The soldier vote is too widely scattered over the country to affect a President's reelection, though there are many districts in which it might easily be strong enough to reelect or defeat a Congressman.

There is more dynamite than appears on the surface in the report of the Comptroller-General, John W. McCarl, on the actions of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The TVA is asking for an extension of its powers, and more money. Mr. McCarl is the only official who can tell truths without risking his job. He cited many instances of expenditures not authorized by law, improper bookkeeping, assumptions of authority which the law did not contemplate and other kinds of irregularities. The most blasting charge he made is that the TVA deliberately "wrote down" the capital investment in its power plants, in order to make it appear that it could produce electricity cheaper than it actually can produce it.

Mr. McCarl's job is to audit all government expenditures. He holds office for a term of fifteen years and cannot be removed unless he commits a crime. He was appointed in 1921 by President Harding so his term runs until the middle of next year. Some of his enthusiastic friends in Nebraska, where he used to practice law, are talking about him as a possible Republican candidate for the presidency. Washington is most interested in him just now as a mathematician.

Case of Mr. Holt

Another question that has got to be settled on Capitol Hill before the end of this month is whether young Mr. Holt of West Virginia will be really a Senator or not when he reaches his thirtieth birthday on June 18. The Constitution says that Senators must be thirty years old. Hugh D. Holt was less than twenty-nine-and-a-half when he was elected last November. There are some conservative Senators of both parties who are strict constructionists of the Constitution, and indications are that there may be some difficulty facing young Mr. Holt on his birthday when he attempts to take the oath of office, and qualify as a full fledged Senator. If the Senate wants to throw him out on the technical ground that he wasn't thirty years old when he was elected, they can do so, for another provision of the Constitution is that each House of Congress shall be the sole judge of the qualifications and election of its own members.

The debate on Mr. Holt's qualifications might afford an opportunity for some of the anti-Administration Senators to conduct a filibuster against some of the Administration bills. That sort of debate is privileged. It cannot be controlled by any rules of the Senate. So if three or four long-winded senators undertook to stage a speech-making marathon nobody could stop them. There have been hints circulating on Capitol Hill that something of that sort is contemplated.

Snake Handling Preacher Flooded With Fan Letters

St. Charles, Va., June 7.—Fan mail from New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Kentucky, Georgia and other states has been received by the Rev. George Healey since news of his immunity to poisonous snakes through "holy faith" has spread, the holiness evangelist announced in a sermon tonight.

The preacher, who survived the bite of a copperhead that struck his hand last week in a "test of faith" and handled three rattlers Sunday without harm, said most of the letters were felicitous as to his condition and wanted more information about him, but others bitterly criticized him.

"If you want wild flowers in the woods," keep the fires out."—R. W. Graeber.

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