

The Daily Tar Heel

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Thursday, January 28, 1932

Prohibition's Degradation To National Constitution

There can be no doubt that prohibition has accomplished something. The open saloon, in this part of the country at least, is gone. Not that any person with the necessary money has any trouble getting all the whiskey he wants; but the sawdust on the floor, the brass rails, and the drunks reeling through the swinging doors onto the street are gone. It is safer for women to venture unprotected on the streets after dark now. Laborer drink less, and their employers find prohibition quite profitable. There is no longer any difficulty in running the mills on Mondays.

But at what a cost this progress has been made! Millions and millions of dollars have been spent annually in a vain effort to enforce the law. The dignity of the Constitution has been degraded by the inclusion within it of a mere statutory regulation. The respect of the people for law has been seriously undermined by the ridiculous spectacle of prohibition as it is enforced today. The public has been treated to such farcical scenes as Al Capone's being tried in a Federal court for failure to pay taxes on his income derived from beer-running with no suggestion being made to prosecute him for the beer-running itself. A couple of years ago the "Senate bootlegger" was a nationally known personage and a current joke. Thousands of citizens in the United States, many of them otherwise law-abiding, make their living by the manufacture or sale of intoxicating beverages.

Meanwhile the flow of liquor to the upper and middle classes has not at all been checked. There are hundreds of filling stations all along the roads of this state at which one can buy "corn." Bootleggers come openly to the fraternity houses in Chapel Hill to solicit trade. One can place an order by telephone at any time and receive quick delivery. The enforcement of prohibition, except for the less-

ening of drinking among the laboring class, has been just one big joke.

And yet prohibition has worked out about as it was intended. The "leading citizens" of every town who backed the Eighteenth Amendment and put it through probably wanted only to keep whisky from the workers and negroes under them so that they would be easier to control. Most of them did not intend at all that their own supply of intoxicating liquors should be cut off. Probably only Mrs. Boole, F. Scott McBride, Bishop Cannon, and their followers would wish a country absolutely dry.

It would be much better if we would openly confess our purpose and adopt legislation which would keep out the saloon and the laborers' Saturday night debauches and yet which would make no pretense of stopping all drinking of all intoxicating beverages. It would be far better if we admitted that prohibition enforcement has and must ever be a failure. It would be wiser for us to face the problem openly and to search for some saner and more effective method of securing temperance among our people. Government regulated dispensaries where one could buy a limited amount of good whiskey for a reasonable price without the privilege of drinking it on the premises would certainly be far better, and the open saloon could hardly be worse than the corrupt, dirty, illicit "speakeasy" of our present system.—D.M.L.

Student Experience For Future Service

Generalities are a convenient screen behind which superficial and well-meaning minds may rest. A great many people have been doing a great deal of talking for a great many weeks about the significance of our social crisis. Very little has been done about it by most people. In the University student body this has been the case.

However within the next few weeks a very definite opportunity for useful student effort has arisen. The Loan Fund drive is something which should appeal to the imagination of every student. Here is a chance for student leaders to rise up and marshal their forces to the accomplishment of something immensely important to the existence of the University.

A recognition of the importance of the success of the drive will be a contribution to the University, it is true, but more than that it will be a definite contribution to the intellectual life of this campus.

The rapid and vast social changes that have taken place during the last few years have produced the crisis here at the University. The same changes have brought about a world crisis, the most profound in all history. Nothing could be stronger evidence of the fact that the University is not an isolated institution. It is a part of the social structure so interdependent and sensitive that events in Paris and Brazil and Manchuria effect it directly.

It is not far-fetched to consider the elements of this crisis similar to the elements of the German reparation, the South American debt, or the Wall street stock exchange crisis. An appreciation of this fact by students generally, and particularly student leaders, is important training for the day when the students will take part in a larger way in world affairs.—R.W.B.

John T. McCutcheon, one of the country's leading cartoonists, at present attached to the *Chicago Tribune*, will leave Chicago this week-end for a protracted stay at Nassau, Bahama Islands, to repair his health.

The Creed

Outworn

The advice imparted to the American people by George Washington in the last days of his activity was excellent. He advised the nation to concern itself with its own affairs and not to meddle in the business of Europe. He was addressing a small, weak, and disorganized country incapable of any serious meddling had it been advisable, and our influence bore little or no weight. For the period and the conditions the advice was good, and a policy of isolation was necessary to our development, and in fact our only hope for growing power. The last hundred and thirty years, however, have witnessed changes in our nation which for sheer rapidity have had no precedent in the world's history. From a few millions scattered along a wild coast we have become a teeming nation of a hundred and twenty millions spread from ocean to ocean in busy cities and farms. We have assumed the lead in the world's trade and industry and are now the most powerful nation on the globe. The forty-eight states form a different land than did the loosely united thirteen that Washington warned away from interference that at the time spelt disaster.

We are a mighty nation capable and duty-bound to take the leading role in the conduct of world affairs. We have exercised some influence of a cautious and ineffectual nature that has not brought about the changes that we might and should effect. The current world depression could be alleviated by our cooperation with the other nations who are both anxious and willing to accept our aid and advice. The present inexcusable of China could be stopped if we would only lend our weight and approval to the efforts of the League of Nations. All attempts at concerted action by the other nations can amount to but little when the support and approval of the most powerful force is lacking. The attitude of this country determines the international policies of all other nations, and we are a threat that overhangs any moves towards cooperation among the other countries of the world.

The remedy for the present financial disaster lies in international cooperation. The outlawing of war depends on a working together of all powers as does the regulation of immigration, the suppression of the drug trade and other important world matters. Yet we refuse time and time again to join definitely with the other peoples. The present threat to the capitalistic system, whose greatest exponent we are, finds us unwilling to take the lead in checking the growing danger of communism, which is endangering Europe. The "war" that Japan is conducting against a defenseless China leaves us unperturbed while yellow soldiers beat our consuls and mistreat our citizens.

Our calm and impassive conduct is dangerous to ourselves and to the world. It is not caused through any disability, but by pure selfishness and absence of desire to help. It will eventually prove more harm than good, but when we appreciate that it may be too late. We are too great and too strong to sit idly by while an effort on our part would prove of great mutual benefit to ourselves and the world. We must realize that we are not the weak, insignificant confederation that Washington warned from meddling out of our class. We are a vast, powerful source of latent and potential good going to waste through the short-sightedness and petty provincialism of leaders who do not know or who fear our power.—J.F.A.

SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

The Daily Tar Heel does not necessarily endorse letters published in *Speaking the Campus Mind*. Lack of space prohibits the publication of all letters submitted. Preference will be given letters which do not speak upon subjects already exhausted. Letters should be four hundred words or less, typewritten, and contain the name as well as the address of the writer. Names will be withheld upon request, except when the writer attacks a person. No libelous or scurrilous contributions can be printed.

Nationalism And Armament Vs. Internationalism And Disarmament

For quite some time the Daily Tar Heel has been printing, daily, ponderable upon the subject of disarmament. Sir Thomas More, if he could arise from his grave, would commend the paper, praise it highly, for its promoting of Utopian ideals. In the last analysis that is what disarmament really is—an Utopian ideal.

Have nations ceased to practice national patriotism and its corollary national aggrandizement? Have they ceased to recognize international competition? A casual glance toward India, we believe, will answer these questions. And yet, it has been proposed—has been most vehemently prescribed—that we, in the face of like conditions, secure "parchment guarantees" to leave as a legacy to the men of tomorrow. Like Charles VI, we are about to bequeath to the rising generation, a valueless legacy.

Nationalism sprang from a common language, art, music, tradition. Internationalism must spring from the same source. When a common language has been adopted, a common tradition recognized—when all men realize that race is merely accident and means nothing, then Internationalism will follow. But it will take time to develop those ideas, even if we believe them possible. It will take a long time for us to realize that we are not Americans—that we are merely co-inhabitants of the world with a number of dissimilar races. We will have to discard prejudice, patriotism, and selfishness—mighty American principles—before we can reach Internationalism. And in like manner the other nations will have to act. But still, it might be possible.

Internationalism must come before disarmament can be practicable. We must discard national patriotism, we must become one civilized people inhabiting the world, we must have world wide uniformity of principles of government, law, economics, education. When that is accomplished we will have forgotten our prejudices, our foolish patriotism; we will have established a Utopia. And then there will be no need of valueless "parchment guarantees"; strife will have been destroyed; armament will have become an idea born of insanity. And then we will have a condition that history cannot prove.

Nationalism made necessary armed defense. It meant national patriotism applied to every aspect of political intercourse. Stephen Decatur gave it classic expression when he said "My county right or wrong." Decatur and his disciples would need some concrete power to uphold that statement, and that concrete power consisted in a threat to every other country. That is nationalism.

Internationalism will decree armament not only unnecessary but also foolish. When every man's country is the same there can be no strife, no threats. Then disarmament will be a common-place fact—not a

The Low-Down

By G. R. Berryman

FABLES SANS MORALS

The Professor Who Didn't Scan

Once there was a professor of English who didn't force his students to memorize statistics concerning the number of letters and words in Shakespeare's works. He never classified poetry as "iambic pentameter," "sex tamer," or "lopsidedameter," nor did he scan lines. He had the peculiar notion that he would best be serving the world if he could convey to a few otherwise-bare minds a glimpse into the beauty of form and motion of literature. What he taught his students could not be written in their notebooks.

When he went to get his wages one Saturday night, there was a two-weeks-notice slip in the envelope. "Why am I fired?" he asked the authorities.

"You haven't caught on," he was told. "Read 'What Every Professor Should Know' and then try again."

The Alumnus Who Got What He Wanted

A rich alumnus of a poor university wanted to broadcast to the world that he had, by dint of hard work and by following the Laws of God, accumulated no small part of the world's goods and had tasted no little of the sweet drink of power. He also wanted to prove that he still loved dear old Rutgers.

He asked the university officials what they needed most. "A new librarian," he was told.

"Fine!" exclaimed the rich alumnus. "But will he have a brass plate with my name on it riveted to his stomach?"

Upon being informed that the new librarian preferred the wages of a professor to having a brass plate riveted to his breast and that he refused to walk the highways abutting the university during all kinds of weather, the alumnus was terribly wroth. Skillfully, the chairman of "The Committee for Soothing Rich Alumni," made a suggestion: "Why don't you give the university a new dinner bell? An unlimited amount can be spent upon one, especially if you import the bells."

"An excellent idea!" acquiesced the alumnus, blotting a fat check.

theory upon which every scholar may lay his hand and fashion a dream-existence. JOHN FREDRIC BUTLER.

Any additional Freshmen who wish to join the GERMAN CLUB are asked to send their initiation fee of ten dollars to JOHN PARKS, Sigma Nu House, at once.

At the dedication, the chairman asked if the alumnus was satisfied.

"Surely," he answered, turning red and digging his toe into the ground, "but, shucks, I didn't know you were going to put my name on it!"

The Student Who Was Smart for His Age

Once a student who had cut too many classes was being put upon probation in the office of his dean. "Have you anything to say," questioned the dean.

"Well, yes," acknowledged the student. "Just this: As I can't cut classes that bore me, will you allow my professors to cut the ones that bore them?"

Miss Willa Cather, nationally known novelist, will be traveling in the southwest for the remainder of the winter season.

Will Rogers will be back on Beverly Hills, California, the latter part of February to start work on another motion picture.

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

SPECIAL

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