American Sentinel

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CAPITALIZING RETICENCE

Chauncey Depew remarked incidentally, when the newspaper people called to congratulate him on his birthday, that President Coolidge was one of the few men in the world who have capitalized reticence. Millions, he said, have capitalized gab. With too many statesmen, he continued, that is their only asset.

This was a very penetrating remark, and it throws light on the character of our president. In the case of many men, they have to issue a prominent line of talk in order to make up for their deficiencies. They have no special results to show that speak for themselves, so they cultivate pleasing manners and persuasive conversation, which makes up for a certain amount of non-achievement.

When a man gives up all these arts, and just depends on the solid things he can do, it shows a degree of sincerity and a confidence in the good sense of the people that inspire faith. Mr. Coolidge does not use talk so much to persuade, as to obtain information that will enable him to do his work. In spite of his far famed reticence, he appears to talk freely when he meets anyone who can give him information that will be useful in his work. He plies him with questions so as to obtain the benefit of his experience.

In that way, he is a very well informed public official, so that whatever he does is based on actual conditions so far as he has been able to ascertain them. He is not like some popular leaders, who form theoretical views of conditions based on their own pre-conceptions rather than on actual facts, so that their projects are not well adapted to the situations they have to meet.

Thus there is something solid and substantial about the work of the president, which appeals to those who like real achievement without bluff or fine talk.

NEWSPAPER FINANCES

There are many citizens who expect to pay their butcher and their grocer every month, but they think that a newspaper subscription bill can be paid any old time. Some of them will let it run for years, if the publisher does not cut it off. And if it is cut off, they get huffy, and declare they will never take the paper again.

They feel indignant because doubt has been thrown upon their credit. They should reflect that the publisher gets no good out of their credit. What he needs, to pay his help and settle his paper bills, etc, is cash, and nothing will take the place of the same.

This irregularity of income is the curse of many newspapers that would be in a thriving position, if they could depend on the same regular payments that the dry goods man and the shoe store can look to.

It takes a lot of time and effort to collect all these little bills. It usually costs more than the bill is worth, to collect an overdue subscription account. If those accounts could be promptly paid, the newspaper people could use the more regular income in creating new features for their paper, adding to its usefulness and interest, and making it constantly a greater credit to the city of which it is the exponent.

The individual citizen often says that he would like to do something for his home town, but he has no particular gift for any form of public work, so does not know when and where to begin. Here is one way in which he can begin right now. Let him look on his copy of The Sentinel and see if his subscription is overdue. If it is, let him walk up to the captain's office and settle, and take pride in doing so, realizing that when he performs that simple little act of justice and good business, he is helping an agency that works every day for his home town, to avoid needless burdens and expense.

THE "RED INTERNATIONALISTS"

A plea for a campaign against the views of "red internationalists" is expressed in a resolution passed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in their annual congress at Washington. They would probably define the class of persons referred to, as those holding socialistic views who are not in sympathy with the ideals of patriotism, and think that sentiment should be superseded by a strong bond of international sympathy, which should do way with wars.

To a certain extent progressive and enlightened people are usually "internationalists." They believe in closer friendships and understanding between nations. They desire to see a great mass of people who shall feel bound by ties of sympathy with those of other nations, thus tending to create a force against war.

The fact that a man should love and offer his devotion to his country, should not lead him to neglect his home town and his family. In the same way the fact that a man should love the world as a whole and seek its progress, should not weaken his loyalty and devotion to his own country.

We are not responsible for the wrong things that other countries do, but we are responsible for the wrong things our own nation does. If we forget and look down on patriotism, we are likely to lose that deep sense of loyalty which alone will keep us working and striving for the highest type of national progress.

We need an enthusiastic devotion to our own country, which shall lead us to give our time and effort to make it the best and noblest country in the world. We also need a more intelligent interest in foreign lands that shall help us to understand their points of view, keeping us from thinking that we are morally superior to them. We need not so much internationalism, as world friendship, which shall teach us that all nations can be friends if they show a friendly spirit.

THE OBLIGATIONS OF WEALTH

A criticism of the way in which many wealthy people spend their money, was made by Dean W. R. Inge of England, a noted clergyman now in America, in his lectures at Yale Divinity school. He complained of the vulgar and unsocial way in which many of these people act.

The people of great wealth hear a great deal of such criticism from their own countrymen, and some of these critics would be just as selfish if they had the same money themselves. We too often overlook the fact that many of the millionaires have a keen sense of responsibility for the way their money is used. They have founded and are maintaining institutions that are steadily relieving poverty, helping to keep young people from going astray, and mitigating suffering.

But Dean Inge is right in feeling that there are many who seem to feel no obligation to use their money in a way helpful to the community. Some may truly say of course, that their money is usefully employed by being invested in new enterprises, so that they can put people to work who were idle before. Of course those who do that do perform a very helpful service.

Yet conditions could be enormously improved, if money could be had more freely for certain remedial purposes. If more of the wealthy people could only give generously to such objects, the pride and interest they would take in these efforts would be worth infinitely more than the kick they get out of mere pleasures.

Those who waste their money in foolish extravagance, are doing a thoughtless thing that creates class bitterness, and threatens the security of our institutions. Their failure to co-operate, and make some return for the benefits they have received from their country, must tend to create class consciousness, and help the bolshevistic element to promote their propganda.

BENEFITS OF CO-OPERATION

A man who is asked to join the community organizations of his home town, may inquire just what he is going to get out of it. He should of course see that unless all the people take hold to accomplish public work, some absolutely necessary things will be neglected, which will hurt him and everyone else.

But apart from that, he gains some very definite personal benefits. He makes new friends and acquaintances, which will help anyone succeed in any kind of work or business. If you want a better job, if you are in business and want to enlarge your trade, the enlargement of your personal acquaintance is one of the best things you can do toward those ends. Successful men usually make their advance, not merely by directly plugging for the aims they are after, but by broad and generous ways by which they attract interest.

THE AGE OF RETIREMENT

Chauncey Depew had a 91st birthday recently, and the day before that occasion he met a lot of newspaper men at his desk at the office of the New York Central railroad, where he had been doing a regular day's work. Among various matters, he was asked his views as to what was the proper age of retirement.

"Never," was his reply. "When you retire, you're through."

Mr. Depew's example shows how sentiment has changed among business men on the matter of retirement. It used to be a man's ideal to save up enough money so that he could quit when he got to be about 60 years of age, and as he supposed, enjoy himself for the rest of his days. But a lot of those that tried that plan found that they did not know what to do with themselves after they suddenly quit work. They found themselves absolutely lost, without their customary occupations, and they were far less happy than they were when they were digging at the job.

Some men of a philosophical temperament may be able to quit, and find enough pleasure in amusements and minor activities to keep their minds in a healthy condition. But the average American business man has so formed the habit of devoting himself to certain tasks, that it is a risky thing for him to quit all at once. He is likely to grow old much faster than if he had kept at work and had kept in touch with younger people by maintaining these activities.

The great majority of wage-earners and salaried men have to keep working as long as they are able, feeling the need for all the money they can earn. Retirement is often forced on them because their employers think they want younger workers. Those who are able to retain their jobs at an advanced age are probably happier than those that quit and depend on relatives, even if the latter are well able to support them.

THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

To some extent every citizen is forced to help make a good community. He has to pay taxes which go to produce good schools, well paved streets, sidewalks, lighting, police forces, etc. He can not escape this degree of co-operation.

His co-operation is equally needed for other aims, to which he may or may not contribute. If he have the "Let George do it" spirit he may lie back and decline to join the organizations formed to promote the public good and make a better and more prosperous city.

It would seem as if anyone who has any surplus left over after purchasing the absolute necessities of existence, would desire as a matter of pride, to belong to some of these organizations that are working for a better community. It is not very satisfactory to go through the world letting your neighbors do all the work, while you ask to be excused.

GERMANY'S DESIRE FOR A KAISER

The election of Gen. Von Hindenburg as president of Germany will probably be interpreted as indicating that the majority of Germans are sick of republican institutions. One would think, after all they have suffered, that they might have a desire to manage their own affairs, so as to keep out of trouble. But there are some who are never able to learn the lessons of experience.

It may perhaps be premature to reach such a conclusion now. Military glory wins many elections. Most students of history in this country would say that Gen. Grant did not show, as president, the qualifications needed for that high office. Yet the fact that he was a great military leader enabled him to get elected twice. It may be the same in Germany.

SAVINGS BANK GAINS

Savings deposits in 893 banks amounted to seven per cent more in April than they were a year ago. This is a most encouraging feature, and indicates that the year has shown development in prosperity.

It ought also to mean that a great mass of people have decided that their only hope for security and welfare is to cultivate the saving habit. Also that they have concluded that they make no mistake when they invest in good banks in their home neighborhoods.

The savings deposit in a bank assembles the product of the thrift of many families, and puts it to work, in the ways which expert officials decide is the best for the depositors. The managements of these banks are often asked to risk this money in securities that promise high rates of interest, and to loan it to individuals whose credit is doubtful. These managements acquire from long experience a keen insight into business propositions and personal character.

They are wise enough to know that it is far better to give up a little interest, rather than place money on enterprises where they may lose the whole principal. At the same time they are keen to earn every dollar of interest they can, and to pay their depositors every cent that is consistent with sound business.

Some stock salesman may come around to the people and tell them not to be satisfied with bank interest, as rate that is too low. Millions of people have thereby been tempted to draw that money out of banks, to put into risky schemes.

A multitude of them have bitterly regretted that act, and have wished they had the little old bank book back, with its sure interest payment piling up month after month. The people of Westminster should never overlook the advantage of depositing money in the banks of their own neighborhood.

Nerves All Unstrung?

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Mrs. Brown is only one of many Westminster people who have gratefully endorsed Doan's Pills. If your back aches, if your kidneys bother you, don't simply ask for a kidney remedy, ask distinctly for DOAN'S PILLS, the same that Mrs. Brown had, the remedy backed by home testimony. 60 cents at all dealers. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y. "When Your Back is Lame, Remember the Name."

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WILL GERMANY KEEP THE PEACE?

The fact that Germany has elected a monarchist and friend of the old kaiser, as president, will cause anxiety in the rest of the world. Yet it does not necessarily prove that the Germans want war again. The business men of that country are probably sick of socialistic rule. They may have felt that in voting for Hindenburg, they were opposing those dreamy theories.

The Germans are at present worrying as to how they can borrow money in America. If they find it difficult to obtain loans for their relatively small peace time enterprises, it would be 100 times as difficult to secure them to promote a military campaign.

The German politicians will have quite a jolt the next time they appear in the American financial markets, to pass the hat for a loan. It will no doubt be said to them, that a country that will place a representative of the discredited old regime at the head of its government, is not entitled to a credit rating.



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