The Curbstone Diplomat

BY

WILLIAM S. COLLINS

Please pardon the "I".

Last week in one of the popular magazines was a statement that the peak of most everything had been reached. This caused me to think that I was born just about the right time to see the starting of the things, that play such a large part in our lives today.

Very clearly I can remember when the first stone roads were built. There was a lot of complaint against them. One of the complaints was that it would jamb up the horses legs. Popular opinion was that dirt roads should parallel the stone roads for the horses. Automobiles at the time were sarce. Many an irate farmer would be swearing mad because an automobile would scare his horse. Today this same class are spinning along in the cars.

And it is needless to say automobile have improved. I remember once taking a trip to Church Hill and we broke the speed limit by travelling 30 miles an hour.

Telephone service has reached a state of perfection. Long ago it was not so hot. The operators always acted erritably and today you get a polite "Thank you."

Going back to transportation, I remember when a boat with a one lung motor was the most convenient way to go to Centreville or Millington. Many times I have made the trip by boat. Today even one lung motors for boats are out of date.

Another big thing I have witnessed was the World War. I never saw any action but I saw the effect on this country. At the tender age of thirteen. I belonged to the Washington College guards. We were armed with wooden guns and were prepared to defend the Washington College Campus against the Germans. This was about as much as a lot of the soldiers did. Life around the old town was very different during the war. Labor was scarce. Farmers had a hard time getting labor. People left the small town and went to the inviting cities that were offering big wages. The complaint then was about scarcity of labor. Today the complaint is about taxes and unemployment. Many of those that went to the cities for the high wages are now out of work and are not as well off as those who stayed in the old home town.

Very important places in the town were the steamboat wharf and the railroad station. Trucks and automobile have just about put the railroads out of business and the steamboats are a thing of the past. Take a ride from Chestertown to Townshend on the railroad today.

Electricity was furnished only at night and was used almost altogether for light. Look at all the electric appliances we have now and also our service.

College education was only for the few. Today it is open to all and all classes take advantage of it.

Radio has developed and has hurt the newspaper business in the matter of national advertising to a large extent. Ahem?

Another thing I have witnessed is the centralizing of almost everything; schools, businesses, etc. The small country stores have almost gone out of business. Everything now is concentrated in the towns. Some people have nerve enough to say that farmers do not need automobiles. Everything has been arranged for the automobile and it is now almost a necescity for the farmer, instead of a luxury.

I have witnessed the greatest depression in history. How they used to run around with hot tips on the stock market. Bond issues were popular, etc. Things are at a stand-still now.

Turning to reforms. I have seen the noble experiment get a try out. It was popular for a while but now it looks as though it may fall by the wayside.

Women got a vote to purify politics ? ? ? Was there a reaction. Styles have gone from the ankles to knees. And bathing suits. ! ! !

The beautiful theory of disarmament has had a try out and it looks like this is going to become a thing of the past.

Radicals have made rapid strides. A student at the University of Md., has altered th requirements to suit himself. A murder case has cost a county of the Eastern Shore $10,000 to try and it is not finished yet.

Have we reached the peak? Business might have reached its peak but the next fifteen years will probably see as many new invasions and ideas as have come to us since the start of the World War.

The dance at the Chestertown Armory, sponsored by the local National Guard Unit was a big success as far as entertainment was concerned. Financially they made enough to pay all expenses. This was their first attempt and they should go over big in the future.

JAMES G. BECK,
Chestertown, Maryland

It is better to be glad than sorry, therefore do not neglect to place insurance on your HAY and WHEAT as soon as in stack or barn with

This Week's Cartoon



Odd - But True





FURROWS



BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

The people of this country might just as well git used to doin without a lot of things, because it's goin to be a good while, in my way of thinkin, before prosperity (?) comes back. I ain't so sure that we have hit bottom yet. If we have there ought to be a lot of shiftin and adjustin down there so as to let us git started back up.

One big trouble is that all the shiftin and adjustin has to be done by the little fellers and the big fellers hold right on to their high prices and their stocks. Take Tom Barclay, fer instance. He has had to cut his prices down to about half what they wuz four years ago. And he's had to sell old stock at way below what he paid fer it in dollars and cents. Tom had to do that to move his goods. "There ain't no sense," says Tom, "in keepin a lot of goods piled up on your shelves just to look at. Lookin at goods don't keep you from gittin hungry. I bought them goods to sell, not to keep."

Well, Tom sold a good deal of stuff but he didn't git much fer it. He sold about as many goods last year as he did four years ago but he didn't handle the same amount of money. Tom says he wishes he could do the business he done twenty-five years ago. But he'll not likely see any such business again as that wuz, not in a country store no way.

It's a good deal the same way with the farmers as it is with the merchants. They are raisin about as much stuff now as they did in 1928, but they don't have no money, fer crops is bringin less than half as much. But there ain't been much cuttin down of costs fer the farmer. Four year ago wheat wuz sellin at around $1.35 a bushel. Look at it now! If you git forty cents you are right lucky. And it costs about as much to put a bushel of wheat on the market now as it did four years ago. There ain't nothin in growing wheat at that price. And you can't cut down the cost fer the little farmer. The big fellers is the only ones that can cut down their costs to amount to anything. He can use big machinery a nd cut his labor and power costs a whole lot, but the little farmer can't do it. The only way he can cut his costs is not to plant, and if he don't plant he won't have nothin to sell, so there you are.

But I reckon the only thing fer the little farmer to do is to quit tryin to produce fer sale and just make about enaugh to keep his family and his stock from sufferin. But they ain't goin to do that. They'll keep on tryin to grow more and more stuff to sell and git less and less money fer it, and keep on complainin about the terrible hard times.

Bein as how a lot of us poor people is already down at the bottom of the depression we might as well tighten up our belts and wait fer the big fellers to git over some of their high price notions and high price attitudes, so to speak, and come on down here with the rest of us, and then do a little of the shiftin and adjustin that has to be done before we can all start up again.

And, in my way of thinkin, we ain't goin up so high nor so fast as we did a few year ago.

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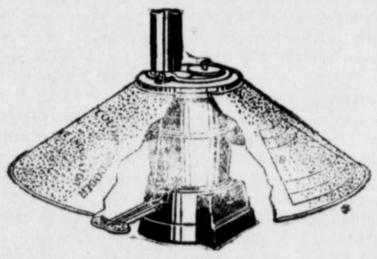
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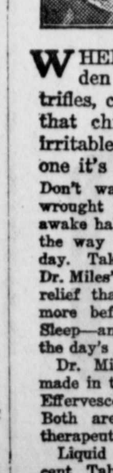
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