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EASTER!

Once more the whole world rejoices in the return of Spring and the resurrection of the earth from its winter death. This ancient festival, celebrated from the earliest times by all inhabitants of the northern hemisphere, has a special significance for Christians, since the early Church adopted it as the occasion on which to celebrate the resurrection of Christ after His crucifixion. But the same return of Spring was the great annual festival of all peoples for thousands of years before the Christain era. It coincides, too, very closely with the ancient Jewish feast of the Passover, which itself derives from the primitive universal rejoicing over the rebirth of life as evidenced by the return of all green growing things, and the bringing forth of their young by the beasts of the forest and fields.

There is no mention in Scriptures of Easter as a special day of celebration, nor of any other special holy day. But the fathers who built up the church founded upon the teachings of Christ wisely encouraged the pagan peoples whom they sought to win to the new religion to retain their ancient traditional festivals, adding to them a new significance and symbolism. Thus it came about that the old festival of Easter, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring, came to be, as an early church historian wrote, "observed with the gladness of a new solemnity," and the old name has become English name for the festival which in other languages has a name derived from the Jewish passover. The Germans call it "Pass", the French "Paques", the Italians "Pasqua" and the Welsh "Pasg." But in all languages it signifies the most sacred and the most joyful of Christian festivals.

The significance of Easter is the hope and promise which the resurrection of Our Lord holds for everyone, of eternal life for the human soul and spirit. Just as the return of the sun from its winter hibernation in the South has brought to all peoples in all times promise and evidence that life does not end when grasses wither and trees shed their foliage at the advent of Winter, but continues to manifest itself afresh in new forms, so the Resurrection of Christ is a pledge to every faithful believer in Him who ruleth over all.

TROUBLESOME TVA

Disagreement among the three administrators of the Tennessee Valley Authority has stirred up excitement in Washington, and has resulted n the removal of Chairman Morgan by order of the president. The affairs of Senator Berry and his claims for millions of dollars against the Government because lands were flooded which he had hastily acquired beforehand, disappeared suddenly from the headlines when the spotlight was turned upon the three Administrators of the Act.

Now Congress is going to investigate.

If Congress does a real and thorough job the issue of Government ownership should be brought into the forefront through the TVA. That would have the beneficial result of furnishing the Nation with better ideas and understanding about how far to go along these lines in the future.

LOOKING INTO SCHOOL HOUSE AFFAIRS

The little red school house has been gradually disappearing from the landscape in recent years, and the consolidated schools are generally credited with carrying on an excellent job in behalf of the youth of the country.

Now comes new problems: Can the Government do it better? If so, How? Bills now before Congress ask to change conditions and put the Federal Government in charge of many new departures in school matters.

Wealth is to be used only as the instrument of action; not as the representative of civil honors and moral excellence.—Porter.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BE REORGANIZED

By J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C.,—When William Howard Taft was President he made Herculean efforts to reorganize the Government. His ambition was to make this the supreme achievement of his Administration.

Woodrow Wilson sought more efficiency through improvements in Government, but the War brushed aside all such plans and left the Government in chaos.

Herbert Hoover did such a splendid job in reorganizing the Department of Commerce that he was promoted from his Cabinet post to the Presidency.

President Roosevelt has opposed the efforts of Congress to reorganize the Government, but has set up his own plan, which has been meeting with considerable favor in and out of Congress—there being a feeling that the complete change in the way of running the Government might be improved by letting the President handle matters in the White House service station, instead of on Capitol Hill.

If you lived in Washington and earned a living outside the Government service, you would know that reorganization is one of the greatest needs of today. There is more human deadwood and inficiency in the Government service than anywhere else. Members of both branches of Congress in favor with the Administration party, control more political patronage and shake more fruit off the plum tree, than ever before in the history of the Nation.

The Congress bows to the will of the President as he takes away from them their Constitutional powers, but leaves them patronage and protects their influence. It is all the selfishness of politics—of the same order that has run through Administrations through our times. Consequently heaven and earth are being moved on Capitol Hill to reorganize the Government, but at the same time to pep up the political machine.

ANCIENT SYMBOLS OF RESURRECTION

The first temple to Ceres, the Roman goddess of grain, was built in 496 B. C. to commemorate the deliverance from a great famine. At the ancient festival of Ceres it was a practice to fasten burning brands to foxes' tails. The foxes—or corn spirits, as they were called—were turned loose and left to burn, so that their ashes might charm the grain and produce an abundant crop. During this festival grain was scattered about the earth and thrown upon people, because it represented fertility—the germ of life. Our modern custom of throwing rice on newly married couples can be traced to this old pagan festivity.

Long before Christ the Romans burned a new-born calf and scattered the ashes over the soil to induce the earth to yield much grain. This custom was later introduced into China, and as late as 1804 poreclain images of cows were presented to farmers in the spring to bring a good rice crop.

In north Germany, Scotland and England the shepherds used to worship Pales, the shepherd's god, in the springtime. The sheep were first purified by brushing and washing, then sulphur was burned about them. At night the shepherds lighted great bonfires and danced among their sheep by the light of the moon and the fires. In the morning the shepherd looked to the east, toward the resurrected sun, and washed his hands in dew. In some sections of Europe the shepherds still dance at Eastertime among their sheep, which now typifies the slain Lamb of God.

The lamb is one of the earliest symbols of the resurrection. Among the Christians of the East a young lamb is always eaten on Easter Sunday. During Passion week hundreds of spring lambs are brought into the market places and sold for the Easter feast. This is a great time for the children of the household, who make friends with the lamb as soon as it is brought home They tie ribbons around its neck, legs and tail and hang garlands of flowers about its body. Often the father finds it difficult to separate the lamb from the child. But a lamb must be slaughtered for the Easter feast, so two lambs are usually bought—one for the children and one for the festival. The spared lamb becomes the children's inseparable playmate. At bedtime they argue with each other to decide who shall sleep with the lamb. Perhaps this old custom inspired the famous nursery rhyme, "Mary had a little lamb and everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go."

—Washington Star

Questions And Answers

WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

Q. 177 How would a 65-year old employee who is entitled to lump-sum payment of old-age insurance calculate the amount of the benefit due him?

A. 177 The lump-sum payment of old-age insurance to an eligiable worker who has reached 65 will be 3½ percent of all the wages he was paid during the entire time he participated in the old-age insurance system (from December 31, 1936, to his 65th birthday).

Many employees keep a record of their own wage-earnings, week after week. Most employers in business or industry, included under the law, are prepared to furnish a statement of wages paid to each employee since the last day of 1936.

Q. 178 If an employee who has participated in the Government's old-age insurance system, for almost a year, should die, what amount could his relatives claim as payment of his benefits?

A. 178 Lump-sum payments equal 3½ percent of total wages from covered employment, between December 31, 1936, and the time the worker dies. (In calculating total wages, nothing over $3,000 a year from any one employer counts as wages.)

Q. 179 Is it necessary to have a lawyer to file the claim or is any other expense necessary in securing payment of a claim for old-age insurance?

A. 179 It is not necessary to employ a claim agent or any one else. Your nearest Social Security Board Field Office will give you all the information and assistance you need. No fee is charged by the Social Security Board for services.

The Field Office has simple forms for the claimant so that he may easily file a claim which will meet requirements of the Act. A form is available for each class of claimant, such as the wage earner himself; the widow or widower; other close relatives.

Every assistance will be given the claimant by the Social Security Board Field Office, without any charge.

START SOMETHING

There has been just one thoroughly organized attempt to haul the Nation out of the slump, and the industry that has been doing the hauling is motors. The Used Car Sale was pushed by practically every dealer in the country, and the results doubled ordinary sales, and a long step has been taken to clear the surplus of old cars. This is shown through increased sales of new cars. It will be remembered that President Knudsen of General Motors was the first witness before the Senate Unemployment Committee to give hope to the puzzled legislators that there "would be a pick-up in the Spring". The reason the pick-up now appears to be underway is due to the fact that all the principal manufacturers of cars got together, pooled their interests, and started something.

Now, there is an example that might well be followed by local and national business men and interests everywhere. Start something!

ORPHANS' COURT

The Orphans' Court in regular session at Elkton approved bonds and passed accounts as follows:

Bond of Lucinda Thompson, administratrix of Charles Thompson; bond of John P. Gilpin, administrator of Carrie C. Gilpin; bond of Andrew W. Biddle, administrator of William T. Tyson; first and final account of Jenzia Coulson Cooley and Miriam Russell Cooley, executives of Charlotte R. Cooley.

The National Apple Stabilization Committee has designated the week of April 14-21, when the sixth nation-wide apple selling drive will take place.

It is recognized that the matrimonial knot is the most serious tangle of all.

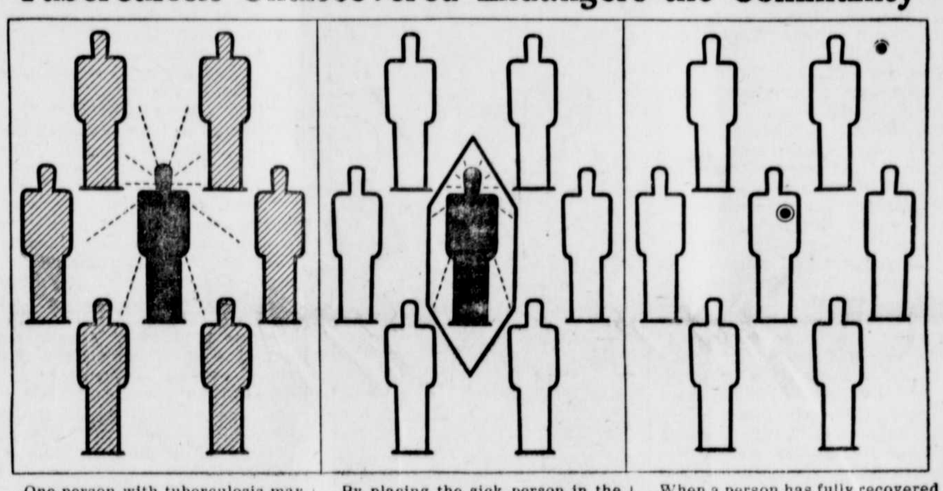
Hot water . . . soap . . . and elbow grease! The three big warriors against dirt. And if you have the first—hot water—you cut down on soap and energy consumption. That's why we say—RENT an Electric Water Heater. It gives you all the hot water you need for every purpose . . . without a bit of attention.

Let us explain our easy rental plan offered for limited time only to our residential customers. Ask us, too, how little it costs to operate a modern Electric Water Heater.

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Electricity—Cheaper in Quantity

Tuberculosis Undiscovered Endangers the Community



One person with tuberculosis may infect many others by spreading germs. It is estimated that in the United States 700,000 people are sick with tuberculosis. A great number of them are spreaders who refuse medical aid or are persons who have tuberculosis and do not know it.

By placing the sick person in the hospital, he or she not only has a chance to get well, but, more important, the community is protected. Every year about 200,000 are admitted to sanatoria in the United States. There is still a shortage of hospital beds in many communities.

When a person has fully recovered from tuberculosis only the scars remain and there is no danger of spreading germs. Other people are safe. The former patient has an opportunity to return to his home and family—a cured and useful person. Protecting one, therefore, protects many.

Margaret "Biby" Osterwald, a long distance operator in the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company at Washington, D. C., is shown with Major Bowes. Miss Osterwald appeared on Major Bowes' original "amateur hour" recently. "Biby" specializes in blues songs and is much in demand at private parties around Washington.

Doing a repair job yourself is cheaper than hiring an expert if you don't count the wear and tear on the family's nerves.

Age doesn't make you cynical. It just teaches you that economic prinriples do not originate in the mind but in the stomach.

Some man succeed, and some have wives who think they are being good partners if they enjoy spending the money.

The national debt doesn't worry the big fellows. They put their money in tax-free bonds and the rest of us pay the interest.

FARM GROUPS STUDY PROGRAM OF STATE ORGANIZATION

More than 60 groups of farmers and their families are meeting together monthly in Maryland in planning groups of the Maryland Farm Bureau, according to C. E. Wise, Jr., secretary of the organization. Each group is made up from 12 to 20 families, he reports.

"Leaders of the farm bureau in all counties are studying the job which organization should do by means of these planning or dicsussion groups," says Mr. Wise. "Members of the groups are studying both their local problems and those dealing with agriculture in the State and Nation. The discussion is being centered around definite questions of the program of the organization in legislation, marketing, production, cooperative business and other activities, either present or proposed."

The discussion group idea according to Mr. Wise, has been used by farm bureau organization of the Mid-West and elsewhere in adapting the program of the organization to the needs of farmers. Meeting monthly, members of the group are in constant touch with the work of the organization and the needs of its members, he says.

Inauguration of the group meeting idea started with meetings of leaders in various sections of Maryland in January. These were followed by county meetings attended by leaders of each group. Periodic meetings of leaders in each group by county and regions are planned to carry the work of the local groups through to the state organization.

Maybe we are too old-fashioned for this world, but we still think the charm and glory of womanhood are sweetness and goodness.