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GRADUATION DAYS

Graduation days are here, when our high schools, academies, colleges, universities, are turning out by the hundreds those who have completed their prescribed courses and are receiving their certificates of graduation, along with congratutations for the sucess they have finally achieved in their years of striving for this high educational award.

Having received the coveted diploma the great question for the graduates is "What next?" This serious problem is by no means a new one and has confronted graduates for ages past, yet never has a proper answer, a wise decision been harder to give than now. When competent men and women by the thousand, experienced in business and professional world, are idle and desperately seeking employment of one sort or another the young graduate faces a sttuation beyond description. Hope, courage, ambition under such circumstances must suffer many rebuffs and those who with smiling faces and glad hearts welcome graduation day will feel more than once within the next few months that for them the door of opportunity is shut, even the very entrance of the road to success is closed.

Unsolicited free advice is so plentiful, and frequently so annoying, that we hesitate to offer any to the graduates. There is, however, just one suggestion we venture to make. Remember that all honest labor is honorable and that those who have the best chance to obtain employment are those already employed. Though you may be fully competent to hold a fine position these are the days when one must be willing and anixous to take any sort of job he can obtain; perhaps later the kind of work you prefer will be available. Above all try to find some kind of honest work even though the pay be meager. Idleness breeds discontent, kills ambition, leads to trouble—so work somehow, some way.

Again congratulations and best wishes for bright successful careers.

THE RELIEF BILL

So-called "spending for relief" is the most important affair before Congress. The controversy in the Senate revolves round ear-marking different parts of the appropriations, which in the past has been the procedure foilowed by Congress.

There has also been a determined attempt to turn administration of relief back to the States. But the President seems likely to win his way—which is to keep relief, and work relief, in the hands of the Administration in Washington. That has been the policy of the New Deal, and if there are any changes they will not affect the more important objects of the Administration "must".

WAGES AND HOURS

The Houses passes a wage and hour bill that it believes is fair to employers and workmen. The Senate went on record in favor of this class of legislation a year ago, and it likely will concur in what the lower branch has sent over to them for approval. It is a measure for graduated changes towards higher wages and less hours, over a period of the next few years. There is nothing in the measure to interfere with your present employment conditions; or to help restore jobs to the unemployed.

LARGER MARYLAND CROPS—SMALLER INCOME

Maryland farmers produced bigger crops than last year, but the value of their output was less than in the preceding year, Dr. T. B. Symons, director of the University of Maryland extension service, reports.

In his annual survey, Symons estimated the value of this year's crops at $49,979,000, in comparison to $52,246,00 last year. Lower prices for the major crops were blamed.

On the bright side of the agricultural ledger were products which brought higher prices than last year, while prices on nine major crops were lower.

Higher prices were paid for barley, rye, hay, sweet corn, strawberries, snap beans and green peas. Prices declined on corn, wheat, oats, buckwheat, potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, tomatoes and cantaloupes.

The debates in the Congress of the united States remind one of that antique observation about the pot calling the kettle black. In more modern language, politics are hotter in Washington than in—the desert.

KEEPING FARMERS OUT OF THE HOLE

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., June 7—Ouch! Wheat hits a depression in markets where the prices fall to five year lows.

Parity price payments on cotton and corn are being upped in the spending-lending bill by a new item of $212,000,000, which brings present estimates for farmers payments up to a billion dollars.

Comgressman Haugen of Iwoa, started the fashion of furnishing Government farm relief over twenty years ago, and maybe Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, who also comes from the Hawkeye State, inherited the idea. Whether he did or not is unimportant, but you may take it from one who has watched his pace that Henry A. Wallace gets more things from the Government, unaided, than any other man in the Cabinet. No, Ickes doesn't get more—"his" is handed to him by the President, for whom he is Echo Man No. 1 on public affairs.

Whom the Ever Normal Granary Bill went before the special seesion last fall the demand went with it that there must be control of production and other safeguards to maintain prices. Cotton manufacturers had a lot of objections to offer, but the economic welfare of farm families took main spot interest when the House passed a bill in December which was agreed to in substance by the Senate, to continue soil conservation, and to impose farmer-approved limits on the scale of wheat, corn, cotton, tobbacco and rice in years of abundance.

The complaint of a few years back that the farmers' dollar was not equal to the industrial dollar has been attended to by legislation that is supposed to keep the farmers out of the hole.

Despite the upset in some agricultural prices the prospects of the farmers seem cheerful, as compared to the lot of city dwellers, particularly in industrial centers.

* * *

Scenic America

What has become of the old bit of propaganda entitled: "See America First?" The very best part of the modern world is ours. Most of us drive a car, and if we don't see our share of America it must be charged up to something like laziness. Our ancestors used to walk a hundred miles, and many of them overland in covered wagons. What things they saw! But "they didn't see the half of it, dearie," so get your own glimpses of scenic America in the good old Summertime that's beginning to peek around the corner.

The Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration, has issued several volumes that contain the high-spots of American history, and describe scenery, routes and improve on garden-variety guide books.

One of these books is called "The Ocean Highway," and it follows the shore of the Atlantic from New Jersey to Florida. "Language and customs in some sections like the Eastern shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Viginia are still in many ways what they were in 1700," says the jacket-prologue. It asks: "How many of these words do you recognize: stook, pipjinny, mung-ya, sporry?" Most of us would score zero in furnishing answers. But we can well appreciate the romance described in the Dismal Swamp of Virginia, and North Carolina, and the "Scarlet Sister Mary" region of Georgia, made famous in the story by Julia Peterkin, and Florida, where the tropics begin.

A book is soon coming from the Federal Writers on the Oregon Trail, and that should be a lollapaloosa. It will be all of that if it lives up to the high standards of the other books they have complied in their efforts to give the government 105 per cent writers—value. That's what it seems they have achieved—its just like writers to overstep the percentages of value that way.

* * *

Stop On The Road

Service station dealers throughout the country have banded together in a campaign for better cleanliness and sanitation. Realizing the importance to the motorist of clean rest rooms, they have decided to emphasize this feature of their service in a nation-wide drive. Already thousands of Texaco Dealers have pledged themselves to the maintenance of Registered Rest Rooms, and thousands more are expected to join the movement as it becomes more widespread.

The rest room in the modern service station has become a problem on which public attention has focused. Women, in particular, object to rest rooms that are not clean, and lately they have been voicing this objection.

Trained inspectors in a fleet of white Plymouth cars, the White Patrol, will travel the country from coast to coast, inspecting rest rooms and giving them the registered stamp of approval when they are qualified to receive it. The standard set up includes ample supplies of soap, towels, and tissues, adequate waste bins and mirrors, and cleanliness at all times. The regular inspections of the dealers themselves will supplement that of the Patrol. Continued high standards must be followed in order to keep the sign of approval.

YOUR OLD-AGE INSURANCE

The Two Old-Age Provisions of the Social Security Act

Old-age assistance is given by a State to its own aged citizen who are in need. Under the Social Security Act the Federal Government gives a State money to help take care of its needy aged in their own homes; but it is for the State to determine who shall receive this aid and how much. Old-age insurance benefits will be paid to every qualified worker by the Federal Gevernment. Payments are based on a worker's own wage earnings and will be made regardless of need.

For instance: Here are two cousins. John Smith is over 65 years old, and is without means of support. Jim Brown, who is nearly 60 years old, has a job in a rolling mill and has little money in the bank. Old-age assistance was meant for people like John. If he wishes to apply for this aid he should get in touch with the social welfare agency in his own county, or write to the department of public welfare at the State capital. When old-age overtakes Jim, the chances are that he will not have to ask anybody for help. If his wage record entitles him to monthly old-age insurance benefits, the postman will bring him a government check, every month, after his 65th birthday.

Comparison Of Two Provisions

(1) Old-age insurance means future protection. (2) Old-age insurance is like an annuity. (3) Old-age insurance will be paid by the Federal Gevernment, when the payments fall due. (4) Old-age insurance will be paid to working people who are entitled to benefits by reason of their own wage earnings.

(1) Old-age assistance implies present help in time of need. (2) Old-age assistance provides relief money for needy men and women who are 65 years old and over. (3) Old-age assistance is paid by the State under a Federal-State cooperative plan. (4) Old-age assistance is paid to needy people who are now too old to work and who have no other means of support.

Questions concerning old-age insurance may be sent to this paper or to Luther Becker, Manager of the Social Security Board office at 100 Hopkins Place, Baltimore, Md. Answers will appear in this paper.

PROOF OF BIRTH DATE AIDS CLAIMANTS

Development of the Federal old-age insurance program under the Social Security Act has given added importance to the record section of the old family Bible, baptismal certificates, and other papers carrying birth dates.

With the size of the average payment of lump-sum claims for old-age insurance benefits increasing steadily, Luther Becker, Manager of the Social Security Board's field office at Baltimore, has been instructed to inform claimants that, when a claim is for over $100, proof of age will be required, except in the case of a claim made by the heirs or estate of a wage-earner who has died.

Lump-sum payments amount to 3½ percent of wages received in covered employment since the last day of December 1936.

Ordinarily, where the amount is $100 or less, proof would be required only when the birth date as stated in a benefit application is not the same as the date shown by the Board's records.

The Social Security Board, recognizing the difficulties in supplying proof of birth date, has provided that when an applicant cannot obtain evidence without difficulty and expense, he will be directed to file for consideration whatever proof he has. Records found in the family Bible, or in business, fraternal, school, governmental or family records may be submitted as proof of age.

Lump-sum benefits are paid to insured workers who reach 65, or to the relatives or estates of those who die. These are only the claims now being paid. Beginning in 1942, monthly checks will be sent to those who qualify for old-age insurance retirement benefits.

After all, why should a nation bother to declare war? The other one will see it in the papers next day.

Nearly all hick towns have a smooth main street now. Those bumps you feel are chickens.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER

It may not sound romantic but our groom, Jimmie, knows and likes comfort. Both he and his blushing bride get it with their Electric Water Heater.

GET an Electric Water Heater!

Let us explain our Trial-Purchase Plan. You can now try an Electric Water Heater in your home without obligation on your part to buy. Remember, on our special low off-peak rate you pay only 1¼c per kilowatt-hour to heat water electrically. (Minimum monthly bill $1.)

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Electricity—Cheaper in Quantity

Winning the Prize

HEALTH, harmony, security, joy and freedom are today within reach of the spiritually scientific thinker. If we continue to believe that these desirable states are to be found in matter, or are to be gained by means of material methods, we are already losers in the race. To believe that the determined human will is a factor in successful living is a mistake which tends to rupture the harmony of mankind. Success, when built upon a foundation of materiality, is temporary and may be likened to the house built upon the sand: "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:27).

Is not a prize or goal a point toward which we direct our thoughts and efforts? In the world of sports the goal is a winning-point, a definite line, a fixed limit. In the world of thought goals assume greater importance; and in the universe of spiritual understanding, the possible unfoldment of the truths about Life, Truth, Love, and of man as God's image and likeness, is without limits. In the divine universe every right thinker is a prize winner. Every good motive or aim has its reward, since every spiritual thought carries with it joy, peace, abundance, health.

In the human sense of life mankind strives to achieve a competence, health, harmony. Too often, in spite of sincere efforts, the goal seems always just beyond one's reach. The proverbial ship with its cargo of rich rewards seems long overdue, or perhaps fades away on the horizon. Hope erelong becomes a cheat. But human sense,—human outlining, human sacrifice, human will,—is the foundation of sand upon which no one can successfully erect a permanent structure. It is only upon the rock of spiritual thinking that one may build a right sense of life, may achieve permanence, peace, security, and win the prize of harmonious existence, of eternal life and joy, through understanding God's allness.

The Scriptures offer a rich field of reading and study. In them we find practical wisdom, inspired directions for, and illuminating illustrations of, constructive living. . . . In Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures (p. 462) Mary Baker Eddy says, "Whoever would demonstrate the healing of Christian Science must abide strictly by its rules, heed every statement, and advance from the rudiments laid down. There is nothing difficult nor toilsome in this task, when the way is pointed out; but self-denial, sincerity, Christianity, and persistence alone win the prize, as they usually do in every department of life."

Christian Science teaches, as does the Bible, that man's origin is spiritual, not material. It teaches that hatred, envy, revenge, greed, malice, anger, are inflammatory states of thought. Like poison, these false beliefs cause the distress, inharmony, loss, and death which seem to afflict mortals. Wherever fear or greed enter into a human problem, there enters also inharmony—disease of body, mind, business.

Honesty, sincerity, generosity, simplicity, righteousness, carry a cargo of riches only dimly seen by mortals. Truthfulness, temperance, gentleness, coupled with the spiritual understanding of Life as God, and of man as the reflection of Life, bring us each day greater evidence of supply, health, peace.

It seems easier to desire freedom from distress than it is to gain the corrected mental outlook, the spiritual point of view which confers a realization of present harmony. Every amateur begins with the simple rudiments of the art in which he desires to become proficient. Every prize winner expends countless hours upon practice, constant repetition of those rudiments which are the foundations of his or her success. Divine Mind, God, is the source from which we may draw unlimited ideas, and these ideas are practical, powerful, productive. These ideas spontaneously appear to the consciousness which is practicing right, truthful, spiritual thinking.

Holding in thought an inharmonious past, fearing a dark future, living today in a sense of fear, confusion, doubt, or of distrust in God's omnipotent love and tender care for His children, what can our outlook be? Surely, not a healthy, peaceful, secure state of mind! The false sense of life as being of or in matter can be removed from our lives by understanding spiritual truth. . . .

Paul wrote for the encouragement of mankind (Philippians 3:13, 14), "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

—The Christian Science Monitor.

BALTIMORE SCHOOL-BUS LAW UPHELD

In a five to three decision, handed down on May 20th, the Maryland State Court of Appeals held constitutional a law providing for the public transportation of pupils attending sectarian and other non-public schools.

The Board of Education of Balti- The Board of Education of Baltimore County was ordered to supply transportation in a public school bus for Carrol O. Wheat, 7 years old, a pupil in the Immaculate Conception parochial school at Towson.

The law, passed in 1937, applied only to Baltimore County. The County Commissioners appropriated $15,000 to make the law effective, but the County Board of Education refused to act on the ground that the law violated the State Constitution and the Bill of Rights provision for the separation of church and state.

The majority decision, upholding the law, was based on the grounds that the state compulsory education law requires each child to attend school, and that the state legislature, in making this provision for transportation of the child in whose behalf the suit was brought, was protecting him from traffic hazards involved in complying with this law, such compliance being legally accomplished by his attendance to an approved parochial school such as the Immaculate Conception.

A life without a purpose is a languid, drifting thing.

Maguey Plant Source of Powerful Alcoholic Sap

Siphoning out the sap of the maguey plant is one of the first steps in the making of pulque—that potent drink which puts pep into native fiestas in South America. The maguey plant is a form of cactus and when full grown is an upside-down-looking affair with ten-foot leaves massed in artichoke formation near the ground, giving rise to a flower stalk which often grows to a height of 25 feet and bears thousands of flowers. Plants such as this are among the strange sights in Mexico City, writes a correspondent in the New York World-Telegram.

When the plant is ready for harvesting—just before the flowers are born—the tlachiqueros cut off the newly formed flower stalk and dig out the heart. In the hollow pocket thus formed the sap gathers, which in the normal course of events would rise in the flower stalk and feed the flowers. As this honey water collects in the hollow the tlachiqueros make the rounds, two or three times a day, and siphon out the fluid. The siphons, or acocotes, as they are called, are in the form of long gourds with a small pipe at each end. One end is placed in the sap pocket, the other in the mouth of the tlachiquero, and the sap drawn by suction into the gourd and from there emptied into the keg. These kegs are then taken to the hacienda, and the honey water is placed in large vats to ferment. The resulting pulque has a 6 per cent alcohol content and is very powerful.

Cock-of-the-Woods, the Largest of Woodpeckers

The pileated woodpecker, commonly called log-cock or cock-of-the-woods, is the largest of our native woodpeckers and is only a trifle smaller than the crow, writes Albert Stoll, Jr., in the Detroit News. Like most members of the woodpecker family, it is possessed of a scarlet red crown with white stripes running down its neck to the wing joints. The body is grayish-black with the base of the wing feathers white. The pileated woodpecker loves the dense forest. It is seldom seen beyond its confines. It is of no interest to the farmer as an insect destroyer, for its work is confined to the dense timber stands and it is recognized by foresters for digging out destructive tree insect larvae. It is able with its strong, chisel-like bill, to penetrate the hardest woods. There are many legends woven around the pileated woodpecker. It was one of the guardian birds of the Chippewas. The Menominees looked upon its presence as a good omen. Even old time deer hunters believed that where this bird worked the hardest in searching out forest insects, there would he find good deer hunting.

As our virgin timber disappears, so does the cock-of-the-woods. The two go hand in hand and there is no separating them.

The first message was cabled under the English Channel from England to France only a little more than 86 years ago, i. e., in November, 1851.

The ancients believed that precious stones were alive and possessed souls.