GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

WEALTH IS ONLY SUCH WHEN IT CAN PRODUCE

HENRY FORD is reputed to be worth close to a billion dollars, as expressed in money. That would be more money than there is in all America if it were really money, which it is not.

The wealth of which Mr. Ford is now custodian is represented by land, factory buildings, machines, materials and products. If the attempt were made to divide that wealth, even among only those who directly profit from it—the Ford employees—it would mean one man would get a few feet of land, another some brick, another part of a machine. Such wealth to any one man would be useless. It would not produce. It would not provide a livelihood for him and his family, absolutely not.

It is only when wealth is congregated that it will produce, that it will provide. Wealth when congregated in the hands of one or a group of men does not belong to them. They are merely custodians. Mr. Ford, like all others, will in time pass away. When he does, he cannot take with him what he today controls. It is a part of our national wealth. From it thousands of people receive a week by week benefit. All Mr. Ford can do is to pass that wealth, of which he is today the custodian, along to others to direct and to make work for the nation.

We cannot enrich ourselves as individuals by a destruction of wealth, and an attempt at an equal distribution between all of us means destruction. We can only profit by leaving its operations in the hands of those who have demonstrated their ability to make it produce. It is from production that we derive our individual benefits, our week by week compensation, our daily bread. And in no other way.

* * *

LET NORMAN THOMAS MAKE IT PLAIN

DR. VIRGIL JORDON, president of the national industrial conference board, told members of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce that socialism has come to the United States to stay, and says he believes it will be the Norman Thomas type of socialism. I do not know just what the Norman Thomas type of socialism may be. Do you? Most of us do not.

Is it the type which proposes to divide all the wealth or only certain parts of it?

Is it the type which would have the government operate the business of the nation and if so, would it be all business or only certain lines, or of a certain size?

Is it the type which would give everyone a liberal allowance on which to live whether or not he worked for it, and if so, where are we to get the money?

There are other proposals I have heard made by people who claim to be followers of Norman Thomas socialism.

The fact is, I have read much of what Mr. Thomas has written and spoken, but I have never been just sure of what it all means. Now if we are to have his type of socialism as a steady diet, will he please express it all in primer form so we may understand the new rules.

* * *

WHAT CONSTITUTES A COUNTRY COMMUNITY

A COLLEGE GROUP asked if I could describe a country community. My answer was:

"A number of homes, schools, churches and a bank, built around a number of stores and other business places. Take the stores and business places away and the schools, churches, bank and homes will soon disappear."

That is true of your town. It is the stores which make it a market place, and it is as a market place that it survives.

Stores make real estate values possible. The taxes they pay help materially in supporting the schools. The contributions of merchants aid in supporting the churches. They make the maintenance of the bank possible. Directly they make the town a market place. Indirectly they maintain it as a social and cultural center for people of the town and surrounding farms.

Nearness to a market place, to a social and cultural center, aids in making farm values.

Stores and business places make the town possible. From every selfish viewpoint it is desirable to keep them operating and the more there are, the better market place your town will be.

* * *

'ONE BIG UNION'

IN RUSSIA, GERMANY, ITALY and all other "ism" countries of Europe and Asia, strikes are prohibited. Men are told what jobs they will have, how long they will work and what they will receive.

Is that what we are coming to in America?

If that is what we get, it will at least have one advantage. It will close the career of the racketeer in the field of labor. The government will be the "one big union" and what it says will be final.

• OUR COMIC SECTION •

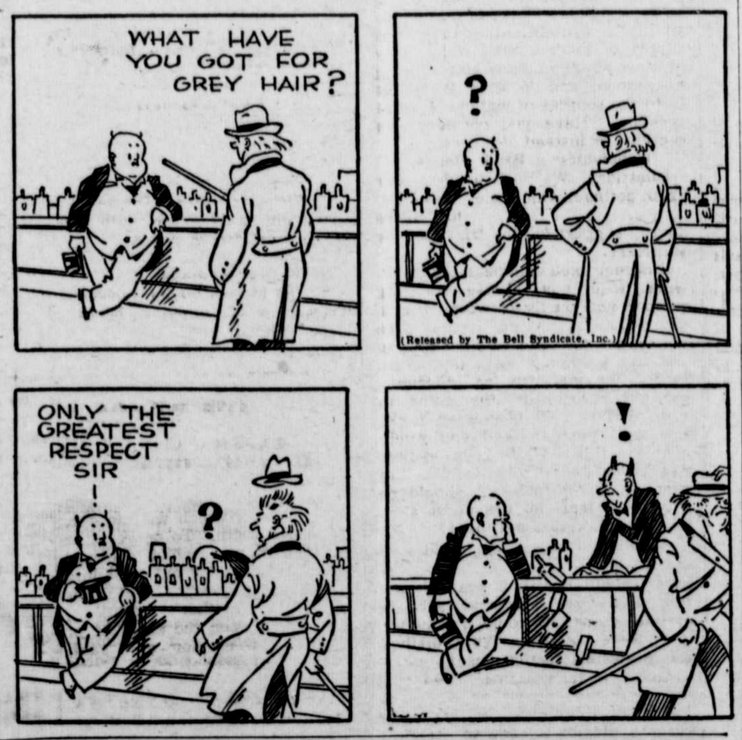
Events in the Lives of Little Men

S'MATTER POP

By C. M. Payne

POP

By J. Millar Watt



LIKES THEM ALL

"Does Jane like dancing?"
"She does."
"And skating?"
"Oh, yes! She likes anything that may possibly lead to a proposal."

'See Naples and Die'

A giant air liner was flying swiftly over azure blue seas. Midway over a town a look of concern passed over the pilot's face. He turned to his passengers:

"Did any of you hear that saying, "See Naples and die"? he asked.

"Why yes," they chorused eagerly.

"Good!" he replied. "We're over Naples now and something has gone wrong with the engine. Have a good look at it!"

ABSTRACT REFLECTIONS

"Women are not given to abstract reflections."

"You're wrong; they are always stealing glances at a mirror."

Sportlight

by GRANTLAND RICE

LOS ANGELES. — The original purpose of spring training trips from the snow banks of the North into the sun of the South was to get a ball club in condition for 154 championship games in daily battles for nearly six months.

Grantland Rice

In the last few years that original purpose has been changed—and sadly warped in the changing. The main purpose today is to pay expenses through an extended and extensive exhibition schedule that is beginning to run beyond all reason.

"When winter comes," as the late Mr. Shelley remarked, "can spring be far behind?" Well, "the hounds of spring are on winter's traces," and the hour of the sunland march is here again. Not so much to condition ball clubs, but to play from 35 to 50 exhibition games before the season opens—exhibition trips that cover thousand of miles; one-night jumps; different types of playing fields, in shape or out of shape; and changing weather conditions that are none too helpful.

Talk to the ball players about this. They'll tell you. Especially the old-timers who are working to get fading arms and fading legs ready for the long haul on ahead. They are none too keen about the cold winds and the rains of late March and early April that insist upon appearing year after year above the deep southern belt.

Another Angle

When you face a daily competitive schedule of 154 games, one of the main handicaps ahead is staleness.

The big drive usually comes in August and early September. But in too many cases ball players and ball clubs are worn down at that time. They have been hammering away at exhibition or championship games since early March.

"I know," Babe Ruth told me, "I could have had a much better record for the pennant season if I hadn't been forced to play in so many exhibition games. In my time I had to play in over 600 exhibition contests, largely on the way north. That means four full seasons, where you were supposed to give all you had. I know I always did. I believe 20 games are all any club should play before the big show opens."

John McGraw told me the same thing some time before he died. "Twenty games are just about enough," he said, "before you open any big league schedule. That still means more than 170 ball games in a stretch."

His Giants played many more games than this because of the exhibition money involved. McGraw was thinking at the time of conditioning a ball club for a pennant race—to have a team ready for the stretch run. Not in terms of spring training cash.

McGraw, who liked fight and fire, knew the curse of staleness. This is what a long exhibition schedule is likely to bring on.

Ty Cobb's Example

Ty Cobb thinks along the same lines. In talking to Ty a day or two ago the citizen of Menlo Park said, "The best thing a ball player can do is keep in shape through the winter, either by hunting or playing golf. I know it never took me over two weeks to be ready for a big league season. I nearly always reported late for I never believed in those long exhibition seasons from early March up to opening day. A good ball player doesn't "rest" occasionally, but earnestly wants to win every game. Forty or more exhibition games are entirely too many.

"A ball player's main job should be to keep his legs in condition. You can do that only by working them—by walking and running. They used to tell me I'd wear my legs out. But at least I tried to travel at top speed and I managed to last 24 years. If I hadn't practically lived on my legs all the year around I would have dropped out long before I did."

Best Pitchers

In discussing the greatest pitchers of all time Cobb still believes that Ed Walsh heads the list for any five-year stretch.

"Big Ed's five top years were remarkable," Ty says. "I recall one year when he won 40 games and saved at least 10 or 12 others. He worked in 66 games that season. Even a Walsh could not keep up this pace any too long, so he had no chance to keep going with such pitchers as Johnson, Mathewson, Alexander and others," he added.

"I don't see how anyone could name a greater all-time pitcher than Walter Johnson. The Big Train had more speed than any pitcher who ever threw a ball. He didn't have to be as smart as Matty or Alexander," Cobb continued.

"Johnson was pitching for a weak-hitting, low-scoring club and often had to pitch shutouts to win. Walter pitched more than a hundred shutouts in his time. I don't know how many 1 to 0 games he lost—but there were plenty of them. With a better scoring club I believe Johnson would have won 40 games a season."

THINGS for You TO MAKE

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Danger-Proof Jails

Building a modern prison is one of the most difficult constructional jobs, for the convict of today is a scientifically minded fellow who bursts his way out with tools and explosives. Hacksaw artists have to be curbed by laminated bars of hardened steel let into concrete walls. Magnetic traps are built into walls, doors and windows, to detect smuggled tools. In some cases sensitive speaking tubes are added, which betray liquor smuggling through the whisky-tainted breath of prisoners.

Even apparently innocent fixtures in cells, such as coat hooks, must be made strong enough only to hold a jacket, but never so strong that a prisoner can commit suicide by hanging himself. And all fittings must be so designed that in no circumstances can they be used as weapons.

FREE 4 cups of GARFIELD TEA

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Durable Consolation

Whether to see life as it is will give us much consolation, I know not; but the consolation drawn from truth, if any there be, is solid and durable; that which may be derived from error, must be, like its original, fallacious and fugitive.—Samuel Johnson.

KOHLER ANTIDOTE HEADACHE POWDERS
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● In bringing us buying information, as to prices that are being asked for what we intend to buy, and as to the quality we can expect, the advertising columns of this newspaper perform a worth while service which saves us many dollars a year.

● It is a good habit to form, the habit of consulting the advertisements every time we make a purchase, though we have already decided just what we want and where we are going to buy it. It gives us the most priceless feeling in the world: the feeling of being adequately prepared.

● When we go into a store, prepared beforehand with knowledge of what is offered and at what price, we go as an expert buyer, filled with self-confidence. It is a pleasant feeling to have, the feeling of adequacy. Most of the unhappiness in the world can be traced to a lack of this feeling. Thus advertising shows another of its manifold facets—shows itself as an aid toward making all our business relationships more secure and pleasant.