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Momentous Events

Momentous events and abnormal conditions spring from little incidents. Often they attract little attention at the time, but continue to grow and expand and eventually they assume appalling proportions.

The first event of the kind to be recorded was when Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, the only representatives of the human race.

Adam plucked the forbidden apple from the tree, and from that time mankind has been prone to take that which does not belong to him.

Many centuries ago a man was on trial charged with a serious crime. Knowing his guilt, a crooked lawyer conceived the idea of bribing witnesses to swear that he was in another place when the crime was committed.

Since then fictitious alibis have opened jail doors and freed guilty criminals until today it is becoming almost impossible to convict one who has the backing of gangland.

A little band of harrassed people disguised as Indians, boarded a ship and dumped a cargo of tea into Boston harbor in protest against British rule in the colonies.

From that little incident there has sprung into existence the greatest nation the sun shines on today.

An insignificant individual in Serbia threw a bomb that extinguished the career of an Austrian archduke.

That he paid the penalty of his crime with his life was not sufficient. His act was the torch which set ablaze the fire of passions that came near consuming the world. Neither the World nor the bomb thrower of Serbia will ever be forgotten.

We might run a catalogue of events up into the thousands, all tending to emphasize humanity's inability to recognize the significant facts in their incipency.

It has been so with the human race since the beginning, and it will probably continue so until we cease to exist.

We overlook today the things that are fraught with the greatest danger for tomorrow.

Hoover Versus Roosevelt

Former President Hoover, in a sharply worded statement, has challenged President Roosevelt to make known the changes in the Constitution which he has intimated he desires. Immediately the gist of what the ex-President said was lost in wild speculation as to whether he would again seek the Republican nomination for President.

It is unfortunate that Americans as Americans cannot sit down and discuss without personalities this fundamental question of where we are going with the Constitution. Actually Mr. Hoover asked a pertinent question in the minds of many people, and whether he is seeking the Presidency or not is of little consequence in relation to this question.

President Roosevelt during his campaign took a fling at the Supreme Court in his Baltimore speech. After the Supreme Court had invalidated NIRA by a unanimous vote of liberals and conservatives the President lashed out bitterly in his now famous "horse and buggy" talk to the press. Later he ordered the House to enact the Guffey coal bill "however reasonable" might be doubts as to its constitutionality.

All of these incidents make the constitutional question a very live one and it should have nothing to do with politics. There are two amendments which are being talked by so-called liberals in Washington. One would strip the Supreme Court and the judiciary of much of its power to review the constitutionality of laws. The other would give the Federal Government the power which the states have enjoyed under the Constitution of regulating all business and industry as attempted by the NRA.

Perhaps President Roosevelt opposes both. Or perhaps he favors both, or has his own ideas for changes. Whatever his views it would be wholesome to have them out in the open. If he believes that recovery can be worked out within the bounds of the Constitution, it would inspire business confidence. If he proposes changes the people would have an opportunity over a period of months to make up their own minds sanely and calmly.

Who Runs The Government?

The strike in New York City of relief workers, with coincident attempts by union labor officials to spread it over the country, brings forcefully forward the question of "who runs the government?" Is it the elected officials or an organized minority of a few million people?

Union officials are demanding the "prevailing wage" upon all work projects for skilled workers, the same as though they were employed upon private construction. They demand that the "security wage," under which the government attempts to keep all unemployed at work, be raised for members of the union.

In raising this issue these union organizers overlook the facts. Congress had the "prevailing wage" question presented and after a long fight voted it down. It was obvious that if the Government set out to pay \$1 or \$2 an hour to some workers, others would have to go hungry for lack of money. Or else the five billion dollars appropriated for relief would not be enough and additional billions would be necessary, thus threatening the credit of the nation further and endangering the jobs of everyone.

Stubborn strikes, either against the Government itself or against private plants which throw employees out of jobs, will not aid in getting the nation back to work. Wages must be based upon economic conditions, and it is an unwise leadership which forces strife at this time. Not only is recovery obstructed, but the doors are opened for radical agitators to spread their poison.

EDITORIAL COMMENT ON CURRENT EVENTS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SIDE-STEPPING THE ISSUE

The refusal of Governor Davey of Ohio to call a special election for the purpose of filling the vacancy which now exists in the office of Representative-at-Large is certainly side-stepping a test of the New Deal in the Middle West.

Only a short time ago Governor Davey and Relief Administrator Hopkins were at swords-points, and the administrator even was threatened with arrest if he put his foot in Ohio. Now the Governor has composed his differences with both Mr. Hopkins and the President. Two outstanding results were apparent.

First: Governor Davey announced that no election for Congressman-at-Large would be held.

Second: President Roosevelt announced approval of a twenty-million-dollar program of work relief for Ohio.

It is sheer folly to attempt to separate these two results. Here is excellent proof of the contention that Mr. Roosevelt is using the vast sum of money at his disposal to purchase political favors. The Governor agrees to stall a New Deal test, and the President backs his hard words and opens up his purse! Business appears to be business.

What keeps the Governor and the President from allowing the good people of Ohio to have their constitutional share of representatives in Congress? What else can it be but fear. Fear that Mr. Roosevelt is no longer occupying the high pedestal of yesterday. That is exactly why no election is being held voluntarily.—Cambridge, N. Y., Post.

BUREAUCRACY IN FULL FLOWER

The taxpayer, squirming a good deal at present and aware that he is going to squirm violently when the government settles down to paying its bills instead of borrowing, will not be overly happy in reading the report that 3,746 persons are still on the payroll of the defunct NRA at a cost of approximately \$800,000 a month.

But the thing that really ought to make the taxpayer yell is the statement that, in the event of the enactment of the Walsh bill, 1,000 NRA employees will be retained to administer the measure. The Walsh bill is the measure that would have federal departments include in their contracts a requirement that the supplying manufacturer or contractor abide by the wages and hours provisions of the old NRA code for his industry. Why on earth are 1,000 employees needed to enforce such a law? Do not the departments exercise some general supervision over work done for them? Are the men employed on their contracts deaf and dumb that they may not complain if wages and hours provisions are violated? Do they have no labor spokesmen? And are there no district attorneys to prosecute violations?

Of all the examples of bureaucracy, entrenched and in full flower, there are few to exceed this proposal to retain 1,000 employees of the NRA to enforce the Walsh bill, if enacted.—Baltimore Sun (Dem.).

ROOSEVELT'S REAL OBJECTIVE

A good guess at the real objective toward which the administration is struggling is that it hopes to demonstrate to the people how nobly it is striving in their behalf and how diabolically the Supreme Court is putting obstacles in the way. There are some observers who believe a good deal of the "must" legislation deliberately has been demanded in the confident belief that it will be rejected by the high court, then to appeal to the masses with the plea that they support amendments to the Constitution that will make it square with the policies of the New Deal.

If this inference is correct, if the Roosevelt people deliberately are attempting to create an issue for 1936 with the United States Supreme Court and the Constitution the points of attack, then the American people are witnessing the most brazen political maneuver ever designed in the century and a half of the nation's existence. The New Dealers would change the form of government if they could. Surely no one doubts that they are determined to put their policies through even if they have to change the Constitution in order to do it.—Sioux City, Iowa, Journal.

A "PROGRAM OF COOPERATION"

Developments in the Ohio situation point directly to the conclusion that the President and his Democratic advisers fear a state-wide referendum on the New Deal at this time. They also indicate how the \$5,000,000,000 public works fund may be used to aid in saving a menacing political situation. **

There can be no excuse for not selecting Mr. Truax's successor at the regular election next November, except that the Democrats fear to have a state-wide test of the New Deal. A defeat would have a disastrous effect not only upon the administration but on the morale of the Democratic Party in every state. That may be an excuse, if not a justification, for depriving the citizens of Ohio of a Representative-at-Large throughout the next session of Congress, which begins in January.

The Democrats are aware that the New Deal is slipping steadily in popularity; it is evident that they have a bad case of "jitters."—New York Herald-Tribune.

PRESIDENT COULD PROTECT FARMER

In about 10 months of the last fiscal year 21,760,000 bushels of wheat were imported. In less than a year we imported 11,260,000 bushels of corn, 14,084,000 bushels of oats, 9,624,000 bushels of barley, and 12,474,000 bushels of rye.

In the first four months of this year we imported 17,398,000 pounds of butter and 38,041,000 pounds of meat.

The President could stop these imports instantly. He does not need further authorization from Congress. Two years ago it voted him free-hand authority to control imports by license, quota or embargo, to prevent them from interfering with national recovery.—Flora, Ind., Press.

THE SAME ROOSEVELT

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was governor of New York, he was the same sort of a governor that he has been and is a President. He squandered the public resources, he bogged the people in debt and left them to worry out of their difficulties as best they could.

Leopards never change their spots. We may judge of what a man will do by what he has done.—Somerset, Pa., Herald.

Brighter Shines the Sun — by A. B. Chapin



The Book

By Bruce Barton

THE KING JAMES VERSION

King James I, of England, appointed forty-seven scholars, high church men and Puritans and those who were of no ecclesiastical party, to make a new version of the Bible. Some of them had special skill in Hebrew and Greek; some were able to bring help from their knowledge of translations in the Italian, German, French and Spanish. After four years of work they gave to the world that classic, that "well of pure English, undefiled," the King James Version.

Perhaps no version in the English language will ever equal in rhythmic beauty that of the King James Version of 1611, but it is right that other versions and even new translations should be made. Each of these makes a contribution toward our better knowledge of the original.

In 1885 the Revised Version was made by a joint commission of English and American scholars. Reference will be made in the next chapter to the wide interest in and influence of this scholarly version.

It was agreed that the American members of the commission should issue no version of their own for fourteen years. In 1901 appeared the American Standard Revised Bible, which is, at this date, the best available text in English. Other worthy versions continue to appear, as those of Moffatt, Goodspeed and the Riverside Bible translated by Professor William G. Ballantine.

Probably no one of these will presently supercede the King James Version, but each has its value for comparison. While no important doctrine has at any time depended on any of these translations, it is proper that the very best and most scholarly minds should be engaged, as they are, in the effort to secure the nearest possible approach to a perfect text.

The two critical sciences which deal with Bible study are said, with reason, to have called forth the most severe discipline to which the human mind has ever been subjected in critical study.

There may be readers of these essays who expected an affirmation that God in some supernatural way showed men just which books to select, dictating through all the ages the exact language of the original and teaching how to translate it free from error.

It is a pity to disappoint them, but that is not the way it happened. The Bible rose to the place it now occupies because it deserved to rise to that place, and not because God sent anybody with a box of tricks to prove its divine authority.

Its answer to men's spiritual needs made it what it is.

20 Years Ago In The Enterprise

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1915

Henry Brown, of Pomona, was named to head the Republican ticket in the coming election as candidate for the post as State Senator. The selection of the ticket was made at a caucus Saturday afternoon at the Voshell house, the meeting being called by John D. Urie, chairman of the State Central Committee.

"Buddy" Rattler, notorious colored character of this section, in jail awaiting a hearing, escaped Sunday, taking with him a quantity of liquor stored in the attic of the jail after confiscation from various prisoners.

The placing of an automobile on the mail route instead of the horse and team formerly used will assure residents of that town a much earlier mail than was previously available.

Peaches are so plentiful in Kent county that farmers can hardly dispose of them; apple and pear trees are recovering from a blight and canneries are operating full blast, putting considerable money in circulation locally.

Today and Tomorrow

By Frank P. Stockbridge

"MARGINAL" questioned

We have been hearing a lot in late years about "marginal lands" and the folly of farming them. I wonder sometimes if that is not a false point of view.

Around my country home in the Berkshires there are plenty of farms which any economist would class as "marginal." They do not and cannot produce cash crops big enough to bring in much more than the taxes. Yet they are occupied, for the greater part, by contented, even happy farm families. They get a living, and a good one, from the land. Farming, to these folk, is not an industrial or commercial enterprise, but a mode of living, in independence and security.

I know of no farmer who looks at his problems that way, even on these decidedly "marginal" New England farms, who is in real distress.

MINES swimming hole

Last Sunday I drove over to York State, past the remnants of a distinctly "marginal" enterprise. That was the old Williams iron mine. Back before the Revolution the colonists were digging iron ore out of the mountains of western Massachusetts. The mines were operated and the ore smelted at nearby Richmond Furnace, for more than 150 years. Then the cheapest iron ore in the world was discovered in Minnesota.

The old Williams iron mine is full of water now. Local tradition has it that there is no bottom. That isn't true, of course, but there is 200 feet or more of water under the boys who go swimming there.

Unlike a marginal farm, nobody can get a living out of a marginal iron mine.

CHANGE will come

Any plan of social-economic planning which would fix everything as it is would be silly. I got to thinking over the changes in one New England County.

A mile from my farm is the old Freedlyville marble quarry, which produced most of the fine building stone for the Eastern cities when I was a boy. It shut down forty years ago, when bigger veins of better marble were found in Vermont. Two or three miles away the first wood-pulp paper was made the year I was born, and for a century almost all the writing paper used in America was made in our valley. We no longer make wood-pulp, and half the writing-paper mills are shut down.

Up to five years ago we were shipping a quarter of a million dollars worth of lime every year. Now we don't ship a carload a month. Better limestone, easier to quarry, in other places, is the answer.

One of the reasons why I have little faith in the permanency of any plan of building model towns around particular industries is that I have seen too many communities fall into decay when the march of progress moves in another direction.

MEN some marginal

I wonder if a good deal of the world's troubles is not due so much to "marginal" agriculture and "marginal" industry, as to what might be called "marginal men."

I meet a lot of them. In a crowd they pass for average, intelligent human beings. Individually, there is something lacking. They are too content merely to "get by." They are too eager to accept money or help that they have not earned. They are not quite skilful enough to be worth top pay in any line, but believe themselves to be superior to most.

A large part of the agitation for a more equal distribution of wealth comes, I believe, from these "marginal men" who do not quite fit into the general scheme of things.

PACIFISM old warrior

In my youth it was every American boy's ambition to be a soldier. We felt—we did not have to be taught—that the noblest purpose to which a citizen could devote his life was to fight for his native land and its ideals. Every boy who could, at least among those I knew, joined some sort of a quasi-military organization, learned to drill and to handle a rifle. That, we felt, was the duty of a patriot. Today I am often aghast at the expressions of

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN



For those of us who don't like ashes and coal bills the summer is running away altogether too fast. However, it is a safe bet that hot weather will return for a bit, at least, with the opening of school.

The day is soon coming when the mothers of young hopefuls will watch their six-year olds off to their first day of school with mingled feelings of pride and grief. He is mother's boy entirely until that great event comes into his life and he begins on his own.

An amazing story is told of a small girl whose mother was punishing her by making her sit in a room all by herself. After a short interval of silence in the prison room the mother peeked in to see that the child was all right and heard her murmuring "I don't care! Don't like anybody but myself anyway!" That sounds funny enough from the lips of a tiny child but it is just that attitude that is at the base of all the trouble in the world. On a large scale that sentiment makes depressions and wars and it was just to offset that and to teach the world a better rule that a certain Man lived some thirty-three years in the sorry world and left it the golden rule.

Circuses were spoiled for me at a very early date but two members of my family are ardent circus fans. It amused me a good bit when I heard of some spectators at the recent circus in town. Some of our most dignified citizens who didn't even have a child, grandchild or neighbor's youngster with them as an excuse for attending. A circus seems to be a great leveler of ages.

And that reminds me of a message I wanted to get over to The Lancer—as assistant editor one of his punishments is to read this column weekly. I seldom meet him on the street so this is my best method of contact. You were talking about your young circus days, Harry, and said they were long before the time that the "daring young man on the flying trapeze" became popular in song. But you are mistaken. Rudy Vallee, or whoever it was that dug up that epic, lyric or whatever you want to call it, brought it out of the dead past even somewhere before the great popular song of the early nineties "After the Ball" was sung all around New York and even came to our parlor organ in Brooklyn, in the brownstone front where I lived. The young man on the flying trapeze had been parodied at that time and all my brother (who is several years older than I) and I can recall of it is "He flew through the air, with his mouth full of cheese, the daring young man on the flying trapeze" and we have no idea of the real age of that classic.

Someone sent me a one-time home news-sheet from up in New York State containing the news that one of my former school friends has come into a large fortune. Of all the school crowd who married or found careers for themselves and a place in the world she had a streak of the worst luck and for a time knew real poverty though she had gumption and resourcefulness to pull herself and her family out of it. I wonder how it seems after years of struggle to have the burden lifted suddenly like that. It must be a grand and glorious feeling.

Is it good for us as citizens to see ourselves as others see us once in awhile? We like our town, strangers who pass through are charmed with it and say it would be a wonderful place to live. We get very complacent about it. Yet, only the other day someone who used to live here years ago made the remark that although he had some fine friends here, he and his wife were thankful enough that they did not have to live here. They enjoy coming back but also enjoy leaving. We should not be too complacent and a remark like that ought to set every citizen thinking. As citizens it is our business to make our town so everyone will like it as much as we do.

College faculty members are coming back to get settled in their winter quarters before the beginning of Freshman Week. The column extends a welcome to the old members and to the new as well as to the new High School teachers who have a mission to perform for our high school age group.

Nothing worries a punctual man so much as a puncture.

When the overhead increases, it's a good idea to look for the ivory heads that are causing it.

If all golf clubs were used properly, the professional rug beaters would be out of a job.

There's a fortune awaiting the man who can make two auto park where only one park before.

Student pacifist agitators might be taken seriously if some foreign nation threatened to overrun our country.

While lightning strikes only in the summer time, it is possible to be thunderstruck most any time.

There may be many ways to get rich but participating in the chain letter activity is not one of them as many, many people have learned.

The modern wall flower at a dance has more time to smoke.

Optimistic people declare that youth is facing the dawn, and very often it does after a late dance.

contempt for national honor and the duty of citizens to fight for it, which I hear from young men. I read of preachers and teachers counseling non-resistance and refusal to bear arms. Such expressions give me a pain in the neck.

I have no particular respect for the national philo-sophies of Germany, Italy and Japan, but I believe their respective dictators have the right idea for the preservation of their countries, when they bring up every boy to be a soldier.