

UNEARNED CRITICISM

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There has been some disposition to criticize the administration of the country's banking system for the collapse of a few banks, the prices and curtailment of credits in 1920 and 1921, and the subsequent financial difficulties of the farmers. As a matter of fact, while no blame may attach to bankers must be for the too generous financing, in many cases, of speculative investment in farm property during the period of inflation. It may be said that the collapse of the banks was due to the manner in which the Federal Reserve System functioned in this situation. It is the opinion of many that it would be better if the Reserve banks delayed too long in making the reduction rates. An earlier effort might have stayed the process of inflation.

The collapse of 1920 was by no means confined to agriculture, nor was the inevitable sequel to the inflation period. All branches of business and perhaps none more than banking, against which this criticism has been leveled. The financial situation of the farmers was greatly aggravated by the fact that the high land values and high prices of agricultural products had led many farmers to incur obligations based on the inflated values. If the farmer was victimized at all, indeed, he was the victim of too much rather than too little consideration. The real progress which has been achieved in agricultural finance in recent years lies more in the intelligent distribution of farm credit than in volume. With agencies now functioning for the provision of ample credits for the American farmer, his enduring success depends upon the wisdom and, foresight with which he meets the problems of production and marketing. More than ever before, his activities must be regulated with reference to world conditions, and his profits, like those of the manufacturer, must be kept within the measure of his chance, will reflect the measure of his success in adjusting his activities to these conditions.

The Middle Course

"It is impossible to do one's best every day," is perhaps true. But it is not impossible to see that one does not do one's worst. If perfection is unattainable, strike a happy medium.

Heavy Mortality Due to Little Insects

The famous scientist, Prof. A. R. Wallace, was once asked what was the most dangerous beast he had encountered in the course of his tropical travels. Though he had roamed through the haunts of the jaguar, the pécary and the giant anaconda, he declared that he was most afraid of the wild bee. Kipping on a story which is numbered by countless millions, which gives a graphic picture of what that danger can mean.

There are certain species of ants, both in Africa and South America, because of the march of which suffering can be the fate of the strongest and most agile beasts must give way to them. Though many thousands of deaths are attributed to ants bite in India every year, this mortality is slight compared with the toll taken of human life by malarial mosquitoes in various parts of the world. Had the neighborhood of the Panama canal been infested with lions or tigers, the work would have gone on merrily, but the awful mortality caused by these tiny insects defeated its first builders. South Africa has suffered from locusts a thousand times more than it ever suffered by reason of all the wild beasts within its borders.

Message of Centuries

Long Past Discovered
The British Museum has come into possession of a group of ancient manuscripts which include two of the oldest pieces of paper known to exist on the earth. These letters are supposed to have been written 1,500 years ago and were found by Sir M. Aurel Stein in the ruins of military stations along the ancient wall dividing the Chinese empire from Turkestan. The two scraps of paper in question are tattered fragments, one about as big as a street car ticket, the other twice as big. Parts of two sentences of Chinese characters are legible on one—making a profound salutation (knowing) says hoping that Mr. Hsiao Yung-sun may under all circumstances enjoy good health On the second fragment are the words "as soon as the foot soldiers arrived, he sent a messenger to the king." The other pieces were found in different parts of China. One of these, thought to be 1,500 years old, seems to have been written by a wife complaining of the shortcomings of her husband who, she says, has ruined a bright career by his debauchery.

Enterprise Liners bring results.

Old Fort Landmark in State of Maine

Fort Edgecomb is one of eight old forts purchased from the United States government by the state of Maine. The historical and sentimental value of their ruined blockhouses and grass-grown ramparts cannot be overestimated. Particularly is this true of old Fort Edgecomb, on the Damascene river, in southern Lincoln county, Maine, says the Dearborn Independent.

Moses Davis deeded the site of the fort to the United States government June 13, 1805. Here a fort was built for the protection of the Maine coast. Here were built extensive earthworks and a magazine of brick and stone. The Edgecomb blockhouse is a heavy, square-towered structure of two stories, with a basement. The first story, 27 feet wide, is placed for musketry, commanding all approaches. The second story, 11 feet wide, is for the use of the visitors the methods of construction of that day, the thickness of the walls, the wooden-plank construction, the size of the hinges bolted to the massive doors and the loopholes. The second story is 80 feet wide, 12-foot posted and placed with heavy portholes like the gun deck of a man-of-war, having an overhang of about two feet, the whole being surmounted with a wooden tower, overlook or watch box, with an extensive view of the river, harbor and surrounding country.

How to Replant Vines

The Department of Agriculture says that grapevines which are ten years old may be replanted the same way that a vine a year old can be replanted. Dig out three or four of the larger stems with quite a bit of soil adhering. Cut back to the main stem, practically leaving only a few buds on the cane to develop new growth. Do not allow the vine to produce fruit until it is thoroughly established.

How Camphor Is Made

As a perfume, camphor has been valued by the Chinese for centuries. Originally obtained from gum deposits in the forests of the wood being used, which after being saved through, is reduced to chips and heated in a still.

History of Coffee

Coffee is not native to South America. It is supposed to have grown first in Abyssinia, although it was early found in Arabia. Brazil, however, now furnishes more than two-thirds of the coffee consumed in the world. As an article of diet it was unknown to the Greeks and Romans—it was not introduced into Europe until the sixteenth century.

Centuries Have Seen No Change in Hammer

Recently an old hammer was found embedded in a mass of concrete to which was attached a piece of Roman tile. From the broken crockery found with it, there is no doubt that it must have been a Roman hammer dating from the Second or Third century. The fortunate discoverer of this interesting relic was carrying it off in triumph to his office when he happened to pass a workman nailing a carpet with what is known as an upholsterer's hammer. This, on inspection turned out to be an exact replica of the Roman instrument, except that it was very slightly smaller. The beryl on the inside of the claws of the nail wrench was the same. The same number of rivets was used to attach the head to the wooden handle, and these rivets were fixed in exactly the same positions. As "Q. W." writing of the incident in one of the papers, remarked: "So with all our boasted progress, there seem to be some things which, having once been designed to meet a special need, cannot be improved upon so long as the need remains the same."

Days of Life Should

Not Be All Routine

Life consists of days, not years. Days are all that we're sure of. Too many of us drift along and forget the approach of that final event called Death. Time is oversteering, but you and I have only a tiny bit of it. Herbert H. Casson writes, in Forbes Magazine. What we would do, we must do quickly. Time is the stuff that life is made of. There is nothing in the world so precious and so scarce as time. We have no days to waste. We need every one of them to build our lives with. No one ever has too many days when he comes to the end of his life. That is why we should not allow a day to be all routine. That is why we should always put to a good use the two or three hours before bedtime. That is why we should end every day with a little friendship, or music, or study, or fun, or family sentiment. Never a day without a laugh, except when sorrow comes. Never a day without a book. Never a day without a friend. That is the way to be sure, every evening, that you have come to the end of a perfect day.

British Bird Sanctuaries

Farne Islands, off the Northumbrian (England) coast, have been handed over to the national trust for preservation as a bird sanctuary. The islands number 35, and have an area of 50 acres. The regular breeding population includes: gulls of three species, terns of four, auks of three, cormorants of two, waders of two, and one species of duck. The islands form one of the most southerly stations in the breeding range of the elder duck. The most interesting species, perhaps, is that of the roseate tern, now found only in a few British localities. As a breeding place for sea fowl the Farne Islands have, no equal around the British coasts, and even the great bird stations among the Scottish Isles lack one or two of the species represented here.

Britain's Constitution

The constitution of Great Britain, many of whose principles form the foundations of about every free constitution in the world, is an accumulation of statutes, customs and decisions. The Magna Charta, granted in 1215 by King John, may be regarded as a starting point. Other salient features are the petition of rights and the declaration of rights, the habeas corpus act, the act of settlement, the franchise laws and the practices and customs respecting the responsibility of government. This sovereign would accept or decline gifts of small value or of no political significance, according to his own wish or judgment, but a gift of very considerable value, would not be accepted without the advice and consent of the ministry.

Sand Feet for Clowns

Stilts usually employed by circus clowns to give them gigantic stature during their antics in the rings have feet of sand to aid the performer in walking and to maintain his balance. The poles are of stout hickory staked and widened at the tops to fit the wearer's thighs and fitted with straps to hold them in position.

Toward the bottom the props are rounded and tapered, ending in soft shoes fitted with coarse sand which they fastened on the ankles so that the heels support the points. Wide trousers or other apparel cover the stilts for their full length, and the clowns appear to walk on their heels. Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Rough Stuff

He met and wooed her. She was coldly indifferent. He showered costly gifts on her. She encouraged him. He married her. She was bored. He laid himself at her feet. She trampled on him. He was faithful and loyal. She flirted. He lost his temper. She liked him. He knocked her down. She adored him, and they lived happily ever after. —M. S., in London Mail.

Huge Public Barometer

One of the largest public barometers in existence is to be found on the tower of the German museum at Munich. This particular barometer is also said to be the only one of its kind in existence. It shows the weather conditions for the city of Munich very accurately. The figures on the dial show the height of the mercury in centimeters: 71 is the average height of Munich, so that a swing to the right of this figure indicates fair weather, to the left, bad times ahead. The hand on the tower is connected electrically to an ordinary spring barometer, which is located elsewhere in the building and whose slightest movement is automatically followed by the tower hand. The dial is more than 18 feet in diameter and the glass hand weighs nearly a hundred pounds. —Family Herald.

Raining Fish and Frogs

A gentleman visiting in the East some years ago tells a remarkable story of a rainfall of grown frogs, tadpoles and fish of all sorts, including varieties hitherto unknown in that neighborhood. He says: "One, more lively than the rest, drew my attention and I picked it up, only to relinquish it immediately, as I expected what felt like an electric shock. Naturally, we discussed the matter. My explanation of this phenomenon was that the fish and frogs had been drawn up by 'whirlwinds' which drew their contents from the open sea and from the tracts of fresh water at the mouths of the Ganges and Brahmaputra. The terrific force of the upper currents of air had swept the living freight through the skies and deposited it, with equal precipitation, in the heart of the jungle. The odd thing about the matter was that the frogs and fish were alive."

Why Dishes Are Covered

How many persons, seeing covered dishes come to the table, have any idea of the origin of serving food in this fashion? How many know the reason that led to the covering of dishes? They were covered from fear—the fear of poison. In medieval days and down to the time of Louis XIV, people were afraid that poison might be introduced into food between the kitchen and the table.

The wholesomeness of the food was first tried on the servants, who were required to taste it before any of the guests, and then if they were not poisoned, the food was all right. It did not matter so much if a servant was poisoned.

Change in Fares

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EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 1925

TO THE PUBLIC—

Please be advised that the losses sustained in the operation of the Detroit-Milford Division of the People's Motor Coach Co. necessitate a slight increase in the rates of fare between Detroit and Farmington commencing October 15.

The new basic rate will be at two, and one-half cents a mile collected in increments of five cents and with a minimum fare of ten cents. This will make the fare from Detroit Waiting Room to Meyers Road 10c; to Town Line Road 15c; to Mill Road 20c; to Redford 25c; to Five Points 30c; to Ford Republic 35c; to Tuck Road 40c; to Farmington 45c. No rate changes beyond Farmington.

AS A PUBLIC UTILITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, FARES ARE LIMITED TO COVER OPERATING COSTS, TAXES, DEPRECIATION AND OTHER WELL RECOGNIZED ITEMS INCLUDING A LIMITED RETURN UPON THE INVESTMENT OF THE PROPERTY AT YOUR SERVICE. WE WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD IF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PATRONAGE WILL BE SUCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PERMIT US TO NAME OTHER AND LOWER RATES.

Complete new Tariffs are now on file at all Waiting Rooms or inquiries concerning all matters of detail may be addressed to Mr. P. L. Radcliffe, Manager, at the Interurban Building, Detroit.

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