

ists are connected in any way with Moscow, they don't seem to have much influence in the organization. At any rate, it appears that Communists in Russia don't practise what Communists in America preach—that is complete freedom of expression of everybody's views, including, of course, their own.

has met has been so devastating in its perfection that it has made me genuinely miserable." Oh, sugar!

admiration for the senior Senator has been considerably enhanced by his refusal to ride with the kind-dried political routinists of the Michigan Club. We are glad that he has shown an abiding preference for independent courses and for making intelligence instead of partisan interest the controller of his political actions. And we are especially grateful to him for the unvarying clearness and directness of his public utterances.

BE QUIET, PLEASE—
We wonder if the end of the back seat driver is in sight? At least we hope so. Many drivers will learn with a thrill of satisfaction that there is a state with a law against back-seat driving. It is Vermont. Speaking of the law the secretary of the State Automobile association for that state says:

In the last of a series of articles in the Detroit News on "The Truth about Russia," Mr. Philip A. Adler, who has been travelling in that country, tells something about conditions there in regard to freedom of speech. Mr. Adler apparently considered this one of the most important indices to the actual measure of freedom which exists in Russia or any other country—and quite rightly so. He says:

(From the Detroit News)
The News does not pretend to know whether "it would be a good idea for Senator Couzens to form a party of his own," as President Elbert H. Fowler of the rejuvenated Michigan Club has so shyly and disinterestedly suggested, but we are sure he could do so with just as much propriety as a lot of political Tailors of Tooley street can apply their strait-jacket measuring tape to all who seek preferment at the hands of the "grand old party" that, in spite of its platform utterances, doesn't know yet whether it is for prohibition enforcement or nullification, the World Court or a world scrap, a tariff for agricultural relief or wholesale monopoly profiteering.

This is true liberty when free born men. Having to advise the public, may speak free: Which he who can and will, deserves high praise. Such a man may be blackballed by political clubs, but that is all the more reason why the people are likely to take him up and carry him forward to the greatest victory that has yet crowned his public career.

Where should be a similar law in every state in the Union. Not only is any driver excessively annoyed by instructions and warnings from the back seat, but often accidents are caused by drivers looking around at the sudden shouted exclamations of a passenger in the rear.
But if every state had a law against it, is there any assurance that that would do any good? You can't keep a traffic cop in every car.—Exchange.

Editorials

What It Means

A few years ago not many people outside of public officials knew what "return taxes" meant, or had reason to care very much. But now the full import of that phrase has become apparent, and the situation is one which affects every taxpayer.

Farmington Township, which by every token should be without a financial problem of any kind, is thrust into the embarrassing position of requiring money and not being able to borrow it, for no other reason than because taxes are not paid.

How easily "return taxes" may change completely the financial condition of any township, village or city, is apparent from a brief examination of figures. Farmington Township requires \$45,000 to carry on its business until the next collection of taxes. Of the Township taxes amounting to approximately \$87,000 last year only a little over \$37,000 was collected, nearly \$50,000 being returned. Of the school taxes, totalling nearly \$80,000, less than \$45,000 was paid, leaving over \$34,000 as "return taxes" in the school levy alone. This amount alone would have provided two-thirds of the Township's present financial needs. Of the \$45,000 which the Township requires \$29,000 is for the various school districts.

The return taxes for the year 1929 alone would have made the difference for the Township between plenty of money and the present embarrassment. Another bad feature is the fact that non-payment of taxes by many throws an added burden on those who do pay their taxes. Borrowing \$45,000 for a year means an expense, in interest, of \$2,700 to be added to the cost of government. This must be paid, of course, by those who pay their taxes.

So far no one appears to have suggested anything even remotely resembling a solution. It is doubtful whether the people could find an honor too great to bestow on the man who can solve the problem.

A Glider Field

While air-giders may seem more or less of a novelty at present, Farmington would do well to secure in this vicinity a field for the Detroit club which is seeking one. Even though the gliders were never to become of more practical value, the advertising which would result, the number of progressive-minded men who would be coming to this section very frequently, would be a great asset to Farmington.

There is a possibility, too, that the gliders may some day be of genuine importance in aviation. They are already being used for instruction of student pilots. Gliders have been kept aloft for a number of hours, and they might in the future be an important factor in making aviation practicable over shorter and shorter distances. Perhaps we may some day "glide" from a hill-top near Farmington to the roof of a Detroit building, attend the theatre, and glide back. More fantastic things may be imagined

—and have happened. Meanwhile, it would be a good thing to have the glider club out here.

"Never Greater Faith"

From the campaign headquarters of a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor there came a few days ago an announcement of his candidacy and a letter from the committee in charge, outlining the candidate's qualifications and urging support for him.

Included in the letter to "fellow Republicans" is the following paragraph, all in capital letters: "Never have the people of Michigan with more common accord shown greater faith in one of their own number for high public trust than the state-wide confidence and respect which they bear towards Wilbur Marion Brucker."

Now it is to be expected that any campaign committee will display a good deal of effusiveness regarding the candidate whose cause they espouse. And in this particular case the candidate's record in his present office justifies some enthusiasm on the part of his supporters. Mr. Brucker has demonstrated ability in his office, and unquestionably, he is in capability above the average among political candidates, even for so high an office as that of governor. What is more, it would not be the most surprising thing in the world to many to see him elected to that office next fall.

And yet one might reasonably question, perhaps, so unlimited an assertion as this, that "never have the people of Michigan with more common accord shown greater faith in one of their number." We wonder if the members of this committee have ever heard, for instance, of a man named Hazen S. Pingree, whose very name bespeaks to everyone a devotion to the welfare of the people outstanding in the history of Michigan, if not in the entire United States, and who served for two terms as Michigan's governor. Have they ever heard, either, of one Woodbridge N. Ferris, a Democrat twice elected governor of a rock-ribbed Republican State, and then representing it in the United States Senate?

And then, if we had to, we might come down to our own, small community, and recall to this committee the name of Fred M. Warner, a citizen of a little town of a few hundred people, three times elected governor of the great State of Michigan.

Probably the committee does not suffer so much from a deficiency of knowledge of history, as from a super-abundance of enthusiasm for the present candidate. The excess enthusiasm of the present is easily forgiven if it does not deal too violently with the past.

Russia—And Free Speech

Communists in America, it is sometimes declared by alarmed citizens, act "under orders from Moscow," and the impression is given that our American institutions are threatened. But if the American Commun-

official Pravada or Izvestia is sufficient to scatter all illusions about intellectual freedom under the Soviets.

...of the parties in jail? A recent appeal issued by the various socialist groups in Russia (not in power) gives a striking view of this new land of the free. The appeal reads in part: "Years pass and public attention to the persecution of Socialists in Soviet Russia becomes more rare. The world seems to be getting used to the fact that Communists, who everywhere demand full rights for themselves, tread under their feet all human rights wherever they happen to be in power. It even seems natural that Socialists, who everywhere demand full freedom for all, should be subjected to the most severe persecution in the country governed by Communists. It is very seldom now that the press of the world speaks of the state of terror which now exists in Soviet Russia, despite the fact that the civil war, the intervention and the blockade, formerly cited by the Bolsheviks as a justification for the terror, have long passed.

Twelve years after Russia's laboring masses have overthrown the chains of czarist slavery the elementary rights of citizenship in the Soviet Union constitute a monopoly of the Communists or rather of that portion of the Communists, which is willing unequivocally to obey the orders of the ruling clique. The rights of freedom of speech, of freedom of press, of assembly and organization, which American citizens use like air or water, without even being conscious of it, Russian workmen and peasants are completely deprived of.

"To return to the laboring classes of Russia these rights is the aim of all the Socialists of Russia. For this work they are being punished by the relentless sword of Bolshevik terror. Thousands of Socialists, youths as well as men and women, who have earned glory in their long struggle against czarism, fill the Soviet prisons, and from there are exiled to the cold marshes of Siberia and to the burning sands of Turkestan. And after having earned one term, they are again sentenced to another—all this without a trial or investigation, just by order of the omnipotent G. P. U."

Truly, human nature seems to be the same the world over—and nothing quite alters men's attitudes so much as power—the urge to get it or keep it. Whether in Russia or Italy or elsewhere on the earth, freedom ever finds its friends elsewhere than among those in power.

Although he is probably not a philosopher, Mr. Adler in his concluding article also offers an interesting paragraph in philosophical mood, on a strange twist of this great experiment, whose chief end, in fact, only aim when it began was greater human happiness. He points out:

"Large factories, still under construction, are no sign of prosperity. Big exports of products sadly needed at home are no indication of plenty. And a favorable balance of trade is no evidence of a free and happy people. After all it is the freedom and happiness of the people and not the mass production with a favorable trade balance that have constituted the dream of idealists the world over since the dawn of history."

From Mr. Vallee

Mr. Rudy Vallee, sob-brother musician and "matinee idol": "Sometimes the exquisite gorgeousness of certain women I

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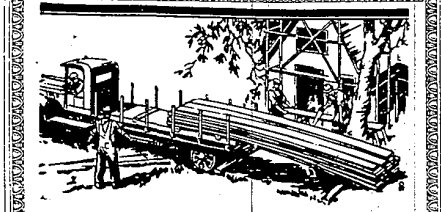
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