

The Farmington Enterprise

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Editorials

Clipped From Other Publications

Trial The Real Test Of Character

(Chilton, Wis., Times)

There are no wanting signs to indicate that a deep sense of fear for the disension and strife which the approaching winter may bring is abroad in the nation and the world. The trend of a long train of depressing events has crystallized belief that next winter will witness the climax of the present unrest. Portents of brewing trouble are scattered among the news stories of the day—generally inconspicuously. President Green of the American Federation of Labor warns that the government must aid the jobless, or face rebellion. . . . A flat tenant in Chicago is evicted, a riot results, three are killed many wounded. . . . A northern Wisconsin city, on the brink of bankruptcy, asks the attorney-general how its poor are to be fed. . . . Montague Collier Norman, governor of the powerful Bank of England, broadcasts the warning that unless drastic measures are taken the capitalist system of the world will be wrecked within a year. . . . Banks close their doors—silently—intensify distress kindle into flame the discontent on which communism thrives.

We have at least passed the camouflage stage and begun to face facts. No one any longer does that industry is in a bad way—not even the professional political optimists. At last we are facing realities divested of bunk, and that is progress. The mood that sat in darkness have seen a great light. We know that in spite of the luminous vision and lofty designing of the mighty wizards of industry and finance things can go awry, show them up suddenly as mighty little wizards. We know that the politicians' cock sure formula for prosperity, die-cut, stamped and trade-marked, can be turned by events into a withering irony. We know, in a word, that we still have a good deal to learn about industry, trade, commerce, economics, finance. Recognizing our ignorance there is hope that in time we may learn.

It does seem that the people who sat in darkness have begun at least to see light. Our next most urgent need is faith, faith in ourselves and, to be honest, faith in God. We need to remind ourselves that Providence which will not suffer us to be tempted beyond that which we are able may be relied on to limit equally our physical trials. We can catch glimpses of a rainbow of hope in the parable of the birds of the air that "neither sow nor do they reap or gather into barns," and yet they find food enough somehow, and time to exercise the blessed gift of song. We can find inspiration in pausing to consider the lilies of the field that labor not nor do they spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of them.

We are facing a time that may bring organized unrest. We can face it in the spirit of the timid and cowardly ready to turn tail and flee at the sound of the first stir in the brush. Or we can face it bravely and confidently. Trial is the real test of character. It is Waterloo and Valley Forge that fix names in history—not the eras of artificially stimulated prosperity about which there has been so much ballyhoo. There is nothing to be gained by taking a fearful prospect of what is ahead. Generally the anticipation is worse than the reality. Everything is to be gained by facing the situation squarely and resolutely and adapting our manner of

Time Always Tells

(Wakefield, Mass., Daily Item)

The advertising man of a chain store corporation that has a live store in Wakefield has just announced that he had cut his direct-mail movie advertisement in the several cities and towns where the firm operates, and will use newspaper advertising exclusively in the future.

The experiment was made over a period of several months.

Invariably this is the outcome of all experiments in retail trade advertising. The newspaper sits patiently and waits, knowing that it will be vindicated every time.

The only trouble with some merchants is the fact that they are not always satisfied to get stung once. They listen to the next high-pressure salesman who comes along and are among the first to sign up and write checks. Some of them would "pass out" at the thought of spending as much on newspaper advertising, yet LESS money would often buy several full or double pages and reach thousands instead of hundreds, and do it in the home where the newspaper is welcome and is read at a time when the reader is in a receptive mood.

Other modes of advertising have their uses, but if the average town merchant would put the same thought and money into getting his message into the home via the local paper he would often have less call to grumble about poor business and what he has "spent" for advertising.

Newspaper advertising money is not "spent"—it is INVESTED.

Loose Talk

(Ionia County News)

The other afternoon we were in conversation with a bank examiner and, quite naturally, the talk was concerning the closing of banks. Among other things, the examiner made one statement worthy of repeating. He said, "Do you know that more banks are closing because of loose talk and unwarranted hysteria than by any inherently unsound financial condition?"

That was a somewhat startling statement but it would appear carry considerable weight, coming from a non-partisan source as it did.

On the heels of the incident occurring in Ionia last Saturday morning a batch of rumors sprang up, and before night fall idle tongues had every banking institution in the county closed and half of the bank presidents and officials either hanging from convenient rafters or swooning away in gas filled bed rooms.

In this connection it has been our private observation that those people most seriously affected by circumstances of this kind generally remain silent and are prone to spew forth false reports, ill-advised and half-baked opinions; and that the false prophets are quite often those not even remotely connected with the institutions about which their wild tales are woven.

Crises of all kinds call for level-headedness, clear and sane thinking, and careful passing of judgment.

Government experts have a new method of analyzing the human breath in six minutes. Some vines can make a rough analysis in about two seconds.

Letters To The The Editor

Socialism

Editor of the "Enterprise," Farmington, Mich.

It is reported to me that people have been inquiring indirectly whether I am a socialist.

One person especially—director of a Farmington bank, and therefore a conservative in politics, and a hater of radicals—has found these inquiries embarrassing. To clear the air, and prevent further embarrassment of bank officials, may I attempt to answer these inquiries—directly and publicly—through the columns of the "Enterprise?"

Strictly speaking I am not a socialist—not a party member, and not in agreement with certain tendencies of the Socialist Party. In fact, I am too disgusted with politics to be a member of any political party.

What I admire about the radicals is the ideal for which they strive—the same ideal for which Jesus gave His life, and for which all true followers of Jesus should strive—righteousness, the brotherhood of man, the Cooperative Commonwealth. The ethics of socialism and the ethics of Jesus are identical. It may be illuminating to a few people to learn that I agree pretty well with the views of our Universalist minister, Dr. Frank D. Adams. It is true that I am a radical—and by "radical" I mean exactly what the etymology of the word implies, "to get to the roots" of things. Do not the present times require people who "get to the roots" of things, and eventually change things?

Radicals are misrepresented and maligned by the conservatives. Radicals are few in numbers—the conservatives are legion. It is a one-sided battle. The conservatives control the main avenues of public enlightenment—press, radio, cinema, church and school—which they use for two purposes: first, to indoctrinate the people with their traditions and dogmas; second, to create prejudice against radicals, misrepresent vital questions, and mislead the people generally by not letting them know that is going on behind the scenes.

The conservatives will tell you that socialists want to "get something for nothing." That is one of their stock arguments; and just the opposite of the plain truth! Socialists want every worker and farmer to get the full product for his labor. It is the conservatives themselves who "get something for nothing" in the shape of unearned income—profits, interest, and rent. Consider the capitalist system with its absentee ownership, inheritance of property, real estate speculation, stock market gambling—where will you find a more monstrous example of "getting something for nothing?"

Again the conservatives will tell you that socialists want to "divide up everything equally." Just the opposite of the truth! What socialists want is the collective ownership and democratic management of the means of production and distribution of the necessities of life. Yet this false idea of "dividing up" is commonly repeated even by educated people

WEST POINT PARK

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Woodworth and daughter Elaine were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Schneider of Dearborn.

Ruth and Evelyn May Heller were badly burned Monday by a pot of hot tea which was tipped over them.

Cleo Longbecker celebrated her eighth birthday Sunday and had as her guests, Geraldine and Doris Oulette, and Gloria Heichman.

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Gilmour of Farmington were guests Saturday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Oulette.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph K. Smith of Rosedale Park, Detroit, were the Sunday guests of Mrs. Margaret Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lyons of Detroit were the guests Friday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. James Eastman.

Mrs. A. Berchem was the guest the latter part of the week of her daughter, Mrs. Ervin Stoneburner, of Plymouth.

Mrs. William Zwahlen, daughter Shirley and Miss Lenna McCully of Farmington were guests Tuesday evening of Mrs. R. K. Smiths of Detroit.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Carrier and

wood, the past two weeks returned to their home at West Branch, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Rowe and family moved Saturday from Homer Colman's house on Arlington Ave. to Hughes Ave., Clarenceville.

A sports writer is one who gets paid for guessing on results and for explaining why he guessed wrong.

We may expect a lot of this dirty work in the coming presidential campaign. Everything possible will be done to stem the rising tide of radicalism. Business will be artificially and temporarily stimulated—to fool the fools who still have faith in the return of Republican prosperity. Prohibition will be played up as a smoke screen to hide the real issues at stake. The opponents of Hoover, including such progressives as Senators Norris, LaFollette Shipstead, and the rest, will be branded "Bolsheviks" and Reds. The Republicans are going to "see red" in the coming campaign—and it will be amusing if some of the Democrats are compelled to defend themselves against the insinuation of "Bolshevism."

But the common people are becoming disgusted with Republican ballyhoo. As Lincoln said, "You can fool some of the people all the time, and all the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." The people have been fooled long enough. Our problems will not be solved by Pollyanna optimism, by playing the ostrich act, by refusing to face the facts. As a student of political and economic affairs, I want the people to know the truth, and realize the danger of indifference, drifting, and doing nothing.

Thinking people know that something is fundamentally wrong with the existing system. Its contradictions, its breakdown, its tragic failure to perform the simplest functions of an economic system—namely, provide food, clothing, and shelter—is now glaringly evident even to the unthinking masses. Millions of working men through no fault of their own are denied the opportunity to earn an honest living. Let us study this crazy capitalist system and find out what is wrong with it. Then we shall see the folly of attempting to tinker and repair the old system, and realize the necessity—if we are to escape worse confusion, chaos, and disaster—of building a new political and economic system run on a non-profit, cooperative basis for the benefit of the people.

If any of my fellow citizens desire more information regarding my stand on political and economic questions, I would appreciate it if they would inquire directly or personally—and not seek their information from sources that may be prejudiced or ill-informed.

If you want to know the truth about socialism, ask a socialist, don't ask a conservative.

Before seeking anything else, seek the truth. By seeking the truth, all things else shall be added unto you.

Harley Gibson, Farmington, Mich. Sept. 15, 1931.

Dr. Joseph W. Norton
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