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We seek truth, that we may follow it.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1938

As Advertised

We don't know how Mr. Ickes took Senator Bailey's speech Friday, but we would suggest to Mr. Ferdinand Lundberg that he is deeply indebted to the Senator. As an advertising medium for books, the floor of the United States Senate is better than Harpers, Scribner's and the Atlantic Monthly combined.

We have not read Mr. Lundberg's "America's Sixty Families," and until Senator Bailey reviewed it so lividly upon yesterday, we had not intended to. Apparently the book is filled with variest tripe, such as that which attributes frequent bathing by the rich to a subconscious sense of guilt. We could wish that more people were less subconsciously smug; but it is books we're talking about, not bathing.

And we guess we shall have to read this Lundberg book, much as our time may be wasted, and we guess that thousands of other people all over the land feel the same way about it since Senator Bailey flung it across the Senate that day, calling it "garbage" and saying that its author was of a "diseased mind." Next time, Senator, don't waste such unpurchasable publicity on such trash. Attack the Harvard Classics.

Modernining Metaphors

Former Ambassador William E. Dodd appears to have mixed his history when he told his 200 friends in that exciting speech that Der Führer Hitler had killed in five years almost as many personal opponents as Charles II, King of England, slew in twenty.

Charles II (1630-1685) was the second son of Charles I (the one who lost his head). He was clever and crooked. He warred with the Netherlands. He had a pretty mistress named Nell Gwynn. But for acts of atrocity, look to James, Charles' brother and successor, the only one of the Stuarts whose intellect was on a parity with his morals. Also, he was intolerant of religion. Under him, Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys sat up the "Bloody Circuit," hanged 350 rebels, and burned Elizabeth Gaunt at Tyburn.

"This marble," said General Churchill, "is not harder than the king's heart."

But this was James, not Charles; and it was Charles with whom Dr. Dodd compared Adolf. And, after all, why not bring the analogy up to date? How, Doctor, in respect to Stalings, does Hitler rank with —

Lenin?
Stalin?
Chiang Kai-Shek?
Mussolini?
The Japanese militarists?
Trujillo?
The automobile?

When the Cat Grows Fat

One of the most astonishing frauds that has ever been detected was that of the Interior Department clerk and his non-existent CCC camp. Away in the Valley of the Shenandoah in Virginia he situated it, peopling it with quotas of fictitious young men, replacing them as their service was ended with other fictitious young men all of whom were sending money home every month to anxious parents. For three and a half years he kept it up, forging names, cashing them and destroying the copies that would have gone into the records, which were "months behind" in being posted. And all this time, Secretary Ickes' supersleuth Clavis was tapping the telephone wires of the department officials, eavesdropping and spying on everybody else.

How did he miss? That young man presumably is crooked, and that usually they are caught up with? That is obvious. But there is another which has more force contemporaneously, and it is that any organization which grows to such vast proportions that a mere departmental clerk can support at its expense a whole campful of non-existent persons without being caught in the act for three and a half years — is too vast for its own good. It is bound to lose touch with proportion, and to be unable to see over its great belly to the rat holes beneath.

More Like It

The favorable things we know about Stanley Reed, Solicitor General whom President Roosevelt has nominated for the Supreme Court vacancy, are that —

He is Kentucky born;

He is well educated in the law, even unto topping off his schooling in the Sorbonne;

He is, in the opinion of his associates, smart;

He is young as Supreme Court Justices go, being but 53;

He has no entangling alliances.

The unfavorable things we know about him are nil.

And it may be that as the nomination of Hugo Black was bad to begin with and grew worse as his background emerged into the light of public scrutiny, the nomination of Stanley Reed, which is good to begin with, will grow steadily more acceptable. At any rate, let us hope so.

Weep No More, My Ladies

He was only a hard rock miner of the Nevada hills, but he adored Marion Davies. Forty miles over rough desert roads he would drive to see her latest movie, back again that night dreaming of the beloved he had never known and humming snatches of songs that had come from lips which he never dared hope to kiss. And when he died, he left her his entire property, which was not considerable but was not inconsiderable, either, by other than Hollywood standards.

And it is sad, of course, and yet it is not so sad. Old James Branch Cabell has written many a pretty and somewhat naughty story on the delight of falling in love with a vision. They all have an unique attribute, which is perfection, like that lovely Mellor for the touch of whose little finger Florian would have torn his heart out and cast it at her feet. But when finally Florian schemed and plotted his way into the presence of his heart's desire — and what was better, when finally he married the heavenly creature — he discovered to his everlasting chagrin that he had duped himself, that she spoke in banalities, that she wanted comfort more than anything in the world, including Florian, and that her shining hair was not spider-spun, after all, but was largely the work of an artful ladies' maid.

But this old fellow of the Nevada hill country had no such crashing reality to jar his illusions, no inkling that his evening star was always careful to pose so that the camera caught her best features, and probably no knowledge that she was already a principal in one of the most brazen affairs of this age. He died still a-dreaming.

Note to the Bar

Today's news columns will show that there is going to be no dearth of candidates for the two judgeships that must be filled in the election this Fall. For judge of County Recorder's Court, a free-for-all is in prospect, whereas there will be at least two or more contenders for the place on the Superior Court bench that Judge Harding is vacating after a long and honorable career.

The men and women who make up the voters of this county have only slight knowledge of these candidates as individuals, and when it comes to their standing as lawyers and their qualifications for jurist, the great mass of voters are completely in the dark. In supplying this knowledge, the Mecklenburg Bar Association could be of inestimable service.

We do not mean that the association should pitch into local politics, though given a choice between an upstanding lawyer and a shyster it ought not to hesitate, but merely that it should certify as to the suitability, professionally and personally, of those who are suitable. By not certifying to any others, it would testify eloquently to their unfitness, and while that might bring the offended parties down on the association's neck, it would doubtless weather the storm and have made, meanwhile, a contribution to the integrity and the efficiency of the court system.

Business As Usual

Ham Fish has gone down from New York to Jersey City and added his name to those who have come out in support of Mayor Frank (I am the Works) Hague's policy anent the CIO. Wherefore we expect imminently to hear that the Dutch have landed at Amsterdam.

Mayor Hague, as everybody knows, takes the position that the CIO is made up of Communists, and that in order to protect Americanism against the Red Peril therein embodied, it is necessary to suspend the rights of free speech and free assembly guaranteed to all and sundry, including Communists, under the first section of that Bill of Rights which is an integral part of the Constitution of the United States. In other words, it is Mayor (I am the Works) Hague's position that in order to protect Americanism it is necessary to begin by destroying precisely those rights in which the essence of Americanism resides.

And that, to the iota, is exactly what the Hon. Ham has been arguing and laboring for in the Congress of the United States for the last twenty years.

GOOD MEN, TOUGH JOB

By HUGH S. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON.—The pleasant conference between the President and the five big shop industrialists is a step in the right direction. The three of the five who are known to me—Weir, Sloan and Chester—all are men of good will, and I am told the same is true about the others. In other words, there is no shadow-boxing about this visit so far as they are concerned.

It is not generally known but it is literally true that, back in 1933, there was no one in all industry more sincerely in line with the President's social objectives than Mr. Weir—certainly no one in the steel industry. It was a series of misunderstandings and errors that put him out in front in his fight with the Labor Board. In hearings before the first Labor Board, presided over by Senator Wagner, Mr. Weir's people appeared in a perfectly cooperative attitude, and rules for a labor election were worked out. On the eve of the election, and when there was no time to change, a subordinate of the board presented the National Steel Company with a set of rules inconsistent with those agreed upon with the board. Mr. Weir declined to change, held his election—and then the board disapproved it. The fat was in the fire. A fight started that is still going on.

Recession Makes Them Friends Again

But even that record has not changed Mr. Weir's eagerness to cooperate with his government in this war on depression — as he did in 1933. NRA, in the beginning, had no more sincere supporters than Mr. Weir and Mr. Sloan. It is refreshing to see these five men back at least offering to play ball.

It is an encouraging start, but it is no more than a start. The way ahead is long and hard and the problem full of prickles.

Conferences Put No Men To Work

In the first place, after all, these are just five individuals. They do not represent five industries. It is clear that no program has yet been discussed—just generalities. The great questions remain:

(1) Can some program of cooperation be worked out on which these men and government can agree? (2) If so, can these bellwethers get enough other prima donnas to support whatever is agreed?

That sounds simple but in practice it will prove to be one of the most difficult of jobs.

The first difficulty is that business has no responsible organization—not even big business. It is a kind of community of individual economic stars with all the pride, if not all the jealousy, of the Hollywood variety. The President's conferees will have the neat little job of tact and diplomacy of keeping all those ruffled feelings smoothed out and at the same time leading the hitherto united leaders on some new but predestined path of peace.

Predictions Of Thunder On The Left

On the other side, as soon as the President begins to play footie-footie under the table with these lately regained friends, all the professional business mistrusters among his retainers will begin jumping up and down along the wailing wall shrieking in anguish that he is "selling the people down."

The business baloney will have to recognize all the time that the President has a political problem, just as the President should constantly keep in mind that they have no organization, plus prima donna trouble.

It's a hard job but it's not an impossible job. And the President, plus the particular men who made the start, are about the best equipped people in the country to do it.

Legal, But Inadvisable

(Kansas City Star)

A Massachusetts judge rules that there is nothing in the law to prevent a man's criticizing his wife, but he carefully refrains from recommending it as a policy.

Changes By Presbyteries In Doctrines

Predestination Altered by Omitting Reference to Quotas of Lost and Saved.

Dear Sir:

Your excellent news columns sometimes omit the kernel of the story. In a recent account of a discussion of proposed changes in Presbyterian official doctrine, you did not say what those changes are. There is nothing secret about this proposal, and the details may be read in full in the 1937 minutes, available to the general public for $2.00 the copy.

It might interest you or your readers however to know just what changes are proposed in the "doctrine of predestination." The alterations in question were proposed by a committee consisting of the professors of theology in all the Southern Presbyterian seminaries; were unanimously agreed upon by this committee and sent to all Presbyteries by the General Assembly for discussion and vote of approval or disapproval as the case might be.

The principal changes in the statement of the doctrine of predestination, as proposed, leave intact some of the strongest affirmations of God's sovereignty, but obnit or soften some of the original propositions of the Westminster document. It is proposed to omit the following:

By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting death.

These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

It is proposed further to change the present statement, (III, vii):

The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, whereby He extendeth or withholdeth mercy as He pleaseth, for the glory of His sovereign power over His creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonour and wrath for their sin . . .

to read as follows:

The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of His own will, and in the exercise of His sovereign right, to pass by, and to leave them to the consequences of their sin . . .

Incidentally, it might be noted that Asheville Presbytery, of which the writer is a member, voted without a dissenting voice in favor of these and all the changes proposed by the Assembly's Committee.

KENNETH J. FOREMAN.
Department of Bible, Davidson College.

PRAISE FOR MERCY HOSPITAL AND ITS THOUGHTFUL SISTERS

Dear Sir:

I did not know Sister Benedicta, who died in Mercy Hospital this week, but I have no doubt your editorial tribute to her worth and fine qualities of character was well deserved.

Having spent three weeks in Mercy Hospital recently, I can testify to the unselfish service and fine devotion to duty on the part of the members of the order of Sisters of Mercy. They are ever solicitous and considerate of the comfort and well-being of the patients, and the day is not complete without a cordial "Good Night" and a wish for a peaceful and comfortable repose. And a cheery "Good Morning" did much to brighten the long hours of hospital life.

C. R. AUSTIN.

Charlotte.

Statesman at Work

(Billy Arthur, New Bern Tribune)

People who know personally Senator Reynolds will appreciate this note from the Congressional Record. I, for one, can see "Our Bob" putting it on.

The Senator was asked a question. Mr. Reynolds replied:

"I shall be very happy to answer the question to the satisfaction of the Senator from Wisconsin. In answer to the question addressed to me by my friend and honorable colleague, the able Senator from Wisconsin—"

Senator Duffy: "The Senator only has five minutes to answer." (Laughter).

Senator Reynolds: "I understand and I shall endeavor to make consumption of that five minutes by paying a glowing tribute to my friend from Wisconsin so he will be eminently satisfied with my answer."

Senator Schwellenbach: "Mr. President, does the Senator understand there are several others of us who would like to be satisfied as well?"

Senator Reynolds: "Quite so, and I shall be happy to satisfy them in the same manner and form."

The Same, in Any Case

(Mrs. Theo. B. Davis, Zebulon Record)

To those who have asked whether the word chitterlings was correctly spelled in this column recently, it should like to say that it was written—and printed—as given in the Webster-Merriam unabridged dictionary. Chitlings or chitlens is the local pronunciation. But however you spell it or pronounce it, the meaning and the smell are the same, and no definition of either is needed.

"THERE MUST BE A MATCH SOME WHERE!"

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ON THE RECORD

By DOROTHY THOMPSON

An Imaginary Interview

YESTERDAY MORNING Mr. Sloan Weirdler and Mr. John Llewelyn Legreen came together in the office of the President of the United States. Just how this interview was arranged is not clear. It seems that the President telegraphed to Mr. Weirdler to come down, and that his wire crossed with one from Mr. Weirdler, requesting an interview. Mr. Weirdler had also wired Mr. Legreen, requesting his presence, which was convenient, because Mr. Legreen had just made the same request of the President.

This reporter was present during part of the session and a partial stenographic report follows:

THE PRESIDENT: Well, boys, what can I do for you?

MR. WEIDLER: I'm not quite sure, Mr. President, but that isn't what I came down about. I came to ask the same question of you.

Nightmare In The White House

MR. LEGREEN: That's just my idea. What can we do for each other? You see, it looks like we're all in the same boat. I want to get higher wages and shorter hours for the men I represent, and better living conditions altogether. But I can't get any of them, if they haven't got any jobs at all. So I thought we might talk about that.

THE PRESIDENT: You've put your finger on just what's bothering me. The figures from the unemployment census keep me awake nights. Because just between you and me, that's what all the trouble in the world is about. All these class struggles, revolutionary movements, racial and minority persecutions

MR. WEIRDLER: And autocratic bureaucracies and regimentation . . .

THE PRESIDENT: All right; include them, too—but they are all the result of only one thing: competition between men for an insufficiency of jobs.

MR. LEGREEN: A man's got to live. His job is his own property, Mr. Weirdler. We're out to protect that property.

MR. WEIRDLER: I haven't got any quarrel with that, either.

MR. LEGREEN: Sure, but the moment there are a lot of us on the market, you begin cutting wages left and right.

MR. WEIRDLER: That's what the new organization that I represent is about. You see, we've had employers' organizations for a long time. They represent the profit-taking end of industry. Whether you were a big wig in the organization depended pretty much on what your annual turnover was. Well, we've decided that that is an old-fashioned point of view.

THE PRESIDENT: That's good news. I've always said if the good majority of business men weren't wagged by the tail of a wicked minority . . .

Neither Better Nor Worse Than We Know

MR. WEIRDLER: Do you awfully mind if we drop that good and bad business? You know, in my experience, I've found that human beings are pretty much alike, all of them. They're greedy, imitative, egoistic, amorous, aggressive, possessive, and like all vertebrate animals from the fish upward—if it is upward—they are grabbers.

MR. LEGREEN: Weirdler's right.

MR. WEIRDLER: And, meanwhile, all of us have one common aim: All of us, good and bad, wise and foolish—you and I, and Mr. Legreen here.

THE PRESIDENT: What's that?

MR. WEIRDLER: You tell him, Legreen.

MR. LEGREEN: We want to survive. We want to be survivors of this shipwreck.

MR. WEIRDLER: So, we have founded an Employers' Survivors' Association. We've begun by admitting to ourselves that profit-taking is just one part of modern industry. We've got three duties, those of us who are managers. One is to our stockholders, who ought to get a little more return from their risk than they get from municipal bonds. One is to the nation, for whom we run the industry; and one is to labor, who, together with us, makes the wheels go around. So we have founded this new Survivors' Association with these three ideas in mind. We are going to act some professional standards, sort of like the American College of Physicians. We're going to agree that all the members pay a certain minimum wage—we'll work that out with living cost indexes for different localities—and set maximum hours, and we'll work that out with you, Mr. Legreen, only its reasonable about it because you know what men really want is income, not leisure; and nobody can get into this society who employs anybody under the age of sixteen. Also no one can join who's opposed to independent trade unions. It's going to be an honor to join this organization

Blue Eagle In Brand New Form

THE PRESIDENT: Why, that's the old Blue Eagle stuff that I thought you didn't like . . .

MR. WEIRDLER: The difference is it isn't complicated and it's voluntary. And we're not going to set up any self-perpetuating mechanism to continue it. We're going to try it for a year and then at the end of the year see where we stand and whether it's gotten us anywhere.

MR. LEGREEN: Well, now that's very interesting. Because all of us trade unionists have gotten together and decided to form an All-American Federation of Trade Union Survivors. We decided that if we wanted to survive we'd better have the good will of the public so we're going to pass a rule that you can't call any strike without having a majority vote from every worker affected, and you can't call a sympathetic strike without a two-thirds vote. We've decided to expel from our membership any group or union that unilaterally breaks a contract honorably entered into, and we want you, Mr. President, to make the National Labor Relations Board into a judiciary body, a Labor Court with the rules a great deal clearer than they are at present. We're also going to make it a trade union offense wilfully to sabotage an industry, or to intimidate any worker into joining.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we should have a commission.

MR. LEGREEN: How would it be if we tried it without a commission. I mean—just tried it? And, meanwhile, kept things clear. And kept your various Cabinet officials off the air . . .

(At this point your reporter fainted so that I do not know the end of the conversation.)

Our Policy in the East

(New York Times)

To a resolution of the Senate, seeking light on certain aspects of American policy in the Far East, Secretary Hull has made a prompt reply, which now takes its place as a significant document in the record. The Senate wanted particularly to know how many Americans still remain in China, how much American money is invested in that country and how large an armed force is engaged in protecting American lives and property.

Mr. Hull gives a prompt answer to each of these three questions, and then strikes straight out for the purpose of meeting any possible implication that American troops have no business to be in China. He points out that while our nationals have been urged to withdraw in the face of present dangers, some six thousand of them remain in China, and that this number includes many who have gone to that country for purposes of education and philanthropy, as well as for purposes of entirely legitimate business. He points out that the small force of American troops in China is there by explicit treaty sanction of the Chinese Government. He points out that the maintenance of such forces for the protection of our interests in zones of special danger is the traditional and time-honored policy of the United States: that American gunboats have patrolled Chinese waters since the Eighteen Forties, that for more than seventy years we maintained a squadron in the Mediterranean for the protection of American citizens in that area, and that there are today three vessels in Spanish waters precisely for this purpose. He points out, finally, what must be clear to all who give the matter careful thought: "that a policy of abandoning American nationals in any one part of the world would have inevitable and serious repercussions adverse to the legitimate rights of Americans and the legitimate interests of this country in other parts, in most parts, of the world."

But Mr. Hull does not stop here. With a forthrightness and a sense of responsibility which are characteristic of him, he goes on to say that the interest and the concern of the American Government in the Far Eastern situation, or in any other foreign situation, cannot be measured merely by the number of American citizens residing in a particular country at a particular moment, or by the amount of American investments in that country, or by the volume of American trade with it. In carefully considered words Mr. Hull affirms: "There is a broader and much more fundamental interest—which is that orderly processes in international relationships be maintained. Referring expressly to the situation in the Far East, an area which contains approximately half the population of the world, the United States is deeply interested in supporting by peaceful means influences contributory to preservation and encouragement of orderly processes. This interest far transcends in importance the value of American trade with China or American investments in China; it transcends even the question of safeguarding the immediate welfare of American citizens in China."

In this direct and forceful statement is to be found the keynote of American foreign policy in the Far East. Our Government is a party to a definitive treaty which undertakes to lay the foundations of political security in the Orient, and it cannot fail to be deeply concerned by any breach of that covenant.