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And Evening Chronicle

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SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1930

Well Done

We Look Down At Men Like Ants And Find Them Great

Yesterday was such a day as few newspaper men go to see when bad time comes without being looked for.

The tragedy of the event here yesterday excited nobody from trying to cope with its various phases. And on such an occasion, we are up here in the ivory tower, buttressed with our books of philosophy and fortified by our feeling of detachment.

For all that — for the brave firemen and policemen who saved dozens of lives at the Guthrie fire, for the unknown private citizens who pitched in and tried to save the building, for the newspaper people who rounded up and speedily presented a complete report on the dead, the injured and the safe — for all these, this tribute. Well done.

Circle

An Argument Which Seems To Prove A White Too Much

Remarkable on the Guthrie fire State Fire Marshal Sherwood Brockwell yesterday among other things:

"The trouble with fires like this one is not that they are, but that they are not. The trouble with a fire that smokes smoke is that it is not a fire. It is a man who is crowding. He loses his self-control."

That hardly seems to fit with the facts about this fire. The universal report of the survivors, some of whom certainly did not lose their heads, is that the smoke in the halls was thick for the first 20 feet to get through it. Grant that they were mistaken — should they have attempted to run through it, anyhow? All the fire experts warn against precisely that. The reasonably clear fact seems to be that many persons on the third floor had good ground for supposing the stairs were clear far away to be reached through the smoke and flames — that they were trapped — and that it was this which produced the panic.

Carnival

Some Reflections Inspired By A Lamentable Action

At Washington, Pa. the jury drank up the evidence. Five men and seven women, they retired to the jury room to ponder the case of a man charged with transporting beer illegally, carrying the case of beer which was the evidence with the beer inside their skins to report a verdict of no guilt.

It was lamentable morally and judicially, and from all other viewpoints, north, east, south, and west, and straight up and straight down. As they themselves confessed by bowing their heads while the judge raked them over the coals with angry words. Far be it from us to defend them. The judge should have sent them to the hoose-gow to reflect on things.

trant luminary, and the blood of the earth was beginning to stir in its sleep. And at such times the human creature has always wanted to put cap and bells and jump his nose at a proper authority, to play the triska lion.

FBI Methods

They Should Be Examined With Strict Watchfulness

When Senators like Ellender of Louisiana and Pepper of Florida roar about the Federal Bureau of Investigation and call it a Gestapo, many people are inclined to shrug and charge it up to quip over its effective attacks on the crooked or shady machines which rule in those states.

But when Senator Norris comes forward with a similar charge, it puts another face on the matter. Norris charged that the FBI agents used third degree methods on the men arrested in Detroit for recruiting for the Spanish Loyalists — a purely technical offense, and demands a Senate investigation into the methods of the agency.

Perhaps it might not be a bad idea at that. A Federal Bureau of Investigation and the FBI, under his energetic direction, has rendered the nation great services. Nevertheless, he has before now shown, in his public utterances at least, that he suffers from a limitation common to nearly all politicians — a certain impatience with the loopholes in the law which, while they are often taken advantage of by known criminals, are necessary if the rights of the innocent are to be safe — an inclination to believe that the apprehension and conviction of all criminals is a good way to advance all other goods.

Phoney

But Chamberlain Is Not The Only Guilty Man

Mr. Hove-Belaha made a telling point when he pointed out that Chamberlain's defense of Britain's failure to come to Finland and aid in time to save her was only a technicality.

It is not true that, under the law of the League of Nations, Finland had first formally to present a request for aid against an aggressor so that Sweden, as a member of the League, could legally be forced to aid the victim. In fact, Chamberlain has shown before this that she knows well enough how to slash through the red tape of neutrality, to violate it boldly, when she has made up her mind that it is to her interest to do so.

But it hardly becomes us to be too self-righteous in this instance. The isolationists in the Congress of the United States, plus the rabby-wild champions of Finland, have been the little country as certainly as aid England's Government. As the loudest denouncer of aggression in the world, we were probably morally bound to aid the little nation effectually — had given her good reason to believe that she would, actually, we did nothing but stand around and make pious speeches and busily aid Russia by selling her war materials. You cannot neutralize power or evade its responsibilities. If you decline to use it for your friends, it inevitably aids your enemies.

Getting Mr. Mac

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON — The underground scandal of Washington which has been mentioned here and there as a sensation which this is in line with is going to Paul McNutt, Indiana, candidate for the Democratic nomination through its recent last investigations.

THEY HAVE GONE OVER HIM WITH A MICROSCOPE

These investigators — and this is not without reason — have been merely carrying out orders — have gone around Indiana, talking to various interested parties, to their friends and enemies of Mr. McNutt, asking them for the dirt, which has never been reported.

ARE THEY WAITING FOR CONVENTION TIME?

The editorial staff of a large national newspaper has been busy. McNutt is to be its guest at a luncheon discussion in the office of the Federal Reserve Bank, in a paper in which Mr. McNutt had been paid — a silly inquiry if there were any reason for it.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECEIVED ITS FIRST LEADS FROM A DISSEMINATED SOURCE

Technically, the Federal Government keeps up the pretense that this is a neutral investigation. The investigation is about as secret as Mr. Roosevelt's celebrated right to sniff out anything he likes.

WHOSE LIFT THE CAT?

St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Masculine solidarity scored a notable victory when the Supreme Court, after deciding that a defendant had exceeded his personal liberty when he had taken personal violence from the other.

Liberty Will Be Safe In Third Term

Dear Sir: I think President Roosevelt should run for a third term and get it, if the way is in Europe.

This Year's Easter-Egg Hunt

City Hall Topics



Letters to the Editor: Says Roosevelt Has Failed

Country Or City?

\$5 For Best Answer

The News announces a new letters-to-the-editor contest beginning immediately. Prize will again be \$5, with no second prize offered.

Why He Wants Mr. R. To Run Again

Dear Sir: I look back to 1923 when the situation here long Troum Street was crowded with people looking for work.

Two-Half-President Has Missed His Goal

In our opinion, Mr. Roosevelt should not run for a third term. We have agreed in almost every word about the problems that have arisen since the great crash of 1929.

Thinka Roosevelt Has Greatly Helped Poor

Dear Sir: I think Mr. Roosevelt ought to run for a third term. Because he has done more for the poor people and the United States than any President we have ever had in office.

Young Man

Notful Virginian-Pilot. Judging from press comment in the States, the young man is a pro-sloganer of Undersecretary of State Welles with unexceptionable accuracy.

Times Do Not Justify Breaking Tradition

I do not believe that President Roosevelt should seek a third term because to do so would set a dangerous precedent for future Presidents.

Repulsive Possibility

American citizen means more in these days of trouble, turbulence and terror than ever before and it is a heritage that you as young people should accept with grateful thanks.

Justice 30,000 Items in a Year's Time

Justice 30,000 items in a year's time is some shopping but that's what Drake Beauty City purchasing agent did in the last fiscal year.

Mother's 'Is Heizer

Dear Sir: I went on my first hog-killing the other day and I followed the advice of several people and put on two of everything in wearing apparel.

Visitin' Around

Dear Sir: I visited a member of the class and when I see a student at the school I see a man of the most fit man for the place, I will vote for him.