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GIVE NATURE A HAND

Charles V. Stanton

National Wildlife Week, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, is being observed this week. The theme of this year's observance is "Preserve Our Wetlands." While emphasis is being placed upon the abuse of marshes, bogs, potholes, meandered lakes and other such areas, the theme embraces the entire water resource. The United States, it is pointed out, once had some 120 million acres of wetlands. Fewer than 30 million acres remain.

Many millions of dollars were spent to drain wet areas. More millions are being spent today to replace them. Despite the fact that drainage in a great many instances proved a decided mistake, demand for drainage, under the guise of reclamation, still exists.

Mingo Swamp in Southeast Missouri was drained to produce agricultural land. The land proved unsatisfactory for farming purposes. The farmers went broke. Drainage district bonds were defaulted. The Fish and Wildlife Service, cooperating with state agencies, bought up the worthless land, plugged up the drainage ditches and restored the swamp. Similar large scale experiences involved Thief Lake in Minnesota and a part of the Everglades in Florida. These experiments wasted millions of taxpayer money.

More Drainage In Prospect

But despite these lessons, the Corps of Engineers has a program to destroy most of the natural sloughs, bayous and swamps of the lower Mississippi Valley.

Farmers throughout the country have been paid "conservation" subsidies to drain their swamp lands, while, at the same time, they are given federal help in construction of farm ponds.

As a result of this program wetlands in the Midwest, particularly in the Dakotas and Minnesota, have been drained at the rate of around 32,000 acres annually.

In a great many instances drainage has resulted in lowered water tables and creation of dustbowls.

Canada, too, has had experiences similar to those in the United States. Great acres of wetlands, breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl, were "reclaimed" at public expense. The land was found unfitted for agricultural purposes. Now an organization, known as "Ducks Unlimited," is spending millions to repair the damage.

Swamps, bogs, ponds, lakes, etc., have their place in maintaining the water table of the acres in which they are located. They are essential to Nature's processes. Man, attempting to improve on Nature, invariably makes a mess of things. Yet, in his stubbornness, he keeps on repeating the same mistakes.

Water Resource Renewable

Water is a renewable resource. But, like any other resource, it can be damaged and even destroyed, whereupon restoration becomes a long and expensive task.

Here in Western Oregon wetlands, in the form of marshes, bogs and ponds, do not create an issue such as is found in the Midwest and elsewhere throughout the country. But running water does provide us with a problem.

We continue to abuse our water resource. We are damaging and destroying watersheds. We are building our dams in the valleys, when they should be built in the mountains. We are filling our streams with filth and pollution. We are steadily increasing the rate of runoff in wet seasons, then crying about our streams running dry in summer.

As a result of our abuses, some municipalities are experiencing great difficulty in supplying water to growing populations. We are striving, as a state, to bring in more industry. Industry is the greatest user of water. But, while seeking industry, we continue to impair the resource upon which industry depends.

Water can be managed. It can be made to meet our needs. But it can be renewed only by following Nature's laws, not by contrary methods.

If we will study Nature's plan, giving her a helping hand, we can have a reasonable abundance of water. But it will take many years and a great many dollars to repair the damage we have done by our careless and stubborn ways.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Curbstone reflections of a Pavement Plato:

You have to give the Russians credit for one thing. They're consistent. Whenever they get hold of a creative idea that would really advance civilization, they drop it as if it were a radioactive potato.

The latest example is in the field of commuting. Although the Russians were late starters in this way of life, they came up with a strikingly novel conception.

In America your typical commuter lives in the country—or what he calls the country—and earns his living in the city.

In Russia a group of Soviet bureaucrats simply reversed this pattern. They lived in the city of Lyskov in the Ukraine. But their job was to supervise collective farms in the neighboring country-side.

They have been solving this problem by driving from home to work and back in government-owned cars.

What could be more sensible? It is an ideal life. The happy bureaucrat, cheered by an evening of culture and rest in the city, has plenty of time in his pleasant morning drive to the collective farm to think up new ways of making grain grow faster.

He spends the day outdoors, getting plenty of healthful fresh air and exercise, as he tells the collected peasants how to collect more crops. While his chauffeur spins him home at evening he has time to get in some more good hard solitary thinking, or even catch a quiet snooze before enjoy-

ing the stimulating life of the city.

But what has happened? Into this paradise of the bureaucrat, Pravda, the official Communist Party newspaper, has thrown a sour note. It sternly rebuked this joyous system of living as a "savage practice." It said these pleasant commuting trips were for "lovers of loafing trips." It wants the bureaucrats to move out and live on the collective farms they manage.

In the name of common sense, why? Being a bureaucrat in Russia is already an unhappy lot. He has to listen all day to the collected serfs moan and mumble about the government stealing all their crops. Would it make the bureaucrat any more efficient if he had to stay awake all night listening to rooster-crowing? What bureaucrat could feel safe anyway, knowing he was surrounded by discontented farmers?

If Pravda really is interested in building an efficient Utopia, why not let the serfs live in the cities and commute to the farms, just as the bureaucrats now do? Any one knows that a real farmer is glad to get back out on the land after a night spent in the wicked city. He'll work longer and harder

Reader Opinions

ROSEBURG — It has always been my opinion that the siren was put on emergency vehicles for the purpose of announcing their approach and of an emergency. It seems to me that this purpose has been badly abused by our city. We seem to want to use sirens for many and varied purposes. Must we drive through the city at excess speeds, sounding sirens and blowing horns for no other purpose than to announce the arrival of some dignitary or less? What is the reason for the excess speed? Let's put the siren back where it belongs. Let's use it for emergency only. How do we know whether the siren is announcing the "real thing" or just pretending? Let's not "cry wolf" when there is none.

L. B. VERTREES
1223 Princeton
Roseburg, Oregon

FDR Strong Man At Yalta Meet, Says Physician

CHICAGO — Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire, physician to the late President Roosevelt, asserted Wednesday that FDR was the "strong man" of the Big Three conference at Yalta in 1945.

McIntire denied in an interview reports that President Roosevelt was sick both mentally and physically during the war time meeting and therefore a pawn in the hands of the late Premier Stalin of Russia.

In Chicago to take over as the new executive director of the International College of Surgeons, McIntire said:

"President Roosevelt was completely responsible for his acts at Yalta. He was physically tired but as mentally alert as I had ever seen him."

He said FDR left the February 1945 conference with his aims accomplished: To bring Russia into the war against Japan, a promise that Russia would back Chiang Kai-Shek and full sovereignty for Poland.

What FDR didn't know then, McIntire added, was that he was "dealing with an ally who from the moment he signed the agreements had no intention of keeping them."

on the soil each day so that he won't have to spend so much time feeling city-cramped.

Obviously, the American commuting pattern would never work out in Russia. For one thing the Russians, hardy and sturdy as they are, simply lack the stamina and change of pace needed to meet the split-second, timetable schedule of a dyed-in-the-wool American commuter.

And besides, as every Soviet citizen has been taught by Pravda, they know the greedy American monopolists have forced American workmen to dwell in the suburbs only so they can get enough fresh air overnight to make them strong enough to stand up under the whip-lash of factory foremen in the cities the next day. Democratic Russian workers would rise and overthrow such a terrible oppression.

Pravda, if it had any real long time judgment of human nature, would let its happy commuting bureaucrats alone. But that's the way communism works. As soon as anybody under its system gets a good sound practical idea, they promptly knock it out of his head.

Whether a man is happy at his work is unimportant. The main thing is that he just be at his work—an don't let his head stick up.

The Greater Light

RELIGIOUS REVIVAL

H-TESTS

NEA Service, Inc.

Bruce Bissat

When the British Labor Party tossed fiery Aneurin Bevan out of its parliamentary councils as a prelude to full expulsion, it entered upon what may be the rockiest road it has traveled in many years.

Between now and October, 1956, Britain must hold another national election. Probably the Labor Party's chances of overturning the Conservatives were not very strong anyway, but certainly Bevan's ouster has further weakened its prospects.

For years the party has been torn by factional strife. Bevan, a left wing neutralist always loudly critical of America, gave the battle sharp focus in 1951 when he quit the then ruling Labor cabinet. What brought the issue to its present pass was his recent taunting public challenge of Clement Attlee, party leader and former prime minister.

Stung by Bevan's contempt, Attlee saw his own position imperiled. Never a strong leader, he often has met Bevan's powerful thrusts by compromise, by borrowing from his opponent's proposals in an effort to undercut him. But evidently he was convinced or pressured into accepting that he had to meet Bevan's newest defiance.

As it turns out, the narrow 141 to 112 vote for Bevan's ouster is no great help to Attlee. The feeling grows in political circles that the long quarrel has impaired his leadership seriously, and that soon he must yield the reins to another, probably Herbert Morrison.

Whether or not Attlee hangs on, his party's immediate future has dimmed. Among the party membership in Parliament, Bevan has a considerable personal following which is unlikely to be easily reconciled.

Even a good many Labor right wingers were reluctant to cast him out. They were not thinking only of his House of Commons following or his hold on some parts of the British public, enhanced by his flair for oratory. They remember he was expelled once before, in 1933, and came back to gain greater stature than ever. It could happen again, and there could be reprisals against those who voted to oust him.

On the other hand, some Laborites see the move as a healthy gain, arguing that Bevan's general wildness and especially his rash outlook on foreign affairs have driven thousands away from Labor's banner.

If there is to be a beneficial result, it will hardly be quickly felt. British citizens may well conclude that a party so badly shattered is not a fit instrument for governing.

The Labor Party's distress is naturally the ruling Conservative Party's opportunity. But it's an open question whether Prime Minister Churchill will call an early election to take advantage of the split. Some say it's better to wait for a time more favorable to the Conservatives' program, for Labor's internal troubles seem destined to go on so long as Bevan has the voice to attract a following. And his vocal cords are reported to be in excellent condition.

Dulles Thinks Red China Offers More Peril Than Soviet

NEW YORK — Secretary of State Dulles said here that the tactics of Chinese Communist leaders "may prove more dangerous and provocative of war than those of the Russian Soviets."

Dulles addressed the Advertising Club of New York.

He said the "aggressive fanaticism of the Chinese Communist leaders" bears "a certain parallel to that of Hitler."

Declaring that Chinese Red leaders are "dirty with success," Dulles distinguished between their methods and those of the Russians.

"The temperament of the Chinese Communists is different," he said, "and while in the long run the Soviet method may prove more formidable, yet in the short run, the Chinese Communist method may prove more dangerous and provocative of war."

Dulles said that while he drew a somber picture of the Chinese Communists, "it is by no means a hopeless one," adding:

"With national unity under the calm and strong leadership of President Eisenhower, I remain hopeful that peace will yet prevail."

Representative Given Right To End Judge Work

SALEM — State Rep. Joan L. Lewis, Portland, who served as temporary circuit judge in Multnomah County in November and December, can wind up her judicial work. Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Thornton ruled this week.

She asked Thornton if she could make three rulings on cases she heard.

Thornton told her to go ahead, as it wouldn't conflict with the constitutional provision that no person can serve in two different branches of the government.

Springfield Council Hires Former Manager

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. — The City Council named a new city manager this week over the protest of Mayor Edward C. Harms, who said the council had made no serious attempt to find a qualified man.

The council voted to hire H. C. Hamilton, 63, grocery store operator of the Cottage Grove area who previously served as Springfield city manager for a nine-month period in 1950.

He succeeds in the \$7,200 yearly job L. B. Bartlett, who resigned to become Lane County roads administrator April 1. The council decided to put Bartlett on vacation, and have Hamilton take over the job at once.

McNary Dam Lake Name Gets Committee Okay

SALEM — A memorial asking Congress to name the lake behind McNary Dam after the late E. B. Aldrich was approved here by the House State and Federal Affairs Committee.

Aldrich, who was publisher of the Pendleton East Oregonian, is considered by many the father of McNary Dam, having been one of the original supporters of the project.

Arrangements Being Made For Canyon Dam Hearing

by JOHN KAMPS

WASHINGTON — Arrangements for hearings in the Pacific Northwest on Hells Canyon Dam legislation will be completed in the field, Senate Interior Committee members said Wednesday.

Subcommittee sessions on a bill to authorize a federal dam in the Hells Canyon reach of the Snake River between Idaho and Oregon have been scheduled for Boise and Lewiston, Idaho, April 4; Pasco, Wash., April 5, and Portland, Ore., April 6.

The Idaho Power Co. has asked the Federal Power Commission for license to construct three dams in the same area.

Sen. Murray (D-Mont), Interior Committee chairman, said M. C. Moxes Jr. of the committee staff will be available for consultation with prospective witnesses at the Boise Hotel March 28, at the Lewis and Clark Hotel, Lewiston, March 29, at the Pasco Hotel, March 30-31, and at the Roosevelt Hotel, Portland, April 1-2.

Sen. Anderson (D-NM), who will preside at the hearings as chairman of the irrigation-reclamation subcommittee, said: "These field hearings are intended primarily to give the people and organizations of the area an opportunity to be heard without the necessity of a trip to Washington."

"It is not the intent of the committee to take technical testimony at this time. It is obvious that the limited time available in each city will seriously restrict the amount of time which can be allowed any single witness, but supplementary statements will be accepted for the record."

Several members of the House Interior Committee plan to sit in on the Senate committee hearings. Hells Canyon bills similar to the Senate measure have been offered in the House.

Rep. Engle (D-Calif), House Interior Committee chairman, has said he will authorize interested members of his committee to attend the hearings. He said in a memorandum to members:

"It should be understood that this is not a House committee hearing, or a joint hearing in the formal sense... the selection of the places for the hearings and the number and order of witnesses to be called will be determined by the Senate committee."

"I am making this clear because, as chairman of our committee, I do not wish to take the responsibility for setting the hearings, the places selected... or for the management of the hearings."

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