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ONE MISTAKE WE CAN AVOID

At the conclusion of the first world war, most of the world emerged with one thought, uppermost and this was peace at any price. And while history has repeated itself in a number of instances during the two wars and in the period immediately following, we believe the average American suffers no illusion as to the present threat of Russia. Perhaps it's not good psychology to talk too much of war, on the other hand we should not shut our eyes to the possibilities.

Reports from the Paris peace conference on foreign affairs are disturbing. The inside report is that Russian leaders do not think they can get along with the western democracies, regardless of the concessions we make. These leaders think along the same line as Hitler and Mussolini to the effect that it isn't possible to go along with nations who believe in Christianity and individual freedom.

Russia, however, is in no position to make war now.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

The essence of Christianity is the importance of the individual. And that doctrine has been the foundation in law of all nations whose material progress has been greatest.

The first real step forward in individual freedom was the Magna Carta, which has deeply colored the history of the world. Its most perfect expression is found in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States which carried the ideal of freedom a vast distance further. These documents say, in effect, that man as an individual, as a person, is important and that he has certain fundamental and eternal rights which cannot be abrogated by men in the mass as represented by the state.

It is not coincidental that governments based on the theory that the state is all important and the individual unimportant have inevitably destroyed or submerged religion and Christianity. For this kind of government must turn itself into a fake religion. Its goals are wholly material. Hitler knew that when he scoffed at Christianity and said that the ideal of Nazism was the one true deity for the German people. Lenin knew it, when he said that Christianity was the opium of the people.

Our government was based on a spiritual concept, not a material concept. Yet unprecedented material progress has been made here. The reasons are plain. The man who is individually important as a citizen is the man who becomes economically important as a worker. He is the thinking man, the doing man. He is the antithesis of the regimented man.

The great lesson of history is that all institutions—religion, industry, the arts and crafts—must remain free or none will remain free. There can be no compromise with oppression, no matter what form it may take. Government domination of the individual or business is slavery. The basic idea upon which our free enterprise systems rests is the Christian philosophy—the importance of the individual.

GIVE US—

Give us an hour to relax again,
Feminine forms out of slacks again,
Taxes returned to their former rates,
Bacon to sizzle on breakfast plates.
Give us the sugar to heap our spoons,
Elastic for girdles and pantaloons,
Trains slightly cleaner and not so jammed,
Sandwiches properly cheese and hammed,
Five-cent cigars of a standard make,
Fishes from canneries, T-bone steak,
Soap for the needy, some almond bars,
Oil for our burners and tires for cars,
Give us in place of what might enthrall us,
Jobs as were promised by Henry Wallace,
Wars are now over so pull the curtain;
Everyone's busily reconvertin';
Science is off on a dozen jaunts,
Paying no heed to our humble wants.

—Wm. W. Pratt.

There is a tribe in Africa which limits orators to just what time they can stand on one foot. And they call Africa the "Dark Continent!"

HOW TO CURE A GROUCH

The human nature in all of us says "Put them all in an enclosure for the rest of their lives." But there is another cure as the cheerful philosopher who talks to the radio fans says: "Tell one funny story to somebody every day." That would be a drastic cure for the home grouch, and we would like to be present to note the family reaction. No, he had better start practicing on the strangers he meets.

We believe the cure can be spelled very simply in one word of two syllables. Cross words in their worst significance are solved with this one key word which is "laughter."

Laughter lifts the lungs, chases clouds from the brain, shows sorrow the door with an invitation to close it from the outside. Laughter indicates intelligence. Man stands alone in the animal world as the only one that laughs for joy. Monkeys chatter, hogs grunt, dogs bark, wolves howl, snakes hiss, and the mule brays—but man alone laughs. One of the most solemn animals in the world is the mule. He looks sorrowful; he has a bad eye and wicked heels. His joy is to hurt somebody or something. His demoniac bray shatters the peace of the air. He is a typical grouch. There are others, like hogs or coyotes; they grunt and bark as does the human grouch.

Because of these traits, they are animals—alike in one thing, disliked of all things around them. Their antithesis, the man or woman who laughs and makes others laugh, is a blessing to all.

It is easy to make people cry. Even an onion can do that. Don't belong to the onion or mule club. Develop a sense of humor. Look for the fun in life.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you,
Weep and you weep alone."

The men and women who can make us laugh are a boon to society. Every door is open to them. Everybody welcomes them.

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PARDNER - THERE'S GREEN GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS!



THOUGHTLETS

By Carl B. Balch

We have often wondered why Russia has refused to sign the Bretton Woods agreement.

Selfishness and Suspicion are the most sinister figures at the Paris peace table. And what is more, they speak more than one language.

A recent radio speaker quoted Roger Babson as saying "The settlers came to South America to hunt gold. The settlers came to North America to hunt God."

The right of minorities should be respected but minorities should have no privileges the majorities do not have.

Religion is of doubtful value if it does not meet our every day needs.

This is being written on the first anniversary of the surrender of Japan. In twelve months after this event, there is no celebration of the event because the unsettled condition of the world leaves the public too disheartened to celebrate.

When you suspect your neighbor over your back fence, your neighbor suspects you. Then every innocent act of each neighbor becomes an overt act. That is the way the nations of the world act.

Perhaps the rumor you heard this morning was untrue. Be sure of its accuracy before you repeat it.

Flatfish

The eyes of the flatfish are both on the same side of its head and can be turned independently in different directions so that one eye sometimes looks forward while the other looks backward, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. The eyes of a very young flatfish are on either side of its head, but as the fish grows older, one eye gradually moves over the top of the head to the other side and the fish begins swimming on its side, with the eyes facing upward. Many flatfish can change their color to resemble the ground on which they lie, provided they can see it first.

Cereal Feed

In the past, livestock provided the only market for approximately three-fourths of our cereal grain production in the United States.

Wages and Salaries

Wages and salaries in 1939-41 constituted 62.6 per cent of national income. In 1942-44 they were 62.4 per cent.

Water Power

Less than 10 per cent of the potential water power of the world has been developed. The world's water power potential at ordinary low water amounts to 671,000,000 horsepower, of which only 63,508,000 has been developed. The potential water power of Africa alone is nearly equal to that of any other three continents combined, yet less than seven ten-thousandths of 1 per cent has been developed.

Lamp vacuum

The amount of air left inside newly-manufactured vacuum lamps is less than .00007 of normal atmospheric pressure, but still too much for good lamp performance. To effect a better vacuum, engineers drop a special chemical substance known as a "getter" on lamp filaments during fabrication. When the lamp is lighted, the getter vaporizes, forming a "broom-like" gas which sweeps the bulb clean of undesirable gases and fastens them on the bulb's surface permanently.

Conservation Aid

Under the provisions of the Robertson-Pittman act, excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition are earmarked for wildlife restoration, but may only be expended after they have been appropriated by congress. They are then allocated to the states through a formula based on geographic area and number of licensed hunters. The various states must then add one-third to the amounts allocated to them, after which the total may be used for projects which have been approved by the fish and wildlife service.

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Canning Chickens

Food specialists of the department of agriculture say you may take your choice when it comes to canning chicken with bones in or cutting them out. They say that both glass jars and tin cans (when you can find the tin cans) make satisfactory containers. But when it comes to processing the chicken—as any other meat—there is only one safe method and that's the steam pressure canner. No alternate choice is recommended.

Yellowstone Geysers

There are about 100 geysers in Yellowstone national park as well as more than 3,000 non-eruptive hot springs, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Although geysers are active in many volcanic regions, they attain their highest development in Iceland, New Zealand and Yellowstone. "Geyser" is an Icelandic word meaning "gusher" or "rager."

Historic Accident

The battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the Civil war, was really an accident. Lee had intended to concentrate his forces at Cash-town and although Meade had a cavalry division in Gettysburg, he had no intention of holding the town. The opposing forces happened to come into contact when a Confederate brigade was sent to Gettysburg to get a supply of shoes.

Two Strikes!

A batter in baseball has virtually "two strikes" against him on dark days because the eye "takes pictures" more slowly when the amount of light is increased. Like the camera, the eye records images upside down but, the human mind unscrambles that by making images appear as they are.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12.

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I look on that man as happy, who, when there is question of success, looks into his work for a reply.—Emerson.

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