

It takes as long to worry
as to work.

Herbert Kaufman's Weekly Page

Hardship is generally a
disguised argosy of hope.

Another View of It

By Herbert Kaufman

Obstacles challenge and stimulate resource. The more difficulties we encounter, the sharper we think.

When loads grow onerous, their bearers are forced to consider methods to lighten the burden.

Shortage spurs experiment. We found most of the valuable materials in general use after losing formerly adequate supplies of other things. It's human nature to utilize the handiest stores.

Had population never exceeded sustenance, we'd probably still be eating the fruit and garden truck of Eden.

War performs a distinct service to economics. The displacements invariably associated with extensive conflicts urge the survivors to dream and strive harder.

Penury and privation are gruff benefactors but, none-the-less, friends of humanity.

The Old World will recoup its losses at a speed which might not have been attained for decades, had not the exigencies of disaster lashed the Continent to endeavors unprecedented on this earth.

Engines of every sort—automatic contrivances which will substitute for the labor of missing millions—reclamation projects scaled beyond previous concept—artificial limbs so cunning that crippled myriads will be salvaged for self-support—are already in preparation and will be followed year after year by more marvelous efficiencies.

Civilization will rise from the ruin purified, energized and vibrant with implacable determinations.

A new type of mind will dominate trade and science. The old order has forever passed.

Credos and castes, privileges and restrictions have been fluxed in a crucible of patriotism—all ranks beaten to a general level.

Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, hind and landlord, merchant and philosopher, chemist and financier have found common denominators in the trenches and will return to their positions and occupations marked by experiences which have taught more than revolution ever sought.

Ten million men divided by peace have been welded by war; have traded ideas, compared notes and prodigiously enriched the community brain.

The wholesale killing of males has so upset the balance between the sexes that multitudes of women whose ancestors never married outside their own spheres, must seek husbands among peasants and workingmen.

The melting pot of matrimony will alloy intensive intellectual strains with sturdy vigorous stocks.

Progress is a ruthless chemist and often makes us pay a horrid price for her experiments.

But however much we suffer in the processes of evolution, Time regularly demonstrates that the end justified the means.

While it does seem that no possible benefit can compensate for such squandering of lives and wrecking of utilities, succeeding generations may trace their greatest endowments to this awful hour.

We demean Tomorrow in estimating her potentialities by Today's competence. Invention keeps pace with necessity. Man has never yet failed to offset his setbacks.

Help Wanted

ONE of America's leading railroads, which constantly exploits its efficiency through newspaper and periodical advertising, menu backs, pamphlets, etc., requires the immediate services of a man whose sense of proportion will lead him to an investigation of inaccuracies and inadequacies at present disregarded by the management.

He will find fertile ground for the display of thoroughness among the timetables of the system, many of which demand clarification upon such decidedly important points as through trains. Travelers now desiring to reach their destinations, without change of cars, cannot discover from the company's literature where and at what hour they will be dumped off with loads of hand luggage to await connections.

Surely there exists an individual of sufficient genius to correct this asinine production of schedules.

We likewise dare to hope, that among the hundred million citizens of this Republic, there will yet be found a master mind which will solve the problem of synchronizing the clocks in the home terminal of the road.

Three different timepieces were recently noted in the trainshed, each of which varied from the others by several minutes.

We continue to be a helter-skelter people. Exactness is not an American trait. Opportunities for wide-awake employes exist and persist wherever we look—provided we think and look at the same time.

If the "most efficient" enterprise on the continent can't make proper timetables or keep its clocks straight, one shudders to think of the bungles and blunders which must characterize lesser businesses.

There are always chances to improve everything—take one of them.

The Scarlet Letter

WE'LL call her Mary Smith—you'd call her a bad girl. Two years ago she made a mistake—the mistake. Vanity, misplaced faith, ignorance, poverty or recklessness led her astray. At any rate, she did not understand what the future held in store. Now she knows the implacable conditions along the Primrose Path. Her future is without a vestige of hope; the longer she lives, the worse her lot. They soon grow wise in her sphere; the "old ones" are bitter with experience and example. The night has taught her all the hideous truths that neglectful parents fail to impress. She has a sense of values; an appreciation of respectability and home and the decencies which only suffering and humiliation can possibly establish. But she's afraid of something even more intolerable than the streets—contempt.

That's why Mary Smith hasn't come home. Society won't believe in her regeneration. Of the two degradations, she'd rather keep on being the Scarlet Woman among strangers than wear the Scarlet Letter among her own people.

Think it over.

Guineas and Sixpences

CONFIDENCE demands evidence. Governments can borrow at 3 per cent; they represent stability and permanence.

If the very shrewd man who once stood upon London bridge and futilely offered to sell a guinea for a sixpence, had agreed to remain in the custody of a policeman until the piece was tested, the first passerby with the price in his pocket would have bought the coin.

His guarantee didn't count because he couldn't warrant his own reliability. We seldom trust strangers, no matter how alluring their propositions. Bitterly bought experience teaches that they who promise the most usually deliver the least.

Exaggeration and phrase extravagance are the hall-marks of fraud. Responsibility weighs its words—it must pay so heavily for them. Folks aren't accustomed to five-dollar gold pieces for silver sixpences—the sixpence isn't worth that much.

Profit and Prejudice

LOADED scales can't measure fairly. The men we dislike are always better than our opinions of them. Personality properly determines social preferences, but performance alone is the arbiter of competence.

When prejudice intrudes upon trade, profit shudders.

V VERSES by Herbert Kaufman



The price you set
Is the price you'll get,
Provided our terms are fairly
met.

And your wage will rise if your
powers grow,
As it's bound to fall with the
bluffs you throw;

For we will not pay more than
you essay.

The world doesn't measure re-
wards that way.

It's the things you do,
It's the jobs shoved through,
That give us the accurate value
of you.

When your income's short
Of the sum you thought
To have, you can bet that you
never fought
As hard as you could or as much
as you ought.

Vim Vigor Victory

Your Vote

HOW many times have you intelligently exercised the franchise of citizenship? Have you any real political convictions? Or are you one of too many haphazard voters without a definite conception of the policies you support?

Could you hold your own in a party debate? Are you sufficiently posted on the facts and figures relating to half the planks in the platform you intend to uphold?

Old labels mean nothing in new situations. The Nation has a different batch of problems at each election. Will you enter the polls without a full understanding of the happenings of the last four years and the probabilities of the next four?

Elements which never before entered American calculations complicate both domestic and foreign relations.

We shall proceed uninterruptedly with our plans or face crises of immeasurable danger according to the wisdom with which we choose the men whose wills and purposes control the decisions at Washington.

Listen to what both sides have to say and make honest comparison before you make up your mind.

Think as hard and as clearly for our common business as you do about your private activities. One is at stake with the other. We can't suffer as a people and prosper individually.

The very selfishness that refuses definite participation in this campaign still more strongly urges active assistance in the election of the ablest and most honorable candidates.

To vote without reason is a form of treason. Whoever furthers the advantage of forces inimical to National honor and security has betrayed the trust of liberty.

If you won't give the time to learn what is best for your country, you deserve the worst that can happen to you and your interests.

With several million foreign-born and uninformed citizens blindly obeying padrones, bosses and heelers, your vote and your voice do count.