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TOMMYROT BY THE TIRESOME TOMMYROTTERS

A lot of tommyrot comes, these days, to the desks of the over-worked newspaper editors.

It is enough to make one cynical; if one were built that way, and his digestion were not good.

Here comes a lawyer fellow, H. R. Spencer, of Spencer & Spencer, Duluth, Minn., who has dug up all the things that were said by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson about "entangling alliances" and such, and has had all the stuff printed on perfectly good paper (and such paper is high these days), and has sent a barrel of money for postage stamps and clerk hire, and sent the whole batch to the newspapers everywhere, "for publication," free of charge, saying that "no compensation is desired, other than the public good."

This lawyer man yept Spencer of Duluth takes himself too d—seriously.

Or, rather, he takes too seriously what was said by a couple of good men around a hundred and thirty years ago.

Said at a time when this was a nation of about three millions of people.

Said when this world was a different world.

This lawyer gink of Duluth might as profitably employ his time digging up what the wise ones said when Copernicus had discovered the movement of the planets.

Or when Jesus taught the brotherhood of man, and thus made the world sure for democracy that has now been made safe for democracy.

Or when Fulton discovered the power of steam.

Or when Edison applied the uses of electricity in a hundred ways.

Or when Mergenthaler invented a machine that could think—the linotype.

Or when the Wrights conquered the air.

From the lowly Nazarene on down through the ages, the wise guys have crucified the men who stood for progress; banished them; burned them at the stake.

This Duluth lawyer man would take the United States back a hundred and thirty-odd years, when a League of Nations would have been an iridescent dream.

But he can't do it.

The world has moved up a lot of notches.

It has come to a time when a League of Nations is the only logical and sensible and possible thing to fit the world of this day.

And all the tommyrot of the tiresome tommyrotters with bats in their belfries and eyes in the backs of their noodles cannot change the trend of events any more than they could stop the onrush of a flooding ocean tide by expectorating in the surf.

And thank God that it is so. So let 'em spit.

Under supervision of Brigadier General C. R. Boyd, the Salvation Army has re-opened its recreation camps on the California beaches for the benefit of mothers and children who are financially unable to take a summer outing. The guests at the camps are provided with everything free of charge and scores of California people are donating their automobiles to transport the women and children to the beaches. This relief work was suspended during the war, but it is resumed this summer. Within one or two years, or at the most three or four years, it will be possible for such work to be carried on here. For instance, the Tillamook beaches will soon be within four hours of Salem, with paved roads all the way—and nearer in time to all the west side country. And there will be enough automobiles to guarantee the success of such work here—enough automobiles and enough owners of automobiles with the true Christian spirit of service; which is what we are all here in this world for—if we deserve the room we take up in this world.

Salem Chautauqua next week.

It will be a great Chautauqua.

Bryan, Miss Tarbell, Private Peet, and other headliners in Salem Chautauqua next week.

Speaking of shrinkin' dispositions—there is the purchasing price of the American dollar.

Secretary Lansing has sailed for home; but as long as Col. House is on the job in Paris the earth will not tip up.

Postmaster-General Burleson is still doing the "boy-on-the-burning-deck" stunt. It is quite evident that the president is standing by him.

Belgium is "coming back." She is forming a great steel trust, a merger of all her 12 big steel companies.

No, Geraldine, Ireland was not admitted to the league of nations. David Lloyd George saw to that.—Exchange.

Mexico is to be on the carpet; a congressional committee to begin hearings next week. It is bound to lead to intervention—complete or partial.

The records show that during 1915 there were 63 colored persons lynched. Indicating that while we sent 2,000,000 men abroad to make the world safe for democracy, we

neglected to make it safe here at home.

Brand Whitlock has been named as ambassador to Italy. Whitlock was minister to Belgium at the breaking out of the war and made a glorious record.

Under the army reorganization plans a number of generals will drop as low as captains—which is not a knock on the proposed arrangement; by any means.

Fifteen soldiers were sent home from France because their feet were so big no army shoes could be found for them. They have probably become policemen in this country.

Samuel Gompers told Londoners yesterday that "it is all rot to think you can compel a country to be dry." Gompers is affected with dry rot. He is a back number. He is talking through his hat.

THE ENEMY.

In the first paragraph of the preface of the I. W. W. Bible appears the ridiculous statement that the laboring man has nothing in common with his employer.

That sophistry alone is enough to condemn the teachings of the radicals, who would persuade the laborers that they belong to one "class" while their employers belong to another.

The thoughtful, independent workman knows that in the rendering of honest service he is working for the best interests of himself, of his employer (who is also a laborer) and of society at large.

That occasional injustice is done both in the ranks of employers and

neglected to make it safe here at home.

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the employed—there is no question; but the one lesson which the history of free America teaches more obviously than any other is that all success is based on co-operation.

No organization, industrial, religious or political, can succeed unless the majority of its members realize and practice this fundamental principle.

There is no such thing as a "class struggle" in America; and the few violent agitators who are always advocates of violence that are attempting to create such a struggle, should be treated as enemies of the commonwealth.

They have no rightful place in the United States and should be deprived of their citizenship—or, better still, deported to Russia where their doctrines are popular and where they would feel at home.

Today the greatest enemy of America is not the German in Germany, nor the German spy in the United States, but the un-American citizen of America.

HAVING THE PRICE.

With the profits of his plant now running along at the rate of \$6,000,000 a month Henry Ford can soon afford to run his libel suit permanently—with occasional vacations on full pay for all the lawyers and court employees.

THIS WHEAT BUY AND BUY

The government risked a billion dollars in order to guarantee the farmers a price of \$2.26 a bushel for their wheat. Now that it appears that the administration is a few millions ahead on the deal, many of the farmers of the middle west are demanding that the guarantee be withdrawn.

They declare that this price-fixing has kept wheat down and that they would get more money for their crop in the open market.

If anybody had said ten years ago that American farmers would be getting better than two dollars for their wheat in the face of the greatest crop in history he would have been pointed out as crazy. Now that the millers and bakers are also making good profits even at the advanced price of the grain the farmers are asking for a larger share.

They think they could get it if the government kept out of the game. Ordinarily the administration should be glad to relieve itself of this billion-dollar responsibility and leave the wheat price in the keeping of the good old law of supply and demand.

The fact that other grains, such as corn, rye and barley, are proportionately higher than wheat gives the wheat farmers the feeling that they are missing something. Naturally they blame the government and of course it must be this guarantee fund which stabilizes the price. If they really insist on the withdrawal of the guarantee they will doubtless be accommodated. Congress has always responded kindly to the call of the farm, although the farmer has been reluctant to admit it. If the farmer is to get more than \$2.26 for his wheat the price of bread can never be reduced. However, congress doesn't care a whole lot for the consumer. Should the guarantee be withdrawn and the wheat price fall when a bumper crop was put on the market congress would probably be called upon to create a relief commission to handle the situation. The farmer must have gasoline for his touring car.

A MORE HOPEFUL VIEW.

The pessimists are abroad in the land. It is impossible to take up a newspaper now without reading about crises, conflicts and contentions. Politicians, newspaper correspondents and financiers seem to have combined in a chorus of woe.

It is pleasant to find in this desert of doubt and dispute an oasis of brightness.

Frank G. Crowell of Kansas City, vice president of the United States Grain corporation, has returned from a visit to Europe convinced that economic conditions there are not half as bad as some others have painted.

Mr. Crowell is not only cheerful, but definite.

He bids us believe that by the middle of next year Europe will be again upon its feet economically and that the burden of reconstruction over there is not going to fall as heavily upon America "as many expressions of views have suggested."

Unlike others who find grief everywhere across the Atlantic, Mr. Crowell sees much sunshine. France, he says, is moving along wonderfully; in Germany the food situation has been greatly relieved; Vienna has come to a living basis; in Holland the outlook is optimistic, and even Belgium "is rounding into form."

In addition Mr. Crowell thinks that the end of Bolshevism is near.

He states that "when Russia learns that plenty of food is available and takes notice of the fact that Finland and the Baltic countries are receiving it, that will be the greatest incentive possible for a break in the present condition of affairs."

The Kansas City man deserves thanks for his words of good cheer. Why be a pessimist?

FATHERING FUTURE CITIZENS

The good ship George Washington has been fitted up as a nursery to take care of the 200 war-bridges and war babies scheduled to sail soon from France to America.

The American Red Cross, at the request of Dr. A. G. Ricker, the ship's surgeon, has provided the vessel with all requisites for infants' comfort.

Was George Washington the father of his country? We'll say he was.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Next, the Chautauqua.

Weather, just about right.

The loganberry season is just about at its height now.

The cost of living has been reduced by half in Belgium, and by one-fourth in England, but not at all in France, according to a Paris report. The people of the United States are in the same boat in this respect with the French.

In Montana, 1700 Oregon sheep were burned in a forest fire yesterday. Mutton chops will be still higher.

Let us hope that all campers and others in the Oregon timber districts will take warning from the great forest fires in Montana, and be careful with their camp fires here.

One careless camper may cost millions in property and numerous lives.

Seasonable reading: "The Tent on the Beach."

What has become of the old-fashioned man who used to put a cabbage leaf in his hat to keep cool?

It is definitely announced that Queen Marie of Romania will visit the United States this fall. Let us hope her hat will be on straight.

Jack Dempsey will become a member of the Los Angeles film colony. He ought to have no trouble registering satisfaction—as he counts over \$27,500 in real money.

It is now claimed that congress has no authority to declare what is intoxicating. Some smart lawyer is setting a fat fee for that sort of talk. But will he get anywhere with it?

Why masticate the linen about the high prices of clothing? In Serbia it costs \$240 for a cheap suit, while shoes bring \$55 a pair. Wonder if they throw in a pair of suspenders and shoe laces with the order.

A Boston alienist says we are all crazy. Speak for yourself, Don.

If you can, can the fruit. It is a good thing to have hanging on a swinging shelf.

Upton Sinclair, the writer, complains bitterly because the critics pay no attention to his books. Here is a reform in which I can sympathize. Let us have a law that all books issued shall not only be reviewed by critics, but reviewed favorably. While about it let all our wrongs be remedied.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

INSURANCE FIRM STARTS ACTION

Western Union Life Resists Application of State Insurance Laws

Proceedings have been instituted in the federal court at Portland by the Western Union Life Insurance company to prohibit Harvey Wells, state insurance commissioner, from enforcing insurance statutes which regulate the sale of life insurance notes by insurance agents. It is said that some insurance men who conduct their business by taking notes are displeased with the insurance laws, particularly the non-negotiable bill which was introduced at the 1915 legislature by Representative Gallagher and passed.

"At a hearing upon this proposed law," said Commissioner Wells, "while it was before the insurance committee, life insurance representatives resented the insinuation made by Mr. Gallagher that there were crooks in the life insurance business and challenged him to give names, which he readily furnished. At this hearing the committee from the legislature requested the insurance commissioner to notify agents as to the law and impress upon them that the law defines the ownership of a note given for an insurance premium and if sold to an innocent purchaser, it must be guaranteed by the company."

Commissioner Wells expressed surprise that the constitutionality of the insurance laws is questioned. He says he has made no ruling except in compliance with the request of the legislature to notify the agents relative to the sale of notes.

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GASOLINE TAX MOUNTING HIGH

Remarkable Statistics Are Furnished by Secretary of States' Office

Statements furnished by dealers in motor vehicle fuel to the secretary of state under the act of 1913 legislature show that between February 26, when the act became effective, and June 30 the sales of gasoline aggregated 11,410,813 gallons and sales of distillate 1,904,275 gallons.

The legislative act placed a tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline and 1-2 cent on distillate, and under this tax the companies have paid in the period stated \$123,629.57. This amount as received has been turned over by the secretary of state to the state treasurer who places it at the credit of the state highway fund and the money is used entirely for road construction purposes under the highway commission's direction.

"An idea of the enormous quantity of gasoline used in the operation of motor vehicles as well as in other activities throughout the state, may be obtained when we confine this enormous quantity in one receptacle," said Deputy Secretary of State Sam A. Koser. "To contain the total of gasoline and distillate sold during the period hereinbefore mentioned, would require a tank 200 feet in diameter and 57 1-2 feet high. This tank in diameter is the size of an ordinary city block in the city of Portland. If it is confined in the regular 10,000 gallon railroad tank cars, it would require a train of these cars 11 miles long. Again if we confine it in the ordinary 1000 gallon auto tank trucks, it would require a train of 13,500 of such trucks, and if they were, placed on the highway 30 feet apart, would extend from the city of Portland to Forest Grove, on to Newberg, through McMinnville to Amity, from Amity to Rickreall in Polk county, thence to Salem and back over the highway on the east side of the Willamette trough to Woodburn, New Era, Oregon City, to Portland, or a distance of practically 130 miles.

"This represents substantially four months' consumption by the people of this state of gasoline and distillate, and on the same basis, allowing for the natural increased use during the few remaining summer months, the sales for the full year will undoubtedly reach between 35,000,000 and 40,000,000 gallons of gasoline and very likely 5,000,000 gallons of distillate, on which the tax imposed under the recent law will aggregate between \$350,000 and \$400,000."

Below are the figures showing the consumption of gasoline and distillate during each of the several months of the period mentioned together with the total tax received and the number of licensed automobiles at the end of each month of the period:

February—Gasoline, 1,018,818; distillate, 11,145; tax paid, \$1,073.92; licensed automobiles, 54,216.

March—Gasoline, 1,912,573; distillate, 371,718; tax paid, \$20,984.33; automobiles licensed, 59,585.

April—Gasoline, 2,688,533; distillate, 656,899; tax paid, \$30,169.85; automobiles licensed, 65,159.

May—Gasoline, 3,035,705; distillate, 463,493; tax paid, \$32,674.54; automobiles licensed, 69,692.

June—Gasoline, 3,672,184; distillate, 401,020; tax paid, \$38,726.93; automobiles licensed, 72,848.

Totals—Gasoline, 11,410,813; distillate, 1,904,275; tax paid, \$123,629.57.

A Grateful Woman's Story

Mrs. Robt. Blair, 461 S. 20th St., Terre Haute, Ind., writes "After taking Foley Kidney Pills a few weeks I found my kidney trouble gradually disappearing. The backaches stopped and I am also free from those tired spells and headaches and my vision is no longer blurred. They stopped rheumatic pains. J. C. Perry.

Yankee Reinsman Wins Fame and Shekels in Last Races

KALAMAZOO, Mich., July 18.—Friday, the last day of mile track racing for Kalamazoo's twelfth grand circuit meeting, was a good and profitable one for Walter R. Cox, the astute New England reinsman. Not only did he win the \$2,000 New Burdick Hotel purse for 2:06 pacers with Frank Dewey, but he also captured the 2:16 trot with Mignolia.

The 2:10 pace was a split heat affair. Harvey K. won the first heat while Wellington Direct, the favorite, took second and third heats.

The 2:20 trot for half mile track horses was won by E. Colorado. The horses are moving tonight on to Toledo.

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