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THINKERS ARE ESSENTIAL.

"For experience tells, in every soil
 That those that think must govern those that toil."
 Brains rule brawn the world over. Only by becoming a thinker, does the toiler earn a right to participate in government. Those who neither think nor toil are parasites on those who do—and when government is entrusted to their hands, it soon perishes.

An autocracy is based upon the conception that only a few are thinkers and qualified to rule, and when caste is utilized as a substitute for brains to perpetuate privilege and the autocracy ceases to think it invites the inevitable destruction that sooner or later overwhelms it.

Communism and other "ism" based upon the rule of brawn and the submergence of brains are pre-decided to failure, because the class they aim to exalt have never learned to think. Russia has simply repeated the lessons of history—thrown off a brainless, incapable autocracy and enthroned Lenin, the thinker, but the revolting proletariat that never learned to think, is enslaved in a conscript industrial army.

A democracy is founded upon the theory that all people are equal before the law and entitled to participate in government. The success of a democracy depends upon the percentage of thinkers among the people, and the percentage of thinkers depends upon education. The safety and indeed the perpetuation of the republic rests upon the culture of the people—as the founders of the nation realized.

The individual who is thrown into the hurly-burly of life, with the handicap of illiteracy and ignorance has a fearful handicap which only a few are forceful enough to overcome. Even those who only learn the primary rudiments are at a serious disadvantage in an age when the trained mind is an essential. And it is not only the individual, but the nation that loses because of lack of cultured intelligence in cooperative government.

It will therefore be easily comprehended that the most vital feature for the nation's future welfare, the best and in fact the only bulwark against anarchy and half-baked radicalism, the essential inculcator of patriotism, is the school and that we can better dispense with any of our numerous departments of government, than in any way to handicap our school system.

As an indirect result of the war, the schools of the nation face a crisis. Living costs have increased, and the teachers salaries have not increased sufficiently to induce them to continue in school work. Some 100,000 public schools in the United States were closed last year as a result of inability to secure competent teachers and over 100 schools in Oregon were closed. Unless some relief is secured, there will be 1000 schools closed next year in this state—and many thousands of children deprived of their rights and the privilege of securing education.

This comes at a time when the value of education is more appreciated than ever before and when there are more pupils to be instructed. It affects not only the primary schools, but the higher institutions of learning, which have to care for doubled attendance and doubled expenses on the old incomes.

The state is rewarding the youths who left school for the defense of their country with a monthly bonus, thus enabling them to secure an education, although both university and college are overcrowded. These higher educational institutions must be adequately financed, so that they may care for the increased attendance.

To solve the school problem, two millage bills have been placed on the ballot at the May primary election, one to equalize primary school taxation and provide increased and needed revenue, and one to take care of necessary expenses at the state university, agricultural college and normal school.

It is the part of patriotism to place the child and the student above the dollar and vote for both of these necessary measures, for our welfare as a republic depends upon our thinkers and our thinkers are principally the trained products of our schools.

Rippling Rhymes

FREE AIR.

The air we breathe is cheaper than anything there is; custodian or keeper, can't say, "The price has risen!" We hear no far fetched wheezes from profiteering gents, explaining that the breeze have gone up fifty cents. "The stock of wind's exhausted," no doubt they'd promptly say, if they should be accosted, to fix the price today. Grown tired of endless railing at things that cost me dear, I stand outdoors inhaling a lot of atmosphere. I work my ancient bellows in ecstasy and glee; no greedy, swinish fellows can charge it up to me. Oh, for the love of Peter, let's breathe it in and enthruse! No corporation's meter will measure what we use. Some day they'll learn to cinch us, and tax us for the air, and cops will come and pinch us if we exceed our share; but in the balmy present they hardly dare to try; the breezes, sweet and pleasant, are free to every guy. Some day you'll get your zephyr through rusty pipes, like gas, not as the care-free heifer that gambols in the grass. Some day a grim collector will climb your creaking stair, will come, a grisly spectre, to tax you for the air.

LOVE and MARRIED LIFE

By the Noted Author IDAH McGLONE GIBSON

A TALK WITH CHARLES.
 "I know, dear, I know," said Charles when I turned abruptly away after finding this I could not lie to him and say that I was happy. "I also know," he continued, "that I am wrong. It is you, Katherine, and your job. No one can tell you how to do it, and you are certainly the only one that has to live it. But, oh, you know dear, you know how much I want you to be happy, because I love you."

I put up my hand in expostulation and Charles continued: "Why shouldn't I love you? You are the only relative I have in the world." He took my hands and looked down into my face for a moment silently. Then he said: "Now, what's the use of my trying not only to lie to you, but to myself. I don't love you just because, way back in the past, a distant ancestor was yours as well as mine. I love you because you are the woman on earth to me. There will never be any other. I don't mean that I want to enter your life in any way. I would not, even if I could, influence you to do anything that you do not wish to do. But I am stating facts, my dear, you were the stuff of which all my dreams were made. I never remember the time when I did not think that some time you would be mine and the day I got your telegram saying that you had married John Gordon I felt something vital, something indispensable had gone out of my life. Some way, however, I had a prescience that you would need me and I thought at that moment by greatest happiness would be in serving you any time, anywhere."

Must Not Do It.
 "Oh, Charles, you must not put me on a pedestal and worship me in this way. I am not worthy. Are you not afraid that you would find that my feet were clay?"
 "If I ever could take my eyes away from your beautiful face, Katherine, and in them rest upon your tiny feet I am quite sure that as long as they were dressed in quaker gray with his

silver buckles, as they are today, they would seem only a part of that adorable femininity that has always been yours." Charles spoke with a low bow and an exaggerated manner.

We both laughed and I know that Charles with his usual diplomacy had saved a rather tense situation.

Quickly he turned the subject and taking a great sheaf of papers from his pocket began to explain to me all about the oil wells of which I was the owner. I tried very hard to understand and I asked him again and again, at different points, certain business methods. He was very patient with me and I wondered whether my husband, if he had been in Charles' place, would have been as gentle and careful. Charles took almost infinite pains so that I should know the exact status of the matter and the manner in which he was going to work out plans which he thought would make for greater success.

When he told me that I had a number of thousands of dollars deposited to my account in the bank, I exclaimed, "Isn't it too bad that poor mother did not live to have some of the pleasure that all this money can bring?"

"Don't worry about that, Katherine," he said. "Your mother had all the money she wished to buy her everything that her simple tastes could desire."

Capable Business Man.
 Although I did not answer, I extended my hand to grasp Charles' for I knew that he had made it possible for mother to spend whatever money she wished since my father died. I



THE NOISE ON THE ROOF

As soon as she heard that Jasper Jay intended to visit her cherry tree to enjoy the ripe fruit, Rusty Wren's wife began to worry. And she made herself so unhappy that Rusty could



"Jay! Jay!" Jasper says harsh voice was unmistakable.

not help wishing that Jolly Robin had kept his news to himself.

"Don't be alarmed!" he said to her, after Jolly had gone. "Jasper Jay can't harm the children, for they'll be safe in the nest. And luckily our doorway is too small for him."

But Mrs. Rusty wouldn't be calmed. "He's a great cruel bully," she replied.

"And if he spends much time here I'm afraid the children will starve, for neither you nor I will be able also knew that Charles was a man of some means and counted a capable business man among his associates.

He had some little idiosyncrasies that were slightly old-fashioned and which did not appeal to John. Besides now for the first time I thought John might have been a little jealous of Charles. I had always taken Charles' love in such a matter of fact fashion that I had not realized that it might mean something very different to John than it did to either Charles or me.

For the first time, too, I thought that perhaps I might be quite as selfish with Charles as John was with me, and I said to him "Charles, dear, do not take over this business unless you want to. If you have something that will interest you more, something that you wish to do more, remember that I can always turn the matter over to my husband."

"Do you want me to do it?" he asked.

"Why, of course I do."

"Then it is the thing that I want to do most in the world."

Tomorrow—A Letter from John.

Searchlights To Signals Will Be Tested Tonight

State Forester F. A. Elliott accompanied by several local newspaper men will attempt to detect the signal flashes to be sent up from Portland tonight from the dome of the state capitol building. The test is being made to determine the feasibility of the use of searchlights for signalling in the forest patrol service. A huge searchlight mounted on a seven ton truck will flash its rays from the top of Council Crest at Portland and in Silverton, Medford and in the hills surrounding the Willamette valley will attempt to pick up the messages.

Khaki Added To Approved Dress At State House

The anti high coat of clothing movement at the state capital took an added impetus Thursday when some two score officials and employes appeared arrayed in new khaki suits. A number of the members of the state house force had already been carrying out the spirit of the pledge signed last week by appearing in old clothes and overalls. Practically one hundred men in the state house are now actively enlisted in the move to reduce the cost of clothing.

MANNING RESIGNS
 Washington, Apr. 29.—Van H. Manning of the bureau of mines, has resigned, effective June 30, to become director of research of the newly organized American Petroleum Institute, composed of the leading petroleum producers of the country.

Economy

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to go out and find food for them, because Jasper would be sure to pounce on us; and what chance would we have against him?"

"We'll go together," said Rusty Wren, looking very grave.

But Mrs. Wren said she wouldn't think of leaving six small children all alone in the house.

"Everything will be all right," Rusty assured her. "You know Jasper is not coming unless he can find the time. Jolly Robin said so. And maybe he won't be able to get here at all."

"They had gone inside their house to talk over the matter in private. And Rusty had hardly finished speaking when a loud bang, followed by a clatter, sounded on the tin roof above their heads.

It was no wonder that they both jumped.

"Goodness!" exclaimed Rusty's wife. "What's that?"

But Rusty couldn't tell her. During all the weeks they had lived there he had heard nothing like that.

While they listened the noise was repeated. And Mrs. Rusty declared that the sky must be falling for she had never heard such a dreadful sound in all her life.

"I'll go right out and see what it is," said Rusty Wren.

But his wife caught hold of his coat tails and begged him to stay with her.

"No! no!" she cried. "You must not stir out of the house. I'd be terribly worried if you left me alone here with these six small children. And you might get hurt, besides."

Meanwhile the racket on the roof continued, with only a short pause between each outbreak. The six Wren children began to cry—for they were hungry as well as frightened. And all the time Mrs. Rusty clung to her husband's coat-tails and besought him not to leave her.

To tell the truth, he had no such intention. Though he was brave for his size he was thoroughly alarmed. And for the time being he was quite content to stay beside his snug home and hope that the trouble would soon come to an end.

On the whole, the Wren family spent a very unpleasant quarter of an hour. The bang, clatter, bang on their roof still continued until the din was almost unbearable. And Rusty Wren grew so desperate that he had almost

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made up his mind to break way from the sky was not falling, anyhow. "Jay! Jay!" Jasper Jay's harsh voice was unmistakable. He had been playing one of his sly tricks on the Wren family; and they never guessed that it was he!

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Read Page 3

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Sequel to Blossom Day to be Staged For Aged Sunday

Blossom Day, when thousands of persons from other cities and towns came to Salem, being a success and Salem citizens having responded so whole heartedly in aiding the Commercial club and Cherriss in making the occasion one of pleasure for the visitors, has inspired the board of directors of the Commercial club who met last night at the Spg. to stage another Blossom Day for next Sunday when the aged people of the city who have not yet seen the blossoms will be guests of the club. Automobiles will be furnished and for an hour or more on Sunday afternoon three persons will be taken over the "blossom route" followed last Sunday.

That the motorists who volunteer to take passengers on the trip might call for them, need persons wishing to make the trip are asked to telephone or communicate in some other means with the offices of the Commercial club, giving their names and addresses. These will then be furnished to call and get the passengers.

No one will be taken on the "blossom route" Sunday morning. The board of directors of the club were hosts to representatives of The Capital Journal, Statesman, Portland Telegram, Oregon Journal and Oregonian at a dinner last evening. A special vote of thanks was given the newspapermen for their co-operation in giving publicity to Blossom day and other club activities.

The board of directors gave hearty endorsement to the Willamette university fund campaign after Joseph H. Albert appeared before the directors and told them of the necessity for financial aid. Through the university, Mr. Albert said, \$8,000,000 have been brought in Salem. One and a half million dollars were brought into Salem last year by students attending the college. A total fund sought by the university Mr. Albert said, is \$100,000, \$30,000 of which is to be raised in the state at large and \$70,000 in Salem.

City Attorney Bert May read a letter from the mayor asking the Commercial club to appoint 15 members to sponsor the proposed charter amendments calling for a change in street assessments, inclusion of the state fair grounds in the city limits, and the measure raising the chief of police's salary.

Smelt Run In Sandy River Is Largest In Years

Portland, Or., April 28.—The crest of the smelt run in the Sandy river is believed to have been reached, according to Portlanders who visited Troutdale and the banks of the Sandy river.

According to veteran fishermen along the river this year's run has been a record breaker and some smelt will continue to run upstream for several days, judging from the number now in the Columbia river below the mouth of the Sandy.

Abe Martin



Anybody who isn't getting POST TOASTIES
 is missing something good.
 —says Bobby

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