

ALBANY DEMOCRAT

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GOMPERS' WARNING

Samuel Gompers, addressing the employers' group in the national industrial conference the day before his own group withdrew, gave this impressive warning:

"If you do not bear with us in an effort toward construction, if you insist on contesting with us every inch of ground in our battle for better conditions, if you deny us the rights of organization, if you render our work finally impotent, you may destroy us, but will find yourselves facing something else, something worse, and you may come to rue the day you destroyed the saneness and willingness to serve that has characterized and does characterize the officials of American trade unionism today."

That warning deserves the serious consideration not only of every employer but of every thinking American. It was uttered in evident sincerity. It fits in with the work that Gompers has done during the war and since.

It may be questioned whether the constructive spirit animating this veteran labor leader is to be attributed to some of his present associates, particularly the men who are handling the steel strike. The very presence of such radicals, however, in places of power, adds force to the warning. During the war, and for some months after the armistice, Gompers succeeded in holding the Federation of Labor to a program of helpful, sane Americanism. Lately there are many proofs that the situation is getting out of hand. There is a powerful movement within the Federation of Labor, pushed by a "Red" element working under false pretenses, to change the Federation from a democratic association of independent trades to "one big union," looking to a labor dictatorship.

A great many unbiased Americans consider the Gompers' war record proves him trustworthy in this crisis. He has probably been making his last big fight—the biggest fight of his life. Superficially it is a fight for trade unionism. But perhaps it is much more than that. Perhaps it is really a fight for industrial order, now and hereafter, and the welfare of a whole nation.

Will the employers, the industrial conference, the general public, flout his warning, or take him at his word and uphold the hands of the conservative labor group in order to avoid radical tyranny and industrial chaos?

HOW PROHIBITION HURTS BUSINESS

Possibly prohibition prohibits better than cynical prophets expected, and better than some of the criticism heard in recent months would indicate. Consider, for example, the case of the State Farm for Inebriates at Preston, Conn. It has long been operated as an adjunct to the State Hospital for the Insane. Before July 1 it had about 100 inmates, and was badly over-crowded.

Now the officials complain that they may have to close the institution. The number of cases has dropped to about 20, and hardly any new ones are arriving. There are not enough to carry on the routine work around the place that has been done in the past by able-bodied patients.

Connecticut used to be a pretty wet state. There are tales of continued hard drinking, but such facts as these speak for themselves.

From other states that went dry July 1 come similar stories of deserted jails and crippled workhouses, and of less human wreckage arriving at the insane asylums and poor-houses.

Prohibition certainly has much to answer for in cutting down the business of penal and charitable institutions.

ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL FUND



To the Roosevelt Memorial Association,
Percy R. Kelly, County Chairman,
Albany, Oregon.

I herewith subscribe the sum of _____
to the ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL FUND.

Name _____

Address _____

The above amount is inclosed herewith.

According to the plans of the Roosevelt Memorial Association, the Roosevelt Memorial Fund of \$5,000,000.00 is to be utilized to erect a National Monument in Washington, D. C.; to acquire and maintain a public park at Oyster Bay, N. Y.; and ultimately to include Sagamore Hill, the Roosevelt home, therein, to be preserved like Mount Vernon and Lincoln's home at Springfield; and to endow a National Society to perpetuate the principles and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt.

Each contributor to the fund will receive a certificate of membership in the Roosevelt Memorial Association. A certificate will also be presented to every school contributing to the fund.

The name of every contributor will be placed on the list of names deposited in the National Monument to be erected at Washington, D. C.

THE EXIGENT ORCHARD

Many a hopeful man starts out to build up an orchard, and finds, to his surprise that he cannot make it pay. It seems such a simple thing to plant a peach tree, for example, to enjoy its pink blushes in the spring time, and its golden maturity in the autumn, and to bank the check for its harvest.

But it isn't. A peach tree is almost as much care as a baby, is subject to almost the same percentage of infant mortality, to youthful diseases and to lack of productive power if not properly cared for and developed along the right lines.

A writer in the Country Gentleman says there are seven rules for planting an orchard. He who fails to observe them will almost surely fail. They are these:

1. The mind of the would-be planter must be adjusted to the requirements of an orchard. A mere farming or business adjustment will prove insufficient to deal with the unexpected, intricate and perhaps troublesome factors that are bound to crop out.

2. A sufficient amount of money must be on hand or in sight.

3. Sufficient labor of the right kind must be available without too much hunting for it.

4. The land must be well located, extensive enough to permit skipping poor spots, well drained and in otherwise good condition.

5. A fund of knowledge of and acquaintance with the subject must be available, secured through reading, study and observation.

6. Sufficient equipment of tools, materials and buildings for both growing and marketing the fruit must be within reach.

7. The planter should have a natural bent toward the outdoor rather than the indoor world and should be mechanically inclined.

This sounds like an imposing list of qualifications. But it comes down to the same fundamentals of good sense which are required to make a success of any other business. The man who would establish a fruit business, like the man who would establish a clothing business, must love the work enough to be willing to sit up nights with it, must know enough about it to go at it as a real business and not a side issue, must have enough equipment and working capital to tide him over until his love for it and work for it have made it pay.

HAPPY INDIA

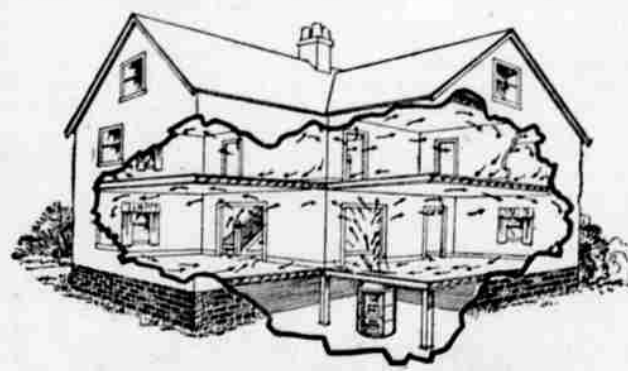
A Hindu lecturer refuses to admit that people are better off in America than in India. The cost of living is a far less serious matter there, he says. A housewife can go to market and buy a dozen fresh eggs for 4 cents, and a bushel of potatoes for 10 cents.

That is, if she has the 14 cents—an important point which the lecturer does not consider it necessary to discuss. But if she hasn't, presumably it makes no great difference. The Hindus seem less concerned about food, somehow, than Americans. They can take it or let it alone. A meal is a casual incident rather than an event.

In the matter of table dishes the natives are particularly enviable. Do they worry about the cost of Chinaware and the quality of cups and plates broken by the hired girl? They do not. The housewife pays 1 cent for 200 "leaf dishes," which she throws away when the family have eaten from them. That makes housekeeping easy—no kitchen drudgery, and no need of expensive dishwashing machines.

There is commendable economy, says this Hindu, even in the use of those cheap dishes. There are no hundred-piece sets. "We eat with our fingers. That is one of the first things we learn. We eat our soup with our fingers. Of course it makes a little noise, but that is not considered impolite in India."

Happy, happy land! America has much to learn from the "Stepmother of Mankind."



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