

The Way of Life

by BRUCE BARTON

I Reassure a Mother

A mother writes me about her son's reading. Among other things she says:

"In spite of all I can do or say, he insists on reading stories. How can I correct this habit?"

Frankly, madam, I do not know. It is about as easy to cure a boy of eating as it is to destroy his love for good stories.

Centuries before there was any writing, story-tellers drifted about from village to village, gathering the people together and telling them stories.

The love of fiction is as old as that—older than recorded history, older even than civilization. It can not be rooted out; it roots run back too far.

And why should you want to root it out?

The greatest Teacher that ever lived spent half His time telling stories to His disciples. "Without a parable (a story) He taught them nothing." These stories have transformed humanity.

One great story written in our own country, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," so stirred men's hearts that they said, "Slavery must go."

Good stories will not hurt your boy; they may, if he is the right kind of boy, inspire him to real achievement.

And they will do something else for him, equally important. They will develop his imagination.

We have too little regard for the high value of the imagination, we Americans. We are too matter-of-fact. We forget that all great in-

ventions, all great discoveries, all great achievements in science or business, came to pass because some man first had imagination enough to conceive them.

Many men have been hit on the head by a falling apple. Newton, when the apple hit him, had imagination enough to formulate the law of gravitation.

Many men have been burned by their wives' tea-kettles. Watt had imagination enough to conceive the steam-engine.

Look through the pages of history and you will discover that the leaders of men have been those who could dream great dreams and carry them out—the men of powerful, intelligent imagination.

Because this is true, the editor of a magazine that prints stories has a responsibility that he must take seriously if he is any sort of man at all. He is entrusted with the duty of stimulating the imagination of thousands of children of mothers like you.

He may, if he choose, publish stories whose appeal is to the baser side of the imagination—and even achieve a certain sort of circulation increase for his magazine by so doing. Or he may regard every mother among his readers as if she were his own mother, and every mother's son as a younger brother.

You need not concern yourself because your boy likes stories. But are the stories he reads the right kind of stories—do they appeal to his imagination on its best and highest side?

That is the important question for you.

a high title and a great estate in his native Hungary. Like the rest, he lost all, but he does not complain. The archduchess was right. They are taking their medicine and smiling at the dose. That is true nobility.

THRIFT

Savings deposits throughout the nation are showing an upward trend again. They were considerably depleted for a while, money being withdrawn for stock speculation. Life insurance investments are steadily climbing.

Henry Ford was right when he said that most men should not deprive themselves under forty in order to save. The old idea that thrift means living a stunted life in youth in order to eke out narrow and bare existence in old age has gone the way of the twelve-hour day and the ox-team. Every worker today has a surplus above normal living costs out of which a small percentage of savings will insure comfort in later years. In the meantime, Americans are fortunate in being able to enjoy a wide range of luxuries while still laying something by.

OVERPRODUCTION

The best short phrase descriptive of farming conditions was coined by the Secretary of Agriculture in a radio talk the other day. "Blind production for an unknown demand," were Mr. Hyde's words. Every farmer has experienced the evils of overproduction. The pendulum swings too far each way. One year a short crop brings high prices; the next year every farmer produces more of that commodity and the markets are glutted at low prices.

For the first time in history, intelligent steps are being taken by our Government to keep farmers from competing with each other and to compel them to work together to control production and so make farming a profitable business for all engaged in it.

Mr. Hyde is right in saying that the farmers of America face in the coming years as stern a test as ever faced our forefathers.

CIVILIZATION

Human progress consists in the multiplication of human wants and of the means to supply the new needs. The man who wants nothing we call a savage. He is at liberty to live in the wilds and enjoy life in his own way. The process which

we call civilization consists in tempting the savage with commodities which appeal to him so that he will exchange his labor for them.

The next step is to teach him to want things so badly that he is willing to live under the rules of the community where they are to be had.

The trouble with many folk in America today is that they want things without being willing to pay the price, either in labor or in obedience to the community law. The old law of the Pilgrim Fathers, "He who does not work shall not eat" is not sufficiently enforced. Too many parents are letting their boys and girls "have a good time" instead of going to work when they have finished school. It is from this irresponsible leisure class that most of the criminals develop, according to the Police Commissioner of New York.

ALPINE

Spring work is starting in earnest in this locality due to the fine weather. Nearly every farmer in the neighborhood is at work seeding or plowing.

Mr. and Mrs. Murrel Bennett motored up from Portland to visit Mr. Bennett's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Bennett. Murrel has been in Portland since August and has been working at the Southern Pacific stage terminal. He returned Monday.

C. Melville is roadmaster in this district now, taking the place of G. L. Bennett. Since the muddy weather many of the roads are certainly in need of repair.

Some news, folks! Alpine is putting on a comedy play March 15, entitled, "The Mummy and the Mumps." A young and famous English archaeologist brings a mummy with him on a visit to America. He comes to an exclusive girls' school in New England and runs into some very trying circumstances. He is impersonated by another man, and Miss Laidlaw, the head of the school, thinks the impostor the real one. Along with that, the poor Sir Hector is stricken with the mumps. Sir Hector is played by Art Schmidt.

Francis Briscoe, or Brisky who is Alex Lindsay, has a genius for getting out of tight places, and he gets into a good many of them since he impersonates Sir Hector. Billy Laidlaw, Miss Laidlaw's nephew, is Grover Sibley. Miss Laidlaw makes him and Miss Dumble, who is Ruth Bennett, promise not to speak to each other. Occasionally, however, they get together and you'll roar to watch their speechless antics. James

Slammon, or Racker, the porter who thinks he is hard-boiled, is Lawrence Doherty. You will wake up nights laughing when you see him get his foot caught in the wastepaper basket, thinking the mummy has him by the foot. Anna Hampton, the girl who is very helpful to the real Sir Hector is Rosella Doherty. Phoebe Beebe, the reporter who is very determined to run down Sir Hector and get an interview with him, is Margaret McDaid. Iri Clary is the sheriff who is mistaken or a burglar by Brisky. They have a fight on the stage. Come out to Alpine on Saturday, March 15, and see the play. It'll be great!

Monte Bundy and his son Dale visited several neighbors in the community Saturday. Monte is now living at the South Springs place where Ritchies formerly lived.

Alex Lindsay, Ed Ditty and Willard Hawley went into Lexington Saturday and hauled out a load of seed wheat.

Iri Clary has leased 340 acres of summer fallow from the Shaw brothers. The land lays about four miles west of the school. Mr. Clary is busy preparing to seed it and is being helped by Willard Hawley and Bert Mitchell.

Farm Bureau will be held on Saturday, March first, as usual. A large attendance may be expected as the last meeting was held at a time when most of the roads were impassable.

Pat Curran has returned from Pendleton. He had work done on his teeth.

Mrs. Iri Clary, Mrs. Lindsay and Alex, and Rosella and Lawrence Doherty went to Heppner Tuesday night to see "Smile, Rodney, Smile." They pronounced it a genuine success.

Charles Lambirth, brother of George Lambirth, died Sunday evening at Echo. Mr. Lambirth had been suffering for a long time from heart trouble and stagnation of the blood, but his death was due to a

stroke of apoplexy. He was buried at 2 o'clock Tuesday in the Echo cemetery.

Lambing started last week at the B. F. Doherty ranch. The work has been encouraged by the warm weather and early green grass.

Art Schmidt has been noticed driving around in a beautiful tan colored Chrysler roadster.

Bill Doherty has been at work getting his caterpillar ready for plowing. The country is getting more and more "tractor-minded."

The grade division entrants to the declamatory contest from Boardman, Irrigon, Pine City and

Alpine will meet at Alpine Saturday, March 22. They will vie against each other to achieve the right to represent north Morrow county at Heppner. A large crowd is expected to attend as interest in the declamation contests has been increasing yearly throughout the county and will be greater than ever this year. A charge of 15 cents and 25 cents admission will be made to defray expenses.

Celatha Lambirth was in Echo over the week-end visiting her cousin, Velma Hiatt.

Art Schmidt hauled a load of chopped alfalfa from Doherty's to

Bennett's Saturday.

Entrants for the declamatory contest have begun work on their pieces.

C. Melville has started plowing on an eighty acre patch lately.

LAND TRANSFERRED.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Helms of Echo sold 500 acres of land to Thomas E. McDaniel of Lexington, according to a deed filed at the Morrow county clerk's office Friday. The property is located about five miles southeast of Pine City between the north and south forks of Butter creek.



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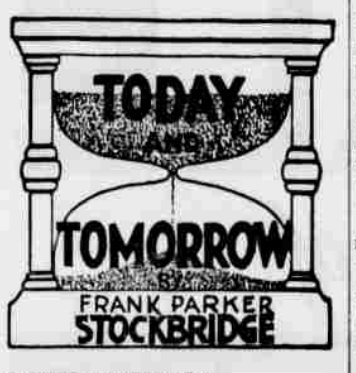
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COMMUNISTS

A group of Communist agitators tried to hold a public meeting on the steps of New York's City Hall the other day. They had neglected to obtain a permit for a public meeting and the police dispersed them. They fought the police and some of them got broken heads. Many half-baked thinkers see in that episode an example of tyranny.

It was rather an example of the Communists' lofty disregard for all the laws of civilized nations. Their record in Russia proves that their whole scheme of government is more tyrannical than the worst of the Czars. Every American citizen has the right to agitate for a change in the laws of the Constitution itself. There is no place in America for those who teach disobedience to law.

NOBILITY

In 1913, when the unrest in the Balkans was already threatening Central Europe with vague mutterings of the Great War which began the next year, Frederic C. Penfield, American ambassador to Austria-Hungary, attended a tea-party in Buda-Pest, given by the Archduchess Maria Theresa and attended by many of the highest of the Hungarian nobility.

"If you were all to be deprived of your titles, estates and fortunes, what would you do?" Mr. Penfield asked.

There was silence for a minute or two. Then the archduchess answered.

"I do not know what we would do, but I can tell you one thing we would not do," she replied. "We would not complain."

The man who told me of the incident was one of the noblemen who was at that party. He has a good job in New York and only a few intimate friends know that he had



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