

# Way of Life

BRUCE BARTON

## "I WAS WRONG"

Like many other business men, I subscribe to a confidential bulletin issued by a private news agency in Washington.

It contains interesting comment on affairs both here and abroad, gathered from official sources and from important visitors to the Capital. No one is quoted by name and hence the writers of the bulletin can exercise considerable freedom. Sometimes their information is useful.

In a recent number they answered certain questions as to how they get their news. I quote the following paragraph:

"For example, take the Washington predictions as to when business will recover. There have been two kinds. First, the formal, publishable statement of officials, which the newspapers have carried. Second, the unofficial, private, more sincere views which the Washington correspondents have known but were under obligations not to print. We have sent you the latter. Our advice has been less wrong than most, but not particularly good at that, and this is one example why you should not trust our letters 100%."

That made a great hit with me. If the writers had said: "We misled you a little about the time of the business recovery, but we were not responsible. The officials deceived us;" or, "While we were

wrong on the business recovery, still our competitors were much worse"—if they had written any sort of alibi at all, every word of it would have lessened my confidence.

But when they come out frankly and say: "We were wrong, and you should never depend on us one hundred per cent," then I begin to think they must be pretty smart men.

I have never forgotten an experience with one of my first employers, a man who is now at the very top of his profession.

In those days I was getting \$40 a week, and he was earning \$40,000 a year. He lived in a fine apartment on Park Avenue, and I lived in one room in the Y.M.C.A.

One morning early I was called out of bed to answer the telephone. It was my employer. He said:

"After you left the office last night I hunted up some additional information on the subject we had been discussing. I tried to reach you during the evening, but you were out. I am calling you now to let you know that you were right, and I was wrong."

You can imagine what that did to me! I would have jumped off the roof for that boss, and I never meet him even now without an impulse to raise my hat.

Little fellows feel that they must be infallible in order to maintain the world's respect. It is a badge of bigness to be able to say frankly, "I was wrong."

French government and a Spanish bishop.

## FASHIONS

Paris dressmakers have decreed tight corsets, smaller waists and longer skirts for women. American women say they won't stand for it, but they will. Woman's greatest fear is that she will look different from other women.

That goes for men, too. Men's fashions don't change as often as women's, but they are just as foolish. Fashion says we must wear coats in the presence of ladies. No matter how hot the weather a man without a coat is not admitted to the best restaurants, hotels and theatres. That is absurd, but it derives from ancient custom, which originated in the effort to distinguish a gentleman from a working man. A servant could go coatless but the coatless gentleman might easily be mistaken for a servant.

Nothing is truer than that the clothes make the man. When King Christian of Denmark was found dead in the street in Copenhagen, a few years ago, nobody recognized him because he was wearing ordinary clothes instead of royal regalia.

In the genuine democracy everybody would dress as he pleased, but everybody would choose to dress just like everybody else. The only place today where democracy in dress prevails is in fashionable restaurants where it is impossible to distinguish a customer from a waiter.

**RUSSIA**

George Bernard Shaw came back from Russia enthusiastic over what he had been permitted to see. Lady

Astor, who accompanied him, was equally enthusiastic. They saw, as all visitors to Russia see, what the authorities permitted them to see.

If one thing can be more certain than anything else, it is that the truth about Russia and the condition of the people does not get out of Russia. Neither does the truth about the rest of the world get into Russia. All Russian newspapers are controlled and practically edited by the Soviet government. News from America that is permitted to be printed presents this country in the most unfavorable light and is intended to make Russian workers and peasants believe that they are the most fortunate people in the world. News coming out of Russia is controlled also by the government.

This results in making intelligent people in each country highly suspicious of the other. There is no chance for a friendly understanding between Russia and the rest of the world until freedom of speech and of the press are established in Russia.

**\$50 REWARD.**

I will pay \$50 reward for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties stealing my horses from my place at the Tub Springs, Morrow Co. They are branded MC on right shoulder.

22-25p. JAMES CARTY.

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The whole town's talking, and working, too, to prepare for the best time ever

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## EDISON

The last time I talked with Mr. Edison I asked him how long he was going to keep on working.

"I'm never going to stop," he said, "unless my stomach goes back on me. There's where most men give out first, in their digestion."

"There's only one rule for keeping young," he went on. "That is to watch your digestion and never stop working. That's the important thing—never stop working. Keep your mind active. The brain is more durable than any other part of the body."

Mr. Edison was 81 when he said that, and was launching into a new line of research with the enthusiasm of a boy. He was as interested in everything new as he was when he was twenty.

## GANGSTERS

As long as the gangsters in the big cities confined their activities to shooting each other up there was very little public protest. But when five children were shot, one of them fatally, in a New York gang battle, the authorities began to get active. It is my guess that the clean-up movement in New York at least has actually started, and that there will be less tolerance of murder and less sympathy for murderers in the future.

In the long run, law and order are always triumphant. If that were not so the world would be in a state of anarchy today. There would be no organized crime if all of the organized forces which are supposed to prevent and punish crime were faithful to their appointed tasks.

## APPENZELL

Newton Baker drove thousands of people to their encyclopedias the other day when, in the course of his speech at the Institute of Politics, he said that "of course, Appenzell is the only pure democracy." Not one out of ten thousand of those who heard or read Baker's speech had ever heard of Appenzell. It is one of the little independent states which form a part of the Swiss Federation. It is up in the northeast of Switzerland, and has about 70,000 population. The only government it has is a sort of magnified town meeting at which ev-

erybody votes.

The oldest of all republics is San Marino, in the Italian Alps, which has existed unchanged since 400 A. D. and is still governed by the Roman laws and customs. But San Marino is not a pure democracy in the sense that Appenzell is, and neither is Andorra, that other tiny European republic which is entirely surrounded by Spain but which is under the protection of the

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