

UNCOMMON AMERICANS

By Elmo Scott Watson

Early-Day Dictator

LONG before Mussolini or Hitler were born, an American gave a demonstration of "how dictators get that way." His name was Adolphus Frederick Hubbard and he was lieutenant-governor of the state of Illinois at the time.

In 1825 Gov. Edward Coles notified the lieutenant-governor that he would leave the state the next month and that Hubbard would be responsible for the executive duties during his absence which would not exceed three months. But Coles came back sooner than he had expected.

The lieutenant-governor, however, was so well pleased with the job that he decided he would like to go on governing. So he announced that Coles, by his absence, had "abdicated" and that as lieutenant-governor, the legal successor to the governor, he, Hubbard, was now the governor. Coles paid no attention to this but returned to all the executive officers as governor.

Undiscouraged by this fact, Hubbard issued a commission as paymaster general to W. L. D. Ewing and when the secretary of state refused to sign it, Ewing, prompted thereto by Hubbard, appealed to the Supreme court to issue a mandamus forcing the secretary to sign the commission. The court refused so Hubbard next appealed to the legislature to support him in his claim to the governorship.

When it came to a vote, only two legislators came out openly for the "pretender" and after a while Hubbard decided to abandon his plan of becoming "governor by usurpation."

Later he decided to win that honor by more legal methods and during the campaign he made a speech which has become a classic in American political history. He said: "Fellow-citizens, I offer myself as a candidate before you for the office of governor. I do not pretend to be a man of extraordinary talents; nor do I claim to be equal to Julius Caesar or Napoleon Bonaparte, nor yet to be as great a man as my opponent, Governor Edwards. Nevertheless I think I can govern you pretty well. I do not think it will require a very extraordinarily smart man to govern you; for to tell the truth, fellow-citizens, I do not think you will be very hard to govern, nowhow!"

P. S. He wasn't elected.

Yankee Saint

ONE hundred years ago they looked upon John Humphrey Noyes as a madman, a crank, a heretic and an immoralist. But today the historians speak of him as "a Yankee saint," a "true genius" and "one of the noblest pioneers America has ever produced."

Born in Vermont, Noyes was educated at Dartmouth and prepared himself for a career in law. But the religious fervor which swept the country in the early 1830's seized him and he entered Andover theological seminary to prepare himself for the ministry. However, after obtaining his license to preach, Noyes began to rebel against dogmatic and professional religion. Becoming known for his heresies, his license was taken away from him. Then he announced he was going to establish a kingdom of God on earth and he founded the Putney community in Vermont.

There he put into practice his philosophy of Christian Communism which included the most intimate relationships of living. Because of these daring experiments, Noyes was repeatedly persecuted by groups of reformers and more than once he narrowly escaped imprisonment. Finally, he moved his colony to Oneida, N. Y., where it became famous for the successful industries it started.

In 1869 Noyes inaugurated another experiment which brought down upon him a fresh storm of protest from the exponents of traditional morality. He called it "stirpiculture" which was nothing more than a program of scientific breeding for the human race long before the word "eugenics" had been coined. The results of these experiments are said by actuarial experts to be unparalleled in the records of modern vital statistics.

In 1881 his Oneida community was changed to a corporation and by the time of his death five years later there was little left of the original idea of the community but its name. During the next half century the name of John Humphrey Noyes sank into obscurity. Then his biography was written by a modern scholar who has declared: "However obvious his defects remain, John Noyes possessed the attributes of genius. . . . Such a life as seemed far more worthy of commemoration than many of those more celebrated, more honored by the nation and the world, yet who never dared, as Noyes did, to translate ideals into the reality of living."

Fun for the Whole Family

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



Dirty Crack

By QUAK



'SMATTER POP—These Deteckativs Can Sure Lead You Into a Trap!

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



Hoofing and Mouthings

By QUAK



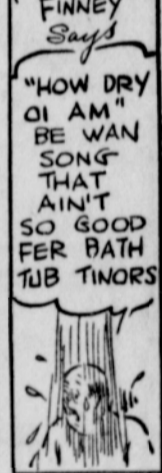
FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



Hopeless

By QUAK



BRONC PEELER—Withers' Decision

By FRED HARMAN



Curse of Progress

By QUAK



Hurrah for the Moon

Sambo had joined a debating society, and the day after his first meeting he was being questioned by friends. "What was de subject of de debate, Sambo?" "De subject were, 'What Is de Most Benefit to Mankind, de Sun or de Moon?'" "And which side did you take?" "De moon's," said Sambo. "I argued dat de sun shines by day when we doan' need de light, but de moon shines by night, when dat light mos' certainly am needed. An' dey couldn't answer dat, suh!"—Tit-Bits Magazine.

Worm Turns

Angus was out for the evening and when he returned he found his father waiting up for him. "How much did the evening cost ye, lad?" he asked at once. "Half a dollar." "That's not so bad," he said, visibly relieved. "It was all she had," the boy explained.

KEEPING QUIET

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

