

BERNARD SHAW IN NEW YEARS MESSAGE TO AMERICA SAYS 'FIGHT POVERTY, REFORM SCHOOLS'

"Advising the Very Poor to Be Thrifty a Crime," Says Clever Irishman; Peace and Stoppage of Immigration Among Things We Should Be Thankful For.



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

By GEO. BERNARD SHAW. LONDON, Dec. 26.—On New Year's Day, 1917, Americans have the opportunity, more than others, to be truly happy for the reason that the American constitution continues to stand the strain. Americans cannot govern; all Americans confess this when in Europe.

Let Americans feel happy they are out of it, but are they out of it? War and poverty are the greatest drags on humanity. They insist on the lower life. They allow the greatest tyranny because it appears to safeguard law and order.

Fear is the great enemy. We console ourselves for all our blunders and disgraces by "the bravery of our soldiers"—as set forth in war correspondence carefully edited by themselves.

Poverty Greatest Evil. No doubt our soldiers fight fiercely enough; there is nothing new in the fact that man is the most dangerous of the animals. War is an orgy of crime based on the determination of the soldier to stick at nothing to bring it to an end and get out of daily danger of being shot. Every soldier confesses this; his pet paradox is that clemency is mistaken kindness.

But the great evil to fight is poverty. By our failure to relieve poverty we are brigands. Money is the most important thing in the world, and all the evils we have to struggle against are due to the fact that children are not taught that from their earliest years.

I hear bishops recommending the people of East London to be thrifty. The bishops who do that commit a crime. If a poor man saves a single farthing he is behaving selfishly because he is saving it off clothing or lodging of his children, and under

such circumstances he is a scoundrel. The poorer the people the more important it is to spend all they have.

If Only People Died. Our present system would work if only people died. If an unemployed man could be thrown into the street with the surety that he would die shortly, it would be all right. But he does not die. He becomes a factor for drink or other infectious diseases, which most of us catch.

If I were prime minister I should start with very simple beginnings, and bring in a bill for the communitization of bread. This old idea was set up under Elizabethan poor laws, but people nowadays are too proud to take advantage of it. Friends of mine who have been in prison assure me that the best bread is baked by the state, and the next best is poorhouse bread. There would be a big rush for it at first, and much waste, but after a little there would be no waste, neither would anyone go hungry, as under the present social system.

The next item of my ministerial program would be that a town should belong to the people who lived in it. The citizens would then build their town for themselves, without slums. The landlords would be paid for their land and the cost of ground rents removed from the overburdened taxpayers. Then, I would put a tax of 63-cents in \$5 on the \$3,125, 000,000 unearned increment, and I

would reduce the tax on earned incomes 6 cents in \$5.

Why Year is Hopeful. But to return: What makes the new year a hopeful one for Americans?

The immigration that is being killed off; and the education they may build up.

The modern system of education is a tremendous hypocrisy. A child is a savage, cruel, noisy, dirty, inquisitive being, indiscreet to the point of telling the truth regardless of the feelings of others. Persons who live with their children do so because they cannot afford to send them to boarding school. The good point about boarding schools is that they save children from the demoralizing influence of the home. Still, I do know a more ghastly spectacle than a number of children having a lesson and forced to sit it out.

All this must be altered: England has no money to change the anomalies of the present educational system, but America cannot afford to do otherwise.

The teacher must be taught to say to the child, "While you are interested, stay; when you are bored, go out and play."

Reform the Schools. Teach the children to read and write and then their education—so far as the school is concerned—is complete. I learned practically nothing at school, but look at me! The result is eminently satisfactory. My wife, who had an expensive education, comes to me when she wants the housekeeping books added up!

The war goes on. I am no more of a Christian than you are, gentle reader, yet after contemplating the world and human nature for almost 60 years, I have seen no way out of the world's miseries, but the way which would have been found by Christ's will if he had undertaken the work of a modern practical statesman.

The moneyed, respectable, capable world has been steadily anti-Christian since the Christian era began. The mention of God has gone out of fashion. You never hear about God in parliament and only occasionally in the law courts.

Religious Beliefs. We are neither bigoted enough to cut each other's throats, nor religious enough to respect and understand one another's beliefs.

The religious man is not a person who does, or does not, belong to any creed, but a man who has a constant knowledge that he is here as the instrument of the universal force.

The main truth is that God has no hands, no brains, but your brains;

for God is nothing but a will. I believe that the higher power, the almighty force, we call God cannot do the work of the world without our help. Hence this great benevolent will of God has been working through evolution to get men and women to do His work.

STEAMER ESCAPES FROM SUBMARINE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The British freight steamer Chicago City, from Bristol, England, December 11, was fired on and stopped by a German submarine December 14, when about 120 miles off Fastnet, according to a report of the crew on her arrival here today.

The Chicago City was saved from being sunk by the timely appearance of a British destroyer. The men were getting into the lifeboats when the destroyer bore into sight, and the under-sea boat immediately submerged.

SHARP ADVANCE IN WHEAT FOR DELIVERIES

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Year-end evening up of trades in wheat caused an unusually sharp advance today of the December options. Shorts who had waited until the last hours in which deliveries could be made on contracts for the current month paid dearly for the privilege.

In some cases bidders found it necessary to offer 7 cents a bushel more than yesterday's final quotation, and this fitted December prior to \$1.86. The volume of such transactions, however, was not large.

DEO FOR BURNS, CUTS and WOUNDS
Dennis Eucalyptus Ointment
AT ALL DRUG STORES
Tubes 25c Jars 50c

Many Thanks Happy New Year

This Jewelry Store owes its success during the just-closed year equally to the giving of best value and to an ungrudging way of giving it. The service has been unstinted and the stocks complete. Liberality is a sound business principle and in all our dealings with the public we intend that its practice shall be plainly evident. Greeting to the customer who, in co-operation with others, have helped to make this store. Happy New Year.

JOHNSON, The Jeweler

With the new year aim to cut your tire troubles and your tire costs down to the "irreducible minimum." The one sure way to do it is to use Savage Grafinites Tubes and

SAVAGE TIRES
Factory Distributor
C. E. GATES
Medford

Mr. Fred Alton Haight TEACHER OF PIANO

New term begins January 2. While all applications will be considered, the number of new pupils that can be accepted is limited.

THE HAIGHT MUSIC STUDIO
401 Garnett-Corey Building
Phone 72 Medford, Oregon

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROSECUTE

To the County Superintendent of Schools of Jackson County and City Superintendent of Schools, City of Medford:

Attention has been directed to the continued violation of House Bill 404, Chapter 177, General Laws State of Oregon, Session of 1913, relating to the teaching of Fire Prevention in public, private, and parochial schools in the State of Oregon.

This Act provides as follows:

"Sec. 1. For the purpose of instruction it shall be the duty of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare a book conveniently arranged in chapters or lessons, such chapters or lessons to be in number sufficient to provide a different chapter or lesson for each week of the maximum school year. One of such lessons to be read by the teachers in such schools, each week. The book shall be published at the expense of the State School Superintendent and shall be distributed in quantities sufficient to provide a copy for each teacher required by the provisions of this act to give the instruction herein provided for. The distribution to be provided for by the State Superintendent."

"Sec. 2. Failure by any principal or other person in charge of any public, private or educational institution to comply with the provisions of this act shall be a misdemeanor punishable each offence by fine."

NOTICE—This notice is intended for parents of children attending schools in Jackson County. Deaths of children from fire under 10 years of age in the United States for a period of 5 years amounted to 14,471.

The law referred to is in force in nearly 30 states and is generally recognized as a good law, intended for the protection of life and property.

(Paid Adv.)