



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Let There Be Light

Sober scientists have said, "The universe is light." The warmth that blesses this earth proceeds from the sun. This miracle is not as yet explained. The Bible reads in substance that God decreed that there should be light and there was light. What puzzles us is the darkness that shrouds the minds of Man. Poets have written in beautiful terms about this matter.

Without being much impressed, we read that mice are taught how they may reach a bit of tasty cheese hidden in a maze of nooks and corners. Researchers pile up data how other dumb animals close the gap between their desires and the satisfaction of them. Are we human being less than mice, monkeys and other so-called "dumb" animals?

Is it possible that we are eternally doomed when trying for a goal such as peace and good fellowship among all mankind? It is indeed a strong indictment of humanity if it can not rise above the tooth and claw of the dark jungle. Must Man continually run about fighting, killing, maiming, and ranting? Surely Man, with his large brain, should build a community where such is absent and foreign.

When God commanded that the world be lighted, we think that it was intended that the minds of men be filled with light. Often repeated truisms flick from the tongue on this subject. One old saying along this line is in substance, acquire knowledge and it shall make you free. Clearly knowledge is the light of the mind and only Man can have it and pass it on to his successors.

There must be something very wrong about the world's educational system since past mistakes are repeated again and again. Somehow each newborn babe must gain the feeling that his life will be blessed with freedom and a course of creative work. Light must flood every avenue into which he may turn. The sun does not dictate upon whom its rays shall fall. Neither should one man single out another and deny such other the warmth of the sun. Many times we say it, that is, that Democracy puts everyone in the "sun", but the day is here when we must see that it does.

The very heart of love, peace and good will once beat upon the shores of the United States of America. The light of liberty was erected into a statue in New York harbor. That light was given in honor of this great new idea nation. Events have since pictured that torch of liberty as an eerie light. It is time we tore down the screen of ignorance that surrounds this gallant light and let it stream down upon stumbling humanity all over the world. The warmth of friendship is better than the flames of war.

Editorial Comments

GRANGE RAPS TEACHER OATHS

It is encouraging to note the categorical manner in which delegates to the state convention of the Oregon state grange rejected the idea of subjecting Oregon school teachers to an anti-Communist oath.

In other states farm organizations have sometimes been among the leaders in advocating teacher oaths under the mistaken belief that such pledges could be a means of eliminating disloyal instructors from the class room. Such oaths actually do not serve that end. They do, however, subject the teacher to a humiliation imposed on no other class of public employees; and, what is much worse, they introduce into the schools an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in which true freedom of expression and inquiry cannot exist.

Oregon grange have learned these truths. Their vote at La Grande was almost unanimous against a resolution favoring loyalty oaths for Oregon teachers. Their action should help convince zealots who from time to time propose such teacher tests that the climate of Oregon public opinion is not favorable to the questioning of the integrity of its teachers.—From The Oregonian.

THOSE PARTY PLATFORMS

Foreign policy in the Republican convention; civil rights in the Democratic convention these are the only important platform planks which are likely to be fought out on the floor. And the odds are that master phrasemakers of the resolutions committee will smother these controversial and properly sharp issues so completely that their generalization will be accepted without challenge by the backers of the presidential candidates.

The civil rights plank which the Americans for Democratic Action branch of the Democratic party, led by Mayor (now Senator) Hubert Humphrey of Minneapolis, substituted for the committee's sidestepping version in 1948—and which led to the revolt of the Dixiecrats—was the exception to the rule.

Senator Taft and General Eisenhower are farther apart on foreign policy, and particularly foreign military and economic aid, than they are on domestic policy, judging from Eisenhower's two press conferences since his entrance into the campaign. But the resolutions committee may be able to draft foreign planks acceptable to both. The presentation of the platform to the convention will be on the second or third day, before the delegates get down to nominating the candidate who will have it tied around his neck.

So long as the Republican party contains such diverse elements as those represented by Senator Wayne Morse and Senator Robert A. Taft, and the Democratic party those typified by Senator Humphrey and Sen. Richard Russell, no platform which meet issues squarely could conceivably be drawn to satisfy all. Only differences of degree may be detected, as a rule, in statements of party positions by the Democrats and Republicans. It is to the candidate nominated after the platforms are made that the public looks for a clear definition of what may be expected of him in office. The platform of the national convention, of course, does not bind members of congress.

President Wilson's proposal for national nominating primaries, in 1913, would have reduced the national con-

ventions to platform drafting bodies, as well as giving the people a direct voice in choosing their presidents. It was Wilson's idea that the conventions then should consist, not of delegates, but of "the nominees for congress, the nominees for vacant seats in the senate of the United States, the senators whose terms have not yet closed, the national committees, and the candidates for the presidency themselves, in order that platforms may be framed by those responsible to the people for carrying them out."

This makes more sense than the present system, in which the platform of the party in power consists chiefly of boasts and that of the party out of power chiefly of denunciation and promises to do better than its opponent.—From The Oregonian.

ISRAEL'S TROUBLES

The launching of a new nation has never been an easy business. The new Republic of Israel is no exception. Carved out of Palestine when the British withdrew from their mandate in 1948, the historic land has been a refuge for persecuted or displaced Jews from Europe and an attraction to Zionists from other areas.

It has not, however, drawn as many immigrants from the United States as its founders hoped for in the process of developing work and sustenance for the many thousands who arrived with little more than their hands. The seriousness of the country's economic problem is implicit in the currency exchange just ordered by the Israeli Government. By this drastic means the treasury will take a forced loan of 10 per cent of bank deposits and paper money.

This follows an ingenious foreign exchange plan under which Israel offers pounds at reduced rates of \$1 to investors and \$1.40 to tourists, in comparison with the official value of \$2.80 for foods and ordinary commodities.

It would help greatly if Israel could obtain an early and generous settlement of claims against Germany for material losses by Jews under Nazi rule and to assist in the resettlement of refugees from that country.

Obviously, Israel will need much financing from outside if it is to be a real homeland for the Jews. Its present difficulties by no means indicate that the dream has failed or is failing. But Israel is still in a period of pioneering that blends the hardships of American homesteaders with those of Old Testament worthies.

The world cannot but wish them well both in their task of rejuvenating the land in the necessary undertaking of establishing peaceful relations with their Arab neighbors.—From Christian Science Monitor.



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The Debunker

BY JOHN HARVEY FURBAY PH.D.

FAT OYSTERS ARE NOT ALWAYS FAT



Oysters do not naturally grow thick and fat. When you buy them that way you may be getting a lot of extra water, for when oysters are soaked in water they swell and give the appearance of being large and fat. Government agencies are trying to stop the practice and to regulate the amount of water that can be soaked into oysters before they are sold. So don't be too sure that your plump specimens are actually fat.



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