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Digesting . . . The News

By CLIFFORD C. MITCHELL

The Advocate does not necessarily share in the writer's views, but whether we do or not, the opinions are sane, logical and interesting. It is the readers as well as our privilege to disagree with the writer who invites your opinion upon the subjects discussed from time to time in this column.

For the past few years this writer has been compiling and classifying data of every conceivable form that tends in any manner to affect the Negro. At periodic times when the occasion seems timely the hundreds of cards composing the bulk of data on any given subject are brought together to be thoroughly analyzed, unsected and reviewed for the express purpose of presenting to the readers of this column a constructive suggestion for thought that might be of some benefit if applied.

In our group we have many active workers who are constantly seeking funds for one purpose or another. Year after year it is the same old story—more funds. Apparently they get them too. They must be very clever in rotating their sucker lists or it hardly seems conceivable that the same group is appealed to year after year for the same prospective purpose.


With this form of financing it is no wonder that their successes are not more numerous. With the money coming so easy they do not know how to invest it after they get it. Experience has and is teaching a great many of us that easy money is not good money.

What we need is a combination of these expert money solicitors to work in conjunction with a few reliable, experienced and successful business engineers and promoters. When we get the energy of these race money panderers harnessed and working for practical and constructive efforts we will soon have plenty of capital to engage in the myriad forms of enterprise that will solve our own unemployment problem.

In every community you will find some of our people, who, by the use of business methods, frugal living and right thinking that have prospered. Their success may be only in the form of a small store, a service enterprise, a particular profession or they may be the genius behind a successful bank, insurance or finance company, a publishing house or in any form of legitimate enterprise.

The point is that these successful people have administered their own enterprises, whether large or small, in a meritorious business-like manner and are affording our people employment proportionately. Every dollar that they have made is the result of rendering some kind of useful service in a manner that has resulted in profit. Their success does not represent a series of donation-campaigns and consequently they know how to conserve and increase their hard-earned assets.

A group of business engineers after studying and analyzing the requirements of a community can find many prospective avenues of legitimate enterprise that would afford our group employment and which could be well managed by those who have managed their own businesses successfully, providing they had the necessary capital to extend their operations. Here's where some of our professional panderers could be used. They are so clever in raising money purely through emotion and for some very useless and impractical purposes, that their efforts, for once, could be concentrated on raising money for some very necessary and practical purposes. They wouldn't even have to ask for donations, they could transfer a proportionate share of ownership for each dollar secured. In time, the same dollar would be returned many times over to its donor and the surplus could then be distributed voluntarily to the real worthy charities in our midst. What's your opinion?



SENSE AND REASON
BY RALPH C. CLYDE
FOURTH MEMBER OF OREGON LEGISLATURE AND PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

We hope the day will be hastened when the legislature will adopt a measure to provide for free text books in our public schools. It does not seem to well rest in the minds of many when appeals must be made to charity-endowed people to furnish school books to pupils whose parents are unable to purchase them.

Is it not rather a peculiar state of affairs that we should have public ownership of our school system, and private ownership of our textbooks? Oregon is one of the very few backward states in the Union which does not furnish free textbooks to the school children.

We hope that if this legislature does nothing else, it will at least enact this necessary legislation.

THE HAPPY SMILE

The happy smile is an asset. We all like it. We like the man who meets with the sunny smile.

But there are many, many smiles. 'Tis said there are miles and miles of smiles. There is the glad smile, and there is the sad smile; there is the good smile, and there is the bad smile; there is the big smile, and there is the little smile; there is the straight smile, and there is the crooked smile.

Yes, there are smiles, and smiles, and smiles. But of all the smiles, the greater's smile is the one that has a style all its own. Some call it the "surface" smile. It is the smile that is especially prepared for the purpose. It is a "cafeteria" smile. One that is cooked, dished up, and always ready to deliver. All it requires is the customer—the receiver.

Yes, there are smiles and smiles, and we see artists in the great game of smiling. (A friend sent me this effusion which I think is worthy of publication).

New York, Feb. 6—Lincoln's Birthday this year, Feb. 12, is the 22nd birthday of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and branches of the Association in all parts of the United States are urged to hold a dinner or other commemorative exercises on that occasion by Mary White Ovington, one of the

Arrow Tips

KITS RIED

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Extract from an editorial in the London Army Quarterly of April, 1930:

"Today the whole civilized world—the more sensible portion of it at any rate—is tired of war, and its futility as a method of settling international disputes, is apparent." Recommended to the D. A. R. and the Army and Navy League of America. They may follow the example—"so British you know."

Here is another quotation from over the seas. This time from a sermon by Canon Donaldson of Westminster Abbey.

"To me, war is the denial of God in all his Fatherland. The Christian must because he is a Christian, refuse to kill. To the government his reply must be: 'I shall not shoot; not even if you shoot me because I refuse.'" Recommended to the attention of those Portland clergymen who draped the American flag over their pulpits and prayed for the success of the allies in killing off the Germans.

Well, there are some bright spots in America. It is not necessary to go to England for all the encouragement. Here is some in our own country. On December 9th the trustees of the University of Cincinnati resolved that hereafter, all military training in that university should be elective—no more compulsory. And on the same day Tucker P. Smith, a secretary of the committee on Militarism in Education, testified against the military appropriations for the R. O. T. C. the following week, three bills were introduced in the house and one bill in the senate, withdrawing war department support from all training in secondary schools and from all compulsory military courses. The world does move and isn't it about time that our Women's clubs and our parent teacher organizations protested against the compulsory military training in our University and at the Oregon State College? I do not anticipate any such action though you know Harry and George look so cute in their uniforms!

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