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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, dissected 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 for 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 beat use 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 pa-handlers 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 pa-handlers 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?

Jacksonville Power Plant

Jacksonville, Florida, owns its electric light plant, and last year its profits ran up to the enormous sum of \$1,727,732.52 — the best showing ever made by this city to the present date.

Of this sum \$1,050,000 was turned over to the city's general fund to reduce taxes. It was the equivalent to a little over 11 mills on the total valuation.

It just shows what can be done when the people of a city decide to stop paying tribute to the Power Barons.

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. 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).

Arrmu Tips

KITS RIED

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Just what the results of the present legislature session will be—no one even at this end of the session can predict. The last time I was down there, an interested observer only as I am not identified with any specific measure. One carried away the impression that Dr. Steiner should be presiding over the session. I never saw such confusion and uncertainty. I asked one of the members of the House about one of the major bills and he clasped his hands to his head and rolled his eyes and exclaimed: "for heaven's sake, I don't know anything. I don't think anything. I wish someone would tell me what it's all about.

The State would be better off if we had never had a session of the legislature." "Well, thought I to myself." I agree with you if every legislator's mind is in the condition that yours seems to be. How do you expect to be able to analyze the tax bills that will affect the whole people of the state? I didn't say so to him of course—his thinking apparatus was too wab-bly already.

I've been interested a long time in the work of the Prison Association and watching for the report of the survey of the prison. I called up a member of its society and was told that at the director of the survey had been ill, the publication of the report had been delayed, but that a petition had been sent to the governor and the ways and means committee covering the following points:

In order that the full burden may not rest upon the prison management, we ask that your Committee will recommend that the Governor shall appoint an unpaid Commission of five persons, who shall have power to supervise the changes requested and who shall cooperate with the Superintendent in the expenditure of the appropriation therefor and in such other matters as may be needed to improve conditions at the prison. We ask especially that:

1. Protection against the fire hazard as above indicated be taken immediately.
2. That an effort be made to improve the ventilation in the old cell blocks.
3. That some decent sanitary method be installed for the cells.
4. That adequate equipment and properly trained attendants be provided—that some method of segregation be devised and some effort be made to bring the hospital up to decent standards.
5. That some steps be taken toward more modern methods of classification and segregation of prisoners.

The above is not submitted in any spirit of criticism. We as citizens do not believe that we should shift the blame to the shoulders of the prison management.

Respectfully submitted,
OREGON PRISON ASSO.

If I can persuade a full copy of the petition on the Board I will ask Mrs. Cannady to publish it in full next week because it is very interesting and I think it is time that the people of the State knew something about the conditions in our prison. Suppose some one belonging to any one of us was sent to prison, wouldn't we be interested in the kind of place he was spending years of his life in? Let us put ourselves into a personal relationship to these problems.

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