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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.

This column, unlike a great many others, prefers not to comment on individuals or personalities, but to treat in a general way the mass results of individualistic and community efforts as their plans, actions, failures or successes, are constantly being paraded before the vision of this writer. When individuals are discussed, from time to time, it is not because of their personality but because the position they hold precludes the mention of their activities without their identities.

Almost weekly, certainly monthly, there comes into being a new or revamped organization of one kind or another, all with glowing promises of being the nucleus around and within which we are to be led out of the wilderness and directed to the paths of economic, social, religious, fraternal and political freedom. They all have one thing in common and that is to first obtain the dollars from those whom they so alluringly seek to help.

Our race should well know, from experience, that dollars alone, even in massing them, does not spell success. The elements of youth, new theories, spirited desires or even a degree of militancy when added to the dollars do not necessarily insure success. Should we add to these constituent parts, however, the most necessary elements of experience, tact and judgment, then, and only then, can we be assured of being on the road to an assured success.

It is regrettable and certainly a waste of time, effort and money, except to the promoters, that there are a great many in our group who should and probably do know better, who constantly, perhaps deliberately, launch their ventures and fail to tie up with those in our group who are best fitted to lend the elements of experience, tact and judgment.

There are thousands in our race whose heads are crammed with academic theories but instead of finding them carrying the burdens and responsibilities of our economic efforts they are to be found carrying the grips and parcels of those who have been too busy in their practical lives succeeding from experience rather than theories.

Just imagine how beneficial it would be if the thousands and thousands of dollars we spend on new theories could be controlled and turned over to our successful men and women who already have built a worthy enterprise affording our group employment? If they could build their own organizations, from nothing, to successful quarter-million, half-million and million-dollar enterprises, it seems to this writer, that they and they alone should be the nucleus around which to center our new financial and industrial efforts.

If we have any idle dollars to experiment with why not turn them over to those who have proven that they know how to handle and increase them? Isn't that reasonable? Dollar Diplomacy? Yes, that's what we need to practice.

Chestertown, Md., Feb. 17. Six persons, all of them Negroes, were reported dead today as result, authorities said, of drinking poisoned alcohol. Four others were reported near death.

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SENSE AND NONSENSE
By RALPH C. CLYDE
FORMER MEMBER OREGON LEGISLATURE AND PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL

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. '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).

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Arrow Tips

KITS RIED

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Portland, Or., Feb. 9, 1931. To the Joint Committee on Ways and Means of Oregon State Legislature, Salem, Ore.:

Gentlemen—The Oregon Prison Association has been conducting a survey of conditions in the Oregon state penitentiary for the past six months, with the co-operation of the Board of Control and the superintendent of the prison. It was the purpose of the association to present the printed report to your honorable body for consideration at this session, but owing to the continued illness of the director, this has been impossible.

There are matters which have been developed in the study of the conditions which need legislative action, and these are given herewith in the hope that when your committee considers the prison budget you will give your earnest attention to the recommendations:

1. The fire hazard is of the greatest importance. There is no proper fire protection of any part of the prison. The water supply is most inadequate and of insufficient pressure. The pumping apparatus is not properly equipped. There are no sprinkling devices in the cell blocks. As these are of mill construction, if a fire should originate in either one, a holocaust worse than the Ohio disaster could not be avoided. The antiquated separate-cell padlock system of 327 cells would condemn the prisoners to certain death. In addition may we point out the lack of any fire drill.

2. The ventilation of the cell blocks is worse than none, and its continuance is inhuman—even beasts are more carefully housed. Owing to the lack of toilet facilities, the air in the upper cell tiers is intolerable. This situation is intensified by the overcrowded condition of the prison.

3. The hospital is such in name only—and is most inadequate. There should be at least one attendant who is a properly accredited trained nurse. There is no attempt at segregation of patients—the very ill from those slightly affected—the contagious from the non-contagious patients. But a short time ago a patient died of tuberculosis, in this so-called hospital, the day after he was pardoned. There seems to be no special treatment for patients suffering from serious conditions, such as cancer, tuberculosis, erysipelas (now known as highly contagious) or venereal diseases. The diet kitchen is not properly cared for and the diet of the sick receives but indifferent attention. The fire escape is but an excuse for such and would be worthless as none but an able-bodied person could use it. It would certainly be of no benefit for a sick or disabled person. In the women's quarters we found no equipment for the treatment of venereal diseases.

4. Some effort should be made to install bathing equipment for the prisoners. The present arrangements are crude and insufficient. The dusty work in the flax plant should call for further attempt in this direction. In addition to the foregoing may we stress the need for separation of the young—first offenders—from the older type of prisoner. Our survey shows that the greater number of men are under 30 years of age, with several 16 years of age. This is not intelligent care. There should be also some steps taken toward psychiatric analysis of the men upon entrance to the prison.

Last but of primal importance is the need for some direction in the building campaign now going on. The new cell block is entirely too near the old cell blocks, shutting off, as it does, both light and air. The real need is an entirely new plant on an entirely dif-

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Negro Subjects to Have Attention of Study Club
Heppner, Ore. — "Negro Contributions to Art" and "The New South" are subjects to be discussed by the Woman's Study club of Heppner next Monday at 8 o'clock in Legion Hall. Each of the topics will be handled in three sections. Mrs. Frank Turner will report on music and literature under the first and Mrs. Russell Pratt will give a review of some Negro book. Industry and resources will be handled by Mrs. Jeff Beamer under the second topic. Mrs. E. R. Huston will discuss social life and customs, and Mrs. H. A. Cohn will tell of mountain heights of southern states. Musical numbers will include a musical reading by Miss Helen Falconer of Lexington, and a vocal solo by Miss Charlotte Woods.

WHITE WOMEN HEAR HARRISON
Montclair, N. J., Feb. 25.—(CNS)—Richardson Harrison, star of "The Green Pastures" and recent winner of the Harmon award, addressed the Montclair Women's Club Sunday afternoon. The organization is white.

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