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LEISURE—NOT IDLENESS

There is a very old saying that it is not sorrow nor trial that puts the severest test to human character, but prosperity and personal success.

There is much truth in the saying, and much also in the further one that the surest test of a people is in the use to which it puts its leisure.

Man works because he must. He makes the best of it and finds no reason for complaint, but rather for pride that he can do it well and in content.

But of his leisure he makes what he will. What he finds full evidence in the fashion in which he spends the time that is his to choose what he will do.

The matter happens to have become a very vital one right now. The American people are to be tested in the matter of their understanding of the blessedness of leisure.

Here now at last is a chance to follow one's own instinct

for voluntary labors of fascinating and inconsequential sorts, to have time to study, for reading, for unhurried works of human helpfulness, for digging in one's garden, for exploring the neighboring countryside, for knowing one's neighbors.

The word leisure itself, merely means the chance for choice.

To use it not only with wisdom, but with prodigal and joyful abandon is to find a new spirit in life, a new happiness in living and a new heart for work when the working time comes round.

THE FRUITS OF COOPERATION

A short time ago Secretary of Agriculture Wallace said that the present cotton plan—which is reducing acreage, improving the market and stimulating prices—was principally the work of farm organizations, and not the Department of Agriculture.

Those who should know believe that the plan means millions of additional dollars in the pockets of cotton producers. If that is true, it is a signal victory for the forces of cooperation.

As a matter of fact, wise farmers and observers have known for a long time that their greatest hope for recovery lay in the success of the cooperatives. Individual farmers are powerless in the face of adverse forces. Government relief plans, valuable as they often are, are designed to bridge times of emergency, and lay little stress on the long view. The co-ops are working to create a sound and permanently prosperous agricultural structure—only they have the weapons that are needed if success is to be achieved.

During three years of bleak depression the co-ops held thousands of farmers together, and kept them laboring in a common cause. In that time they unquestionably did much to prevent a complete agricultural collapse. Low as prices were, they would have been lower yet had the co-ops not existed.

GOING, GOING, GONE!

The recent speech of National Recovery Administrator Johnson concerning the "buy now" campaign he plans to start late in September, should be of special interest to the wise and thrifty property-owner.

The forthcoming campaign is not to be classed with sporadic campaigns of a similar nature attempted during the past few years. This one will have the highest backing—it will come at a time when recovery is really underway, and the public will go the limit in cooperating with the heads of the government. There is every reason to believe it will succeed. And the result will be sharper acceleration of the price level.

There is, as General Johnson said, a tremendous latent demand for all necessities of life—for auto repairs, for clothes, for new heating plants, for house and land improvement. Organized and directed, this demand can create the greatest buying wave since war-time. It will lower the value of the inactive dollar, by making it buy less. It will raise the value of the dollar that is spent wisely now, by increasing the value of the improvements.

This is fact, not theory. The day of bargains for standard commodities is going. It will be gone before we know it. The American property-owner is being offered his last chance to build a new home, repair the old one, and do similar things at extremely low prices.

YOUTH AND CRIME

Youth continues to predominate the ranks of crime.

Boys and girls of 19 form the largest individual age group in the criminal element. One-fifth of all known crimes are committed by persons under 21, three-fifths by persons under 30.

This was the record written in youthful fingerprints on the files of the United States bureau of investigation during the first six months of 1933. While it set no precedent it added still another chapter to the story of youth's leadership in crime, which has been told periodically by the investigation bureau ever since it began several years ago to catalogue fingerprints of every person arrested for a criminal offense in the United States.

And this time, analyzing its statistics, the bureau found in them a new indication that it is a short step from a minor first offense to more serious and deliberate crimes. Nineteen-year-olds, it was pointed out, exceeded the number of 18-year-old offenders by only 10 per cent when the whole group of offenses was taken into consideration, with minor crimes pulling the average down. These figures indicate that youthful offenders quickly turn to serious crimes if they once start on the pathway of crime.

During the first half of this year, 159,493 arrests were made in the United States and the finger prints of the arrested persons transmitted to the justice department. Of that total 20.1 per cent were under 21 years of age, 39.5 per cent under 25. Of the total number arrested, the bureau said, only 11,029, or 6.9 per cent, were women. Their most frequent offenses were disorderly conduct, drunkenness and vagrancy. Thirty-five per cent of the 159,493 persons arrested during the six-month period had previous arrest records already on file.

EDITORIAL TABLOIDS BY CLARK WOOD

The most popular land plaster now is the federal mortgage.

Cuban patriots, it appears, are loyal to the government, if they happen to be the government.

Uncle Sam's problem is that so many of his people are found wanting.

A business optimist is one who opens a tailor shop in a nudist colony.

We suspect that the opening of the deer season is welcomed not only by the hunters, but by the undertakers.

Voice of the Press

THE STAR OF HOPE

A bright sign, yet one which contains a warning for all of us, appears on the American industrial horizon. It is: profits. They are coming back after an absence of three years. Although a few units of our complicated machine have made profits through the depression, these small gains have not equalled the tremendous losses. It is the total profits of American industry and business that is important in establishing the total wage paid and the average standard of living. But the total profit is growing.

On the bright side of this sign is the assurance that, as the total American profit grows, there will be more to divide with the farmer and the factory man. The result: more jobs, higher wages, increased purchasing power and, finally, unless there is interruption, prosperity. Work and brains CAN accomplish this.

On the warning side of the sign is the arrow pointing to a better standard of living for everybody. This, too, CAN be attained, and it will be attained if we have the courage and intelligence to do it.

Charity follows idleness. But where there is soil, rivers, forests; where there are vast plains and green valleys—there must be work.

These natural resources of our nation are a challenge. For, in conquering them, we are building the nation of the people.

A people cannot long exist when a substantial part of the population depends upon the rest for subsistence. Any social system that forces charity by making many of us dependent on the whim of political job-holders and money-changers is unsound. None of us wanted the dole—and we aren't going to have it.

A great majority of our people believe in the fundamental soundness of the American system of government. Most of us believed in it when it tottered dangerously.

The events of the last few months show that the American people made no mistake when they pinned their faith in the President's statement—that the return to work is the primary object of the administration.

The new code for industry, the new standards of life, the new hope which is growing—all these things point to a new era.—The Seattle Star.

Around the Country

The first hunting accidents of the season occurred Thursday when Kelton Crampton of Bellfountain and Edward Volstroff of Hood River were reported killed while on a hunting trip with friends.

A presidential salute of 21 guns was the order of the day at the Century of Progress Wednesday in honor of former President Herbert Hoover, who is finding it difficult in Chicago to be just a common American citizen.

Restaurant proprietors in Reno, Nev., are puzzled. The city milk inspector has served notice on them that all milk served with meals must be dispensed from the original container in full view of the customer.

Chicago—If every dog has his day, so has a horse. There should be no discrimination, a judge ruled in the case

Guarantee Work

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of John Jackson, a peddler whose horse bit Charles Sarsone.

A horse could have one bite the judge held, adding he'd dismiss the whole affair if Jackson would pay Sarsone's hospital bill.

They greeted the Rev. J. T. Hendrix of Allerton, Ill., with a shotgun when he came home from the Methodist conference.

It wasn't that the pastor isn't liked. In fact he was so greeted because the parishioners think highly of him. The gun is to hunt game with, and thereby cut down the cost of living, for the pastor's pay isn't very large.

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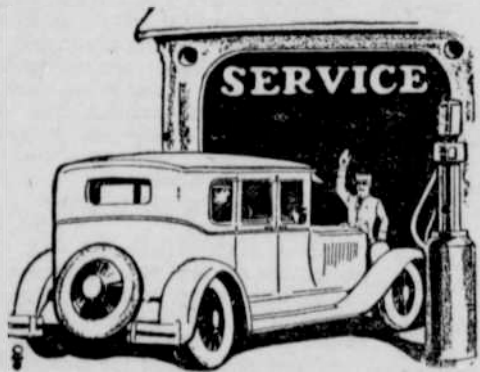
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