

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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HELPING HAND FOR REFUGEES

The pathetic plight of the political and religious refugees who may be practically driven out of Germany and Austria by the drastic acts of their government, has stirred the heart of the world.

The sympathy of the world has been moved by the troubles of these people, who have found it necessary, or may be forced, to leave their homes, and try their fortunes in unknown lands.

The plight of some family which has always been able to make a living in such countries, but which finds it impossible to continue there under present conditions, will be pitiful if these people must leave their homes penniless.

Jesus Christ gave his highest commendation to the "Good Samaritan" who found a man lying wounded by the roadside, and who picked him up and dressed his wounds and provided for his care.

The American people have all they can do to find work for their own people. But when they see sufferers elsewhere, who are practically forced to leave their home countries, our folks will not be deaf to their cries for help.

ABOUT REORGANIZATION

The fight on the President's reorganization bill having failed in the United States Senate it seems proper to discuss the measure.

We admit quite freely and without reserve that we are not familiar with many of the details of the measure. There may be clauses, sentences and paragraphs that go too far and some that fail to go far enough.

Generally, however, the President is the Executive of this republic. It is so declared in the Constitution. The officials appointed by him to assist in the work of the executive department, it seems to us, should be subject to removal by him.

Without particular reference to the present bill it seems necessary for the President to have authority in regards to the organization of his branch of the government. He should not have to seek or obtain the consent of Congress to change that, in his opinion, would secure desired ends.

While there has been much hostile criticism of the present proposal by those who fear dictatorship, we agree with the statement of Former President Hoover, who upon landing in New York from Europe, was asked about the fight on the reorganization bill.

WARREN VAN DYKE

Not alone has the Democratic party lost a loyal supporter and counsellor, but every proponent of good government will recognize a distinct loss in the death of Warren Van Dyke, Secretary of Highways of the State of Pennsylvania.

Years ago, under former ownership, The Centre Democrat stood shoulder to shoulder with Warren Van Dyke fighting many a losing battle for the principles of Democracy. Later, as time effected changes in the administration of this newspaper, friendships were further cemented through close association with Mr. Van Dyke in the cause for which he valiently espoused, and happily, lived to see triumph.

The fact that he was held in high regard by both Democrats and Republicans alike, is conclusive evidence of Warren Van Dyke's high type of private and public life.

PASSING OF A GOOD CITIZEN

There died at his home in Milesburg on Sunday morning a man whose life work had become enshrined in the affections of practically every citizen of this community. We feel it a privilege to pay humble tribute to the memory of Frank L. Wetzler, whose passing has given rise to a wave of regret.

Mr. Wetzler was a small-town business man who, had he chosen, might have attained fame and accumulated greater worldly goods in a larger sphere of endeavor. But

he loved the people with whom he had formed early associations, and their friendly regard meant more to him than great riches. So he preferred to remain in the community where his cherished friends lived.

Mr. Wetzler was a useful citizen in every sense of the word, but the interest he took in keeping alive the spirit of music in the community will long remain one of his finest characteristics. He had the happy faculty of taking young folks and moulding them into groups of accomplished musicians. Scores of citizens will attest to Bandmaster Frank Wetzler's kindly nature and inspiration that drew from them the best of devoted and efficient service.

Mr. Wetzler gave unstinted, his time and support to community affairs, the importance of which can only be revealed as time passes. We believe the world is better for such men as Frank Wetzler.

THE BIG MOTOR TRUCK

Each succeeding year finds increasing objections on the part of motorists to the large oversized trucks which crowd the highways to the land. Trucking interests have been very reasonable in presenting their side of the picture and somewhat surprised to know that public opinion is against not the smaller and faster trucks but to those rubber-tired "freight cars" which singly and in tandem fashion go crashing along the highways.

The Gallup poll recently took its customary cross-section of sentiment in the Nation and found that 66 per cent of the voters wanted these mountainous vehicles off the roads.

The question presented to the citizens was "Would you favor laws to restrict and reduce the use of the highways by large freight trucks?" And the result was that sixty-six persons out of every 100 answered "Yes." And nobody is surprised. If there is surprise it is that this 66 per cent has not been more insistent on having its will prevail.

The survey showed that opposition to the big trucks was strongest where traffic was thickest. Around the Great Lakes and along the seaboard objection was most prevalent. One can understand that, too. There is only one emotion for the motorist who is held back by a big truck making two or three miles an hour on a hill. The motorist has no charity for the large truck which "hogs" the road and all but crowds other cars off of it.

Ultimately this heavy truck problem will be solved and with justice to motorist and trucker alike. It may take the form of restricting weight and dimensions or it may find an outlet in highways built exclusively for trucks. One thing seems certain. The present situation will not continue indefinitely.

THE MEXICAN CONTROVERSY

The controversy with Mexico, over its expropriation of oil properties belonging to American citizens, serves to call attention to the friendly attitude which this country has shown to the Mexican government in the past.

The silver purchase agreement, now suspended, is said to have provided the Mexicans with funds for their purchases in this country. Although Mexico recently increased its duties against American goods there was no counter-move in the same direction here. The arms embargo, maintained against shipment of munitions to Mexico, has tended to solidify the position of President Cardenas. The sympathy extended to the Mexicans in their attempt to work out peculiar social and economic problems has been notable.

In the present issue, the Mexican government has seized valuable properties, belonging to foreigners, without much evidence of an intention or ability to pay for them. In the case of certain lands, seized some time ago, the owners were paid in bonds, which became practically worthless when no interest was paid. What the United States insists upon is that the Mexican government, when it takes property of Americans, shall pay for what it seizes. There is no argument as to the right of the Mexicans to assume control of the oil properties; the only question is whether they shall be purchased or stolen.

MUSSOLINI, THE WAR ADVOCATE

Premier Mussolini last week took the world into his confidence and boasted that Italy possessed the world's largest submarine fleet, that the nation's air force was among the best and that 9,000,000 men wait to march under his command.

Of course, Il Duce was full of peace; he wanted to assure "general peace" and above all "our peace." He advised that the "best defense is offense" and "that which has always counted and still counts among peoples is their war-making ability."

Significantly, Mussolini advised the Italian people to organize their existence in small towns and villages, warning them that once mobilization began there would be no facilities for mass movements of populations to avoid the horrors of civilian bombardments.

American citizens, who read such statements, find it hard to believe that the responsible head of a large nation believes it necessary to make such declarations. Some of them blandly pass it up with the thought that Mussolini is talking for home consumption and to boost Italian morale. A few are convinced that Mussolini intends to use his submarines, his air force and his army in an effort to carve a place in the sun for Italy and a place in history for himself along with the Caesars.

BIG BUSINESS PROFITS

The restrictions against which big business clamors so loudly and the removal of which, it is said, will result in an upsurge, were in effect during the year 1937.

Reports of large corporations show unusual earnings in 1937. Some of these reports have been referred to. Among the latest is that of the General Electric Company, showing net income of \$63,546,762 in 1937 as compared with \$43,947,166 in 1936 although there was an increase in taxes paid. Encouraging is the report that the "average annual earnings" of employees were "the highest in the history of the company."

Sears, Roebuck and Co., huge mail order concern, reports the largest sales and profits in its history for 1937, with a net profit of \$30,828,248 although it records a tax bill of \$14,329,243.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company reports a net income, after deducting all charges, taxes and reserves, except for mine depletion, of \$31,387,862, compared with only \$15,881,829 in 1936.

Evidently the restrictions did not prevent some large concerns from making large profits in 1937. Could it be possible that the clamor against them is misdirected and that the large corporations that failed to do well in 1937 ought to look elsewhere for their trouble?

The greatest contribution that a citizen can make to the advancement of Centre County is some of his or her time in unselfish public service.

Speaking about ignorance: You have been eating food all your life but you probably know very little about the science of correcting dieting.

The world is filled with people who think they discharge obligations by finding a plausible excuse for ignoring them.

THE OFFICE CAT. A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men.

HONEY TOAST

Here's to the ladies, Lord bless 'em; You recall how we used to help dress 'em— It was "Honey, hook this," Or "Dearie, pin that," "Please lace my shoes," Or "Straighten my hat."

Just An Old Spick Custom

The sweet young thing was entertaining her gray-haired husband's nephew from the big city. The young fellow had talked so incessantly through the dinner hour of his affairs with the big town girls that the young wife was almost distracted. She gazed wistfully at the handsome young sheik.

FUN ON THE TOMBSTONES

She drove her car with snap and dash— A bee lit on her knee; A buzz-z-z-z, a stab, a scream, a crash— She's now a total wreck!

Foolish Figures

While waiting for lunch to arrive a group of men in a hotel recently tried to figure out how many apples Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden. Here are the various answers to the perplexing question:

He Should Have Been Two Fellows

A Hebrew walked into the doctor's office and complained of a strange ailment. "It's a werry peculiar tink, doctor," he said. "I'm always tukking to myself."

Southern Eloquence

A celebrated white preacher had been engaged to address the congregation of a little negro church and was being introduced by the very nervous colored pastor.

Reverse English

Not so long ago an old lady rushed unannounced into the private office of a lawyer.

Darktown Philosophy

A colored philosopher was discussing women with one of his friends. "Ruffe," he said, "de men don't make such fools of demselves about women as de women do about men."

Stork Mad

Mrs. Cassidy, the mother of thirteen, had just had another increase and Mrs. Grogan dropped in to see how she was getting along.

Well, Of All Things!

Little Tricotine O'Toole had the very bad habit of sucking her thumb. To break her of this practice her mother told her that it would spoil her figure and that she would grow up ugly and fat.

Spicy Definition

The family was preparing the lesson for Sunday school. "Surely you remember what 'synonym' means?" queried the mother.

Tactful Man

Young Bride—"Darling, I'm afraid I put too much milk in the mashed potatoes." Husband—"Oh, well, put in a little more and we'll drink them."

Query and Answer Column

Problem—If a match is cut in two pieces, each being exactly the same length, which is the heavy end? Answer elsewhere in this column.

L. C. H.—Does a caterpillar have many muscles? Ans.—A caterpillar may have as many as 4000 muscles.

L. R. Y.—What are the rules of life advocated by the Oxford Group? Ans.—They are as follows: Absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and absolute love.

J. H.—When were lead pencils first made? Ans.—The earliest mention of what are known today as lead pencils appears in records dating back to 1565—not long after the discovery of the noted graphite mine at Borrowdale, England, in 1574. This mine furnished the material for the first lead pencils.

H. M.—Was Hitler blind at one time? Ans.—On October 14, 1918, he was blinded by a gas attack and it was three months before his sight was restored.

B. R.—When were the last of the great herds of buffalo killed? Ans.—During the winter of 1882 and 1883, the hide hunters killed the last of the great herds.

N. H.—What is the name given to the three chairs placed back of the pulpit in churches? Ans.—These seats are referred to as sedilia. The singular is sedile.

C. H. B.—Is it true that on the day Edwin Booth was buried Ford's Theater collapsed? Ans.—On June 9, 1863, the day that Edwin Booth was buried at Boston, the three floors of Ford's Theater collapsed during the making of repairs.

E. W. F.—Are tramp trips on freighters popular? Ans.—The demand has become so great for trips of this type that it is difficult to secure accommodations. Cabin space is limited as cargoes and freighters seldom have room for more than ten passengers, and reservations are often made eight months in advance.

C. G.—What is Hitler's real name? Ans.—Hitler's grandfather was Johann Georg Heidler. His father became known as Alois Hitler. This change can be easily explained, because the peasants could scarcely read or write. Some members of the family called the name Huettler.

H. L.—What is the meaning of the word deacon as applied to leather? Ans.—Deacon is the skin of a very small calf. After curing, the skin weighs less than seven pounds.

B. R. M.—How accurate are the United States Weather Bureau forecasts? Ans.—Verifications of forecasts made by the Weather Bureau show them to be about 87 per cent accurate for the Country as a whole.

H. W.—Who was the Cowboy Congressman? Ans.—The late Percy L. Glassaway of Oklahoma was so called because he wore the traditional cowboy costume while serving in the House of Representatives (1934-36).

F. W.—When was the Ohio River frozen so hard that a horse and buggy could be driven across? Ans.—The year in which the Ohio River was frozen over so that teams could be driven across, was December, 1876.

L. H.—What is the best way to clean a pipe? Ans.—Tobacco Leaf, the trade magazine, recommends cleaning pipes with cold coffee and a pipe cleaner. Soaking in the coffee for an hour will soften the caked material which may then be pried loose with a blunt instrument. Stale pipes can always be cured by the cold coffee treatment.

W. T. M.—How many wives and children did Brigham Young leave? Ans.—Brigham Young died at the age of 76 on August 29, 1877. He was survived by seventeen wives and forty-seven children.

L. W. R.—Is it true that the revenue from beer is used for educational purposes? Ans.—In 1937, taxes on beer returned approximately \$17,000,000 to the various States. Of this amount, about 40 per cent was appropriated for support of schools and public welfare purposes. In other States beer revenue went into the general fund from which appropriations for education, unemployment relief, old-age pensions, public health, and like welfare purposes were made.

S. B. P.—What disposition was made of George Washington's slaves? Ans.—George Washington was the owner of 124 slaves when he died. In his will he gave the slaves held in his own right their freedom on the death of Mrs. Washington. It was, however, found necessary, for prudential reasons, to give the slaves their freedom within one year after Washington's death.

E. L.—Was there a State personal property tax before the Earle Administration? Ans.—The Act of June 17, 1913, imposed a personal property tax of four mills, which was to be used for county purposes only. This Act was passed under Governor Tener's Administration. June 22, 1925, the Legislature enacted what is known as the "State Personal Property Tax Act," the returns from which are for the purpose of providing revenue for the State. It might be added that up until the enforcement of the more recent personal property tax law, little attention was paid by counties to the collection of the then existing four-mill tax. Under the present system of assessment and collection, however, counties have greatly benefitted by increased revenue.

R. E.—How many different religious sects and faiths are there in the United States, and how many in Pennsylvania? Ans.—There are 182 accredited sects in the U. S., and approximately 144 non-accredited, which has a membership of about 80,000.

E. H. D.—What is the present rate of inheritance tax in Pennsylvania? Is the tax the same on a large or small bequest? Ans.—The inheritance tax is 2 per cent, regardless of the sum total of inheritance.

G. B.—Is it true Gene Autry is leaving Hollywood? Is he married? Near what town in the State of Texas does his father own a ranch? What is the name of the ranch? Ans.—Gene Autry is married. It is rumored he is leaving Hollywood, but this is doubted because of long-time contracts. We have no records of his parents. However, it is said he has a 750-acre ranch near Waco, Texas.

M. S.—What are the names of the members of President Roosevelt's cabinet? Ans.—The full names of all the Cabinet officers are not available at this time, but we wish to advise that this question is being filed to be answered within the next week or two.

A Reader—To settle a dispute will you answer in your Q. and A. column where the Atlanta, Georgia, aviator, Paul Redfern, left from, and where was he bound for, when last heard from; and what tribe inhabited the parts where he was supposed to be? What was the make of his plane? How old was he? Did the party who left to hunt him ever find him? What size cruiser did they have? Ans.—Sorry to say that we have no official records of Paul Redfern and his aviation exploits. If you write to the Bureau of Aeronautics at Washington, D. C., you may get the desired information.

Answer to problem: The end that produces the fire is the "light" end.

Last Week's Problem We were expecting some of our readers to prove themselves smarter than the contributor of last week's problem, which read as follows: "A man sent his son to a bank to get a five-dollar bill changed into exactly 250 pieces—pennies, nickels and dimes. How many of each denomination did the young man bring back? He warned us that 'it couldn't be done,' and that the 'nearest solution is 205 pennies, 29 nickels and 15 dimes, making \$5 with 249 pieces.'"

We, therefore, put it up to our readers, with a feeling of almost certainty that someone would arrive at a correct solution. We're not disappointed, for we received a number of replies, two of which are given below:

C. D. Bartholomew, Centre Hall—190 cents, 2 dimes and 58 nickels—250 pieces, value \$5.00.

P. L. C. Bellefonte—200 pennies, 40 nickels and 10 dimes—250 pieces, value \$5.00.

Betty Kyler, seven-year-old daughter of Mrs. Aaron Kyler, of Beaver Falls, R. D. 2, successfully worked out the problem in this manner: 40 nickels, 10 dimes and 200 pennies, 250 pieces amounting to \$5.00.

Glen Nalrabob, of Wrightstown, Pa., sends this solution: 18 dimes, 22 nickels and 210 pennies—250 pieces amounting to \$5.00.

Edward H. Myers, of Boalsburg, illustrates how the problem may be solved in seven different ways: First, 2 dimes, 58 nickels, 190 pennies; second, 6 dimes, 49 nickels, 195 pennies; third, 10 dimes, 40 nickels, 200 pennies; fourth, 14 dimes, 31 nickels, 205 pennies; fifth, 18 dimes, 22 nickels, 210 pennies; sixth, 22 dimes, 13 nickels, 215 pennies; seventh, 26 dimes, 4 nickels, 220 pennies.

Thanks to all who responded with solutions.