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EDITORIAL

EFFICIENCY OR CONSPIRACY

The efficiency of big business must be admired. It reached such a point, a few years ago, for example, that when the government called for bids on automobile tires eighteen companies submitted bids "identical to the penny" on "eighty-two or more different sizes of tires."

Now, that is what anybody can call efficiency. Every manufacturer was equally efficient, with every other maker of tires and, naturally, the price asked had to be the same.

Instead of applauding this example of American efficiency some government official got the idea that there was collusion among the bidders and the bids were rejected. Finally, after four sets of identical bids, the government negotiated a contract with a mail order concern at prices "substantially lower" than any received by the government.

The next time the government called for bids the companies submitted bids which were not identical and were "substantially lower" than the mail order company's prices. Meanwhile, there had been no drop in the retail prices of tires to the general public and, consequently, the government suspects that its reduction was due to the elimination of the price-fixing conspiracy and the advent of competitive bidding.

Logic, we believe, is on the side of the government, which has instituted a suit against the tire companies, alleging that, as a result of the identical bids, it paid about \$351,000 more for tires than it would have paid if there had been no conspiracy. Under the Sherman Anti-Trust Acts, the government seeks triple damages.

We report this matter because of the demand that the government permit business to "go ahead." What do the business leaders acquiesce in collusive bidding, pay the makers of tires whatever they decide to ask and let it all pass upon the theory that "what helps business" helps everybody.

The instance of tires is not the only case where the government, in calling for bids, has received identical bids from various companies. The Navy Department opened fifty-nine bids on steel pipe and found every one of them the same. Ten bids for reinforcement bars for the Fort Peck dam showed the same figure, \$253,633.80. Examples could be added but these are typical.

Under the circumstances what is the government to do? Is it any wonder that there are advocates of government ownership of plants to provide governmental necessities? If the government, when it tries to give business to private industry, runs up against a barrage of identical bids, the suspicion of collusion among the bidders to take the government for a ride is inevitable.

We prefer for the government to buy what it needs from private industry. At the same time we think private industry should give the government, and the taxpayers, a fair deal. Certainly, there should be some evidence of competition and if it is impossible to get the necessary products at fair prices we think the government is justified in taking steps to protect the people of this nation.

BATTLESHIPS VS. AIRPLANES

Great Britain, it is announced, will increase its battleships program to include nine dreadnaughts. The United States is expected to build not less than eight. Germany, France, Italy and Japan are believed to contemplate four apiece and Russia has joined the procession by indicating a desire to purchase some battleships in the United States.

At the same time, each of these nations is engaged in a stupendous program of airplane construction. While reports are somewhat conflicting, it seems to be agreed that the air strength of the powers is in this order: Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the United States, Japan and France, with Russia's strength unknown but possibly exceeding in number the air corps of Italy.

Now, what worries us about the program is the belief, often reported in past years, that any airplane, with a few bombs, can sink a battleship. Is it possible that the big nations are building battleships merely to serve as targets for the enlarged air corps? Or, is it true that the experts of every nation realize that sea power depends upon battleships and, for that reason, urge the construction of larger and larger dreadnaughts?

THE DIFFERENCE

While the Congress of the United States, in thoroughly democratic manner, is discussing the possibility of fortifying Guam, the Japanese government, without bothering about parliamentary debate, seizes the island of Hainan.

Here you have an illustration of the methods that differentiate democratic and dictator nations.

The same thing will be apparent in regards to starting a war. In democratic nations the government has to justify its course and overcome a natural desire of the people to have peace. In dictator nations the dominant group starts the war and, with compulsory methods, force the people to support it.

There is little chance for permanent world peace so long as any nation can begin a war as easily as the dictators can cut a deck of cards. There is no chance of world disarmament so long as any nation, no matter how peaceful, can be attacked with impunity and without publicity.

TAXING ALL INCOMES IS FAIR

The proposal that the United States Government be allowed to place an income tax upon the salaries of state officials and that, at the same time, the state governments be allowed to place an income tax on the salaries of Federal officials, is eminently sound and deserving of prompt attention by Congress.

There is no reason in the world why an official of either the Federal or State Government, drawing a salary of similar size, should not pay equal income taxes with other citizens of a state. To pretend that the power to levy an income tax upon the salaries of officials would enable the State or Federal Government to interfere with the proper functions of government is, we think, absurd.

There certainly can be no threat to the proper functions of government, as exercised by Federal officials, if this state taxes the income of such officials at the same rate that it taxes the income of its own citizens. Likewise, the officials of this state government and its local subdivisions, would not be prevented from carrying out their duties by the imposition and collection of a Federal income tax on the same basis that the tax applies to other citizens of the United States. We suspect that the cry to the contrary is raised by officials anxious to save the taxes for themselves.

For the present, the question is in the hands of congressmen. These gentlemen receive a salary of \$10,000 a year that is exempt from State income taxes. The natural presumption is that they will incline themselves very slowly to the passage of any law that will provide additional taxation for themselves. However, they should not stand in a preferred position and they should be required to pay the same income taxes that are paid by business and professional men who earn the same amount of money in a year.

WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF WAR

The American Institute of Public Opinion which very successfully predicted the outcome of national elections, makes a business of finding out what the people of the United States think about various public questions.

Recently, it reported a growing American apprehension of a new European war and significantly that ninety-four per cent of our people placed the blame for such a conflict upon Germany or Italy, or both and only six per cent named other nations.

This reveals quite a change from August, 1937, when more than half of the voters thought Germany or Italy would start the next world war, but a substantial number thought Russia, Japan or some other country would be responsible.

Whereas a year and a half ago, before Germany's absorption of Austria, only sixteen per cent of our people expected a major war within twelve months, today forty-four per cent of the voters expect a conflict to begin in 1939. Another significant shift in public opinion is found in the figures showing that fifty-seven per cent of our people believe that the United States will be drawn into a war between Great Britain and France on one side and Germany and Italy on the other. A few months ago, only forty-three per cent of the voters expressed such an opinion.

With the Netherlands, France and Great Britain interested in buying American airplanes it might be possible for our aircraft industry to expand to a size sufficient to take care of our needs, in the event of an emergency, without much cost to the government of the United States.

If, as reported, the Russian government, wants American companies to construct two battleships, the order might lead to expansion of our shipbuilding industry. Besides giving employment to some of our workmen and using American material, the contract would add to the industrial preparedness of the United States for war.

Instead of opposing these orders, the people of this country ought to welcome them. If American industry can land enough of them it would save our taxpayers considerable money and be the means of strengthening the defenses of this hemisphere.

FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

The campaign for highway safety in the United States has produced encouraging results in the past few years but there is no reason for any one to suppose that the goal of safety has been obtained.

The thousands who continue to die upon our highways attest the need of continued emphasis upon safety. The lesson should be presented continually and persistently in order that lives may be spared.

Once again we express the opinion that rigorous enforcement of traffic regulations, including careful issuance of driver's licenses, will do much to remove the peril. No person should possess enough influence anywhere to escape prescribed punishment for traffic violations.

HEALTH

March is the month for tonsillitis. This infection of the tonsils occurs during winter and spring months, but reaches its peak this month.

In schools and especially in hospitals, acute tonsillitis may assume the proportions of a minor epidemic at this season.

The symptoms of tonsillitis are the same as those of sore throat. A sore throat which manifests itself by difficulty in swallowing and rise in temperature may be symptoms of scarlet fever, or diphtheria, or tonsillitis.

It is important, with such symptoms, to find out as soon as possible, just what the condition is so that proper treatment may be instituted.

Acute tonsillitis occurs most often during childhood and adolescence.

Infants seem to possess a high degree of immunity—and the susceptibility diminishes in later adult life.

When a child complains that it hurts him to swallow, if his throat is sore on pressure and looks red and inflamed, infection should be suspected.

The child should be put to bed, even if there is no fever. It may be the start of either of the three diseases listed above—diphtheria, tonsillitis or scarlet fever.

Acute tonsillitis, in epidemic form, is usually confined to small institutions—communities—but sometimes it spreads to larger fields.

In the larger proportion, acute tonsillitis is sometimes referred to as "epidemic sore throat."

If a child has frequent tonsillitis, the family doctor can advise whether his tonsils need to be removed.

DO YOU KNOW

The heart is an organ which responds quickly to various kinds of

STIMULI, EITHER PHYSICAL OR PSYCHIC.

The emotions can set the heart beating rapidly. Medical service, unlike cash or material commodities, cannot be collected, stored and distributed without changing its quality.

The real value of medical service depends on the relationship between producer and consumer—or physician and patient. The distribution is part of the service. When a third party is introduced, as would occur with a system of compulsory sickness insurance, the service is always adulterated to the detriment of the patient.

Maple sap lost unless harvested properly. The timeliness of tapping and harvesting has much to do with the quality and yield of maple sap, according to County Agent R. C. Blaney. The sugar water is present in dormant trees and unless taken during dormancy it will be lost.

The earlier the harvest can be started, the greater the supply of prime sap and the longer the period of productive harvest. It is important in maple syrup production to be ready to harvest when warm weather causes the sap to flow.

Many of the leading producers tap their trees with a 3/8 inch bit, drilling the holes not more than 2 1/2 inches deep. Although a 3/8 inch hole does not yield as much sap as a larger one, it does less damage to the tree. It is generally conceded that the larger holes damage trees excessively.

It has not been determined how much a tree can be tapped without causing injury. It is believed that the amount of damage inflicted depends largely on the vigor and crown development of the tree. A vigorous and heavily crowned tree manufactures a large supply of food covers rapidly in diameter and soon covers tap wounds.

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

A Personally Conducted Lunacy Tour

The doctor's assistant wheeled the patient into a room on a stretcher. "Eric is, sir," he said. "What's the Madison?" the doctor inquired as he bent over the patient. "Been Remo by a car?"

"He hasn't come out of Tacoma yet," interrupted the assistant. "Oh, he's conscious all right," smiled the doctor, "he's just Akron up."

The patient rolled over at this and came to life. "Gee, doc, what's Savannah with me? I felt sick so I Tucson pills a few hours ago. I choked on Dallas one I took and just now woke up. Feel Howard my stomach is."

"You'll have to take care of your Livermore than that if you want to stay well. Tyronne a bandage to give you relief. I always maintain that Annapolis the best cure for liver trouble. You should Lamar on your left side. Here, let me look at your tongue."

"Aw, gee, doc, you aren't going to Tampa with that, are you?"

"Stop Austin questions or I won't fix you up. DuBols playing outside annoy you? No? Well, Duluth teeth ever bother you?"

"No, The dentist said that if Ulca tooth brush to them once a day they'd stay okay."

"Well, you've got to remain for treatment. Woodward or private room be more suitable?"

"I think one with a Curtin and Bellwood be all right."

The doctor turned to his assistant. "Jamaica prescription for this case yet?"

"No," came the reply. "Wichita bottles here shall I use?"

"Skip it Light that Newark light, please. Here, my man, this will take care of you for the present. Now Hanover the fee."

"I can't pay you now, doc, but Altoona piano for you free to make up for it."

"Pay me later. I'm a Richmond and don't need it now."

EPIGRAMS AS WE FOUND THEM

An electrical engineer
Lies just six feet below:
Wait an awful shock this is,
Now he can't dynamo.

A vegetable killed this newsmen.
An inquest was held later;
The jury then agreed
'Twas just a commentator.

Ever Hear This One?

We know a guy who could ride a bicycle so fast that every time he went up or down the road, he burned a groove in it. But before this practice was stopped he made a fortune selling the road tops for corrugated roofing. He is now employed by the gas company to dig the ditches for their pipe lines, and the other day while digging through a swamp, the bicycle sank from beneath him and he ran two miles before he discovered it was gone.

This Is No White Lie

There is many a guy who never got to sixth grade in school, who now holds a white collar job. They're working at the pulverizers at the local lime plants.

He Couldn't Have Done Any Better

Then there was the Scotchman who was standing on a crowded street waiting for the jam to pass, when some fellow bumped into him and gave him a jar.

What Price Breathlets?

Fish Dealer—"Fresh, lady? Why, this fish breathed its last as you came in the door." Customer (sniffing)—"And what a breath it had."

An Early Set

Mary Lou—"Mummy, didn't you say that baby had your eyes and daddy's nose?" Mary Lou—"Well, you better keep your eyes on him; he's got grandpa's teeth now."

Here's A Strip Teaser

"Pa," inquired William, "what is a burlesque?" "A burlesque, son," replied the father, "is a take-off." "Take off what?" queried son. "William," interrupted Mother, "leave the room."

Perhaps Delirious

Nurse—"I think he's regaining consciousness, doctor. He just tried to blow the foam from his medicine."

A Sports Event

Mother—"Well, how did you get along in school today?" Johnny—"All right, but that new teacher is always asking us some fool questions. Asked everybody in school today to tell where they were born."

Mother—"You certainly knew the answer to that question—the Woman's Hospital."

Johnny—"Betcha life I knew. But I didn't want the whole class to think I was a darn sissy so I said the Yankee Stadium."

Or What Have You

We cannot help but admire the versatility of some people. Look at these classified ads from a neighboring town:

WANTED—Leave your orders for home-made cookies and fruit cake. Also curtains stretched. 24 North Third Street.

FOR SALE—Chocolate covered nuts and cedar chests. 22 North Second Street.

A tall, closely crowded tree maintains only a relatively small leaf surface, makes a small supply of food, grows slowly, and does not have the ability to close tap holes for many years.

KEEP SHOES IN REPAIR TO REDUCE SHOE BILL

Shoes are an important item in the clothing budget of rural families. We are told that footwear is usually the second largest expenditure for clothing; outer garments head the list.

Keeping footwear in repair will reduce the family shoe bill at least a quarter, believes Miss Helen S. Butler, home economics extension representative of Centre county. Wise selection of shoes comes first, but the best of shoes will not survive careless treatment.

Instead of wearing one pair of shoes constantly, the pairs worn alternately will last more than twice as long. Perspiration is hard on leather; so is mud, water, and excessive dryness. Oil and grease prolong the life of leather. Unless shoes are kept clean, soft, and pliable, they will soon rip and crack.

Shoes for farm and heavy outdoor use need occasional greasing. Flexible wax polishes keep street shoes in condition. The soles may be greased and made water-resistant. To keep patent leather from cracking, rub lightly with oil and do not subject it to sudden changes of temperature.

When shoes begin to show signs of wear, repair them promptly. Not to do so is poor economy. Square the heels, for crooked heels twist both the shoes and the feet. The result is poor posture and an untidy appearance. Support and protect your feet, for they work hard for you.

Collision at College. About noon, Friday, cars driven by Frances Merlyn Gates, of Coalport, and William C. Gatlin, of New York City, collided at the intersection of College avenue and Allen street, State College. No one was injured, but damage to each machine was estimated at \$50. Borough Officer John R. Juba investigated the crash.

Work Progresses at Poor Home. Steelwork on Centre county's home for the poor, on East Howard street, Bellefonte, has been erected and everything is in readiness for the construction of sidewalks. The tract is being graded, and it is now possible to obtain a rough idea of how the county's newest property will appear when finished.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM—How can a person commit larceny without being punished for it? (Answer elsewhere in this department.)

T. R.—What is the difference between the Nazis of Germany and the Fascists of Italy?

Ans.—They differ in name only. Virtually they are the same in principle.

R. F.—Is it true that a needle can be made to float on water without support?

Ans.—Yes. Grease it and lay it very carefully on the surface of the water. Because of the grease the water will not wet the needle, and so long as the surface film of the water does not break, the needle will float. This surface film on the water is really what holds the needle up, much as though there were a thin sheet of rubber on top of the water.

H. Y.—Can you tell me in your good paper if animals have memory? Or is it just instinct?

Ans.—Yes, all animals have memory. But they differ from ours only that they are simpler and are not likely to last so long. The higher animals remember almost as well as we do, but some of the lower animals have a memory that will last about fifteen or twenty minutes.

E. A.—Are the young swans called "swanettes"? I am also told they are called "baby swans."

Ans.—Neither one is correct. While they are sometimes erroneously referred to as such, the correct name for the young swan is a "cygnet."

J. P.—What is the best way to produce good, sound sleep at night?

Ans.—You had better consult your physician for the answer. However, a hot bath just before retiring is said to be beneficial to inducing sleep. The warmth, by dilating the blood vessels, draws blood away from the brain, thus reducing its activity, and allows it to quiet down into peaceful sleep.

L. G.—Did President Wilson offer mediation to the great European powers when it became certain that a great European war was imminent?

Ans.—Yes. On August 5, 1914, President Wilson tendered the friendly mediation of the United States in a message to all the belligerent powers at that time—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, England and France. Germany and Austria-Hungary rejected President Wilson's offer of friendly mediation.

F. H.—What was the day and date that the battle of Austerlitz was fought by Napoleon's army against the Russians and Austrians?

Ans.—The battle of Austerlitz was fought on Monday, December 2, 1805. Napoleon, commanding the French army, overthrew Alexander I. and Francis I, commanders of the Russian and Austrian armies respectively.

N. K.—Can you tell me what Grover Cleveland's middle name was?

Ans.—Grover Cleveland had no middle name.

B. M.—When was the Constitution of the United States adopted?

Ans.—The Constitution of the United States was adopted Sept. 17, 1787.

W. H. H.—Please give the prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson beginning, "The day returns and brings us its pretty round of irritations and duties."

Ans.—It is as follows: "The day returns and brings us its pretty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces. Let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day. Bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonored and grant us in the end the gift of sleep."

E. J. J.—How much mail of all kinds was handled last year?

Ans.—The total number of pieces of mail of all classes handled in 1934 was 26,941,979,142.

M. D. H.—What is the origin of porterhouse steak?

Ans.—Its origin has been disputed, but some authorities claim that this particular cut of beef was made popular by the proprietor of a New York porterhouse. Another story is that it derived its name from a small hotel in Sandusky, Ohio, called the Porter House. Charles Dickens is said to have visited this hotel and was so pleased with the steak served there that he spread its fame throughout the United States. Afterwards leading hotels and restaurants began to call their choice steaks porterhouse.

J. H. W.—What was the result of recording the heart action of the criminal who was shot to death in some Western prison?

Ans.—While John W. Deering, a convicted slayer, stood before a firing squad in Salt Lake City, his heart action was reported by an electro-cardiograph film. The heart beat jumped from a normal seventy-two to 180 and maintained that during the several minutes required to complete preliminaries for the execution. When Deering was asked for a last statement, his heart beat fluttered wildly, then calmed after he spoke until a bullet entered his life. The heart beat stopped 15.6 seconds after the fatal bullet was fired, but Deering was not pronounced dead until two and one-half minutes after the shot.

E. W.—What is the maximum speed of a New York City subway express train?

Ans.—The approximate actual maximum speed attained by the New York City subway express trains is forty miles per hour.

Answer to problem: Simply by stealing a base in a baseball game.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Cleaning Painted Walls.

A very good cleanser for painted walls is made as follows: Two ounces of borax in 2 quarts of water, and 1 teaspoon of ammonia. Use about half this quantity to each pall of water. No soap will be necessary.

Onion Odor

When you have been peeling onions and the odor clings to your fingers, rub the fingers well with crushed parsley to remove the disagreeable odor. Chewing a sprig of parsley after eating onions will also clear the breath.

Renewing Old Lace

Squeeze the old lace in hot, soapy water, then in cold water, then in milk to stiffen it. Press it on the wrong side.

Pencil Marks

Almost every mother knows the experience of finding pencil marks on her white woodwork at least once in the rearing of children. These marks can be easily removed by rubbing them with a piece of castile soap, and then with whiting on a damp cloth.

Hard Butter

When butter is too hard to spread easily, place a heated bowl upside down over the butter dish for a few minutes. Heat the bowl by putting boiling water into it. This will thoroughly soften the butter without melting it.

New Shoes

The new shoes will not burn the

feet if talcum powder is sprinkled liberally into them.

Boils

For treatment of a boil, the skin of a hard-boiled egg will work wonders. It will draw out the matter and relieve the soreness within a few hours. Peel the egg carefully, wet the skin, and apply to the affected part. If turpentine is applied to a boil, when first discovered, it will kill it at once.

A Clean Oven

Always inspect the oven before using it, and clean out any specks that may have dropped from the last baking. These burned particles cause a nasty smoke to fill the room if not cleaned out before the oven is started again.

Glue

To remove glue use lukewarm water and it will dissolve. Spots of glue can be removed by soaking or sponging in vinegar.

Mending Linoleum

A crack in linoleum may be mended by mixing finely chopped cork with liquid glue. When the crack has been filled with this, and it has set hard, rub down with emery paper and paint to match the linoleum.

Thinner Cake Batter

Never pour in milk for the purpose of thinning a batter, as it will result in a poor cake. If the batter seems too stiff, beat an egg and add a bit at a time until the right consistency is reached.

CORRIDORS ARE USED TO DISPLAY MINERALS

Approximately a quarter mile of corridors in the Mineral Industries building at the Pennsylvania State College will be used to house displays in which is exhibited part of the School of Mineral Industries' extensive museum.

About 500 feet of display cases now contain various mineral and fossil collections and exhibits of mineral products in the fields of metallurgy, ceramics, petroleum and fuel technology." Edward Steldie, dean of the School, said.

"Noteworthy single specimens on display are the Cornelius mastodon tusks, which are the only tusks that have been found in Pennsylvania; the large amphibious tracks which are the only tracks of this character found in the state; and a specimen of the Mt. Joy meteorite, which is the only fall that has been discovered in Pennsylvania."

The Genth memorial collection at the College represents one of the most complete groups of Pennsylvan

vania minerals in existence, Dean Steldie said.

Two rooms in the Mineral Industries building are set aside for museum purposes. One is devoted to a general Mineral Industries museum, historical in character. Many of the exhibits in this room date back to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893-94 and the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. Several noteworthy exhibits are the anthracite mine model, bituminous mine plant including behchie coke ovens, early examples of Pennsylvania crude petroleum and lubricants, one of the most complete mine safety lamp collections in America.

A second room is