

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

EDITORIAL

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Now the New Year reviving old Desires, The thoughtful Soul to Solitude retires.

OMAR KHAYYAM—Rubayat

There need be little sighing this week for 1935. The world will be well rid of it. It offered the idealists exceptionally little to substantiate their theory that the world is growing better.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Although the year's great disillusionments were in the international field, the record here at home was not one to justify boasting. The same courageous group of leaders launched a new list of civic programs and the same disinterest and lack of support cut them short of accomplishment.

One thing is certain. Nineteen thirty five will give the world a stimulating new lot of problems. And problems always develop new leaders. And, if the problems themselves are not sufficiently stimulating, there will be, for men and women with brains, the assurance that great fortunes will be made as America continues its slow, laborious climb out of the depression.

All in all, 1936 will offer the right persons unprecedented opportunities for fame and fortune. As Elbert Hubbard said "Opportunity not only knocks at your door but is playing an anvil chorus on every man's door, and then lays for the owner around the corner with a club."

The world is ready for men who can do things.

This editorial is in the nature of an Open Letter To The Public—in which this newspaper expresses its appreciation for recent values received.

First, The Post desires to acknowledge publicly its sincere appreciation to everyone who helped this week in collecting toys for the children or needy families in this section.

The increased response this year indicates that the Christmas toy giving custom, as inaugurated by The Post last year, may grow into a thing much bigger than we anticipated. More new toys were contributed, a number of people sent money, despite The Post's announcement that only toys would be accepted, and everyone showed a splendid spirit of willingness to help.

The list of donors is too long to reprint, and the people who helped probably would not want their names made public. We hope that they appreciate that we are grateful to them, all of them.

Secondly, The Post desires to thank those who have made the crusade against war, which ends with this issue, a success. Nothing The Post has ever attempted has attracted such wide-spread interest.

How much has been accomplished in convincing the people of this section of the futility of war must remain problematical, but if the letters and comments are an accurate gauge of general sentiment it is true that there never has been such a definite and vigorous sentiment against war.

The campaign itself ends this week, but it is already certain that the readers of The Post will not permit us to drop the matter abruptly. Already plans for a continuation of the movement are being discussed and those people who have supported the campaign can be assured that it has fired a flame which shall not soon die.

For these things, and for the many new friendships that have been made during the last few months, The Post is extremely grateful.

In a few weeks Congress will be at it again.

The general hope is that the session will be short and snappy but the same old signs preceding a hectic, busy meeting are present.

CONGRESS GETS READY

President Roosevelt has said he would like to limit legislation to two or three major bills in addition to the annual measures appropriating funds to pay government expenses. One will be a neutrality bill replacing the present temporary act. Ship subsidy legislation appears headed for a top place on the list. And there will, of course be oratory and action on relief expenditures.

Many who serve in Congress would like a short session, according to legislators from this region with whom we have talked lately. Early next summer all of the 435 house members and a third of the 96 senators have to start active campaigns for election. The President will be doing the same thing. All want Congress out of the way by the time the Republicans and Democrats hold their quadrennial conventions in mid-summer.

Industry, too, wants a short session because of improvement since the demise of NRA and its arbitrary regulation. Business is always hesitant to act when Congress is meeting because of doubt as to what Congress might do.

Despite this, the session may be a long one. Among scores of other potential trouble makers are the bonus, dollar stabilization, the Frazier-Lemke \$4,000,000,000 farm mortgage refinancing bill, the Walsh government-contract plan, and measures applying NRA limitations to other industries if the Guffey Coal Act lives through the courts.

We are afraid there is very little Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh—or anyone else, for that matter—can do about killing the intense curiosity the public has about the private life of the aviator and his family.

LINDBERGH THE INSTITUTION

That is unfortunate, but it is undeniably true. It is too late for the Lindbergh's ever to hope to enjoy the humble and undisturbed station which most of find monotonous.

You cannot blame that upon Colonel Lindbergh, the police, the government or the newspapers. It is just a thing that has happened to a man who stumbled into greatness and accepted it so gracefully that—to the public—he ceased to be a man and became an institution.

Wherever he goes, whatever he does, until the generation which idolizes him perishes, Colonel Lindbergh will have the eyes of the world upon him. Thus the world punishes those it admires most.

The New Deal is so cramped for space that Secretary Ickes of the Interior has suggested the government find additional office quarters in Baltimore, about 40 miles from Washington.

The government already rents 2,500,000 square feet in 103 buildings, including hotels, some old mansions and apartment houses. Besides, it has 12,000,000 square feet in 101 government-owned buildings.

Ickes' worry now is room for the new Social Security Board. It is calculated that by the end of 1937 this new agency's staff will dwarf all old-line government agencies save the army and navy.

WEEKLY BOOST

DANIEL C. ROBERTS

of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Harvey's Lake, who, during the past year has made sizable donations to Harvey's Lake Fire Co., the Franklin Club, Bucknell University and, only this week, Wyoming Seminary, thus establishing a record for generosity never equalled here.

The Dallas Post

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Congress shall make no law * * abridging the freedom of speech, or of Press.—From the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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THE DALLAS POST PROGRAM

THE DALLAS POST will lend its support and offers the use of its columns to all projects which will help this community and the great rural suburban territory which it serves to attain the following major improvements:

- 1. Construction of more sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians in Kingston township and Dallas. 2. A free library located in the Dallas region. 3. Better and adequate street lighting in Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook and Dallas. 4. Sanitary sewage disposal system for Dallas. 5. Closer co-operation between Dallas borough and surrounding townships. 6. Consolidated high schools and better co-operation between those that now exist. 7. Adequate water supply for fire protection. 8. The formation of a Back Mountain Club made up of business men and home owners interested in the development of a community consciousness in Dallas, Trucksville, Shavertown and Fernbrook. 9. A modern concrete highway leading from Dallas and connecting with the Sullivan Trail at Tunkhannock.

THE MAIL BAG

In this department, The Post presents letters from its readers on current problems—suggestions, criticisms, bouquets. The Post need not indorse any sentiment or criticisms expressed here, neither can it vouch for the accuracy of any statements made. It recognizes only that in this country people have, within reason, the right to express themselves.

Your Turn Next, Jim

Dear Editor: It is a poor year indeed when the hunting season does not provoke a few tall hunting stories for the Dallas boys to amuse themselves throughout the winter and this year is no exception. This one has its inception on the hunting trip enjoyed by some members of the Blue Ribbon Club, on the Barkley Mountain. To be sure there must be a "goat" for the story and this tale has one in the person of J. F. Besecker, popular local automobile man.

Jim, we all know is an ardent Blue Ribboner and a faithful attendant at the weekly meetings. But he is an equally ardent hunter and it was with an all-conquering air that Jim went out for his "antlerless" deer on the first day of hunting season.

His enthusiasm carried him through a hard morning's hunt, and his spirit undimmed by the lack of a conquest upon a deer, Jim proceeded to show his fellow hunters just how a kill should be accomplished. Professor Jim gave the boys a very forceful and an equally thrilling lesson during the noon hour. Time after time with his trusty gun unerring he put hole after hole in a tin can, and broke all the glass in the vicinity during this period of instruction.

Along in the afternoon the professor was trudging along the path of all great hunters when he was startled by the sudden appearance of four of the long sought antlerless friends. Now we all know that it is a very special privilege of professors to be absent minded at times and this was the occasion for Professor Besecker to exercise his (Voice) "Bob"—"Bob", the professor called—"Here they come" "Shoot! Shoot!"

Bob of course shot one of the deer, but the professor's gun remained strangely silent. Professor Jim got his deer by proxy of his voice, instead of his gun.

Notwithstanding, they began almost immediately to berate and belittle Bob for shooting a "Jackrabbit"—since the deer was a small one. Jim completely overlooked the fact that he urged the kill.

Yet later in the day Professor Besecker was seen to emerge from the woods and under one arm was an even smaller "jackrabbit". No! dear reader, the professor did not kill this one either.

The professor remembered his Sunday School lesson from the preceding Sunday, and from somewhere out of the deep recesses of his mind Professor Besecker remembered that great doctrine of all True Christians, "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

R. H.

Pop's Primer — By Bob Dunn



Washington Snapshots

Cost of government, taxation, and economy loom as major, if not the most important issues on the 1936 political horizon, according to the weighted opinion of Washington observers. In two successive speeches President Roosevelt ha referred to efforts to cut expenditures. Many political students have insisted that economy measures can not be made issues because the average is not interested. But this is belied by the fact that in the face of repeated demands by the business community that the cost of government be reduced to avoid endangering public credit, the administration has been forced to admit that reduction must come.

Robert L. Lund, of St. Louis, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, pointed out in addressing the organization's convention last week, that acceptance of this principle, scoffed at by New Dealers for three years, has been forced by public opinion, and that if public opinion has compelled such a shift it can go further and make economy a dominant question of 1936.

While this subject was being discussed widely in Washington, the Treasury announced that the government debt for the first time in history had gone above the \$30,000,000,000 mark. The rise in the public debt since before the Civil War is shown in a table compiled by the Associated Press:

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. Rows include June 30, 1861 (\$ 90,582,417), June 30, 1866 (2,755,763,929), June 30, 1893 (961,431,766), June 30, 1916 (1,225,145,568), June 30, 1919 (25,482,034,419), June 30, 1930 (16,185,308,299), June 30, 1932 (19,487,009,766), June 30, 1933 (22,538,672,560), June 30, 1934 (27,053,141,414), June 30, 1935 (28,700,892,624), Nov. 27, 1935 (29,641,606,134).

This is exclusive of the state and local government indebtedness, which, when added to federal red figures, lifts the general indebtedness to above \$50,000,000,000.

An unrevealed drama of the fight between the public utilities, their stockholders, and the Administration was described recently by Arthur Krock, Washington correspondent of the New York Times in telling the facts leading up to the present deadlock and court fight.

"There was an occasion during the early stages of the Congressional battle, when the utilities executives held out on olive-branch to the very President whose agents' assurances they will not accept because of their feud with him. That was when, as is not generally known, their representatives placed on his desk an itemized list of \$3,000,000,000 in industrial projects which the utility industry was ready to begin expending if the proposed act would stop at regulation.

"Three billions, financed in the then slowly convalescing capital market and spent in the still lagging heavy industries market, was a high stake in recovery. No man in the country wanted more to see this golden tide released than the President."

In its leading editorial of recent issue the Yale Alumni Weekly draws sharp attention to the growing tendency of educators to divide their time between teaching and fostering public movements of one kind or another, sometimes teaching their institutions into unfavorable publicity.

"A faculty member who persists in thrusting himself, as an agitator, into a political or labor quarrel may find that he is no longer of use to his university," the alumni paper warned.

Pointing out that Yale had been more free from such altercation "than might be expected in these disorderly days," the paper added: "There has been on occasion, however, a type of personal adventure into the field of public controversy, in which, for one, we have often felt we might have less of and not be the losers. We refer to the sort of episode which publicly involves a teacher of the university in a quarrel, where the teacher may find that he has brought the university into the limelight with himself.

"In such a case it is not the individual's opinions as a scholar that are issues; it is his public appearance, in action, as an agitator. It is this sort of case that merits official rebuke, and which, if persisted in, makes the offender no longer of use to his university. The element of responsibility to an institution here comes in, overlying, we should say, his rights to free action as an individual citizen."

In this outline of principles for teachers the Yale Weekly surely has no intent of limiting the rights of any citizen. A member of the faculty has the same privileges as any other citizen to exercise his suffrage and speak his mind upon public questions. But more and more often we find the professors occupying the forefront in agitation for one cause or another. They have equal freedom with their neighbors, but this hardly entitles them to use their position as public servants to crusade up and down the land with impractical ideas applied to practical problems.

"The dangers which lurk behind the Social Security Act doom it from its birth," writes Abraham Epstein, executive director of the American Association for Social Security, in the December issue of Harpers Magazine. "The plan contemplates the building up of the most gigantic reserve, estimated to reach over fifty billion dollars by 1980—more than four times the value of all the gold reserves of the world's central banks and governments. The freezing of so much sorely needed purchasing power cannot but hamper recovery. The problem of investing such huge sums will prove insuperable. No one can guarantee that such fantastic governmental credits will ever be made good. It is utopian to pledge today the America of fifty years hence. Large reserves are always in danger of being usurped by politicians for other purposes, as experienced with other funds amply testifies. Should even a partial inflation wipe out some of these funds, no one can calculate the menace it will create.

"It is a confession of complete ignorance of the principles of social insurance for liberals to argue that with all its faults, the Act, nevertheless "makes a beginning." A beginning toward what? Only incapacity to see the long range interests of labor prompts William Green to gloat over the fact that the Act places the responsibility for unemployment insurance upon employers. A tax on payrolls is not a tax on the owners of industry but on the workers as consumers. The Act does not levy a cent on the owners of industry, as Mr. Green thinks it does. And it is palpable nonsense or worse for Miss Perkins to arouse great hopes that this Act will give protection to the working masses. . . . The Act merely sets up a system of compulsory payments by poor Paul for impoverished Peter. The law actually decreases the purchasing power of the masses by depriving them of immediate purchases, by relieving the well-to-do from their share of the social burden, and by making the workers pay the cost of a vast administration. It is especially cruel and reprehensible to saddle employed workers new and burdensome direct and indirect taxes of continued unemployment amidst rising prices, mounting Social Security sales taxes, which fall largely upon the poor, and a steadily increasing scale, considerably induced by low PWA wages."