

"The Totem Pole"

HIGH SPOTS IN CONGRESS

Washington, D. C., May 6—Editor Vanderberg took off his Senatorial gloves back home in Michigan a few days ago, and talked to his neighbors in the language of ye editor. Senator Vanderberg is regarded as a possible choice for President of these United States; but some of us oldsters in the Washington newspaper game would feel very sorry to have him step down from the editorial heights. When he talked to his homefolks the other day he stuck an editorial pen into Stalin's ribs, and told him that "we shall not surrender to Communist conspiracy in the United States." He added a solid warning to Americans:

"We are suicidal fools if we do not root out and destroy any treason at home which may bring a World revolution to the United States." He asserted with the force of a double-fisted editor that "we do not propose to be isolated in a World that has been Communized by conquest. We do not shut our eyes to the cold, hard facts that there are those in the World who respect nothing else but force." Senator Vandenberg emphasizes the conviction that peace must include both justice and honor.

Butter and Margarine met in what is likely to be a death battle in Congress at the very end of April, when the House moved the margarine measure to the floor for a debate in which Southern Democrats led the fight for a show-down on the repeal of oleo-margarine taxes. A hundred and thirty Democrats voted for repeal and only nine Democrats against it. Ninety-four Republicans favored repeal as against one hundred and twelve. The Democrats mixed the issue with a move to step-up the markets for Southern cotton, which plays an important part in the oleo-margarine industry.

The Republicans evidently voted to continue to take their butter straight from bossie's milk-bucket.

The big power in this battle of the bread-spread is the American housewife, who has given margarine a fair trial on account of the high cost of all foods. Ask Mother—and she will tell you that the Department of Agricultural and the

medical societies agreed that margarine is just as healthful a food as butter.

Of course, everybody knows that margarine has been a victim of politics for more than a half of a century. But when the women of our American homes made up their minds to fight this issue to a finish it was only a question of time before political issues and arbitrary and unreasonable taxation of an article of good food would win its rights.

High Spots in Congress are topped by the excitement over the approaching political conventions of the Republican and Democrat parties. The best prophets in the newspaper World of Washington are reporting that President Truman will be nominated. On the other side of the house Governor Dewey leads in party opinion in the National Capital with Senator Taft as second choice.

The Iron Curtain seems to have been dropped on Stassen as the Republican choice. Henry Wallace is running in reverse—backwards. It won't be long now before the country will know all about it. Vandenberg does not seem to "choose to run."

\$15,000,000 Kicked Away

Lack of labor unity or disregard of one major labor group for the well-being of another is getting to be pretty expensive.

Fact that the United Mine Workers drew a fine of \$1,400,000 for their strike probably isn't drawing much sympathy from auto-workers in Detroit and elsewhere. The strike is costing General Motors workers alone \$15,000,000 in lost income.

The auto company had to call a recess in operations, averaging a week for about 200,000 workers, while it waited for the steel and

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Your Health

There is a rat for every one of the approximately 140 million people in the United States. Rats destroy \$200,000,000 worth of grain every year, and spread filth diseases such as bubonic plague.

Man's life is considerably complex in its inter-relationship with animal, plant, and bird life.

From some plants, man gets food, drink, and drugs, while other plants are poisonous, and weeds hinder the cultivation of crops.

Some birds devour insects detrimental to man, while other birds attack fruit and grain.

There are wild animals that man captures for food and other animals he raises for food.

Certain wild animals are enemies of man while other wild animals have been domesticated and aid man in his daily life.

Many insects carry pollen from one flower to another, while the insect known as the common house-fly carries disease to man.

Earthworms are necessary to aerate the soil which makes it fertile.

Some snakes kill rats and mice and are harmless to man, but others are dangerous.

Weevils destroy corn and cotton and termites eat away the wooden framework of man's residence.

There is practically no limitation to the inter-relationship of man and other growing things.

These biological fundamentals are accepted philosophically by man as he adjusts himself to either encourage or war on other forms of life.

Unfortunately, man is practically the only living creature that wars on others of his own species.

Do YOU KNOW?

A pair of rats is capable of having 120,000 descendants in one year.

Strange as it may seem, Pennsylvania leads all other States in mineral production.—PNS.

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Erie is known the world over as Pennsylvania's great lake port to the "inland seas".

SAFETY VALVE

Can It Happen To Me?

By Harry Gusack

Millions of people are conscious of other people's drinking habits, but rarely of their own. In a vague sort of way they know of excessive drinking and that alcoholism is some sort of a problem for some people. But the interest of most of them is satisfied with the most general sort of information and opinions.

However, the problem takes on real importance when it touches the home, relatives and friends. Also important are employers. It is then that they want specific and accurate information. They want to know if a heavy or excessive drinker is an "alcoholic." Or is he just an "ordinary drinker." Why does he drink to excess? What happens to his nervous system when he drinks a large amount and what happens when he drinks only small amounts? What is moderation? What is excess? Can alcoholic addiction, or, as some prefer to call it, "inebriety," be cured? If so, how?

The problem of alcohol is becoming an important one in every community. It is a matter which every thinking person should know about, whether it affects his own conduct, his health and his work, or indirectly as it affects the conduct and health of a relative, friend, employee or employer, or the community as a whole.

Last March a Congressional Committee held a public hearing on a bill to establish an alcoholic clinic in the National Capital. Here it was brought out that there are well over 50 million "social drinkers" in the United States and that approximately three million of these are excessive drinkers and over 750,000 are chronic alcoholic addicts or problem drinkers, most of whom are urgently and consistently in need of some kind of medical care.

Testimony by doctors, psychiatrists, public health officials, police court judges, clergymen and others established three specific points.

1. Alcoholism is a disease, and the alcoholic is a sick person.
2. The alcoholic can be helped, and is worth helping.
3. Alcoholism is a public health problem, and therefore a public responsibility.

Dr. Robert H. Felix, U.S. Public Health Surgeon in charge of Mental Health, testified that over 50 per cent of alcoholics show improvement after treatment.

Dr. Leopold Wexberg, director of alcoholic clinics under the District of Columbia Department of Health, cites many cases of alcoholics who have been restored to normal living with medical help.

Dr. Winfred Overholser, superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., testified that from one-third to one-half of all alcoholics treated show an appreciable recovery as a result.

Dr. Michael M. Miller, founder and director of the first court clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, established in 1940, told the committee:

"My experiences during the last ten years in the treatment of acute and chronic alcoholism has convinced me that at least 50 per cent of the individuals, by proper methods, can be maintained abstinent for long periods of time, and that 49 per cent of the remaining 50 per cent can be temporarily helped."

A number of States have already passed legislation to promote the rehabilitation of alcoholics, among them being Alabama, Connecticut, New Jersey, Washington, New Hampshire, New York and the District of Columbia. Also clinics have been established in New York, Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Daytona Beach, Fla., Des Moines, Austin, Waco, Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, Salt Lake City and Youngstown, Ohio. A large number of other cities are now considering plans to establish similar clinics.

The Cleveland clinic, which recently completed its first full year of work with alcoholics, reported an 85 per cent recovery record. Treatment was given to 175 persons, resulting in 148 recoveries and 18 failures. Information on the remaining nine patients was not available. The average stay per patient was five days. Each patient admitted had to be sponsored by a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Three A.A. volunteers are on duty at the hospital every evening.

A few months ago the 1,000th patient was dismissed from the New York City Knickerbocker Hospital's year-old wing for the treatment of chronic alcoholics. The rehabilitation project is now a definite part of the hospitalization routine at Knickerbocker, the first general hospital to admit alcoholic addicts as such.

A Robert Munro, president of the Knickerbocker board of trustees, said:

"We are satisfied that alcoholism should be treated as a disease, and that good medical treatment, together with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous is the first step toward recovery and the resumption of normal life in the community."

Barnyard Notes

IF WE HAD A KID:

THE WOODPECKER

The Woodpecker pecked out a little round hole And made him a house in the telephone pole. One day when I watched he poked out his head, And he had on a hood and a collar of red. When the streams of rain pour out of the sky And the sparkles of lightning go flashing by, And the big, big wheels of the thunder roll, He can snuggle back in his telephone pole.

—Elizabeth Maddox Roberts

THE FROG

Be kind and tender to the Frog And do not call him names, As "Slimy-skin", or "Polly-wog" Or likewise "Uncle James", Or "Gape-agrin" or "Toad-gone-wrong" Or "Billy-Bandy-Knees". The frog is justly sensitive To epithets like these.

No animal will more repay A treatment kind and fair, At least so lonely people say Who keep a frog (and by the way, They are extremely rare). They are extremely rare).

—Hilaire Belloc

THE PURPLE COW

I never saw a purple cow I never hope to see one. But this I will say, anyhow I'd rather see than be one.

—Gelett Burgess

THE DUCK

If I were in a fairy tale, And it were my good luck To have a wish, I'd choose to be A lovely snow white duck.

When she puts off into the pond And leaves me on the brink, She wags her stumpy tail at me, And gives a saucy wink,

Which says as plain as words could say, I'm safe as safe can be, Stay there, or you will drown yourself, The pond was made for me.

She goes a-sailing to and fro, Just like a fishing boat, And steers and paddles all herself, And never wets her coat.

Then in the water, upside down, I've often seen her stand More neatly than the little boys Who do it on the land.

And best of all her children are The ducklings, bright as gold, Who swim about the pond with her And do as she are told.

—E. L. M. King

FIREFLY

A little light is going by, Is going up to see the sky, A little light with wings. I never could have thought of it To have a little bug all lit And made to go on wings.

—Elizabeth Maddox Roberts

Country Flavor

MEADOW MUSIC

Th fifth month is a stirring time out their sweet, rippling arias; Spring and the crescendo strains of the Resurrection Symphony bring music to the land. April is the tag end of Winter and June starts the summer, but for an interlude of poignant beauty May spreads its heart-lifting loveliness on the countryside. The sun circles closer to the pole of the horizons; white flocks of clouds graze leisurely along the sky trails. Through warm hours the urgency of life makes green the meadows, mowings and upland fields. Sunsets are flaming pictures in the sky; the glorious afterglow is day's benediction to on-coming night.

He who is sensitive can feel the steady magic of May flowing through woodlands and over fields. But perhaps the appeal of the season is deepest and most stirring in the lowlands. From dawn until dusk shadows lessen day's tempo there is music in the meadows. Along the alder-lined brooks, in the slough spots and over the blossom-starred mowings, birds throw their spring songs to the sky. Bobolinks sit on bending stalks and pour out their sweet, rippling arias; song sparrows perch on fence posts and repeat their pure, clear melodies; meadow larks soar upward and the thin, plaintive yearnings float downward to earth. Bob Whites whistle their names and the throaty challenge of a pheasant echoes from the woodland edge. Sit down in the grass and listen to the music of small things. There's a constant altoish medley of chirps and cheepings and the wing-whirs of tiny insects. Big bumblebees drone stolidly past with heavy loads and honey bees work from flower to flower. High overhead a red-shouldered hawk circles on motionless wings. Crows flap methodically overhead, their melancholy notes accenting the sweet music of the meadow. There is peace and beauty in the lowland on a warm sunny day. As a man sits and fills his heart with the peace of Nature he wonders why all men, everywhere, cannot learn to live in accord with Nature's laws of order and beauty.

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Look who gets squeezed!

Union leaders representing less than one-tenth of railroad employees reject recommendations of President's Emergency board—refuse to negotiate except on their own terms—threaten to paralyze nation by strike!

THE LEADERS of three railroad unions, representing less than one-tenth of all railroad employees, have called a railroad strike that would paralyze the nation.

These leaders refuse to accept a 15 1/2 cents an hour wage increase retroactive to November 1, 1947. This increase was recommended by an impartial Emergency Board appointed by President Truman.

This increase of 15 1/2 cents already has been accepted by the 19 other railroad unions. But the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and the Switchmen's Union of North America won't accept what more than 90% of all railroad employees have accepted. They have called a strike to get more!

Unions refuse rules discussion

Certain rules changes demanded by these union leaders—which would increase wages still further—were recommended by the Board. But the union leaders want more—they demand that the railroads put into effect ALL the changes they asked for, including those the Board felt should be denied.

On top of this, they insist that certain rules changes proposed by the railroads be withdrawn—in spite of the fact that the Board recommended them! These union leaders have refused to negotiate except upon these arbitrary terms.

Greater wage increase not justified

Engineers and firemen are among the highest paid of all employees in America, as figures in the box show. This strike threat doesn't justify giving a greater increase than other railroad workers received.

Emergency Boards are a means provided by the Railway Labor Act in the public interest to avoid strikes. The President's Board,

after hearing evidence for 33 days, made recommendations based on all the facts in the case. The railroads have accepted these recommendations.

Who's to blame?

Although they deplored so large an extra cost burden, the railroads accepted the report of the Board because they felt it was in the public interest to uphold the spirit and intent of the Railway Labor Act.

In contrast, this small group of railroad union leaders are attempting to flout the intent and spirit of the Railway Labor Act, and dictate their own terms.

They have dictated a paralyzing railroad strike. You will be the victim!

How long will the American public stand for the undemocratic, arbitrary, and abusive use of the right to strike and the disregard of the obligation to provide transportation? How long can the American people permit a few dictatorial union leaders to defy the processes provided for peaceful settlement of disputes?

Force seldom produces settlements that are either fair or lasting. Moreover, a point is often reached when personal interests must be held subordinate to the greater public welfare. That is why the railroads have accepted the Emergency Board recommendations. That is also why the leaders of these three unions should reconsider their decision to call a paralyzing strike.

Compare these wages with what you make!

Here is a comparison of average annual earnings of engineers and fireman for 1939 (pre-war) and 1947. Also shown is what 1947 earnings would have been if the 15 1/2 cents per hour increase, offered by the railroads and rejected by the union leaders, had been in effect throughout the entire year 1947.

Type of Employee	1939 Average Annual Earnings	1947 Average Annual Earnings	1947 Average Annual Earnings with Wage Increases Recommended by President's Board
ENGINEERS			
Road Freight (Local and Way)	\$3,966	\$6,152	\$6,785
Road Passenger	3,632	5,391	6,025
Road Freight (Through)	3,147	4,682	5,167
Yard	2,749	4,078	4,740
FIREMEN			
Road Freight (Local and Way)	\$2,738	\$4,721	\$5,310
Road Passenger	2,732	4,544	5,176
Road Freight (Through)	2,609	4,480	5,014
Yard	1,962	3,156	3,645

Railroad wages computed from Interstate Commerce Commission Statement M-300

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