BARRINGTON REVIEW

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TELEPHONE, BARRINGTON NO. 1

BUREAUCRATS' BACK-SEAT DRIVING

While American industry is apparently in the mood to cooperate with the administration there is a growing conviction that it would progress more rapidly on the rough road to recovery if it were not for so much back-seat driving The man behind the wheel is having a hard time and his job is all the more difficult by the instructions from the back seat bureaus, boards and committees. Granting that they are well intentioned, they are not so familiar with the road as the driver.

Recovery is being held back by a program of "reform" which, like so many reform movements in the past, goes to an extreme which defeats its own purpose. Some of the brain trusters have evidently gone rampant on the idea that they must "protect" the consumers of the country. This protection is to be by standardization of everything they buy. Even food is included in the plans for grading and standardizing which is further evidence that the back-seat drivers do not know much about the road.

It is one thing to create standards for industrial goods purchased by experts. It is another thing to standardize consumer goods, which are purchased on individual, irrational and emotional motives, whims, and prejudices. Yet we are told that standardization of foods, of all things, is believed not only possible but logical, by these crusading back-seat drivers.

It is seriously proposed that we should buy all our canned or manufactured food under standard grade labels. These labels would carry official governmental grade symbols to indicate quality.

It is easy enough to set up standards for purity but it is fantastic to try and fix standards for such elusive qualities as flavor. Taste is something that cannot be graded in a labratory or factory or cannery.

The manufacturers, packers and canners of foods—especially fruits and vegetables—have not made great progress during the past thirty years to give consumers better quality at resonable prices. No food manufacturer or distributer, who puts his name or brand on his product can afford to put out an inferior quality if he is to continue in business.

The housewife buys according to the likes and dislikes of her family and the amount she can spend for feeding them. Racial habits, geographic conditions, occupations of the bread earner and his standard of living—all these things are factors in the purchase of food. What one family would not touch would make a feast for another.

Food is an individual matter—outside of state institutions—and until individuals are standardized it is about as impossible to grade-label all fodd stuffs as it would be to standardize 120,000,000 meals three times a day or standardize pie and cake.

Let the government assure purity of product by factory and cannery inspection; let us insist on honesty in labeling and in advertising food products. By doing this it will give all the "protection" the consumer needs. Attempting anything more would be impractical and doomed to failure the same as all "reforms" that go ridiculous extremes. We believe the canning industry is meeting the trend of the times by proposing to tell purchasers of their products all about the products, by means of the label. More power to them.—Citizen, LaGrange, Ill.

BAD MONEY

Bankers everywhere, as well as careful business men, are closely scrutinizing all the paper money proffered them by patrons in payment of accounts. This unusual care must needs be exercised because of the fact that more than a million dollars worth of spurious money has been floated in the United States, and it is being found, everywhere, in the hands of innocent persons who must suffer a loss when they discover the money in their possession is counterfeit. This spurious money is being printed in the east and is being marketed in the central west. It is usually bought for 30 cents on the dollar and is then disposed of by crooks who travel from city to city, making small purchases of merchandise and paying for it with a spurious bill and receiving good money in change.

No community, large or small, is safe from these passers of counterfeit bills, and every merchant should exercise especial care in accepting paper money from strangers, and especially those who make small purchases and who want a big chunk of change.—News, Hillsboro, Ill.

EDITORIAL SHORTS

A pessimist is a former optimist who lost his money backing his optimism.

Reading of some magazines makes one wonder what kind of stuff the editor rejected.

The fine thing about your job is that it offers a new adventure every day—if you look at it that way.

These experts who declare that American life is moving in cycles are just adopting a more comforting way of saying we are running around in circles.

Self-aid is now being stressed in relief work. That type of work will make for rehabilitation and self-respect.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON

(Courtesy The United States News)

A key to the present credit problem still is that few people with money want to lend to corporations or individuals. They are afraid that they might not get their money back. Yet all seem to want a federal guarantee.

What is the result?

Railroads, badly needing equipment, cannot borrow to buy. Corporations wanting new capital to expand or finance operations, have difficulty borrowing either from banks or from investors. Home owners, needing refinancing, find difficulty convincing mortgage holders that they should be carried.

Then what happens?

One and all, they turn to the federal government.

Railroads come for loans that in many cases open the way to eventual ownership. Corporations seek to obtain direct loans from the RFC or the federal reserve banks and bring pressure for relaxation of loan requirements.

Home owners turn to the home owner's loan corporation for help, increasing pressure to expand the activities of that organization until it will control a sizeable proportion of all home mortgage paper.

In other words pressure increases for federal control of credit.

What is uncle sam as a banker, to do when borrowers no longer can pay interest on their loans?

This is no longer an academic question.

It takes on an added significance when it is realized that more than seven billions of dollars of Government credit already has been loaned banks, insurance companies, railroads, building and loan associations, business men, home owners, farmers, and others.

Defaults are taking place. As pointed out here on a previous occasion, the reconstruction finance corporation has been offered a business by one man who could not meet his obligations.

The treasury's two billion stabilization fund continues its mystery creation. As pointed out, only a fraction of that amount has been called into use and that fraction is supposed to have yielded a profit from its operations.

The fund was to be used principally to prevent the new dollar from suffering at the hands of other currencies. However, no less an authority than Neville Chamberlain, British chancellor of the exchequer, as being "on gold."

Government regulations have permitted exports of gold whenever the dollars fell low enough in its relationship to other currencies to call for exports. This is a direct tie to gold, and means that the huge metal reserve of the nation are actively behind the currency. On that basis the stabilization fund needs to play but little part.

The result is that there is pressure to put this money to work. If put to work it would involve indirect inflation by stepping up further the excess reserves already piled up to huge totals in banks.

After buying silver on an ascending scale for nearly six months the federal treasury still has a billion ounces to go before reaching the goal set for it by congress

The last session of the national legislature decided that the government should acquire silver until the relationship between this metal at $1.29 an ounce and gold at $35 an ounce, should be 25 per cent silver to 75 per cent gold.

There now has been acquired about one billion ounces of the white metal. Purchases have been on a scale sufficient to cause a serious disturbance to the Chinese financial situation and to cause the price of silver to rise from about 45 cents an ounce to above 54 cents an ounce.

But another billion ounces needs to be bought if the congressional suggestion is carried out.

Lately the treasury has slowed up its purchases and has begun to give greater attention to the effect of the buying policy on other nations. However, the members of the silver bloc in congress are determined to demand a continued drive to fulfill their program.

Real consideration is being given to a suggestion that strikes be forbidden on government projects. This restriction would be designed to keep labor troubles from holding up the forthcoming building program.

Henry Wallace's treatise "America Must Choose" was held up for a time as "too provocative" for distribution in CCC camps. The gist of the pamphlet is that this country has to decide whether to go nationalistic or try to regain lost foreign markets.

It was a threat from "radical" senators to sabotage the president's legislative program unless senator Bronson Cutting, of New Mexico, were seated that caused a quick dropping of the plan to investigate his victory in November over the democrat Dennis Chavez.

One of the items in the new plans for unemployment relief will be an allocation of funds to set up more schools and special training centers where qualified unemployed can be given the teaching physical and mental handicapped children.

Although the official word of the army is that it has 1,497 airplanes, the war games this week in the south will show a muster of close to 2,000 machines.

Relief administrator Harry L. Hopkins will not be as severe in carrying out his adict to return the unemployables to the United States and local government units as his announcement predicates. FERA plans do not contemplate imposing hardship on the needy if the local units prove unable to care for them.

Rumor has it that one objective of the war game manuvers which the navy plans to hold in the northern Pacific during May and June will be to test the practicability of constructing a new American naval base on or near the Alaskan coast.

Tree nurseries established by the federal government conveniently to the tract set apart for a shelter belt from Canada to Texas mark the preliminary steps toward construction of this proposed defence against drought conditions. Planting of trees in the shelter belt area is to begin in the spring. Two nurseries located in Minnesota at Anoka and Marshall, which will supply two million seedlings, will not suffice for the needs of the northwestern section. The state emergency relief administration plans to proceed with the planting in the spring, relying upon private agencies to supply deficiency.

During the next six months it is feared that effect of the drought will be registered in increases in food prices. Agricultural officials contend that there should be no excessive advances, for there is no prospect of a shortage of food. Fuel and light, and various miscellaneous items have not shared proportionately in the price increase. This partially is accounted for by the fact that they were maintained at comparatively high price levels through the depression.

The peak in the cost of living in this country was reached in December 1920. At that time it required $2 to purchase the amount of goods which could have been bought for $1 in 1913. In June, 1933 it was necessary to spend $1.28 to buy amount of goods. Between the peak period in 1920 and 1934 there was a decrease of 37 per cent in the general price level. Decreases amounted to: food, 50.5 per cent; clothing, 62.6 per cent; rents, 24.2 per cent; fuel and lights, 9.2 per cent; house-furnishing goods, 42.7 per cent, and miscellaneous items, 2.7 per cent.

Capital of the United States

Several experiments were made in naming the capital of the United States until the present one became fixed. From the beginning until 1871 the following names were used: "The Federal City," "City of Washington, District of Columbia," "City of Washington, Territory of Columbia," "City of Washington," without reference to the district, "Washington, D. C," and simply "Washington." In 1871 the municipal charters of Washington and Georgetown were revoked by congress and there ceased to be any difference between Washington and the District of Columbia so far as government and laws are concerned. In 1921 President Harding's Thanksgiving proclamation was "done in the Capital of the United States." The designation raised the question as to what the official name of the national capital should be. Accordingly an executive order was issued designating "The City of Washington" as the official name of the capital of the United States.

HOME EDUCATION

"The Child's First School Is the Family"—Froebel

Issued by National Kindergarten Assn. 8 W. 40th St. New York

A Mother's Fault

It was a very interesting conversation I was having with my best friend. I had not seen her for a long time, and it seemed as if all we had to say to each other could not possibly be told before five o'clock, when her train left.

Dimly, as from a distance, a small, insistent voice was saying, "Mummy, Mummy." I knew it belonger to Sonny, who was seated on the carpet happily playing with his toys. Once in a while, he had spoken to my visitor, and she answered him politely, with a smile each time.

I went on talking, forgetting, or perhaps ignoring the small voice—it was so soft. I did hear it more than once, but the conversation engrossed me. Then, "Mummy will you listen to me—I'm talking to you—do you hear me?"

The words were shouted in as loud a voice as lusty five-year-old lungs could manage. It made me very angry, for I prided myself on my children's manners.

"Please do not shout at me again," I sternly rebuked the young offender. "It is very rude!"

I was embarrassed that my little son should speak so impolitely to his mother, especially before a visitor.

"But Mummy—"

I interrupted him.

"Don't answer me back. I tell you I won't have you shouting. Either speak quietly, or not at all."

It was not very long afterwards that my sister left. Sonny had long since gone out, a sulky look marring the usual contended expression of his face. I had rebuked him before a visitor. "Well," I said in self-righteous indignation, "I had a perfect right to do so!"

But had I? Was the fault wholly his?

Next morning at breakfast the early mail demanded my attention. I did not hearwhen Sonny spoke to me.

But luckily Sonny's Daddy, who was not reading letters, thank goodness, was there this time.

"Sonny is speaking to you," he said, rather loudly for him.

I answered somewhat crossly, for the letter was still unread and invitingly open.

"I didn't hear him. Why doesn't he speak out." I did not stop to think that the breakfast table was not the place to read one's letters, and that my small boy needed his bacon cut up, his egg cracked and more hot milk poured into his cup.

I glanced across at the small offender. My heart smote me. I knew there was something wrong, but what it was, and whose fault, I could not tell, yet.

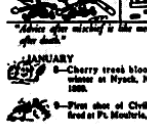
Sonny's eyes were filled with tears, and his lips were trembling dangerously.

"But, but—Mummy—you told me not to shout!"

It was only then that I realized that the fault lay with myself, and not with five-year-old Sonny. I had taught him to speak quietly, and then because he was a good child and usually amused himself for hours at a time with very little attention, I had somehow fallen into the habit of allowing my own thoughts to engross me, to the exclusion of all else, and thus did not bother to answer the little chap when he did speak to me.

How thankful I was that the fault, my fault, had been revealed to me in time. It was a bad habit, easily formed, but now that it had been brought to my attention, it would be quickly broken.

ALMANAC



JANUARY

8—Cherry trees bloom in winter at Nyack, N. Y., 1909.

9—First shot of Civil war fired at Ft. Moultrie, 1861.

10—Allies abandon the Gallipoli Peninsula, 1916.

11—Alexander Hamilton, 8-member cabinet, born 1757.

12—First meeting of Versailles Peace Conference, 1919.

13—Part of Horseshoe Rock at Niagara Falls drops, 1909.

14—Hoover announces candidacy for re-nomination, 1932.

The MAN from YONDER

THE STORY

CHAPTER I.—Ben Elliott—from "Jonder"—signalizes his entry into the lumbering town of Tincup by defeating Bull Duval, "king of the river," and town bully, in a lumbering contest. Elliott has brought along an old man, Don Stuart, who had been eager to reach Tincup, but Nicholas Brandon, the town's leading citizen, resents Stuart's presence. He tries to force him to leave town and Elliott, resenting the act, knocks him down. Elliott is arrested.

CHAPTER II.—Elliott finds a friend in Judge Abiji Armitage, to whom he confides that he has come to town because he's heard it was a tough nut to crack. The judge gives him a job running jumber camps, the job Bull Duval thinks he had but was able to grab. This belongs to Dawn McGanaut, daughter of Brandon's partner, who has disappeared with a murder charge hanging over his head.

7TH. INSTALLMENT

The Bull gave a bubbling roar and tried to grapple. His hands were struck down. He swung mightily, slowly, and missed, and as he went by, off balance, a chopping stroke on the back of the head floored him.

Again Elliott waited.

"Get up!" he cried thickly. "Get up, Duval, and take the rest!"

The other started to move, looking over his shoulder with one eye that remained open. He saw a tail, supple young man, tuft awry, shirt ripped open from neck to belt, cheek bleeding, jaws set, stand there swinging one fist as, though the knuckles were wild to strike again. He sank back to the floor, shuddering.

On that Elliott relaxed and moved close.

"Enough?" he asked, sharply, prodding the Bull with a toe of his pac.

Duval moaned and shook his head. He made as if to rise again and Ben stepped back, giving him every chance.

The Bull did not get to his feet. He started to, drew one knee beneath him, heaved and then sank back to a hip. He swore heavily and hung his head, propping his torso by both great hands spread wide on the floor.

"Through, Duval?" Ben asked and it seemed as though his bruised and battered face tried to twist in a grin. The other gave no intimation of having heard. "There's more on tap. Or have you got enough?"

And then, when no reply came Elliott stooped, grasped the Bull's shirt in his hands and half lifted him.

"Let go!" the man blurted. "Let go or I'll—"

He tried to twist away, tried to strike Ben's legs, but his strength was gone, beaten from his great body. He was dragged across the floor, river boots trailing over the boards, straight to the doorway. With one foot Elliott kicked open the portal and with a heave flung