

The Andover News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

OUR KEYNOTE:

"If There is not a Way, Cut a Way."

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HENRY SAYS IT'S SO

HENRY Ford says 1923 will be a prosperous year for us all.

It will be a prosperous one for Henry, anyway, because he has more orders for cars than his extensive plants can possibly turn out.

We hope Henry is a good prophet, but we can not pin our optimism to car orders alone.

The fact that a man owns an automobile does not necessarily mean that he is prosperous.

There was a time, B. P., when men would pay their last dime for a drink of booze. The same men might do likewise now, were it not for the fact that a humble dime will not even get a look-in at the smell.

It is much the same with automobiles.

People who have trouble in meeting their grocery bills will mortgage their breeches in order to buy a car on time and become a daily contributor to the gasoline trust.

But at that Henry may be right. We hope he is. But we want to see prosperity so pronounced that we can afford a Packard instead of riding the bumps in a Lizzie.

And we don't want to slap a plaster on our breeches.

MOTOR MURDERS GROWING

IN one of our large cities reckless motorists have run down and killed more than a hundred people within two months, and the merry killing still goes unchecked.

Considering that this is merely the record of one city, the roll of motor murders thruout the country must be frightful indeed.

There are two reasons for this condition of affairs. Legislatures are unwilling to make laws to fit the crime and prosecutors and courts seem unwilling or powerless to properly apply even the laws that we have.

Fortunately we will always have a heavy influx of immigrants from foreign countries, otherwise motor murders, coupled with our ordinary death roll, would in time depopulate our country and leave it a barren waste of land.

WHO GETS THE HONOR?

IN this town, as in all others, there is one man or woman who does more for community betterment than any other person — possibly more than any other persons.

Who is that man or woman?

A question of this kind ought to start you to thinking. And after you have thought for a time it ought to start you to doing something yourself.

Any energetic person can do a lot for this town alone and single handed, but many persons working in harmony can accomplish wonderful results.

And there is room for all that can do.

Hang the badge of honor upon the man or woman to whom it is due, and then go out with a determination to grab that badge off for your own self.

That is the way to get results.

The modern booze runner might also be termed a grave digger.

Stuttering is a great aid to the person who finds it necessary to invent an excuse.

Blessed is the peacemaker when he doesn't kick up another row.

The fellow who gets something for nothing, generally finds it worth about what it cost.

CLEAN JOURNALISM

THREE mighty forces have contributed to our present-day civilization.

These three forces have always played an important part in human affairs, and they always will.

These forces are: The churches, the schools and the newspapers.

At this moment we are to consider the last of this powerful trio, the newspapers. We will discuss journalism in the light of facts, letting the shoe pinch where it will.

The newspaper does more than merely supply news. It molds public opinion. It educates. It establishes habits that become more or less permanent. For these reasons a heavy and serious responsibility rests upon the shoulders of those who edit newspapers; a responsibility which ought to be met with sincerity of purpose.

A newspaper editor who deliberately colors or perverts the truth, or who publishes the lurid details of every divorce scandal, murder, robbery and crime, in blazing headlines, for the purpose of selling his own paper, adds nothing to the community in which he lives. He does not serve the public. His work is destructive and not constructive.

On the other hand, the newspaper editor who furnishes all the clean, constructive news that is fit to print, and mixes with his news items that sort of editorials which arouse people to greater and nobler action, is serving a good and worthy purpose.

If there was ever a period in the history of America during which clean, constructive journalism was more needed than now, history fails to tell us anything about it. Following the World War nearly everyone became a victim of the "jazz" psychology, which lead perfectly well-meaning young women to "shake the shimmy" in polite society with never a thought of blushing, and to decorate their feet with those sloppy arctic overshoes, left unbuckled and flapping around their ankles to attract attention.

A dozen years ago the "shimmy" dance or the wearing of those "goloshes" over their shoes, with the tops unbuckled, would have shocked most of the young women, even those who had no particular claims to modesty.

But women are not the only offenders in this tendency toward the "jazz" side of life. We have experienced one of the most intense periods of greed and selfishness on the part of men who call themselves business men that this country has ever witnessed. We called their action "profiteering." The tendency was to GET everything in sight and to give in return as little as possible or nothing at all, when the deal could be got away with.

Figuratively and literally men fought at each other's throats like hungry wolves. Contracts became "mere scraps of paper" if there was the slightest chance to break them, and it was found profitable to do so. Everybody was doing it, therefore everybody else had a right to do it, was the general impression.

This was the "jazz" age in which every man was for himself. Men hoarded food, robbed the people and made millions. Their neighbors felt in no way abashed, but were envious because they didn't or couldn't do the same. Labor ran the price of ordinary day labor to unheard-of prices and forced the employer to stand and deliver. The employer paid the bill, added it to that which labor produced and passed it right back to the public INCLUDING LABOR! This country has never before seen a period of price inflation and passing the buck, such as that thru which it has just passed.

This sort of business relationship would soon ruin the country.

And what did the public press do?

Did it make any attempt to bring the people back to their senses? Did it solemnly warn us that we were headed toward chaos and destruction? Did it tell us that the "silk shirt" pace at which we were living would lead eventually to the bread line?

It did nothing of the sort. To the contrary, it fed the public with risque stories, held before our eyes, in glaring headlines, shameful details of crime and engaged, generally, in the orgy of "jazz" that was sweeping the country.

It is time for newspaper editors to realize that they are public servants; that they play an important part in creating the civic consciousness of the communities they cover; that they stand as a mighty force between mob rule and civilized, cool-headed, law-abiding action.

The time has come when the newspapers must clean house from the inside, or the public will do it from the outside.

Let us have clean journalism! It may not pay as well in dollars and cents just now, but in the long run it is not only the BEST plan — it is the ONLY plan!

No man is so important as to over-shadow his wife in her own estimation.

If you want to be remembered by a woman just ignore her when next you meet.

Murder is becoming so common it will soon have to be called by another name in order to attract attention.

A fellow's sins may not find him out, but it takes a wise one to keep his wife from getting in on the know.

A LONG WAY OFF

If some of our movie stars ever get to heaven they will be mighty lonesome birds, for there will be no press agents there to sound their praises at so much a praise, and there will be no daily newspapers to rave over the enormous salaries they don't get, and it will be no trouble at all for wise old St. Peter to see thru a brain that is so shallow it doesn't exist.

But on second thought we don't think they will be overburdened with ennui.

Heaven is a long way off for them.

HOW much is your horse worth?

It wouldn't be worth much if it hadn't been properly fed and groomed and trained. At best it would be wild and difficult to control, if not merely an everyday plug.

It is much the same with the child that is growing up, and the results are more far reaching.

If the child is properly fed and its appetite is kept under proper restraint, it will develop a physique of priceless value in its years of maturity.

If it is properly trained its mind will be on a par with its physique — it will be of the kind that makes nations and peoples great.

But if neglected, then it, like the forgotten horse, will become wild and intractable — if not a human plug.

WHY are we paying a profiteering price for gasoline — or near-gasoline — that reeks with kerosene oil?

Possibly that question has been answered by a senatorial committee that has been making an exhaustive investigation on the question.

That committee has made its report, and the report justifies us in the belief that the Standard Oil Company absolutely dominates the gas and oil industry of the United States.

It is time for another shakeup, if an official shaker can be found who is not for sale.

Be thankful for the favors you do not receive. They leave you under no obligations.

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