

## ANDOVER NEWS

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BY J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

## OUR KEYNOTE:

"If There Is Not a Way, Cut a Way."

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## OIL INQUIRY REACTION

It's about time we were having a house-cleaning at Washington. We ought to throw them all out. This remark by a man the other day represents the average reaction to the oil naval reserve lease investigation that started in the senate as an inquiry of good intentions, but has degenerated into a political fishing party, with each party fishing for an advantage.

If any wrong-doing is discovered by the impartial investigation begun by the president thru two attorneys of recognized standing, and the guilty are brought to justice, it is doubtful if even that accomplishment will offset the harm that has been done by the senatorial investigation.

The charges and counter charges that have been made have served to weaken the confidence of the man in the street in public officials. He who does not stop to think arrives at the hasty conclusion that all men in public office are crooks and should be driven out.

We can't scrutinize the acts of office holders too closely, but we should not judge them until the facts are all heard. An investigation by a partisan senatorial committee can't be depended upon to bring out all the facts.

We hold no brief for the late secretary of the navy, but he was obedient to the will of congress when he executed the agreements with the Mammoth Oil Company and the Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company.

The congress expressly provided, under date of June 4, 1920, that the secretary of the navy should take possession of all properties within the naval petroleum reserves, "to conserve, develop, use and operate the same in his discretion, directly or by contract, lease or otherwise, and to use, store, exchange or sell the oil and gas products thereof, and those from all oil royalty lands in the naval reserves, for the benefit of the United States."

The former secretary said that he was convinced that the naval oil lands under discussion, totalling 51,623 acres, were being drained by private-owned wells adjoining these on reports of government and other experts.

One of three courses was open to him. He could do nothing and guard what would have been ultimately drained of its riches, if the reports of experts were to be believed; government drilling which was impractical; or lease the right to drill under proper restrictions to private enterprise. He chose the latter course, the wisdom of which only a careful and wholly unbiased investigation will determine.

The former secretary was censured for recommending the transfer of the naval oil reserve lands to the department of the interior. His answer was that the interior department has under its jurisdiction 17,622,500 acres of public oil lands already leased to private enterprises, and that in keeping with the policy of the government to co-ordinate all of its activities, he deemed it the wisest course to place the department of the interior in charge of all oil lands.

"People slow to form an opinion until the evidence is all in, will welcome a thoughtful and patriotic inquiry into all of these transactions, because the reckless charges that have been made are a challenge to the integrity of American public men."

## THE INFLUENCE OF EXAMPLE

PEOPLE who go thru life clinging to the false idea that what they do matters not a bit to others, and that what others do matters not to them, are due for a very rude awakening sooner or later.

Life in this age is so complex, with all of its frills and furbelows, that practically every act of each individual reacts either for good or for evil in the life of some other persons.

The man who drinks intoxicating liquor which he obtains contrary to law, may think that he is deceiving everyone, but he deceives few, and at the same time his disregard for law sets an example that doubtless leads others to follow in his footsteps.

So-called respectable citizens may be the pattern for the lives of less influential citizens, who commit petty offenses because they see those who are supposed to have good judgment, having a part in small infractions of the law.

Regardless of your station in society, you may rest assured that anything that is not right, which you may do, will have a detrimental effect somewhere along the line.

Boys and young men and girls and young women, who are harshly criticized for some actions that are regarded as improper, did not invent all of the misdeeds in which they indulge.

They first had the example set by those who were older and should have known better.

The next time something not entirely within the law or the bounds of propriety occurs to you, would it not be as well to consider the effect it might have on others?

No one can afford to be selfish, especially where the lives of others are concerned. Live and let live. Yes, but live right and let others live right.

Easy credit is a hard taskmaster.

Critics generally suffer from exaggerated ego.

Grass and candidates will not thrive where oil runs.

Reduction is not a question of politics, but of pocketbook.

Some men want to keep a stiff upper lip by wearing bristles on it.

## BEING INDEPENDENT

NO MAN can go thru life living entirely independent of others with whom he is thrown in daily contact.

No woman can live sufficiently alone in our present complex civilization to be wholly independent of her neighbors or friends.

Yet we find men and women who take the attitude that whatever they do concerns no one else and who believe that they should be permitted to follow solely the dictates of their own judgment.

When a reformer or radical agitator starts out to rule the world, he finds certain established rules and practices developed because of the inborn traits of human nature, and he can not do just as he pleases. Individuals find themselves in the same plight when they attempt to go their own way without regard for the rights or wishes of others.

Adopting a policy of respecting the opinion of others, and at the same time being firm in your own convictions, need not crush initiative or kill ambition.

Some of the most courteous people are at the same time the most pronounced in their own views, yet they do not attempt to enforce them on others, neither do they try to travel their wilful way thru life, crushing and stamping out all who disagree with them.

Human rights are human rights, the world around, whether it be in the seats of the mighty or the humblest homes of the smallest community.

And where human rights are respected and where people are friendly and considerate of others—that's where we like to live.

That's the kind of a place that attracts desirable people and that's the kind of a place we all want to make our home communities.

## YOUR THOUGHTS

WHEN you get a little time for reflection, what do you think about?

Probably along some of the following lines: The injustice that appears to prevail in the world. Political corruption that is apparent from congressional investigations.

How some of the people of your acquaintance are able to do it and still make both ends meet.

The disregard for law that on the surface, seems to be growing.

Murders, robberies, divorces, scandals and similar evils.

These are some of the multitudinous thots that come to the average person, with their long trail of dissatisfaction and disgust.

This is the black side—the unusual side of life that gets into print. The usual, the commonplace things, are too often overlooked.

Try a change of that and see if it isn't beneficial. Think of some way of building up the home life and making it more attractive.

Devise some way to exercise a greater amount of supervision over the children and to be of assistance to the school teacher who labors diligently that they may grow up to be decent and respectable men and women.

Ask yourself if you are putting forth your best effort for the improvement of conditions in the community.

Give a little thought to developing the proper spirit of amity and good will among those with whom you come in daily contact.

Make a special effort to be a booster for everything at home, instead of a critic.

Thots frequently come unbidden, but it is not difficult to divert them along wholesome lines.

Give this recipe for peace of mind a trial and see if it does not benefit you as well as those about you.

Not all ambitious men seek public office.

If you can't sidetrack trouble, try stepping over it.

Few motorists need balloon tires to get up in the air.

There may be better places to live, but we haven't seen them yet.

It's easy enough to pick a flaw, but mending it is a man-sized job.

With bobbed hair in style, barbers of one city are reported to have complained about women customers probably due to the competition in the field of loquaciousness?

No man is so meddlesome as the man who retires and has nothing else to do but look after other people's business.

Those who assume the "highbrow" pose by claiming that they never read a newspaper must be terribly behind the times.

Wonder if we will ever live long enough to realize that Utopia where there will be no such animal as a congressional investigation.

Along about the time when we dream of the day when there will be no more ashes to empty it's time to begin spading for garden.

There are eight counties in Michigan which did not have a man sentenced to their jails last year. They must be a bootlegger's paradise.

Some educators are worrying about our vanishing vocabulary. But we can't agree it is disappearing after listening to some people talk.

"Feet are important," we read in a newspaper. It may be true, but they seem very unimportant when we are trying to stand on an icy sidewalk.

February is doing fairly well for a month that has one extra day to live, two birthdays of national heroes, Valentine day and Groundhog day.

If the Shenandoah ever gets to the North Pole, we hope the commander inquires of the natives whether Doc Cook or Bob Peary was ever there.

A celebrated woman novelist of Great Britain committed suicide because she was unable to think up any new ideas for stories. She has probably already done her worst.

Clothing

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## MRS. ELIZABETH LEONARD

Mrs. Elizabeth Leonard passed away Tuesday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles L. Richardson of Elm Valley.

Mrs. Leonard was eighty-three years of age, her death being caused from a paralytic shock. Of her immediate family she is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Richardson, and two nieces. A prayer service was held at the home Thursday afternoon and the remains, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, taken to Mauch Chunk, Pa., her former home, Friday for interment.

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