

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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MEMBER



An Unlearned Lesson

THE proposed promotion of Rear-Admiral Robison from the temporary to the permanent list of rear-admirals and the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., as the Republican candidate for governor of New York, with the enthusiastic approval of President Coolidge, furnish concrete evidence that the Coolidge administration, controlled as it is by the most reactionary element in the Republican party, not only has failed to learn any lesson from the scandals that have disgraced the Harding-Coolidge administration and brought shame and humiliation upon the nation, but that it is brazenly defiant of public opinion concerning these scandals.

Real-Admiral Robison was the one naval officer who was officiously and persistently active in the transfer of the naval oil lands to the Interior Department under Secretary Fall. Concerning the proposed promotion of Rear-Admiral Robison, Senator Walsh of Montana, who conducted the investigation of the naval oil leases, says in a recent statement:

"It will be interesting to prosecute an inquiry into how it happened that he (Robison) among all the eligibles in the navy, schooled in what he knew about the reserves by Doherty and imbued with exactly the same idea about them as those entertained by that gentleman, should have been selected to head the Bureau of Engineering to which was entrusted the care of the reserves."

The activities of Assistant Secretary Roosevelt were such that he should long ago have been compelled to resign his office. In his first testimony he entered the same plea as Secretary Denby, which amounted to a declaration of complete ignorance concerning the transaction. The ignorance professed by the Secretary of the Navy and his assistant was so dense that Senator Caraway characterized Denby as a "dumbbell" and Roosevelt as "deputy dumbbell." Later on assistant Roosevelt testified that while he knew practically nothing concerning the details of this looting of the naval oil reserves he approved of the entire transaction. It also developed that he acted as messenger boy in carrying the order of transfer to President Harding. It was this same Roosevelt who, as acting secretary, meekly took orders from Albert B. Fall, and sent marines, without any warrant in law or precedent to eject squatters from the Tea Pot Dome reserve after it came into possession of Sinclair.

It is this same Roosevelt who had been a vice-president of one of Sinclair's oil companies, and who had obtained from Sinclair a highly lucrative position for his brother, Archie.

Col. Roosevelt's activities in the naval oil leases were a repudiation of the policies of his illustrious father on the conservation of natural resources, and under the most charitable view that can be taken of the matter, based upon his own testimony, he exhibited his total unfitness for any position requiring the conservation and protection of public property.

His friends and supporters set up the claim that whatever he did or failed to do, his motives were honest, but even this claim leaves him in practically the same position as the "honest watch dog that carried the lantern for the burglars."

Young doctors once had difficulty in getting a start. Now all they need to do is to hang out their shingle near a railroad crossing.

A Challenge

A HOG is a hog today, just as he was a thousand years ago. If a human being can not profit by experience of others and help to make this world a little better place in which to live, he might as well be a hog.

This is the challenge of E. K. Hall, in charge of personal and public relations of the American Telephone company, to every individual who reads it.

To profit by experience of others is to profit by their mistakes as well as their achievements.

The successes of others we should emulate; their failures we should avoid.

Yet this trait which distinguishes men from hogs is not very often operative. It is restrained and submerged in the rush for profit and pleasure.

Everyone has seen the dismal failure of lives that are ruled by greed, yet how few profit by their mistakes.

The greed that does not allow any time or effort for unselfish public service for the good of all, but is all centered in self—that is the type of greed that holds back communities and prevents them from making the progress they should.

Shall the challenge be accepted or passed by unanswered? Are we as a people no better than the hog, or will we profit by the experience of those who made the mistake of placing self above service and duty?

It's Being Done

ADAM and Eve were garbed in a single fig leaf, but that was custom with them and the demands of modesty were satisfied.

From the days of the fig leaf down thru the centuries to the cumbersome and trailing skirts and long hair each successive step has been taken thru innovation and eventually sanctioned by custom.

"It's being done," is the refuge of those who take up a new style, and in time it is accepted as correct. The trailing skirt was both unsanitary and a nuisance, and in time was properly discarded. Custom popularized the move.

Bobbed hair is passing thru much the same stage as the abbreviated skirt did. At first, the woman who permitted her hair to be shorn was subjected to criticism. Now she does it without fear of unfavorable comment.

"It's being done."

Women have more freedom of action as time goes on. Each change is accompanied by a wagging of tongues and some harsh things are said. But time soon reduces a fad to a custom and it is regarded as proper.

The tendency of the age is simplicity in dress, discarding everything that does not add to comfort and protect health, so long as it is not in conflict with the accepted ideas of modesty.

We will never return to the fig leaf age, but there are probably many more shocks in store for those who try to prescribe the confines of woman's mode of dressing.

If "it's being done," that is enough an custom promptly puts an end to adverse criticism.

If someone is looking for a real problem to solve, try to remove the competition between golf courses and churches.

Pessimists in the Majority

IT'S a sad commentary on our boasted civilization that the pessimist is often right. The reason is self-evident. He's in the majority and most people think as he does.

He says we are headed for perdition—and perhaps he's right again.

Man's a land animal, but he's getting away from the land as fast as he can. And every time he gets very far away, it means trouble.

Modern man refuses to walk. His preference is to ride on wheels and everyone who can, does.

When he rides, he can't digest his food and there follows a long line of bodily ills that make his inefficient.

He has his golf, you say, to get the needed exercise. But, answers the pessimist, we can't use all the land for golf courses because some of it has to be used to produce food. Right again.

Who's going to raise the food, if everybody moves to the large centers of population? The majority of people live in towns and cities.

And here's where the pessimist smiles—a rare thing—but he does.

You will have to admit that the optimist does have a difficult part—people leaving the land and those who remain have automobiles in their garages and radios in their homes to hook them up with, and bring them under the influence of crowd life, excitement and nervous stimulation.

But the optimist can keep on smiling and hoping that it will all turn out for the best.

The beer and light wine advocates need a miracle candidate who can turn water into wine.

Costly Negligence

NEGLECT in driving automobiles, which causes them to run into railroad trains is going to prove costly, because railroads have announced that they expect to retaliate; that instead of being on the defensive as in the past, they will be the complaining parties at the bar of justice.

Not so long ago the Great Northern railroad won a verdict for damages against a resident of Great Falls, Montana, who drove his automobile into a freight train smashing the side of a freight car. The amount collected was small, but the railroad values the judgment as a precedent and expects to press suits of similar character where the motorist is at fault.

The railroads are frequently at fault in running trains thru towns and cities too, fast, every fair-minded person will admit that they have done much to teach the motoring public caution. It has availed them little, and while they will not lessen their efforts to save lives and themselves damage suits, they can not be blamed if they retaliate in kind.

With millions of automobiles in America, the problem of keeping them off the railroad tracks becomes more and more perplexing. If the railroad companies, in threatening to collect damages and thus touch a vital spot with the automobile owner, can reduce the number of accidents at railroad crossings, they will perform a service not alone for themselves, but for the motoring public as well.

Every other means having failed the railroads will not be censured for taking this course. The reckless driver, instead of receiving sympathy, will have to show cause why he should not be held responsible for his acts. This may cause him to think twice when he approaches a railroad crossing.

If he growls when she makes the brakes squeak in stopping the car, it's his wife.

A Good Citizen's Duty

IN CASE there should be any person who has not heard about it, we would like to call attention to the fact, with all due apologies, that there is going to be an election on November 4.

If corruption is prevented, demagoguery rebuked, communism forestalled and folly warded off, all good citizens must go to the polls and vote.

In 1896, eighty per cent. of the American voters cast a ballot; in 1908, sixty-six per cent; in 1912, sixty-two per cent; in 1920, less than fifty per cent. The stay-at-home vote at the last general election amounted to 25,705,063.

This is not an affliction of any particular state or group of states. The distressing evidence of lack of

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interest in governmental affairs is common to every section of the country.

It is a constantly growing menace that threatens to sap the vitality of the nation.

As a general rule, the man or woman who neglects to qualify for voting and doesn't vote can give no valid excuse for failure to perform that important civic duty.

Listless indifference to the welfare of the United States will threaten, if not destroy, orderly government.

Responsibility rests alike upon men and women. There is no distinction as to sex, color or race, providing you are a citizen of the United States.

Find out where you vote and then vote when the time comes.

Even good logic is not always the truth.

Our idea of a great man is one who can acknowledge the call of a hotel bell boy in a large crowd just like it was an everyday occurrence.

Now that Europe is in a fair way of getting on its feet again, let's hope she doesn't hit down.

He who realizes that now spelled backwards means won, is the one who arrives sooner or later.

Oh for the day when the neighbor with a horse would mow your lawn for the grass.

Perhaps the trains could be persuaded to stop at the road crossings.

There are two sides to every question, the male and the female.

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