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My New Year's Resolutions

By Samuel Rosinger)

(Reprinted by request)

I resolve to grow during the coming year. Growth is life and standstill is death. Nothing undergoes a speedier deterioration and decay than unused functions and unexercised faculties. Rails over which heavy trains roll daily are bright like furbished silver, while the derail, being seldom used, is covered with the rust of corrosion. Therefore, I will labor and keep myself fit and trim. Idleness is the deadliest disease. It kills more men than the most dreaded scourge or plague.

I resolve to grow in appreciation of the richness of life. Life has as many facets as a polished diamond. A well-developed personality is manysided. Man is endowed with intellect, emotions, artistic skill, practical aptitudes and cravings for the ideal. I will try to gain a knowledge and an appreciation for the manifold aspects of life, so that I may grow harmoniously. To develop the material side of life at the expense of the spiritual, is like building a foundation strong enough to sustain a skyscraper, and erecting on that solid mass a flimsy shack. The beauty of life consists of symmetry and harmony. Therefore, I will try to grow in a well-balanced, and not a lop-sided way.

I resolve to grow stronger in my faith and broader in my charity during the coming year. I know that life is not the result of blind chance, but that there is a divinity that shapes our ends. Therefore, I will try to free myself of all the oppressive fears and worries about the future, into which I cannot peer, and about events over which I have no control. I will do my best to order my life according to my knowledge and ability, and trust for protection where I am helpless, and for guidance where my path leads through darkness, to a benign Providence who holds my destiny in the hollow of his hands. Also, I will try to judge my fellowmen in the scale of merit, and meet them with a heart free of suspicion and jealousy and full of sympathy and charity, I know that life is barren and bleak without the sunshine of friendship, and that the greatest source of earthly satisfaction and happiness lies in the loving relationship of man to man. Therefore, I will endeavor to live in peace with my neighbor, show myself worthy of the continued confidence of my old friends, and enrich my life with the acquisition of the goodwill of a few new choice souls, whom I hope to attract and hold during the coming year.

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\$50,000 Per Crash

(An editorial from the Rotarian Magazine)

When you read of a fatal motor accident, make a note in your mental bookkeeping for a community debit of \$50,000. And that figure, according to Sidney J. Williams, director of the Public Safety Division of the National Safety Council, is a "conservative estimate."

His opinion is based on the accepted assumption that the economic value of a life averages \$30,000. He takes account of the fact that for every automobile fatality there are some thirty-five non-fatal injuries, and for every injury there are at least four accidents involving property damage. With the total bill for accidents of all kinds in the United States running to a billion and a half dollars, simple arithmetic reveals that \$50,000 may be properly used as the community cost per fatal traffic accident.

But if money does not talk convincingly on this subject, consider the cost in human life. We think of wars as being major national catastrophes, yet as destroyers of life they are hardly to be bracketed with traffic accidents.

For example, in all the wars engaged in by the United States—the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the World War—fewer than 300,000 men were killed in action or died from wounds. Alongside those figures should be laid these, cited by D. C. Duncan, safety engineer for the Appalachian Electric Power Company, to-wit: In the past fifteen years, a period approximating the duration of those six wars, Americans killed by or dying from injuries received in motor accidents total 325,000!

Surely, here is a field of community service that merits intelligent consideration from all citizens. Almost every nation has an organized accident-prevention movement. Facts have been gathered. Methods have been formulated to reduce the accident toll. The need of the moment is for campaigns of education and for improvement of traffic regulations and conditions.

Disarming Is Last, Not First, Peace Step, Says Madariaga

"If we want to avoid war, if we wish to bring about disarmament, we must attack not only the question of disarmament, which is the last link in the chain, but also the origin of those facts which ultimately lead to the very existence of arms."

That is the view taken by Salvador de Madariaga, Spanish delegate to the league of Nations and ambassador to France.

"The world desires peace," he explains. "But peace cannot be assured without a state of mutual confidence. A state of mutual confidence cannot exist unless we are all impelled by the same aims. We cannot have the same aims unless we are all working in collaboration.

"The world today needs cooperation in international effort on all sides of its activities—human, social and technical. When such cooperation has been assured, then the arms, which the overburdened world carries, will fall by their own weight."

—R—

Commentable Comments

VICTORS IN HARDSHIPS.—Arctic ice and jungle are not more destructive than the depression is to its victims. But there are those who meet its worst with the high heart of such explorers as Stefansson, Eigenmann, Akeley—the spirit which through a million years has kept man on the dangerous earth alive and victorious.—William Lowe Bryan in the Rotarian Magazine.

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A NEW MARKET. The improved wage conditions that the NRA is bringing to the lowest paid workers in the United States will likely bring a new market for low-priced goods of a leisure or luxury type; it will undoubtedly shift markets somewhat, just as enclosed automobiles shifted the underwear market, or as aromatically improved hosiery is shifting at present the market for women's medium-priced hose.—Dr. Donald A. Laird in the Rotarian Magazine.

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A BUSINESS LESSON ABOUT LEARNED. We have found that what we knew long ago regarding men, is equally true about business. No business is self-sufficient, much of its success depends upon others. No business can succeed without taking others into consideration. If a manufacturer or producer tries to outsell his competitor by unfair means, both will suffer.—Warner S. Hays in the Rotarian Magazine.

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PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.—It is good citizenry as well as common sense to give a thought to the boy before he has gone seriously wrong, rather than to mete out heavy—and expensive—punishment after he has been convicted of crime.—From an editorial in the Rotarian Magazine.

LEAGUE HASN'T FAILED.—There are those who say that international cooperation, democracy and the spirit of the Covenant of the League have failed. I do not think so. I believe, as a contemporary Irish writer has said of Christianity, that the League of Nations has not failed because it has never been properly tried.—Salvador de Madariaga, in the Rotarian Magazine.

—R—

Self-Help Plan Big Aid

Four hundred needy families are mending shoes, baking bread, growing vegetables and doing numerous other things for themselves in a far-reaching experiment in self-help at Dayton, Ohio. It is the answer of Dayton's unemployed to the challenge of hard times.

The project is centered in ten so-called "production units," and a 160-acre farm, Frank D. Slutz explains in the current Rotarian Magazine. It was started in 1932 and has been so successful that there is now a waiting list. While the idea originated with Dr. Elizabeth Nutting of the Dayton Council of Social Agencies, the actual working out of the project and its development is in the hands of the jobless men and women who participate. The responsibility for its success is put on them.

"Each of the ten units has a headquarters," says Mr. Slutz, "either in a residence taken over for the purpose or in some other type of building that best meets the unit's particular needs. Raw materials are furnished by the Dayton Welfare Department. Unit members make these into finished products, turning over enough to the Welfare Department to pay for the raw material used. This makes each unit a pay-as-you-go organization. The finished products that remain are traded in at the Welfare Department for food supplies or exchanged among the units.

"Unit members," he continues, "except for the care-takers of the headquarters, live in their own residences. The rent for these residences can be paid in finished products. To some degree, however, the relief organizations of the city are still having to help with the rentals.

"One happy evidence of the units' success is that members are thinking ahead. The 160-acre farm has been purchased by the unit on long-time terms. It has been divided up into thirty-five small tracts, one for each member or member family of the homestead. The plan is to let each family cultivate and live upon its allotment. The Department of the Interior of the United States has assisted this homestead to establish itself by advancing to it funds. Six houses are now in process of being built.

"The Dayton Plan is not at all a local one. It is not patented. Any community may adopt it, but," Mr. Slutz advises, "it should not imitate Dayton blindly. Each community must adjust the plan to its people and to its needs."—The Rotarian Magazine.