

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

At Nantucket Shoals there is a lightship equipped with a twenty-six thousand candle light beacon to guide the liners plying the Atlantic lane, into the harbor of New York. Last week a fog came up and enshrouded the intense light of the beacon to the point of invisibility. A White Star liner, losing its bearings in the fog, collided with the lightship and cut it in two. Is not this incident symbolic of the condition in which our country finds itself? For a generation we were happily sailing along on a smooth and clear sea of prosperity. Suddenly, a mental fog arose that obscured the beacon of our intellect, and ever since we have been floundering aimlessly, unable to find our bearings and reach our port of safety and security. After all these years of futile attempts at steering our ship into the haven, I wonder, would it not be wiser to cast anchor and wait until the fog lifts and the atmosphere clears, rather than move about aimlessly and cut in two our lightship of the Constitution. Who knows, whether watchful waiting would not be a wiser policy than blind sailing.

Southeast Texas has such a large variety of wild flowers of exquisite beauty that, I believe, their cultivation on a goodly scale in one of our large parks, would not only make a splendid display for the eyes to feast on, but would also be of great educational value to lovers of flowers and students of botany. Tyrrell Park would readily lend itself to such a project, which we recommend for adoption and execution to our wideawake and progressive Park Commissioner, Frank Bertschler.

Strikes are civil war on a small scale, that, if not checked, not so much by legislation as by wise leadership of both capital as well as labor, may spread nationwide and result in a bitter and destructive class war that might shake the very foundations of this nation. We know that there are many large and prosperous industries that have never had their peace disturbed by the bitter strife of a strike. A study of these enterprises in which the relationship of employers and employees have not been marred by labor troubles, might offer a valuable key to the solution of the very serious strike problem.

Clarence Darrow's scathing criticism of the N. R. A., though decried as radically socialistic by Dictator Johnson, is having its salutary effect, as shown by the suspension of the so-called "nuisance codes." We believe that it is but a short time before the whole N. R. A. will be classified not only by the people, but also the President, a nuisance, and dropped in the wastebasket of well meant but abortive pieces of legislation.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. IX Beaumont, Texas, May 30, 1934 No. 47

Slants at the Meeting

You can talk about your platitudinous ponderosity but our old friend Lutch Starke hung it on us like icicles on the pole, last week.

He was bouncing mathematical calculations and dead reckonings off our cerebral positions like sparks from an emery wheel.

Distance meant nothing to Lutch and time less—a few billion miles was just a jaunt to the country club in a V-8 and time shrunk up like your intentions on a cold morning.

He spoke of light-years as the modus operandi for calculating the distance from Arcturus. Light-years is the yard stick for measuring our remote latitude from plenty to poverty, since the great debacle of '29. In fact that's all we have seen . . . light years.

A 200-inch, 22-ton lens may enable you to see uncharted worlds but when Lutch got through juggling his celestial distances he made that magnifying glass look like cellophane.

He spoke in such intimate terms of remote nebulae we could almost feel the moon in our lap.

He was more generous with constellations than a nigger is with doodads on a new car.

Flitting around illimitable space, with inconceivable rapidity, was as easy as sopping up gravy with hot biscuits.

Our only regret is that time didn't permit us to absorb a little more information, but we were hanging on his words like shoulder straps on a fat woman to keep peace in the family.

We are telling the stupid that's the kind of program we like, whether we understand it or not. It's consoling to think somebody has the courage to try to give you a worthwhile entertainment.

Check.

OFFICERS

KEITH HOTCHKISS President
KELSEY LAMB Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY Treasurer
IRWIN J. FERAY Secretary

DIRECTORS

KEITH HOTCHKISS—Pipkin & Brulin Co.
KELSEY LAMB—Lamb Printing & Stationery Co.
IRWIN J. FERAY—T. H. Mastin & Co.
P. P. BUTLER—American National Bank
B. A. STEINHAGEN—Steinhagen Rice Milling Co.
ED STEDMAN, JR.—The Stedman Co.
MILLARD McMASTER—Petroleum Iron Works Co.
TOM P. WALKER—Gulf States Utilities Co.
R. D. CHASTAIN—Imperial Shoe Store
C. A. EASLEY—Seaport Coal Co.

Falling Asleep Technique

If you suffer from insomnia, it may be a sign that you are of a better than average intelligence. Donald Laird has lately reported that a study of 509 distinguished Americans reveals that 70 per cent of them have so much trouble falling asleep that they have been forced to develop special techniques. Some put a cold towel on the back of the neck, and others repeat the alphabet backwards.

Walter B. Pitkin, author of "Psychology of Achievement," says that the superior mind is more wakeful both day and night. The pressure of thought and imagination is high, and cannot easily be turned off.

Pitkin refers to Lincoln who confessed that as a youth, after listening to adult talk, he often lay awake no small part of the night, trying to conjure up the exact meaning of what had been said. He had intellectual curiosity, whereas a more ordinary man would have had a more vacant mind and would have slept soundly.—Imperial Type Metal Magazine.

—R—

Good Conversation

One of the best definitions of conversation was that by the English scholar, Sir John P. Mahaffy—"To take up what others say in easy comment, to give in return something that will please, to stimulate the silent and morose out of their vapors, and surprise them into good humor, to lead while one seems to follow—this is the real aim of good conversation."—Frank B. McAllister in the Rotarian Magazine.

The Time to Invest

Invest when you can render a real service to your nation, to industry, and to the unemployed. This means that you should not invest during periods of prosperity when all your friends are investing and when there is a surplus of money available to be put into stocks, real estate, and everything else. Then is the time when you can best perform a service by liquidating and storing up cash. Every additional person who liquidates during a period of prosperity, makes the boom just so much less dangerous and thereby performs a real service. Every additional person who purchases during a period of depression, makes the depression so much less harmful and thereby performs a real service. Frankly, I believe that the time now exists for performing such a real service by buying and thus for later receiving a substantial reward therefor.—Roger W. Babson in the Rotarian Magazine.

—R—

Peace at a Price

Anyone who believes that from the beginning of time the World War was fated to come, is in an illogical position even to hope for a warless world. But he who regards all wars as a direct consummation of policies of participating nations can build an optimism around a conviction that men, being thinking animals, need not forever blunder into bloodshed but some day will consciously choose courses of action that prolong peace.

Wars do not happen suddenly. They are made in time of peace. Then popular desires are shaped into national policies which conflict and eventually clash with those of other countries.

It is interesting to conjecture what might have happened if, say in 1900, peoples of the twenty-seven nations that were drawn into the holocaust of 1914-18 had clearly realized that the policies then being born would lead to that conflict. Perhaps, in considering whether the national aims should be pursued unmodified, far-seeing leaders might have stated the case thus:

"These policies will lead to war. That war will take 30 million lives, cost 400 billion dollars, snap the morals of civilization, precipitate a world-wide depression.

"If these policies are not pursued, 30 million lives will be saved, civilization will proceed without interruption. And with the 400 billions we shall be able to give a \$2,500 house, furnished with \$1,000 worth of furniture, and five \$100-acres to every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and Russia; to put a \$5,000,000 library and a \$10,000,000 university in every city over 20,000 population in the countries named; and, furthermore, establish a fund which at five percent interest will for all time pay a \$1,000 annual salary to 125,000 teachers and 125,000 nurses."—The Rotarian.