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THE CHRISTMAS SEALS

The pretty little stamps called Christmas seals will soon begin to adorn the letters you receive. Will not our home folks in Westminster take hold and do their share in buying them this year, so that our community shall take its full part in the anti-tuberculosis campaign for which they are used?

Tuberculosis was formerly considered about the greatest curse that afflicts the human race. Not many years ago it was estimated to cause about one seventh of the deaths in the world. But the figures for 1920 show that only about one-twelfth of the deaths in the United States are due to this cause.

This shows what has already been done to fight this curse. It is demonstrated that the disease could be made quite rare if all the people understood its peril and would co-operate to fight it.

But with vast masses of careless folks in the country, it requires a big campaign of enlightenment to persuade people to take the precautions needed to stop this disease. The work of education needs to be carried into every school district in the land. There should be specially careful instruction among foreigners who do not understand English. They should be instructed by people who can speak their own language.

One of the world's great sources of misery would be abolished if this disease could be stamped out. It is heartbreaking to see how families are broken up and thrown into conditions of poverty by the effects of this plague. The anti-tuberculosis associations have done superb work in this cause, and it is a matter of self protection for every family to contribute something to their support through the little Christmas seals.

PHYSICAL STRAINS

A man who recently attended a football game played in a cold rain, was reproached by his friends for having taken such a chance. It was remarked that he could not have failed to get wet through, and that sitting still for two hours without being able to protect himself from the searching downpour, was simply inviting pneumonia or some other dread disease.

One man remarked that he would not have attended that game and sat through that rain, if they had given him the whole stadium.

Yet possibly the first man, who had always spent much time outdoors, was taking no more chances on that one day than a lot of people are constantly assuming all the time without realizing it.

People who live in air tight houses without ventilation, particularly if their daily work requires them to labor under equally poor conditions, are often taking chances when they are exposed to cold or damp aid. They may get a fatal disease in their own homes some time when the air is unexpectedly cool. They are apt to lack the physical vigor that will resist strains.

There are a host of people whose lives are controlled by the weather. If it should rain, they are unable to get out to church or other gatherings. Many people refuse to walk unless they have to. People of that type are apt to take cold easily, and a little thing like getting wet on a cool day might lead to serious illness.

Most people encounter strains that will test their physical stamina. If a person will keep out of doors all he can, ventilate his home and working quarters if he can control them, he can safely do things that for others would be imprudent.

THE COUNTRY'S CONDITION

To hear a lot of the political talk that is distributed by some politicians, one would think that the United States is in a rather desperate condition industrially.

Yet if you read the business reports, you discover a condition of much more than average prosperity. It is true that bank clearings for last September, for instance, were only $29,000,000,000 odd as compared with $35,000,000,000 for September in 1920, which was a year of great inflation.

But business in 1920 was puffed up like a balloon by extravagance and exaggerated prices, and 29 billion in 1923 is almost as much in business volume as 35 billion in such high price times. Present conditions are infinitely more sound.

Furthermore, bank clearings from last March to July of this year ran from $33,000,000,000 up, the March figures being over $36,000,000,000, a tremendous total with prices now much below the 1920 level. There has been a slight recession through the late summer and fall, but no more than the country needs to keep it doing business sanely.

Some reports of short time or unemployment in mills are due to conditions beyond the power of any government to remedy. The short cotton crop, for instance, creates high prices that tend to check buying of cotton goods. The disposition of the wage earners in some trades to demand war time wages even though prices are below the war time level, also tends to check buying and leads to temporary unemployment.

Such alternations as these are inevitable under any conditions. If there were not slight recessions from time to time, the financial world would quickly get to joy riding and prepare for another smash. The country has good business administration in its government, and is rapidly recovering from war conditions.

TOO MANY BOSSES

Many business men complain because the schools, as they say, are turning out too many bosses. Education has become so common, they say, that the great bulk of young men seek jobs as foremen or superintendents of something. They are not satisfied to take hold at the bottom and work a long time on the plain routine details of a business or trade. The number of men who desire "white collar" jobs, they say, is twice as many as the number of such jobs.

One remedy for such conditions, would be for more men to take thorough technical education. It is still claimed that there is likely to be a shortage of men who are trained for service as technical and scientific experts. But to fill such positions they must put in long years of hard study.

There are a lot of fellows who seem to think they can become managers of business after only short courses of study. They may be able to work into such jobs in time. But if they are going to get recognition promptly, they have a great deal of work to do, in order to acquire that thorough knowledge that modern business requires.

The young fellow who wants to get high pay, yet finds it impossible to land any exceptionally good job, must make himself specially efficient in his line of work. If he can do his job better than the fellows around him, if he can think up improved ways of performing his task, if he can turn out a greater or better product, he is going to get recognition, and a chance to advance. Many fellows have got ahead in this way who never had the advantage of extended school training.

There are too many people who are looking for short cuts to success. Some men find such short cuts, but it is by securing a preparation so thorough that older men have to give way to them.

PROMPT RELIEF

Director Hines of the veterans' bureau urges his subordinates to "find a way to render relief rather than to block or delay it," in dealing with the cases of veterans.

In a private business it is usually possible to get prompt action, as it is realized that delay may do more harm to a concern's reputation than a mistake. In public work officials are often inclined to avoid responsibility by "passing the bunk."

The veteran who offered his life to the country and has sustained injuries, should have the most immediate and generous help. If he has few friends, and runs up against government delays, he may give up trying to get the attention he ought to have. Such a result would put the country in the light of failing to fulfil its most sacred obligations.

THE TEST OF A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Many millions of dollars will be spent during the next few weeks for gifts. The greater part of them will be well bestowed, but many such offerings will be useless.

The best gift is something that the recipient has wanted. While useful articles that a person is going to need are given more than ever before, yet the gifts that appeals to a person's imagination and sense of beauty may seem equally appropriate.

People often long for things for years, but feel they can get along without them, and so never buy them. A gift of that type may not always be strictly practical, yet if it satisfies a long cherished desire, it may create more happiness than anything else. The person who wants to make appropriate gifts must think carefully of the tastes and desires of his friends, and often consult the members of the friend's family to see what is wanted or needed.

THE BOK PEACE PLANS

Some folks think that world peace is a dreamy ideal that can never be realized. These people may feel that no special results may come from the generous offer made by Edward W. Bok, of a $100,000 prize for the best plan for promoting international peace. But evidently the 22,000 people who have submitted plans in this competition feel differently.

As an eminent committee has been named to pass on these various suggestions, the winning plan should be worthy of attention all over the world.

The first thing in promoting a great cause is to get people to talking about it. If people assume in a hopeless way that wars are inevitable, then there always will be wars.

But if they once get it in their heads that the human race should have brains enough to stop the awful waste created by wars and the threat thereof, then the cause will make progress. The more world peace is talked about, the more people will come to realize that it is possible. The fine offer of Mr. Bok then promises to accomplish at least this, that it will stimulate a great deal of discussion. As it is proposed to submit the winning plan to a referendum of the country, so far as votes can be collected, the matter will figure prominently during the next few months.

It might be a good idea, after the contest is completed and the referendum taken, to submit a number of the best plans for public consideration, so that the people can get some notion of the various suggestions.

World peace is the greatest issue before the race, since the cost of wars is the heaviest burden that humanity has to carry. If the human race is capable of progress, and is not doomed to animalism and brutality, it will find ways to end this curse.

"HICK PEOPLE"

Some farm organizations are protesting against caricaturing the farmer. They object to having him represented as a bushy whiskered fellow of the "Reuben" type. They claim the modern farmer is a very different looking fellow. His work may make it necessary for him to get his hands dirty, but when he gets his store clothes on, he compares favorably with any other business men.

There are "hick" people everywhere. You find a lot of them in big cities, who look just as uncouth as any products of the remotest village. Many successful business and professional men are careless about their appearance. The "hick" type may properly be caricatured wherever it is found, but the impression should not be given that the farming element has any undue proportion of it.

OLD TIME FIDDLERS

There was an interesting incident the other day at Thomas A. Edison's plant at West Orange, New Jersey, when "Jep" Bisbee, of Paris, Michigan, played for phonograph instruments many of the old airs which he has for 50 years played at dances at Michigan villages.

No doubt he was a clever artist at that type of music, and he represents a very interesting type of people who have provided dance music for country towns for many years.

They have given no end of happiness to the people, and the money they received for their efforts was only an incident to them. They have carried the spirit of jollity wherever they went. When the fiddlers took out their beloved old instrument, cares were dropped, merriment seized the company, and great capers and pigeon wings were executed.

The old time fiddlers have been a simple hearted type of men, who cared not for pretentious things, but have just poured out their souls in their jolly old music. One of the old fiddlers was once trying to buy a piano. They showed him instruments with fine and expensive cases, but the old musician was not impressed with the tone thereof.

"I don't care a bit what kind of a case it has," he remarked, "what I want is to have a good tone. I don't care if the case is just like a flour barrel, if it only has a good tone." No splendor of mahogany or rosewood, or the impression a handsome instrument could make on his friends, was any object to that lover of pure music for itself alone.

The favorite old jigs are not so much heard now. But there was a pure rollicking quality in these old airs that had its own charm, and seemed to radiate sunshine and good cheer.

After all the other occasions have been observed, it would be a good idea to have a "Keep Your Mouth Shut Week."

With Congress in session again, a large number of tail coats must have been removed from the moth balls.

The kids who are tardy at school, have usually been able to get to the football games on time.

UNCLE TED'S BED TIME STORIES

A LESSON IN TOLERANCE, WITH A FEW EXAMPLES

Possibly there had been dirtier boys but it would be hard to believe that they could look more tattered and torn than Jack when he dragged one foot after the other up the back walk, apparently so tired he could just about move.

"For goodness sake, Jack, what have you been up to now?" asked his mother. "You have ruined your coat, and your face is simply terrible. I am ashamed of you."

"I couldn't help it mother," he answered. "I was just talking to Freddie about something and he kept saying one thing and I kept sticking to what I thought and I told him he didn't know what he was talking about—and he hit me and—well, I won't let anybody hit me."

"My, oh, my! Will you boys ever get over the idea that you have to fight at the slightest provocation?" was his mother's disgusted reply to this real boyish explanation.

"What? Again!" exclaimed Uncle Ted as he came into the kitchen from the front of the house, almost running into Jack. "Guess I'll have to take you over my mental knee and give you a good sounding word thrashing and try to pound some tolerance into your little head."

"But you won't get a stick?" said Jack.

"No, Jack, I won't. I think I can make you see my point and reasoning without that."

Before very long Jack had succeeded in scrubbing the worst of the dirt off and after a good supper he looked quite a different boy.

"Ruth," began Uncle Ted, "I want you to listen to this little story tonight, although it is particularly for Jack's benefit. Nevertheless it is something we all need at times and some of us need it badly. That thing is Tolerance. Tolerance with the other fellow and tolerance with his ideas and viewpoint plus a kindness to our fellow man. The dictionary says about tolerance: 'quality or state of being tolerant; freedom from bigotry.' Bigotry is just the opposite from tolerance. A bigot is a person who is obstinately and blindly devoted to his own ideas, church, belief or anything else.

"That is what none of us want to be. When you have your idea about something and Freddie has his, be big enough and manly enough to admit that Freddie not only has as much right to his ideas as you have to yours, but perhaps he may be able to teach you something new. Maybe after all Freddie is right, and the only way you can tell whether or not Freddie is right is to keep your mind clear and open for suggestions and new thoughts.

"I don't mean, now, that you have to swallow everything anybody tells you or to be influenced by every Tom, Dick and Harry. That would be carrying it too far in the other direction. What I do mean is, that in this world today we must all remember that the other fellow may have a better idea than our own and it at least pays to listen to him. Then decide for yourself whether or not his thoughts are worth adopting or adding to yours. It may be that after all you will decide that you are right. There is nothing wrong in that. But at least you have listened and have not been so tied up in your own thoughts that you have missed a chance to get his viewpoint.

"It was that marvelously developed sense of tolerance that helped make Warren G. Harding a great man. It was the same tolerance that made Lincoln the great Civil War President; McKinley the kindly man and Roosevelt the popular idol.

"Today, we find another man in the White House who knows what tolerance means and how foolish it is to take the attitude of the bigot. President Calvin Coolidge is tolerance itself. He is thinking hard, working hard and has his own ideas on all the problems confronting him, but at the same time President Coolidge is receiving hundreds of people each week in his office in the White House—people from all walks of life. He listens to what they have to tell him. Bank presidents, farmers, mechanics, men and women writers who have traveled abroad, actors, merchants, politicians; in fact, there is not a profession or business not included in the long list of those who travel to his office and pour into his ear what they know and think.

"In the same way he is listening to the members of his Cabinet, the assistant secretaries of the various departments—in fact to all Government officials no matter in what capacity they may serve.

"With Congress again in session it is to be hoped that the spirit of tolerance, give and take, will be shown between the executive and the two law making bodies of our nation. I feel sure that President Coolidge will continue to guide the Nation in the right direction but he cannot do this alone. Congress must listen and get his ideas as I know he will do with Congress. If this whole-hearted spirit is shown then we need not fear.

"Too often serious breaks have occurred between the White House and Capitol Hill, but I honestly believe that this session will start a new era. Campaign time is very close. Already many men have announced themselves as candidates. For that reason we must all keep level heads and listen to everyone's story. When the time comes we can then better decide how our country shall be guided.

"So Jack, try and get this little lesson. Always be tolerant. Never get what we call the 'big head.' It has ruined more than one fine man and woman.

"Now run along to bed and let's not have you fighting any more, Jack. Good-night."

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