American Sentinel

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A LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY THOUGHT

The orators will be called on as usual on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, for thoughts on the career of that profound thinker. The day comes on Sunday, so the ministers can tell us what they think his career means for our day.

It is commonly used as a means of comforting boys and girls who come from very humble homes. They are taught that this man ascended to belong to the great ones of earth, from a home which had less of conveniences than the humblest dwelling now standing in Westminster. Such a career proves that there is no bar to achievement in America.

The American people come pretty near accepting a man or woman for what he or she does. If the achievement of the person is of benefit to the community, one's lowly origin is forgotten. People will also cease to laugh at any awkwardness that such a one carries up from the early beginnings.

But when they are told this story, young people need to form one idea quite strongly. People do not rise to any kind of triumph without effort. Lincoln had very little schooling, probably not more than a year altogether. But he had access to a number of the world's greatest literary masterpieces. He read his Bible and Shakespeare and American history until he knew them and the rest of his small library by heart, and had taken deeply into his thought the profound wisdom of these sources of inspiration.

If like the average boy of to-day, he had spent his spare time on superficial reading and ordinary entertainment, the world would never have heard of him. The person who aspires to a noteworthy career, must like Abraham Lincoln seek inspiration from the world's best minds. But one must also like Lincoln be a person of action and practical judgment, and learn how to apply one's wisdom skilfully to the problems of every day life.

A LIFE OF ACHIEVEMENT

A man who was long regarded as one of the heroes of American achievement has just passed on, Col. George Goethals. In 1907 he became enginer in charge of the Panama canal, and his genius was a tremendous factor in the success of this unparalleled undertaking.

For many years the project of digging a canal across the Panama isthmus had seemed an almost impossible job. A French company tried it in 1883, but the job proved far more difficult than had been anticipated, and it had to be abandoned for a time. For some years the attempt seemed so colossal that the American people lacked the courage to try it.

The story of how success was finally achieved is familiar, of how fever haunted swamps were conquered and made healthful working places, and of how the mass of these canal workers were inspired with pride for their job and determination to make it a success.

There is something very wonderful in such a career. And yet if people would study such life histories, they would discover many points where they could imitate such a commanding personality, and apply the methods he used successfully.

Col. Goethals' mind could not merely take in the broad outlines of his vast problem, but he could see into every little detail. And he had a wonderful gift for inspiring enthusiasm, and making all the people under him feel that they had a share in the grand enterprise, and that every one must contribute his little bit.

We need more great national leaders now to inspire the people with that spirit, so that they would take hold of their daily working tasks, and of the duties of citizenship with the enthusiasm that dug this canal through the mountains and the swamps. With such inspiration the most difficult problems are solved.

HOME TOWN THOUGHTS

Many folks who are very scrupulous about their personal appearance, yet have shabby looking houses. The dress up movement should extend to the home place.

A poor looking salesman will not sell many goods, and when you improve the appearance of a business center, you increase its business.

Among the folks who growl about cost of fire insurance, fire protection, etc, are many who are careless about fire hazards on their own places.

BOY TEMPERAMENT

The boys of to-day are to be the men of to-morrow, who will make our country. It is a very vital question as to how they are developing. Teachers, camp directors, etc, can give us many side lights on what the future of the country should be.

A well known man teacher, who has run a boy camp in a vacation resort for nearly 20 years, was asked recently how he thought the boys of to-day compare with those he came in contact with when he first started in with camp work.

"They are more easily led, and are more amenable to discipline," he said. "But they do not have as much initiative as they had then."

He attributed what he felt was their lack of initiative, to the city life to-day. The city boy is not thrown so much on his own resources as the country boy is. He thus is likely to have less originality. But this teacher seemed to feel that modern life is developing better behaved boys. They are learning that they can't get anywhere if they break away from school discipline. They have learned that to take a good standing in athletics, to get promoted in their classes, or to get a good job when they finish their education, they have to conform to the rules of the school and get their lessons.

This is a great gain. A great many boys and girls seem to come along rather well as long as they are under the discipline of their home town schools. But when they get out from under this discipline the modern spirit of independence seizes hold of them, and they often go to undesirable extremes. What they need are fine clubs and various organizations that shall direct their attention as young folks to the best aims of citizenship and character.

HOME OPPORTUNITIES

The development of a community depends more than anything else, on the opportunities offered there for people to find work and get favorable business chances there. If there are plenty of such openings, people will move in and young people will largely stay at home. If not, they will go elsewhere.

Such development then depends very largely on the business men of a place, as to whether they have the initiative and the enterprise to go ahead and make these opportunities. If we look to them for thus taking the lead, we ought to support them in every way possible. We can enable them to offer these better opportunities in their employment, by making it our regular practice to buy our supplies at home.

THE PUBLIC MEMORY

Republics are said to be ungrateful, and people who render great services are often forgotten. This fact affects business life. People may render excellent service in a business way, but unless they have some means to keep before the public, the public is apt to forget about them.

A firm may do faithful work, but if it fails to tell people constantly about its goods, people are apt to forget about it. But newspaper advertising furnishes the means by which it can keep the public constantly informed about its merchandise and opportunities, so if it drags behind because of public neglect, it has only itself to blame.

AGGRESSIVE WAR

In discussing a new treaty between the United States and France, the French government holds that it can not agree to outlaw all war, but only an aggressive war. It feels that a nation must have the right to make a defensive war when it is attacked. Also it may be under obligation to go to war to assist nations that have been unjustly attacked.

This theory may be reasonable, yet it makes it difficult to declare war illegal, since nations always claim in going to war, that they do so in self defense. Some day the world will adhere to some authoritative tribunal which will call the condemnation of all countries on any nation that is responsible for an aggressive act of war. The country that starts a war should expect only the reprobation of mankind.

WHERE WILL BUSINESS BE DONE?

The people in communities like Westminster face a certain choice as to where the moin business of the country is to be done. If they think that most of the retail trade should be concentrated in large cities, they can promote that movement by buying of mail order houses and on personal visits to large cities.

But if they think it would be well to have the bulk of the trade done in towns about like Westminster, then they can help accomplish that result by buying at home. Business can be done at a low level of cost in a town like ours, with a high level of personal attention and service. Our people promote their own interests when they decide to buy their supplies at home.

CHURCH COMPETITION

Plans for eliminating competition among the churches of the Protestant denominations were discussed at the recent Church Comity Conference, meeting at Cleveland, Ohio. It was concluded that one fully equipped church with resident pastor should be sufficient for each 1000 of population.

The conclusion would seem to be that where there are more than one church to each 1000 people, some of them should unite. In many rural communities there are two to five churches for each 1000 people. In such places, there will not usually be money enough to support these churches in an adequate way.

The people demand more of churches and ministers than they used to. They expect a minister to be intellectually well equipped, a brainy man, who can preach sermons comparing favorably with newspaper editorials and magazine articles. Then they expect a social and magnetic nature capable of creating social life and attaching people to the church by friendly ties.

Then they ask him to be a systematic organizer, with somewhat the same gifts that are required of a corporation manager. To obtain such a paragon of excellence usually takes more money than the average rural church can afford to give. Some brainy men will take these pastorates from an exceptionally developed sense of self sacrifice, but it is too much to ask of them.

Then the modern church is expected to have a well equipped building which shall serve as a social center. It is expected to pay something for good music. These various things call for quite a little money, which can not be provided if there are too many churches for a town.

Where there are three or four churches struggling to exist where one is all that can be supported, unfriendly rivalries may arise. The spirit of Christian faith calls for unity, and the sinking of miner differences in one combined effort.

OUR INCOME TAXES

The federal government again calls on our citizens to make returns of their income, and once again this more or less perplexing job is before all who are fortunate enough to have incomes such as to call for this report.

There are still some people who regard the calling for such a return, and the levying of such a tax, as an intrusion of the federal government into a strictly private subject. They claim that if they pay taxes to their state and local government, that is all that can be asked, and that the federal government should raise what money it needs by customs duties and various excise taxes.

But most Americans have become reconciled to the income tax idea, and they feel it is the fairest way to raise the money that must be had. We still owe a vast debt of $18,000,000,000, incurred for fighting the World war. We are under very heavy obligations to the soldiers of that war, and must for many years pay out great sums in care for the disabled, pensions, etc. The ordinary ways of raising such funds do not suffice.

The income tax theory holds that people should pay this cost in proportion to their wealth. Those of small means are not assessed at all. Those of moderate amounts have to pay small amounts that they will not miss. Those who have large means or great wealth can easily afford to pay the amounts asked, without curtailing any of their privileges, pleasures, or luxuries.

When people have had large success, they owe much to the government that has protected them and their property, and has encouraged and promoted enterprise and prosperity. It should be a pleasure to people of large wealth, to make a handsome contribution to their government, as a return for all the benefits they have received.

ALL GIRLS LOOK ALIKE

One remarkable feature of the recent reported disappearance of a young woman from Smith college, was the large number of cities and towns in which people were sure they had seen her.

Someone explains that by remarking that all girls look alike now, with their bobbed hair and short skirts, also the close fitting hats affected by many of them frame their faces in a little picture that is charming but rather uniform.

The styles spread over the country with the speed of the wind, and are felt in the remotest neighborhoods. Those who like originality may regret this tendency to uniformity. But it enables people who live far from the centers of fashion to obtain the prevailing styles very easily. When thus equipped, they pass anywhere as up to date, which gives them confidence and self respect.

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1923 Light Six Studebaker Touring.
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10-28-6m*

COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE

Hereafter and until further notice the County Commissioners of Carroll County will meet at their office in Westminster every Monday and Tuesday of each week for the transaction of business.

By order.

SAMUEL J. STONE,
Clerk.

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for that newspaper advertisement or circular may express your ideas but effective typographical display is necessary to get best results. With your knowledge of your business and our knowledge of the printing art we can co-operate to mutual advantage.

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We Are Always At Your Service

SUNLIGHT BLOTTERS

Dirty and dingy buildings are called "sunlight blotters," by L. T. Smith, president of the Building Managers and Owners association of New York. He points out how dingy surfaces seem to "sop up" the light, while clean and cheerful looking buildings will reflect it down to the streets.

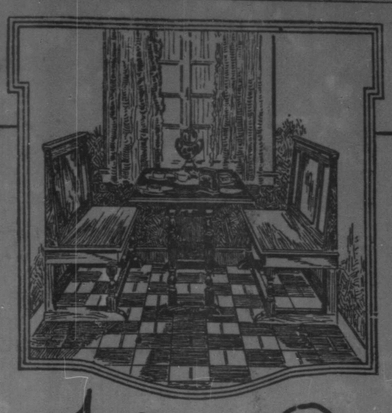
There is a great deal of truth in his remark. People feel more confident and optimistic when they are surrounded by cheerful looking buildings, and it probably has an effect on health. Anway a town made up of well kept buildings looks more hopeful and it draws business.

THE 21 FLAGS

There was an inspiring moment at Havana, when the 21 flags of the republics participating in the Pan-American conference were raised to the top of their flagstaffs. All of us would like to have been there, to help give the glorious stars and stripes their share of the applause.

These nations vary infinitely in power, fro mthe great United States to little Salvador, with its area of 7225 square miles and population of about 1,000,000. But they all stand for the democratic idea. It is a wonderful thing, that in a world which up to recently was mostly ruled by kings, the people should have claimed every square foot of America as the land of free government.

Predicted that all speed limits for automobiles will be abolished in a few years. Many people will be surprised to learn that any speed limits now exist.



"Breakfast's Ready!"

THAT'S always a welcome call, isn't it? "Eating in the kitchen" isn't half bad in a charming little nook arranged for that very purpose. Here your cakes and coffee reach the breakfast table steaming hot.

Table and seats are always ready, but are out of the way between meals. So the busy housewife is saved many steps in serving the hurried breakfast, the light noon meal, and the children's after-school lunch. No table cloth is needed, so laundry is saved, too.

Dining alcoves like this do not have to be made to order, at great expense. They are in stock, ready for shipment, having been made in quantities with a resulting saving in cost to you. This is true of all designs of

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