

Kent News

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1929

EXCLUSIVENESS WHICH IS JUSTIFIABLE

Much of the controversy of life grows out of confusion resulting from the different meanings attributed to words and phrases. Professor Rogers' use of the word "snob," which caused so much comment, is a case in point. Many of us feel that the thing he was really driving at is essentially sound and certainly need all the emphasis we can put upon it. I hold no brief for the professor, but in fairness note the following explanation made by him: "The snob I had in mind was that kind of a person who is liable to get called snobish or high hat because he holds himself to a standard of manners, or speech, and of behavior and cultivation which is rapidly going out of fashion. . . . And if that is to be a snob, then I am all for it."

Of course that is not snobbish, but the fact remains that one can hardly stand true to his ideals of conduct today without being labeled a "snob." And this ridicule by the use of epithets which indicates that one is "peculiar" or "queer" is far more difficult to endure than scarcely any other form of persecution. Real moral heroism is needed on the part of the individual to meet it.

Since when have thoughtful parents ceased to advise their children to shun unworthy or evil companions? What are the insinuations of the old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together?" In an old copy book we wrote, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." Are we called upon to apologize for nonconformity to the crowd in matters of ideals and standards of good breeding?

Are we urged to cease advising our young people to "cut" those circles where the influence is detrimental to character and culture development? There is considerable worry on the part of the "older generation" that the "younger generation" is going to the dogs because they are so independent and insist on doing as they please. The fact is the opposite is true.

The greatest danger that youth faces today is that of abject slavery to the ideas and ideals of his crowd. He scarcely can oppose it. He dare not break with it. The greatest need of modern youth as an individual is just that moral courage to stand on his own feet and withstand the criticism and ridicule of the crowd that seizes his ideals and standards.

Nothing is more hopeful in a young person than that courage that causes his eye to flash with a look of determination and makes him say "Let them call me a snob, I am through with that crowd until things are different."

A young man declined to attend a high school dance that had come into disrepute and was called a "snob."

A woman who enjoyed her card club until they began playing for stakes, dropped out and was called a "snob."

A young lady enjoyed the companionship of her particular circle of friends until she found them drinking at their parties, dropped out in protest and became thereby a "snob."

A business friend of mine discovered that his leading salesman in whom he had the greatest confidence was a bootlegger. He thereupon wanted no further dealings with such a character, and became thereby a "snob" to a certain crowd.

In this business of building character it still remains wise, "Don't chum with a crowd that desecrates your ideals." Don't waste your time chumming with those persons who murder all the high principles of good breeding by holding them up to derision or scorn.

We may denounce snobbishness and at the same time make no apology for moving our family out of the community that has deteriorated in its ideals and social environment. For the sake of the proper development of our children we seek a better community. Good sense tells us what the low ideals of morals and culture will do to them. Some of our good workers who are giving their money and services in the Church in the section of the "underprivileged" have long since moved into more wholesome communities. — Eastern Shore Republican.

Early American Architect
The first professional architect in America was Peter Harrison. He probably arrived in this country in 1745. While engaged in designing the Federal Library at Newport, R. I., he was invited to prepare plans for the rebuilding of King's chapel, Boston. In 1771 Harrison built the Brick Market House at Newport, R. I., afterward used for a city hall. He died in New Haven April 30, 1775, at the age of fifty-nine.

Breaks in Slumber
In an average night, our most restless adult sleeper awakens about 42 times, our quietest sleeper about 21 times, our most typical sleeper about 35 times. Most of these periods of waking are brief and the sleeper can remember perhaps two to five the next day.—Dr. H. M. Johnson.

THE MORAL CODE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The schools and colleges of the county have opened for the 1929-1930 term and the children taken from the more natural element of free play to their less natural environment of study, with directed play added. Just what the public schools mean to our community and nation cannot be written in editorials nor published in books; it cannot be sung in song nor painted in picture. The influence of education must be experienced. What we turn out of our schools as graduates we pour into the community as citizens. By what moral influences and by what moral standards should the children be surrounded during the plastic years of school life?

The first and foremost, above books and curriculum, far above fine buildings and spacious lawns, even when surmounting the disciplinary codes, should be the high and noble character of the teachers. A child not only reads his books and studies his lessons, he is very perceptibly influenced by the mannerisms, the attitudes and the very moral fibre of his teachers. Many children fairly absorb the personality of the teacher and are after them in divers ways. The perfect teacher, the perfect principal or the perfect superintendent is that man or woman in whom the child places complete confidence and from whom the child has a right to expect elevating guidance. When good morals cease to be paramount to the three R's the very structure of education totters.

School boards and trustees cannot exercise too much diligence in these matters, such as the selection of teachers and others in authority who are possessed with a high degree of honor and obedient at all times to the recognized codes of gentlemanly and womanly conduct. An application may be ever so profuse in its recommendations and truly show the applicant to be splendidly fitted for the position sought, yet assiduous watching from year to year is a mark of prudence which finds its virtue only in its continuity.—Ellicott City Times.

PAPER HAS NO REAL COMPETITOR

Such papers as The Kent News, which go to make up the nation's country press, are indebted to Representative Aswell, of Natchitoches, La., for the generous boost given by the legislator as reflected through an Associated Press dispatch emanating from Washington, under date of Saturday, September 21st.

The Congressman, who declares it as his opinion that there is no danger of the radio supplanting the country press, for the community newspaper has no real competitor, says:

"The community newspaper, whether it serves the town or neighboring rural territory, has a distinct personal field. The human element cannot be disregarded, for the average citizen likes to read about himself and his neighbors, and the country newspaper is based on this idea.

"Not even the minister or the family doctor is closer to his own people than the small town editor. He records their births and deaths, their joys and sorrows, and all the happenings of daily existence.

"He is as essential as the court house, the postoffice and the school or the town and parish government. The country newspaper is the most thoroughly read publication. It is a sort of public institution."

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Every community has, among its citizens, those who scoff at the church. They can tell you a lot of things that some church members do, and they expect you to believe that hypocrites keep them on the sidewalk looking in.

Don't be so foolish as to believe these talkers, even if they have fooled themselves, and really think they are sincere seekers after truth. They will talk blandly about tolerance and intolerance, etc., etc., and wind up their discussion with a few shots at religion.

Regardless of what you hear don't forget that religion is the vital force in the world that leads to better men and women. The organized churches are the real servants of mankind in

promoting and encouraging high ideals in everyday life. Religion is vital to many people who are called "narrow-minded" and "straight-laced" by their "liberal" fellow-citizens.

Supporting the churches is a good work. While we do not think that a man or woman should enter into religious, or church merely because it is one way to become known as an upright or reliable person, and thus to "stand well" in the neighborhood, yet it is better to do this, and help the churches in their work, than to stand on the public thoroughfares and make yourself known as a critic of the churches.

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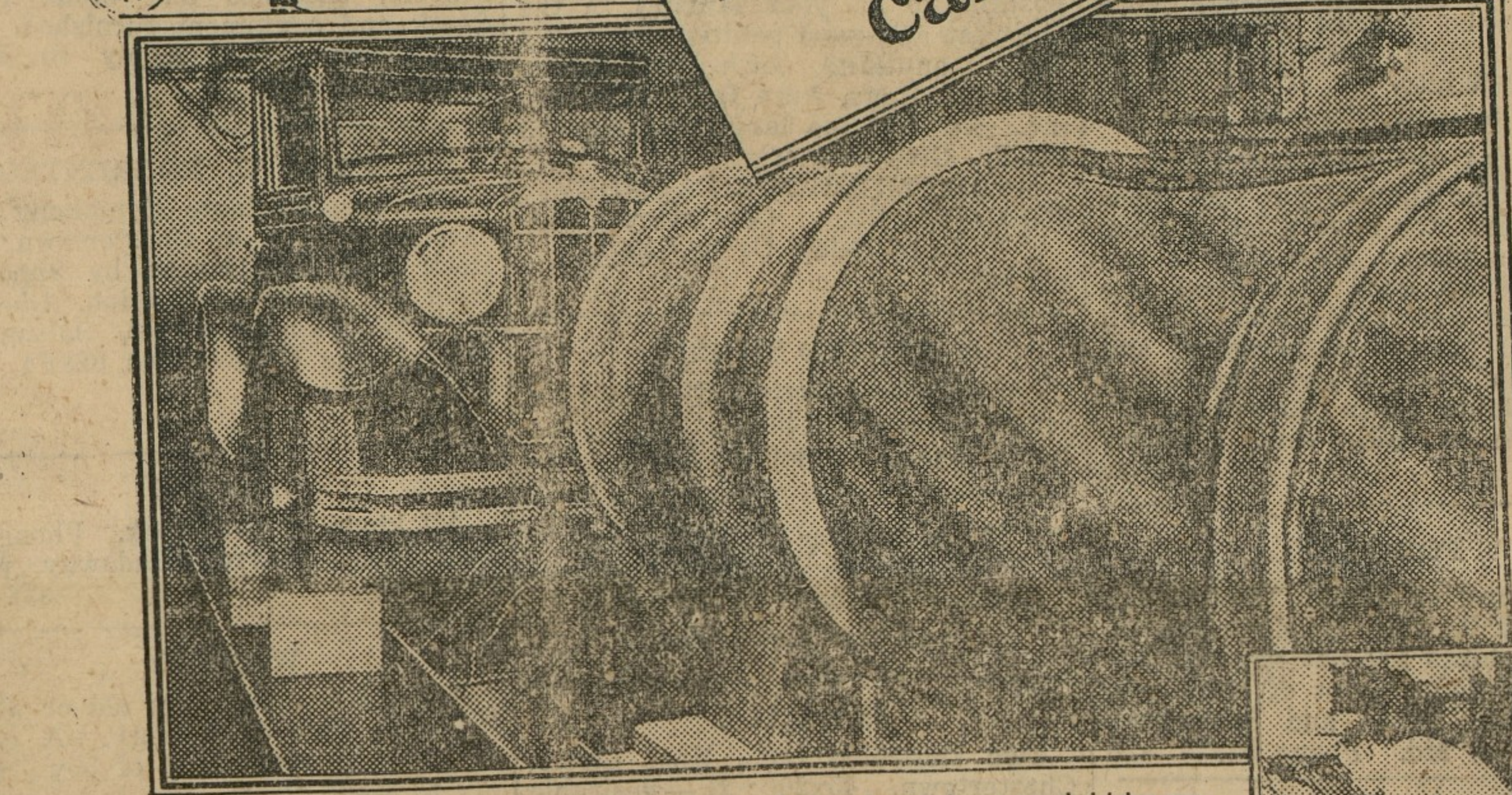
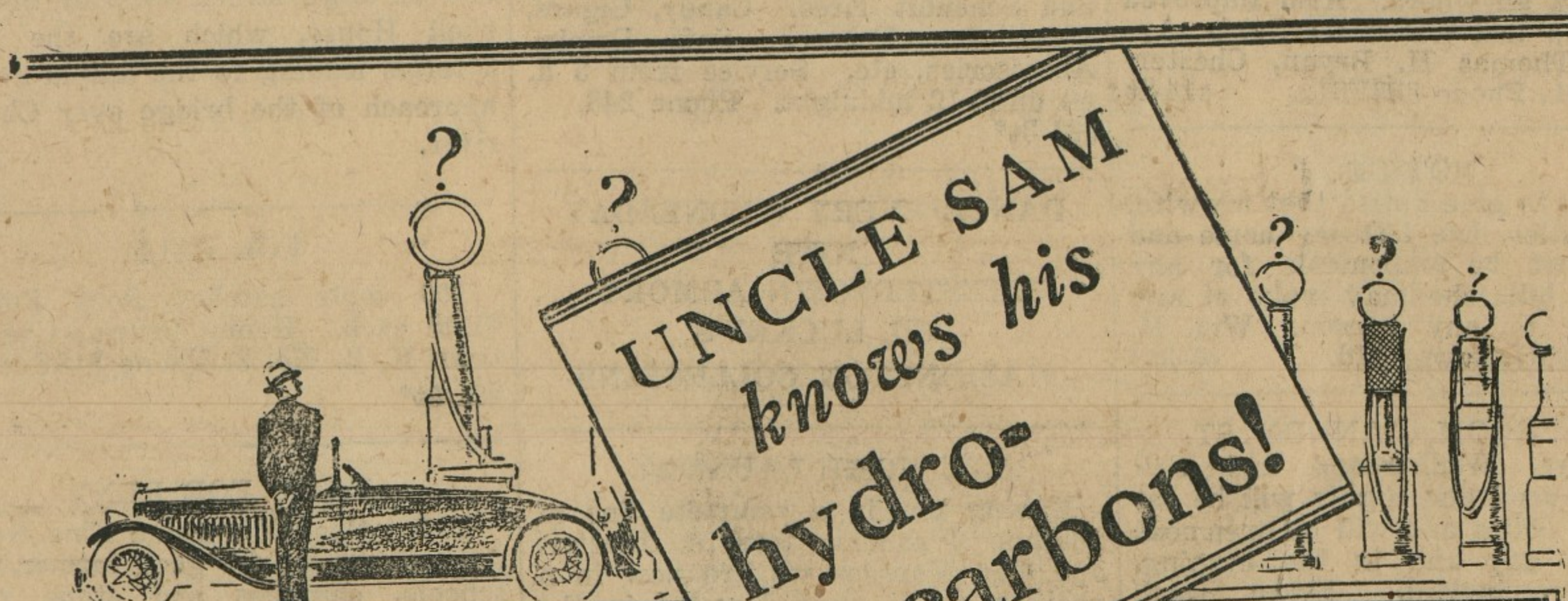
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