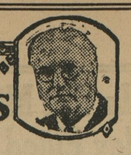
Dr. Frank Crane Says



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Our National Duty Is Obvious

A recent report to Congress for an appropriation for the Interior Department included some $750,000 for a dam in Arizona and some $2,500,000 for road construction, with other items of a similar character.

This is proper business for a government. It does not pay for a government to be paternal and to foster certain special interests, but it does pay for a government to engage in public works, the benefit of which shall accrue generally to the people.

When the Lord made Adam and Eve it is said that he put them in the garden in order to tend and keep it. Man's work ever since upon this earth has been in improving upon the natural conditions of nature.

He is to reclaim deserts, improve rivers, perfect harbors and make tunnels, etc., so that the earth will be a fitter place in which to live.

It is this kind of work in which the army should be engaged. In other words, be put upon constructive labor as well as to be kept in readiness for destructive operations.

Such a program might well call for the services of every boy and girl at some time in their lives, say from the years of 20 to 22, when they would be required to give their services to the government. Everybody ought to be made to realize that the nation is greater than the individual and has prior claims upon a man, claims that come before his individual needs.

This would maintain an immense army of constructive workers who could be changed in a moment's notice to an army of defense against an enemy.

If this plan were adopted I should be in favor of compulsory military training and in compelling boys and girls to be trained not alone in the bearing of arms, but compeling them at a certain period in their lives to work for the government.

The United States has vast stretches of land which need improvements. Much of the West is barren and needs only the proper use of its water courses in order to water it. Arizona might be as rich as Egypt if it were properly watered.

The use of the natural supply of power that is found in falling water opens up tremendous vistas and in the application of this our youth might well be employed.

The making of good roads also is a contribution to the permanent welfare of our nation. Roads need to be constantly worked upon and new roads need to be built.

Altogether it is quite proper for a government to go into the business of improving the natura resources of the nation.

In Confidence by Flo

Readers desiring a personal reply can address Miss Flo, in care of this newspaper.

To A Groom-To-Be Who Wonders

Dear Miss Flo:

I am engaged to be married to a very nice girl with whom I am greatly in love. She has always seemed wholesome and fine, and I have never known her to say or do a coarse thing. However, I met her family recently for the first time, and since then I have been rather doubtful that we can be happy together. I have been brought up in a home in which modesty and refinement were insisted upon, both in person, speech and action. I have never heard anything coarse or vulgar in our home. However, in my fiance's home they seem to know nothing, or care nothing, about those things that are generally considered he decencies of life, and I was more than shocked at the things they said and did: I hate to be prudish, but I wonder if I will be happy with a girl who has lived in such surroundings?

In plant and animal life, there is occasionally what is known as a "sport." That is, there is a sudden and spontaneous variation from the normal type. At first glance, perhaps the offspring is in every respect like the parent plant—but closer inspection reveals many differences—perhaps in the shape of the leaf, the formation of the petals, or in the coloring of the flower.

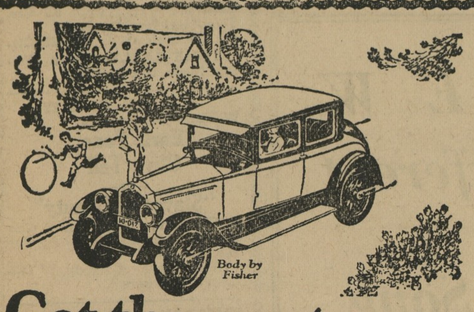
And so it is with human beings sometimes. The girl you love may resemble her family in every apparent manner, but deep in her soul she may be an utter stranger to them. She may have finer thoughts, finer sensibilities, and a finer sense of character than all the rest of her family together. And if you love the girl you will remember that you are not marrying her family. If she has proved herself over a period of time to be wholesome and clean-minded and decent I think it most unfair to judge her by her family.

Judge her, rather, by the things she does—the things she says—the things she thinks.

However, I do advise you to study the girl a long time before you marry into a family whose ideals are so different from your own. Know for a certainty that the girl whom you love has not merely assumed a pose of fineness that she really does not possess, for if she has, sooner or later, she will revert to type. There is no saying so true as the one which tells us we cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and there would be small congeniality between you an the girl if you are always going to be shocked with her, or if she jars your ideas of decency.

Remember that your home must not be merely a place of shelter and food. It must be a thing of beauty, with no less of the spirit and soul. A woman must put into it the beauty of her heart just as truly as a poet must put into his song, and if she has no beauty in her heart, if she is coarse and vulgar and common—you cannot hope for happiness.

And remember that when the china vase and the earthenware pot undertake to float down the stream together, it is always the fine vase that gets smashed.



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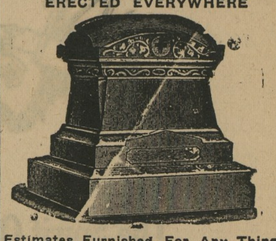

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