

FIFTH SERIES

Questions and Answers

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

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E. Haldeman-Julius

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Questions and Answers

How much money has Henry Ford taken in during his years in the motor car industry?

W. J. Cameron, of Dearborn, Mich., personal representative of Henry Ford, reports that the car manufacturer, during 32 years, ending June, 1935, took in \$12,500,000,000.

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Do the advertisements tell the truth when they claim that vacuum-packed coffee can't become stale?

The claim is disputed by Dr. R. O. Bengis, of Yale University, who recently reported to the American Chemical Society, at its San Francisco meeting, that careful tests show conclusively it's impossible, under present conditions, to keep air out of the cans. "Vacuum" packing is never perfect, and, so long as air reaches the coffee bean, staleness must result in time.

* * *

Why did England participate in the slave trade for so many generations and yet always insist on keeping slave labor out of its "tight little island"?

The British were quick to learn that while the slave trade could be made to produce vast profits, conditions in England were such as to make it unprofitable to introduce slavery there. Slavery flourishes best in a warm climate, such as one finds in South America, Central America and our South. Because of England's colder climate, slave labor, which is best applied to agriculture, could function only a few months each year, making necessary the immense expense of boarding and keeping the slaves during long periods of inactivity. Sections that have long or continuous summers, with opportunities for more than one crop per year, were better suited to slave labor. In our own South, it was shown, by southern economists before the Civil War, that chattel slavery was really unsuitable to the climate and that it would be economically advantageous to the slave-owners to employ free labor. But the fanatics wouldn't listen to the South's sane voices. In the North, it was obvious to even a

school child that chattel slavery simply wouldn't work and would cause serious financial losses to the industrialists and landowners.

* * *

It seems to me, as a farmer, that our system of impregnating our female livestock is wasteful and unscientific. We go right on depending on nature, which never considers the cost.

To propagate livestock scientifically would entail laboratory methods, which are already here, though only as a beginning. Some of the best work in this field is now being done in the Soviet Union, with results that are practicable. Dr. Heber Harper, of Teachers' College, Columbia University, stated, after returning to this country from Russia on September 6, 1935, that he had seen a laboratory report that showed how a single ram, of the finest breed, was used to artificially impregnate 2,574 ewes in about two months, and that the result was 2,500 lambs of superior blood. The ram had never even seen one of the ewes he had bred, and many of them were a week's journey from the agricultural station where he was being held. His semen was shipped by parcel post, which is something of a mean trick on the ram, but a splendid thing for scientific husbandry.

* * *

Do you favor free speech for all, including Fascists?

I can't bring myself to agree with many defenders of democracy and freedom who say they favor free speech for all, except opponents of free speech. I'm just enough of a libertarian to hold to the idea that it's better for free institutions and democracy to protect those who present their reasons for opposing freedom of expression. I don't agree with these people, but so long as they limit themselves to expression, without resorting to force, violence, intimidation, etc., it seems only fair and just that they should be permitted to expound their position without being molested. After all, a community that has the benefits of free speech can defend its

position, especially when there is intelligent leadership for the upholders of democratic rights and vigilant watchfulness, concern and profound appreciation of the social value of freedom. The opponents of free speech haven't made much headway in this country, despite the fact that they have never been interfered with. Believers in genuine free speech have been able to counter all their arguments, and the devastating effects of censorship in Italy and Germany have strengthened, rather than weakened, free speech in countries like the U. S. and England.

* * *

By what reasoning did the great English thinker, John Locke, hold that Roman Catholics could not be good British citizens?

His point was that a devout Roman Catholic would, of necessity, be bound to his obligation to a foreign potentate, the Pope. Such allegiance would imply divided interests. For example, a good Catholic, were he a member of Parliament, could not accept the scientific view on such questions as divorce, sterilization or birth control. He would, of necessity, have to vote as the Pope dictates, or take the risk of eternal damnation. A member of Parliament who was independent of the Pope could look at these, and many other serious questions, from the viewpoint of England's best interests and not what the Vatican arbitrarily thought of behavior or custom. John Locke, needless to say, was a great liberal and believer in toleration, but he was quick to grasp the meaning of the Roman Catholic's dual role. Here, of course, the Church replies with the argument that the Pope interferes only in questions of faith and morals, never in politics or economics. But it has been shown repeatedly that questions of faith and morals can be extended far and wide. It is under the heading of "morals" that the Pope insists that all Catholic legislators shall stand uncompromisingly against movements furthering the humanitarian ideals of divorce by mutual consent or legalized birth control information. A jesuitical politician, answerable to the "foreign potentate"—the Pope—could insist that the Vatican's viewpoint shall be upheld in many issues because, through cunning reasoning, they really belong under the head-

ings of faith and morals. John Locke, who was born in 1632 and died in 1704, stressed this important distinction. He was usually a defender of individual liberty. His influence was great in the modern world and many of his ideas still have meaning.

* * *

Can coffee be used as a food?

The Ethiopians, who are credited with having first given coffee to the world, have, for almost numberless centuries, used coffee both as a beverage and a food. When used as a food, the roasted bean is pulverized and mixed with grease. The little balls are then eaten when wanted.

The same reader asks if coffee "keeps people awake." There's no evidence to support this notion.

* * *

How much coffee do we consume annually?

About 1,350,000,000 pounds.

* * *

Are there any parts of the earth's surface that have never been under water?

Scientists report they have never found a spot that hasn't been under water at least once. This is proven by the fact that geologists have always been able to find marine fossils in all stratified rocks.

* * *

What is the depth of the earth's crust?

Dr. William Bowie, Chief of the Division of Geodesy, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, reports the earth's crust "is like a huge blanket 60 miles in thickness."

* * *

How many Americans live in foreign countries?

Americans who are living in foreign countries (not traveling), according to the State Department, number 410,000. This is a surprisingly small number, when we consider that 223,000 of these citizens are living in Canada. As Ethiopia is much in the news, it's interesting to note that only 120 Americans are in that large country.

* * *

In a Wilmington, Del., newspaper, a Catholic dignitary, at a meeting of Lithuanian Catholics, is reported as saying: "Respect for religion in these days of irreligion and Godlessness is one of the beacon lights of the path toward which this nation must direct its way to continue its advance." Please comment.

Of course, one doesn't expect to

hear anything different from such a source, nor does one expect this self-appointed voice of God to comment on the obvious fact that it was during the very years that religion and the God-idea were declining that this nation broke the chains of the past and went forward to magnificent victories in science, knowledge, culture, invention, production, construction, discovery and the other "beacon lights" of modern civilization. There's still a great deal of room for progress—especially in the work of remedying the problems of unemployment, poor distribution, war, etc.—but these jobs will be done in the spirit of free inquiry and not in the misty, incense-laden atmosphere of religious obscurantism.

* * *

What was your opinion of the film "Cardinal Richelieu"?

I never care very much for anything George Arliss does on the stage or screen. I've seen him in both mediums, and always felt disappointed. He has many clever tricks, but one soon gets on to him. He is, like the late Will Rogers, given to representing one type. See George Arliss in one thing and you've seen him in everything. Always depend on seeing George Arliss say the perfect thing, do the generous act, solve the greatest problems, get off the most witty lines, throw out a few moth-eaten, fly-specked, sun-bleached, flea-bitten epigrams, and never show himself except as a paragon of virtue, honor, decency, propriety and conventionality. In other words, he is always the perfect English gentleman, regardless if he's playing a Rothschild, a Richelieu, a Wellington, or an Alexander Hamilton. With all his reputation, he isn't as big as Charles Laughton's little finger.

* * *

I graduated from high school in 1934 and my dream is to become an electrical engineer. Recently a representative of the American Television Institute, of Chicago, visited me. He claimed that his firm was building television stations and wanted to train some capable young men, at the firm's expense, to operate the stations. What would you advise me to do?

I have heard from several sources that this so-called Institute promotes its scheme by giving prospective students the impression that the com-

pany is to bear all expense—but there's a little ringer. You are informed later on that you have to "pay for the materials used for experimental purposes," and that the down payment is \$10. You are then expected to pay \$157 in installments, and an additional \$100 when given a job, for the materials used in the so-called course. The course consists of a series of correspondence lessons. It is plain at a glance that the \$157 is all the company is looking for. That little stunt about paying \$100 when you "get a job" is just so much clever salesmanship, and, of course, the company's "sacrifice" of the \$100 makes it unnecessary for the concern to supply the promised job. It's all so plain that one wonders why so many young men fall for it. If you are really serious about becoming an electrical engineer, go to one of the many public institutions in the large cities.

* * *

You frequently speak of Mussolini as being insane. Do you mean this scientifically or rhetorically?

I mean it in its strict scientific sense. As long ago as 1926 I edited a book in which I took responsibility for the statement that Mussolini was crazy even then, only a few years after he and his gangsters stole power and destroyed Italy's democratic institutions. Direct evidence was quoted to the effect that Mussolini had contracted syphilis. Before becoming Italy's chief bully, Mussolini confided to a woman assistant on a Socialist paper, for which he was writing, that he was being treated for syphilis. Mussolini today presents himself as a pathological case. On this point I can quote a revealing sentence from that distinguished, brilliantly edited, usually accurate British journal, *The New Statesman and Nation*, which, in a September, 1935, issue, takes note of London's common talk to the effect that Mussolini is really insane. His old syphilis has gone to his brain. He is in the third stage of the disease—paresis. *The New Statesman and Nation* says that an Ethiopian war is now almost certain. "failing a political miracle such as the collapse of the lira, the death of Signor Mussolini or official recognition of what is already common gossip in political circles in Rome—name-

ly, that Il Duce's notorious paranoia is nearing the pitch of certifiable insanity."

* * *

Your statement about the international aspirations of Hitlerism leads me to ask if the U. S. is included in such a movement for the spread of Nazi ideas.

Hitler's propaganda organization in the U. S. is known as the Friends of the New Germany, of which Walter Kappe is the leader. In a statement, made public in New York City, on September 17, 1935, Herr Kappe said the purpose of his society is to establish in this country the policies of Hitler. So far the gentleman is within his rights, because here he is merely expressing an opinion. But he doesn't stop here. His very next sentence reads: "What the Storm Troopers were in Germany the Friends of the New Germany must be in the United States." Here, of course, is something that steps beyond the constitutional right of free speech. This statement is a direct appeal to violent action, the destruction of our Constitution, the demand for racial persecution, the outlawing of opposition parties and movements, and all the other horrors of Nazi barbarism.

The Storm Troopers were Hitler's organized gangsters—the Brown Shirts—who murdered liberals, pacifists, Jews, Socialists, Communists, Freethinkers. The Storm Troopers boycotted Jewish stores, drove thousands of intellectuals into exile and hundreds of thousands into concentration camps, where they were tortured, maimed or murdered. The Storm Troopers were Hitler's instruments of the Terror. And it is to be the task of the Friends of the New Germany to do for the United States what the Brown Shirts did for Germany.

Lovers of freedom and democracy must take into serious consideration the appalling fact that Hitlerism doesn't intend to confine itself to Germany but aims arrogantly to spread its poison to the entire civilized world. The danger is real. Let Herr Kappe and his society gain ascendancy in this country and the result would be the end of traditional Americanism.

Every friend of civilization must do his or her share in the urgent work of defending democracy in the U. S. The humblest individual can

do his share. For one thing, he can, with little effort, bring his friends and acquaintances into contact with those editors who are doing their best to educate the American reading public to a complete understanding of the menacing possibilities of international Fascism. Those publications which are fighting the Hitleristic propagandists should be given the moral and material support to which they are entitled. I urge all my readers to make it their chosen tasks to do something concrete and measurable in this struggle to stamp out the fires of Fascism and social slavery.

There is no excuse for inaction. The issues are clear-cut. Do not delay. The fight must be waged now. Failure to join in the ranks may bring the deluge tomorrow. For the present, the best weapon is education—the printed word. You, as a lover of true Americanism, with its constitutional guarantees of free press and speech, can, with little effort, bring at least four or five friends into contact with those publicists who are waging this fight with every ounce of energy and with every determination to keep the cancer of Fascism from taking hold in this country.

* * *

I have read articles which claim that Mussolini is an Atheist. You claim he is a Catholic. Who is right?

Before becoming a renegade Socialist and organizing his Fascist black shirts, Mussolini was an Atheist. His Atheism, however, was not based on a knowledge of the philosophies of Theism and Materialism. Instead of taking a philosophical position, along the lines of a Joseph McCabe, Bertrand Russell and numerous others, Mussolini devoted himself merely to fiery attacks on clericalism, which, in Italy, is tantamount to anti-Catholicism. When he wasn't scorching the priests he was attacking theology.

When he became dictator, Mussolini threw this rather crude form of Atheism overboard and began making overtures to the Catholic Church, the support of which he needed in order to make his Fascist regime stronger. The Catholic Church accepted his protestations of "reform" and formally admitted him, and followed this conversion by drawing up a concordat (a fancy way of saying "con-

tract") which made the Catholic Church the state religion of Italy, gave the Vatican control over marriage, outlawed divorce, and put the lower schools in the hands of the priests and nuns. That's the record.

Mussolini is now a "good Catholic"—how good remains to be seen. Naturally, the Church is more than suspicious of its newly-won "son." With its long experience in such matters, it feels, with justice, that one of two things can happen: 1. Mussolini will throw the Church over if he thinks that will help his case; 2. Mussolini himself may be overthrown at any time, especially in view of the new developments in the Ethiopian and European situations, in which case the Catholic Church will be made to pay dearly for its accord with Italy's betrayer.

The Church is by no means comfortable over it all. It pocketed Mussolini's concessions, including the granting of land and buildings for the Vatican State in Rome, but a new, democratic regime (which might come at any time when the forces of anti-Fascism grow strong enough to crush Mussolini) would cancel everything Mussolini had done for the Church.

Mussolini bribed the Pope in order to gain support he needed, paying \$100,000,000 in cash and bonds, in addition to the concessions mentioned above, but the combination is an unnatural one, and the Church is decidedly unhappy about it. But it supports Mussolini's Fascist dictatorship with all its powers, because it knows nothing better could be hoped for.

* * *

Am I right when I exclaim that the recent decision of Magistrate Louis Brodsky, in connection with the 'Bremen incident,' was entirely right and fitting as regards a loyal citizen of the U. S. A. and a magistrate?

I certainly agree with your opinion and am glad to support it openly. When the magistrate said the discharged defendants felt the swastika flag they tore from the German ship was nothing more than a symbol of piracy, he expressed not only the view of the men on trial but the deep-felt conviction of 90 percent of the American public. When those heroes tore down Hitler's flag, they expressed their decent hatred for a symbol of murder, persecution, destruction, torture, barbarism and inquisitorial

medievalism. The judge's conduct was right, dignified, decent and humanitarian, and as such should be respected by all liberty-loving Americans who want to do their utmost to keep from this land the poison of Hitlerism. The magistrate didn't insult the German people: I'm sure he loves the German nation as much as he despises the Nazi hoodlums. His rebuke was aimed at those who live by violence and injustice to helpless, innocent minorities. All honor to Magistrate Brodsky, who showed himself a true American who respects and cherishes the finest traditions of democratic, liberal Americanism. Instead of being criticized, he should be revered. He did his little part in the great conflict that aims at making dictatorships and organized persecution uncomfortable in these States. I have, on several occasions, asked my libertarian readers to give their fullest support to those editors and publicists who are fighting Fascism; I should have added that this support should not be withheld from public officials who do their duty in the spirit of real patriotism.

* * *

With all the world talking about a nice, new war, what are the chances of the U. S. A. getting into one?

Lloyd's, in London, is willing to bet 100 to 1 that the U. S. won't get into a war with a major power during the next year. It also offers to bet: 50 to 1 that Canada and Australia won't war with a major power; 20 to 1 that Japan and Russia won't declare war against each other; Italy versus Ethiopia—no bets, except odds on war.

* * *

You certainly are doing a great work in exposing Fascism and all forms of reaction. I'm with you. Received notice of renewal a few days ago, but am not replying to same because I find my neighbor is willing to let me read his copy after he's finished with it.

That's very encouraging, and I feel like knocking off for the afternoon and going on a quiet spree. To have my work praised in one sentence and told to cancel a subscription in the next is to bring real encouragement to this editor. The writer of the above could easily have renewed his own subscription, and what's more he could do his share of the necessary work of bringing this paper some new

readers. I get many expressions of support from my subscribers, but it would mean more if they were to support their words with deeds. Why keep the paper a secret? I have 25,000 subscribers, but if they gave a little time to the paper which never ceases to fight for knowledge and justice there isn't any doubt the circulation could mount quickly to 50,000, and then go straight up to 100,000. A paper like *The Freeman* must have a large body of readers if it's to do any good.

* * *

Why is it that religious people are usually so vicious when defending their religion, so ready to cast into eternal fires those who disagree?

The furious behavior of religious people has attracted the attention of psychologists for many years. It seems to be agreed that it's the religious people's secret indecision, uncertainty and doubt that force them into acts of violent excess. They talk volubly about their sureness, their certainty about God, Immortality, etc., their eternal, unwavering, Gibraltar-like faith—but try as they will they can't conceal that lurking imp of doubt, which arouses them to greater fits of frenzy and fanaticism. If they were really sure about all these things they could afford to be calm and collected. If no doubts crept into their hidden minds to taunt them, they could smile faintly when they met those who cannot see eye to eye with them. But no, it's violence, intolerance, persecution, ostracism, slander, and even death that come into their thoughts when they find their religious notions rejected or refuted.

* * *

Please inform me about the use of the so-called artificial ear-drums so much advertised and state if any permanent injury may result from their use.

Artificial ear-drums, including the latest that are based on bone-conduction, are scientific, but I advise against making any decision by yourself. Go to a reputable eye, ear and nose specialist and have him handle your case.

* * *

Is it true that certain Catholic laymen are condemned formally to illiteracy and ignorance?

The facts support the charge, incredible as it may sound to modern, civilized people. The Jesuits (Society

of Jesus) admit lay-brothers to their order, but subject to the 14th Common Rule, which reads:

"None of those who are admitted into the Society for domestic service may learn to read or write, or if they have any learning, may they increase it. No one without the General's permission may teach them anything. They must be content to serve the Lord Christ in holy simplicity and humility."

This puts in simple words the attitude long held by the Church—that those who are ignorant and illiterate are best qualified to "serve the Lord." Where it does teach school subjects, the motive isn't service to education but the desire to police it. This is shown by the amazingly poor academic records of Catholic schools, and explains why so few Catholics ever get into *Who's Who*. As for "Catholic scholarship"—which one hears about so often—let's not forget that one of Joseph McCabe's finest chapters was called "The Myth of Catholic Scholarship."

* * *

Is astronomy of practical use to man?

If we didn't have astronomy we couldn't tell time. Our clocks give us the time because astronomers make telescopic observations. Next comes the calendar—another boon of the science of astronomy—without which we would be in a melancholy mess. Then comes another great gift of astronomy—the ability to know where we are located. A mariner at sea has only one sure method of finding his location, and that is by the sun and stars.

* * *

Your analysis of Germany's unemployment figures convinces me that you are right in claiming that Hitler has done nothing constructive to solve that difficult problem. As you seem to be a great admirer of Sweden, have you any data to show whether or not that democratic country has done better by employment than Hitler?

Socialist Sweden has the lowest unemployment figures in the world. Only 500 persons receive cash doles in that country, which means that most of the money appropriated for relief is still in the public treasury. On August 1, 1935, there were only 43,000 unemployed in all Sweden. In January, 1933, the figure was 200,000. Of the 43,000 listed as unemployed, 30,000 are given jobs on public works.

This leaves only 13,000 actually unemployed, most of whom are on unemployment insurance. And yet, Hitler, in his recent speech, spoke about the "decay" of democratic countries!

* * *

I wish to protest against your printing order blanks in The Freeman. The paper is too good to mutilate. I always pass it on to anyone who will read it.

If you don't care to tear out the order blank, the simple and easy remedy is to copy it off on your typewriter or write it on a plain sheet of paper.

* * *

You say how safe it is to deposit your money with the postal savings system. Don't you think it is equally safe to put your cash in a safety deposit box?

I advise against hoarding cash in safety deposit boxes. First, you have to pay an outrageous rental. Second, you get nothing out of your idle money. By leaving your money with Uncle Sam you save the box rental and earn interest. It's anti-social to bury one's money in a safety deposit box when it could as easily be circulating and doing some good in the way of providing employment for men and women who might otherwise be turned into the streets.

It always gives me real satisfaction to keep pounding on this matter of making better use of the postal savings banks. I really am doing some of my readers a real service in educating them to using Uncle Sam's banks. Naturally, the system has its limitations, but that problem can be remedied once the people learn what to expect and turn to their congressmen for relief. I refer, of course, to the urgent need for passing legislation to permit the postal banks to give full commercial facilities, including the clearing of checks. Meanwhile, it's possible to do much less business with the private banking corporations. Local bills can be paid by cash; out-of-town items can be covered with postoffice money orders. A postoffice money order is really cheaper than a check, when one considers the bank's service charges that are inflicted on the writer of the check and the person who cashes it.

* * *

Anyone who believes in the Bible could very easily understand the present conditions, which were forecast in the Bible. The Egyptian pyramids confirm

these prophecies, even to the year and date when the trouble in the present European situation will break out.

To figure the placing and number of stones in the pyramids, and then to compare them with Bible texts is to indulge in a pretty piece of intellectual foolishness. If anyone can get satisfaction from such nonsense he's welcome to it. I want to depend on more reliable sources than the arithmetic and geometry of the pyramids or the wording of some involved, ambiguous paragraph in the Bible in order to learn the meaning of today's international, economic, political and governmental problems. The sciences of government, political economy, etc., have advanced too far to turn to disputed and frequently unintelligent and incomprehensible words in a so-called sacred book for light on what is happening, or will happen. We aren't going to go forward by seeking "prophetic" utterances made by "prophets" who knew nothing about 40 sciences, history, social theories, economic discoveries and a vast array of factual, verifiable knowledge. The "true believer" can mess around a lot of Bible quotations, but sane, sound, intelligent minds prefer to go to more realistic quarters for guidance.

* * *

The fact that there is no death for any individual is not confined to intuition, superstition or religion, but can and is demonstrated by the purest of science. Any man who really wants to find the truth can have this demonstrated to him or demonstrate it to himself.

The civilized world is not lacking in departments and laboratories devoted to research in science. Thus far no real university or recognized body of scientists has said or done anything to warrant the above generalization. If there were but one grain of truth in my correspondent's statement, the religious world would be comforted. It would put an end to its embarrassing admission that no verifiable evidence is available to make possible the conclusion that when a person dies he isn't dead but, instead, passes on to some other sort of life. The Catholic Church, after centuries of cogitation, rests its case on Faith. A scientist who dared say a certain proposition was true because he had "faith" in its truth, would be laughed to scorn. Yet,

priests, preachers and rabbis can do this and expect the intellectual world to keep a straight face. I have interesting figures (which are reprinted in my books of Questions and Answers) showing that our scientific men are overwhelmingly opposed to accepting the myth of immortality, the psychologists taking that position almost 100 percent. The facts, therefore, make my correspondent's unsupported dictum a mere expression of illogical eccentricity.

* * *

A group of students want to organize a club to take up controversial questions. Some suggest it would cause too much feeling. Please comment.

Nothing is more important than honest, open controversy. It is one of the best sources of intellectual progress. Countries like Italy and Germany—which outlaw controversy—are already showing the effects of their self-strangulation. We are fortunate to have bodies interested in preserving the spirit of controversy. You should, by all means, get your group together, and if sincere, intelligent debates and discussions cause the heavens to fall, then it's just too bad for the heavens.

* * *

In what sense is the word "sanctions" used in the Italian situation?

It is used in its legal sense, which means penalties.

* * *

You say Italy has 344 people per square mile. How does this compare with N. Y. State?

N. Y. State has 265 persons per square mile.

* * *

What water-power developments are now under construction by the federal government?

1. Boulder Dam, to cost \$385,000,000, and eventually to create 1,800,000 h. p. This project, on the Colorado River, includes a power line to Los Angeles and an aqueduct to southern California.

2. Grand Coulee. This project, on the Columbia River, will provide irrigation for 1,250,000 acres, and is lacking only 15 percent of reaching completion.

3. Tennessee Valley. Norris Dam will be finished in 1935 at a cost of \$34,000,000. It will have two generators, of 66,000 h. p. each. Joe Wheeler Dam will cost \$22,000,000 and is al-

most finished. Pickwick Landing Dam will cost \$22,000,000.

4. Parker Dam, which would have cost \$13,000,000, is not being pushed, because of the Supreme Court's adverse decision. It's on the Colorado River.

5. Fort Peck, Montana, to cost \$72,000,000, is intended mainly for irrigation. It's about two-thirds finished.

6. Passamaquoddy, Maine, to cost \$36,000,000, aims at using the tides to create power.

7. Conchas, New Mexico; to cost \$9,000,000.

8. Bonneville Dam, Columbia River; power and navigation.

9. Saspar-Alcova, central Wyoming, to cost \$12,000,000. This irrigation dam is on the Platte River.

* * *

As a consumer of olive oil, I wonder how much we pay in tariffs and just what "protection" such tariffs render American industry.

You consumers of imported olive oil pay almost \$5,000,000 yearly in tariffs. What good this does American olive growers is not clear, for only 25,000 acres are used for this crop, and the oil pressing companies that service this form of agriculture have only about \$1,000,000 invested in their industry. The tariff on olive oil each year is five times as large as the entire American industry is worth. If our tariff commission were to rectify this absurd situation you consumers could obtain \$5,000,000 worth of this splendid article without spending an additional penny. We produce only from 1 to 3 percent of the olive oil we consume. Our ridiculous tariff laws, which are supposed to help American industry, are usually a nuisance and a hindrance.

* * *

If Mussolini decided to attack Malta from the air, how long would it take his bombers to fly from the airports in Sicily?

Twenty minutes.

* * *

Some sources are given to blaming Nietzsche for Hitler's brutal policy, especially with regard to the ruthless treatment accorded the Jews. Please comment.

As I've explained before, poor Nietzsche has been the favorite goat whenever anything bad happens in Germany. During the World War, it was Nietzsche's philosophy that was

supposed to motivate the Prussian imperialists. But this, I have shown several times, was sheer bunk. Now Nietzsche gets it again, and this time on the score of anti-Semitism. The facts explode the notion.

There isn't a word of anti-Semitism to be found in all the works of Nietzsche. When he speaks of the Jews, Nietzsche has nothing but respect and praise for their qualities. Here are a few sentences lifted from Nietzsche's writings, which were collected by Benjamin DeCasseres:

"What a blessing a Jew is along Germans!"

"That eternal flame which is Semitic!"

"The anti-Semites do not forgive the Jews for having both intellect—and money."

"It would perhaps be useful and fair to banish the anti-Semitic bawlers out of the country."

"This race (the Jews) should not be irritated without necessity. Therefore anti-Semites should be expelled from Germany."

"Since Wagner's return to Germany he has condescended to everything that I despise—even to anti-Semitism."

"Now the era of Stocker (Adolf Stocker, court ecclesiastic and anti-Semite) begins."

"Let no more Jews come in!"—thus commands the instinct of a people whose nature is still feeble and uncertain."

"It was Jewish free-thinkers, scholars and physicians who upheld the banner of enlightenment and of intellectual independence under the severest personal sufferings and defended Europe against Asia."

"In times of great extremity they (the Jews) least of all the inhabitants of Europe try to escape any great dilemma by a recourse to drink or to suicide. Their bravery, their heroism surpass the virtue of all the saints. It is necessary that they should distinguish themselves in all departments of European distinction and stand among the foremost."

"In respect to cleaner intellectual habits, Europe is not a little indebted to the Jews; above all, the Germans as being a lamentably deraissonable race, who, even at the present day, must always have their 'heads washed.' It has always been the Jews' problem to bring a people to raison."

"The Jews have raised the imagination of moral loftiness to a higher level than any other nation."

"The Jews are the opposite of all decadents."

"The Jews are the most conservative

power in the threatening and insecure conditions of modern Europe."

"The Jews with Heinrich Heine and Offenbach approached Genius in the sphere of art."

"It was Heinrich Heine who gave me the most perfect idea of what a lyrical poet could be."

"It is certain that the Jews if they desired—or if they were driven to it, as the anti-Semites seem to wish—could now have the ascendancy, nay, the supremacy over Europe. That they are not working and planning for that end is equally certain."

"The resourcefulness of our modern Jew in soul and intellect is extraordinary."

"The Jews are beyond all doubt the strongest, the toughest and purest race at present living in Europe."

"The Jews are the most remarkable people in the history of the world."

"We artists among the spectators and philosophers are grateful to the Jews."

Among Jews I did, indeed, find taste and delicacy toward me, but not among Germans."

* * *

Which State leads in the number of farms supplied with electricity from central plants?

California comes first, with 81,093 farms served. Then come New York, 57,825; Ohio, 48,048; Pennsylvania, 45,182; Michigan, 42,152; Washington, 40,060; Wisconsin, 39,206; Iowa, 32,047; Illinois, 28,379; Indiana, 23,476. These figures are for 1934, the latest available.

* * *

How much do Americans spend on their vacation trips here and in Canada?

About 50,000,000 Americans made vacation trips in 1935, against about 35,000,000 in the summer of 1934. They spent, in 1935, about \$5,350,000,000 (an increase of almost a half billion dollars over the previous year) as follows: in the U. S., \$3,125,000,000; in Canada, \$100,000,000. About 4,000,000 vacationers visited New England; 5,000,000 visited the National Parks; 10,000,000 visited the San Diego World's Fair.

* * *

Is the life-span in Japan longer than in the U. S.?

Japan's average longevity is 44 years for men; 46 years for women. Out of 1,000 Japanese population 20 die each year. In the U. S. the rate is 10 per 1,000. Out of 1,000 Japanese infants at one year of age, 132 die; in the U. S., 48 per 1,000. The

Journal of the American Medical Association, in discussing life expectancy in the U. S., says that in 1930 people living in the country sections enjoyed an average of from four to five years more of life than the people living in the cities. It adds: "At birth, the urban white male (in the U. S.) has an expectation of life of 56.73 years, the rural white male of 62.09 years, the urban white female of 61.05 years, the rural white female of 65.09 years."

* * *

Are there any reports available which show the extent of too-great variety of brands of consumers' goods?

I know of no national report, but a survey in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1935, showed the following wasteful, overabundant supply of brands: Flour, 45; fountain pens, 165; toothpaste, 75; catsup, 55; cereals, 87; ginger ale, 65; coffee, 110; washing machines, 110; tires, 65.

* * *

Do you know how much natural gas we Texans permit to go to waste?

You Texans are amazingly profligate. According to the *Public Utilities Fortnightly*, Texas wastes about 1,600,000,000 cubic feet each day. This is actually more than the entire U. S. consumes daily, by 60 percent. The natural gas wasted in Texas in a single day would keep the city of Chicago supplied for an entire year. The same authority estimates that this wasted gas, expressed in thermal power, equals 740 carloads of coal.

* * *

Does Chicago have the most murders?

During 1934, Chicago had 13.3 murders per 100,000 of population. During the same period, Macon, Ga., had 66.7 murders per 100,000 of population, and 13 other Southern cities showed from 56 to 32. The average for the country, since 1926, has been 10 per 100,000. We have about 35 murders per day throughout the U. S.

* * *

Have you official figures to show the decline in the number of students in Germany's higher institutions of learning?

In 1932, under the democratic regime, there were 130,000 students during the summer semester in the universities and higher technical schools. During the same season, in 1935, the number fell to 77,000. Taking the universities alone, in 1932

there were 100,000 students; in 1935, 55,000. To the Nazi mentality this is a "great achievement" because it is an important part of their policy to play down what they call "liberal intellectualism." Their ideal is brawn, not brain. The Hitler theory is that a young man is more "useful" to the state learning to kill than "wasting" his time around books. Besides, the more ignorant a person is the easier it is to indoctrinate him with the poison of Hitlerism. Students who read and study always run the risk of learning about the ideals of true culture and civilization, and as such are not the best recruits for campaigns of racial persecution, nationalism, militarism and general destruction of radical, democratic, or liberal movements.

* * *

At what age is man most creative?

The American Psychological Association puts the age at 35. This age was reached after a survey covering 4,897 creative works performed by the following:

Chemists, 244; mathematicians, 163; physicists, 90; astronomers, 63; inventors, 402; short story writers, 220; poets, 82. All of these persons varied in age from 12 to 89, but 35 was found most favorable to creative feats.

* * *

How many ships enter our ports yearly?

The U. S. Bureau of Customs reports that 67,032 ships entered U. S. ports during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935. During the previous year the number was 64,636. Ships from foreign points numbered 28,938, with a net tonnage of 62,446,000.

* * *

How many persons visit the White House yearly?

About 1,000,000. About 500,000 visit Washington Monument.

* * *

Are the hundreds of thousands of men Mussolini shipped to East Africa conscripts or volunteers?

Practically all of them are conscripts, shipped to the African inferno against their will. In this, Mussolini is running counter to the long experience of all imperialistic powers. England and France have invariably depended on volunteers in their colonial enterprises. The Boer War was fought with regulars and volunteers. France depends on its Foreign Legion. This policy has been followed

because the great powers learned early in the game that it was dangerous to send conscripts to fight in Africa or in other colonial ventures. A boy who is torn from his job or farm and shipped to a battleground thousands of miles from home is never what the militarists would call a "good" soldier. But Mussolini, as usual, must brush such lessons aside and pour more than 250,000 conscripts into East Africa. They obey, of course, but the time will come when they will turn on Mussolini and ask some harsh, pointed questions. Conscripts, away from home, are fine material for quick revolutions. Mussolini is too conceited to admit such a possibility today, but even he will learn the bitter lessons of his monumental folly.

* * *

You mention that Italy has almost 1,000,000 square miles in its colonies. What are the holdings of England and France?

England has 13,227,000 square miles; France, 5,657,000 square miles.

* * *

Your article about the Suez Canal mentions the great savings in distance it makes possible for the world's shipping. Have you any figures to illustrate?

European nations which trade with East Africa and the Orient find the Suez a great time and distance saver. Here are only a few comparisons:

From	To	Via	Around
		Canal	Africa
London	Bombay	7,028	12,548
Hamburg	Bombay	7,382	12,903
Trieste	Bombay	4,816	13,229
London	Hong K'g	11,112	15,229
Istanbul	Zanzibar	4,365	10,271

(East Africa)

Another reader asks if the engineers used the same methods at Suez that were later practiced at Panama. The two canals are quite dissimilar. Panama has a number of locks, while the Suez was constructed without any locks, having been sea level.

Still another reader asks whether the Suez is used more than the Panama Canal. Official figures show that during 1934 5,663 vessels used the Suez Canal; during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1934, 5,533 ships used the Panama Canal.

And, finally, a questioner asks how many soldiers England keeps at the Suez Canal. Before the recent burst of fear over Italy's designs on the

canal, England kept a garrison of 12,000 soldiers at or near the canal, but there is no official information available regarding England's present forces in that explosive neighborhood.

* * *

Why is counterfeiting so rare in England?

Counterfeiting used to be a prevalent form of crime in England until the Bank of England decided to re-issue its paper money with greater frequency. For many years, English money has known little counterfeiting because once the money reaches a bank it is immediately turned into the Bank of England and re-issued, even though the bill may have been in circulation only a few hours. Business houses cooperate by insisting that persons unknown to them shall endorse anything over five pounds (about \$25), by signing their name on its back. It's extremely rare for one to see more than one signature on such money, which indicates that the money soon reaches a bank and is retired to the Bank of England. If the money is "phoney" the signature, even though it may be false, helps the police. Attempting to counterfeit British money has become just about the quickest trip to a penitentiary. On the other hand, counterfeiting is almost common in the U. S., because of the treasury department's habit of leaving money in circulation for months and even years. It takes some time before the authorities catch on to a new fake issue, which is all any counterfeiter can ask for. If we called in our bills oftener, counterfeiting would be greatly reduced.

* * *

Do scientists know the exact number of earthquakes?

No. But, says Dr. William Bowie, head of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey's Division of Geodesy, "the number that is recorded yearly by the few seismological stations in existence is something like 100,000. This is about 300 earthquakes per day."

* * *

At what rate is erosion carrying off the surface of the United States?

The scientists employed by the U. S. Geological Survey estimate, in the words of Dr. William Bowie, "that a blanket of material one foot in thickness is carried from the U. S. to tidal

waters each 9,000 years. This means that at that rate a mile of erosion would occur in approximately 45,000,000 years."

* * *

I have read in a newspaper that Will Rogers was the "greatest humorist and wit that ever lived." Do you agree?

Not quite, I'm afraid. I still feel there were a few greater humorists—men like Lucian, Aristophanes, Rabelais, Voltaire, Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, Whistler, Mark Twain, Anatole France, Moliere, Heine, Cervantes, La Rochefoucauld, Aesop, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Lamb and others I can't think of as I reel off this list. I'm sure you'll find several passages in Shakespeare far funnier than anything Will Rogers ever wrote. I'd put Rogers a notch below Artemus Ward and a rung above Josh Billings, with Bill Nye neck and neck. And that, I believe, is being almost a little too generous with him.

* * *

One of the reasons given by the Nazi propaganda minister for eliminating the Jews from German life is the fact that Jews are undersized. Please comment.

Joseph Goebbels, who is Hitler's Minister of Popular Enlightenment and Propaganda, must know what he's talking about, for it happens that he himself is exactly five feet, three inches tall. The same source has given the world many an ecstatic song in praise of his Nordic blonds, but here again we are faced by the peculiar contradiction of Goebbel's coal black hair. And, finally, we are told how the German spirit must be aroused to the development of perfect physical specimens, which isn't a bad idea when one considers that Herr Goebbels is club-footed.

* * *

How many Americans catch cold each year? Is there a sure cure?

The U. S. Public Health Service reports that about 125,000,000 persons catch cold in this country yearly. There is no "sure cure," unless "Dr." Fred D. Warren has cured all the eczema and psoriasis patients and is ready to turn his scientific genius on the germs that give us the common cold. Meanwhile, Lloyd's, in London, is ready to bet 20 to 1 that no real cure will be brought forward dur-

ing the next 12 months, or 4 to 1 that nothing will be found in the shape of a cure during the next five years. It looks as though Lloyd's is being a little too conservative, for longer chances could easily be taken. But, it is quite possible that these famous underwriters have learned about Warren's uncanny ability to fight disease through the patent medicine route.

* * *

Have you any information on the benefits the public would enjoy if the telegraph system were publicly owned?

Charles Edward Russell, who is a keen student of American conditions, reports that it would be easy to send 10-word telegrams at only 10c each, if the postoffice department were to take over the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies. At present, a 10-word message from Washington to Baltimore costs 32c; to New York, 38c; to San Francisco, \$1.26; to New Orleans, 63c; to Atlanta, 63c; to Denver, 96c. He quotes the late John Wanamaker, department store magnate and once our Postmaster General, as having, "after a careful investigation of the subject, declared in 1895 that if the government owned and operated the telegraph lines it could make a uniform rate of 10c for 10 words to all parts of the United States and reap a profit therefrom." In addition to saving the public a great deal of money, the postoffice department would provide the public with 46,000 stations, thus giving telegraphic service to thousands of communities that are now unable to enjoy such facilities. Mr. Russell proves that the telegraph companies not only charge outrageous rates but have made countless millions of dollars through watered stock and inside manipulations of various kinds.

* * *

What is the present condition of the banks?

Roosevelt's mistaken policy of ordering the RFC to buy preferred stock in thousands of shaky banks has tided them over for a spell, but this doesn't mean the evils of American banking have been solved. Also, the ballyhoo about "guaranteed" deposits has succeeded in fooling the public, but only for a while. The depositors will learn that this "guaran-

tee law" is a fake. The government doesn't stand behind a dollar of deposits. It merely organized a corporation of private bankers, who are compelled to contribute to a fund to "protect" depositors. This means that the sound banks (and there are some) will have to support the unsound ones, and they are legion. Should the public begin another rush for their money, the sound and unsound banks will explode with a bang, because the treasury of the "guarantee fund" is strictly limited to the assessments paid in by the banks. Wise individuals will put their money where it can never be lost—in the postal savings banks. If Roosevelt had meant to really cure the banking situation he would have taken over the system and tied it up with the postal banks, giving the public full commercial facilities through government-owned institutions. This country will have to come around to that in time. Meanwhile, the bankers are robbing the public with a schedule of service charges that must have been conceived in the brain of Al Capone while vacationing at Alcatraz.

* * *

What did Uncle Sam pay for each acre of land he bought?

Some of the land was dirt cheap—Alaska, for instance, at only 2c per acre. Some was amazingly expensive—the Virgin Islands, at \$295 per acre, which was pretty soft for Denmark. The Canal Zone cost us \$35.80 per acre, which wasn't at all bad. The Louisiana Purchase was another smacking bargain—about 4c per acre. By and large, Uncle Sam has been a keen shopper.

* * *

What has happened to William Dudley Pelley since his brush with the law?

Until he was convicted and given a suspended prison sentence for offering fraudulent stocks in North Carolina, Pelley was head of the Silver Shirts, now busted and on the rocks because of the lack of a sufficient number of suckers with money to finance the anti-Semitic, Fascist organization. In an attempt to stage a come-back, Pelley, on September 6, 1935, announced the formation of a new third party, to be called the Christian Party, with Pelley as the presidential candidate. His campaign slogan is "For Christianity and the

Constitution," with special platform planks demanding persecution of Jews. Charlatans and demagogues never reform. Put that down as a law of nature.

* * *

Some months ago you wrote glowingly of Russia's increased gold production and predicted increases in the near future. Have you any new figures?

I based my comment on Stalin's 1933 statement that the Soviet Union's gold output of \$100,000,000 in that year would be increased 300 or 400 percent in 1935 or 1936. Official reports now indicate that 1935 gold production will have a value of \$400,000,000, which means that the expected increase will soon be realized. Russia gets its gold by "grubstaking" 100,000 men in Siberia, giving them a percentage of the gold, and free homes and clothes. The system is working satisfactorily, so it's possible there may be further increases during the next few years. Russia's gold reserve has grown to \$1,500,000,000, but it's reported that this metal won't be used to finance new importations, because the U. S. S. R. is now almost independent of foreign sources of supply, material, and even machinery. It's suggested that this gold will be kept as a "nest egg," in case of war.

* * *

I have seen the statement that Christian preachers, less than a century ago, defended slavery in the pulpits of England and the U. S., but outside of the Bible quotation to the effect that the slave should obey his master I am still to learn what line of "reasoning" they used. Can you enlighten me?

The Christian preacher's conscience responded with the utmost delicacy to the ethical problem of human slavery. By one of those masterpieces of rationalization, the pulpit advanced the subtle argument that slavery was really a divinely inspired movement because it took black savages from the Dark Continent to civilized, Christian communities, where they were put into contact with the glorious truths of the Gospel and taught to appreciate the thrills of sanctification. The fact that there had to be a little rough stuff along the way was dismissed as one of the mysteries of God's ways. In the end, the black slave saw the pearly gates of heaven—if he was a good slave

and obeyed his master—and wasn't that worth more than a generation or two of forced labor? The slave's sufferings were merely physical, to be balanced by an eternity of bliss. Only a crass materialist could stoop so low as to insist that the Negro's earthly life should also have dignity, freedom, and the ways of civilization.

* * *

Press reports tell of a "boom defense" established by the British at Gibraltar. What does it mean?

Fighting ships swung a heavy chain across the mouth of the harbor. This is known as a boom defense.

* * *

Explain the reasons for Richard Wagner's anti-Semitism.

Richard Wagner (1813-83) wrote bitterly about the Jews. Like other prejudices, it's not at all easy to explain how he "got that way." It may have resulted from his unfortunate experience with the less-gifted, yet able, Mendelssohn, the Jewish composer.

When Wagner was about 20 years old, he turned over to Mendelssohn the score of a *C Major Symphony*, but no performance resulted, and for many years even the manuscript couldn't be found. Following this experience with the symphony, Mendelssohn played Wagner's overture to Tannhauser "as a warning example." Of course, Wagner was Mendelssohn's superior in musical composition, perhaps 10 times over. Mendelssohn wasn't big enough to appreciate the master's genius. It's likely that Wagner's connections with Mendelssohn made him turn his personal hatred into a general dislike for all Jews, which is an unintelligent reaction.

Frank Harris always insisted that Wagner was a Jew. He claimed to have probed his early life and to have met what he described as competent witnesses. This isn't at all impossible. The history of the Jews has brought out numerous records of Jews, anxious to hide their race, having turned bitter anti-Semites in order to have themselves accepted as non-Jews. Such behavior betrays a peculiar psychological twist—an arrogant, unreasonable hatred as the result of an inferiority complex. Being no psychologist, I'm not competent to enter into the scientific aspects of

this problem. Hitler today has one Judas-Jew, named Neumann, who goes about Berlin boasting that Hitler's treatment of the Jews is really for the Jew's own good! Anti-Semitism (a phenomenon found even among Jews) has many strange quirks.

* * *

You, Joseph McCabe and Clement Wood are a few thinkers who claim that Lester F. Ward was a remarkable scholar and pioneer in the field of sociology. Explain why there is never any reference to Ward's work when dealing with original research.

Prof. Lester F. Ward (1841-1913), with his great, original works, entitled *Dynamic Sociology*, *The Psychic Factors of Civilization*, *Outlines of Sociology*, *Pure Sociology*, and *Applied Sociology*, was on a par with Comte and Herbert Spencer as a founder of the science of sociology, says Bernhard J. Stern, in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*.

According to this same authority, Ward "was the first to formulate the theories of symposial development and fortuitous variation." (A symposial development, applied to sociology from botany, describes a growth that does not restrict itself to a straight line, but resorts to uneven, irregular spurts. A fortuitous variation means, of course, the element of chance or accident in the formation of species, etc., thus applying to biology the ideas of Lucretius, who used them to explain developments in nature, including the atoms.) Many of Veblen's ideas were developed from Ward's works, as he himself admitted.

Prof. Ward also advanced the gnaecocentric theory, which proposes "the hypothesis of the priority and superiority of the female sex throughout nature." With this hypothesis he became one of the chief theoreticians of the feminist movement. Throughout his life this American was an outspoken Rationalist, holding that religion was "an impediment to science and progress." (It may be that his religious heterodoxy had a great deal to do with the attitude of the more conventional, orthodox figures in sociology, biology, geology, etc.) Ward was a Socialist, but not a Marxist, because he refused to accept the "Marxist interpretation of the class nature of the state."

Ward's discoveries in sociology included "synergy," "creative synthe-

sis," "telic progress," and "war as an agency for social progress"—all of which he elaborated in his gigantic works, and which are too technical for brief summary here.

I'm always seeing Ward quotations. If you don't, maybe it's because we don't see the same books.

* * *

How many people are killed by lightning each year in the U. S.?

According to the National Bureau of Standards, Washington D. C., about 500 deaths result from lightning yearly. The same authority estimates the injured at 1,300 yearly. Farm sections and small communities have about 90 percent of all lightning fatalities and injuries.

* * *

What are the proportions of Germany's religious groups?

Jewish, one percent; Catholic, 35 percent; Protestant, 64 percent.

* * *

I notice that Joseph McCabe writes that the Catholic Church favors capital punishment for heretics. Can you cite a direct quotation?

Father Wenig, a famous Jesuit, wrote, in 1866, as follows:

"The crime of heresy can only be meetly atoned for and entirely prevented from injuring the ecclesiastical and civil community by capital punishment. . . . We have seen that the Ecclesiastical Inquisition cannot agree with the modern ideas as to toleration, enlightenment, and humanity, but for all that I cry, 'Long live the Ecclesiastical Inquisition.'"

The above quotation is taken from page 65 of his book, published in 1875, under the following title: *Über die kirchliche und politische Inquisition*. In his book, *The Jesuit Enigma*, published in 1927 by Boni and Liveright, Dr. E. Boyd Barrett, himself a Jesuit for many years, wrote:

"If, as we suppose, coercion of thought is an 'evil means,' to what depths of wickedness has not the Society (Jesuits) plunged? Not only are lay-brothers prevented from using their intellects, and other Jesuits restricted in the use of theirs, but even those outside the Order are encouraged to take the most extreme steps to force thinking into orthodox channels, and the spectacle of shedding of the blood of heretics was at one time recommended as a pious recreation for Jesuit pupils."

That the Jesuit Order could pos-

sibly approve of capital punishment for heretics as a spectacle worthy of personal attendance may sound incredible, but Dr. Barrett supports this charge with a direct quotation from the Society's *Ratio Studiorum*. The following regulation is quoted:

"Students must not go to public exhibitions, comedies or plays, nor to the execution of criminals, EXCEPT THOSE OF HERETICS."

* * *

Does the time of the earth's rotation vary?

Astronomers say that the earth is slowing down, but the rate is almost beyond calculation—about one-thousandth of a second per century. Such variations are checked by the four "celestial clocks"—the sun, moon, Mercury and Venus.

* * *

At what rate has Japan's population been growing of late?

In 1900, Japan's population was 40,000,000; in 1935, 72,000,000.

* * *

I note your report that German Jews constitute only one percent of Germany's population. What percent of Nobel prize winners were Jews?

Twenty percent.

* * *

Recently I saw an advertisement of the Becker Bread Co., offering Laxative Bread. Is it reliable?

Dr. William J. Robinson, who has investigated this new enterprise, says the company claims "two slices a day keeps constipation away." But the advertisement fails to state that the bread contains phenolphthalein. Dr. Robinson says there's no objection to the drug but that it's outrageous for a bakery to use it "in a masked form, concealing from the patient that he is taking a laxative drug."

* * *

If you vote a Socialist ticket, you will undoubtedly lose your vote and probably help the Republican party. On the other hand, if you vote a Democratic ticket (surely you consider the Roosevelt administration superior to the Republican system) you would be inconsistent in your policies. Which do you intend to do?

I intend to vote for the Socialist ticket, because this is the only way I know of registering the opinion that I hope to see established a system based on socialized industry. If I voted for Roosevelt (and I certainly think him to be superior to Lord

'oover) I'd be voting for the reform of Capitalism—and that's all F. D. R. stands for. He wants to patch up Capitalism so it'll work a while longer, while I want to see the large-scale industries (Capitalism) owned by the working class, through their democratic government. Therefore, consistency demands that I vote the Socialist ticket. The idea that such a vote is "thrown away" is just another one of those popular delusions. A vote for a minority is never "thrown away" if it is done with the conscious aim of letting the majority know there's a program being offered that's entirely different from the one they're supporting, and that it's the essence of good-sense for the electorate to investigate that minority view. History gives thousands of illustrations of unpopular minority viewpoints eventually becoming majority opinions. If your argument were accepted as valid, it'd follow inevitably that minorities have no right to existence, not even to the extent of expressing an opinion. I'd rather be with a minority I think is right than with a majority I know is wrong.

* * *

Anti-Semites claim the Jews are in control of our banks. Please comment.

New York City will serve as a good example, since it contains more Jews than any other city—30 percent of its population being Jews. The city's 19 largest banks have 420 directors, of whom only 30 are Jews, or seven percent.

* * *

Do any animals practice homosexuality?

So far as I can learn, there isn't a word in any work by experts in zoology that will lead one to believe that this practice is found in any animal other than human beings.

* * *

Are the Jews in control of the moving picture industry?

An investigation was made recently, by a non-Jew, among 1,000 movie officials who receive the highest salaries in the film world, and it was found that 231 are Jews.

* * *

Do the Jews own the press?

The great chains of newspapers—Hearst, Scripps-Howard, Gannett, etc.—are all non-Jewish. The only metropolitan newspaper, of national influence, that is in Jewish hands is the

New York Times. The great magazines—*Saturday Evening Post*, *Macfadden group*, *Crowell group*, *Cosmopolitan*, etc., are all owned by non-Jews. In the book world, only a few of the smaller concerns are owned by Jews, but their contributions to culture and educational advancement have been measurable.

* * *

Is it true that the Koran orders Mohammedans to exterminate Christians?

Joseph McCabe, who examined the charge carefully, says it's "quite false."

* * *

The Jews could easily stop all this anti-Semitism if they would only cure the depression. Please comment.

My only comment is that your remark is without a doubt the dumbest thing I've heard since I began a serious study of human stupidity.

* * *

Is the Cecil De Mille film, "The Crusades," historical?

When I was asked this question a few months ago I said I hadn't seen the film and that its review should be written by an expert on the Crusades. Joseph McCabe, at my request, saw the film in London and has delivered a 7,500-word manuscript, entitled "The Truth About the Crusades," which will interest all readers who saw the spectacular film and would like to get a competent historian's opinion of De Mille's fantasy. The McCabe article, which will appear in the 6th issue of the *Appeal to Reason*, serves to expose Hollywood's servile catering to the clericate. He illustrates, in scores of instances, how De Mille has, with consummate showmanship, worked up a brilliant mess of tripe. McCabe has again served the cause of truth. He gives us true portraits of Richard the Lion Heart, Saladin, Berengaria and others who participated in "the maddest and saddest moment in the history of fanaticism."

* * *

When does a new day begin?

Astronomers put it at midday. Insurance companies figure it the same way. The U. S. government puts it at 12.01 A. M. You will perhaps remember the most exciting moment in the present decade, when the federal government announced that beer could leave the breweries at exactly 12.01 A.M. of a certain day. If it had been

left to modern astronomers, the time would have been set at midday.

* * *

How many Catholic priests are there in the U. S.?

30,000.

* * *

What is the value of the Catholic Church's property in the U. S.?

\$2,000,000,000.

* * *

Which U. S. city has the largest municipal park?

Fairmount Park, in Philadelphia, comes first, with 3,597 acres. And I don't suppose there's a square foot of its five and a half square miles that I didn't roam over during my boyhood days. It's the best park I ever knew, especially those parts that one reaches after crossing the Girard Avenue bridge. If you'll look carefully on some of the trees you'll find my initials carved into the bark, and, in a few cases, another set of initials right under mine, the latter, of course, belonging to some charming gal. There are quite a number of these, but interested investigators need not be puzzled by the fact that the gal's initials aren't always the same. You see, there was quite a variety, I being given to doing quite a little samplin'. Some of my most finished, energetic, whole-hearted and spectacular sparkin' took place in those northern acres.

* * *

Your statement that 409,300 Americans are living abroad suggests the question: How are they distributed?

The Department of State reports for September, 1935, the following: In Asia, 25,765 (China, 12,521; Palestine, 5,000; Japan, 3,634; India, 3,359); Africa, 3,917; Australia, 1,251; Italy, 31,572; Irish Free State, 6,604; Czechoslovakia, 7,000; Portugal, 4,217; Sweden, 2,237; Norway, 2,714; Yugoslavia, 6,199; France, 10,315; Germany, 5,099; Spain, 1,455; Soviet Union, 1,854; Canada and Newfoundland, 222,920; South America, 10,969; Mexico and Central America, 19,437. The total, 409,300, is an increase of 16,000 over 1929.

* * *

How much money is sent out of the U. S. to foreign countries by immigrants?

The Department of Commerce's report on the balance of international payments for 1934 shows the following remittances to the principal coun-

tries: Italy, \$16,500,000; Ireland, \$10,500,000; Greece, \$12,000,000; Poland, \$8,000,000; Germany, \$6,500,000; Sweden, \$5,200,000; Japan, \$3,500,000. Remittances from foreign countries, including Canada, to Americans, during 1934, was estimated at \$5,000,000.

* * *

Is there any substantial sentiment in this country for the principle that every American who earns anything, no matter how small, should pay an income tax, regardless of how small the amount may be?

Fortune magazine, in its October, 1935, issue, reports a poll on this subject, with the result that only 22.1 percent favored the suggestion, 71.9 percent opposed, and 6 percent said they didn't know. Even the prosperous produced only 33.8 percent in favor. The others: upper middle class, 26.1 percent; lower middle class, 17.6 percent; poor, 17.3; Negro, 28.4. The large percentage among Negroes is a puzzle, when one considers the extreme poverty of the colored population. It probably can be credited to their lack of information on economic questions, their press being notoriously badly edited, except for a handful of informed publications. The result shows clearly that the country is overwhelmingly committed to the policy of applying the income tax in proportion to income, after exempting the small earners.

* * *

Now that war is here and may soon spread to Britain and other great powers, by what possible pretext could the U. S. enter such a conflict?

American sympathy is almost solidly behind Ethiopia, but there would be no possible means of translating such moral support into military or naval help. If England and France join against Italy, there is a grave possibility of Hitler springing to action by grabbing Austria and joining with Poland, Finland, Hungary and Rumania in a war on the Soviet Union, whereupon France would, according to the terms of its military pact with Moscow, declare war on Germany and its allies. Meanwhile, Yugoslavia would make war on Italy and Czechoslovakia would stand by Russia and France. With Germany attacking Russia from the West, Japan would then carry out its long-planned threat and attack

the Soviet Union from the East, through Outer Mongolia and other Far Eastern points. It's at this place that the U. S. would enter the picture. American imperialism certainly has no love for Russia, but it hates Japanese imperialism even worse because it is a closer menace to American Capitalism. The result would, likely, be an American attack on Japan, mainly naval. And that's international affairs for you. It takes a long time to get around to Uncle Sam, but it reaches him in the end—through the Far East. And that explains, in no little measure, why Roosevelt didn't follow up his stern messages to Russia regarding "Communist propaganda" in this country with severance of diplomatic relations. The United States knows what's being cooked up in Europe and sees the possibility of being an ally of the Soviet Union. And when that day comes—it isn't so remote—the American Legion will meet in a fiery national convention and resolve grandly, often that our "gallant ally"—the Russian Republic, for the word Communism will be out of style then—must be supported in its glorious defense of democracy and civilization against the hordes of uncivilized Japan. I can see the editorials now—Russia is really a democratic country like the United States—Russia's socialistic ideas are really no more extreme than our New Deal—and, finally, "Hurrah for our side!"

* * *

Is marine insurance expensive?

London, which leads in marine underwriters, usually charges \$1.25 for each \$500 of cargo to be insured. The rate is double that for ships entering the Mediterranean or Red Seas, and there are indications of further increases.

* * *

Isn't Roosevelt's embargo on arms a means of helping Italy and hurting Ethiopia?

Technically, yes; practically, no. Italy is already supplied with an ample munitions industry, so Mussolini can continue on his imperialistic way of "civilizing" the Ethiopians by means of machine guns, tanks and poison gas. Haile Selassie is in urgent need of munitions, but it is practically impossible for American concerns to reach that hemmed in and beleaguered country. If Roosevelt were

to extend his embargo to cotton, scrap iron, copper, etc., he could really do Mussolini great harm.

It's interesting to compare Roosevelt's proclamation ordering the embargo with the position taken by Wilson before we entered the World War. Then, the "freedom of the seas" demanded that our citizens have the right to ride safely on any belligerent's ship, in or out of the war zone. Today, Americans are told they ride on an Italian or Ethiopian ship (there aren't any of the latter) at their own risk.

The "freedom of the seas" becomes a dead issue, without the slightest loss of "honor" and "prestige" to Uncle Sam. Our commercial interests are warned against doing business with the countries at war, which means that Roosevelt tells American business it enters such activities at its own risk. During the period before we entered the World War, Wilson insisted—against Bryan's protests—that it was a God-given, inalienable, liberty-loving, sacred "right" for American corporations to do business with a warring world at a handsome profit. The world changes. I looked at the stars and stripes as I passed the courthouse this morning and it didn't have any stains on it. American honor hasn't been degraded. The loss of "freedom of the seas" hasn't lowered our self-respect. In Wilson's day it meant abuse, ostracism and charges of "slacker" and "pro-German" to even suggest that the Wilsonian doctrines weren't the essence of true Americanism. Now the opposition sentiment of pre-war days becomes the official policy of the federal government.

* * *

What's your opinion of movie advertisements?

The movie theaters that are using these dull, boring, stupid advertisements for gasoline, electrical refrigerators, motor cars, local bakeries, hash houses and whatnot, are committing a serious blunder that will, in time, do serious injury to a business that has shown great aptitude for studied ineptitudes. These advertising reels are insults to movie patrons. They are worse than that. They're petty thefts of time and money. A person who buys a ticket to see two hours of entertaining films has a

right to honest efforts at feature pictures, news reels, comedy shorts, travelogues and other subjects. But he shouldn't be made to endure five or 10 minutes of advertising. The claim that newspaper and magazine readers tolerate advertisements doesn't fit the case at all. You don't have to read the printed advertisement, but you can't skip the movie ads. The only remedy is to stop the manager of the theater, as you walk out, and tell him calmly and earnestly what you think of his brazenness in putting over such a brash piece of commercial exploitation. Such complaints, in sufficient volume, should have some effect on his usually thick skull.

Please give the result of Fortune magazine's nation-wide poll on the question: "What foreign country do you feel least or most friendly toward?"

The poll shows that Americans care least for Germany, for which 7.3 percent declared themselves least friendly and only 4.4 percent most friendly. Japan comes next, with 11.2 percent most unfriendly and .1 percent most friendly. Then comes Italy, with 6.7 percent most unfriendly and 1.2 percent most friendly. In fourth place comes the Soviet Union, with 5.8 percent most unfriendly and .8 percent most friendly. France has 4.5 most unfriendly, 4.7 most friendly. England, 1.2 most unfriendly, 60.2 most friendly. The poll thus shows that England is the most popular country with Americans, Russia not at all as bad as expected, and the two great Fascist powers—Germany and Italy—least popular, with Japan between the Hitlerites and the Italian Fascists.

Is it true that Japan permits only licensed prostitution?

The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in its issue of September 21, 1935, reports that Japan licenses its prostitutes. There are 10,281 houses of prostitution, in 509 licensed quarters, with 49,302 licensed prostitutes. During 1933, the report shows 24,922,504 customers visited these quarters and accepted personal services. During the same year, the Japanese police arrested 6,640 unlicensed prostitutes. Medical doctors examined 6,374 of those arrested women and found the following numbers infected: syphilis, 223; gonor-

rhea, 903; soft chancre, 209; other venereal diseases, 134. The report doesn't state how many of the licensed prostitutes are infected, but undoubtedly such information is available.

* * *

Dr. Cutten received great publicity in the New York press, particularly the *Herald-Tribune*, for his speech against social legislation. He claimed that science and medicine are dangerous because they save the unfit, thereby helping to bring about the destruction of the race. His point is that nature, through its law of the survival of the fittest, destroys the unfit, and that they deserve to be destroyed. Medical science, social legislation and preventive medicine are against the laws of nature because they enable the unfit to live and breed. Please comment.

Dr. George Benton Cutten is not only the president of Colgate University but a distinguished preacher. His interpretation of Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest is full of holes. What he is doing is giving obvious support to the Hitleristic theories of the "superman," which, in Hitler's case, is a member of the Nazi party, who alone is worthy of survival. Our own Henry L. Mencken has frequently talked along similar lines.

When the great plagues swept medieval Europe, the millions who died unnecessary deaths weren't all "unfit." Most of them were as "fit" as the Rev. Dr. Cutten, but lacking medical science they had no weapons with which to fight infection or contagion. The germs of syphilis, typhoid, tuberculosis, diphtheria, malaria, etc., are dangerous to the "fit" as well as the "unfit." Even Dr. Cutten, I'm sure, is careful to avoid the diseases I've just listed, with all his implied "fitness," and here he has nothing to thank but the sciences he is abusing.

In a state of nature, the animal with the sharpest teeth, the fleetest locomotion, the strongest claws will survive better than a weakling. Species have disappeared because they were unable to adjust themselves to their environment, some finding themselves doomed because of changes in the food supply, temperature, the appearance of new enemies, etc. That's what Darwin meant by the survival of the fittest, and the theory is sound, of course.

But social man has created many

economic, financial and political injustices that work to the benefit of some and the disadvantage of others. Under such social maladjustments, the "fittest" can frequently be described as being merely the most cunning. It then becomes a case of the survival of the slickest. Many men starve or slowly succumb to preventable diseases, not because they are unfit but because social injustice compels them to endure unfair environmental hardships. Pack 400,000 Negroes in a square mile of Harlem (and that prevails in one neighborhood) and you'll find that the fittest are dragged down and made to appear as though they were unfit to survive. They are as good as the best, frequently, but can't survive.

Put the Rev. Dr. Cutten in a Harlem slum and see how long it'll take to make him look and act like an unfit weakling. If he had the money, he'd rush to a clinic to inoculate himself against all sorts of diseases—from typhoid to diphtheria—and he'd be mighty glad there was such a thing as preventive medicine available.

Dr. Cutten doesn't even hint that he prefers to dispense with social legislation for himself. He himself prefers to have scientists in laboratories make sure that his city's water supply is pure. He gladly sees the street sweepers remove trash from his door. He raises no protest against his community's sewage system. He likes to know there's a cop somewhere around when some hoodlums threaten to break into his home. And when his house takes fire he'll shout with joy that no one took seriously his plea for the end of social legislation, thereby making it possible for him to telephone the fire department.

But the Rev. Dr. Cutten is made of different clay? That's a hard thing to prove, Dr. Cutten. You may live longer than the fellow you brand as unfit, but that's most likely because you've had your material wants supplied, you have been given a good environment, with plenty of light and air, and lots of good food. You draw a nice, fat salary, and that helps you get an environment that is denied to those who are less lucky or who are the victims of the class you are so ready to flatter. You claim that your germ plasm is better than Mr. John

Does? That's a hard thing to prove, Dr. Cutten. Your germ plasm was molded a million years ago, and I feel more than confident that you'd have an awfully hard time tracing your line back to an ancestor of a million years ago to put your finger on a superior chunk of germ plasm with the triumphant shout: "You see, I'm better than you are because this germ plasm is superior to anything you can point to." You know that's impossible, if your science department does its work in the spirit of honest, earnest inquiry.

* * *

What is the correct pronunciation of: Mussolini, Roosevelt, Fascist, Fascisti, Haile Selassie, Somaliland?

Printing the accented syllable in italics, the following are correct: Moo-su-lee-nee. Roze-velt. *Fash*-ist. Fah-shee-ste. *High*-ly. *Sill*-loss-ee. So-mah-lee-land. (Mussolini's party is Fascist; the members of his party are Fascisti.)

* * *

What's your opinion of the teacher's oath law passed in many states?

I've already discussed this outrageous invasion of the right to academic freedom, but welcome the opportunity to touch on it again. This oath compels teachers to swear they will uphold the Constitution and the government of the United States, but this is merely an excuse "for additional legislation that ultimately would regiment all schools, churches and cultural institutions in obedience to whatever State officials happen to be in power," as one protestant explained. The law was rushed through various state legislatures at the demand of the Hearst press, the American Legion, the Elks, and other Fascist elements, as an entering wedge against semi-free education and civil rights. Just why the teachers should be picked out to take the oath, and all other professions—editors, lecturers, lawyers, doctors, etc.—left alone is in itself proof that the Hearsts aren't concerned over the Constitution but want to strangle teachers who may want to exercise their Constitutional rights to free speech and free opinion in education.

* * *

Which State produces the most eggs?

California leads, with a total of 1,819,000,000 eggs in 1934, valued at

\$28,801,000. The second State is Iowa, which runs about \$1,000,000 behind California.

* * *

Please give a few facts about the new Supreme Court building.

This beautiful, Corinthian building cost \$10,000,000 and contains 455,000 cubic feet of marble. It has a seating capacity of only 315 persons. Construction was begun in 1931. It is located east of the Capitol. In all, it's a beautiful sight, but perhaps its last proof of lavishness is the item for stream-lined, stainless steel cuspidors—56 of them at \$22.91 each. A veritable dreamland for spitters.

* * *

Do you think this government ought to go to war to save Ethiopia from Italy?

I don't see any hope of saving Ethiopia without military sanctions (penalties) against Mussolini. Mainly, it would, of course, have to be a naval war. The English navy perhaps can handle the situation there. But if the great, civilized nations of the world decide on sanctions against Italy, it would be a crime against humanity if the United States were to step in and claim that since this country isn't a member of the League of Nations it's our "right" to do business with Italy's Fascist bully. Whatever economic and financial measures countries like Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, etc., decide on should be honored by the U. S. government, instead of merely embargoing a few implements of war and declaring our neutrality. We should firmly insist on keeping *every* form of aid from Italy, and at the same time we should ship whatever supplies aggressed Ethiopia cares to order. The world will approve of such a policy. Every labor organization, including most of the Socialists, in England is in favor of sanctions against Italy, even though Mussolini cried "Sanctions mean war!" The British labor movement is taking a realistic view of the situation and knows that unless Mussolini is curbed he will drench the world in blood. And when Mussolini is disposed of they will have a still harder nut to crack—Hitler. These two dictators are the sworn enemies of labor. They have destroyed their organizations, their press, their cooperatives. They have shackled the workers in the chains of Fascism, and they can be

"reasoned" with in only one way—with the power of organized might. It's stupid, ineffectual, fatuous Pacifism to take any other view. Peace is a beautiful ideal, but when one must deal with a Mussolini or a Hitler there's only one language that can be understood and that's the power of economic, military and naval might. Dictatorships will not be overthrown by fine words and noble sentiments. They rest on force, and they can be destroyed only by force. The world won't be free to go forward until it ends Fascism. And Fascism's allies—mainly Roman Catholicism—must also be considered part of the picture.

* * *

What role is Ethiopia to play in the imperialistic plans of Mussolini?

I've said it before, and I repeat it: *Ethiopia will be the graveyard of Mussolini's Fascism.*

* * *

What you say about the service charges instituted by the banks should be given the most serious consideration by depositors. I happen to have an inactive account. Do the service charges apply there also?

Your inactive account saves you from a few of the charges—such as those on deposit slips, checks, etc., but you must still pay the general monthly service fee, which usually amounts to 50c. On this point, let me call attention to an interesting experience, related by Nelson Antrim Crawford, editor of *Household Magazine*, as follows:

"A banker sent a statement to a depositor that he owed 50c to the bank. The deposit, with an original balance of \$10, had been left inactive for many months. The banker charged a 'service fee' of 50c a month. After 21 months had elapsed, he claimed that the fee had eaten up the deposit and half a dollar besides."

Such an experience—hold-up better describes it—could have been avoided had the depositor put his \$10 in the postal savings system, where it would have accumulated a modest amount of interest instead of being dissipated in "service charges." I have long urged my readers to quit the robber banks so long as they insist on these outrageous "service charges."

Most persons can evade this form

of legalized robbery by paying their bills in cash locally, or sending postal money orders to distant places when making purchases. Postal money orders are cheaper and safer. You get quicker service when you send your remittance in the form of a postal money order, because most business houses usually insist on waiting for the check to "clear" before making shipment. A postal money order is the same as cash and means snap-ny service.

As the business house must pay an exchange fee for depositing your check, it is only fair that the customer should absorb this expense by adding 10c to each check. This exchange fee can also be avoided by dealing only in postal money orders, or, what is equally safe and even more economical, sending paper money in first class letters when ordering any kind of goods. When you consider the expense of handling a check—your own 3c to the bank, your service charge on the monthly statement, your deposit slip fee, the 10c exchange which you should add when sending your check out of town, the similar fees the business house must pay—all added up amount to far more than the few pennies necessary to buy a safe, honest postal money order.

Let a sufficient number of Americans learn to use the postal system more and the banks will soon be forced to mend their ways, or, failing in this, the government will step in, when compelled to by an outraged citizenry, and extend commercial facilities to its Postal Savings Bank. Postal savings depositors should have the right to issue checks against their accounts, but while waiting for this legislation it's best to play safe and act as I've outlined in this article.

Let Uncle Sam handle your money, and let his postoffice department transfer your money for you. Try to remember this little lesson.

* * *

I am an elderly man who is considered an unemployable, living at a federal transient relief camp near Pleasanton, Kansas. In a few days this camp is to be closed. What's to become of us?

The closing of 283 transient centers and 312 camps will throw 300,000 busted Americans onto the streets and highways, to bum their way, beg hand-outs, eat in jungles, sleep in

alleys, parks and box cars, or, if the weather is too bad, beg a night's lodging in jails that are already crowded. The whole thing smacks of the worst kind of cruel indifference to the fate of these young and old victims of the present capitalistic system. Most of these hoboes are very young. It's reported that 42 percent are under 25. Twenty percent are under 20. Their only "crime" is that they took to the road in order to land a job, and as no job was available they took to being hoboes. To close these camps and centers, where the hoboes were able to get a certain amount of medical attention, decent food and lodging—all at slight expense to the government—is to turn back to the cities, towns and farm sections a problem the common people can't handle. The only thing that can be done immediately is to protest vigorously to President Roosevelt, who may be brought around to the view that the nation has a debt to pay its helpless transients.

* * *

Your sketch of the American Civil Liberties Union was valuable, but you failed to cover one important point. It's frequently charged that this organization is under the control of the Communist Party. Please discuss.

There isn't a shred of evidence to support the allegation. Since the organization was founded, in 1920, it has given legal and financial assistance to all persons or organizations that have been denied civil rights, particularly with regard to free speech, press and assembly. The record shows it has championed the rights of the Ku Klux Klan, the A. F. of L., industrial unions, birth controllers, Fascists, Socialists, Communists, and members of large and small religious bodies. The Union has fought for free education in Tennessee, paying the costs of defending Scopes, the Dayton, Tenn., high school instructor who was tried for violating the state law against teaching evolution in tax-supported schools. The Union helped in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, attempting heroically, though futilely, to save the two Anarchists from an unjust execution. Because the Union believes that even Communists have a right, under our Constitution, to full civil rights, the reactionaries and Tories attempt to

injure the organization with the cry of "Communism!"

* * *

One frequently hears that nature always increases the number of male births during and after a war, thus adjusting the balance of population. This would indicate some sort of intelligence in nature, if the fact can be verified.

The notion is nothing more than a popular superstition. Dr. William J. Robinson calls attention to a report made by the Prussian Bureau of Statistics, for the years 1914 to 1917, during which time "the relation of males to females born in Prussia was, as always, between 106 and 107 boys to 100 girls." He adds: "This numerical superiority of males over females also holds good in the animal kingdom. For instance, in cattle there are 107 males to 100 females, in pigs 112 males to 100 females, in pigeons 115 males to 100 females, etc." I join Dr. Robinson in hoping to see the last of the absurd idea that because more males than females die during a war nature looks the situation over and decides to do something about it. Facts are the most relentless, implacable, unwavering debunkers.

* * *

Was Robert G. Ingersoll an Atheist?

Ingersoll usually referred to himself as an Agnostic. His speeches and writings clearly indicate that Agnosticism, to him, meant there was no evidence available to support the assumptions of those who support the God-idea. The Agnostic, in so many words, says: "I know of no facts to buttress Theism." The Atheist says that an examination of Theism (the philosophy that deals with the claims favoring the God idea) shows its every argument to be shot through with illogical reasoning. It's plain, therefore, that there's no difference between Agnosticism and Atheism, though some people seem to have the notion that the former sounds more "respectable" than the latter. It's established that Ingersoll, the Agnostic, was in reality an Atheist, for nowhere does he give the slightest hint that he believes Theism is in any way a valid philosophy.

* * *

How does the British Labor party stand with regard to sanctions (penalties) against Italy?

The Labor party, on October 2,

1935, voted as follows: for sanctions, 2,168,000; against sanctions, 102,000. This means a vote of 21 to 1 for any action Great Britain, and other powers, might see fit to take against Italy or any other aggressor nation, even to the use of force, "if necessary." Herbert Morrison, British Socialism's ablest leader and frequently referred to as England's next Labor Prime Minister, led the fight in favor of sanctions. As the Soviet Union has already declared its support of the principle of sanctions against Fascist Italy, it follows that the overwhelming majority of each branch of leftist movements is firmly committed to a vigorous policy of meeting Italy's acts of aggression with the weapons of economics, finance and, if necessary, militarism and navalism.

* * *

What do you think of an old fool like Senator McAdoo marrying a girl of 26?

I saw the young lady's picture in the news reel and concluded, from her looks, that it was a case of McAdoo or nothing. Unsupported rumor has it that McAdoo's wedding gift to the bride was an antique organ.

* * *

Please comment on current moon superstitions. Most of the inhabitants of my Texas community, including many of my relatives, believe in many absurd powers of the moon. They consult the calendar to see if the moon is O. K. before they will butcher a beef, make soap, plant a crop, split wood (I understand it won't burn well if cut on a "new moon"), go fishing, or have a tooth pulled.

The people you refer to are, of course, utterly ignorant. Superstitions are the children of ignorance. Remove ignorance and such ridiculous "moon superstitions" will disappear. Education is the remedy. Enlightenment makes for Rationalism, and the result of Rationalism is a sane regard for realities. Superstitions die hard, because education spreads so slowly. But don't get the idea that conditions among your Texas friends aren't improving. They are. Year by year, superstition loses its hold, though gradually. There was a time, not many centuries ago, when most people were ignorant and superstitious. Now there is a healthy minority of intelligence and realism. It's safe to assume, therefore, that the intelligent minority will grow until it banishes most, if not all, of the

superstitious beliefs that persist so stubbornly. "Moon superstitions" have been relegated almost entirely to backward rural communities. It's hard to root them out in those remote, hidden places. But even those arenas of ignorance will, in time, surrender to the light of education and science.

Is there any known case of a radio broadcast being accidentally reproduced by any instrument other than a regular receiving set?

No.

Will Boulder Dam produce more electricity than Russia's Dnieprostroy?

Boulder Dam will produce 1,835,000 horsepower; Dnieprostroy, 756,000 horsepower. The American plant is therefore two and a half times larger than Russia's.

What do you think of Guy Kibbee?

I remember his acting when, about 10 years ago, he was a member of a Kansas City stock company, and liked it. His work in the movies is well done, but it seems to me he isn't given opportunities to bring out his full powers of comedy. To me, he is always the stage's perfect symbol of Mr. Ordinary Man. He brings out the Babbitt that's in all of us. Close to the earth, folksy, genial, and full of the warm juices of good living, Guy Kibbee is Mr. Jones, of Everywhere, just amplified enough to make him real. At home he is always the good provider, though he will quarrel with his aging wife. Away from home, he likes to step out and have a good time, and here his fears of exposure bring out the humor of Mr. Jones' merely surface acceptance of bourgeois morality. He works hard at his job—whether at real estate or the lime and cement business—and he plays even harder, at golf, poker or marching in the lodge parade. Once in a while he likes to go on a big drunk, usually in the company of other community leaders like himself. And while in his cups he's willing to turn a friendly eye at a neat pair of ankles. When he sleeps, Guy Kibbee always snores. When he shaves, he sings. When he perspires, his bald head grows reddish. He's kindly, loyal to his friends, and wouldn't do anything off color in a business deal if he thought there was the slightest chance of getting caught. Guy Kib-

bee represents the lower middle class—in looks, outlook, philosophy, idealism, politics, and morality. He's the kind of man Sinclair Lewis used to write novels about, back in the days of the Coolidge boom.

What is America's candy bill?

The Department of Commerce's latest figures, for 1934, released on September 29, 1935, show: 1,299,103,140 pounds were consumed; average cost per pound, 14.4 cents; the public paid \$186,783,681; nearly 20 percent of this total was derived from the sale of penny candies to children; chocolate bars took the most money.

Are there any recent figures on what Mussolini has to spend each day to keep his armies in East Africa?

During August, 1935, before hostilities, Mussolini spent \$815,000 daily on the men in his colonies abutting Ethiopia. In September the costs went higher, but no figures are available. Competent sources estimate a daily expenditure of \$2,050,000 now that Italy's armies have gone into action.

On September 30, the Bank of Italy reported its gold had fallen from over \$500,000,000 to \$355,437,000. As the Italian Fascist can get supplies only on a gold basis, with payments made in advance, this treasury item is certain to melt away in a short time, when Mussolini will find himself unable to cover outside commitments.

Besides gold, the bank's foreign exchange, which can also be used to import goods, amounts to only \$34,000,000.

All impartial military experts agree that the campaign against Ethiopia will be a long one, taking perhaps five years, and even then there is no assurance that the effort will achieve the imperialistic goal Mussolini has set for his enslaved nation. With such a long war facing him, the resources aren't available to keep the troops going. Besides, there are other "fronts" to consider—Europe and the Mediterranean.

The funds that are necessary to success aren't in sight. Another item which Mussolini can use to his own ends is the funds he can derive from the sale of foreign securities held by Italian citizens and corporations, the proceeds going to the Fascist treasury, which in turn will issue bonds

of dubious worth to the investors who were blackmailed into parting with their possessions. Such a transaction will give Mussolini another \$48,930,000, though some authorities insist this total should be increased to \$163,000,000. But even the top figure can't change the situation materially. It merely prolongs the agony for another few weeks.

* * *

Is it a fact that Mussolini's preparations for his attack on Ethiopia were the last word in scientific anticipation of every possible contingency?

Mussolini's press department would give one that view, but the reports of competent observers would lead one to doubt that Mussolini's handling of the situation in East Africa has been just about perfect. Take, for example, the simple matter of clothes. Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, who is considered to be a leading expert on military conditions in the tropics, said, in London, on September 30, 1935, that he saw Italian troopships going through the Suez Canal loaded with soldiers (most of them boys) who were dressed in "great, thick woollen coats." It's little cause for astonishment that so many thousands of Italian soldiers in Mussolini's African colonies have died or been returned in hospital ships to islands near Italy. It was only after thousands of casualties that the Fascist authorities decided to send to India for khaki shirts. According to Sir William Birdwood, it is a fact that "the government had not fully considered the details of what was needed for an Ethiopian campaign."

* * *

What is your opinion of the new system for the mass production of eggs?

As an inordinate lover of eggs (with an unflinching consumption of from three to six eggs daily) I can say, in all earnestness, that the old-fashioned poultry yard beats science when it comes to the egg's taste, though science beats the old method in the matter of quantity production. I've never seen one of the new egg emporiums, but from what I've read they must make a Kansas farmer dizzy. The hen gets her own cubbyhole, which is lighted by electricity, and she eats just what's put before her. She's a prisoner to straight-line production, like a Ford employee. If the Ford worker misses a bolt he

is fired; if the hen misses a single day's layin', she has her head chopped off. It's a case of produce an egg a day or into the frying pan she goes. Which is all very well, from the viewpoint of profits. But what about the taste of the egg? Her mass production egg tastes flat. And for a good reason. She needs the kind of life her sister on the farm enjoys, where she spends so many hours a day scratching for a living. There, she eats as nature intended—with a splendid variety of scraps, insects, worms, grain and grass. That variety hasn't been worked out yet in any scientific laboratory, though I have all the respect in the world for science and its wonderful achievements. Besides, the farm hen lives a normal sex life, and that also may have something to do with the taste of the egg she lays. The farm hen may miss a day now and then, but she makes up for this in quality. As one who has lived for almost 20 years on a Kansas farm, I yell three cheers for the hens in our barnyard, and to hell with the machine-laid eggs that show up like clockwork but which taste like a dishrag.

* * *

Is it true that Eskimos are immune to cancer and diabetes?

Dr. I. M. Rabinowitch, chief of the metabolism department of the Montreal General Hospital, reports that he made a number of examinations among Eskimos, in the east-Arctic, and found no traces of cancer or diabetes. The doctor added:

"The healthiest groups were found in communities where native clothes were worn and where the inhabitants were unable to obtain much of the white man's food, particularly that made from white flour."

* * *

Your remarks on the play, "Porgy," lead me to ask your opinion of Gershwin's opera based on this work.

Porgy was put to music under the title of *Porgy and Bess*, by George Gershwin. The production was directed by the able Rouben Mamoulian. I haven't heard the opera, but reports are more than flattering. Isaac Goldberg, who is certainly a competent judge, writes me hurriedly, as follows:

"I've been attending the rehearsals of 'Porgy,' here in Boston. The

thing is tremendous, and makes Gershwin a much more important figure than ever."

* * *

Is it not a racial characteristic for Jews to talk with their hands?

As Jews live in all countries, they soon assume the manners of the environment in which they find themselves. French, Italian, Turkish, Balkan and Levantine Jews frequently gesticulate when talking, but it happens that their non-Jewish neighbors also talk with excessive movements of the hands. Jews in England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Canada and the United States make little use of their hands while talking, here again taking the cue from those in the same environment. You will notice that the second and third generations of American Jews who are of Latin extraction hardly use their hands in talking, and this also applies to many of the first generation, showing conclusively that what they once did wasn't a racial characteristic but merely a social habit.

* * *

What does sugar cost in Italy?

Sugar, like gasoline, can be bought only by the rich. A pound of sugar costs 24c. Since my last report, which showed that anti-knock gasoline costs 95c per gallon, the price has gone up to \$1.10. Recently a *New York Times* correspondent reported that she was compelled to pay a taxi at the rate of 20c per mile for a ride of inspection through the countryside. Recently I talked to a young woman who had returned from a 15-month stay in Italy, and she told me only the rich can afford to buy gasoline, and "even they buy it by the quart."

* * *

Have you any reliable figures on the extent of losses resulting from forged signatures?

There is no reliable information available. I've seen advertisements, released by an insurance company interested in selling check protective devices, which claimed a weekly loss of \$4,000,000, in this country alone, because of what it calls "crooked pen-holders." This means a yearly loss of \$208,000,000, which sounds bunk to me. The people who sell the devices want to scare check writers into investing in their little machines and in the insurance policies

they offer, so they indulge in such harem-scarem nonsense. A well-known business writer, William Feather, of Cleveland, O., has offered a reward of \$100 to "any insurance official who can furnish satisfactory evidence that forgery loss is even half of \$200,000,000." No company has taken up Mr. Feather's challenge, so I'm sure he won't lose his \$100. Personally, I have a prejudice against those check-protective machines. They are expensive, and, to my notion, useless time-wasters. This office has written probably 150,000 checks in the past 15 years, without the loss of a single penny through forgery or "raising." If I send a person a check, it's written out or typed. I wouldn't dream of insulting him with the print of a device, which, in so many words, says: "Here's my check, but don't you dare to raise it, for I've printed the amount on such-and-such a machine." First of all, no real crook is deterred by any protective device ever invented. You just have to take your chances. There's only one kind of check we don't like to write, and that's where some stranger sends us a dollar or some equally small amount "by mistake" and later insists on getting a refund in the form of a check. Such refunds are made by postal money order or stamps. Otherwise, we take our chances. And, as I stated before, without a loss.

* * *

I noticed in *The Daily Worker* an article by Mike Gold dealing humorously with the relationships between a dog and his fleas. It impressed me as nothing more than an elaboration of your own short skit in an earlier *Freeman*. Is this plagiarism?

I noticed the piece, but I didn't give it much thought. The use of my material was a subtle compliment which I was human enough to enjoy. I've noticed that others besides Mike Gold use *The Freeman* as a source for material, facts and ideas. That's O. K. by me.

* * *

I have a little money saved up and am thinking of investing in some of Hearst's 7 percent preferred stock. Is it a sound, conservative investment?

Poors' Manual, which is the best authority on the value of securities, gives the Hearst Consolidated Publications, Inc., a rating of "B," which

means it's "speculative." The October 1, 1935, issue of *The New Masses* contains a thorough analysis of this Hearst issue, and shows that it's a poor risk when compared to such issues as Eastman Kodak and Proctor and Gamble. The writer of the article, Bruce Minton, shows that the Hearst properties have gone down in value; circulation and advertising have fallen, when compared with 1930. The financial set-up is decidedly risky. He shows that the assets of the company are small, while the write-up on goodwill, copyrights, trademarks, patents, libraries and other intangibles is set at the astronomical figure of \$77,763,971, a sum that could hardly be realized in the open market. Cash on hand is very small for so large a company—only \$1,151,144, and only \$42,663 in government bonds. Another amazing fact brought out by Mr. Minton is that the value of Hearst's assets is only one-seventh of the stock issue, in comparison to the amount of stock issued. In all, the securities look dubious and I'd advise you to lay off.

* * *

Why did Persia change its name to Iran?

In the time of Alexander the Great, there was a province called Pars or Fars, and when the entire country was conquered it was given the name of Persia, after that single province. But the Persians have always, in their language, had another name for their country—Iran. In the spring of 1935, the name was formally and officially changed to Iran. This change of name was just one more symbol of Iran's desire to become a modern, awakened nation, and, judging from reliable reports, real progress is being made and there's little doubt that before long Iran will take its place among the more advanced nations. Railroads are being built, schools are being opened everywhere, a modern university has been founded, illiteracy is being fought, and in numerous other ways progress is being achieved.

* * *

How does present beer consumption compare with pre-Prohibition days?

Before Prohibition, the U. S. drank, in its peak year, 65,000,000 barrels. Present production is 45,000,000 barrels, a drop of about 30 percent. Frank O. Van de Westelaken,

of Chicago, president of the Master Brewer's Association, says there is \$800,000,000 invested in the beer industry and that revenue of \$600,000,000 was taken in during two and a half years after Prohibition. George B. Sippel, of Cincinnati, a prominent figure in the beer business, gives his industry seventh place among the country's major enterprises. The American brewing industry is 300 years old. . . . Well, let's have another.

* * *

It's claimed by psychical researchers that Kuda Bex's ability to walk barefooted over hot coals is proof of supernaturalism. Please comment.

The young Indian, who astonished Londoners by his ability to walk over a bed of glowing coals, did a good trick, and you or I would be wise not to emulate him. But it's a trick that's thousands of years old. Firewalking is no new phenomenon. The walker is careful, after long training, to take rapid steps, never touching the coals for more than a fraction of a second. It takes real cleverness to go dancing over the hot coals, and don't you doubt it. It was found that when Mr. Bex was about to do his trick his soles registered a temperature of 93 degrees, and that their temperature was only about 135 degrees when he finished, which isn't enough to raise a blister. By taking two steps per second he was able to keep from being burned. Were he to slow down to, let us say, one step per second, he'd be yelling in pain like the rest of us, if we dared attempt the feat. Any linotype operator, who handles hot slugs fresh from his casting box, can show you how the trick is done, though in his case it'll be with his fingers instead of the soles of his feet. Frequently, I have had the linotype operator in this shop pick up a freshly cast line of type, hot enough to burn a hole in any man's hand, but it does the operator no damage because, from long practice, he juggles it from hand to hand until it grows cool enough for easy handling. While it's hot, he keeps moving it so fast that its actual contact with his fingers is less than a second per throw. I've tried to do the same thing myself, on many occasions, and always dropped it in a hurry—like a hot coal. Mr. Bex is no more a miracle man than is the aver-

age linotyper. He's just a good gymnast who should be holding down a fat contract in a circus side-show.

* * *

What was Mussolini's position on imperialism before he became dictator?

In the January 1, 1912, issue of the Socialist daily *Avanti*, Benito Mussolini contributed an editorial dealing with Italy's imperialistic war in Lybia. In it he wrote the following, which sounds like a logical answer to the Mussolini of 1935:

"The nationalist, conservative and clerical Italy of today wants to make the sword her law and the army the school of the nation. We foresaw this moral degeneration and therefore are not surprised by it. But those who believe that this dominance of militarism is a sign of strength are mistaken. Strong peoples have no need to suffer such rubbish as the Italian press indulges in with foolish delight. Strong peoples have themselves in check. Nationalist and militarist Italy shows that she has herself not in check. A little war of conquest is celebrated as a Roman triumph."

* * *

What has been the attitude of the Catholic Church towards Mussolini's war?

The Pope, like Mussolini, is always ready to give lip-service to the ideal of peace. But he hasn't, by word or deed, opposed Mussolini's outrageous attack on Ethiopia. The Fascist forces have been blessed by Catholic priests. The Vatican has a monopoly on army chaplains, because of the Mussolini-Vatican concordat, so the "blessings" of religion, with the Catholic label, of course, are handed out by Catholic priests with the armies in East Africa. The Catholic Church is the official religion of Fascist Italy, so it shares responsibility for every act of the Black Shirts. When, on October 2, 1935, Mussolini ordered a nation-wide mobilization (adunata), the bells of every Catholic Church throughout Italy were rung in order to bring the 20,000,000 demonstrators together at the agreed time. Even the bells of the Vatican rang their call to Mussolini's hordes of robots, but five days later, as the result of comment in other countries, the official Vatican newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, claimed that the Vatican bells rang for something else at Mussolini's mobilization hour. Which

reminds one of the famous remark made by Mark Twain regarding the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy: "Shakespeare's plays weren't written by Shakespeare but by another man with a similar name."

* * *

I recently saw Christian Science referred to as a "Negro superstition." What does that mean?

Backward Negroes, particularly in Africa, have, for many centuries, blamed disease on spirits. To get well, a superstitious Negro pays a witch-doctor to chase away the evil spirits. Christian Scientists hold the same belief, though they dress it up in fancy lingo. They refuse to accept the materialistic facts of disease and its scientific treatment. Joseph McCabe, in his valuable essay, *A Defense of Medical Science*, calls attention to this interesting comparison.

* * *

What is your opinion of Major Douglas' Social Credit, and Aberhart and his Social Crediters?

Major Douglas, of England, is the author of numerous studies that deal with what he calls Social Credit, but, as some economists have pointed out, his theories are so complicated—depending on the lingo and equations of higher mathematics—that it's doubted he himself knows what he's driving at. He lectures by the hour, and when he's through his audience is in a blue funk and he acts as though he'd been discussing Einstein's relativity as applied to the dimensions of a holeless doughnut.

Douglas is the "profound" theoretician, and Aberhart is his disputatious "popularizer," and, like most other "masters," Douglas repudiates his disciple. Aberhart may be guilty of over-simplification, but what he proposes is the general program of Douglasism, and, as he recently won an election in Alberta, Canada, the disciple can afford to dismiss his "master's" repudiation as the malevolent lucubrations of a frustrated prophet.

William Aberhart first attracted attention in Canada as a preacher in Calgary, after something of a career as a high school instructor. Then he took up Major Douglas' Social Credit discoveries, went into the provincial election in Alberta as a Social Crediter—and, to prove his genius as

a demagogue, he won.

Rev. Aberhart—it is ex-Rev. now?—has put his pregnant thoughts in a pamphlet, under the title of *Social Credit Manual*, which is supposed to be the holy, sacred Koran of Canadian rainbow-chasers who look to a solution of grave economic problems through the ministrations of a magician who guarantees to get the greatest of results with the minimum of effort and brains.

The Rev. Aberhart wasn't on the ticket himself, but he promises to run for office in the near future, but meanwhile he is Alberta's premier. Aberhart won by promising each citizen of Alberta a "drawing account" of \$25 per month, to be spent in a hurry in order to bring back prosperity and make everybody comfortable and satisfied. Demagogue Aberhart knows his followers. Like the late Huey Long, he saw that what they wanted was a minimum of talk about conditions. They know what's the matter. They haven't any money. That's simple. And a complete remedy would be a plentiful supply of loose change in their pantaloons, along with the guarantee that there's more where the last \$25 came from. To beat demagogue Aberhart, it'll be necessary for some other demagogue to come along and tell his Canadian dupes that \$25 per month is chicken-feed, that it's an insult to free citizens, that it's mere evasion of the real issue. And then, of course, he must raise the ante to \$50 per month and poor Aberhart will either raise it once more or close up political shop.

How will Aberhart raise the money? Well, first of all, it won't be so vulgar a thing as money. It'll be Social Credit. The government will start things off with \$1,000,000, and, through a system of Al Capone book-keeping, the amount will miraculously jump to \$12,000,000 through a system of involved taxes on manufacture and sales.

Everybody will be happy. But the money must be spent only for moral things, warns our evangelical economist. Sinners who indulge in wine, women and song will be warned, politely but firmly, that the Social Credit plan of heaven-on-earth isn't for the likes of them. If they refuse to turn angels they'll be cut off the

list. That, needless to say, will guarantee eternal virtue and purity for all Alberta, which, for all I know, may be a center of Babylonian vice and riotous behavior.

Aberhart explains, with a straight face, that his credit scheme will guarantee the wealth producer a hefty price for what he produced—wheat is his illustration—the millers will enjoy fair and reasonable profits, the bakers will earn Christian incomes, and the consumers will eat honest bread at decent prices. But all through the process will be applied a series of sweet, little, innocent taxes that won't be noticed by anyone and which, along with a lot of other taxes raised by other makers and sellers, will make Alberta a Garden of Eden.

The citizens will have to pay these taxes, but won't they get social dividends in the shape of Social Credit as their reward? Your arithmetic may tell you—crude soul that you are—that it takes a million dollars of taxes to produce a million dollars of money, and that after expenses are paid—it'll take three detectives to watch each hundred loaves of bread—there'll be less than a million dollars (not money, pardon me, but Social Credit)—and that, dumb skeptics, means you pay your money in taxes and take part of it back in Social Credit.

Just how Alberta can compete with the outside commercial world brings up no difficult problems for the Rev. Aberhart. That's right up his alley. His answer is that the provincial election of Alberta is only an entering wedge. To bring the public its much-sought paradise it'll be necessary to do a little spreading. So that ends up with telling all Canada to put the Rev. Aberhart in charge of the nation's economic future. And what more could a demagogue ask for? Yes, the United States hasn't a monopoly on demagoguery.

* * *

"The Freeman, with its boundless field of discussion ranging from the raising of frogs to the culture of the pansy in Germany, certainly is the most stimulating magazine I have ever seen."—Merle L. Robb, Los Angeles, Calif.

* * *

In what respects is the CCC different from or similar to the Hitler youth camps?

There is really no comparison. Up

to the present, the CCC camps have been strictly non-military, though it's true they have been managed by army officers. But there is no compulsory drill or army discipline. A Hitler camp, on the other hand, adds to its work program the rankest forms of militarism, plus a course in indoctrination along Nazi ideologies. I don't doubt that the CCC camps would be turned into cantonments if we were to get into a war, but, as I've said before, these young men would land in the army regardless. In the matter of pay, our CCC boys get a minimum of \$30, and as much as \$45 per month. Most of this money must be remitted to the boys' families, but it's money just the same, and the boys get a minimum of \$5 for themselves. In the Hitler camps the young men get only a few pennies a day. The Hitler camps are run according to the outrageous racial theories of the Nazis, and that means discrimination, prejudices and injustice to an innocent minority because it happens to be "non-Aryan." Our CCC camps know nothing of that sort of savagery.

* * *

Which countries have more than one city of over 1,000,000 population?

United States, 5; Great Britain, 3; Germany, 2; China, 2; Soviet Union, 2; Japan, 2; Australia, 2; India, 2.

* * *

Has church income gone up?

In 1927, all U. S. churches received \$832,000,000; in 1935, \$565,000,000.

* * *

What will happen to Italy's already damaged foreign trade if the League of Nations applies economic sanctions?

Italy's exporters would feel the blow first, for such countries as England, France, etc., would not allow their business interests to import a dollar's worth of Italian goods. In desperation, Italy's exporters would turn to those nations that are not signed up on the League's dotted line, with regard to sanctions, and begin a campaign of dumping the goods rejected by those who are participating in the decision to refuse to accept what Italy exports. But once this dumping begins, the economic interests of these outside countries would be seriously threatened by Italy, and they, in turn, would be compelled, as a measure of economic self-defense, to join England, France, and about

50 other nations, in imposing economic sanctions. This, in a few months, would mean the complete ruin of Italy's economic structure.

* * *

A press report says Moscow is to be rebuilt. Please discuss.

Beginning in January, 1936, Soviet architects and engineers will begin carrying out a 10-year rebuilding plan that will entirely reshape Moscow. The city limits will be extended in all directions, the unsightly districts around the Kremlin will be torn down, and governmental, educational, cultural, theatrical, professional and other structures will be erected on a prodigious scale. Great numbers of apartment houses—from six to 14 stories—will provide housing for a community that is now seriously overcrowded. It's reported that when the job is finished, in 1946, the city will have a population of 5,000,000, at which point it will be kept arbitrarily. Some of Moscow's present industries will be moved out, and new ones will not be permitted. The plan calls for a Socialist city, by which is meant that the planners will tear down all slums and not tolerate either rich or poor neighborhoods. Another interesting feature will be a system of municipal heating plants, each serving large numbers of buildings with heat, as they are provided with water and electricity, from central plants. Such central heating plants are found in the U. S. A. and other countries, but this will be the first time the principle will be applied on a city-wide scale. The most important structure will be the gigantic Palace of the Soviets. This Palace—the largest building in the world, or rather, in the history of the world—will be topped with an immense statue of Lenin.

* * *

What has happened to Mosley's Fascist movement?

About a year ago I gave considerable space to a description of the developments of Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists, at which time he was making startling headway. But the party is now in decay. England's imitator of Hitler and Mussolini seems to have shot his bolt. A *Freeman* reader writes from London that many of Mosley's powerful supporters have withdrawn their money and several of his chief lieutenants have left.

tenants have quit the picturesque, erratic aristocrat, mainly because of his rampant imperialism and anti-Semitism. The British public—rich, middle class and poor—don't look on Fascism as a remedy for present-day problems. The first flare-up attracted a great deal of attention, but when it was realized what injury the two great German and Italian Fascists had done their countries, the sober Britishers concluded it would be wiser and safer to remain loyal to their country's traditional ideals of freedom, democracy, constitutionalism, and parliamentarism. Which is just one more proof of their sound, good sense. English imperialism has its numerous faults, but it's heaven compared to a Mosley regime of Fascist imperialism and anti-Semitism. The British looked it all over carefully and decided, without much palaver, that they weren't interested.

* * *

If Britain is so upset about Ethiopia, why is it so slow in using its naval power in the Mediterranean against Italy?

With about 500,000 tons of British fighting vessels in the Mediterranean, England is in a position to get into action at once, but this would be a bad move. It would be better, from London's viewpoint, to wait a few more months—when England could arrange matters so that the League of Nations "instructs" the British to blockade the Suez Canal and in other ways harass Mussolini. Obeying the League's "instructions" would place England in an idealistic role before the world. It wouldn't do to come right out and do this on its own. Better have the League (which is dominated by England and France) beg England to take a series of blows at Mussolini's grandiloquent plans of empire. By that time, Mussolini will be completely fed up with his Ethiopian campaign, he'll be broke, he won't have anything tangible to show for the waste of men and material—and the blockade of the Canal (instead of its closing) will be a terrific blow at the new Caesar. Ethiopia, by then, will also be completely fed up with fighting Mussolini and will agree to some sort of a deal whereby England will exercise what amounts to a mandate over Ethiopia. Thus, by the cleverer diplomacy and intrigues of

the British, London will end up by getting the benefit of Mussolini's wasted treasure. In other words, Mussolini will pay the bills and England will get the goods. All this, of course, is only one man's theory. Developments may knock it into a cocked hat. Delay in blockading the Canal would also be to England's advantage. The longer the Canal is open to Italian troopships, the more men and material will be shipped from Italy to East Africa. Then, with the blockade, Italy will be hit harder than ever. England certainly isn't going to tolerate a situation which would result in Mussolini having an Italian empire on the Red Sea, where it would serve as a standing threat to England's imperial, economic and financial life. What the whole thing simmers down to is simply this: Mussolini is stark, raving mad. He's ready for an asylum. That's the only way one can explain his extraordinary behavior. England is going to take Mussolini for a ride. It will give the great egotist a few lessons in diplomacy that he'll never forget if he lives to be a thousand. And when it's all over, Italy will be the laughing stock of the world. And not only that, Italy will have to save its future by getting rid of its lunatic.

* * *

Are world fairs usually run at financial losses?

Only three major world expositions have shown a profit, as follows: 1. The first ever held, at London, in 1851, with 6,000,000 visitors, made a profit of \$900,000. 2. The Chicago Exposition, 1893, with 28,000,000 visitors, made \$2,000,000. 3. The Chicago Exposition, 1933, with 38,600,000 visitors, made \$700,000.

The other principal world fairs that registered financial losses are:

New York City, 1853, 1,350,000 visitors, loss \$300,000. Dublin, 1853, 1,000,000 visitors, loss \$170,000. Paris, 1855, 4,500,000 visitors, loss \$4,500,000. Philadelphia, 1876, 10,000,000 visitors, loss \$4,500,000. Paris, 1889, 25,000,000 visitors, loss \$1,700,000. Paris, 1900, 47,000,000 visitors, loss \$5,000,000. Buffalo, 1901, 8,000,000 visitors, loss \$4,000,000. San Francisco, 1915, 19,000,000 visitors, loss \$47,500,000. Philadelphia, 1926, 5,950,000 visitors, loss \$21,000,000.

Total attendance at world fairs, 194,400,000, with net loss of \$85,070,-

000. The greatest loss—at San Francisco, in 1915—would have been reduced considerably if the exposition hadn't run into the World War. Indirect revenue usually more than offsets the financial loss incurred from the exposition itself. In Chicago, for example, which opened its fair in 1933, it's estimated that visitors spent \$100,000,000 in hotels, eating places and stores not connected with the Fair.

* * *

What is our crime bill?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that the 1935 crime bill cost the U. S. \$15,000,000,000. The per capita cost of crime in this country is \$125 per year. Every 25th person is the holder of a police record.

* * *

Where is the worst slum condition in the U. S.?

So far as I can learn, it's in New York City's Harlem. According to the New York Housing Authority, there's one square mile in Harlem with a population of 400,000 Negroes. The average for New York City is 23,000 per square mile, including parks, etc.

* * *

As a Socialist and anti-imperialist, I can see no reason for taking sides. I don't care whether Italian or Ethiopian imperialism wins. And if England comes in against Italy, it's a perfect case of two imperialistic governments at war.

There are several serious errors in your argument. First of all, let me dispose of the one regarding Ethiopia. It is highly inaccurate to refer to the Ethiopian nation as being imperialistic. It's an independent nation—has always been that way—and has absolutely no designs on the land or trade of any other country. Ethiopia's side is just, and its cause should be sacred to every lover of justice.

We then come to the question of British versus Italian imperialism. Here again we must be careful to avoid generalizations that say too much. The two countries are totally dissimilar. A Socialist, Communist, Liberal, Radical, Freethinker or Libertarian simply can't live under Fascism. The system of Mussolini's dictatorship is stifling. On the other hand, England, with all its faults—and it's by no means a lily-white angel—is imperialistic, to be sure, but it's a government that a decent

person can live under, which is more than you can say for Fascism or Hitlerism. You can live, think, speak, meet, print, organize, educate, agitate, vote, protest, petition, heckle and write a letter to the *Times*—if you're living in England. And yet, England is an imperialistic country. The country is also civilized, it recognizes democratic processes, it is the mother of parliaments, it recognizes the rights of dissenting institutions. If I am describing England correctly, then it's a country that liberty-loving people can live in. Could you, in the face of the contrasts I have just listed, sincerely hold that England is no better than Italy?

* * *

How dangerous is it to use the regular, commercial U. S. airlines?

For the year ending June 30, 1935, nine passengers were killed in four crashes, out of 590,139 passengers, who flew 47, 571, 257 scheduled miles. Authority: Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

How many times does a sleeper change his position during an average rest period?

Dr. Johnson, former professor of psychology, Ohio State University, made a six-year study of this subject, with beds fitted for mechanical recording of movements and cameras that worked automatically, and reports he found that the "average sleeper changes his position about 35 times during an eight-hour night."

* * *

Dr. Alexis Carrel, in his new book, "Man, the Unknown," says that prayer can cure cancer and other ailments, sometimes even in two minutes, or up to two hours. Please comment.

Dr. Carrel is giving the thinking world just one more illustration of what happens to a scientific mind when it permits itself to be immersed in the fogs of mysticism. But there's this much satisfaction: Dr. Carrel and a handful of other mystics are without support in the scientific world. The overwhelming majority of the experts in the fields covered by Dr. Carrel oppose his eccentric balderdash. It's one thing to say that prayer can cure a cancer in two minutes, but it's quite another thing to prove that ridiculous and unfathomable assertion. With the world supplied plentifully

with experts capable of checking such a claim under laboratory conditions, Dr. Carrel makes no effort to produce a single proof. His claim will give a great deal of comfort to the religious obscurantists—Christian Scientists and others—but the keen, cool students of natural phenomena won't be taken in, nor will real research be set back a single minute. Scientists smile when they hear a Carrel utter such tripe. They playfully ask what would happen to the victim of an amputation if he were to pray for a new arm or leg. Or, maybe Dr. Carrel believes that even this missing member can be restored by two minutes—or two hours—or two years—of prayer. Not so many decades ago, the world was crammed with minds of the type of Dr. Carrel, so that in those days it was the skeptic who received abuse and even persecution when prayer was offered as the remedy for disease and other calamities. Now, it's the Dr. Carrel who is the oddity, and the world goes forward, smiling at the childishness of a scientific mind gone haywire. The Dr. Carrels are now a hopeless, insignificant minority. Tomorrow, with the further advance of research, even the few obscurantists who still rise to amuse our sound students will have disappeared entirely.

I've been pitching horseshoes for 30 years, but my playing hasn't improved. I use the end-over-end toss. Please comment.

No wonder your horseshoe-pitching isn't getting anywhere. The end-over-end toss has been in the discard since the first decade of the present century. Ted Allen, of Alhambra, Calif., is the world's champion, and he wouldn't dream of using your end-over-end toss. This chunky, 27-year-old champion, who is the most sensational figure in this difficult sport, stands by the one-and-a-quarter turn toss. This master, who can land 75 ringers out of 100 tries, reports that he holds the horseshoe lightly. His fingers are kept on the shoe's right side. He also keeps the shoe's open end aimed towards his left. That's altogether different from your end-over-end toss, which leaders like Allen call the "barnyard toss." You should get hep to yourself. Champion Allen admits that there's another toss that isn't at all bad, though he wouldn't

dream of stooping so low as to use it. He describes it with olympian condescension, though he will add that some pretty good men use it. He refers, of course, to the one and three-quarter toss. In this toss the open end is pointed towards the right. But Allen, who has been pitching since he was seven years old and became a professional at 14, will have none of this. He insists on the one-and-a-quarter turn. And you come along and ask why you can't do better with an end-over-end toss. You've got to start all over again, from the bottom up. You've wasted 30 years of your life.

* * *

What is the military strength of Russia and Japan along the Manchukuoan border?

The Soviet Union maintains 200,000 men in this section, plus 46,000 police and reserves. The Japanese have 180,000 men stationed along this border. Japan and Russia each have 1,000 airplanes at these points, the Russian aircraft being considered superior to the Japanese.

* * *

Is it true that women are becoming more mannish?

Prof. Sargent, of Harvard, conducted numerous measurements, and reports that, as a result of athletics, women are becoming physically larger, particularly their feet and hands. Shoulders are broadening and busts are losing that Mae West expansiveness, the curves giving way to masculine flatness.

* * *

Can you explain the somewhat humorous prejudice regarding Boston bean-eaters?

It's just another one of those unreasonable reactions. Personally, I've always found them to be very astute.

* * *

How far can the human eye see?

W. E. Knowles Middleton, meteorologist, Meteorological Service of Canada, reports that "an aviator could make out a mountain at least 250 miles away," but that such high visibility rarely occurs because the air is "full of a number of things," including gases and water-vapor.

* * *

Is it true that a body of Soviet scientists directed a protest to the present Pope? If so, what was the occasion?

In 1930, in Moscow, 21 distinguished astronomers, connected with the

Astrophysical Institute, issued an open letter to Pope Pius XI, which may be summarized as follows:

He, the Pope, the infallible Vicar of Christ on earth, is the direct successor in a line of 24 or 25 heads of the Catholic Church, and is therefore responsible for the actions of his predecessors. Does he approve of and support the actions of Clement VIII, Paul I and Urban VIII under whose authority Giordano Bruno, Galileo and many others were persecuted, or will he openly denounce the actions of his predecessors as being more vile than have been committed by all the criminals of the world together?

The above declaration was signed by more than 100 astronomers after having been drawn up by the committee of 21. A commentary was added to the open declaration, which charged that "heretofore no one has dared to connect these acts (of inquisition, cruelty and terror) with that system of mental enslavement which is propounded by all churches, including the Vatican."

The Pope preferred to ignore the scorching attack. After all, what could he say? The record was so damning. Galileo had been gagged by the inquisition because he taught that the earth moved around the sun, which, according to his churchly inquisitors, was "absurd, philosophically false and forever heretical, because it is expressly contrary to the Holy Scriptures." This happened on June 22, 1633. Thirty-three years before, Giordano Bruno was tried by the Catholic Church for teaching that the earth did not remain in a fixed position. On February 9, 1600, he was burned at the stake. The books on astronomy of Nicolaus Copernicus, who died in 1543, were on the index of prohibited books until 1822.

The Pope could only plead guilty if he spoke; therefore, silence was considered the safer answer.

* * *

I have noticed, during the past decade, that there is a tendency to produce Shakespeare on a quieter tone. Please discuss.

Shakespeare should never be produced "quietly." Shakespeare was full-throated. He wrote, lines that were intended to shake the rafters, and since that's what they were intended for I believe the actors should do their best to shake those rafters.

Shakespeare wrote his plays for a rowdy, noisy crowd, and as he wanted his players to boss the show he gave them lines that could drown out the chatter of orange girls, the burps of drunks, the calls and mutterings of rough, sporty audiences. Shakespeare didn't care to be subtle. When I hear the thrilling speech over Julius Caesar's body, I want my eulogist to make those lines ring. There must be noise, excitement, yells, and magnificent gestures. Of course, many of the old-time actors who did Shakespeare (such as Robert Mantell) merely ranted. But that could never be said about John Barrymore's gorgeous Hamlet.

* * *

Please comment on Herbert Hoover's new role as a defender of liberty and would-be preserver of the Bill of Rights.

It's hard to find out just what Lord 'oover means by freedom. When he was President, he didn't lose any sleep when free institutions were stabbed in the back. The bonus boys were driven out of Washington with bayonets near the seats of their pants, because they had taken to their hearts the innocent delusion that the Constitution gives American citizens the right to petition their government. When *The American Freeman* told the truth about Lord 'oover's crooked record as a stock promoter, his politicians and henchmen in the postoffice department suppressed two of its issues. Second class mailing privileges were taken away from scores of publishers who dared distribute matter that was critical of Lord 'oover and his Wall Street policies.

But now, the great British seller of phony mining stock has become something of a "left-winger"—at least he seems to make that kind of a noise. He's worried about the Constitution and our liberties, but he carefully refrains from being specific. So we conclude, with good reason, that what he is worried about is the constitutional right of Wall Street to rob and exploit the masses. And liberty, to Lord 'oover, means the employer's freedom to hire and fire as he sees fit, to pay what he thinks a workingman should get, and to run his business as he damned please, bygod.

If Lord 'oover were really sincere about liberty and the Bill of Rights, he would get down to cases. There

are plenty to tackle. There's the Mooney frame-up. What a chance that is for Lord 'oover to defend the Bill of Rights! There's the amazing case of Angelo Herndon, the Negro who was sentenced to years in the penitentiary because some Communist pamphlets and leaflets were found in his room. Lord 'oover could throw quite a spasm there, defending the lone Communist in his right to hold whatever opinion he saw fit, so long as he didn't interfere with the right of others to hold their own opinions. But Lord 'oover hasn't mentioned a word about Angelo Herndon.

There's the standing scandal of police brutality towards strike pickets. Lord 'oover doesn't seem the least bit worried over the shattered right of strikers to meet and voice their grievances. Strikers are killed during every walk-out, but Lord 'oover keeps mum. And there's our weekly lynching somewhere in the rural South, without a blast from Lord 'oover.

The important denials of liberty and the Bill of Rights draw no protest from this ever-willing servant of Wall Street. So we may, in all justice, conclude that liberty, to Hoover, means the freedom to exploit.

What is Russia's school enrollment compared to Czarist days?

Under the rule of the Czars, there were never over 8,000,000 children in the schools and 124,000 students in the higher institutions. In September, 1935, 25,000,000 children went to school; 483,000 students went to colleges and universities.

To what extent do Americans undergo sexual sterilization?

Eighteen of our states have sterilization laws, under which something like 20,000 persons have been operated on. Five percent were criminals; 50 percent, insane; 40 percent, feeble-minded. Since 1909, California alone has sterilized 10,000 persons, which puts that state at the head of the list.

Do telegrams cost less in England, where the system belongs to the post-office?

The British have what they call a "sixpenny telegram" (about 12 cents) consisting of nine words. That is lower than anything in our privately owned systems. During a 10-week period, in 1935, the British system

handled 9,539,000 of these sixpenny telegrams, as against 7,231,000 during the same period in 1934, or a growth of 29.4 percent. Advocates of public ownership of our telegraph system claim that if the U. S. postoffice were to take over this service the people could send telegrams to any point in the country at only 10 cents per message.

Now that the motor car business is booming, who is making the profit—the dealers or manufacturers?

The dealers are not sharing in the new prosperity that is being enjoyed by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. According to *Business Week*, in its September 14, 1935, issue, "it is estimated that the average cost of selling a new car, including overhead and the cost of handling used cars, is \$185.95, while the average gross profit is \$171.19, leaving the dealer a net loss of \$14.76 per new car sold."

What happens to the money life insurance beneficiaries receive?

The National Association of Insurance Underwriters reports that the companies pay death claims amounting to \$900,000,000 per year. The cemeteries and undertakers receive \$773,000,000 of this money. The balance goes to unenumerated miscellaneous spending.

Has anyone ever figured the total value of America's human life?

It's been done by the National Association of Insurance Underwriters. This organization estimates \$1,500,000,000,000, as being the nation's total life value. There's \$98,000,000,000 worth of life insurance written in this country, which means that only 6 percent of the nation's life value is insured. This group aims to increase the percentage to two-thirds, or another 1,000 percent.

How many Americans marry each year?

1,000,000.

What is the Federal government doing about wild life conservation?

\$8,500,000 was allocated by the President, during 1934, for the purchase and improvement of sections to be devoted to wild life. Congress appropriated an additional \$6,000,000, according to the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. The same report adds that "the government acquired

nearly 1,000,000 acres of the 3,000,000 to be bought by 1940. . . . The sanctuaries are scattered along the four major water-fowl highways from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. At intervals of 100 miles along the routes there will be a sanctuary where birds can rest and feed without danger."

* * *

Recently there was a great to-do in the press about the government's slum clearance program. Has anything developed?

The Public Works Administration (PWA) originally had an allocation of \$200,000,000, but it has been cut down to \$100,000,000 to pay for 51 projects. On October 1, 1935, only two projects were under way, reports PWA.

* * *

I am 16 years and six months old and want to join a CCC camp. Am I too young?

The Civilian Conservation Corps has set the minimum age at 17 years. Formerly, it was 18 years. This will make possible an additional enrollment of 40,000. The maximum age is 28 years. On August 1, 1935, there were 519,000 enrollees.

* * *

Your comparison of British and Italian naval forces in the Mediterranean leads me to ask for the total strength of each power.

Total British tonnage is 1,188,300; Italian, 398,600. Personnel: British, 94,500 officers and men; Italian, 55,100. Tonnage under construction: British, 253,100; Italian 110,200. The British are stronger in every arm, except submarines, and here they have 36 against Italy's 48. Total warships: British, 294; Italian, 185.

* * *

Is it true that the bodies of soldiers are still being found on French battlefields?

Sir Fabian Ware, chairman, Imperial War Graves Commission, reports there is "no substantial decrease in the number of bodies of British soldiers still being found on the battlefields of France. In 1934, we found 1,246 bodies; in 1933, 1,362 bodies."

* * *

How many world air records are held by the U. S.?

According to the National Aeronautic Association, on August 1, 1934, the U. S. held 20 world records that had commanded official recognition.

Since then they have increased to 45. The world's total is 118 airplane records, which gives the U. S. first place. For many years France held first place, but the U. S. stepped in and grabbed the honors. The same authority says: "It is estimated that another 60 records could be achieved with U. S. planes in operation or under construction."

* * *

Have you any definite figures on the amount of land the federal agencies, such as PWA, have been acquiring?

Stuart Chase, in his book, *Government in Business*, writes that more than 23,000,000 acres were acquired under emergency appropriations up to January 31, 1935. PWA, under its last program, took option on 5,000,000 acres and allotted funds for an additional 13,000,000 acres. "This area," Chase says, "is to be converted into parks, playgrounds, wild life sanctuaries, Indian reservations, etc. There are 42,000 farm families living on this land, 20,000 of whom must be relocated."

* * *

Since the federal government went into large-scale loans to farm owners, has it taken over any farms from owners who failed to pay their loans?

According to the Farm Credit Administration's report, "at the end of 1934, Federal Land Banks owned outright 20,286 farms, valued at \$70,000,000." During 1935 (up to August 1) this authority sold 4,133 farms. During the same time in 1934, 2,093 farms were sold. This shows an increase of 97 percent.

* * *

What is the ratio of government expenditures to national income?

During 1915, it was 9.17 percent; 1923, 12.80 percent; 1928, 12.44 percent; 1933, 20 percent. 1934 and 1935 will show still greater increases.

* * *

What is the grand total of Americans who are getting all or part of their support from governmental agencies?

Stuart Chase, in his *Government in Business*, estimates it at 40 percent of the population, or 51,000,000 persons who are entirely or partly maintained by public funds. He reaches this conclusion as follows:

On Federal relief, 22,000,000; on local relief, 3,000,000; on Federal payrolls, 3,000,000; on local government payrolls, 6,000,000; CCC, 500,000; PWA, 1,500,000. This makes a

total of 36,000,000 who are chiefly supported by federal or local governments, to which is added our partially supported farm population of 15,000,000, thus reaching the total of 51,000,000.

* * *

Your digest of Sweden's strong economic position is very impressive but what puzzles me is how to explain Hitler's strength in that country, for I understand Fascism has attracted many Swedes from Democracy and Parliamentarism.

I don't know where you got your information. The facts don't support your thesis. At the last election, in which the Socialists registered a great victory, the Fascists polled 8,600 votes out of a total of 1,267,000.

* * *

How many hunters are there in the U. S., and how much do they spend?

The best estimate I can get places the number at about 8,000,000, with an annual expenditure of \$400,000,000. Almost \$50,000,000 is spent yearly on arms and ammunition. The business is surprisingly large, and is constantly growing. The effect on birds and other game is devastating.

* * *

I have seen frequently the report that Hearst had something to do with the assassination of President McKinley. Please explain.

McKinley was shot on September 6, 1901. On February 4 of the same year, the *New York Journal*, Hearst's newspaper, published the following stanza by Ambrose Bierce:

The bullet that pierced Goebel's breast
Can not be found in all the West;
Good reason, it is speeding here
To stretch McKinley on his bier.

When the anarchist Czolgosz fired a bullet into McKinley's abdomen, Hearst was made the target for a great volume of criticism. His enemies (and there were many) insisted that the lines just quoted provoked the murder of the President. I certainly don't feel any love for Hearst or his methods, but in this instance he was the victim of a set of unlucky breaks.

It's interesting to note that two days before Huey Long was assassinated, the *New York Herald Tribune* carried a cartoon on its editorial page that pictured all sorts of catastrophes, mass destruction, epidemics—and ended up with the statement: "But nothing ever happens to Huey

Long." The suggestion, of course, was that it'd be a good thing if some of these calamities were to strike in his direction. It was a foolish, malicious cartoon—about on a par with Bierce's silly lines on McKinley—but it wouldn't be quite fair to insist that the cartoon had something to do with the Louisiana senator's assassination.

* * *

What is the meaning of the slogan "Catholic Action"?

"Catholic Action" was intended to take the place of "Make America Catholic," because the latter was just a little too obvious and aroused a great deal of alarm and discussion among non-Catholics. "Catholic Action" is supposed to "sound better," but it also expresses the ecclesiastical policy of exercising control over the American state, education, literature, and social institutions. The Catholic Church, through Catholic-Fascism, is accepted as the state church in countries like Poland, Austria and Italy, but the great goal is still to be achieved—"making America Catholic" through the political, social, financial and propagandistic efforts of "Catholic Action." Behind the whole movement lurks the famous, and despicable, Society of Jesus (Jesuits) who have had centuries of experience in the arts of political and social intrigue. The Jesuits have always been the political arm of the Church, and as such are dangerous, especially in a country like the United States which has traditions of constitutional liberties, free press, separation of church and state, freethought, and the other desirable institutions of civilized living. "Catholic Action" means Fascism, and Fascism means the end of democratic America.

* * *

How large is the membership of the Knights of Columbus?
500,000.

* * *

Did any responsible member of the Catholic hierarchy ever say the Church's aim is "to make America Catholic"?

E. Boyd Barrett, for many years a Jesuit priest, says, in his *Rome Stoops to Conquer*, that the slogan was first sounded by Archbishop Ireland. He adds that the present Pope, Pius XI "has given the best of his singular ability to the supervision and direction of the Catholic campaign in America. For him our coun-

try is a battlefield on which is being waged the greatest struggle of the Church's history. The conquest of America is the supreme objective at which he aims. He despairs of the Old World with its interminable outbreaks against the Church and the multiplicity of divisions between peoples that entail internecine strife among his children. Besides, the Old World is in receivership. Pius is well aware that the Catholic Church can never hope again to dominate the civilized world until America kneels, beaten and penitent, at her feet."

* * *

How far can astronomers see through the telescope?

Dr. Loel Stebbins, professor of astronomy, University of Wisconsin, writes that telescopes can photograph objects "which are more than 100,000,000 light-years but probably less than 1,000,000,000 light-years distant." To give you an idea what that means, let me remind you that a light-year is the distance light will travel in a year, at the rate of 186,000 miles per second.

* * *

Has Mussolini struck at scholarship with the same ruthlessness as Hitler?

Mussolini has had more than 12 years to do what Hitler has been concentrating into three. The Italian Fascist has tortured, murdered, imprisoned and exiled academic leaders who refused to support governmental tyranny, dictatorship and Fascism. The greatest Italian scholar and historian is Guglielmo Ferrero, who is an exile in Switzerland, and who would be shot on sight if he dared enter Mussolini's slave pen. Ferrero, who is respected in every center of the world's culture, holds that Mussolini, with his militarism, unprovoked assault on Ethiopia, and general attacks on democracy and parliamentarism, is a menace to civilization. From his retreat in Switzerland, Ferrero issued the following statement, which certainly expresses the ideas held by the thousands of intellectuals and fighters for civil and social rights who have been exiled by Mussolini:

"A war between Ethiopia and Italy might have the greatest repercussions. But has not the Italian government been preparing for twelve years, before the eyes of the world, openly, almost ostentatiously, if not

for this war, at any rate for A war?

"Italy has not concealed it. We must at least give it credit for the merit of frankness. It announced and proclaimed it in all directions.

"Italy has spent huge sums on armaments which were not justified by any necessity of defense.

"It has militarized the whole population from 12 to 55 years. It has placed guns in the hands of children.

"It has made conquering imperialism into an official doctrine, taught in the schools.

"It has imprisoned, deported, exiled all the pacifists, burned their books, suppressed their newspapers.

"What more could it do to inform the world of its intentions?"

* * *

What is the attitude of the Catholic Church with regard to its teachers who hold jobs in the public schools?

In the *New York Times*, March 11, 1935, Father Curran declared "that Catholic teachers IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (my emphasis, EHJ) have a God-given right to teach religion to their non-Catholic classes no matter what the regulations of Boards of Education may be." This means, in the plainest possible speech, that in addition to running their own parochial schools, the Catholic authorities demand the right to use the secular, public schools for the purpose of propagandizing their dogmas. In addition, there is a growing movement in the Catholic Church, especially in the Knights of Columbus, to browbeat our legislatures into providing public funds for the support of Catholic-owned schools. On this point, Dr. E. Boyd Barrett writes: "The Constitution notwithstanding, the Catholics are determined to get the money, and it will be difficult to withstand their efforts."

* * *

Do you favor disarmament?

Yes, but not unilateral disarmament. For the United States alone to disarm in the face of an armed world would be an act of consummate folly. The same goes for Britain, the Soviet Union, or any other country. Disarmament, which Russia's foreign office proposed numerous times and which imperialistic nations rejected, is the best immediate solution for the problems of militarism, but it must be multilateral.

* * *

In his syndicated column, O. O. McIntyre calls the Atheist a "stupendous

egotist" for proclaiming he "knows there is no God." He also adds, writing of Clarence Darrow, that "to try to destroy the happy faith of millions of people stamps the man." Please comment.

The great McIntyre has been shown to be not at all particular where he picks up his happy thoughts. In the present stricture, the gentleman is merely appropriating the "point" made by thousands of Theists during many centuries. The Atheist is pictured as "superficial," "crude," and, of course, filled with "egotism" because he prefers to examine the arguments of the Theists before swallowing them. Sometimes, to make the case even more devastating, our religious friends throw in the gentle quotation from the Bible to the effect that the Atheist is a "fool" because he has said in his heart there is no God. It all goes under the head of intellectual depth, profundity and rejection of superficiality.

I don't recall ever having seen the words usually credited to the Atheist, to the effect that "he knows there is no God." The philosophers who have propounded Atheism and Materialism are usually good logicians, and they would be the first to know the absurdity of attempting to prove a negative. They may be "egotists" but they certainly refuse to be illogical. Instead of saying "I know there is no God," the Atheist studies the philosophy of Theism—which deals exclusively with the arguments that are supposed to establish the validity of the God-idea—and applies to Theism the cold logic of reason.

A "stupendous egotist" doesn't rest his case on logic and reason. He proclaims something to be true or false because he says so. That's usually a failing of our clerical friends, who have always been given to saying a certain proposition is true because a certain prophet or saint said so, or because a certain passage in a so-called sacred book establishes the truth of his utterance beyond debate or question. The Atheist refuses to be impressed by such sacred, pious authorities and settles down to the unwelcome and thankless task of analyzing the arguments that are supposed to sustain Theism. If, in the end, he rejects the assumptions of Theism it would be more accurate to say that he was guided by logic

rather than "stupendous egotism." The theologians and other Theistic apologists are so sure they are right that they are ready to challenge skepticism with the cry of "egotism," but it seems reasonable to remark that the egotism seems to hold on the Theistic side.

And then, of course, comes the threadbare charge that only a low person would say or do anything to destroy the "happy faith" of millions. Millions of people once had a happy faith in the notion that the earth is flat, and it took a whole crew of martyrs to science to break down that "happy faith." Millions had the "happy faith" that it would serve God's ends best if a few million witches were burned or hanged. It certainly was "stupendous egotism" to oppose that profound method of meeting opposition or heterodoxy. Millions of mortals had a "happy faith" in the belief that plagues came because of God's anger with sinful livers, and it was nothing short of "egotism" for medical science to slowly undermine this destructive superstition. The ignorant have always been happy in their faith, and they have shown the utmost viciousness when confronted with what seemed to be an approximation of the truth. That word "faith," in Mr. McIntyre's paragraph, needs the word "happy" before it to give it a little more force, but it's my observation that many people—even millions, past and present—have not been happy in their faith. Rather were they miserably ignorant and superstitious in a faith that spelled anti-social and destructive behavior.

* * *

What is your opinion of the organization side of the Townsend movement?

I have already given considerable space to the policies of the Townsend old-age revolving-pension plan, showing it to be an utterly impossible piece of economic balderdash. Of course, it's possible to be for this plan and still be an honest, sincere person, but when we come to the side you ask about—the organization of the movement—we come upon a scandalous situation that can be described only by the word "racket."

Dr. Townsend and his fellow organizer, R. E. Clements, are in this thing for big money, and don't let

any fancy phrases mislead you on this matter. These two worthies are cleaning up the cash as fast as they can rake it in. The financial situation in the Townsend offices is so brazen and questionable that a prominent insurance company refused to issue a bond even when a high premium was offered, because the risk was too great for the bonding company to dare assume.

Millions of elderly people are being filled with the false hope that they will soon be rolling in wealth—\$2,400 per year—so they scrape together their nickels and dimes to hand over to these two money-mad promoters of one of the neatest, and crassest, rackets put over on the people since the days of Al Capone. All sorts of schemes are being furthered by Dr. Townsend and Clements in order to rake in the dollars. They own the *Townsend Weekly* between them, though they give the impression that this valuable publishing property is the official organ of the Townsend movement. Co-owner Clements admitted within a week after the magazine's first issue was off the press that it was already making \$300 per week, and, now that its circulation has sky-rocketed to 150,000, it is conservative to estimate this private publication is making its money-grabbing pair a weekly profit of \$2,000. In addition, there are immense profits from dues, donations, lecture engagements, literature, pamphlets, leaflets and systematic "begging" from the dupes of these shrewd, cunning promoters.

The Townsend movement, without a doubt, is the most brutal scheme put over in a century, because it is aimed at the purses of the helpless, aged individuals of the community who are without means of earning and who hope to get rich through the Townsend scheme, when, as a matter of fact, the scheme is intended only to enrich Townsend and his henchman. This co-founder, Clements, was a busted real estate promoter only a few years ago, but today he is rolling in wealth.

It's known for a fact that Dr. Townsend spent months in Washington to KEEP CONGRESS FROM PASSING HIS CRAZY BILL. His motive was to keep the money rolling in from the schemes to exploit

the aged who offer themselves as easy suckers of the Townsends. When this whole scheme blows up—which is bound to happen soon—Dr. Townsend and R. E. Clements will be millionaires, while the suckers will be disillusioned and worse off than ever.

The Townsend racket should be investigated immediately by the post-office department or the Federal Trade Commission.

* * *

How many Americans try to earn their living by door-to-door salesmanship?

About 1,000,000 persons.

* * *

"I am a new subscriber and have just received and read with gusto, mixed with chuckles of delight, my first batch of *The Freeman*. What ringing hammer-blows of wit and ridicule you deal at the imposing structure of shams and superficiality! You rail at quacks, demolish fakirs and annihilate smug hypocrites. I liked in particular your masterly dissection of Abbe Dimnet and his pretensions. How that smug gentleman must squirm, should he ever read your summary of himself! And yet, in every page, I found humility and praise before whatever was true, noble, worthy or beautiful. My hat is off to you."—Ben Rymovich, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

* * *

Please tell me the names and addresses of responsible agents from whom I can obtain chances on the Irish Sweepstakes and the Grand National.

Both of these outfits, and their agents, have been put on the fraud list of the postoffice department. The best advice I can give you is to lay off foreign, or domestic, lotteries. If our federal or state governments were to conduct lotteries (after being legalized) you would stand a fair chance, even though it would be remote. At any rate, you wouldn't be the sucker you must be in order to play the Irish Sweepstakes or the Grand National. A few get rich in these lotteries, but countless thousands have to pay the bills, and a whole lot more for the promoters. Try to keep out of such rackets. You paid me a dollar to answer this question personally, which I did, but I was very careful not to give you the addresses you sought, preferring to warn you against such foolish waste of money.

* * *

I can laugh at your sardonic jabs at "Dr." Fred D. Warren, for he doubtless deserves them, even though I did al-

most worship the man in the days of the Little Old Appeal. I must give him credit, too, for being one of the few who, in those days, helped me to begin to think.

I wouldn't dream of belittling Warren's work, under the late J. A. Wayland, in making it possible for many thousands of Americans to give thought to economic and political problems. It's because I appreciate such services that I draw my lance and get into a free-for-all when I see such a leader undo everything that was fine and clean by participating in a business that is nothing less than disgraceful. I refer, of course, to his promoting a patent medicine cure-all for eczema and psoriasis among the diseased victims of the capitalist system that he criticizes so earnestly. I maintain that a Socialist leader who would educate the masses to an appreciation of economic co-operation should not invest his time, energy and money in a business that stinks to the heavens. After all, who are the victims? Workingmen and farmers. Such unfortunates should be told the truth about their ailments and shown how to avail themselves of the best scientific facilities, instead of doping them with a nostrum that has been condemned officially by the government and the leaders of medical science. My motive, in this little fracas, is purely educational. I want to see Socialist leaders who can be trusted to refrain from indulging in the worst activities of capitalistic money-grubbers.

* * *

What did you think of Sylvia Sidney and Herbert Marshall in "Accent on Youth"?

Both of these artists—particularly lovely, intelligent and gifted Miss Sidney—are favorites of mine, and I enjoyed their delightful work in this charming, superior comedy. But, at the same time, I felt the story's single idea was spread out just a little too thin. The whole idea of the play is that Herbert Marshall, as a middle-aged playwright, is more worthy of a 22-year-old woman's love than is a handsome, dashing, athletic Princeton boy. The play gives comfort to the aging. They are made to feel that approaching the half century mark is no reason for putting a fence around one's life and keeping out beautiful, young creatures. I'm sure the next

few years will show a great increase in the number of marriages between Mr. October and Miss May. And, being an Octobrist myself, I should be the last person in the world to complain about the dramatist's friendly interest in our uncertain emotional lives. It seems to me that our author could have made his story move a little faster if he had put in a secondary theme. He had the stuff ready to hand in that delightful old butler, played by an actor who has a feeling for high comedy. The butler seemed to be about 65 years old, and early in the story he is talking over the phone to some female. I don't know why, but I got the notion she was somewhere near his own age. If our author had brought that woman into the story, we would have had the Marshall-Sidney situation of October and May balanced by the butler-woman situation of November and Indian Summer. Both have their value. As I've mentioned before, there's no sound, biological reason for excluding older women from the love experiences of discriminating men, especially if the latter are along in years. But, perhaps our writer would say that the butler's love life is another story, and for all I know he may be writing it now.

* * *

Was it not freedom of speech that enabled Hitler and Mussolini to put over their Fascism? Will freedom of speech not do the same for the United States?

Fascism didn't come because Italy and Germany permitted free speech, but because the leaders of Democracy failed to take proper steps to protect their theories of government and social institutions. Had they suppressed free speech, press, education, civil rights and freedom generally, they would have established the regime that these Fascists hoped to inaugurate. To suggest that Democracy adopt the methods of Fascism is to propose the end of Democracy.

A believer in true Democracy wouldn't think of denying the right to advocate Fascism to any individual, group or party. But he should, under all circumstances, vigilantly oppose anything that even suggests an overt act against Democracy or the achievement of a Fascist state through a para-military body. (Para-military means merely the creation of a private army, with its own uni-

forms, drills, discipline, etc.) A democratic state has the right to disallow such para-military organizations, and to suppress them doesn't imply that the leaders of democracy have turned away from their liberalistic ideas.

Both Hitler and Mussolini stole power through direct action the violence of their para-military brown-shirts and black-shirts. It was important for Democracy to permit Hitler and Mussolini to speak and write, but it was equally important for it to outlaw their private soldiers, and its failure to do this laid the foundation for a Fascist coup.

If we, in the United States, were to outlaw the expression of Fascist theories, in print or speech, we would merely be forcing these doctrines underground, where they would be much more dangerous than if they were allowed the light of day, subject to debate and controversy on the part of those who oppose Fascism and favor democratic institutions. That may seem like a weakness on Democracy's part, but it's really its strength.

Today, democratic America permits its people to advocate Socialism, Communism, Anarchism, Liberalism, Atheism, Fascism, Republicanism, Royalism, and any other ism you can think of. But it draws the line at any violent attempt to bring about any particular ism. That is a sane policy, and is in full harmony with the Constitution.

Under our democratic Constitution—so far as civil rights are concerned—all minorities are protected from the tyranny of the majority, and the majority is assured of its right to carry into practice its ideals or policies. Under the same Constitution, we have all agreed to bring about changes through orderly methods, which means we can even go back to royalty, should it be the will of the majority. But the Constitution gives no one the right to organize his own military force and bring, through direct action, an administration repugnant to the majority of the citizens.

There are Fascist elements in this country—Hearst being the most prominent leader of those who would bring Hitlerism to these States—but so long as they indulge in discussion of their ideas we can permit nothing

but tolerance, at the same time indulging in our own right to defend Democracy. Thus far, the spokesmen for Democracy have been having the better time, because they have history, experience, decency and justice on their side.

We let the Fascists say what they please, but should this minority attempt to seize power we would, under our Constitution, have the full right to "crack down," and that we most certainly would do, using the full powers of the democratic state to preserve its own identity and forms.

Democracy has learned to be vigilant. Fascism hasn't made any real headway since Hitler stole power early in 1933. And while Democracy is defending itself—successfully, I'd say, in countries like England and the U. S.—the Fascist dictators in Italy and Germany are giving the world a demonstration of what political and social tyranny mean. They are pulling in a lot of rope, and it's only a question of time before they hang themselves. And when Italian and German Fascism are crushed, Democracy will remember the lesson for a long time.

* * *

This is the third time I've asked you to explain about the Rosicrucians. If you fail me this time I'm through.

As I've explained, I plan to answer a question once. I wrote a piece about the Rosicrucians last year, which was reprinted in a book of questions and answers. Some readers refuse to refer to the three volumes, preferring to have me cover the same ground again and again, which I try to avoid. This policy makes some subscribers good and mad, with the result that a certain number of subscriptions are canceled monthly. It all goes under the head of "the joys of being a walking encyclopedia." If I answered the same question twice, some readers would cancel on the ground that I've run out of questions and have to repeat myself. If I refuse to answer twice, I again get cancelations because I'm trying to high-pressure the questioner into buying a book. Well, I'm stumped. Maybe some omniscient reader can tell me how to handle a situation like that.

* * *

It seems that you are giving very false information regarding banking, as I've never paid a single penny for writing

out a deposit slip or cashing my pay checks nor any check written by others.

The practice of bank service charges is sweeping the country, but naturally there are certain limited sections that haven't been hit yet. At the rate the service charges are going into effect, my Minnesota correspondent will find his bank account stands on a par with the others throughout the land. It's safe to say that at least 95 percent of the banks in the U. S. now demand service charges from their customers—3c for passing the teller a deposit slip, a monthly bookkeeping charge of 40c to 50c, a charge on checks written during the month, a collection fee on all outside checks, etc. It's possible that the above correspondent isn't charged on his pay check because he takes it to the bank on which it was issued, which, of course, is paid without charge, except that the concern that issued it will have to pay at the end of the month. My comments on the banking situation have drawn scores of letters from outraged depositors who say that in many instances they are robbed even worse than I stated. Thus far, the above writer, from Minnesota, is the only one to say that he has been getting by without paying service charges. This happens to be an exceptional case, as I mentioned, and he'll be caught in the net like the rest of the country, if he waits long enough. And then he'll probably be the first to put his money in the postal savings system and pay bills by cash or postal money orders.

“That review of Will Durant's *Story of Civilization*, in No. 5 Appeal to Reason, is a knockout. Joseph McCabe does himself proud.”—C. A. Lang, Mo.

The Italians claim that the Ethiopians are barbarians because they tolerate castration. Please comment.

Strong efforts are being made by Selassie's government to stamp out slavery in Ethiopia, which include a ban on the emasculation of men and boys to supply the market with eunuchs. Slavery is now a capital offense in Ethiopia, though the change will be made gradually. The children of slaves automatically become free, and the slaves belonging to a master are freed on his death. In this manner, Ethiopia will, before long, work

itself out of an ancient problem. As Joseph McCabe has shown, the Italians have little to charge against the Ethiopians in the matter of castrations, because, until recently, the Catholic Church, in Rome and throughout Italy, castrated 3,500 Italian boys annually in order to provide the papal and other Church choirs with the kind of voices it most desired—a soprano timbre which only eunuchs could achieve to the complete satisfaction of the Church's musical directors. Many eunuchs were used until 1878, when the Church, through Leo XIII, was forced to accede to the civilized world and cease using eunuchs in its numerous choirs. The Church's ban against women on the Italian stage was operative until the year 1800, when protests from non-clerical sources compelled the abandonment of the cruel practice. It is also charged, with complete supporting evidence, that thousands of Italian boys who were castrated, but failed to develop the much-desired soprano voices, were sold into slavery in North Africa and the Near East.

* * *

The press carries a report that Mussolini says he wants his war in Ethiopia to be conducted “as humanely as possible.” Please comment.

If the situation weren't so tragic, this would be a handy peg on which to hang several shafts of sarcasm. The best answer to Mussolini is a discourse on methods of slaughtering Ethiopians from the air, given to the press by Mussolini's son-in-law, Count Galeazzo Ciano. This young “hero” (murderer would be more accurate) gives his fellow-pilots the following advice on how to conduct a war “as humanely as possible”:

“When you see a concentration of Ethiopian troops, you give them a few rounds with a machine gun. They scatter and hide in the long grass. Then, when you fire a few more rounds at random, each of them thinks the bullets are falling near him. They promptly emerge and run in all directions, then you pop them off in real earnest.”

The above bit of “humane philosophy” was given out by the Mussolini press censors at Asmara, Eritrea, following an Italian report of the slaughter of thousands of Ethiopians by bombing planes that poured ma-

chine gun fire into the black "savages," and those who weren't reached by Mussolini's "humane" bullets were given doses of poison gas with which to amuse themselves. And all this, in a country that has no fighting planes or protection against gas attacks, is called "humane" by the Fascist bully. What a boon it would be to civilization if Mussolini and his gangsters were disposed of "as humanely as possible"!

Mussolini's propaganda holds it is necessary to absorb Ethiopia because of Italy's crowded condition. Please comment.

I've already discussed one phase of this question, showing that Mussolini's colonial holdings measure almost 1,000,000 square miles, with less than three persons to the square mile.

It would balance the argument if I were to show just what it means when Mussolini speaks of "crowded Italy." True, there are lots of people in little Italy, but the facts prove beyond debate that hardly anything has been done to make use of that country's farm facilities.

In 1935, the Fascist government published *Annuario Statistico*, which contains numerous official figures on land ownership in Mussolini-land. A careful examination of these Fascist figures gives the lie to Fascism's propagandists who keep squawking about Italy's land hunger.

We find, according to these statistics, that 2,478,412 Italians own 15,084,452 hectares of improved land. (A hectare consists of 2.471 acres.) Italian farmers who own between five and 10 hectares number 2,314,374 individuals. They own, in all, 30 percent of the cultivated land of Italy, and yet they number 98.1 percent of the farming population. Farmers who own small-sized farms (between 10 and 100 hectares) number 151,548 individual peasants, with 23 percent of the land. This leaves 7,049,682 hectares still to be accounted for—47 percent of the improved land of Italy. Believe it or not, this portion (47 percent) belongs to a mere 12,490 individuals, who constitute only 6 percent of the farm community. This tiny group of 6 percent hold as much land as is owned by all of the 2,465,822 Italian farmers.

These figures—from Fascist sources, let me repeat—prove indis-

putably that if Mussolini were really concerned over the Italians' need for more land he would devote his gigantic ego to conditions closer to home. The figures show that there is a great deal of farm country available in Italy, but that capitalistic Fascism won't let the poor farmers get to it.

I have received circulars from the Nordic Heightener Company, New York City, offering to give me a course of instructions guaranteed to increase my height. Please advise.

Let me warn you against this fraudulent outfit. This company is run by rascals, thieves and scoundrels, and the whole outfit belongs behind the bars. I've seen the circulars issued by these racketeers and denounce them as utterly dishonest. One sentence in the circular claimed "the company had a million delighted pupils who vouched for the success of the system." The statement is a lie. I defy these criminals to produce a single satisfied customer who can prove that he gained even a fraction of an inch in height as a result of what these swindlers published. Science has long held that at about 25 years of age bone growth absolutely ceases, and there's nothing to be done about it. If the federal government did its duty it would crack down on this bunch of hoodlums and land them in the penitentiary where they belong. Don't waste a penny of your money on these pickpockets.

"Both Communism and Fascism are of Jewish origin," writes the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, in his *Revealer*. Please comment.

I have shown before that this Winrod is one of the most vicious anti-Semites in the U. S.—a miniature Julius Streicher who hopes, with time, to "grow" to that sadistic beast's proportions and influence. This Christian journalist and pious evangelist uses the pulpit and the religious press to feed the fires of bigotry and race hatred. His favorite targets—the Jews—are easy victims because they are such a tiny minority and without means of countering the inhuman propaganda of their enemies.

The Rev. Winrod's allegation that Jews originated, and today control, Communism, I've discussed before. One article treated Rev. Winrod's claim that Lenin was a Jew. He based

this charge on the "fact" that "Lenin's children all spoke Yiddish." But my answer that Lenin's marriage was childless put something of a crimp in that "revelation" of the *Revealer*. Now this congenital liar changes his tune to the effect that "Yiddish was the language of his household." That's quite characteristic of our professional Jew-baiter and falsifier, but intelligent readers would prefer to see a single scrap of evidence that Lenin or his gentile wife knew so much as two words of Yiddish. "Household" sounds impressive, but here again we can see the emptiness of Winrod's fabrications by reflecting that most of Lenin's life was spent in exile, moving from room to room in countries like Switzerland, France and other foreign points, and in his native land he was kept constantly on the move by the Czar's secret police, making a "household" mean exactly nothing. So the liar's revamped lie collapses, but as the liar has no end of ingenuity we can expect new versions in future issues of his poisonous rag.

As for the Jewish origin of Russian Communism, this lie has been exploded many times, but that can mean nothing to a Winrod. Trotsky was the only Jew who was important during the revolution. The others were non-Jews. During recent years, two Jews are important in the Soviet regime—Litvinoff and the director of the Russian railroad department.

Winrod, to nail down his case, "proves" Lenin was a Jew because he "went mad" some months before his death—a lie that hasn't an ounce of evidence to support it. And, of course, Winrod rehearses that ancient lie that Lenin died of syphilis. Lenin, of course, died of a stroke. But even granting the truth of these statements, in what manner do they support Winrod's claim that Lenin was a Jew? Then, of course, "it is known" that a Jewish banking house in Wall Street furnished the money with which Trotsky and Lenin financed the Russian revolution." Winrod here merely repeats the crudities of other liars. Evidence? Not an iota! And, finally, Lenin was a Jew because he wasn't the real son of his father but of another man with a Jewish name. This last one, also without a hint of proof, is based on a letter written by

some unnamed person to the editor (liar Winrod) of the *Revealer*.

So much for the notion that Communism is of Jewish origin. We now come to the "Jewish origin of Fascism," which is enough to give any sane person a headache. If the Jews started Communism, then why would they want to start something to crush Communism—Fascism—which is Capitalism plus Tyranny? Hitler beheads Communists, but Jews originated Communism and Fascism at one and the same time. Can you fancy that? And, while we're on the subject, can you fancy the Jews originating Hitleristic Fascism, when German Fascism goes to endless pains to torture, persecute and destroy Jews? As for Italian Fascism, Mussolini is a Catholic and his regime is accepted as a Catholic state by the Vatican.

So, we have Catholic Fascism in Italy and anti-Semitic Fascism in Germany—both promoted by the Jews. The Jews get it from all sides. They're blamed for Communism in Russia, Fascism in Italy and Germany, the Pacifism that opposed Prussianism and the militarism that brought on the war, the peace without victory of the Germans, the peace with new colonies by the French and British, and the repudiation of the war debts to Uncle Sam. If there's anything in the world that you don't like, just mention the fact that the Jews are to blame. They're always handy as convenient goats. The Rev. Winrod has learned that.

* * *

What is our farm mortgage debt?

In 1910, mortgages on farms amounted to \$3,320,470,000; 1920, \$7,847,700,000; 1928, \$9,468,526,000; 1930, \$9,241,390,000. Since 1930, there was a reduction in this debt amounting to \$1,200,000,000.

* * *

Mr. Dan Jennings, of Newark, N. J., offers the Gibson Nose Adjuster for \$6. Please comment.

My only comment is that Mr. Dan Jennings is trying to sell you a fake contraption that can't do what his literature promises. There is no device in the world that can change the shape of your nose. If it's hooked, bulbous or side-slanted, it'll stay that way, even though you pay Mr. Jennings your \$6. Take my advice and pass up this "chance" for beauty. Mr. Jennings can't give it to you.

The only thing he's after is your money. Try not to be a sucker. This Jennings is a mountebank and gyp-artist.

* * *

Wouldn't it help our economic situation if we were to make all immigration quotas a little stiffer?

You seem to have the idea that aliens are pouring into this country. The facts tell a different story. More aliens are leaving than entering the U. S., so it's plain that tinkering with our immigration laws won't have any effect on our economic life. A report of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, at Washington, D. C., shows that in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935, we received 29,470 immigrants, but during the same time the departures numbered 39,771. Thus, 10,301 more aliens left the U. S. than entered. During July, 1935, we admitted 2,524 immigrants, under all immigrant quotas. During the same month, 2,884 aliens returned to the countries they came from.

* * *

Press reports describe the China Clipper as America's largest home-built airplane. What are some of the facts?

This airplane carried 38 passengers on its first successful test, with a crew of five. Its wingspread is 130 feet; gross weight, 51,000 pounds; cruising radius, 4,000 miles; four engines that develop 3,200 horsepower.

* * *

I am pleased to note that you have been giving serious attention to the amazing lies of the anti-Semitic preacher, the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod. You have treated factually the Winrod argument that Jews dominate Communism in Russia and the United States. But Winrod, like Hitler, includes Germany as one of the countries with a Jewish Communism. Please comment.

Lovers of justice and fairness should take full notice of the propaganda methods of the type of liar and deceiver represented by a Rev. Winrod, as one meets him in his publications. The man stoops to any obscenity, but that doesn't justify one in ignoring him, for he is the type of demagogue who can, as the result of fortuitous circumstances, become a dangerous leader of great masses of hate-inspired persecutors of helpless racial minorities.

The Rev. Winrod repeats Hitler's charge that the Jews were predom-

inant in the German Communist movement. This, of course, is used by Hitler as an excuse for further injustices against an innocent minority, and our own Rev. Winrod picks up his poison propaganda in an effort to bring to America the horrors that have made Germany the reincarnation of the spirit and institutions of Medievalism.

Here again the facts dispose of Hitler and the Rev. Winrod. German official records show there were 81 Communists in the Reichstag when Hitler stole power in 1933. Not a single Communist deputy was a Jew. Three years before, in 1930, there was one Jew among the 70 Communist deputies in the Reichstag. This proves that Jews had little or no connection with Communism in Germany.

It's a commonly recognized fact that most German Jews, before Hitlerism destroyed political rights and institutions, voted and supported liberal or social democratic elements in the state. When Hitler ran against Hindenburg for president of Germany, most Jews supported Hindenburg because they considered him a friend of the Republic and an enemy of anti-Semitism.

Another point to support my answer to Hitler and the Rev. Winrod is the interesting fact that the great, influential German newspapers of the time before Hitlerism gagged the press—the *Frankfurter Zeitung* and the *Berliner Tageblatt*—opposed Communism with the same vigor that they supported liberal democracy, and they both belonged to Jews.

Then, let us consider the useful fact that deals with the number of Jews in Germany able to vote and the number of Communist votes in pre-Hitleristic days. Here we find that about 300,000 Jews were entitled to vote, but that there were 6,000,000 Communist votes. Even if every Jewish voter—300,000 of them—had voted Communist (which is absurd, of course) there would still be 5,700,000 Communist votes to account for. That being so, what can the Rev. Winrod and Hitler say in support of their brazen lie that Communism is Jewish-inspired or Jewish dominated?

I meant to devote this article only to the situation in Germany, but I want to go further into the matter as it concerns conditions in the Soviet

Union, where the Rev. Winrod is given to making wild statements about Jewish conspirators being responsible for that form of government. It's one of his favorite charges that the Jews were responsible for the Communist revolution in 1918. Here we find some interesting and convincing facts that show there's no real basis to the Rev. Winrod's fulminations. In 1918, shortly after the Bolshevik revolution, the Petrograd (now Leningrad) Communist party reported officially that it had 124,021 members, of whom only 2.6 percent were Jews. The present Communist government is run by 36 Commissars, of whom only two are Jews. Thus do we see what the facts—in Germany and Russia—make out of our Rev. Winrod.

* * *

How does the American Federation of Labor's membership compare with Russia's?

In 1920, Russia's trade unions had a membership of 5,222,000. In 1935, this membership grew to 19,500,000. On August 31, 1935, the A. F. of L. had a membership of 3,045,350. A year before it was 2,608,000. Its peak membership was in 1920, with 4,078,700.

* * *

Do advertisers spend more money in national magazines than in the radio networks?

During the first eight months of 1935, advertisers spent \$31,661,400 with the radio networks. During the same time, advertisers spent \$75,000,000, in round figures, in the national magazines. I say round figures, because the figures are for the first nine months of 1935, amounting to \$83,759,900. Compared to 1934, the radio networks are making more rapid headway, the increase being 18.3 percent, against 2.3 percent for the national magazines.

* * *

How does Britain compare with the U. S. in gold holdings?

On October 4, 1935, the U. S. Treasury statement showed it held gold valued at \$9,414,124,611. This was an increase of \$1,175,000,000 over January 1, 1935. England has between \$1,500,000,000 and \$2,000,000,000 in gold. It is reported that there's a possibility England may decide to move its gold to the U. S. for

safekeeping, should the war situation grow more threatening.

* * *

How many characters can be put on a typewriter?

I don't know, but there's a typewriter used by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, in Los Angeles, with 2,000 characters.

* * *

As I plan to sell cigars by mail order to a large list of professional men, I want to know which address to use—business office or home, as I have both.

Circulars offering cigars ought to have a better chance at the office, where the man will be more likely to get your letter. At home, there's a chance his wife will spot your circular and decide to throw it away, because she may want to keep the old man from spending money on cigars that could as well go into a new bridge table, and, in addition, she may feel that a whole box of cigars would mean more ashes for her to sweep up and a whole lot of smell that she mightn't like. So try to make your sale at his office. Good luck to you, and thanks for the fee to cover a personal letter. I thought this answer would be of general interest, so I'm printing it here.

* * *

How many spies do the various governments have?

There's no way of obtaining authoritative figures, but a writer in *Collier's Weekly* estimates there are 100,000 spies in the world today. During the past 15 years, 40,000 spies were convicted in Europe alone. Soviet Russia catches and convicts spies at the rate of one every six hours.

* * *

The papers report a great shortage of pork and ham in Germany. Who's to blame?

The Jews, of course.

* * *

When Quezon became president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, did he take charge of an independent country?

Manuel Quezon was inaugurated in Manila, on November 15, 1935, at a great celebration that hailed Philippine independence, but the facts indicate that only the merest step has been taken in the direction of genuine freedom. Perhaps it is well to wait another decade before giving the Philippines their complete sovereignty. But the present status of Quezon

and his administration is decidedly subject to the will and dictates of the U. S.

The Constitution adopted by Quezon's government carries an ordinance which gives the U. S. sweeping powers. Perhaps I carry brevity a little too far when I summarize the powers of the U. S. as follows:

1. All Philippine officials must take an oath of allegiance to the U. S.

2. The President of the U. S. must agree to all acts dealing with currency, coinage, imports, exports, and immigration.

3. The Commonwealth of the Philippines must not pass any law that the President of the U. S. considers injurious to the Commonwealth's ability to carry out its obligations, contracts, debts, interest payments, etc.

4. The President of the U. S. reserves the right to suspend any laws passed by the Commonwealth Assembly.

5. All Philippine foreign affairs are to be entrusted to the authority of the U. S.

6. The U. S. reserves the right to take over any kind of property needed for its military or naval forces. The U. S. is to have the right to maintain military and naval forces in the Commonwealth.

7. Philippine courts are to have their decisions reviewed by the Supreme Court of the U. S.

8. U. S. citizens and corporations are to enjoy equal rights with citizens and corporations of the islands.

9. The U. S. has the right to intervene in the Commonwealth's internal affairs when our President sees fit to call for such action by proclamation.

The above nine points would indicate that the U. S. must still travel a long distance before it can claim to have given the islands their complete freedom. But there's no denying the fact that our government has been showing a great deal of good will and that there is every reason to expect Uncle Sam to give the islands their freedom in the not remote future.

* * *

Do Americans favor boycotting the Olympics?

Recently, Heywood Broun, over Station WOR, conducted a poll on the question of American participation in the 1936 Olympics at Berlin. More

than 2,000 votes were against and less than 100 for participation. If the leaders of American sports were to permit themselves to be guided by American sentiment they would order a boycott of the Olympics in the land of racial persecution.

* * *

You are inconsistent. In one column you tell about the eczema doings of Socialist leader Fred D. Warren in the patent medicine racket. In another column you say you are going to vote the Socialist ticket.

I fail to see any inconsistency there. Because a Socialist leader follows an unethical business career is no reason for my rejecting the principles and platform of the Socialist party, the organization that is closest to the political and economic needs of American workers. The remedy isn't to resign but to warn against such leaders. I'm optimistic enough to believe that once the rank and file learns the truth it'll see to it that the scandal is cleaned up.

* * *

What is kemophobia?

Kemophobia is a peculiar mental condition of those who have a queer fear against sitting too close to the edge of a chair, lest they fall off. Psychologists report that such ailing persons frequently settle themselves back in their chairs and hitch backwards so far that they frequently fall anyway. The sickness, like claustrophobia, is not common.

* * *

Having just read "In Praise of Folly," I am curious to know the circumstances under which it was written.

In Praise of Folly (Encomium Moriae) was written by Desiderius Erasmus early in the 16th Century. The first edition doesn't carry a date, but some of Erasmus' letters establish the year as 1511. This masterpiece of wit, satire and philosophy, was written while he was a guest in the Bucklersbury home of the famous Englishman, Sir Thomas More, and bears a glowing dedication to him. He was then 43 years old and was a professor at Cambridge, teaching Greek and Divinity. Prior to taking that position he had been in Italy. *In Praise of Folly* was written two years before it was published, the delay resulting from Erasmus' fear that the English reading public might not appreciate his satire. It was sent to

Paris, where it was issued by the French printer, Giles de Gourmont. Erasmus was from Rotterdam and stands as one of the great figures in the intellectual and literary history of civilization. *In Praise of Folly*, like Voltaire's *Candide*, should be read by every lover of great literature. Both works are brief, lively and amusing.

It would be valuable to see how the British Empire, the U. S. and the Soviet Union compare with regard to the production of basic and vital raw materials.

During the second half of 1935, the following world percentages were maintained in the production of important raw materials:

	British Empire	U. S.	Soviet Union
Wheat	23%	11%	21%
Cotton	24	49	7
Wool	51	12	4
Rubber	58	nil	nil
Coal	25	34	9
Petroleum	2	60	12
Iron ore	10	22	19
Copper	30	17	3
Nickel	94	nil	2
Lead	45	21	1
Zinc	35	30	2
Chrome ore	34	nil	28
Manganese ore	30	2	59
Bauxite	4	14	nil
Gold	65	10	11
Silver	19	13	nil

In the matter of iron ore, the above will be understood better if the additional fact is given to show that the French Empire supplies 29 percent of the world's production in this basic commodity. Also, its bauxite production is 47 percent. The French Empire is therefore first in these two fields. The Dutch Empire produces 37 percent of the world's rubber.

What is a "Mary Warner"?

Dope addicts who use cigarettes made of marihuana narcotic weeds frequently call them "Mary Warners."

Does Russia enjoy a favorable trade balance?

Yes. During 1934 it amounted to 450,000,000 rubles.

How many persons living in Russia today were born since the 1917 revolution.

69,000,000.

About every two weeks I wake up suddenly and find myself all wet and both-

ered because of what's called a "nocturnal emission." Is it something to worry about?

Don't give it another thought. It's perfectly natural. You probably aren't enjoying a full emotional life, and nature uses this means of getting rid of the collected semen. Forget about it, and, if you can't, keep a towel handy. "Nocturnal emission" sounds very high-brow. We low-brows always call it a "wet dream."

How many beauty parlors are there in the U. S., and what do they take in?

There are 65,000 shops devoted to beauty culture, with gross receipts amounting to \$150,000,000 yearly. It seems to me that these beauty parlors earn their money, for everytime I see a woman coming out of one of these shops she looks pretty good, even though she isn't a ravishing beauty. So, let's all give the little beauty operators a big hand. They sell a lot of junk at outrageous prices, but by and large they show good results, especially in the matter of beautifying the ladies' tresses.

What's your opinion of the whispering campaign regarding Roosevelt's insanity?

The thing stinks to heaven. You'll notice, of course, that these lying reports are usually traced to Fascist or capitalistic sources. The President is mentally healthy, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. His physical ailment has had no effect on his sanity. Roosevelt believes in Capitalism, but, because he thinks the rich should be made to disgorge now and then, the plutes greet him with slanders and libels that hint at lunacy.

Please comment on Mrs. Roosevelt.

The President's wife impresses me as being a fine type of woman, with a feeling for social justice. Mrs. Roosevelt gets panned by reactionary elements, but I've always noticed that she frequently talks sensibly about conditions. Of course, she, like her husband, isn't a radical, by any means, but she certainly stands out as a genuine liberal, with strong humanitarian impulses.

The Rev. J. Frank Norris complains that Mrs. Roosevelt has turned the White House into a part of Reno. Please comment.

This Fundamentalist preacher and

tool of the Detroit capitalists is given to insulting the modern spirit whenever the opportunity presents itself. His complaint here is because two Roosevelt children have been divorced. Sensible, civilized, liberal people will agree that the matter of divorce among the President's children is their own business. We have no right to even an opinion in the matter. If they were unhappily married, it was right to ask the courts to free them from their marital bonds and permit them to marry where they felt they might find surer happiness. Intelligent people know better than to interfere in the private lives of other people, even if their parents happen to occupy the White House. It takes a Fundamentalist pulpit-pounder to shoot off his obscene mouth in a matter which doesn't concern him, except that it gives him a chance to indulge in filthy demonstrations of hypocritical puritanism.

* * *

Is the plan to establish one-house legislatures practical?

Nebraska is the first state in the Union to decide to do away with the obsolete, undemocratic two-house legislatures, and it seems safe to predict that before very long it will be the accepted system in the 48 states. The idea of having two houses came from England, where the House of Commons represented the common people and the House of Lords spoke for the aristocrats.

During the past century, England has been working towards a one-house system, not by abolishing the House of Lords but by trimming its importance and lessening its powers. Furthermore, the courts in England do not have the power to pass on the acts of Parliament. Finally, the national cabinet is answerable to Parliament, and failing to get a vote of confidence the government resigns in order to enable the Commons to agree on an administration closer to the wishes of those directly elected by the people. We thus see that in the above-mentioned three instances England is really more democratic than is the United States, where senators can check legislatures, the courts can knock out laws, and our cabinets are answerable to the President instead of the Congress.

A one-house legislature makes for

simplicity, economy and efficiency. The people's will is reflected clearly and directly. And, above all, the clever lobbyists who know how to tie up legislation in the two-house system, through their influence in conference committees when the two houses fail to agree, are unable to do their dirty work behind the scenes and in secrecy, without public debate or recorded vote, in order to defeat the will of the citizenry.

Nebraska is giving the nation a lesson in sensible, honest, democratic government, thanks to the leadership of Senator Norris, the sponsor of the idea. To bring about such a needed reform, it will be necessary to follow Nebraska by taking the issue direct to the voters, for the politicians in both branches of the government could hardly be expected to vote themselves out of jobs, influence and graft.

Our two-house legislatures are undemocratic and have no place in a democratic country. They are hangovers from the days of hereditary privilege. They must be voted out of existence, if democracy is to grow and prosper in this nation.

* * *

How much gold is behind each paper dollar?

If the government were to return to the gold standard, it would have \$1.80 worth of gold against each dollar of currency. That's the ratio for November, 1935.

* * *

How much does it cost per day to keep a U. S. child in a public school?

The cost is 57c per day, divided as follows: teaching services, 33c; looking after buildings, 7c; new buildings, 5c; interest and other fixed charges, 5c; special service, 3c; textbooks, stationery and other supplies, 2c; administration, 2c.

* * *

What kind of liquor is America drinking?

Figures based on the entire United States and its possessions, etc., show that whisky comes first, being 62.68 percent of the total liquor consumed by the average American. Gin comes next, with 13.50 percent. Then follow: still wine, 9.07; brandy, 3.64; cordials, 2.52; rum, 2.22; sparkling wine, 1.37. The state of Ohio, which conducts its own liquor stores, examined thousands of liquor sales slips and found that whisky and gin come

at the head of the list, with 81.6 percent for the former and 14.1 for the latter. Wine is only 1.1 percent.

* * *

The enclosures don't interest me. Furthermore, to save your own face, let's not hear another peep out of you about the work of Fred D. Warren.

The writer of the above—G. L. Brinkman, of Washington, D. C.—received a circular which we mailed to our list for *Popular Mechanics* magazine. It's true, we were paid for this service—just so many dollars for each thousand circulars handled.

The *Popular Mechanics* circular offered a subscription and a premium, entitled "Money Making Formulas." I have examined both very carefully and can't, for the life of me, see wherein I have sinned so grievously as to have to do penance by never referring to the patent medicine activities of that brave and distinguished Socialist leader, Fred D. Warren.

Popular Mechanics, as most people know, is a fine publication, the best in its field. It is edited carefully and intelligently. Its advertising policy is strict—so much so that the eczema and psoriasis patent cure-all of Fred D. Warren's concern couldn't get promoted in its columns, even at a price.

Perhaps my correspondent is upset by that naughty word "formulas" in the premium's title. (You see, I'm trying seriously to learn just where I've fallen from grace.) If that's the cause of his stricture, let me assure him that it deals with such non-patent medicine things as glues, anti-freezes, paints, protective coatings, cleaning preparations, food products and flavors, inks, graphic processes, metal plating, coloring, decorations, oils, lubricants, greases, castor oil, nasal sprays, boric acid, alum lotions, polishes, photographic processes, cosmetics, toilet preparations, and hundreds of other formulas.

I can see nothing wrong about *Popular Mechanics'* premium. Perhaps Mr. Brinkman is another one of those persons who would like to defend Fred D. Warren's activities in the patent medicine field but who can't come right out, preferring to support him by indirection, which in this case means bawling me out for renting my mailing list to a famous, worthwhile, useful, decent magazine.

The publishers of *Popular Mechan-*

ics, so far as I know, believe in capitalistic economics, but they don't make their money selling the poor victims of the system a concoction condemned by the Federal Trade Commission and the American Medical Association. Capitalism has its faults, as I've shown a thousand times, but it's also, frequently, a thousand times more ethical than certain Socialist leaders who are out to clean up at the expense of ignorant, diseased toilers.

* * *

What is the value of the educational plants of the U. S., compared to Canada? What are the endowments?

Educational plants in the U. S. are worth approximately \$10,000,000,000, against Canada's \$600,000,000. These figures include universities, colleges and special schools. American endowments total \$2,000,000,000; Canadian, about \$50,000,000. Canada's investment in educational plants amounts to about two percent of its national wealth.

* * *

Is it true that Senator Borah has come out for the Townsend Plan?

I read the speech which is supposed to have given the Townsendites a big boost, but I can't see where they have much to whoop about. Borah carefully qualified his remarks with "IF it is constitutional, and IF it is economically feasible." That leaves two big holes in the endorsement, so-called.

* * *

Why don't our inventors do something about using electricity to heat homes?

This problem has stumped engineers for many years, the main difficulty being the one of expense. Thus far, gas, oil, wood and coal have whipped electricity because they are less costly. Electric heaters are used to heat bathrooms and small rooms, but the cost is terrific, compared to other mediums.

But there are reports that electricity will, before long, come into this field. The new system, which may be announced during 1936, is based on compression. The compressor is driven by a motor. Air is taken into the house and compressed after being washed and moistened. This compression raises the temperature, after which the air is expanded. The expanded air is exposed to a booster coil and sent to a higher temperature, after which it is permitted to flow

through the home at a temperature which tops at 90. The system may be offered by power companies at no expense to the owners, except that they are to pay for the juice the system uses. A Seattle, Wash., report says the municipal plant there plans to offer current at three-fourths of a cent per kilowatt, at which price it will be cheaper than the other systems.

* * *

In his November 3, 1935, broadcast, Father Coughlin said "at no time has it been or will be our desire to establish a so-called third party." Please comment.

It's hard to understand Father Coughlin's readiness to contradict himself. Or has he a bad memory? I find, in my Coughlin file, a clipping which contains a statement made by Coughlin to the Universal Service, on August 30, 1935, as follows:

"The statement by William Randolph Hearst advocating a Constitutional Democratic Party is timely . . . It is an admirable characteristic of Mr. Hearst that he is willing to put aside personal animosity, as he has done, in suggesting Alfred E. Smith for the Presidency."

Hearst's suggested organization, which Coughlin endorsed, was proposed last summer as a "so-called third party." What about it, Father Coughlin?

* * *

Has Russia solved the problem of shipping by the Arctic route?

During the Summer of 1935, about 100 steamships sailed from European Russia to the Far East, via the Arctic route, which should prove that this difficult problem has been conquered. In order to achieve this end, the Russians established five radio stations in the Arctic regions. In addition, eight airlines were established in this section, covering slightly more than 5,000 miles.

* * *

In the first radio speech of his winter broadcast, Father Coughlin, on November 3, 1935, said: "We are being trapped by agreeing directly and indirectly to the iniquitous sanctions devised by the League of Nations." Please comment.

Father Coughlin is merely echoing the stand taken by his Church, which is determined to give its fullest support to Mussolini's clerical Fascism. Coughlin's speech follows the Pope's

statement. The Pope, with a grain more of subtlety, says he hopes to see Italy gain its expansion in Ethiopia without the necessity of war. That, needless to say, would suit Mussolini or any other dictator. What appears to be an expression against war is really an avowal of moral and practical support to a marauder who has set out to defy the world and ruin the only remaining independent Negro nation in Africa.

Coughlin, who is himself a Fascist and bitter anti-Semite, knows that he must support Italy's imperialism, because the Catholic Church is a formal part of that gangster outfit. So, instead of saying that Mussolini's Ethiopian war is "iniquitous," which it really is, Father Coughlin turns on the League of Nations and condemns it because of its "iniquitous sanctions."

Just what's iniquitous about the League's decision to apply sanctions? It happens to be the first time the League has done something definite and real for the cause of peace, so instead of being iniquitous it's really praiseworthy and should receive the support of every lover of peace, democracy and freedom.

The League of Nations' "iniquitous sanctions," if effectively applied, will serve to keep Mussolini from receiving a full flood of war supplies, though here there is danger of American imperialism (supported by Father Coughlin and other defenders of Italian Fascism) rushing in to keep Mussolini supplied with the raw material he so urgently needs—at a profit, of course.

But where the "iniquitous" embargo may not be effective, there is every chance for success in the application of a boycott, which the League has voted against Italy—which also is a humanitarian, worthy move. There's no doubt that the League powers could easily knock Mussolini's foreign trade into a cocked hat. If Mussolini were to lose 75 percent of his foreign trade he would be unable to obtain foreign exchange—and that would mean he would be able to buy much less from even those nations willing to sell to him. I'd make this assertion even stronger. If the boycott were to be only 20 percent effective, it would still be strong enough to ruin Mussolini and his grandiose

designs on Ethiopia. Yes, it would not only ruin Mussolini but would mark the end of Italian Fascism.

If Rome's dictator—who, of course, is one of the parties to the Vatican's accord—succeeds in crushing Ethiopia and turning to other countries, including democratic, liberty-loving nations, he will have the Father Coughlins to thank. But it's my notion that here the Coughlins are too late. Mussolini is busted, and all the radio speeches of a million Coughlins couldn't so much as delay another day the final collapse of Mussolini.

Has the airplane industry done anything to remove the danger of ice forming on wings and propellers?

Chemical and heat-producing devices have not proved satisfactory in removing ice. Passenger and military planes are now being tested by experts, connected with the B. G. Goodrich company, to solve this serious difficulty. The plan is to fit rubber tubes at vital places on the edges of wings and on propellers, and inflate and deflate them when it is necessary to prevent ice formation. This action serves to break up the ice, the particles being blown away by the wind.

What is the nature of the new alloy called alnico?

This is made of aluminum, nickel, cobalt and iron, produced by the laboratories of the General Electric corporation. It forms a magnet, so powerful that it can lift 60 times its weight. Another important feature of alnico is that it is effective for attraction and repulsion when at a high temperature, which isn't the case with ordinary magnets. General Electric scientists claim alnico will find many important uses in industry, including radio and transformers.

Is Russian labor growing more efficient?

During the first eight months of 1935 Russian labor's productivity increased 16 percent, which would indicate serious efforts to promote industrial efficiency.

Do automobile accidents vary in number from day to day?

According to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Harrisburg, Pa., an analysis of motor car accidents in Pennsylvania, during the first nine months of 1935, showed: Saturday, 6,879; Sun-

day, 6,166; Monday, 4,940; Tuesday, 4,799; Wednesday, 4,384; Thursday, 4,997; Friday, 5,059. The worst time of the day for such accidents is between 1 and 6 A.M., when there were 4,236. Between 4 and 5 P. M., there were 2,951 accidents. The safest time is between 6 and 7 A. M., with 796.

The newspaper editorials make a great deal over the fact that the parole system is being abused. Please comment.

The 1935 Yearbook of the National Probation Association has gone carefully into the question of whether or not crime is encouraged by a lax system of paroles, and the facts show the system is not at fault. During January, February and March, of 1935, 90,504 arrested persons had their fingerprints filed in Washington. Of these, only 509 were paroled prisoners at the time they were arrested. The Federal Parole Board claims that only seven percent of federal prisoners released on parole break the law again before their time is up. This small percentage also includes violations of minor rules of the board.

Which country has the largest percentage of illegitimate children?

Venezuela comes first. More than 50 percent of its children are illegitimate. About 100,000 such children are born in the U. S. yearly, which puts this country in 12th place. This figures at 38 illegitimate children per 1,000 live births.

What is the status of the rocket experiments?

Many scientists are at work on the problem of applying rockets to commercial and communication uses. Rockets are now being made that attain a speed of about 700 miles per hour. If rockets could be used for hauling mail, a letter could be mailed in New York and reach Paris in less than two hours. Rockets may also be used for military purposes, to shoot explosives, poison gas or germs to the enemy. The whole thing is still experimental.

Your figures dealing with Germany's program of building thousands of bombers are incredibly sensational. Have you any reports dealing with Germany's total expenditures for armaments, the army, navy, etc.?

In a speech, delivered in London,

November 1, 1935, Winston Churchill said that Hitler is spending, during 1935, \$3,933,600,000 on his military establishment. This is about four times the amount the U. S. is spending. When a Fascist dictator pours, roughly, \$12,000,000 per day into military preparedness, we have a right to conclude that an aggressive war—mainly against the Soviet Union—is a menacing reality.

* * *

Is Russia still dependent on foreign specialists?

The Soviet Union's industrial organization, during its formative period, found it necessary to rely on foreign experts, but the situation in this respect has changed markedly during the past few years. During 1935, about 60,000 specialists were trained at home and absorbed by the various industries.

* * *

Is it true that Russia has to subsidize its industries in order to keep them going?

In order to turn Russia from an agricultural to an industrial country, the government followed a policy of generously subsidizing industries, new and old. But this policy of subsidies is gradually being abandoned as the industries grow self-supporting. The most important industry in Russia—steel—no longer receives help from the government. In fact, important plants are showing substantial profits. The Stalin plant earned 420,000 rubles in profit in July, 1935. In 1934, the Voroshilov metal plant received a subsidy of 30,000,000 rubles, but during 1935 it earned a profit and therefore needed no subsidy.

* * *

Being in a small business and pressed for funds, I find myself worried by collection letters. What's the best way of handling them?

The best scheme ever devised is to pay your creditors. That stops the letters. If you can't do this, then put all your cards on the table, telling them what you can do—and then doing it. If you owe a concern \$10, and pay nothing, you hurt yourself, but if you pay something—say, \$1 per week—you soon establish confidence in yourself, even though you are known to be slow. If you owe 10 different firms \$10 each, and have \$10 to apply on your debts, don't send

the entire amount to one house. Send \$1 to each, thereby holding all of them as friends, instead of pleasing one and disappointing nine. Don't do as that wisecracker did when he got the usual collection letter and wrote: "We have divided our creditors into three groups: Class A—Those who will be paid promptly. Class B—Those who will be paid sometime. Class C—Those who will never be paid. In consideration of the friendly tone of your letter, we are promoting you from Class C to Class B."

* * *

Are the American people eating less during these depression years?

During 1925-29, the average American ate 1,474 pounds yearly. Consumption during 1930-33 was 1,454 pounds yearly, or a reduction of 20 pounds per person. Authority: *Consumers' Guide*, issued by AAA, in Washington.

* * *

Your article about gasoline prices in Italy astonished me. What do sugar and coffee cost in Mussoliniland?

On November 1, 1935, Italians paid 33c per pound for sugar and \$1.75 per pound for the cheapest grade of coffee. It is no exaggeration to say that Mussolini has finally brought his enslaved population to the point where they have to endure the lowest standard of living in all Europe.

* * *

Having believed, for many years, that Japan is an aggressor nation, I am puzzled by its offer to the great naval powers to eliminate capital ships, airplane carriers and heavy cruisers. Please comment.

This offer doesn't permit one to cease looking on Japan as having imperialistic designs. A study of the navies of Great Britain, the United States and Japan shows that Japan is weaker than the other two nations in only these three classes. If they were abolished, Japan's leadership in other classes would give it a marked advantage.

* * *

What's the correct pronunciation of tomato?

Webster's New International Dictionary gives first choice to to-may-to, with the accent on the second syllable. The president of Campbell Soup company also prefers "tomayto." And he ought to know, because he buys over two billion pounds of tomatoes

yearly. There are some officials in this company who prefer "tomahto," but I stand by the president.

* * *

Is the use of air mail increasing in the U. S.?

Each report of the postoffice department shows a substantial increase. According to the *Postal Bulletin*, air mailed letters, in pounds, were handled, as follows: December, 1932, 542,326; December, 1933, 657,203; December, 1934, 931,425; March, 1935, 1,002,269. The rate—6c per ounce—is considered reasonable, and the service is excellent. A letter mailed in New York City at 4 P.M. will be in Los Angeles the following morning. With a route system of almost 30,000 miles (on which 40,000,000 miles are flown annually on the world's fastest schedule) the U. S. can boast of the greatest air mail system in the world.

* * *

At what speed does a parachute fall?

At about 175 feet per second, or 119 miles per hour, at the time it's opened. The reason the jumper delays opening his parachute is that when he leaves he is traveling at the same speed as the plane. A short wait before opening the parachute reduces the speed, and, therefore, lessens the force applied to fabric or harness.

* * *

Please comment on the staggering losses of life caused by auto accidents.

About 100 persons are killed each day in this country, which is a serious situation and deserves careful consideration. The figures show that the congested districts have the least number of fatalities, while the sparsely settled sections lead the list. Thus, New York is 39th among the States, while Nevada is first. This seems to show conclusively that the real cause of most motor car accidents is excessive speed, and yet nothing is done to control this calamitous situation.

Of course, there are editorials, articles and cartoons in the newspapers warning against speed maniacs, but the automobile advertisements printed in these issues—and they are profitable sources of income for the publishers—play up the sales argument that such-and-such a car will "safely" travel 80, 90 and even 100 miles per hour.

We know that speed causes the loss

of life and limb, and the motor car capitalists continue exploiting their death-dealing speed machines. It's along the wide-open highways that most accidents happen, not in the crowded cities. That being a demonstrable fact, it would seem sensible to control the manufacture of motor cars, at least to the extent of compelling the companies to limit small cars to 45 miles per hour, medium weight cars to 50, and powerful, heavy machines to 55 miles. Such speeds could be built into the car, at practically no expense.

If we are really concerned over a daily loss of almost 100 persons we should, through governmental action, preferably by the federal authorities, take a great deal of the murderous speed out of the machine when it is made. Keeping small cars down to 45 and heavy cars down to 55 miles per hour will show an immediate improvement, though there will continue to be losses from other sources, especially the problem of the drunken driver. As for the intoxicated driver, there's just one way to handle him—put him in jail, where he belongs, and keep him there a long time. And when he's turned out, don't let him drive again until he can give proof that he doesn't rush for a motor car just as soon as he begins to see double.

* * *

Is Dr. Curry's Weather Forecaster, manufactured by C. S. Hammond of New York, a reliable instrument?

There's no machine in the world that can forecast weather. If there were such a contraption, it stands to reason that the tens of thousands of scientists, employed by the various weather bureaus throughout the world, would be using it. Such a thing may be invented someday, but it isn't here now.

* * *

I note that you answer many questions by personal letters at a uniform fee of a dollar. What is your policy when you receive an unanswerable question?

A questioner who submits a query that can't be answered receives a refund in the form of trade coupons, good for anything issued by this plant, now or in the future.

* * *

Please reprint Mark Twain's War Prayer.

O Lord, our God, help us to tear

their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out ruthlessly with their little children to wander unfriended through wastes of their desolated lands in rags and hunger and thirst, sport of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee, for the refuge of the grave and denied it—for our sakes, who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask of one who is the "spirit of love" and who is the "ever faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore beset," and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Grant our prayer, O Lord, and Thine the praise and honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

* * *

Can you explain why it's possible to have such a tiny reduction in the army of unemployed and at the same time be faced by such obvious improvements in industrial, financial and business conditions?

The answer is very simple. The secret of the whole puzzle is rationalization. That sounds like a mighty big word, but it means something comparatively plain. Rationalization means scientific methods and efficiency in industry—the elimination of waste and incompetence.

Let us take the steel industry, by way of example. Here's an engineering report from the Pittsburgh district of the American Sheet and Tin Plate company, which belongs to the U. S. Steel corporation, and it gives a perfect answer to your interesting question. The report describes plans for what is to be the world's biggest steel mill, to cost more than \$20,000,000. Recently, the Carnegie-Illinois Steel corporation announced a strip-plate mill, to be built at Homestead, Pa., at a cost of \$15,000,000.

These reports come at a time when the steel industry is being worked at only 53 percent of capacity. Forty-

seven percent of the industry's capacity is idle, but at the same time the steel barons are pouring tens of millions of dollars into new plants. What's the answer? Simply this: the capitalists in control of this key industry want greater efficiency in production, so that more steel may be produced with less help. That's going on in every important industry, with the result that the owners of America's industrial system are getting ready to create more wealth with fewer workers, so that dividends may be increased at the expense of their pay-rolls.

* * *

Which governments, if any, are headed by Jews?

So far as I can learn, there is but one—Eusebio Avala, President of Paraguay, who is of Jewish and French extraction. There's a great whispering campaign going on in the U. S., at this writing, which aims at political advantage through suggesting that President Roosevelt is a Jew, but there is no evidence to support such an assertion. There might be Jewish elements in the family line back in the 15th or 16th Centuries, but if one went back far enough how many would escape finding some Jewish ancestry?

* * *

I showed your articles about Hitler's homosexual friend, Captain Roehm, to a Nazi supporter and he claimed you were entirely wrong in writing that Hitler knew of Roehm's perversion before the blood purge.

On June 30, 1934, Hitler murdered his old friend and lover, Ernst Roehm, head of Hitler's army of 4,000,000 brown-shirts. In a statement explaining why he murdered Roehm, Hitler said he had only recently discovered the fact that Roehm was a homosexual. The facts, of course, show Hitler was lying.

In 1929, four years before Hitler took power in Germany, Ernst Roehm wrote a letter from Bolivia, where he was reorganizing the Bolivian army, to Dr. Heimsath, a German specialist in abnormal psychology. This letter was used as evidence in a Munich court in 1931, after which it was widely printed in the German and foreign press. Here is absolute proof that Hitler couldn't help knowing, years before the blood purge, that his commander of the brown-shirts

was a homosexual, like himself. The Roehm letter follows:

La Paz, Bolivia,
February 25, 1929.

Dear Dr. Heimsath:

In my early youth it appeared to me that I was homosexual but I really "discovered" it in 1924.

I can recall many homosexual feelings and acts in my childhood. But on the other hand I also had a lot of dealings with women.

After I had been ill with gonorrhea three times. I became attached to this peculiar habit. Later I looked upon the sickness as a punishment of nature for my unnatural relations. Today all women are a torture to me, especially those who persecute me with their love, and of these there are unfortunately plenty.

On the other hand, I am attached with my whole heart to my mother and to my sister. My sister is seven years old. My brother is eight years older than I. I have never had any tender feelings either to my father or to my brother. My father died in March, 1926.

I have nothing very much to tell you about this place. I am very glad that I tore myself away from the Munich atmosphere. I don't bear the high climate very well. I have a good residence and eat German dishes. Everything would be in the best of conditions if only I did not lack someone to live with.

I brought along with me a companion, a nineteen-year-old Munich artist. I am very much attached to him, just as he is to me. Now, when he is away on a journey of exploration, I suffer greatly from his absence. I miss him everywhere. But he isn't to be thought of for any sort of sexual acts. He has no liking for it; he loves girls.

Here in Bolivia they know nothing of this sort of love. When you look at some one, he can't imagine what you want of him. They understand nothing of it here and I don't know what to do. If you walk in the streets, you might imagine that there is a taste for it here but the truth is that they are all innocent here. The boys here, who are as a matter of fact quite pretty, walk tightly clasped as is the custom here, and embrace each other when they meet in the street, and that hurts me all the more.

In Buenos Aires, they do know of this sort of love but a trip there takes at least ten days and costs over a thousand marks! And so I am here alone, poor I, and don't

know what to do. Sadly do I recall beautiful Berlin where you can be so happy!

Advise me, best of doctors, how I can help myself! There are at least two years before my first leave. Naturally I will continue my efforts to spread a little "culture" here but I doubt very much if I will have any success.

Hitherto I have lived in retirement. In the evening I generally take walks in all sections of La Paz, but with no success so far. I must transmit to you this painful call so that you shouldn't think I am living in paradise here. It looks as if I will have no other choice but to bring down a "friend" from Germany.

I must, however, add that, although my habit often brings me great pain, I am absolutely not unhappy and in my heart I am even proud of it.

With comradely greetings, your
Ernst Roehm

* * *

Which section of the country uses the most cosmetics and perfume?

The Perfume and Cosmetics Buyers' Association, at its last convention, in New York City, decided that the Nevada women use the most perfume and cosmetics per capita.

* * *

The Communist Academy of Leningrad, U. S. S. R., has ordered a complete Freeman file for 1935 and is to receive the paper until 1940. The director of the library of this famous institution, second in importance only to the Communist Academy at Moscow (also on our subscription list), writes that The Freeman contains matter of importance to all who seek factual material regarding conditions throughout the world. It is interesting to note that The Freeman's foreign circulation continues to grow, with subscribers everywhere except in Germany and Italy, where the paper is persona non grata. If The Freeman were persona grata in those two countries the editor would feel certain there was something seriously wrong with his policies. If The Freeman is to grow in circulation it will have to receive the friendly co-operation of its readers, at home or abroad. They can, with little effort, tell their friends about this "odd, unique sheet" (to quote a new reader) and urge them to subscribe. Our list has been standing at the 25,000-mark for a number of months, but this halt can be remedied if only the paper's friends will indulge in a little word-of-mouth advertising. A "whispering campaign" wouldn't insult the editor the least bit,

if it resulted in more readers. After you finish reading your paper, please pass it on with the suggestion that the favored person send in his subscription. And for this you are sent the editor's thanks in advance.

* * *

Is there any evidence to show up sweatshop conditions since the Supreme Court knocked out the NRA?

There's no denying the obvious fact that during the days of the NRA real steps were taken to eliminate the evils of the sweatshops and sweated home-workers. Now, the sweatshops are back worse than they've been in the last generation. From Pennsylvania comes a report issued by that state's Secretary of Labor and Industry, Ralph M. Bashore, which shows conclusively that sweatshops are here with all their attendant horrors. This report, let me add, was made after a state-wide survey of industrial conditions by experts trained to gather such material. Mr. Bashore says, officially, that he found wages as low as two cents per hour. Weekly wages of 95c were found to actually exist. The report tells of many families being employed—parents and children—and their combined wages amounted to \$6 or \$8 after each member of the family had worked from 12 to 16 hours daily. Mr. Bashore reports that he found a Philadelphia corporation which employed 1,200 home-workers at crocheting babies' things and that "we have yet to find a single worker for this concern whose earnings exceed 5c an hour; a great many of them earn 2c an hour." His report describes how employees of a Philadelphia corporation made finely knitted dresses that sold at \$100 per garment and who received an average of only 8c per hour. A carpet company, the report shows, paid as little as 85c per week, with \$6 per week as the top figure. Thousands of children are working in factories and home-shops at starvation pay.

The NRA had many faults, but there's no denying the fact that its dissolution was followed by an orgy of wage-cutting and sweatshop methods. The Supreme Court knocked away the protection the unskilled had under the minimum wage provisions of the Act. It also took the limit off the number of hours these helpless, unorganized workers could be made to produce wealth for owners of sweat-

shops who now pay as little as 2c per hour.

* * *

How large is Southern California's activity in the manufacture of airplanes?

Southern California is making striking headway as a manufacturing center for the airplane industry. The latest reports show that about \$14,000,000 is represented in airplane factories and subsidiary plants. The payroll is \$7,176,000, with production valued at about \$15,000,000 annually. Almost 8,000 skilled workers are used in Los Angeles county, where 55 percent of the nation's airplanes are manufactured. The federal government has given out contracts worth \$4,000,000 in this section. North American Aviation, Inc., a subsidiary of General Motors corporation, is building an 18-acre plant that will cost \$1,000,000.

* * *

I have a good-sized ranch which I'd like to turn into a dude-ranch, but I know nothing about this business. Is there a good book or correspondence course to be had on this subject?

I know of no such book or course. However, you can take a four-year course in dude-ranching at the state university at Laramie, Wyoming, which will entitle you to the degree of bachelor of science. I'd suggest that you write the university for full information about the esoteric science of operating a dude-ranch.

* * *

What is the meaning of the phrase "the tools of thought"?

It refers to reference books, such as a dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, books of quotations, dates, synonyms, etc.

* * *

What is a "pyramidiot"?

This word was coined by a British archaeologist to describe those persons who ignore the weight of expert archeological knowledge that the pyramids were merely tombs and insist on reading into these great Egyptian monuments meanings of a mystical and symbolical nature.

* * *

Everything you've said about the bank "service charges" is true, and I know from personal experience what these hold-ups mean to a person who is trying to stay in business, but after all they own the banks so what can we depositors do in the matter?

You can do two things. First, write

letters to your congressman and senators urging them to support a bill that will take the unfair \$2,500 limit off postal savings accounts, and install a system of commercial facilities in all Postal Savings Banks, so that depositors may write checks against their accounts. The government, through 60,000 postoffices and the Federal Reserve System, is in a position to give the public every service that the private banks render at rates (service charges) that constitute legalized robbery. Also, be sure to send a copy of your letter to President Roosevelt. Such work, if done by a sufficient number of citizens, is bound to bring results in time. This is a matter that concerns the financial welfare of every American and is worthy of earnest support.

The second thing you can do is what I've been preaching for years—do as little business as possible with the robber banks. If you must have an account, keep it down to an irreducible minimum, leaving the bulk of your money with the Postal Savings Bank. Uncle Sam makes no service charges, even when you deposit as little as \$1. You receive interest for your money—not much, of course, but at least it's something. You enjoy the surest protection in the world.

When you pay a local bill, do so with cash, taking the usual receipt. If you send out of town for something—anything from a book to piano—pay with postal money orders. They are cheap and safe. They bring you quick service. The tiny fee you pay for a money order is nothing compared to the numerous service charges you must pay the banker in order to do business with him. You thus save the regular 3c charge on each deposit slip, the monthly bookkeeping fee of about 50c, the exchange fee you must pay for each check you deposit, and, of course, the charges that must also be paid by the person or business house that receives your remittance in check form.

Or, if you don't care to send a postal money order for, let us say, \$5 or \$10, don't be afraid to remit by cash. Uncle Sam's postoffice clerks are honest. The department is efficient. People who do immense business with the department will back me up when I say that it is an absolute rarity for cash to be lost in the

mails when the envelope is properly sealed and addressed.

I can say, in all sincerity, that my own experience has shown a great increase in the proportion of money orders to bank checks. Where, at one time, before the banks instituted their piratical service charges, at least one-third of our remittances came in the form of checks, now it figures about 10 percent of the gross receipts. That shows how the people feel about bank charges against depositors. They're sore, and with good cause. If you used to write 100 checks per month, try to get along with 10. If you used to write 10 checks a month, try to get along with one, or, better still, none. Don't let the banks play you for a sucker. You have a real weapon with which to fight—a quiet, relentless boycott.

* * *

Father Coughlin's November 10, 1935, speech brands Haile Selassie as "a usurper." Please comment.

Coughlin is supporting Italian Fascism's rape of Ethiopia, as a part of the Fascist-clerical program of the Catholic Church. His branding the emperor of Ethiopia as a "usurper" is really funny when one considers how Coughlin's admiration—Mussolini—stole power by force and violence. Haile Selassie certainly isn't a Thomas Jefferson, but there's no denying the fact that his influence on the Ethiopians is in the direction of progress and civilization, while Mussolini's influence works towards repression, obscurantism, tyranny, imperialism, militarism and industrial slavery. Selassie is taking a backward country and moving it forward; Mussolini took a great people and moved them backward.

* * *

Is the Rev. J. Frank Norris a Fascist?

The Rev. Norris runs two large churches—in Detroit, Mich., and Fort Worth, Tex.—and a reading of his printed sermons shows him to be as much of a Fascist as Father Coughlin. This Rev. Norris is the "distinguished" divine who shot and killed an unarmed man some years ago, but instead of hurting his standing he is now more influential than ever in his sensational history. Norris has the full support of the Hearst press, especially in Detroit, and echoes Hearst's Fascism.

At present, Norris is devoting much

attention to the Roosevelt administration, which he describes as "communist." To show my readers how this preacher appeals to direct action and violence, let me quote the following lines, from his speech before several hundred businessmen in Detroit, August 6, 1935:

"What is needed is some red-blooded, 100 percent Americans like Samson, who took the jawbone of a well-known animal and put 3,000 uncircumcized Philistines out of business before sundown. And the Philistines are in power, at Washington."

If a Red talked that way he would be slapped into jail. But when a clerical Fascist calls for the destruction of the government, he is given the facilities of powerful capitalistic organizations, the Hearst press and the radio.

It is the Rev. Norris' job to counter the Catholic Fascism of Father Coughlin with his own brand of Protestant Fascism.

* * *

In his radio speech, November 10, 1935, Father Coughlin said Ethiopia is a country where "6,000,000 slaves were listed in the last census." Please comment.

As I've shown dozens of times, Father Coughlin never worries about the truth when he wants to put over his Fascist propaganda. His talk about "the last census" in Ethiopia is just so much hogwash, because it happens that Ethiopia never conducted a census in all its history.

* * *

I have talked to a number of German-Americans and they seem to be sure that everything is going smoothly in Nazi Germany. Please comment.

If these victims of Nazi propaganda read their own German-American newspapers they would have to confess the situation isn't as fine as they let on. After they go through many columns of Hitler propaganda—which paints Germany as a paradise of peace, unity, prosperity and order—they surely must be puzzled when they come upon printed appeals for contributions of food, clothing and money for the relief of the German masses.

The *German-American Commerce Bulletin*, issued from New York, contains such an appeal, which indicates official recognition of the approaching famine among Germany's deceived and enslaved masses. The appeal

admits that the shortage of food is so pressing that it will be necessary for German-Americans to come to the rescue with contributions of food, clothing, etc. Ironically, the appeal adds that this should be done "to strengthen the resistance powers and increase the joy of living there."

The same appeal has been repeated in other German organs and over some of the smaller radio stations. The *German-American Commerce Bulletin* forgets propaganda long enough to admit that: "In Germany living costs are rising. Wages are falling. There is no buying power."

True, then where's Hitler's Eden? If Germans living in the U. S. must pass the hat in order to get food to their Nazi hoodlums and unwilling coordinates, it should convince the most dense mentality, even after he has been soaked in the poison of Nazi propaganda, that German Fascism is not the success it is cracked up to be.

Hitlers' agents are out begging for funds in the U. S. in order to feed Germany's workers and unemployed, but at the same time we receive authentic reports of vast outlays for armaments. Germany manages to raise \$4,000,000,000 in a single year in order to rearm for the planned attack on the Soviet Union. Germany manages to raise countless millions of dollars for propaganda throughout the world, conducted by a staff estimated at over 20,000 highly paid men and women. Germany has seemingly endless funds for all sorts of celebrations, but humble, unpublicized Hans Schmidt can only get a supply of spuds and bread through charity drives among Americans of German extraction.

Hitler has brought Germany to the brink of ruin. German Fascism—like Mussolini's brand—is on the defensive. It is dying because of its own sickness. Passing the hat may keep off the inevitable for a time, but it's plain that collapse is around the corner.

* * *

When and where did the handkerchief come into use?

Herbert Norris, author of *Costume and Fashion*, writes that the handkerchief was in use in the first century B. C. among the cultured Romans. It was known by the name

"sudarium." The accounts of England's Edward IV show an entry for five dozen "handcouverchieffes," which, so far as I can learn, is the first use of the word.

* * *

Ingram Hughes, anti-Semitic propagandist and organizer of the fascistic American Nationalist Party, quotes the discredited Protocols of the Elders of Zion in his recent book, though he adds "real or forged—they present a fairly accurate, indeed a realistic description of Jewish collective racial activities in the world." Please comment.

Since so many people are now informed regarding the forged origin of the so-called Protocols, the style among anti-Semites of the Pelley, Hughes and Rev. Winrod type is to admit they may be forgeries but then go on and insist that they're true anyway—in spirit. Mr. Carey McWilliams, of Los Angeles, who has made quite a study of the activities of Hughes, covers this point with the following observation:

"In other words, Mr. Hughes believes that forged documents prove something. I have always understood that forged documents merely proved that some one had committed forgery, but such, apparently, is not the view of the Jew-baiter."

* * *

What's your hunch about the political issues of the coming campaign?

I failed to renew my prophet's license a few years ago, so I'm practicing without legal authority when I suggest that the 1936 campaign will be hotter than anything fought out in the last half century. The combined forces of Fascism, Wall Street, Coughlinism, anti-Semitism, Toryism and Reaction are out to "get" Roosevelt. F. D. R. is no slouch when it comes to a political scrap, but he's going to be up against the real thing during the next national campaign, soon to be upon us. As I write this I notice that Father Coughlin, in his speech, Sunday, November 17, 1935, finally broke with Roosevelt, and definitely announced that he will fight the Roosevelt ticket with all the powers at his command, and they are many.

The Republicans, of course, will decide on a sure reactionary, though they'll permit him to dress his window with a few progressive phrases. If Governor Landon, of Kansas, is the nominee, the issue will be economy

and balancing the budget—as though "economy" were important when over 11,000,000 men are without jobs and facing starvation! If Hoover gets the nomination, the issue will be Wall Street Capitalism versus Experimentation, with emphasis on balancing the budget. This will go over big with the rich and powerful, who want to see the federal government get out of everything connected with business, finance, public works and relief, in order to keep the future tax bill down to a minimum.

Balancing the budget will sound impressive, but it's mainly bunk as a political issue. England is working its way out of the depression—slowly, of course—and it's national debt is plenty big. To give you an idea of what it's about, figure the U. S. government spending money the way it did during the past two years—and plenty has been spent, of course—then how long would it take for the U. S. national debt to equal England's? Eight years! As for taxes, our levies could be doubled tomorrow and we'd still be paying less than England collects from its people.

The real campaign, however, will not be fought out along the lines just mentioned. That's to be the window-dressing. The genuine article will be the dirty, smearing drives that American politicians are so skilled at making. Anti-Semitism will probably play the most important part in this fight. Roosevelt will be pictured as a "Jew." His administration will be shown to be "Jew-controlled." The anti-Semitic propagandists will join to a man in fighting Roosevelt, with the country being flooded with lies, slanders, libels and distortions. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion will be circulated by the tens of millions. Pamphlets, leaflets, circulars, books, periodicals, etc., will flood the country with anti-Jewish poison propaganda. Coughlin and the other fascistic anti-Semites will shake the country with their fulminations. The American Jews are in for it. They're to be the goats, as are the Jews in Germany under Hitlerism. Everything that's wrong will be blamed on the Jews, and, of course, the ignorant and the prejudiced will eat up this slop as so much fried chicken.

By this I don't want to give the impression that Rooseveltism is real-

ly radical or socialistic. It isn't. As I've explained before, Roosevelt certainly believes in the capitalistic system. But he has mortally offended the powers that be in the world of finance and industry by his efforts to patch up the system and charging the bill to the elements that have the profits and therefore can afford to carry the load. So, Roosevelt will be painted as a "Socialist," along with being a "Jew" and the friend, or tool, of the "International Jew and the Elders of Zion."

Many radicals and progressives will find themselves supporting Roosevelt early in the campaign when they see the kind of tactics the Fascists, anti-Semites and Plutocrats use against the Roosevelt ticket. They will realize—how soundly I don't know—that it's a case of helping Roosevelt to keep the country from falling into the hands of a crew of hoodlums out to make Capitalism endure by the might of night-sticks and castor oil, make the Jews serve as goats, and who would, along the lines of Coughlinism, make this country unsafe for freethought, free conscience, free assembly, free press, free speech, free unionism, and the like. Yes, Roosevelt is in for it, but I rather picture him as going through the campaign—the hottest in our history—with a smile on his face and a good wallop in his fists.

Let me close with this little piece of repetition: The 1936 campaign will bring a new phenomenon into American politics—open, untamed, unashamed, violent, Hitleristic Jew-baiting.

* * *

Is the idea of sanctions, as worked out by the League of Nations against Italy, new in history?

You will find the theory of sanctions expounded in I Maccabees VIII, 24-29, as follows:

"If there come first any war upon the Romans . . . the people of the Jews shall help them. . . Neither shall they give anything to them that make war upon them, or aid them with victuals, weapons, money, or ships, as it hath seemed good unto the Romans . . . they shall keep their covenants and that without deceit."

I'm surprised that I, an Atheist, had to discover this passage. So far as I know, no preacher or priest has

referred to it in the present Italo-Ethiopian situation.

* * *

Do you believe that active anti-Semitism and Fascism could become really effective in the U. S.?

In *The New Republic*, October 30, 1935, the distinguished economist and educator, Harold J. Laski, wrote: "I know of no country in the world where Hitler's success could be so easily repeated as in the United States."

* * *

In the *Saturday Evening Post*, November 9, 1935, J. C. Furnas writes of a trip to Russia, and, among other things, says: "All foreign newspapers, even foreign newspaper clippings, are confiscated at the border to start the tourist wondering just how this freedom works out in practice." Please comment.

Bob Brown, the well-known author who contributed an entertaining article to the first number of the *American Rationalist Annual*, spent three months in the Soviet Union last summer. On this Furnas point he writes:

"I took across the border, both ways, three big suit-cases full of books, periodicals, manuscripts and notes. The customs workers went through them with polite efficiency and took away nothing."

* * *

How good a customer is the motor car industry?

This industry buys the production of other industries, as follows: finished rolled steel, 21 percent; of all rubber used in the U. S., 75 percent; finished plate glass, 70 percent; hardwood, 8 percent; upholstery leather, 40 percent; aluminum, 15 percent; copper, 18 percent; tin, 13 percent; lead, 38 percent; zinc, 12 percent; mill consumption of cotton, 9 percent. The 1935 production of motor cars is estimated at 3,075,000, as against 1934 production of 2,869,963 units, and 1932 production of 1,370,678. These figures are for both the U. S. and Canada.

* * *

What did Pennsylvania do in its vote on the Blue Laws?

In the November, 1935, election the people were given the chance to vote for or against Sunday closing of movies and decided overwhelmingly for the defeat of the blue-nosed element which has kept the state's blue laws in force since 1794. Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton voted better than two-to-one against Sunday clos-

ing. Harrisburg was the only large city to vote for the blue laws. I'm afraid I wouldn't recognize Philadelphia—the city of my birth—if I were to return now on a Sunday afternoon. I remember the town as something like a city of the dead on that awful Sabbath of blue-nosed piety. The preachers, for more than a century, were able to defeat every attempt to introduce a recreational Sunday. But that, happily, belongs to the past. The world moves slowly—but it moves!

When organized groups propagate policies that are plainly wrong, I see nothing wrong about suppressing them.

I simply can't see eye to eye with you. I prefer to follow the fundamental idea voiced by Thomas Jefferson, in his first inaugural address, 1801, as follows:

"Error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

How much gold is there in the entire world?

About \$20,000,000,000. Almost half of this is in the U. S.

Now that Billy Sunday has gone to his reward, would you mind commenting on his career?

The Rev. William A. (Billy) Sunday represented religion at its most vulgar extreme. His sensationalism, his appeals to fear and prejudice, his mass inoculations of superstition, his semi-illiteracy, his blatant ignorance and his venomous hatred for things and persons he was too uncultured to understand, place him as one who did great damage and no measurable good. The country will be better off without him. He was a standing menace to everything that was fine, truly decent and civilized.

I know, of course, that Jews have been conspicuous in music, but lack a comprehensive list. Please supply.

Jewish composers: Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, Saint-Saens, Rubenstein, Offenbach, Halevy, Mahler, Schoenberg, Gershwin, Bizet and Bloch.

Jewish singers: Rosa Raisa, Frances Alda, Frederick Schorr.

Jewish violinists: Haifetz, Menuhin, Kubelik, Seidel, Elman.

Jewish symphony directors: Stokowski, Godowsky, Alfred Hertz, Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer,

Arthur Badansky, Gustave Mahler.

The above lists are quite inadequate with regard to singers and instrumentalists.

What is the meaning of "blaginism"?

There was a Russian flier, named Blagin, who, in 1935, went up in his plane and, against strict orders, did some silly stunt-flying while in the neighborhood of the immense passenger plane, the *Maxim Gorky*. As a result, Blagin's plane collided with the *Maxim Gorky*, then the world's largest flying ship, and caused 49 deaths. Now, when a Russian wants to describe stupid recklessness he uses the noun "blaginism" or the verb to "blagin."

Which is more useful to man—the sun or the moon?

Your trick question should be answered by quoting that ancient wheeze which held that the sun is less useful than the moon, because the sun shines when it is daylight while the moon shines at night.

I have a letter from a friend at Juarez, who witnessed a hot dance and wrote me as follows: "The girls danced, first on one leg a while, and then on the other, and, between them both, made a good living." Please comment.

I don't know what the gentleman is talking about. It all sounds so confusing. Perhaps some of my subtler readers will explain the Juarez correspondent's observation.

Kindly comment on efforts of Knights of Columbus to get President Roosevelt to interfere in Mexico's internal affairs.

The Mexican hierarchy, months ago, decided to use the American Catholic Church in order to influence the American government to meddle in Mexican affairs. To this end, the head of the Knights of Columbus tried to get President Roosevelt "to act to halt" what he, Supreme Knight Martin H. Carmody, called "persecution of religion by the Mexican government."

In a strong, clear statement, sent to Mr. Carmody in a letter which the latter made public on November 16, 1935, the President declared it will be his "unalterable policy" to refuse to "undertake a policy of interference in the domestic concerns of foreign governments and thereby jeopardize

the maintenance of peaceful conditions."

President Roosevelt also called attention to the fact that Americans in foreign countries have the right to worship freely, and then added the interesting piece of information that "there has not been brought to this government during the past year a single complaint by any United States citizen that such opportunities in Mexico have been refused him."

Informed persons not only support our President's stand but add that the cry of "persecution" is nothing more than a Catholic smoke-screen to hide the temporal designs of the hierarchy. It is odd that only the Catholics are complaining about "persecution." Preachers and rabbis function in Mexico without complaint or interference.

But the priests keep yelling about "persecution." Why? Because they refuse to obey Mexico's decent laws, demand the right to assume control of Mexico's public school system, encourage counter-revolution, provoke lynchings against secular-minded public school teachers, reject the present government's decision to maintain strict separation of church and state, and look longingly at the too-recent time when the priest held the Mexican masses in mental and physical bondage.

When the Church ruled Mexico the people were peons and illiteracy was general among the masses. Schools were nothing more than clerical poison-factories. The priests served the exploiters by keeping the people satisfied with political tyranny, and in return enjoyed the privilege of robbing and exploiting the innocent victims of their rule.

It was a terrific blow when the rationalistic revolutionists demanded that the Church submit to the elimination of temporal power in Mexico. The protest was world-wide, because the Church has its agents and followers everywhere. But the Mexican authorities stood firm, and, regardless of demonstrations and conspiracies, the priest in Mexico is compelled to obey the same laws that are being obeyed gladly by preachers and rabbis.

The Mexican people, since the break between church and state, are going forward rapidly. Thousands of

schools are being constructed. Tens of thousands of school teachers have been put to work undoing the outrageous results of miseducation at the hands of priests and nuns, and opening the minds of Mexico's youth to the truths and beauties of science.

All this, to the priest, is "socialistic education." We, in this country, call it simply secular education, which it really is, and which is the only education worth a pinch of salt.

* * *

What is "Stakhanoffism"?

This word has suddenly become one of the most important in the Russian language. A worker in a Soviet coal mine, Alexei Stakhanoff, worked out a scheme of division of labor, which produced impressive results. He studied each individual around him to learn what every man was best able to do. In his own case he found that he was good at a certain function in mining, but just ordinary in most others, so he devised a plan whereby he could spend his time doing what he was most proficient at. The others were treated the same way, and the results were amazing. Production went up measurably. Soon the plan spread to the other branches of the industry, and to other industries as well. The movement was named after its humble, modest creator, Stakhanoff. Recently 2,300 Stakhanoffites attended a convention in Moscow, where, on November 18, 1935, Stalin himself welcomed them and praised them for the wonderful effect they were having in the drive for increased production. These Stakhanoffites are pledged to spread the theory of mass production, or, as we often call it, rationalization. The goal is to make each unit productive to the fullest, in order to increase the country's output of consumers' goods, etc. This "speed up" doesn't mean that the workers are to be worked to the point of fatigue each day. In fact, most workers in Russia enjoy a seven hour day, with one hour off for lunch.

* * *

Can you tell us something about the creator of "Stakhanoffism"?

I have already given a number of hints about this new phenomenon in Russian industry. As for the man himself, Alexei Stakhanoff, all I know is that he is a 30-year-old coal miner who has suddenly been cata-

pulted into nation-wide, and even world-wide, fame. His name in Russia today is second only to that of Stalin.

As I stated in a previous note on Stakhanoffism, most Russian producers work in seven-hour shifts, with an hour off for lunch. Stakhanoff found that he was especially efficient with the drill but only so-so at other tasks, so he applied himself for an entire six-hour shift to the work of drilling, leaving others to do the various tasks in digging coal. Previously, Stakhanoff produced only seven tons of coal in a shift, but when he worked out his new regimentation, with himself at nothing but drilling, production for a single shift jumped to 102 tons of coal. His fame spread rapidly, until now he is looked on as something akin to a national hero.

Following the methods of Stakhanoffism, workers have, in one shift, shown the following production results, according to official reports: 1,115 crankshafts forged by a single forger in a motor car factory; 1,820 pairs of shoes supplied with lasts by a single shoe worker.

Now that the League of Nations has begun to apply penalties against Fascist Italy, which will naturally curtail the flow of foreign exchange into that country, what has become of Mussolini's gold reserve?

Until recently, the Bank of Italy issued statements every 10 days. These reports showed well over \$500,000,000 in gold at about the beginning of the Italo-Ethiopian crisis. Later reports showed this gold had dwindled to about \$350,000,000. On October 20, 1935, the Bank of Italy issued its last statement. Since then the facts about Mussolini's gold have been suppressed by the news censors. The only reason Mussolini would take such a step is the necessity of keeping bad news from his people and the world at large. It wouldn't do to let the press broadcast the truth about Mussolini's bankruptcy.

Can you give me a rather easy intelligence test which I can use in my occasional lectures?

Will H. Kindig, Los Angeles councilman, makes use of the following one which is considered very good to show mental alertness in the listener:

"A gentleman, digging in his gar-

den in Italy, uncovered a very ancient coin. When asked how he knew it was so ancient, he replied: 'Because of the date on it, which is 150 B. C.'"

Is there any truth in the popular conception of professors as being drab, old, m'd-Victorian, dry-as-dust fogies?

It's just another myth. *The Alumni News* investigated this matter and found that 41 years is the average age of the Columbia College faculty. Youngsters may still insist that an average age of 41 years proves senility, but I'm just enough of an oldster to insist that a man of 41 is just beginning to enter life. Which probably classifies me as a wishful thinker.

The press reports that Mussolini gave \$200 to the International Mark Twain society and wrote a letter in which he praised the great humorist's genius. He added: "Mark Twain has been and remains one of my preferred authors." Please comment.

If Mark Twain were alive today and writing in Mussolini's Italy, he would find himself gagged and thrown into prison. Mark Twain's whole "slant" was democratic, anti-imperialistic, anti-militaristic and anti-religious. He fought for free speech, free thinking, free inquiry and free institutions. How could such a genius function in Mussolini's slave-pen?

Granting that wages are extremely low in Mussoliniland, as you say, this statement should be balanced by facts which show what a workingman actually gets for his labor as measured in purchasing power.

The November 20, 1935, issue of *The New Republic* contains an uncensored letter from Rome, written by a correspondent who signs himself Foreign Observer, which answers your question. After showing that the average wage for Italy is 1.75 lira per hour, or slightly less than 9c per hour (which would make an 8-hour day bring in only 72c), we learn:

"It takes on the average an hour's work to buy two pounds of bread, as it does to purchase each of the following: a pound and a half of spaghetti, a pint of wine, and six ounces of meat, fish or cheese. Tea, coffee, sugar and butter are amazingly high and are out of reach of the working class. It requires over a day's work to buy a shirt in Rome and nearly a week's labor to rent one

room in a working-class neighborhood for a month."

The same writer reports that he has seen numerous evidences of discontent that should indicate the first proof of defeat in Ethiopia, or serious injury as a result of the League of Nations' embargo and boycott, would inevitably cause the downfall of Fascism and Mussolini. While he grants that the Ethiopian adventure "was originally favored by Mussolini as a means of diverting popular attention from the severe internal crisis," he insists, however, that the dominant reason is Mussolini's megalomania, his egotistic love of applause and praise, his hunger for Caesar-like grandeur and a sadistic desire to spread his ruthless tyranny from Italians to other peoples.

To our correspondent, Mussolini appears to be stark, raving mad. It is his conclusion that the dictatorship will kill itself by its own vaingloriousness. Mussolini, according to *Foreign Observer*, is acting like a lunatic. He won't permit the newspapers or public streets to contain anyone's picture but his own. He tolerates only "yes-men" and chops off heads just as soon as they rise a little too high. When an able man like Balbo appears and leads a brilliant flight from Rome to Chicago, Mussolini immediately grows jealous and suspicious, with the result that Balbo, soon after receiving great honors, found himself stripped of power and shipped off to Libya, where he was made to accept a governorship which amounted to exile.

There is but one God in Italy, and his name is Mussolini. And, by concentrating everything in himself, he makes it appear likely that when he falls his whole Fascist movement and party will crumble overnight.

* * *

Your attacks on the founders of the Townsend movement lead me to ask why you failed to accept the invitation to appear before the recent Chicago convention of the organization and present your charges against Dr. Townsend and R. A. Clements. Other critics also failed to show up.

The reason I failed to appear at the convention was for the simple reason I was never asked. If Dr. Townsend and his fellow-racketeer sent such an invitation to his critics, I happen to know for a fact that he overlooked

me and the author of the anti-Townsend article that was printed in *The Nation*, and upon which I drew for some of my statements. I understand that Townsend and Clements even offered to pay all expenses to and from the convention, which would have been a great break for me, but, alas, no such proposition ever reached me.

The invitation, so-called, is clever publicity, and will undoubtedly satisfy thousands of Townsendites, even though it never was submitted to those who have had some real criticisms to offer against the money-grubbing racketeering of Dr. Townsend and his real estate promoter, Clements.

* * *

Do the British courts have the power to pass on the constitutionality of legislation?

The acts of Parliament, being construed as the will of the people, can't be knocked out by a judge, no matter how high his station. The British people wouldn't tolerate what the people of the U. S. accept as a commonplace—the judicial usurpation of the power to declare the acts of Congress unconstitutional. In this respect, at least, England is more democratic than the U. S.

* * *

Dr. Robinson on McAdoo's Marriage

[The 10 lines I wrote about McAdoo's marriage in the January, 1935, *Freeman* could better have been omitted, for they were unkind. This was a perfect case of writing for the sake of a dubious wisecrack rather than an attempt to reach scientific, disinterested truth. Dr. William J. Robinson has properly rebuked me, with perhaps more patience than I deserve, so I print it in full with the promise to at least try to avoid such gaucheries in the future. Dr. Robinson's too patient letter:]

Dear Haldeman-Julius:

I have noticed your remark concerning Senator McAdoo and his marriage. Alas, it shows how much the layman, and even the physician who is not specializing in all phases of sexology, has to learn.

The idea the average layman entertains, that when a young girl marries an elderly man she does not do it because she is in love with him but because she wants a home, or because she expects to inherit the rich husband's fortune, is a deplorably erroneous one.

Would you be surprised if you learned of a case of a girl of 26

marrying a man of 67, merely and exclusively because she was deeply in love with him? No economic or materialistic reasons could be assumed, because the girl was financially independent and was both socially and economically in a better condition than the man was. But she just loved him and despite all arguments of her parents, relatives, and friends, she married him. And they certainly lived happily ever after, and the children were certainly as successful physically and mentally as if the man had been 30 or 40 years younger.

Would you be surprised if you learned of a case where a young woman of 30 insisted upon having as a lover a man of 72, and in this case she was also both economically and socially in every way equal to the man she chose to live with, thus spoiling her chances of marriage with a man of her own age?

Would you be surprised to learn of a case of a young woman in the twenties insisting on marrying a widower of 60, resisting all arguments trying to dissuade her from the step? She explained to all those opposed to her marriage that what she was doing she was doing with her eyes open, and if her husband, who was a very well preserved man, should live but 10 years, she preferred to have 10 years of her life with him than 30 or 40 years with any other man.

There are a great number of things that the laity and the ordinary physician do not know and their greatest ignorance prevails in the sphere of sex. So many people do not know that a man of 60 or 70 may even, from the purely physical side, be more potent and more satisfactory than many men of 40.

And the ignorance as to potency also applies to the ignorance about a man's FERTILITY. How often, when a man in the seventies marries a young woman and soon becomes a "father, do we hear suspicions as to the man being the actual father! But we know definitely by AUTHENTICATED cases that a man even in the nineties can become the father of healthy kids. Sincerely yours, Dr. William J. Robinson.

* * *

In the Steelton and Bethlehem, Pa., plants of the Bethlehem Steel company, and probably other plants of the same company, there is being conducted an inquiry by the company officials among their workers as to whether they have citizen papers or not. All workers who have citizen papers are requested to

show them at the main office. What does this mean?

The reason the company is checking up on its employees' citizenship is because this is to be a part of an anti-union drive. Alien workers can then be terrorized into keeping silent about conditions, wages, unionism, etc. Thus can thousands of workers be made afraid to even join a real union, for fear they'll be accused of Communism, etc., and then deported.

If my questioner is employed in this plant and is not a naturalized American citizen, then I'd suggest that he join the union, but that he be very cautious about it and keep as quiet as possible.

As the union grows stronger, the officials of the company will realize that the American citizens will stand by their alien members, with the result that the power of labor's solidarity will save alien workers from persecution and perhaps deportation. The company figures on using its alien workers as scabs in case of a strike, but this may be prevented by refusing to be intimidated.

* * *

You always speak of Fascism where I speak of Nazism. There is quite a difference between Fascism and Nazism. Fascism does not advocate the crushing and murder of minorities simply on account of racial difference. And Italian Fascism, while bad enough, has never been responsible for the horrors that Nazism is guilty of. So, please, when I speak of Nazism, don't substitute the word Fascism.

The above comes from Dr. William J. Robinson, one of my most intelligent, informed and useful readers.

The word Nazi stands for the political party, while Fascism stands for the movement's political and social philosophy. That's why I'd say that the Nazis propagate Fascism. Sometimes, when I speak of some of the more personal policies of Hitler—his anti-Semitism, etc.—I resort to the word Hitlerism.

It's true that Italian Fascism hasn't gone in for Jew-baiting. Here we see how much shrewder and more cunning Mussolini is than Hitler. He knows it would be of no economic benefit to crush Italy's Jews, there being only 50,000 in the entire country, out of 42,000,000 population. So, instead of seeking to destroy a handful of Jews, Mussolini strikes out at Ethiopia,

with its independent nation of some 15,000,000 Negroes.

In his speeches against Ethiopia, Mussolini has resorted to race-baiting. And while Hitler chops off an occasional head, throws thousands into prison and concentration camps, confiscates property, blackmails minorities and in other ways conducts himself as a hoodlum, what is Mussolini doing all this time? He's pouring bombs into the villages of helpless Negroes, killing great numbers of women and children. His sons and son-in-law are cited as heroes because they turn machine guns on soldiers who can't fight back with the same weapon.

Italian Fascism has had more time to learn how to hide some of its atrocities. If one recalls the murders (such as the Senator Giacomo Matteotti tragedy), the castor oil attacks, the suppression of all libertarian minorities, the prison sentences served by intellectuals and democrats in remote island fortresses and concentration barracks, the handing of education and other powers over to the priests, the implanting of militarism in the hearts of even six-year-old boys, the bankrupting of a country for the sake of a maniac's passion for glory—when one recalls these and hundreds of other horrors, one can safely conclude that Mussolini's Fascism is not superior to the butcheries of Hitler's gangsters.

To me, Nazism doesn't sound worse than Fascism. They are birds of a kind—buzzards that must be destroyed if civilization is to go forward.

* * *

I have an acquaintance, an elderly woman, who lives on the income from a very moderate savings. Recently she has been considering investing in State Bonds of the U. S. S. R. Do you consider this a wise investment?

There isn't anything in the world that's safer than a bond issued by the Soviet Union. The finances of the U. S. S. R. are in fine order, and it's safe to assume they will remain that way for a long time. Russia balances its budget, has more than enough gold to pay off its debts and have hundreds of millions of dollars to spare, pays its current obligations on the dot, and is considered a first class risk.

* * *

Quite often I pick up from newspapers and magazines the opinion that Finland

is the only honest nation in Europe. Please comment.

A great to-do has been made over the fact that Finland is the only country in Europe to acknowledge and pay its war debt to the U. S. When one bears in mind that the obligation amounts to only something like a quarter of a million dollars per year, the stunt isn't much to get excited about. The amount was so triflingly small as not to be worth repudiating, and, besides, paying off the item results in good will and valuable favors, particularly in the form of new, and larger, loans. Another result of Finland's behavior has been the decision of the U. S. to spend \$300,000 in Finland for a new and elaborate embassy.

I fail to see why Finland should be described as the only honest government in Europe. What's wrong with the honesty of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland?

As for the other countries being "dishonest" because they refuse to pay their war debts, I'm not inclined to join in that chorus of abuse. Just why should they pay those ridiculous war debts? We had no business getting into that war, nor did we have any business financing the other belligerents on the side of the Allies. Since we followed the Wilsonian philosophy that the war was being fought to save civilization and democracy, why be a Shylock about it?

Frankly, these war debtors would be arrant fools if they were to break their necks paying us for a war we had no business financing. The Allies correctly figure that the money was just another form of munitions and was used to further the "sacred cause" of "the war to end war," so why haggle over filthy lucre? We'll never see a penny of it, nor do we deserve to.

One good thing that might result is the lesson we have learned that should last us for all time, but there's no telling on that score. Another war to end war or save democracy might see us ready to pour new billions after the old billions that we kissed good-bye.

* * *

Do you think President Roosevelt is in favor of a dictatorship?

I don't think Roosevelt is in favor of a dictatorship. There is nothing

in his record to show that he ever favored Fascism, or abandoning the Constitution, or ending our traditional practice of operating our government—national, state or local—through orderly, democratic processes. Roosevelt most certainly believes in the continuation of the capitalistic system, but he does this along the lines of majority rule, instead of individual dictatorship. Nor has Roosevelt shown himself in favor of doing away with our constitutional rights of free speech, press, assembly, thought, and the like. There are fascistic forces at work in this country to bring about a dictatorship—especially Hearst and Father Coughlin—but Roosevelt couldn't by any stretch of the imagination be put in that company.

* * *

Is there any evidence to prove that Roosevelt is doing all in his power to help turn the affairs of the U. S. government over to the Vatican?

There isn't a scrap of such evidence to be found by even the most critical. Roosevelt has shown, by word and deed, that he favors our old policy of separating church and state—and keeping them separated. His recent letter to the Knights of Columbus on the demand that he interfere in Mexico in order to help put the priests back in power, should convince the most skeptical that Roosevelt doesn't approve of those elements which would have our government serve sectarian ends. His policies show him to be a strict secularist—at least thus far, and we certainly hope he continues along that line.

It would be a serious backward step if the President of the U. S. were to permit his tremendous powers to be used to bring about a union of church and state. The majority of the people of the U. S. would oppose such a move, and there's no telling what they would do. That's one point on which many millions of Americans would be ready and willing to develop quite a lather, which could conceivably even result in a revolution. If there's one thing clear about American political life, it's this: The American people don't want any tie-up with the Vatican or any other religious community.

But this doesn't mean the policy can remain as a permanent asset in

our national life. There are many forces quietly at work undermining our traditional policy on this question, particularly leaders of the type of Father Coughlin, and if they were to attract a majority to their banner they wouldn't hesitate a moment about instituting a concordat with the Vatican, in which case our public schools would be turned over to priests and nuns, our press would be censored, our books that were considered objectionable to the priests would be burned or put on the index expurgatorius, and in a thousand other ways we would be taught what it means to abandon the traditional Americanism which holds that it is safer for enlightenment, education and civilization to keep the church out of the state.

* * *

Why do so many of us meddle with what the Germans do, when we have all kinds of dirt to take care of in our own country, such as frying Negroes alive?

It isn't "meddling" to protest when a government of gangsters turns loose a horde of thugs and hoodlums to persecute, torture and murder innocent minorities on racial grounds, suppresses scientific inquiry, gags intellectualism, stamps out the fine spirit of German freedom of inquiry, speech and culture, militarizes the youth in preparation for another World War, enslaves members of the working class by denying them the right to organize their own unions, and crushes all persons—Socialists, Communists, Freethinkers, etc.—who do not accept the savage policies of German Fascism.

We Americans who oppose the international spread of Fascism, do so on the finest patriotic grounds. We don't expect our government to go to war in order to change Germany's government, but we do reserve the right, under our Constitution, to speak words of protest, as individuals, against this monstrous rape of the best things in civilization.

You are quite right when you say we have plenty of dirt at home. Alas, that's all too true. But it also happens to be true that the very people who protest against the Hitlers and the Mussolinis also protest against the Father Coughlins, the Hearsts, reactionaries, lynchers, Jew-baiters, labor exploiters, profiteers, suppress-

sionists, monopolists, and disseminators of superstition who are in our own midst. They have earned the right to criticize the international leaders of Fascism by their record at home, and endless war on the evils brought about by our own obscurantists, superstition mongers, Wall Street-serving politicians, and public officials who condone mob violence against Negroes, tolerate sweatshops, slums, unnecessary disease, and the like.

But there's a difference that should be stressed when I mention our own filth. True, where Germany persecutes its Jews we persecute Negroes. But there's this to be remembered—Hitler's hoodlums murder and torture and discriminate against innocent, helpless minorities because such is the policy of the government itself. While, on the other hand, our own lynchings take place in the most backward, remote sections of our country, without the support of the Federal or State laws or Constitutions. We also have the constitutional right to work against such evils—and it happens that we who "meddle" in German affairs have done more than our share in the gigantic task of getting the Federal government to pass an anti-lynching law—a fight which we haven't won yet, but which we are pretty certain to win in the not remote future.

We have evils at home, I grant you, but we have the facilities to cure them, which is one of the great blessings of living in a democratic country. True, it isn't entirely democratic yet—industry is still ruled automatically by a small class of capitalists—and there is great room for improvement in our conception of political democracy—but we are making headway, and we have the precious rights that make public education along these lines living realities.

* * *

What proof is there that Hitler is a man-lover?

Homosexuality, in the lives of the great or notorious, isn't hard to prove, though, as in the case of Hitler, it doesn't follow that one can produce letters, confessions or photographs of the man in the act of making love to his man-sweetheart. In Hitler's case, it was common knowledge among the informed people of

all Europe that Hitler and the late Captain Roehm were lovers for many years, and that Hitler shot Roehm in 1934 in order to put an end to this endless gossip of their love affair, for he knew how frank Roehm was about his homosexual habits. In a recent issue of *The Freeman* I printed one of Captain Roehm's letters, taken from the records of a German law court, in which Roehm frankly discussed his addiction to homosexual love. Hitler, who knew about this and other letters, figured he must bump him off, now that he was an international figure and the head of a powerful government. So he turned on his own lover and murdered him.

Hitler is now only a few years under 50, and yet there is no proof on record that he, a bachelor, has ever had a love affair with a woman. Modern Germany certainly knows what to think when a man presents such an interesting, odd fact. The explanation, of course, is that Hitler can't be interested in "broad's." Women don't give him a thrill. He needs boys or men, though I have the notion that the greatness of his position in governmental affairs has made him suppress those impulses of late. I haven't any reason for believing so, but it's my hunch that Hitler has been acting "mannish" since the murder of Roehm, though, of course, he hasn't betrayed his old male lovers by giving any sexual attentions to a mere woman. It just goes to show what tremendous sexual sacrifices a Hitler must make in order to go about the task of "saving" Germany for militarism and reaction. The great pansy is laying off, which must be a terrific strain on his character.

Many of Europe's greatest journalists, publicists, diplomats, government officials, military officers, and the like, agree on Hitler's homosexuality, when in private conversation, though they wouldn't find it expedient to say so in public. They know it's true, but they can't do anything about it. And they know, also, that it's this homosexuality in his physical make-up which explains so much of the beast's cruelty and sadism. The creature actually gets sexual satisfaction from the sight of human suffering and torture, much in the way that an old degenerate can get sexual stimulation from having some nude prostitute

beat him with a whip or himself wield the whip on some victim's quivering flesh. When the final story of Hitlerism comes to be written—and let's speed the day—it will be found that the services of the world's great sexologists, psychiatrists and pathologists will be needed in order to know what it was all about.

* * *

You must live in a peculiar spot if you are under the impression that the toxin of Nazism has not succeeded in penetrating practically all the strata of society and has already poisoned millions and millions of Americans. In a newsreel recently, the brutal maltreatment of Jewish women by the Nazis in Berlin was shown on a screen in a New York theater. And the audience applauded that brutality. Do you like that?

Of course, the question "Do you like that?" is purely rhetorical, for my correspondent knows I don't like it at all. The incident he describes is terrible beyond description, but we must remember that anti-Semitism hasn't been a rarity in American history. We mustn't forget the tremendous growth of the K.K.K. about 10 years ago, when something like 10,000,000 persons joined up to express their hatred for Jews, Negroes and Catholics. We have always had a low, ignorant, superstitious, sadistic, semi-illiterate public, but it hasn't, thus far, had the leadership to make it socially effective. In Germany, on the other hand, Hitler was able to organize the most ignorant portion of the population, and he was its voice and spirit. By using this element to capture the government—for he never received a majority vote of the German people—he was able to make racial persecution a formal policy of a great and powerful government.

This doesn't mean that an American Hitler couldn't do the same. The record of Father Coughlin shows, as I have demonstrated completely, that he could conceivably organize and lead a Fascist army that could repeat Germany's horrors in this land, destroy our Constitution and make the government a club in the hands of thugs, murderers and blackmailers. But, and this point seems important to me, the opponents of such policies are not paralyzed in this country. They are articulate, and they are speaking. The brutes who applauded that disgraceful newsreel scene have

always been here, and it's doubtful that they will ever be educated away from such bestial ideas. But the decent, thinking, honorable, fair-minded, liberal people of America are still able to function, and it is their gigantic job to show the masses what a terrible thing the Coughlins could do if their followers could ever grasp power. A vigilant, alert, energetic opposition to fascistic policies could most likely win tomorrow, as they succeeded a decade ago in convincing the American people that Klanism was so much dynamite and its victory would mean the end of traditional Americanism.

The section I'm living in is no better or worse than any other in the land, but I can see plainly that the majority of our people still believe in democratic institutions and civilized methods. It's quite possible that the newsreel seen by my correspondent might bring a similar demonstration here, but such a spectacle wouldn't by any means indicate that it represented the sober opinion of the general public. I believe, in all earnestness, that this fight for civilization can be won through education, discussion, persuasion, ethical appeal and organized determination to maintain the facilities of democracy. I may be wrong, but everything I meet seems to convince me that the power of intelligence can still make itself heard and can prevail. I intend to continue my little, feeble fight as long as there's strength in my body to voice my protests against anti-social behavior. I don't see that it's necessary to desert peaceful, orderly means in order to achieve our ends. There are millions of unreasoning fools and brutes in this country, as elsewhere, but the appeal to reason can still be heard, and we who have some measure of ability to speak for civilized methods shouldn't desert the fight. The cause is not hopeless. This, I believe, isn't blind optimism. I see the menace, but I also see the rays of sunshine. Let's not give up hope.

* * *

Assuming that Hauptmann is guilty, do you believe it possible that he wanted to root out the Lindbergh-Morrow race because a Morrow was the chief instrument in bringing America into the World War?

I agree with you that Hauptmann certainly murdered the Lindbergh

baby—the evidence is too strong to have any other idea—but I can't follow your theory. Because Morrow was a member of the Morgan banking firm, and Lindbergh's baby was his grandson, and because, further, the Morgan firm had something to do with getting us into the war against Germany—well, I'm just about lost in the maze of your argument. To me, it seems obvious that Hauptmann had only one thing on his mind—to get \$50,000 ransom. I don't think he meant to murder the child. That part was an accident when the ladder broke. Hauptmann certainly had a fair trial, and the review given by New Jersey's court of appeals—with 13 judges on the bench, if I recall the exact figure—settled the legal points brought up by Hauptmann's lawyers. The man was given a chance to prove his innocence, which he couldn't do because the state proved his guilt. He committed a terrible crime, and, even though I am opposed to capital punishment in theory, I believe firmly that the law should be strictly enforced so long as it's on the statute books of a state. Therefore, Hauptmann should be made to pay the full price demanded by the laws of New Jersey.

* * *

Is it true that the Soviet government has banned the works of Tolstoy?

I've seen this charge made in many publications, but there is no evidence to support it. On November 20, 1935, the 25th anniversary of Tolstoy's death, the Soviet Union conducted a celebration that was intended to show the people of Russia and the world that Russia's great writer and enemy of czarism is a beloved and admired figure. For years, the Soviet government has conducted a Tolstoy museum in Moscow, which certainly ought to indicate there's no desire to suppress Tolstoy's contributions to art and culture. On that day of mass-celebration, moving pictures taken at Tolstoy's farm, Yasnaya Polyana, were shown in hundreds of places throughout the country, along with readings from his works. Russia's public schools have Tolstoy's works on the list of compulsory reading, and the state publishing plants have turned out large editions of his works that were intended for popular consumption. Instead of banning Tol-

stoy, Russia honors the great libertarian.

* * *

How much oil is there in the earth waiting to be taken out?

I can only quote the estimate for proven oil reserves, which, for the entire world, is placed at 24,465,000,000 barrels. Valentine R. Garfias, of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, gave the Associated Press, on November 22, 1935, estimates of oil reserves by nations, as follows:

United States, 12,000,000,000 barrels; Russia, 3,000,000,000; Iraq, 2,500,000,000; Persia, 2,200,000,000; Venezuela, 2,000,000,000; Dutch East Indies, 1,000,000,000; Rumania, 500,000,000; Colombia, 400,000,000; Mexico, 300,000,000; India, Peru, and Argentina, 100,000,000 each; Trinidad, 90,000,000; Poland, 50,000,000; Japan, 40,000,000; Sarakak (British Borneo), 30,000,000; Canada, Egypt, Germany and Ecuador, 10,000,000 each; France, 5,000,000; others, 10,000,000.

* * *

Since making a living in the mail order business is not easy, what other line can I go into that I would be sure to succeed at without much trouble and outlay? And I would expect the result to be profitable.

There's no business in the world that is "sure to succeed." Even a "sure thing" frequently turns sour. You must study your own capabilities, resources and interests, knowing all along that however well you do your job you still may come a cropper. (The reader who asked the above question sent it with a dollar for a personal answer, which I gave, but decided to include it here because I thought it might have some interest to a few other readers. I'm afraid the questioner won't be satisfied with my answer and may figure that he got nothing real for his dollar, but I'm sure many of my readers will see that I gave him the only advice a half-way intelligent and honest man could give another. I wasn't able to perform a miracle, but I never promised to do any, so my conscience is clear.)

* * *

Are business failures lessening in the U. S.?

According to Dun and Bradstreet's, there were 1,097 business failures in October, 1935, involving debts amounting to \$22,243,900. In September,

1935, there were 806 failures, involving \$21,837,900. In September, 1934, there were 1,091 bankruptcies, with losses of \$19,968,400.

* * *

Please comment on Washington's threat to keep American oil from reaching Italy.

Oil has become the most important economic weapon in the international situation, because navies must rely mainly on oil for fuel, and trucks, airplanes, tanks, etc., can't operate without a plentiful supply of oil and gasoline. A highly mechanized fighting machine is a powerful military and naval weapon, but it can be made self-destructive when the government is dependent on uncertain outside sources for its oil supply. This situation, of course, applies 100 percent in Italy.

Great Britain, Russia and the United States have the power to crush Italy's fighting forces by the mere withholding of oil. True, Rumania and Holland are still to be considered, for they are able to supply oil, but it stands to reason that these two countries wouldn't dare force their way into the Mediterranean to sell Mussolini the oil he must have if the three great oil-producers voiced their opposition.

Mussolini has done a great deal of bluffing in the past, but it's pretty safe to say that he isn't bluffing when he says an oil embargo will mean war. It would probably mean just that because it would be such a tremendous blow that the dictator could do nothing but resign his place if he weren't ready to fight the countries that moved to cripple his mechanized army and navy. There's no telling how much oil Mussolini has on hand, but it seems more than likely that something like 90 days would cripple him so seriously that he couldn't even scare a second-rate power, let alone giants like Britain, the U. S. and Russia. An oil embargo would end the Ethiopian war in even less than 90 days, with Haile Selassie winning.

There's another side to this oil question that must be considered, though it receives scant notice in the news. In diplomatic circles it is a subject that is constantly alive and pregnant. I refer, of course, to Japan's further invasion of China, with its

plan to take over another five provinces with a population of almost 100,000,000. Needless to say, this Japanese penetration isn't good news for Great Britain, with its huge financial investments in China, the U. S., with its fairly old policy of the Open Door for American goods and services, and Russia, with its justified fear that Japan would take slices of eastern Siberia once it disposed of neighboring Chinese provinces and turned them into puppet states along the lines of Manchukuo.

If the battle of oil can be used effectively by these three powers against Italy, the precedent will have been established for an equally effective oil war against Japan, which, like Italy, is dependent on the outside world for its supply. Japan also has great need for oil—2,200,000 tons yearly, of which 400,000 tons must be supplied its navy alone. It produces some oil of its own but this runs short of its needs by about 1,750,000 tons annually, which must be shipped in from the U. S. and the Dutch East Indies. Here we find that if Russia, Britain and the U. S. were to tell the Dutch interests to keep their oil away from Japan they certainly would obey, with the fairly certain consequence that lack of oil, brought about by concerted action, would cripple Japan and cause its entire plan of conquest to collapse.

Japan, unlike Italy, has oil in storage, said to be something like 1,000,000 tons, but there would be slight safety even in that margin once the powers decided to keep new shipments from its bases of supply. Four or six months after an oil embargo was applied, Japan would be up against a serious situation, with fairly strong chances for the liberation of China from Japanese exploitation and the final rescue of Russia from the menace of a far eastern attack.

* * *

What casualties have the Italians suffered in the Ethiopian war?

Mussolini's censors are very chary about giving out any figures, but there's no doubt the losses have been heavy. The British authorities have a good check on the matter insofar as it concerns the number of sick and wounded returned to Italy by way of the Suez Canal. It is said that be-

tween November 6 and 12, 1935, almost 10,000 wounded and sick Italians were taken through the canal on 10 ships, headed toward Italy. This might indicate something like 1,500 men going home each day. Disease may be doing more harm than Ethiopian bullets.

* * *

Is there any way of estimating the degree of public sentiment in favor of having Congress declare war only after the question has been put to the people for a referendum?

The American Institute of Public Opinion, in November, 1935, put this question to Americans in every section of the country and reports it found that 75 percent favored such a change, while 25 percent favored leaving the question entirely in the hands of Congress.

* * *

How does the U. S. stand in world grain production in 1935, as against 1934?

The U. S. leads in wheat, barley and oats. Germany leads in rye, in which crop the U. S. comes second. U. S. 1935 crops were uniformly larger than those of 1934. The table below is in millions of tons:

1935 WHEAT	1934	1935 RYE	1934
16.2 U. S. A.	13.5	7.60 Germany	7.60
9.9 Brit. India	9.6	1.30 U. S. A.	0.40
7.9 Canada	7.5	0.68 Hungary	0.61
7.6 Italy	6.3	0.61 Spain	0.56
4.7 Germany	4.5	0.34 Canada	0.11
1935 BARLEY	1934	1935 OATS	1934
6.2 U. S. A.	2.6	17.10 U. S. A.	7.60
3.4 Germany	3.2	6.90 Canada	5.00
2.1 Canada	1.4	5.40 Germany	5.50
1.9 Spain	2.8	1.10 England	1.10
1.7 Japan	1.6	0.67 Rumania	0.56

* * *

The newspapers report that Italy is importing coal and iron from Germany. As Germany isn't able to give Mussolini any credits, how does Mussolini pay the bills?

Italy, of course, can draw on its rapidly dwindling gold supply, which, at last reports, was around \$300,000,000. In the matter of German coal and iron, it is stated by the Labor Research Association, in its Mining Notes, November, 1935, that the German government is demanding payment in shares of stock in the industrial corporations of Austria, which were, until recently, held by Italians, but who were compelled to surrender their certificates to Mussolini, who, in return, issued state bonds of du-

bious value. By this method Hitler is gaining a greater hold on Austria, which may, in time, have effect on the international situation when he decides it's the proper time to again demand union between Germany and Austria.

* * *

I am enclosing a dollar bill for a letter of personal advice in a matter of great importance to me. In 1947 I begin drawing \$100 per month on my annuity policy. Meanwhile, I have about \$30,000 and wonder whether I should invest this money in stocks or pay off my policy now and begin drawing the annuity at once.

It seems to me that your best move would be to pay up your annuity policy and begin drawing your \$100 per month. Of course, there is danger of wild inflation, in which case your \$100-per-month income wouldn't buy you much, but that condition, should it come, would most likely have its bad effect on anything you might do at this time. And, to be sure, you still have a gambling chance that your insurance equity won't be hit by inflation. I advise you against playing around with stocks. You may make a little here and there, but in the end you stand a chance of losing everything. (The above comment was sent to my correspondent in a personal letter, because of the dollar remittance accompanying his question, but as I thought the matter might be of general interest I decided to use it here.)

* * *

To what extent is the federal government engaged in banking?

About 30 government organizations are in the field of banking, through loans and mortgages. In all, \$8,280,000,000 is outstanding in loans, which, according to the *New York Times*, is "actually greater than the total of outstanding loans made by all members of the Federal Reserve System in a hundred leading cities." In November, 1935, the following loans were out:

RFC, \$1,443,000,000; home loans, \$2,854,000,000; farm loans, \$3,453,000,000; PWA loans, \$216,000,000; other loans, \$314,000,000.

Needless to say, the private banking corporations are complaining about this situation, because it is their theory that credit should be a private monopoly. They seem to for-

get that a good share of this government money went into thousands of private banks that otherwise would have collapsed. When they themselves were in grave need, it was all right for the government to go "socialistic" but now that they are enjoying the security provided by federal funds they turn on the government that saved them and demand that Uncle Sam not only cease his banking practices but that he close all the postal savings banks in order to compel the small savers to take their money to the private bankers.

If anything, the banking situation is a more pressing problem than it has been at any time in the nation's history. Millions of depositors are seething with anger because of the amazing system of collection charges put over by these Shylocks. "Metered banking" is draining millions from depositors who should have the right to banking service without these outrageous hold-up charges.

Such a scandalous situation would be remedied quickly if Congress were to pass a law permitting the postal savings institutions to institute commercial facilities, such as clearing checks, and the like. As I have said dozens of times—and I know the subject is important enough to warrant continued repetition—the American public should learn to do as little business as possible with the bankers, sending money, whenever possible, by postal money orders or by cash. If a sufficient number of depositors were to learn to do their business by money orders and cash, even using stamps of small denominations when paying bills in distant places, the bankers might learn in time that it would be more than expedient to cease their nefarious practices.

How did the Socialists do in the recent Canadian election?

The November, 1935, vote was as follows: Conservatives, 1,223,250; Liberals, 1,877,460; Social Reconstruction (Stevens) Party, 373,479; Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (Socialist party), 337,832; Social Credit party, 137,493; all others, 74,053. The Communist party received only 29,498 votes, which makes it less than one-tenth the size of the C. C. F. The total vote was 4,022,567, which makes the Socialist organiza-

tion's vote about one-tenth of the whole. The Socialists won eight seats in the Canadian House of Commons.

How did the Socialists do in the November, 1935, election in England?

While the Socialists, through their Labor party, won 156 seats in the British House of Commons, against a Conservative majority of 244 seats, which was expected because of the international situation, the Socialist vote increased heavily. The Labor party received almost 8,500,000 votes out of a total of 21,389,000, or almost 40 percent. This shows that the Labor party is recovering from the defeat it received in 1931, when it had 287 seats in Parliament. The 1935 vote shows a growth of almost 2,000,000. The Labor party is now the official opposition party in the House of Commons. The Communists elected only one man to the House of Commons, a body that contains 615 members. Sir Oswald Mosley's Fascist party refrained from running in the election, because to do so would show the world how pitifully small its influence is. As I stated before, British Fascism is about through. International Socialism—as shown by progress made in England, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and Holland—is making steady headway. When the history of this period comes to be written it will undoubtedly be shown that it was the power of organized Socialism which served to check the growth of Fascism. Today, Fascism is on the defensive, while democratic Socialism is marching to new victories. Communism, outside Russia, is just about at zero.

Please report on the recent election in Denmark.

On October 22, 1935, Denmark held its national election, with the result that the Socialists again won an impressive victory, the government remaining in their hands by the will of the electors. The Socialist-Radical coalition won 82 seats, against a conservative and reactionary opposition of 67 seats in parliament. The Landsting (Upper Chamber) remains in conservative hands by a majority of three seats. The fascistic National "Socialists," built along the lines of Hitler's National "Socialism," didn't win a single seat. The Communists

landed two seats. The Socialists took the government in 1932 with 76 seats; in 1935 the Socialists held the government for another term with 82 seats, an increase of six seats. The Danish people, who are next door neighbors of Hitlerland, know better than to expose their country to the dangers of Fascism. Instead, they give new strength to the powers of democratic Socialism.

* * *

The newspapers during November carried many reports from important American correspondents and news associations telling of numerous victories by Italian troops against the Ethiopians. Are such dispatches censored?

The Italian propagandists and censors are going to any limits in order to give their own people and the world the impression of Rome's invincibility. One must be more than careful when reading such correspondence, checking and rechecking lest brazen lies be put over by Mussolini's propagandists. Let me give an interesting and revealing instance.

On November 15, 1935, the United Press, the second largest news gathering organization in the United States, and in some respects superior to the Associated Press, carried, in good faith, a report, dated from Ethiopia, that announced the early fall of Harar. Many newspapers printed this story on their front pages before they could get word to kill the story. The UP report seemed true because it was signed by its own correspondent who was traveling with the Italian forces in Ethiopia. In an attempt to suppress its own story the UP, a few hours after the above mentioned dispatch was sent in, wired:

"Editors—Please kill Sandri story regarding imminence of fall of Harar. The message was delivered to us under his signature, but on checking back we find he did not send it."

The above bulletin was signed "UPA New York PC134P (1.34 p. m.)." What it means is that Mussolini's censors and propagandists cooked up the yarn and sent it to the UP over Sandri's name, unknown to him, which is as outrageous a fake as ever was conceived by military liars. Such reports are cabled back from the U. S. to Italy and printed in the Italian press with a New York dateline, thus giving the

impression that the report of an expected victory was "discovered" by American correspondents, when, as a matter of fact, it was fabricated by the Italians themselves. Such reports also help the hired liars of Mussolini to give the Italian public the false idea that the American people are friendly to the Fascists and hope to see Ethiopia taken over by imperialistic Italy.

Another point to remember is that American correspondents with the Italian army are given free use of the Italian communication facilities, while in Ethiopia, until recently, cables cost as much as \$1 per word. Carrying the messages free, the Italian censors feel no scruples about manufacturing "imminent victories" out of the whole cloth.

Dictatorships are based on lies, deception and fraud.

* * *

In his November 17, 1935, broadcast, Father Coughlin said he and his National Union are "unalterably opposed" to Roosevelt. Please comment.

Coughlin, in the speech referred to, claimed 9,000,000 members in his National Union for Social Justice. Just how accurate this statement is I'm unable to say, because Father (of what?) Coughlin refuses to permit anyone to inspect his records. But, letting his words be accepted at face value, what evidence have we that these 9,000,000 "members" are really "unalterably opposed" to the President? Did the Fascist Father Coughlin call meetings for the purpose of a referendum? Did the "members" discuss the matter? Did Coughlin send them a questionnaire? Did they, in truth, know they were "unalterably opposed" to Roosevelt even 15 minutes before Coughlin told them they were so disposed, on November 17? I doubt that more than five persons in his organization knew he was going to break with Roosevelt on that November 17. All he has proved to us is that he figures the future of Fascism looks brighter when coupled to an anti-Roosevelt policy.

* * *

How does newspaper circulation in Russia today compare with before the revolution?

In 1913, Russian newspapers had a circulation of 2,500,000. The following reports indicate how newspaper reading has grown in Russia since the

revolution of 1917: 1923, 3,000,000; 1925, 8,000,000; 1929, 13,000,000; 1935, 40,000,000. (Authority: Association of Foreign Press Correspondents, New York City.)

* * *

One hears frequently how Jews are criticized in many European countries, and even in the U. S., for being too heavily represented in the professions. What is the situation in Russia?

Paul Muni, the movie star, returned from a visit to the Soviet Union with this comment:

"More than in any other country Jews live on an equal status with non-Jews in Russia. There is no talk of too many Jewish doctors, or too many Jewish lawyers, or too many this or that. If Jews are accomplished, if they know things—they're appreciated, not penalized."

* * *

Has the U. S. S. R. any large newspapers?

Pravda, Moscow, has a daily circulation of 1,800,000; *Izvestia*, Moscow, 1,600,000, according to a bulletin issued by the Association of Foreign Press Correspondents, in New York City, in November, 1935.

* * *

In the January, 1936, Freeman I wrote that so far as I knew only man practiced homosexuality. S. Elkin, New York City, writes to call attention to the fact that Havelock Ellis, in his "Psychology of Sex" (the volume entitled "Sexual Inversion") states that this anomaly is found in horses, bulls, dogs and other animals.

* * *

Is aviation safer now than it was a few years ago?

A Senate Commerce Subcommittee conducted a survey, according to the *New York Sun*, November 11, 1935, which showed 101 fatal airplane accidents in this country since 1927, with 252 deaths. Thirty-five of these crashes happened with models of airplanes no longer manufactured. The same survey holds that air travel is now three times safer than it was 10 years ago, in spite of the fact that the ships now travel 500 percent faster.

* * *

There are a few interesting questions which I prefer to pass on to my readers:

1. Which is the smallest bird?
2. How long do Eskimos live, on the average?
3. What is the longevity of low savages and how does it compare

with the longevity of the anthropoid apes?

4. Which is the tallest race or people? Which is the shortest?

5. How many baby elephants is an elephant able to bring into the world? (The elephant is said to be the slowest of all breeders.)

6. Do worms possess eyes and ears?

7. Which is the smallest fish?

* * *

Knowing that Germany is frankly announcing its intention of taking the Ukraine and that Japan is expected to strike at eastern Siberia, why doesn't the great Russian army strike first?

Russia's policy has been expressed officially in the following simple words: "We won't fight unless we're invaded."

* * *

Is it true that Lenin advised against Stalin as his successor?

Lenin, in 1924, in what has been called his last testament, asked that Stalin be NOT put in his place, in the following words:

"Comrade Stalin is too rude. . . .

I propose to the comrades to find a way of removing him from that position (secretary general of the party) and appointing another man who in all respects differs from Stalin only in superiority—namely, more patient, more loyal, more polite, and more attentive to comrades, less capricious, etc. . . ."

In an article on Stalin, in the December, 1935, *Harper's*, John Gunther shows how Stalin overcame Lenin's opposition and grew to be the most powerful individual in the world. His rise, in the past 11 years, has been an extraordinary record of shrewd party politics, ruthlessness, intelligence, devotion to the cause of building a great state in chaotic, backward Russia, industrializing what had always been an agricultural country, and in other ways showing himself to be a serene, capable leader.

Stalin surely understands the art of leadership, and his words on leadership, quoted from Stalin's works at the head of Mr. Gunther's article, are worth repeating, for they say a lot:

"The art of leadership is a serious matter. One must not lag behind a movement, because to do so is to become isolated from the masses. But one must not rush ahead, for to rush ahead is to lose contact with the masses. He who wishes to lead

a movement must conduct a fight on two fronts—against those who lag behind and those who rush on ahead.”

By and large, I'd venture the opinion that history has shown Lenin to be wrong. Stalin won leadership after his merciless elimination of Trotsky and other personal and political enemies, and judging the man by what has happened in the Soviet Union during his administration, it's difficult to avoid saying that he achieved what almost amounts to a miracle. Great as were Trotsky's contributions to the revolution, events indicate now that Stalin's theory of building Socialism in one country was sound, while Trotsky's theory of the perpetual world revolution—making Russia's Socialism mark time until the entire capitalistic world became Socialist workshops—was romantic and visionary.

Trotsky based his theory on what he thought to be Marxism, which was supposed to hold that Socialism must come by way of an international revolution of the proletariat, in which the capitalistic property of all the large countries—factories, mines, mills, banks, railroads, machinery, etc.—would become socialized possessions, thereby making it possible for the working masses to go to work creating wealth for the use of the people instead of for the profit of the capitalists.

Of course, Trotsky was right if he had in mind countries like Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, etc., but he should have known that Marx certainly didn't have in mind a country like Russia, which, instead of being a country is almost a continent. Russia, Trotsky should have remembered, is more than two times the size of the U. S. That ought to be plenty of room for experiments in the direction of Socialism, and Stalin was all for taking the steps now, instead of waiting for the world proletariat to rise in revolt against Capitalism.

Stalin's ideas now have the justification of success. Russia is headed towards better things for the masses—in education, culture, living standards, opportunities, and the like. Stalin will show the workers of the world a model of Socialism—and by no means a little model. With vast territory, with 170,000,000 people, the

Socialist republic he is trying to achieve will serve as a world in itself, with a powerful Red Army capable of protecting that world against the encroachments of the imperialisms to the East and the West.

* * *

How many nations are in the League of Nations; what is their total population; what amount of money do they pay in dues to belong to the League; how much international trade do these members do?

1. 58; 2. 1,500,000,000; 3. about \$10,000,000; 4. about \$25,000,000,000.

* * *

Since we aren't, and never were, members of the League of Nations, how does it happen that we have representatives at this body?

It was found that, even though we officially rejected the proposal to join the League, so many practical questions arose that it was not only desirable but necessary to recognize and work with the League, through representatives and observers. In fact, the records show the U. S. has even paid its assessments into the League's treasury—not as membership dues but as our share of the cost of operating the League's activities in the opium question, the International Labor Office of the League of Nations, and the like. Private citizens, such as John D. Rockefeller, Jr., have also contributed money to the League, amounting to about \$6,000,000.

When a question like disarmament comes before the League Assembly, Council or committees, the U. S., with numerous interests at stake, must participate, even though we prefer to call our men something other than delegates. The U. S. Ambassador to Switzerland gives more than half his time to League affairs. He spends a great deal of energy in committee work. Our Geneva consul serves as our League observer. Norman H. Davis, our Ambassador at Large, doesn't sit at the famous horseshoe table of the League, but his voice is heard there and his viewpoint receives consideration.

Our government's current activity in support of the League's sanctions against Italy indicates a great measure of association and cooperation with the League, though we are careful to omit mentioning the fact, for fear of offending our isolationists.

Fascists and nationalists like Father Coughlin and Hearst have succeeded in keeping us out of the World Court (which, of course, is, for all practical purposes, a part of the League of Nations), and other public men, particularly in the Senate, have kept us out of the League itself, but the pressure of events compels us to notice and attend League meetings.

The League of Nations is by no means a perfect instrument for the preservation of peace, but it happens to be the only medium the world has and, with all its faults, it should be protected and supported. The time will come when the American people, breaking away from the influence of our isolationists, will expect our government to take its seat openly, instead of sneaking in through the back door whenever anything important comes up. The League has suffered many failures in the past, but its unity with regard to Italy's aggression against Ethiopia has been forward-looking, intelligent, and, let us hope, effective in achieving its ends in seeking to put a curb on the imperialistic designs of Mussolini.

Some of my readers have written to ask why it is that the League is so energetic about Italy's aggression when it was silent about Japan's invasion of China. The answer, of course, is that the League had no real power to interfere with Japan. It could only talk—and Japan has nothing but contempt for words. British, Russian and American interests were threatened, and injured, by Japan's attack on China, but the damage wasn't enough to warrant a war that the public most likely would refuse to support. These powers weren't at all pleased, but they had to take it on the chin—for the time being. No great power has yet recognized Japan's aggression as legal behavior, so the door is open and some day there may be a reckoning.

On the other hand, the League was in a splendid position to act against Italy. First of all, real, vital, immense interests were threatened by Mussolini's imperialistic war in East Africa. There was the question of the source waters of the Blue Nile, and, furthermore, the menace of the dictator's immense military organization at one end of the Red Sea, thereby threatening England's "life line" to

India, Australia, New Zealand and the entire Far East. Also, there was the danger of the Italian forces in Libya working with the armies in North Ethiopia, to the detriment of England's colonial position. And, finally, there was the great question of Mussolini's determination to make the Mediterranean an Italian lake. That would mean death to the British Empire, so the immense powers of Britain were used to support the League and line up the League powers for economic, financial and other sanctions, with the not remote possibility of naval and military penalties.

Even though we may grant the interested motives of Britain, we must admit, in all fairness, that Britain's influence in the League fight for sanctions against Italy has been in the direction of peace and international decency. In such a situation only a dreamy-eyed idealist would expect each nation to act only from motives of altruism. It is enough, to the realistic eye, that the nations have decent ends in view as they go about the mundane tasks of protecting their economic interests.

* * *

1. What is the average length of a feature film? 2. How many feet of film does Hollywood produce each year? 3. How many feature films does Hollywood produce yearly? 4. How much do production studios spend yearly? 5. How much do their pictures gross at the box-office?

1. 7,500 feet. 2. 4,000,000. 3. About 350. 4. About \$100,000,000. 5. About \$650,000,000.

* * *

"I have been reading your publications for many years, and I find your material of increasing interest. Seldom does a situation or an individual bob up that your appraisal is not at least 99 44/100 percent accurate: Mussolini, Hitler, Father Coughlin, Huey Long—all are analyzed, dissected and classified."—A Maryland reader.

* * *

In his radio speech of November 24, 1935, Father Coughlin attacked Mexico for being "communistic" and for receiving "Moscow gold." Please comment.

Father Coughlin doesn't stop at gross lying when he attacks our sister republic to the South. He hates the Mexican government because it had the courage to follow the American Constitution and deliberately sep-

arate church and state. Coughlin, of course, would like to establish a state-supported church in this country—if it's to be the Catholic Church—but he isn't quite ready to make the proposal. When Mexico takes the same measure in the struggle for a thoroughly secularized government, he turns loose a barrage of lies and misrepresentation, yelling "Communism" and "Moscow gold."

Only the ignorant followers of blatant Father Coughlin will fall for that hysterical charge of "Communism" against Mexico. If Mexico is communistic, then the United States is being ruled by Mussolini.

The Mexican revolution destroyed the political powers of the priests, freed the schools from clerical control, denied the right of the Catholic Church to receive state funds, and in a hundred different ways brought about necessary and humanitarian changes, but to speak of "Communism" in Mexico is to voice arrant nonsense.

Mexico is still a capitalistic country, with most of its industries, utilities, land, etc., belonging to private individuals and corporations, domestic or foreign. If Mexico were communistic, the Mexican proletariat would be owning and running the industries for the purposes of use instead of profit—and I leave it to Father Coughlin to even dare make the ridiculous statement that such a condition prevails in Mexico today, or ever did in the past.

Until only recently the Communist party was outlawed in Mexico, not being permitted to even nominate candidates. This ban has been lifted, but the party is pitifully weak and shows no signs of vitality or influence.

As for "Moscow gold" being used to support Mexico's "Communist government" doesn't Father Coughlin know that even now, after almost two decades of existence for the Soviet Union, Mexico is still to recognize the Russian government? The United States, which is thoroughly capitalistic, has diplomatic relations with Russia, but "communistic" Mexico is still to exchange ambassadors with Moscow. And yet, this ranting demagogue has the gall to talk about the influence of "Moscow gold" in Mexican affairs. This radio bunk-shooter

is ready to resort to any slander in order to create prejudice against the libertarian, democratic, progressive, or revolutionary elements throughout the civilized world.

In Father Coughlin's case the issue is serious because of his wide influence and the further fact that he doesn't stop to suggest violent action, both in Mexico and the United States. In a speech at the Shrine of the Little Flower, Father Coughlin's own church, this Catholic Fascist made the following appeal for violence:

"The only way the Christians in Mexico can put their prayers across is at the point of a gun. And that's what they're going to do in the spring. There'll be some fat, greasy scalps hanging on the wall. And that's what we may have to do in this country."

Such a statement shows plainly what kind of action Coughlin has in mind when he sees himself grabbing power—murder, violence, lynchings, with scalps hanging on the walls of Mexico, and maybe in the United States.

* * *

Our big business interests are almost solidly opposed to Roosevelt, because, they claim, his policy has been to spend too much money. Please comment.

That a great deal of money has been spent no one can deny. That it has all been spent wisely no reasonable person would dream of claiming. But that the spending did help bring the big corporations out of the red and into big profits is a demonstrable fact. The rich who are protesting against this spending are the very ones who benefited, and, as such, lay themselves open to the charge of taking money from the government and then howling because the money was there for them to take.

* * *

Is Father Coughlin opposed to Capitalism?

In his April 24, 1935, speech, which was crowded with mealy-mouth muddiness of thought, Father Coughlin said he was against "immoral Capitalism." Here we find the priest up to his old trick of using words that seem to say something but which, on examination, say nothing. Either you are for Capitalism, or against it. But when you slip in that word

"immoral" it becomes only a source of confusion, which is undoubtedly what Coughlin wanted in the first place. "Immoral Capitalism" doesn't say anything, because we then have to find out what he means by "immoral." Then we have to be told what he means by "moral Capitalism." And when we have been told, we are in a worse state of befuddlement than before.

* * *

What did Father Coughlin mean when he said, in his Cleveland speech, that his National Union for Social Justice is "greater than 10 Presidents?"

As the Union is nothing more than a rubber-stamp organization, without democratic processes or functions, it really means that Father Coughlin already considers himself above 10 Presidents of the U. S. A. That's the language of a would-be dictator. Father Coughlin is already picturing himself as America's supreme **Fuerher**.

* * *

What is a political leader?

I like the good, old definition which describes a political leader as one who, on finding out where the army is going, rushes to the head of the line and leads it there.

* * *

Do you believe in the old-fashioned maxim not to put off to tomorrow what can be done today?

If I have a job on my hands, it worries me until I get it done. Then when it's off my mind I find I'm entirely free to start worrying about something else.

* * *

Is it literally true that the sun never sets on the British empire?

Certainly. A mere glance at a map will show that to be a fact. The Hindus have a biting retort when they hear Englishmen boast about the size of their possessions. It runs like this: "You say proudly that the sun never sets upon the British Empire. True enough. That is because God Almighty would never trust the British in the dark."

* * *

What is Sociology?

This is broadly the science that

takes as its subject the institutions of society—law, marriage, government, education, political institutions, collective man, organized religion—how they originated, evolved and function today.

* * *

In his nation-wide broadcast of April 7, 1935, Father Coughlin said: "It is a damnable lie that my printing isn't done in a union shop." Please comment.

The Federated Press's Detroit correspondent reports that he investigated Father Coughlin's statement and found a little set of facts that show up the radio priest's character. It is demonstrated that until the morning of April 7, 1935, Father Coughlin's printing was done in a scab shop. Stung by criticisms in and out of the labor movement, Father Coughlin got his scab firm to sign up with the printers' union, thereby enabling him to call his critics purveyors of a "damnable lie" a few hours later. It was the cold, bitter truth on April 6. It'll be noticed that he said nothing about the complaint of President Ed Thal, of the Detroit Building Trades Council, who charges that no union builders were working for Father Coughlin on April 8, the day after his broadcast. Coughlin is still to "come clean" on that issue.

* * *

Please define Fascism.

In his new book, **Forerunners of American Fascism**, Raymond Gram Swing defines Fascism as "a reorganization of Society to maintain an unequal distribution of economic power by undemocratic means." I think that definition covers the subject pretty well, if we bear in mind the author explains that "an unequal distribution of economic power" means Capitalism.

* * *

How does the abacus compare to the adding machine in efficiency?

Salesmen for adding machines, in China, report it is hard to sell their equipment because Chinese girls can add faster with an abacus than American girls can with the latest models of comptometers. While I don't doubt this is true, it

is safe to say that, on the average, an adding machine will beat an abacus.

* * *

Is Sweden's democracy very old?

Sweden established a parliamentary, democratic government on May 27, 1435, at Arboga, west of Stockholm, where its first Riksdag, or national parliament, was founded. During the 500 years since that time Sweden has never been without its parliamentary form of government, which makes it one of the really old democratic organizations, but something of an infant compared to Iceland, which has had an unbroken record of democracy spanning ten centuries.

* * *

What is the rat population of the U. S.?

The best estimate is 240,000,000 rats, or about two rats for every inhabitant. They do an estimated damage of \$500,000,000 per year, which means an annual upkeep of \$2 per rat. About 60 pounds of grain and other foodstuffs are consumed yearly by each rat. Rats and men are relentless enemies, but thus far the battle royal has gone to the rats. Men and rats have nothing in common. Rats live off men, while men would like to live without rats, but men propose and the rats dispose. It has always been thus. Will science ever place in man's hands a sure, quick method of disposing of these pests?

* * *

Is it true that Father Coughlin has repudiated Fascism?

In his speech at Olympia Stadium, April 24, 1935, Father Coughlin said: "We turn our backs upon industrial fascism." This remark was made after ample evidence had been advanced to sustain the charge that Coughlin's program is plain Fascism. His disavowal is in reality an avowal of Fascism. First of all, Fascism is social and cultural tyranny, and as he has proposed making strikes illegal, you have a form of social authoritarianism that is as fascistic as any originated by Mussolini or Hitler. "Industrial Fascism" would mean that the in-

dustrial masters would rule society, which is not a part of Coughlin's special form of Fascism, for he would do it through a Fascism of a Catholic State. Furthermore, Fascism, on its cultural side, denies the rights of free speech, free assembly, free thought, free press and the other rights and privileges of a democratic society. Father Coughlin says nothing to repudiate cultural Fascism, which is, of course, a denial of culture in a civilized society. Father Coughlin is a genius when it comes to formulating policies that seem to say radical or liberal things but which are, in reality, thinly veiled appeals to suppression, dictatorship, persecution and anti-democratic regimentation.

* * *

If Mussolini isn't popular with the working class then how can one account for the great growth in the membership of labor unions?

Such membership figures don't mean the workers are for Mussolini. They join Fascist labor unions because they have to get their names on the membership books in order to get, or keep, a job on the railroads or any public or private enterprise. They join up in droves, but they know that nothing constructive, from labor's viewpoint, can result from such "unions." Mussolini's unions are merely organizations intended to hold the workers in slavery. A real union would not be tolerated by Il Duce.

* * *

Is it a fact that Father Coughlin's Fascism is getting Jewish support?

The only supporter I can learn about is Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman, of St. Louis, who appeared at Father Coughlin's first public rally, in Detroit, where the rabbi was permitted to show himself off on the platform as a Coughlinite, thereby attempting to soothe the feelings of Jews who resented the priest's unfair and untrue attacks on their race. Rabbi Isserman will learn, in time, that he is giving his support to a power that will turn and rend his kind, once that power takes control of the country. Wherever

the Catholic Church rules, there is Fascism and anti-Semitism. Here, with the Catholic Church a minority power, the Coughlins can use foolish and blind leaders of the blind, only to crush them once their support and money are no longer required. This was the record of Hitlerism in Germany, where many rich Jews thought they would buy "immunity" by giving money to Hitler's treasury, but when the madman took power he turned viciously and the Jews, rich and poor, were given a chance to feel his claws. It seems as though American Jews are determined to go through the same experience. They naively believe they can protect class interests by supporting Fascism, but the record of history shows that Fascism is anti-Semitic, wherever the Jews constitute a considerable minority. Of course, the situation was different in Italy, because there are only 50,000 Jews in the entire Italian peninsula, in a population of about 42,000,000, so Catholic Fascism didn't bother with them, but where the Jews amounted to something numerically, as in Austria and Poland, the Catholic-Fascists treated them as though they were wild animals. The Jews must learn definitely that democratic, liberal institutions are best for them, as they are for civilization in general. It was the growth of skepticism, democracy and liberalism that made it possible for the Jews to be released from persecution and the walls of the ghetto. If they want to be compelled to suffer a reaction in the direction of persecution and anti-Semitism in general, then all they need to do is to follow in the lead of the Rabbi Issermans, who are giving their support to one of their bitterest enemies and one of the most potent powers that aims to establish dictatorship over the corpse of liberty and decency.

* * *

What is the title of the head of Turkey's government?

The President of Turkey is Kemal Ataturk. "Ataturk" means "Chief Turk." He used to be known as

"Ghazi," meaning "victor" or "conqueror," but he preferred to have this title eliminated. Nor did he care to be called Pasha. This remarkable leader, or Ataturk, has done much to modernize Turkey.

* * *

Did Huxley ever give a brief definition of the word he coined, Agnosticism?

In the first issue of the *Agnostic Annual*, published in 1884, Professor Huxley described Agnosticism as being the idea that "a man shall not say he knows or believes that which he has no scientific grounds for professing to know or believe." When you hear the vulgar definition of an Agnostic as being one who "doesn't know," it would be well to call attention to this clear, simple, valid meaning as worded by the great Rationalist himself.

* * *

My religious friends invariably rest their case for a God-created universe on the authority of the Bible. What scientific value is there to this method of argument?

Its value, as scientific argument, is exactly zero. Its hollowness becomes apparent when you insist that the Bible's "reasons" be given the same critical examinations that a logician would want to give to any other book.

* * *

Is there any truth to Father Coughlin's claim that he is organizing his following for political and social reforms only?

I have documentary evidence to the contrary. I can prove from Coughlin's own writings that one of the purposes of his political leadership in the direction of Fascism is to strengthen the Catholic Church in this country.

Father Coughlin, through a clerical error (no pun intended), sent a letter to the Rev. A. C. Tebeau, rector of All Saints' Protestant Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, under the impression that Dr. Tebeau is a Catholic priest. The Rev. Tebeau believes in democracy and opposes Fascism, especially of the Coughlin type, so he was kind enough to forward the Coughlin

letter with permission to quote what I pleased in this publication. Here's what Father Coughlin wrote, over his own signature, on November 27, 1934:

"If you will help secure members for the National Union for Social Justice, I will consider it not so much as a personal favor but as one of the finest things that you can do for the propagation of the Faith in America."

It is interesting to learn from Dr. Tebeau that he forwarded this information to the editor of **The Christian Century**, who replied that he would not use it. He doesn't want to offend the Catholic hierarchy by telling the American people the simple fact that the political campaigns of Coughlin are not only intended to bring about Catholic-Fascism in America, but also to strengthen the theocratic powers of the Catholic Church. Thereupon, after this rebuff from a Protestant source, Dr. Tebeau did the only thing he knew in order to bring this vital and sensational fact to the attention of the American public—he sent it to an editor who is both an unbeliever and an anti-clerical. I'm glad of this opportunity to help bring Dr. Tebeau's discovery to the bar of public opinion. In forwarding the above Coughlin expression, Dr. Tebeau adds:

"I certainly enjoy the way you have been answering the numerous questions that people ask you about Father Coughlin, and the number of them certainly show that many realize the danger of the man."

Wishing to know whether any other Protestant minister would receive a letter similar to the one quoted from Father Coughlin above, the Rev. Tebeau prevailed on a Methodist preacher to write Coughlin for information, using the letter-head of his church organization. Here no mistake was made, so nothing was written about using Coughlin's national organization in order to "propagate the Faith."

Going a step beyond this, Dr. Tebeau then had a layman write,

and here again Father Coughlin carefully avoided saying anything along the lines he covers when dealing with Catholic priests, so it seems clearly established that the clerical designs of the founder of the National Union for Social Justice aim at "making America Catholic," in addition to spreading the poison of Fascism and anti-Semitism.

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G. R. Sikes, Salinas, Calif., writes that Corliss Lamont will find the line, "Glory to Man in the Highest, for Man is the master of things," in Swinburne's **Hymn to Man**, the closing lines of which follow:

By thy name that in Hell fire was written and burned at the point of the sword,

Thou art smitten, thou God; thou art smitten; thy death is upon thee O Lord

And the love-song of earth as thou diest resounds through the wind of her wings.

Glory to Man in the highest, for Man is the master of things.

* * *

Is it true that "4 out of 5" have pyorrhea?

The claim is false and fraudulent. The advertisers of a certain tooth-paste have been using this scare argument for years, but the motive is financial gain, not scientific accuracy.

* * *

Is there any truth in the advertisement which claims that 65 percent of all men past 50 years of age have disordered prostate glands?

Dr. William J. Robinson answers this question with a flat denial. He properly calls attention to the fact that the advertisement is intended to promote the sales of a maker of prostatic appliances. Such outlandish exaggerations should be discounted.

* * *

Are American inventors of this generation producing more or fewer inventions than did those of earlier years?

During the past 24 years, according to the records of the U. S. Pat-

ent Office, 1,000,000 patents were granted. During the years from 1790 to 1911, the same department issued 1,000,000 patents. This, of course, means that American inventive genius did as much in the last 24 years as was done in 121 previous years.

* * *

Is Father Coughlin in favor of Hitler's racial policies?

In his Detroit speech, April 24, 1935, Father Coughlin said: "We disavow racial Hitlerism," but here again we see this shrewd demagogue's clever word-mongering. "Racial Hitlerism" is not a part of Catholic-Fascism. It is the chief Nazi's own brand of Jew-baiting. As Joseph McCabe explained in his article in the second issue of the **Appeal to Reason**, anti-Semitism has its roots in Catholicism, so if Father Coughlin would disavow any plan to persecute any race, he should have said "We disavow racial Catholicism." It is in "racial Catholicism" that we see the older forms of anti-Semitism, as practiced in Catholic countries like Austria, Poland, etc. Here we find the Jews discriminated against with all the age-old fanaticism of the Catholic Church. Of course, there have been no recent repetitions of the pogroms of the Middle and Dark Ages, but they can come in time, and meanwhile we find the Catholic-Fascists doing their utmost to keep an innocent, persecuted minority from enjoying the rights of civilized people. I have, in these pages, quoted numerous statements from Father Coughlin and other Catholic spokesmen that prove beyond doubt that he and his colleagues are anti-Semites of the first order. It is Father Coughlin's trick to give expression to the foulest forms of anti-Semitism (as I have frequently shown) and then cap things off with a "disavowal" like the above, which means nothing because it is a disavowal of someone else's form of persecution, in the latest case being "racial Hitlerism." Father Coughlin's Fascism and Catholic racialism still stand when one reads his weasel words carefully. The man is a menace to every-

thing that is decent and desirable in modern civilization.

* * *

Is Albert Einstein a Socialist?

When he lived in Germany, Einstein expressed sympathy for Socialism, though I can recall no expression on this point since he came to Princeton. He has, however, definitely denied being a Communist. Before the advent of Hitlerism, Einstein was a Pacifist, but soon after he was driven out of the country by the Nazi barbarians he realized that dictatorships can be ended only by force and thereupon renounced his pacifistic theories.

* * *

I want to express my appreciation for the editorial work being done regarding the menace of Coughlinism. I agree that he is the tool of Fascism and Catholicism to destroy our liberties.

Those who have held that Father Coughlin speaks only as an individual should study carefully the despatch sent out by the Associated Press, on April 22, 1935, which opened with the following significant words:

"Armed with the complete approval of his bishop, whose authority is delegated by the Vatican, Father Charles E. Coughlin turned from his pulpit today to direct the first massed political action of his National Union for Social Justice."

In other words, Coughlin's open political campaign is agreeable to the Catholic hierarchy, or his bishop, and the Pope from whom the bishop takes power, would not permit him to proceed with his far-flung plans to bring Fascism, under clerical control, into being in this country.

In the same report, Bishop Gallagher said:

"Until a lawful superior rules otherwise, I stand steadfastly behind this priest, Father Coughlin, encouraging him to do the will of God as he sees it and I see it."

By doing the "will of God" Bishop Gallagher means doing the will

of the Vatican. The Pope, who is the head of a foreign state, now comes openly into the picture, using his tremendous powers and resources to interfere in American government policies, with a view to making this country a replica of the Catholic-Fascism of Austria, Italy, Poland and other benighted lands.

"The will of God," applied to the United States by Father Coughlin, his bishop and pope, means the inauguration of Catholic political and social policies, to the death of Democracy, popular education, free press and the right to think for oneself. "The will of God" means policies will be handed down from high—from God, to the Pope, the bishop and to Father Coughlin—with the American people denied their constitutional right to pass on economic, financial or political policies. That's Fascism. It rules from a united, authoritarian source over a mass of people who are denied the right to vote for candidates to whom they can listen without the threat of suppression, or for platforms agreed to after democratic discussion and enlightened controversy.

The issue is clear-cut. The facts are now known. The forces behind Coughlin—the Vatican and Wall Street—are conspiring to herd the American people into economic and political concentration camps, taking their ideas of right and wrong, political institutions, etc., from shrewd and cunning theocrats who have shown, in recent years, what they think of democracy and liberty when put to the test in Austria, Poland and Italy. Wherever Catholicism rules today, there we find Fascism. Once let the Coughlins capture this country and we too will be forced to tolerate Fascism, under clerical auspices.

Of course, Coughlin and his tools will use radical phrases—particularly against international bankers (which will serve as an excuse for an uncivilized, reactionary campaign of anti-Semitism)—but such radical phrases will not fool the thinking people. They will remember how Hitler used radical

phrases before he stole power and destroyed the German republic in order to give the German people their blood-bath of Fascism. Demagogues like Coughlin must use a few radical expressions (which on careful examination are always found to be quite innocuous) in order to fool the masses, who will, through ignorance, give these charlatans the moral and financial support that will make their Fascist conspiracies bear the fruits of suppression, persecution, reaction, bigotry and social injustice.

Coughlin knows that since his Church is a minority in this country, he can't put over his Fascism without the support of Protestants, etc. Will they be foolish enough to betray their country's traditions and give this Fascist the support he must have in order to establish his proposed reign of horror and slavery? There is still time for sober thought and discussion. But the time draws near when the Coughlins will be ready to strike their blow for Fascism. Will America be on the alert to resist such advances? That is the most important question facing the American people today. The work of generations of real patriots can be undone in a few, swift strokes, unless Americans who still believe in freedom and democracy let their true sentiments be known. Only a powerful, informed, functioning public sentiment can stop the Coughlins as they move into the arena to do battle for clerical Fascism.

* * *

Is it true that Lenin died of syphilis?

This lying report has been in circulation since Lenin's death. The last time I saw it was in Rev. Winrod's lying magazine, **The Defender**, one of the most vicious sheets published in America. Lenin died of a stroke. It may be that the rumor got started through the fact that one of the physicians who attended Lenin during his last hours was a famous specialist in paresis. Being a great authority on diseases of the brain he was called into consultation, but with the purpose of getting his help in the condition

resulting from the stroke and not for paresis, a condition that develops in the last stage of syphilis.

* * *

How long has the postoffice department had its powers of censorship?

It dates from the Comstock law, passed in 1873, to prevent the mailing of so-called obscene literature and anything that offers to give information on how to prevent conception. Prior to that year the postoffice had no powers of censorship. The founding fathers, including Washington, Jefferson and Adams, held, quite properly, that the postoffice department should have power to declare unmailable only such matter as might serve to injure other mailed matter, as in the case of explosives, disease germs, wet articles, and the like. The so-called obscenity laws are really nothing less than attacks on the freedom of the press and as such are in violation of the country's traditions and the Constitution. If a publisher violates a law, he should be handled through the regular channels, instead of being forced to endure arbitrary censorship at the hands of a postoffice inspector. It is a known fact that what is considered unmailable by an inspector in Arkansas is passed as mailable in more advanced cultural sections. This whole question of postoffice censorship is a serious one, as liberal and radical publishers learn all too frequently. The vile influence of that medieval inquisitor, Anthony Comstock, is still too strong for the health of a really free press.

* * *

The great sugar beet interests claim they want a stiff tariff in order to protect the standards of American labor. Please comment.

Pardon me while I snicker. These tariff-hungry patriots are never out for protection because it means higher profits from the home market. Oh, dear me, that would be too crude. Such crassness must be covered up by crocodile tears over the tragic fate awaiting American labor should the sugar interests fail to get outside sugar heavily taxed. What are the facts? Here's a report from the State Welfare

Department, of Michigan, which is asking FERA to get busy about the labor situation in Michigan's sugar beet industry. According to this source, the sugar beet bosses are importing thousands of Mexicans to work in the beet fields at \$42 per month. That shows how anxious these tariff grafters are to protect American labor and maintain American standards of living.

* * *

Can't the government make Father Coughlin reveal where he is getting the money to finance his organization?

Since coming out as a political organization, the National Union for Social Justice makes itself answerable to the Corrupt Practices Act. The federal authorities have the power and right to examine Coughlin's books in order to learn where he got, and gets, his money, and how much. The people have just reason for wanting to look under the lid to see what this leader of Catholic-Fascism is cooking up.

* * *

What would have been the course of history had Lincoln not been assassinated?

I haven't the slightest notion. Questions like yours are asked frequently by editors of newspaper feature pages, and I've never seen an answer that sounded reasonable. "What would have happened had the Kaiser won the war?" "What would have happened had Alexander the Great lived another half century?" "What would the Soviet Union be like today had Trotsky not been exiled?" Futile questions. They can never be answered, because they are based on "ifs," and one historical "if" can only lead to another "if." The pursuit is always fruitless.

* * *

Please comment on Father Coughlin's plan for a Central Bank.

When the Wilson administration inaugurated the Federal Reserve System, it was claimed by the Democratic capitalistic politicians that this would mean "the end of panics." But we know better now. The Federal Reserve System was run-

ning full blast in 1929, but the Big Bust came just the same. Since then, the crisis has deepened, despite all the "benefits" we were to enjoy from the hocus-pocus of a Federal Reserve system. And now, continuing this economic quackery, Father Coughlin wants a Central Bank, as though such a project would bring us prosperity and security. Surely Father Coughlin knows that Hitler's Germany has a Central Bank (the Reichsbank), owned, controlled and operated by the government. Has the Central Bank solved Germany's problems of unemployment, high cost of living, militarism and general economic and social tyranny and slavery? The Central Bank in Germany is merely an effective weapon in the hands of capitalistic rulers of the nation, and a Central Bank in the U. S. won't be one whit better. Puttering around with the "money question" is always the favorite ruse of a demagogue. It sounds "radical," but is superficial, so far as relieving the miseries of the dispossessed, economically insecure masses of workers and farmers. The problems of Capitalism go deeper than a Central Bank. Such a financial institution can do nothing to remedy the evils of monopoly, social and class exploitation, unemployment, low purchasing power among the creators, or would-be makers, of wealth, and, basically, the right of the Capitalist class to retain ownership of the large-scale industries on which the people depend for their very existence. Such problems can't be touched by a Central Bank in Washington, any more than the German workers and farmers are being aided by the Central Bank in Berlin.

* * *

Did H. G. Wells take an anti-war stand during the World War?

On the very day that England declared war on Germany, H. G. Wells, long a pacifist, wrote an article for a large newspaper syndicate, headed by the **New York Times**, in which he expressed the usual war office propaganda. He yelped about "German militarism," forgetting to mention that his dem-

ocratic England was now allied with czaristic Russia—a fine combination in support of freedom and against tyranny! "Never was a war so righteous as is the war against Germany now," said this prophet, though I'm sure he must writhe every time he sees these words in print. In the same article, Mr. Wells gave the world his guarantee that once the Allies whipped Germany it would "be possible to anticipate the end of the armaments phase of European history." History decided to speak its own language, and we know how successfully the war to end war succeeded in ridding humanity of the burden of armaments. "Now is the sword drawn for peace," screamed Wells. Some dopest! But he wasn't alone in those sad, dark days. He had plenty of company in his vast madhouse. You perhaps have confused Wells with Bertrand Russell, the famous philosopher-mathematician-Atheist, who preferred to serve a jail sentence rather than support the war.

* * *

Is it true that the U. S. government is penalizing new publications by charging \$100 for a new name?

It costs \$100 to apply for a second class entry, which entitles the publisher to mail copies at the bulk rate of a cent and a half per pound for editorial matter and a higher rate for that part which is given to advertising. The only way this \$100 fee can be avoided is to distribute one's publication under third class postage, which is considerably higher. This postoffice law penalizing new publications (most of them small and of uncertain prospects) should be repealed by Congress. The law today operates against publishers of small periodicals given to editorial experimentation, something the government should always be ready to encourage.

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In his Madison Square Garden speech Father Coughlin said: "... if we are forced to see \$19 or even \$50 a month paid for such work ... then this plutocratic capitalistic system must be constitutionally

voted out of existence." Please comment.

To one who has watched and studied this gifted mountebank as he rises to greater and greater power, this expression runs true to the Coughlin pattern. Phrase-mongering is again brought into action, with the result that his vast audience of 20,000 (who paid from 50c to \$2 to hear him) cheered for two minutes. To vote Capitalism out of existence is one thing, but such a threat must be followed immediately by an outline of what is to take Capitalism's place. Is it to be Socialism, Communism or Fascism? The first two are eliminated. We are left only with Fascism, which is the ultimate goal of this enemy of social and political democracy.

I've already pointed out how, in his declaration of 16 principles, Father Coughlin changed the wording of his original point that demanded nationalization. Where he demanded, only a few weeks before the Madison Square Garden speech, the nationalization of our banks, natural resources and public utilities, he trimmed this down by omitting all references to anything but money. Plutocratic Capitalism means the Standard Oil Company, Ford, General Motors, Cities Service, U. S. Steel, the Mellon interests, the system of transportation, communication, etc., but if this system is to be voted out of existence, as Coughlin threatens, then why does he eliminate the above from his list of industries and utilities that are to be nationalized? Again do we find the slick speech of the demagogue. He blows hot and cold. And the unthinking masses cheer themselves hoarse.

* * *

Isn't it a fact that people who live conventionally moral, correct lives rarely go insane?

Dr. John C. Whitehorn, McLean Hospital, Waverly, Mass., reported to a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, on May 14, 1935, that he had found a scarcity of insanity among "whole-hearted rascals and hearty sinners." It is the "good folks" who are stricken

with mental ailments, rather than the wicked, which upsets a nice theory about the hygiene of puritanical virtue. It's the fellow who lets loose now and then who is more likely to save his sanity, while those who keep their emotions pent up invite an "explosion" that calls for the booby-hatch.

* * *

Father Coughlin's claim that HE is the National Union is plain dictatorship, as you say, but does this attitude of his justify itself by resultant increase of response from his membership?

Father (of quintuplets?) Coughlin claims 8,500,000 members. When he commanded his followers to inundate U. S. Senators with telegrams demanding the passage of the Patman bonus bill, it was reported that 75,000 telegrams were sent in response to the demand by Father (holy-ghost-en-ordinaire) Coughlin. That means less than 1 percent got into action at a time when the Big Boss was most determined to make a showing. What would have happened had Father (Son and Holy Ghost) Coughlin made his appeal to a democratically operated and controlled membership? Would membership meetings, discussions, free speech and free assembly have produced only 75,000 telegrams? I may be wrong, but it seems to me that a really democratic organization, fitting as it does into the political habits of the American people, would have put far more than 1 percent of the organization into the demonstration of power and sentiment.

* * *

Has the Communist Party offered a plan to solve the Negro problem in this country?

Yes, the profound, minor Lenins and miniature Stalins of this country have applied their mighty Marxian brains to this question and are now offering a program that looks as though it was hatched in a booby house. I know it sounds screwy, but really, it's offered in all sincerity: The Communists propose to establish what they call "self-determination for the Black

Belt," which means, in simpler English, that the Negroes of states like Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina would be permitted to take the states out of the union and establish a Black republic! They have never stopped to consider that even the Negroes themselves wouldn't offer such a "solution." And as for the whites, they have fought one civil war over secession, and it's likely they'd go through another one any time the Communists tried to put over their black confederacy. Their literature says nothing about Harlem (the largest Negro city in the world), but undoubtedly this "self-determination" should apply there also, which would split New York State into two republics. When one realizes that such "plans" come from leaders who are supposed to have the interests of the working class at heart, one begins to understand why American labor doesn't know which direction it's headed. In defending this crack-brained platform, the American Communists point to the Soviet Union for doctrinal authority, claiming that the principle of "self-determination" applies in Russia's far flung sections. They claim that the Soviet Union is made up of many federations, representing different races, cultures, languages, etc., but that any of them can withdraw any time they see fit. That's so—on paper. But let anyone even hint at such a line of action and he would be branded a "counter-revolutionary" and shot within the hour. In other words, what is a pious jest in Russia is offered with stern literalness in the United States.

* * *

Your charge that Father Coughlin is a Fascist deserves the closest scrutiny by American citizens. What do Catholic sources say on this point?

The Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, Roman Catholic priest and editor of the Catholic weekly magazine, **America**, discussed his fellow-priest's policies in a recent issue. After commenting on Coughlin's plan of forbidding strikes, Father Parsons says: "It is, of course, this outlawing of

strikes, putting labor under the tutelage of government arbitration, which has brought upon him in labor and radical circles the reproach of being a Fascist." Father Parsons doesn't deny that outlawing strikes, which implies the outlawing of unions, is a clear manifestation of the Fascism of Hitler and Mussolini.

Discussing Father Coughlin's alleged radicalism, the editor of **America** writes:

"We find that he accepts private property, the profit system and the wage system. In this he definitely remains within the capitalist system, which, however, he often denounces as if it were irremediable. . . . And here he introduces the famous formula which has never been adequately explained. It is commonly said that capitalism is production for profit; socialism is production for use. Father Coughlin combines the two."

Only a demagogue would go before the voters of this country and defend Capitalism for the benefit of Wall Street and at the same time give out vague hints of socialistic policies in order to capture the leftist elements. In this he is echoing the early methods of both Hitler and Mussolini, for they also began by using Leftist phrases to win support for Rightist tendencies. The fact is, of course, that Father Coughlin believes in the fundamental bases of Capitalism; approves of Fascism as a weapon to maintain Capitalism by force; ridicules the tenets of Democracy and strives to establish an authoritarian state along Fascist lines.

* * *

I see that Fred D. Warren is campaigning in *The American Guardian* for a boycott against *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Liberty* and *Collier's*. Do you think it wise?

I understand this proposed "boycott" is in the nature of a counter-boycott, for these three capitalistic publications boycott the kind of advertising "Dr." Warren has inserted in hundreds of capitalistic magazines and newspapers offering

his "cure-all" for psoriasis and other diseases. This may be a good way of getting "even" but the whole business seems far-fetched, since it happens that the issue on which "Dr." Warren and the above three publications split is one on which the publishers are absolutely in the right. As things stand, Warren would know better than to even offer them the advertisement, which is something of a compliment for the individuals whose business he would hurt. I don't care much for any of the three magazines—editorially, of course—for I can only rarely find something in them that can be helpful to me in my own editorial work, but I don't believe this should be made the basis of a boycott. The best solution is to offer the public something better—and do it with clean hands.

You quote the logical syllogism, "All men are mortal; Socrates is a man; therefore Socrates is mortal," which leads me to ask how one of a skeptical turn of mind would word such a positive thought.

Vilfredo Pareto, in his *The Mind and Society*, a work that promises to become something of a vogue in this country, rewords it as follows: "All men of whom we have any knowledge have died; what we know of Socrates induces us to classify him with such men; therefore it is **very probable** that Socrates is mortal." That's putting this syllogism in strictly modern, scientific lingo, but it's a pretty safe assumption to accept the formal one from the text-book as valid. We are given to saying the sun is "sure to rise" tomorrow morning, but that is an assumption which takes for granted that the earth and the sun will be in existence tomorrow morning. It would be more accurate to say that the sun is "likely to rise" tomorrow morning, but we've been using the positive one for a long time, with no disappointments to date. But there's no telling.

In his Madison Square Garden speech Father Coughlin said he favored unionism. Please comment.

Father Coughlin has found it

necessary to advance his Catholic-Fascist drive by including a bid for union labor, which is in contrast to his former attitude of bitter opposition to labor unions and union label printing, and his insistence on open shop church building, compulsory arbitration of disputes through an authoritarian state, and outlawing of strikes. As he reaches out for a wider following he makes overtures to the pro-union element, and here again we see how his sly method works. He uses words that seem to say he is for organized labor, but a careful examination of his position reveals the old trick of clever word-mongering. He said:

"... The National Union advocates that every man who earns bread by the sweat of his brow . . . will join some labor union which is free . . . from the subversive elements of the Communists."

That sounds pleasing at first glance to only unthinking labor unionists, for those who are informed know that every strike—great or small—is usually described as a "red strike" before it even gets going. Politicians, priests, preachers, editors and radio news commentators invariably brand every militant act of organized labor as "Communist-led," "imbued with Red-ism," "provoked by agents of Bolshevism," etc. That being so, Father Coughlin, who was, until recently, outspoken in his anti-union attitude, can always oppose real unionism with the plea that it is "Communist-led," and all that sort of thing.

It happens that there isn't an A. F. of L. union in the country that hasn't a small minority of Communist members. Such legitimate labor organizations could be crushed by a Coughlin, once he takes power. The result, of course, would be that Coughlin could point to his speech and prove he was being strictly consistent. Workingmen who follow Coughlin are helping the capitalists strip them of the power to remedy their miseries.

Thus far, I'm glad to be able to state, labor unionists have refused

to fall for Coughlin's clever bait. The Madison Square meeting was not attended by a single authorized union official. His Detroit meeting had one A. F. of L. organizer on his platform when he spoke, but it is known that he was without authority from the organization and committed no one but himself. This supporter of Coughlin, who calls himself a labor leader, is known mainly for his long record as an anti Socialist lecturer and propagandist for the Catholic Church, of which he is a lay member.

* * *

We could cure the depression in no time if our government went after those billions of dollars due us on war debts.

It would be a simple matter to collect all that money. All we'd have to do is to declare war on England, France, Italy, Russia, and a half dozen other countries. We'd have to spend about a thousand dollars for each dollar owing us, and as for lives, your guess is as good as mine. After winning on every front, we'd still be unable to collect, for the money wouldn't be there. So then what? Wouldn't it be wiser to accept the sane view that we had no business going into that war, and that the money we advanced to other belligerents was the price we paid for the precious lesson that in the future we should keep our boys out of other governments' imperialistic wars? That's paying a great deal to learn what even a child ought to know, and probably does. But, have we really learned that simple lesson? I often wonder.

* * *

Rev. Winrod, in a radio speech, blames the World War on Nietzsche's philosophy because "he helped to create the war spirit which finally drenched the human family in its own blood, thereby destroying millions of lives." Please comment.

The speech you refer to was printed in Rev. Gerald B. Winrod's magazine of obscurantism, anti-Semitism, Fascism and Fundamentalism, **The Defender**. It has long been a

trick with the Winrod type of "historian" and "scientist" to say that Nietzsche inspired the war, little knowing that that great philosopher and philologist never ceased denouncing Prussianism and all it stands for. Because Nietzsche was strongly anti-Christian, having written numerous books attacking Christian history, ethics, morals and intellectual stultification, the ministers of the Winrod class get their revenge by lying about him.

The amusing thing about this particular argument is the fact that the real ruler of Germany—the Kaiser—had no use whatever for Nietzscheanism. He, like the Rev. Winrod, is, and has always been, a strict Fundamentalist, a pious Lutheran, a believer in Genesis and a hater of Modernism, a kiver-to-kiver Bible fanatic who could, were he living in Kansas today, qualify as a Hell-fire, eternal damnation, sulphur and brimstone evangelist. But it wouldn't do to recall these simple facts when discussing Germany's behavior before and during the World War. So the Christian Fundamentalists pick on poor Nietzsche!

* * *

Was Dr. Albert Abrams, of California, proved to be a charlatan?

This doctor, who died shortly after he gave his "discovery" to humanity, claimed he had invented a machine that could tell what diseases a patient had, even to the extent of deciding whether the subject worked on by his "magic electric cigar box" was a Methodist or a Baptist, for he claimed that the followers of each religion gave off peculiarly different vibrations. He reached the top of his fame when the ever-guillible Upton Sinclair (in matters of health and eccentric theories of diseases and their cures) began flooding the country with articles and statements praising the "discoveries" of this new miracle-worker. But when the noise subsided and the fog cleared, it was found that Dr. Abrams was just another mountebank. He had sold thousands of his "machines" at \$1,250 each, but there was no evidence they had

ever done a dime's worth of good, so they soon joined the museum of exposed medical fakes and the Abrams practitioners turned to other sources of quick and easy profits.

* * *

A returned tourist reports that Mussolini's vast popularity is attested by the way Italy is plastered with posters lauding Il Duce and his regime. Please comment.

It is true that Rome and other cities are almost covered with posters that shout: "Long Life for Il Duce, the Savior of Italy!" Portraits of the Fascist dictator are seen everywhere—on billboards, banners, in schools, meeting places, business establishments, and the like. The newspapers are full of articles and editorials lauding the new Caesar. But stop to think a moment. Who writes these glowing phrases? Mussolini! Who orders the newspaper and educational propaganda? Mussolini! Praise heaped on one's head by the praised person himself can mean only one thing—the man is an egotist of the first rank. He doth protest too much. A truly great man, loved by the people, would not have to resort to such exhibitionism.

* * *

Please comment on the first point in Father Coughlin's Preamble and Principles.

What you refer to reads as follows:

"I believe that every citizen willing to work and capable of working shall receive a just and living annual wage which will enable him to maintain and educate his family according to the standards of American decency."

This statement of policy has no meaning to a student of economics. Father Coughlin fails to explain what he means by "a just and living annual wage." Nor does he define what he means by a plane of living "according to the standards of American decency." Such talk means nothing. Did Father Coughlin believe he was fighting for a "just and living annual wage" when he insisted on ousting union

workers on the contracts to build his \$1,000,000 church? In that fight, Father Coughlin insisted that a "just" wage was from 25 to 40 percent under the union scale. If Father Coughlin's brand of Fascism were to take power in this country (which would mean the end of freedom and civilization in the U. S.) he would, as dictator, decide for us just what a "just and living annual wage" really is, and this is a matter entirely too important to be left to the whim of a Fascist who, until recently, insisted that all his vast printing contracts should be executed in scab shops. That this point of the Big Boss is not idle guessing is obvious when we recall that only recently Father Coughlin told newspaper interviewers, in New York City, that "I am the National Union for Social Justice."

But let us, for the sake of argument, assume that Dictator Coughlin would make the "just" living wage really high—perhaps as much as \$50 per week. (Remember, this is just supposin'.) With a wage of \$50, the workers would find themselves compelled to create wealth for the private owners of the large-scale industries (Capitalism) and naturally, since the industries are run for profit, they would have to create more wealth than they could possibly be permitted to take out of the industry in the form of a "just" wage. This would result in a surplus of wealth for the Capitalist class, over and above all that the workers received in return for their toil. Thus, by tolerating and supporting Capitalism, Father Coughlin would build the foundation for future depressions. It doesn't matter how high the wages are, if the workers do not receive the full social value of their labor under the present system there follows the creation of what scientific economists describe as "surplus value." That surplus value can never be consumed by the workers, for they have been held down to Father Coughlin's benevolent \$50 wage. Thus, in time, even the \$50-a-week toilers would find themselves thrown out of their jobs

while their employers went about the slow, tedious task of disposing of what they politely call "over-production," but which is, in reality, under-consumption.

Under such a set of conditions, Father Coughlin is Capitalism's mainstay. His talk about a "just" wage is high-sounding, but it is a means of insuring the future existence of the present system of exploitation of workers by Capitalists. Thus, according to his own words, Father Coughlin's policy is nothing more than a method of perpetuating a social order which has demonstrated its inability, again and again, to meet the problems of modern existence.

* * *

Farnsworth Wright, magazine editor, was moved by my recent comment on Swinburne's **To a Crucifix**, to suggest that though this poem has power and delivers its message with admirable directness, it still falls short of being poetry. Mr. Wright then calls my attention to two lines from a Swinburne poem "that glows in pure pagan beauty of words and freedom of thought." Swinburne's two lines express the blighting effect of Christianity, as follows:

Thou hast conquered, O pale
Galilean; the world has grown
gray with thy breath;

We have drunken of things
Lethan, and fed on the full-
ness of death.

Mr. Wright says these two lines are from Swinburne's **Hymn to Proserpine**, not to be confused with his more familiar **The Garden of Proserpine**. Mr. Wright adds that "there certainly is a paucity of great literature expressing the humanistic point of view. I wish there were more."

* * *

Didn't Mussolini put an end to the Mafia (blackhand) gangs?

Sicilian bandit organizations (the Mafia) still operate, despite Mussolini's propaganda which would have us believe that he wiped out these gangs by sending the leaders to prison. Considerable use has been made of a photograph showing some of the blackhanders on

trial, but I have seen correspondence from Sicily which proves that those who were tried and sentenced were not bandits but legitimate union officials and members of the Freemasons, who were framed as members of the Mafia in order to get them out of the way. I have seen communications (sent out through underground, illegal channels) from the larger cities of Sicily—Palermo, Messina and Catania—and all agree that the bandit gangs are flourishing as of old.

* * *

Is there any possibility of Japan and Great Britain ganging up to whip the U. S. A.?

Anything is possible under capitalistic imperialism, but such a war is improbable. Great Britain has always been ready to fight anyone or anything if she saw a possibility of territorial or commercial advantages, but an alliance with Japan to destroy the power of this country would meet with strong opposition from Canada. For a century the relations between Canada and the U. S. A. have been friendly, with complete absence of military suspicion or aggression, as shown by the fact that thousands of miles of border do not contain a single fort. The commercial life of Canada would be destroyed immediately should England and Japan declare war on us.

* * *

Does Coughlin believe in nationalization?

Father (of what?) Coughlin originally came out for nationalization, in the third point of his undemocratic, authoritarian National Union for Social Justice. (In a press conference in New York City, on May 22, 1935, Daddy Coughlin announced: "I am the National Union for Social Justice." When one considers that Daddy Coughlin claims a membership of 8,500,000, it is apparent that his movement is a blow at democracy.)

Point 3, when first printed on his membership application cards, read as follows:

"I believe in nationalizing those public necessities which by their very nature are too

important to be held in the control of private individuals. By these I mean banking, credit and currency, power, light, oil and natural gas and our God-given natural resources."

But if any interested person will refer to the application blank as it is now distributed he will find that Papa Coughlin has quietly dropped from the second sentence all references to power, light, oil, natural gas and natural resources. The first sentence is, of course, a generalization that means nothing. The second sentence, which His Reverence trimmed down, was too clear, so it was doctored. This means that nationalization, as proposed by Coughlin, does not mean what it should mean to any person the least bit informed on economic questions. Great companies like Standard Oil, the Cities Service Corporation (which controls great light, power and gas utilities), the owners of pipe lines, etc., have nothing to fear from this priestly demagogue. If he really believed in nationalization he would want to be specific, but instead he prefers to erase the words that explain what Point 3 would cover.

Wall Street interests can now pour new millions into the treasury of the American Rasputin with the sure knowledge that Coughlinism means political and economic quackery, the use of radical phrases to cover reactionary, fascistic tendencies and intentions. If he really believed in genuine nationalization, he would clearly say that his Union would endeavor to bring about a social order in which the large-scale industries, means of communication and exchange would be socially owned, democratically managed and operated, with production for social use instead of capitalistic private profit. Such a statement would mean something, but Father Coughlin avoids it like poison and then even throws out the words which give the least hint regarding nationalization. We thus have new evidence that Coughlinism is social deceit, intended to line up the discontented workers and farmers in a movement that will

lead them astray, thus helping support and maintain the present system of Capitalism.

* * *

Is morality independent of religion?

There are different kinds of morality, so it is necessary to be a little more specific. Secular morality is most assuredly independent of religion, for it is based on a humanistic, rather than an ecclesiastic, code of ethics. Secular morality means codes of behavior, based on social experience, realistic measurements of standards of behavior, and a scientific approach to individual and group actions as they influence, or injure, or protect other individuals or groups. Thus, an upholder of secular morality wouldn't hesitate to say that lying, cruelty, deception, fraud, murder, anti-social acts, injustice, persecution, social or racial discrimination, theft, parasitism are all immoral. These concepts do not rest on religious sanctions. They represent the best intelligence of the race and are founded on realistic instead of religious codes of conduct. On the other hand, a secular moralist would most certainly refuse to consider the religious ideal of chastity as being true morality. Rather would he hold that chastity, as it denies natural functions, can be the source of more immorality than anything else connected with one's existence, because of its destructive influence on a full, happy, healthful emotional, or sex, life. A secularist would differ with a sectarian on divorce, the former holding it to be entirely moral, while the latter holds it to be either entirely immoral, or else justified only in certain circumstances which lend it religious sanction. After this brief explanation I'd say that scientific, humanistic, secular morality is independent of religion. The world is slowly coming around to this view, which is in itself a sign of social health. The religious morality of days gone by can't satisfy the scientific, modernistic conception of morality. Secular morality is really the highest form of morality

conceived since the birth of civilization, because it is based on man's humanity to man. He "behaves" because such conduct is socially useful, fair, decent and manly. That is humanitarianism, without recourse to a sacred book from on high, or an encyclical from a Pope, or a voice from some mystic's inner consciousness. Sectarian morality is wrong because it has resulted from an authority that never functioned in accord with the spirit of science, utility and social progress.

* * *

Please comment on Father Coughlin's claim that the solution for the depression is the issuance of more money.

In his Madison Square Garden speech, in New York City, May 22, 1935, Father Coughlin again demanded that the government print more money. Among other excuses for such additional greenbacks was the Patman bonus bill, since defeated by the Senate's failure to over-ride Roosevelt's veto.

It is Father Coughlin's notion that we are in distress because we haven't a Central Bank and because we haven't issued enough money. The Central Bank point I have already considered. As for the "lack of money," Father Coughlin knows that we have as much money today as we had in 1929—about \$5,500,000,000. Why was it that we were able to enjoy economic and industrial good times for a number of years before 1929? We then had only \$5,500,000,000 in money. And as we have as much money today, why can't we enjoy the rates of production and consumption that prevailed in those years of great, record-breaking activities? A child should see at a glance that the volume of money had nothing to do with our 1925-29 prosperity, nor has it anything vital to do with our 1929-1935 depression.

More money issued now won't bring back the days of 1929 prosperity. If issuing money could better real conditions then those countries that went through real inflation—Germany, in particular—should be enjoying complete relief

from the problems of a sick social order. But we know that printing press money didn't help Germany get out of the hole—it drove her deeper into the mire, and if we want to make things even worse than they are—sending prices sky-high, destroying the purchasing power of wages and salaries, making what money there is in circulation today practically worthless—then we need merely give heed to our Father Coughlins and cure the disease by bleeding the patient to death. More money sounds good to those who are without money, and there are millions of such persons. But what good will such money do if it can't be used to buy anything of value? Surely Father Coughlin ought to be intelligent enough to grasp so simple a fact.

Tinkering with the "money question" will merely serve to deflect us from the real problems of Capitalism. The Father Coughlins serve the great interests by diverting the attention of the dissatisfied masses from the real horrors that have be-set them. The masses, under proper and intelligent leadership, could learn things to their real advantage, if there were no Coughlins to befuddle them. Sane leadership could point out the monstrous injustice of tolerating a system in which wealth—real wealth—is concentrated in the hands of a small, numerically insignificant, minority. This great wealth consists of something more important than greenbacks—it's railroads, mines, factories, distributing and communicating systems, granaries, mills and the general machine equipment of large-scale industry.

It is because we are willing to tolerate a system in which economic democracy is not tolerated that we have to go through these regular periods of depression and crisis. If these large-scale industries were socialized—owned by the people and operated for the good of the people, without view to private profit—the mines, mills and factories could be working full tilt in 30 days, producing a steady stream of consumers' goods so dearly needed in these times of real want. Poverty would

then be tackled from the roots. That would be radicalism in its scientific sense—attacking the roots. But our Father Coughlins don't want real radicalism—they want to play around with superficial side-issues, such as the issuance of new billions of dollars in greenbacks—printing press money—that can't do a thing to get the wheels of industry working again and supplying the masses with what they must have if life is to be maintained on a decent level.

It isn't more money that we need—it's social ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution in the large-scale industries that we must have if we are to get out of the nightmare of Capitalism. Then will labor know the benefits of political democracy combined with industrial democracy. We will then have a well-rounded system, with production going forward because there are millions of mouths to feed, and millions of backs to cover with good clothes, and millions of roofs to shelter our people who are so calamitously in need of better housing—production for use, and not merely to satisfy the profit-appetite of a small owning class that has a death-grip on our large-scale facilities of wealth production. When one tackles the problem from the fundamental angle one sees at a glance how superficial these Father Coughlins are when they further policies of economic quackery, along the lines of a Central Bank or the issuance of more money.

The "Voice of Experience" recently broadcast this sentence: "No matter what creed or belief you live by, even whether you are an Atheist or Agnostic, you will agree that the Bible contains priceless literature." Please comment.

An Atheist can easily grant that there are passages in the Bible that stand forth as poetry and fine literature, and yet insist that the book is only the expression of human beings, not a divinely inspired production. The Atheist merely says that the Bible should be judged

solely as a book, in the same way that we judge Shakespeare, Darwin, Marx, Goethe, Shelley or any other masters in the spheres of drama, literature, poetry, science, economics, and the like. An Atheist merely insists that while he grants the Bible its modicum of literature he must reserve the right to analyze this book as one of strictly human origin, subjecting it to all the rigid tests of evidence, verification, historical accuracy, and plain, common sense.

* * *

Do you believe that complete socialization of industry must and will inevitably come irrespective of party in power? Is there such a thing in the trend of events, or politics, as Evolutionary Socialism?

The idea that Socialism is inevitable is without scientific validity. It is true that economic conditions can prepare the way so that the change from Capitalism to Socialism would be logical, but this does not imply that there is some mystical element or force in society that demands the inauguration of a cooperative commonwealth. Socialism is the scientific answer to the evils of Capitalism—war, poverty, over-production, under-consumption, exploitation, imperialism—but it is crude to assume that the Socialist answer will be accepted regardless of party or social policy. History's lesson is that while it is possible for a people, or government or social order to move forward, it is also possible for them to remain static or slip back. Social institutions are man-made, and if they are to be changed the goal will be achieved only through the determination of sufficiently intelligent and powerful leaders and followers to bring about the new system. Some remote islands today have populations that are where they were 10,000 years ago, because of lack of social will, leadership and favorable conditions for progress. Others, in countries like Russia today, go through centuries of stagnation and repression, until, given the proper impulse and leadership, they throw off the taboos and restrictions of the past and make

quick social progress in certain defined areas. The people of the United States made more progress in 100 years than did the rest of the world in 5,000 years, not because of some mysterious power but as the consequence of conditions, opportunity, intelligence, freedom, leadership and determination. There is such a thing as an evolutionary preparation for Socialism, but this does not mean the social revolution is inevitable. It can come only if there is the will to bring it into being.

Didn't the reasons of honor outweigh all others when we decided to join the Allies in the World War?

There was a lot said about "honor" before, during and after the stupid World War, but as I look at the matter it seems plain that those nations sensible enough to stay out of the war didn't suffer any loss of honor. I refer to decent countries like Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland. Had they wanted to, they also could have joined us in entering the war, on the score of offended national honor (whatever that may be), but they wisely kept their peace, and when the war finished they weren't the least put out because of their "insulted honor," while the great sticklers for honor fought a dumb war and lost their shirts. Whether the belligerents retained or regained their "honor" I leave to any schoolboy to decide. Dr. Samuel Johnson was right when he said patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel. When everything else fails a patriotic scoundrel he begins bellowing about his nation's "honor."

Was Chatterton a plagiarist?

Thomas Chatterton, the young English poet, who took poison in 1770, when only 18 years old, ended a short, brilliant, somewhat mysterious career by suicide in order to escape a slower death by starvation. He was not a plagiarist, though he did have a peculiar habit of writing poems and letters, many of them good and some of them great, which he would palm off as the

work of some ancient or medieval poet, scholar or artist. Plagiarism is literary theft, an offense Chatterton never committed. Had this boy lived longer, he might have given the world creative works comparable with the greatest achievements in English literature. At that, despite his few years of creative writing, he won a deathless place in the world of letters.

In a radio speech the "Voice of Experience" said: "Even Atheists and Agnostics believe in immortality." Please comment.

This is an astonishing statement. It can mean only one thing: the Voice of Experience is inexperienced or he wouldn't utter such rank poppycock. I wonder if he has read even a page from the vast literature of Atheism? Atheists like Baron D'Holbach, Diderot, Ingersoll, Bradlaugh, Bertrand Russell, J. M. Robertson, Clarence Darrow, H. L. Mencken, Joseph McCabe, Corliss Lamont, Lucretius, V. F. Calverton, Ernest Boyd, Wm. J. Robinson, Karl Marx, Lenin, Eugene V. Debs, Jean Jaures, Anatole France, Chapman Cohen, Sir Arthur Keith, and literally scores of other important figures, did not, or do not, accept the myth of immortality. I recently quoted statistics to prove that only an insignificant portion of the educated world accepts the notion of immortality. The Voice of Experience is in sore need of information before he discusses subjects on which the academic and intellectual worlds are now in almost complete accord.

How does a Catholic justify his American citizenship, his oath of allegiance to this country when he first of all owes allegiance to a foreign pope who is the exclusive ruler of Vatican City?

The Catholic apologists attempt to answer this question with the assurance that they are bound to accept papal infallibility only on questions of faith and morals, leaving them free to make their own decisions in spheres of politics, economics, government, and the like. This explanation fails to explain.

"Faith and morals" are broad terms and can be made to include almost anything. The word "faith" can be used to persecute those who refuse to embrace the faith. It can, and does in those countries where the Church is strong enough to impose its will, result in censorship of literature, the press, assembly, free trade unions, the right to join such orders as the Masonic lodge. It can, and does, result in clerical control of the public schools. It can, and does, mean restrictions on free criticism of the Church or any question of religion. The age-old authoritarianism of the Church can, and does, spread out to include control of political and governmental institutions, as will be found in Fascist-Catholic countries like Austria, Italy, Poland and elsewhere. Being itself anti-democratic, the Church, when powerful enough, fights democracy wherever it is met, so that now we have, in this country, a movement in the direction of Catholic-Fascism, under the leadership of Father Coughlin, who functions with the approval of the hierarchy. Under the word "morals" the Church reaches out to control the movies, to deny non-Catholics the right to learn about Birth Control, the right to obtain a divorce, and interferes in marriage, sex, nudism and other secular interests and conditions.

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Is Fascism facing Canada?

The Candian Nationalist Party is for out-and-out Fascism, including the usual anti-Jewish propaganda. It is not strong, but one can't tell what may come of it.

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An acquaintance accuses you of changing the name and prostituting the policy of the once-famous radical journal, Appeal to Reason.

During the World War, the management and ownership of the **Appeal to Reason** changed the paper's name to **The New Appeal** and switched its stand from anti-to pro-war. I was not connected with the paper, directly or indirectly, when this was done. I joined the paper's staff later, and immediately changed the policy back to

an anti-war stand. Its support of Socialism was uninterrupted, though I did feel that the paper should be what **The American Freeman** is today—an absolutely free lance paper instead of an official party organ. I wanted this extension of policy and expansion of scope in order to allow myself freedom to discuss many subjects besides Socialist politics. I pictured a publication that would be absolutely free and untrammelled, able and willing to speak in support of Socialism (as I do today) but also free to speak out on the forbidden and at times unpopular topics of Free-thought, anti-clericalism, and other important, but neglected, subjects. It is true that in those early days the paper carried many advertisements to which I objected personally, but it was necessary to run them because the previous management had signed an unbreakable, non-cancelable contract with an advertising agency in Chicago, which compelled them, and later myself, to run whatever they chose to send in. However, when the contract expired I was free to throw out the whole sorry mess, which I did. The result is **The American Freeman** as you see it today—a paper that depends on its readers for support, and not on a lot of advertisers who offer copy that is offensive to persons educated to appreciate ethical standards. I permit myself to print a few book advertisements today, as I have always done in the past, because I sincerely believe in the value of such publicity. Such advertising is a real service to my readers, knowing as I do that the reading matter offered is of the best quality. I never intend to apologize for running such announcements. The paper, as it is today, reflects the picture as I saw it then—a free lance paper, edited without obligation to any party, group or interest, with advertising space when I feel the matter will prove of value to my readers, with a subscription price high enough to make it possible for the publication's bills to be paid entirely out of the subscription money received

through the regular channels. As my readers know, I still advocate the principle of socialized industry, but I am also insistent on the right to speak frankly on many topics that are taboo in a regular party organ.

* * *

Why did Hitler close the Hirschfeld hospital.

Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld was the founder of the Institute of Sexual Science, in Berlin. This celebrated private clinic was closed by the Nazis, its records destroyed, its library burned, and the great neurologist at its head, Dr. Hirschfeld, a Jew, was exiled. He died in Nice, France, on May 15, 1935, in his 67th year.

The Hitlerites were quick to destroy the Hirschfeld hospital because it was known that the great doctor had treated professionally many homosexuals who were in high places in the Hitler government. Their cases were on record, and while it was safe to assume that Hirschfeld would do nothing to make them public, it was feared to tolerate the menacing information they could impart to the world, should the case-histories fall into anti-Nazi hands. Hitler himself is known to be a homosexual, though it is a fact that Dr. Hirschfeld never had him as one of his patients. However, he did treat men and boys with whom Hitler had had sexual contacts. It was learned through these patients that Hitler was a homosexual who had frequently tasted the forbidden fruits of masculine love. One of the reasons General Von Schleicher was murdered in the June, 1934, purge was because, among other things, he had been given to joking about Hitler's and Captain Roehm's homosexual impulses. Captain Roehm, for many years Hitler's man-lover, was murdered in the same purge, not because of disloyalty but because Hitler wanted to put an end to the cause of much scandalous conversation in informed circles throughout Europe, and he stupidly thought he could be cleared of being a homosexual by shooting his own homosexual lover, Captain

Roehm. General Von Schleicher also had a way of joking about Roehm, it being reported from various informed sources that he would greet his male callers with something like the following: "My dear friend, I warn you in all seriousness to keep seated wherever you may be, for it is known that Captain Roehm is in the neighborhood and he is said to be very ardent." (Captain Roehm was then at the head of something like 4,000,000 armed brown-shirts.) That's the kind of people who are ruling Germany. Is it any wonder that Germany is made to endure the agony of sadism, degeneracy, persecution, anti-Semitism, and all-round madness, when one knows for a demonstrated fact that its rulers are perverts and degenerates of the most anti-social kind? Crazy pansies like Hitler and dope addicts like Goering are holding a knife at the throat of poor, suffering, tortured Germany.

* * *

I am a man in my early seventies, still sexually competent, and must make my choice between two women. I can marry one who is in her early forties or one who is 60. What is your reaction?

I'd advise you to marry the woman of 60. You'll be happier with her, especially in a sexual sense. Dr. William J. Robinson says he has "known cases of men between 50 and 70 marrying women of about 60 who claimed that their sex life was as satisfactory as when they were many years younger." He also disposes of the notion that a woman is through with sex once she has passed the menopause. If anything, he writes, an elderly woman is even better able to enjoy her sex life after she has passed the menopause, because she is no longer worried by the possibility of pregnancy. He also says "a woman in the sixties can enjoy the sex act as much as her much younger sisters, including the highest climax or orgasm." As for looks, remember what Benjamin Franklin said about all cats looking gray in the dark. He was a great authority on women, even to the end of his long

life, and he always said a good word for the older women as lovers. He also made the point that they are good mates because they are so easily satisfied, do not make unreasonable demands and look on a man's sexual attentions as something of a personal favor, which is more than helpful to a man along in years, who, at best, needs a lot of encouragement and patience.

* * *

Surely you do not believe the human brain can be explained along materialistic lines!

I quote, with complete endorsement, the following sentence by H. G. Wells: "The brain of man, like the nose of a pig, is a food-getting instrument."

* * *

Have you ever joined a nudist colony?

No. I was invited once by a young man, who, in a burst of enthusiasm, exclaimed: "You'll find our club as correct and orderly as a church picnic," to which I replied: "Then why join such a dull outfit?"

* * *

Was Lester F. Ward radical in economics and religion?

There is a vast quantity of evidence to prove Prof. Ward was both a Socialist and an Atheist, the latest being found in **The Scientific Monthly**, for April, 1935, in which Dr. Bernhard J. Stern, Department of Social Science, Columbia University, contributes a short article, entitled, **Letters of Alfred Russel Wallace to Lester F. Ward**. Wallace, who shares with Darwin the honor of having discovered the evolutionary theory, writes, in his autobiography, of his meetings with Ward, in 1887, when the latter was one of the government's paleobotanists in Washington. (He was later to enter academic life and become one of the greatest of sociologists.) Wallace writes:

"During these excursions (through Woodley Park) we had many long talks and discussions while taking our lunch. At that time I was not a convinced Socialist, and in that respect Lester Ward was in advance of me, though he could

not quite convince me. He was also an absolute agnostic or monist, and around this question our discussions most frequently turned." (From Alfred Russel Wallace's **My Life: A Record of Events and Opinions**, 2 vols. Vol. II, pp. 117-18. New York, 1905.)

Later, on his return to England, where he met many Socialists, including the most intelligent members of the working class, in the middle nineties, Wallace himself became a Socialist, so much so that, in 1898, he wrote Ward, from England, as follows:

"What a terrible thing it is that under the present social system, the vast majority of workers, however steady and well-educated, have, and can have, no prospect but a life of toil and an old age of poverty or worse—and this when the work actually done, if properly organized, would provide not only necessities but comforts for all, with ample leisure and a restful old age. Surely the coming century must see the end of the existing system of cut-throat competition, and wealth-production based on the misery and starvation of the millions."

To Prof. Ward, Socialism meant "the voluntary organization of labor for the good of all," though he was timid about calling himself a Socialist, preferring to coin the word "sociocracy." Where Wallace persisted in holding ideas of mysticism and spiritualism, Ward struck out with a bold Agnosticism, or Monism, which, of course, is merely a fancy way of saying Atheism, or Materialism. Dr. Stern writes:

"Ward, on the other hand, was outspoken in his agnosticism; in his youth he edited and wrote most of the copy for a magazine called the **Iconoclast**. He refused to curtail or modify his criticism of religion in **Dynamic Sociology** (2 vols., New York, 1883), although pressure was put upon him to do so by

the publisher and by such sociologists as Albion W. Small."

* * *

Can you quote something that establishes clearly the Catholic Church's policy of encouraging and provoking persecution of Jews, heathens, heretics and others?

I'd hate to condemn you to a reading of *A Dictionary of Miracles—Imitative, Realistic and Dogmatic*, by the Rev. E. Cobham Brewer (Lippincott), though I've looked into this 624-page reference work on many occasions, mainly with a view to entertainment. Instead of reading the comic sections (which bore me) I get heaps of amusement out of these solemn records of the absurd beliefs of millions of persons, past and present. But all is not laugh-provoking. Frequently one meets statements of belief that are shocking in their brutality. Page 19, of the above book, is the first page of a chapter given to outlining the inferences to be drawn from the data presented in subsequent pages, and it is here that I find the following words:

"As Jews and Protestants, as well as Mohametans and heathens, belong to the kingdom of Satan, they are the natural enemies of the 'Church of Christ;' and to destroy them, by craft, war, persecution, or in any other way, is as glorious as to trap a foe by ambush, or kill him in open fight. On the other hand, to persecute a Roman Catholic is to persecute Christ Himself, and to wage war against the kingdom of God."

A few paragraphs lower down, we find:

"For a Jew or 'heretic' to injure a Catholic is a sin; but for a saint to injure a Jew or 'heretic' is meritorious although often it is a hazardous civil offense."

* * *

Where, in your opinion, is the best English spoken?

I suppose I am, more or less, familiar with the English that's spoken in every English-speaking country (the others don't count)—

Scotland, Ireland, England, Wales, Canada, the Pacific Coast, the South, the Middle West, and the East, with an occasional whiff of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand thrown in for good measure. Taking it all calmly and remembering that the purpose of a language is clarity and ready understanding, I'd say in all seriousness that the best English in the world is spoken outside the large cities of Missouri. It's there that I've heard English that's simple, unaffected, non-high-hat, pleasing, even musical. By the "best English" I always mean the English that is understood most easily, and it's there that your Missourian tops everything. I don't mind a bit of the southern drawl, the Scotsman's burr, the Irishman's brogue, the westerner's vocal meandering. But I never can even tolerate the mincing, clipped, affected English of your educated New Englander and your super-educated Oxford snob—they both represent English at its worst, because it's loaded with mysteries, incoherencies, muffed words, dropped syllables and insane accents. But when a Missourian talks, you listen easily and hear without effort.

* * *

Please comment on the Lang articles in the Hearst press.

Harry Lang, one of the editors of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, a Socialist newspaper published in New York City, wrote a series of articles attacking the Soviet Union, which appeared in numerous Hearst newspapers. I was shocked and humiliated to see a Socialist journalist lend his efforts to Hearst's red-baiting campaign. Lang certainly knows that Hearst didn't pay him because he likes to publish the writings of Socialists. Rather it is a case of bribing a well-known Socialist to lend his support to Fascism in the United States and war on Russia. The psychology of Hearst's campaign is predicated on the fact that a united military front between Germany and Japan to crush Russia would meet little or no opposition from the masses throughout the world, particularly

in the United States, if it could be shown that the economic policies of the Soviet Union are a failure and that millions of Russians—some Hearst writers even put this figure at 30,000,000—died of starvation in 1933, which, of course, is an obvious lie. I was glad to read that within a half hour after Lang's first article appeared in the **New York Journal**, another Socialist journalist, James Oneal, editor of **The New Leader**, submitted written charges against Lang before the grievance committee of the New York Socialist party. It is more than likely that Lang will be expelled for this act of treachery. More than this the Socialist party can't do, but it is enough to show what the organization thinks of those who give aid and comfort to the most dangerous reactionary in this country. As my readers know, I have been very critical of political and intellectual enemies of the Coughlin, Hearst and Pelley type, but at the same time I have refused to shut my eyes to evils in the Socialist party and other movements that aim to socialize the productive agencies of Capitalism. When I exposed Fred D. Warren in these columns, I received many protests from my readers, who held that I should devote myself only to criticisms of class enemies. Such a view I rejected, continuing my discussion against a Socialist leader who makes money through the dubious method of selling poor, diseased workers a patent medicine that has been condemned by the U. S. government and the American Medical Association. In the case of Lang, immediate charges were filed, but in the case of Warren, he continues writing editorials and articles for a Socialist party organ and undoubtedly uses the names of readers to promote his eczema patent medicine "cure," which is my notion of a scandal as serious as the Lang episode.

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The Hearst papers are giving pages of space to pictures of famine victims, claimed to represent conditions in the Soviet Union, in 1934, when about 6,000,000 Russians are

alleged to have starved. Please comment.

I have seen these pictures. They were taken during the 1921 famine. At that time, I conducted a Russian Famine Fund, at the formal request of the Friends of the Soviet Union, collecting something like \$36,000 for this humanitarian work. I gave four full pages of the **Appeal to Reason** to pictures, many of them a great deal like the Hearst pictures that are supposed to portray conditions in Russia 13 years later. There is no denying the fact that there was a famine in 1921, but it is absolutely false to claim the same conditions prevailed last year. Instead of famine, Russia, on January 1, 1935, removed all ration cards restricting the purchase of bread, which is added proof that the claims of a 1934 bumper crop in small grains are true and that Hearst and his poison-gas correspondents are lying as a part of their anti-red hysteria.

* * *

Believe-It-Or-Not Ripley, in a radio speech under Hearst auspices, reports meeting a Professor Stassevich who knows that 30,000,000 Russians recently starved to death. Please comment.

How the figures do mount! I've seen it put at 2,000,000; many times at 3,000,000; scores of times at 5,000,000 or even 6,000,000, but now we have it jumped up to Ripley's astronomical calculation. The Hearst and other capitalist newspapers have, on many occasions, printed Russian population figures, the latest showing almost 170,000,000 people in that country, even after Russia had lost 25,000,000 population through the gobbling up of much of its territory by Poland, Rumania and other neighboring countries. During the past decade and a half, Russia has gained something like 50,000,000 in population. How could such a thing happen if the country had endless famines, with deaths numbering 30,000,000, as Ripley now claims? The argument defeats itself. It is true that Russia had a famine in 1921—that is not denied. But there has been no famine in Russia since

then. No country could go through a tremendous famine and then show such an increase in population. But Hearst CAN do that very thing, because he knows how to hire the best, or worst, liars.

* * *

The Hearst papers claim that this country is being flooded with Communist propaganda. Please comment.

The facts do not support Hearst's hysteria. Red-baiting is in style again, but the screaming and shirt-tearing doesn't go over very well because just a little knowledge of what's going on proves the Hearst campaign is built on wind. If Mr. Hearst will refer to **Pravda** (Truth), official organ of the Soviet Union Communist Party, February 28, 1935, he will find an article on Communist propaganda in the United States, written by Moissaye J. Olgin, editor of the New York **Freiheit** (Freedom), a Communist newspaper printed in the Yiddish language. In this article, which is intended to give the American Communists a "good send-off," Mr. Olgin claims that during 1934 the Communist Party distributed 560,000 pamphlets throughout the country. As this is the heart of their propaganda campaign, it is obvious that an entire year's work resulted in only one pamphlet to about 250 population, which is my idea of doing just about nothing. Much more dangerous is the anti-red campaign of the die-hard reactionaries, who use their strawmen and bogeymen as excuses for denials of civil rights. The latest crime against free education, free speech and press is being committed in Arkansas, where the legislature is, at this writing, considering steps to put Commonwealth College out of existence. The excuse is "teaching of radicalism" (as though that were a crime under our Constitution), but the real reason is the action of Commonwealth leaders in giving support to the sharecroppers in their fight against the economic slavery of the Eastern Arkansas landlords. A special legislative committee even goes so far as to suggest outlaw-

ing an institution that "possesses" radical literature, which would mean that every first-class library could be given a Hitler purge. Yes, the reactionaries are much more dangerous than the Communists. They are a menace to our liberties. We must always be on guard to see through their smoke screens as covers for the conspiracies of exploiters who seek to protect their right to class parasitism.

* * *

What is the difference in the policies proposed by Premier Bennett and the Canadian Socialists?

The main body of Canadian Socialism is the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, which has met the grave issues of the economic crisis with a program of social change from Capitalism to Socialism. Bennett, on the other hand, offers merely to reform or patch up the present unjust, inadequate and wasteful system, or rather lack of system. During the first five years of the depression, Premier Bennett kept telling Canada that "Our system (Capitalism, of course) is fundamentally sound." But saying so didn't make it so, and Canada, like the rest of the capitalistic world, went from bad to worse. Faced by the growing C. C. F., he now does an about-face, but intelligent Canadians will not be fooled by his tin-pot policies. The world is going to see Canadian Socialism grow stronger from election to election. The Canadian voters are being asked by the C. C. F. the following question, which they must answer: "Do you want a patched-up Capitalism, or do you want a new cooperative commonwealth?"

Reform schemes, say the Socialists, have been tried out in Europe, where they failed, and now Premier Bennett, refusing to take to heart the clear lessons of history, is offering the Canadian electorate a rehash of reform bills introduced a quarter of a century ago in Europe and which are known to be failures. The C. C. F. says Capitalism must be abolished, not covered with poultices.

Bennett offers to establish in

Canada the original British unemployed act of 1911. The problems of 1935 will not be remedied by taking over a set of make-shift, superficial tinkering. The C. C. F. offers the socialization of industry and all financial institutions, with a list of immediate demands that reaches the roots of present-day social problems.

* * *

Please give your opinion of Hearst.

I'm afraid to tackle such a job in my present mood, for fear of using such blistering language that this paper might take fire. Until I get my emotions in control, let's listen to Prof. Charles A. Beard, famous scholar and historian. In a speech before the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association, in a convention attended by 1,000 educators, at Atlantic City, N. J., on February 24, 1935, Dr. Beard said:

"In the course of the past 50 years, I have talked with Presidents of the United States, Senators, justices of the Supreme Court, members of the House of Representatives, Governors, Mayors, bankers, editors, college presidents (including that great scholar and thinker, Charles W. Eliot), leading men of science, Nobel Prize winners in science and letters, and I have never found one single person who for talents and character commands the respect of the American people, who has not agreed with me that William Randolph Hearst has pandered to depraved tastes and has been an enemy of everything that is noblest and best in our American traditions.

"There is not a cesspool of vice and crime which Hearst has not raked and exploited for money-making purposes. No person with intellectual honesty or moral integrity will touch him with a 10-foot pole for any purpose or to gain any end. Unless those who represent American scholarship, science and the right of a free people to discuss public ques-

tions freely stand together against his insidious influences he will assassinate them individually by every method known to yellow journalism—only cowards can be intimidated by Hearst."

* * *

Hearst says he believes "in the capitalistic system, so-called, which is the only practical economic system of proven worth and with adequate reward for merit." Please comment.

Let's put it this way: Here are 11,000,000 men, ready and willing to work. Such men surely merit a living. They can make a living only by working, unless they can beg, borrow or steal. Does the capitalistic system recognize their merit and reward them adequately? The answer, of course, is No. What Mr. Hearst really means is that he and members of his class "merit" rewards (profits) because they are in a position to control the industrial, financial and economic facilities of the country. That is "the only practical economic system" for the owning class, of course, but what about the 11,000,000 who are on the outside, without even a job, or the employed workers who create wealth galore and receive in return only a meager subsistence wage? The system doesn't function in a practical way for them, and William Randolph Hearst's cleverest prostitutes can't belie that simple fact. But when they, the workers, say they should establish economic prosperity for the great majority of the people through a system of socialized industry, with commodities produced for use by the people rather than profit for the capitalists, they are denounced as Bolsheviks, Reds and trouble-makers. In order to put his unjust social order on a permanent foundation, Mr. Hearst is ready to resort to force (Fascism), as his connections with Hitler and Father Coughlin plainly show.

* * *

I am an American farmer, living near the Canadian line, and wonder what the farmers over there are

doing about their economic problems. Please comment.

Canadian farmers are beginning to learn something about the realities of economic life, after decades of following the wrong trails. Until only recently, Canada's organized farmers, as represented in the Canadian parliament, were under the illusion that rural prosperity depended on urban poverty, by which I mean they wanted the workers in mills and factories to get low wages in the hope of being able to buy cheaply. There were 63 Progressive Farmers (what a name for a bloc that supported reactionary policies) in parliament in 1921 and all they did was to try to crush the city workers. They fought for lower freight tariffs at the expense of the railroad workers, free trade and low prices on implements. To get these and other "victories" they banked everything on coolie labor, for their leaders kept repeating the philosophy that cheap labor would mean cheap prices on what they had to buy. It took the farmers a long time to learn that they were following the wrong line, for low wages in the cities would naturally result in low purchasing power, ending, of course, in lower prices for what the farmers produced. At that time, they claimed (with no justification) that the labor cost in commodities they had to buy amounted to 80 percent, and that a reduction at this point would work to the benefit of the farmers. Had they taken the trouble to obtain the facts they would have learned that the labor cost, in Canada, was 10 percent, not 80 percent, of the retail price. Facts are stubborn things, even when a Progressive bloc refuses to look at them. They speak in the end. But before the facts were grasped, the Progressive Farmers landed in the Liberal Party, a reactionary political organization thoroughly incapable of solving Canada's economic difficulties, because they remained loyal to Canadian Capitalism, however they might talk about the little fellow, or what we call the "forgotten man," in this day of the Rooseveltian dispensation. One of

their leaders, T. A. Crerar, even rose to a cabinet position, where he proved his ineptitude by making stabs in the direction of what these farmers wanted—lower manufacturing costs, cheap implements, etc.

But today all this is beginning to be understood in a realistic spirit. Facts are beginning to mean something, and the first truth that seems to have registered, in this year of 1935, is that the farmer can't build his own prosperity if he helps reduce the economic status of the city workers. So now we find the farmers' representatives, in the Canadian parliament, at Ottawa, supporting pro-labor legislation, even going so far as to demand that workers out on strike shall be entitled to unemployment insurance, which is a far cry from the ideas expounded only a few years ago. They know now that low wages make for unemployment, and unemployed workers can't be profitable customers for agriculture. They know also that an exploited working class, forced to accept low wages, will bring low prices for what the farmers have to sell and in some cases destroy their markets. Yes, the Canadian farmers are beginning to move in the right direction.

* * *

I was interested in your answer to the question regarding America's best looking newspaper. Which magazine would you say is the best typographical job, since you have eliminated Fortune?

The Nation strikes me as the most beautiful typographical job in America. It scores on the following points: 1. Simplicity. 2. Visibility. 3. Convenient make-up. 4. Absence of freakish typographical effects. 5. Clear, dignified type. 6. All articles continued without breaks into the advertising section. 7. Complete reliance on type to carry its message. 8. It is printed for the convenience of the reader and not for the advertisers.

Despite its small circulation of about 38,000, this weekly is one of the most influential in the United States, because it reaches "key"

readers in editorial offices, universities, lecture platforms, professions, public officials. It has done a great deal of good and I'm glad to learn its future is now fairly certain. Its aging owner, Oswald Garrison Villard, one of the few editors who consider journalism a means of public service instead of private profit, will no longer have to bear the deficits, the burdens having been taken over by a foundation headed by Maurice Wertheim, liberal banker. There's every reason to believe the magazine will continue along the lines established by the Villard family during the past half century. Mr. Wertheim's foundation will place full editorial powers in a self-perpetuating board, which now includes Mr. Villard, Joseph Wood Krutch and Heywood Broun. The Nation Fund, Inc., set up by Wertheim, will be non-profit making, under its charter.

It is also taken for granted that the new regime will continue **The Nation's** excellent typographical style. It would be a crime to "dress it up," make it look "snappy," along the lines of a super-Babbitt **Fortune** or a Macfadden movie fan magazine. **The Nation** stands as an almost perfect example of what a piece of printed matter should be. Made to be read, it does everything to make easier going for the reader. And since it is to be read and not merely looked at, it avoids half-tones and other engravings, though it does give a page now and then to the brilliant political cartoons of Mr. Low.

May **The Nation's** new owners give long and useful life to their magazine, and may it always pay its own way. It deserves commercial success, but it'll never sacrifice editorial integrity to gain it, so long as the present set-up endures.

Is Hitler easing up a little in his persecution of the Jews?

If anything, conditions in Germany are worse than ever, leaving out, of course, the weeks of murder and torture shortly after this degenerate stole power and wrecked one of the most civilized states in the world. Today, the Jews are be-

ing put to every possible insult and discrimination. The Hitler-approved anti-Semite, Streicher, in his vile sheet, stoops to new obscenities almost daily. To read his paper, one would believe the Jews unfit to live among a band of savages. For example, Streicher (with the formal approval of Hitler) prints faked advertisements in which Jews offer to sell wine colored and flavored with human blood. Another advertisement offers to give Talmudic lessons in homosexuality, as though the Talmud could teach one more than Hitler himself! Streicher also prints an advertisement in which the head of a Jewish family advertises for a non-Jewish German girl to "minister to the wants of a sexually mature Jewish youth of eleven." Such monstrous concoctions would be expected to meet disgusted protests from Germany's intelligent people, but there is no evidence of such reactions; instead, Streicher's libelous sheet grows in circulation and influence. We haven't a Streicher in this country—yet. But there are some specimens that promise to do in this land what Hitler's degenerates are doing to the unhappy Jews in Germany. For example, anti-Semitic supporters of the murderer Hauptmann are circulating a pamphlet which charges (without a shred of proof) that the Lindbergh baby was really murdered by Jews in order to supply blood for a synagogue ceremony, and the best "proof" the writer can offer is the fact that the murder took place during the month in which an important Jewish religious holiday is observed! It is from such "facts" that anti-Semites build their case. The Jew, the eternal scapegoat, has new indignities and persecutions to suffer, not only in Germany but in many other countries, perhaps also in the United States. Lovers of honesty and decency everywhere should do their utmost to lessen the effects of the propaganda now being poured out by the Coughlins, the Pelleys, the Streichers and the other persecutors of an innocent and almost helpless people. A minority almost everywhere, they

are made to take the blame for the offenses of economic, religious and political demagogues who have made a mess of their own affairs.

* * *

You say there is serious danger of inflation. I have a good-sized mortgage on my house, and a moderate bank balance. If you were in my place, would you apply the bank account on the mortgage? It is not sufficient to cover it, but it might be wiser to do that than to find myself with a load of shin-plasters. Please comment.

Just the opposite would be the wiser, in case of inflation. You own your home, which I assume is a modern, saleable property, and it is sure of quick, substantial appreciation once inflation becomes a reality, granting, of course, that it will come, which neither you nor I can say. While your home appreciates, the mortgage depreciates, because it will call for the same number of dollars, regardless of inflation or deflation. Judging you to be one who is steadily employed, it strikes me you would make better use of your bank balance by adding to your home or even buying another one.

* * *

Has anyone shown precisely what could be done, in a constructive way, with the money that is wasted in warfare?

Some years ago I made use of an interesting item, written by an English statesman (whose name I have forgotten), which showed realistically what could have been done with what was wasted or destroyed in the World War. His computation sounds incredible, but a little study can prove to the most skeptical that he wasn't dealing in fairy tales. He found that the World War's cost could have been used as follows:

To buy a house with garden, garage, and other outbuildings at the value of \$8,000 for each and every family in the United States, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Germany and Russia;

To build a \$10,000,000 hospital in each city of these seven

major countries of 200,000 or more inhabitants;

To erect a public library in each of these cities at the same value;

To give each of these a university costing \$20,000,000—

And after all this, still have enough money left to buy all the real estate of France and Belgium at pre-war prices.

But the simple lesson of the above has still to be taken to heart by the world. Today, Hitler is preparing to launch a world war, in which new horrors will be used, even to the extent of the dissemination of disease germs. Japan is aching to follow up its rape of China with a grand attack on eastern Siberia. Mussolini pours men and equipment into Ethiopia in an attempt to steal that ancient country. The United States is spending more on munitions, etc., than at any time in the past 15 years. Everywhere we find greater expenditures for armaments, with the war propagandists claiming it is being done only for "defensive" ends, or, to use the favorite expression of our own war-mongers, "preparedness for peace." The notion that the best way to preserve peace is to prepare for war was exploded in August, 1914, when every belligerent was armed to the teeth and prepared as never before. Being thus prepared, Germany and the other contestants found nothing else to do but start the war. And it came with a vengeance. What it cost can be seen from the dramatic outline I quoted above—proof that the ways of peace can be turned to the ways of culture and civilization.

* * *

By what authority does the Supreme Court declare laws unconstitutional?

There isn't a sentence in the Constitution that gives the Supreme Court the right to dictate to Congress what laws are constitutional. Its decisions—as in the famous knock-out blow at the NRA—are nothing less than judicial usurpations of power. However, the procedure is so well established that

it would be necessary to meet the problem with a new amendment to the Constitution denying the Supreme Court the function of approving or reversing acts by Congress. In the NRA decision, the Supreme Court held that Congress gave the President powers that could not be delegated under the Constitution. Another amendment to the Constitution will have to be adopted before it will be safe for the federal government to pass laws covering wages, hours, child labor, etc. It has been suggested that an article, worded something like the following, would make it impossible for the Supreme Court to throw out legislation intended to protect the workers:

ARTICLE XXI—Section 1.

The Congress shall have power to establish uniform laws throughout the United States to regulate, limit and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age, to provide for the relief of aged, invalided, sick and unemployed wage earners and employes in the form of periodical grants, pensions, benefits, compensation or indemnities from the public treasury, from contributions of employers, wage earners, and employes, or from one or more of such sources, and generally for the social and economic welfare of the workers in the United States.

Section 2. The power of the several states to enact social welfare legislation is unimpaired by this article, but no such legislation shall supersede, abridge or conflict with any act of Congress under this article.

* * *

What is your opinion of the activities of C. Henry Cooke?

This man, who operates through the U. S. mails at Omaha, Nebraska, is just another one of those "scientific" miracle workers who guarantee to do by themselves what the combined scientific intelligence of the world admits to be quite beyond its present powers. The average layman, with a few dollars

in his jeans, who is willing to listen to these "masters of magic," is usually ready to "take a chance" in the hope that a Cooke will bring him immense wealth from his "inventions." Medicine and invention have been crowded with charlatans who have their day (after costing their dupes sums large and small), but when one slips into oblivion his place is taken at once by some equally gifted, or perhaps cleverer, "genius."

In Dr. Cooke's case, we are offered the following "discoveries":

1. A cooling cabinet (ice-box to you) which functions through the use of light rays. The cabinet guarantees to ice food from the "inside out" instead of from the "outside in." All of which sounds precious, but is there a physicist in any of our great laboratories and universities who will endorse such a contraption?

2. The Dr. Cooke "heat ball," which is guaranteed to heat a large house from the juice of an ordinary light bulb. This "inventor" offers to produce a ray that will act on a chemical "heat ball."

3. After the above two triumphs in physics and chemistry, Dr. Cooke turns his master-mind to medicine and produces a sure-cure for cancer—along the lines of a Fred D. Warren eczema "cure." What it's all about I don't understand, but I'm naturally suspicious of an upstart who rushes into a field that is baffling the best scientific geniuses of the world. Legitimate scientists are making progress in discovering the causes of, and treatments for, cancer, but these men are working for the good of humanity and not with a view to selling stock to Nebraska farmers. Dr. Cooke's "Vitamin-Ray" cabinet guarantees to produce the special rays that are able to kill the various creators of cancer tissue.

If it's money that Dr. Cooke seeks (I don't know what the "Dr" means) why does he have to make sales talks to moneyed Nebraskans? There are great corporations, foundations, educational institutions, philanthropists, research bodies, etc., waiting to test and apply such

"miracles." Or, maybe the scientists are jealous of him. They may be combined in an anti-Cooke trust to keep his great "discoveries" from reaching the pee-pul.

* * *

What is your opinion of these stars: Roland Young, Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Sullivan, Edna May Oliver, Mary Boland, Charles Ruggles, and Burns and Allen?

Roland Young is a finished artist, especially effective in sophisticated comedy. His work in **David Copperfield**, as the 'umble, 'umble Uriah Heep, was just about perfect, though it seemed to me the best work was done by my old favorite, W. C. Fields, as Micawber, the poverty-stricken optimist who is sure that something good will always turn up in the next hour. Charles Laughton is another favorite of mine, as I've written before. His work in **Payment Deferred** was especially adroit. In **The Loves of Henry VIII**, Laughton rose to the rank of genius. In **Ruggles of Red Gap**, he showed himself as a comedian of the first order. I'll drive 50 miles any evening just to see Laughton. Maureen O'Sullivan did splendid work in **The Barretts of Wimpole Street**, achieving real dramatic heights in the scene where she defies her tyrannical father, played by Laughton with a subtlety that brought out his suppressed incestuous love for his eldest daughter, which struck me as something new in the movies, given as they are to ignoring some of the most dramatic and fundamental emotions. I have always liked Edna May Oliver, especially in **David Copperfield**. I also liked her acting in **Cimarron**. Mary Boland and Ruggles make a good team. Ruggles seems to be the better artist, given to exploiting a wider range of roles. Miss Boland, on the other hand, seems limited, perhaps through no fault of her own, to parts depicting the same type of character—a fulsome, affected, posing, climbing, vulgar matron. Ruggles' best work was done in his first movie—the part of the drunken reporter in **Gentlemen of the Press**. As for Burns and Allen, I can't stand

their mechanical, artificial, unamusing gags. Gracie's boneheadedness may be funny to some, but five minutes of it is all I can endure, and if given any warning I won't even tolerate that.

* * *

What is your opinion of radio as an advertising medium?

I tried radio about three years ago, paying \$300 for a series of 50-word announcements, the point of which was to get the hearers to send postcards for my free catalogue. I know it'll sound crazy, but I insist it's absolutely true—I received exactly three replies, which meant it cost me \$100 to send out each catalogue. I let the medium rest until early in April, 1935, when I let myself be talked into a \$20 announcement over a big station in Nashville, Tenn., the aim of which was to bring in catalogue inquiries. This time, I got 10 postcards, which meant I had to pay \$2 per head, and that means absolute ruin if kept up long enough. When I run a \$20 advertisement in a magazine, I expect the small copy, that invites readers to send for my catalogue, to produce 200 requests. I'm more than willing to pay 10c to get such an inquiry. Some produce even more, while some, of course, cost somewhat in excess of 10c per name, but the average is just about a dime per name. It is therefore as plain as day that, so far as my own experience is concerned, the printed word has the radio whipped all over the lot. Of course, the radio people will insist that I should keep plugging over the air—their favorite word is "cumulative," but I haven't much faith in that word. It's my notion that an advertisement should produce results now—today—not in the remote future. If a magazine falls down the first time I know from experience that the second insertion will, most likely, be even worse, though there have been a few exceptions, mainly because of wrong copy. But given the right, tested copy, I'm sure the magazines are superior to the radio. Radio advertising is growing, but I'm not convinced it's worth the

millions that are being poured into it. Great corporations can use the radio for general publicity, but that isn't what a real salesman is looking for—he wants sales, and is he getting them from his radio advertising? I doubt it. It's my feeling that it would be a blessing for sound business, good advertising and the sane interests of the public if the government were to ban radio advertising entirely and even take over the radio for purposes of exclusive entertainment, education and communication. Radio advertising is a nuisance at its best, and a crime at its worst.

* * *

I notice that you cite Emerson as rejecting immortality. Now maybe I'm mistaken, but I always thought he was a firm believer in it.

The above comes from Corliss Lamont, the brilliant author of that new, important book, **The Illusion of Immortality**, a work that should be in every Freethinker's library. It puts me on the spot to find myself "called" by the man who is perhaps the world's greatest authority on this subject. I based my remark on Emerson's own words in his **Uncollected Lectures: Natural Religion**, as follows:

"Other world! There is no other world! Here or nowhere is the whole fact."

This is plain materialism, but, knowing Emerson as I do, I'm sure Mr. Lamont could find no end of quotations from Emerson to support some form of immortality. Emerson was a queer mixture of realist and mystic, worldly philosopher and moon-struck poet.

* * *

I have been reading the March issue of **The American Freeman** and would like to ask you to place for me that Swinburne quotation you use: "Glory to Man in the highest! for Man is the master of things." I ought to know where it is, but can't seem to find it. There is, to tell the truth, a real paucity in great literature expressing the humanistic point of view. I have not yet discovered a first-class poem that adequately does the job. Nor can I discover a first-class painting or

work of sculpture that puts in entirely this-worldly terms the courage, intelligence, and upward-striving quality of man.—Corliss Lamont.

I got that Swinburne line from Georg Brandes' essay on the great poet, included in the Danish critic's valuable book, **Creative Spirits**. Brandes merely says it's from his "hymns to humanity."

* * *

Is the text of George Washington's prayer at Valley Forge authentic?

The prayer has been exposed repeatedly as a forgery. Joseph Lewis, head of the Freethinkers of America, has a suit pending in the New York Superior Court against St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Fulton streets, New York City, in which he asks the court to order the removal of the church's metallic plaque which contains the words Washington is supposed to have uttered in his Valley Forge "prayer." The petition also asks \$5,000 punitive damages on the score that the prayer is "false and misleading." The suit is based on the fact that the church sold picture postcards, at 10c each, carrying a reproduction of the prayer. According to Lewis' complaint, the prayer "is in large part and in its most significant parts, not accurate, authentic, and not true, was never uttered by George Washington, and is not found nor to be found in the said 'Writings of George Washington' nor elsewhere in the authentic writings of George Washington." Just what will happen to Mr. Lewis' suit can be foretold with fair accuracy. The churches can, as usual, depend on seeing their falsehoods given at least tacit protection by the courts, for if the courts ever decided to press actions against religious organizations for lies and forgeries, how much of religion would one find remaining? To sell postcards at a profit, which make Washington say things he never said, will be put down as a gross lie by all honest people, but we must remember that a lie told for the glory of the Lord God Jehovah is a sacred lie and will serve righteousness to the defeat and humiliation

of Satan and his imps of evil and falsehood. But the lies go beyond this 10c postcard. They reach into every expression of church philosophy and creed, to say nothing of the lies the churches tell about history. In Mr. Lewis' case, he will be doing well, in a financial sense, if he can get back the 20c he paid for the two postcards that served as the basis of his suit, but in the field of historical truth he has rendered a service that earns the thanks of all Freethinkers.

* * *

In defending lynch law before the Senate, U. S. Senator Smith referred to "the very humiliating necessity of going outside the law at times to vindicate the sanctity of our fireside and the virtue of our women." Please comment.

This old lie keeps going the rounds, despite the fact that the best authorities have shown it is without foundation. Senator Ellison D. Smith, Democrat, of South Carolina, ought to know that statistics prove definitely that mobs do not lynch in order to "protect white womanhood." The first fact to consider is this: Since 1889, there were 94 lynch victims who were black women. Surely they weren't lynched to protect the white woman's virtue!

The intelligent white women of the south are no longer fooled by this argument. They know this "protection" is a fake. Numerous resolutions against this claim have been passed by organizations of southern white women, including the Association of Southern White Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Statistics gathered in two independent investigations by Dr. Arthur Raper, of Atlanta, Ga., and Prof. J. H. Chadbourn, of the University of North Carolina, prove conclusively that, since 1889, when statistics on lynching began to be collected, less than one-sixth of the Negro men who were lynched were even accused of any kind of a sexual crime. And, even of this one-sixth, many are known to have been framed in order to hide the real reason, which often was

"sassing" a white man, complaining about treatment at the hands of short-changing or profiteering businessmen, protesting against cuts in wages, attempting to collect wages from employers who refused to pay up, etc.

Lynching cannot be defended by any civilized person. And if we are to wipe out this crime against humanity, it will have to be done through a federal anti-lynching law, for little relief may be expected from the politicians in the South who profit by arousing race-hatred, hysteria, and bestiality.

* * *

Has Arthur Brisbane made any original contributions to thought?

Brisbane's job is mainly that of a commentator, which he handles in a superficial, facile, clever way, to the profit of his string of mediums. I rarely read what he writes, because there's nothing gained for the time spent on his pieces. As for his originality, he must think he is a big shot in Zoology, the way he keeps pounding year after year on the amazing discovery that a gorilla is stronger than a man. He could extend the thought by teaching us that an elephant is heavier than a man, a whale is longer than a man, a giraffe is taller than a man, a chinch bug is smaller than a man, a snake is thinner than a man, a deer can run faster than a man, a goat is sexually more competent than a man, a skunk can make a bigger stink than a man, and a lion can roar louder than a man. I make no charge for passing on these tremendous revelations to the Hearstian oracle.

* * *

I was glad to see The American Guardian's defense of its associate editor, Fred D. Warren, who, we are told, does his editorial work free of charge for the cause.

I've never had an opinion on "Dr." Warren's financial arrangement with the Socialist paper that prints his articles. I never asked whether he got 2c or \$200 per week. I merely criticized the Socialist leader for promoting a patent medicine that was intended to exploit the diseased members of the work-

ing class. If his business enterprise is morally questionable, the fact that he works for Socialism free of charge certainly is no defense. You numerous defenders of "Dr." Warren certainly do some tall twisting in order to cover the simple, obvious fact that it is wrong to sell the sick masses a "cure" that has been condemned by Uncle Sam and the American Medical Association. To exploit the suffering sick is wrong, and the wrong is not righted by editorials that are intended to help those suffering victims in the political field. I repeat the issue again and again because I don't want to get off on a tangent. Be honest and candid, you friends of Socialism. Try to face the unpleasant fact that a great Socialist leader has been willing to grow rich at the expense of suffering humanity, thereby being able to work free of charge for a Socialist publication.

* * *

What was the name of Paul Revere's horse?

I don't know, and what's more I wouldn't spend 15 seconds trying to find out.

* * *

I hate war as much as the next man, but it seems the logical thing to get us out of the depression. Remember 1914-'18? Those were the prosperous years for farmers, workmen and others.

The notion that another war, at this time, would restore good times is widely held, but it won't bring the desired results. Conditions are different today from what they were 20 years ago. In those days, the warring governments sent their representatives to our shores to buy, buy and buy. They gobbled up our cotton, wheat, copper, lead, steel, munitions, chemicals, etc., and paid cash as they went along, because most of the governments had plenty of money to fight with, and what they lacked in cash they could put up in credit. When they finished spending their money, we turned around and advanced our profits as international loans—\$10,000,000,000 from Uncle Sam to the Allies, and \$17,000,000,000 in

foreign loans from our private sources. And it was all spent here. When we were forced into the World War ourselves, prosperity became even more pronounced, because we withdrew millions of young men from industry, which resulted in great wage increases for those who remained. But that couldn't happen now, because another war would mean absolutely no trade at home on a cash basis, for there is no cash available from the great European powers that are preparing for another big fight. And as for credit, who would be foolish enough to lend them the money to fight with when they haven't paid what they owe on their last scrap? The first World War was fought by rich nations; a second World War would be fought by governments near bankruptcy. And how could we ever regain prosperity by trying to do business with bankrupts? The fact is, instead of enjoying an increase in business we would sink deeper into depression, because what foreign trade we have would be destroyed, leaving us worse off than ever before. No, another war isn't the remedy. Another war will mean the end of civilization and an era of complete dictatorship and Fascism, but as for prosperity for the masses, it won't come through that method. If we want real and lasting prosperity, we must set our minds to the decent ways of peace and build scientifically from the bottom up. We must, first of all, do away with the system of Capitalism. By socializing the large-scale industries we open the door to real economic progress—prosperity for the millions who today need food, clothing, shelter. That isn't an easy job to get done, but it's the only cure for Capitalism's twin evils of war and unemployment. Being an impatient people, we prefer to fool ourselves that there are quicker and easier ways—another world war, or a Townsend Plan, or a Share-the-wealth new dispensation, a dime-chain-letter gag, which is about as sensible as any of the plans proposed by our po-

political and economic mountebanks.

* * *

You often write about the inadequate way the American press treats Russian news. Do the Russian newspapers do any better when they report American news?

If anything, Russian newspapers are worse. The American press is often wrong about Russia, but one can still get a line on what's happening over there, especially if one has access to good magazines, pamphlets, reviews, and the like. Over there, the press is a state monopoly, and it runs true to what the censor thinks constitutes news, which is more often than not plain propaganda. I don't read the Russian language newspapers, but I do get copies of the English newspaper, the *Moscow Daily News*, which gives some space each day to American happenings. In its issue of April 22, 1935, on page 4, a dispatch from New York tells about our recent dust storms, but instead of reporting the truth it resorted to gross exaggerations, from which I quote:

"Texas has been completely devastated by the sand storms and now represents a dead desert. All crops have been destroyed and are buried under a thick layer of sand."

No one will deny that our recent dust storms did considerable damage, but to describe the entire state of Texas as a dead desert is to tell what everyone with the least knowledge of the facts knows to be a falsehood. Our dust storms resulted from our mistake, during and after the war, of plowing up pasture lands for the purposes of crops, particularly wheat. Such land should have been left to pasture. Plowing it up made it possible for the wind to carry off a few inches or more of its topsoil. But Texas isn't a desert, by any means, and the crops are not a total loss.

Russian newspapers like to print such "news" because it gives Capitalism a "black eye" and helps in the work of psychologizing the Communist workers and farmers into accepting Stalinism as a little bit of heaven on earth compared

to the desert-like aspect of American Capitalism. Our papers, particularly those owned by Mr. Hearst, describe Russia as a land of famines, with countless millions starving to death. Soviet newspapers retaliate by turning our largest state into a "dead desert." And so goes the merry job of propagandizing the masses against Capitalism or Communism, whichever happens to be the enemy.

* * *

Is it not a fact that the great masses of the people, in 1916, favored our going into the World War, otherwise how can one explain those great Preparedness Parades in all large cities?

Those Preparedness Parades were carefully promoted by the munitions interests who wanted to build a cushion to soften their fall from boom times should the war end suddenly and their armament contracts be canceled. The gigantic parades were not the spontaneous expressions of the masses, but were the result of the tremendous activities of the militarists, led by Theodore Roosevelt and Leonard Wood, the Wall Street bankers, the J. P. Morgan interests (who were the official purchasing agents of the Allies), the aristocrats, the upper class elements and the business concerns that were getting rich at the expense of bleeding Europe. It is interesting to note that when these Preparedness Parades started to sweep the country, the War Department called for 20,000 new enlistments, mainly with a view to providing Pershing with more men in his chase after Villa in northern Mexico. If these Preparedness Parades were really so patriotic, why didn't they enlist? At the end of the parade period it was found that the War Department still was short its 20,000 men. Those flag-waving paraders believed in preparedness for profit, and in parading to get others to enlist, not themselves. The masses of Americans were against the war, didn't want to get into it, and re-elected Woodrow Wilson in 1916 because of the insincere slogan, "He Kept Us Out of War."

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