

Ninth Series

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

E. Haldeman-Julius

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By E. Haldeman Julius

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Questions and Answers

Do you consider the Fascist revolt in Spain justified?

History will hold that the current Fascist-Catholic uprising in Spain is the most unjustified revolt in the entire record of government. There never was a more unprovoked, reasonless, unfounded civil war. We should bear in mind that Spain's republicans and liberals had had only five years, since the destruction of the monarchy, to draw up their democratic constitution and lay the foundation for a popular government that represented the people instead of the militarists, priests, big landowners and industrialists. It takes more than five years to wipe out the infamy of the centuries.

As I write these lines, the outcome is still in doubt. The Fascists have taken Toledo, which was a severe blow to the government, but not a decisive victory for the insurgents. Even if Madrid were to fall, the fight will go on, because Madrid, after all, isn't the most important city in Spain. Barcelona—the Pittsburgh of Spain—is a much larger city and contains the bulk of Spain's heavy industries. Barcelona, which is the largest city in Catalonia—northeastern Spain that is just about the size of Belgium—contains a population that is solidly united in the fight to maintain political and economic independence, so if Madrid falls, the workers and farmers of Catalonia will carry on, perhaps to victory. Barcelona is about 200 miles from Madrid, so there will be much fighting even after the Fascists take the Capital, granting that they can go even that far. The Spanish people will fight heroically to hold Madrid, but if there is a defeat there it will mean only a longer and bloodier civil war.

The capitalistic press of the world—including our own rotten Hearst newspapers and biased Associated Press—have made much over the "heroic" Fascists who remained in the Alcazar of Toledo something like seven weeks. The facts, examined soberly, don't cause me to go into

enthusiastic bursts over their "heroism." Let's bear in mind that the Alcazar was cut out of solid rock, many hundred feet below the surface of the ground floor, and that this place was practically impregnable, with plenty of food, wine, munitions, and other supplies. The Fascists—1,700 of them—buried themselves in those vast cellars, where they were beyond the reach of the most destructive artillery. They kept their women and children with them even after the government guaranteed their safety, which shows they preferred to use their women as shields.

The real heroes of Spain are the common people. The Fascist forces in the Alcazar—most of them cadets, instructors and officers of Spain's military college, an institution that compares with our West Point—had a sufficiently large force to march out of the fortress-school and take the city of Toledo when the civil war opened, but they—the great "heroes"—couldn't stand the fire of the workingmen, women and farmers who rushed to the defense of the Republic when they saw how the country had been betrayed by the army and the Catholic Church.

Most of these loyalists had never handled a gun before the civil war opened. They went through two or three days of make-shift training and then faced the flower of the Spanish army, which was supported by the money and munitions of the Vatican, Mussolini, Hitler and Fascist-Catholic Portugal. These raw recruits, who were fighting for a great cause, whipped the regular army in Barcelona, Valencia, Madrid, Toledo and other important points at a time when they had to improvise an army. If there are any heroes in Spain, I'd say they were the common people, not the Fascists who hid with the rats in the cellars of the Alcazar. They were saved by the combined resources of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, which poured machine guns, artillery, tanks, trucks and airplanes into the betrayed country.

The workers and farmers of Spain may be crushed by the Fascists, but their exhibition of bravery will demand a deathless place in proletarian history, along with the French Revolution, the Paris Commune and the Russian Revolution.

* * *

Is Leon Blum's neutrality agreement justifiable, or is his and the Soviet Union's surrender to Fascist threats incapable of being defended?

I don't question Blum's sincerity when he says that France must keep out of Spain in order to prevent a new World War. But I certainly question his judgment. The man means well, but he has worked out a policy that enables Hitler, Mussolini and Fascist-Catholic Portugal to make a joke of neutrality and help the Fascists enslave the Spanish people. His theory that French help to the sister republic of Spain would provoke a general war is unsound, it seems to me. Such a policy can very well provoke a war. Let's look at the facts.

Hitler and Mussolini aren't giving anything away. They have vast military stores—which they accumulated at a price which means economic and financial ruin to their countries—and they have shared some of their military supplies with the Spanish Fascists at a price—not in money so much as in secret agreements to give parts of the Balearic Islands to Italy and the Canary Islands to Germany when the Republic is finally crushed. Such islands could serve both Fascist countries as powerful naval bases. By enabling Hitler and Mussolini to entrench themselves in such strategic places they lay the foundations of future wars, for England will be the first to feel the mailed fist when the Fascist victors of Spain—if they win—deliver what they agreed to pay to Hitler and Mussolini for their support. Not only that, but Fascist Spain in itself will be a threat to England, through Gibraltar, and to France.

By cutting off supplies to the Spanish legitimate government, Blum avoided a difficult political situation now, but will be punished before long by having to face a military situation because of his shortsightedness. One had a right to expect better things from Blum, for the man is a sincere supporter of democracy and freedom in his own country. And what I said

for Blum goes for Stalin, who also faced the duty of giving military supplies to Spain's legitimate, constitutional government, but preferred to escape this responsibility out of fear of Hitler's and Mussolini's bluffs.

Neither Fascist country is quite ready to attack the democratic world. By enabling the Fascists of Spain to crush one of the few remaining republics of Europe, Blum and Stalin are inviting greater difficulties when Germany and Italy feel ready to strike the final blow at democratic civilization.

I grant Blum's honesty and sincerity, but I can't help concluding that the man has committed one of the gravest blunders in all human history when he permitted his hands to be tied while he left Italy, Germany and Portugal free to slaughter the Spanish heroes who had risen to defend their land against the hordes of Fascism and Catholicism. When one sees how easy it was for the dictators to bluff Blum and Stalin, it becomes pretty clear that when the Fascists are ready to turn on democratic Czechoslovakia and crush that Republic, the great governments of France and Russia may decide again that it's better to see that little country go down in defeat than to face the issue of a World War. If that's to be their policy, Hitler and Mussolini will be able to pick off the democratic countries one at a time, safe in the knowledge that there will be no reply to their behavior until they actually strike at the French and Russians, as they most surely will if they aren't checked now.

Stalin has permitted several shiploads of food and medical supplies to be sent from his country to Spain, but this isn't doing much more than the Red Cross from capitalistic countries has done, and is doing today. Spain needs food and medical supplies, of course, but she also must have machine guns, bombers and other weapons, which France and Russia have in abundance. Blum and Stalin have seen fit to hold back the aid that republican Spain must have. The blunder will have to be paid for—in the near future, if not now.

[Since I wrote the foregoing piece, Russia has indicated a change of policy by issuing a statement which not only charged the Fascist governments with

violating the neutrality pact but threatened to counter their aid to the rebels by supplying munitions to the legitimate government. The reversal is somewhat belated, but may save the Madrid government. If it doesn't, there's still a great portion of Spain, rich in industries and heavily populated, that can benefit from Russian war supplies. Barcelona and other large centers of population in Eastern Spain could, with the aid of Russian bombers, machine guns, rifles and ammunition, turn Fascism's seeming victory into defeat. If Russia sticks by its threat, it's difficult to see how Blum can continue his pretty fiction of neutrality. If he is made to give democratic Spain the help to which it is entitled, the world may be saved the gloomy spectacle of another great people being crushed by the monster of Fascism.]

* * *

What was the aim of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau when he termed the financial transaction of the State Bank of the Soviet Union—the sale of British pounds sterling—an attempt to upset the foreign exchange market?

First let's review the simple facts. During the early October days when the world was agog over France's decision to revalue the franc, Russia found itself with 1,000,000 British pounds sterling in its bank in Moscow, which it wanted to turn into U.S. dollars in order to meet a bill in a Scandinavian country. As the financial markets were closed that day in Europe, the Soviet Union put the money on sale in New York City, where it took a loss of \$110,000 in order to get the funds it needed. The transaction was practically "chicken-feed." By ordinary standards, such a sale should attract no attention. But Morgenthau wanted to help his chief's political campaign. The Communist red herring was being used by the Hearst and Republican press and here was a chance to rush in and give the Bolsheviks a slap on the wrist, so the secretary used our stabilization fund to buy this money, at a profit to the U.S., of course. The only loss in the transaction was taken by Russia, so it's absurd to claim that the Soviet Union was out to weaken the pound. To begin with, it didn't have enough British money to have any marked effect for more than a few hours. It would take a hundred times as much British money as the Russians had to do any real damage to London. This was explained at

the time, but because of political considerations the reasons were overlooked and the American public was given the impression that the U.S. government is on its toes watching for chances to hit the Russians hip and thigh. The whole little peanut deal made Morgenthau a "hero" from 2.35 P.M. (E.S.T.) to 4.56 P.M. (Mountain Time), when the ridiculous circus sideshow blew up with a bang.

* * *

I recently saw an item in a newspaper to the effect that a man, in an ordinary lifetime, "has to shave over 20 miles of territory." Is this accurate?

Let's suppose a man shaved one square foot of whiskers per day—a pretty wild exaggeration, of course. At that rate it would take him 1,500,000 years to cover 20 square miles of whiskers.

* * *

Is there any connection between the present Fascist outbreak in Spain and recently renewed plotting against the U.S.S.R. from abroad?

The connection is direct and an integral part of the ultimate aim of Fascism—to destroy civilization, democracy, freedom, independent thinking, academic inquiry, freethought, the right of labor to organize, the right of the community to control or own the instruments of large-scale production. Fascism is a world-conspiracy to preserve Capitalism by force, through the destruction of all democratic principles, but in the end Fascism will blackmail Capitalism out of existence because the Mussolinis and Hitlers are gangsters with gangster codes and objectives. They steal power by promising to protect the great property owners and crush Bolshevism, but eventually the political Al Capones turn on the great industrialists and make them as much the slaves of the Authoritarian State as the humblest ditch-diggers. That's why I say that Capitalism is digging its own grave, when it's resorting to Fascist bullies to curb the public's demand for greater measures of socialization and security.

The present situation in Spain—and as I write these lines the Fascist-Catholic murderers are approaching the gates of Madrid—was financed and armed by the two great Fascist powers, particularly Germany. Italian airmen were hired to go to Spain

several days before General Franco started his rebellion against the Spanish Republic. By destroying Spain's democratic Constitution and institutions, the Fascists weaken France, which will be menaced on three sides by Fascist blackguards. In addition, they will arm and finance French rightists to continue the civil war in France when the war in Spain results in victory for these mass murderers. With France occupied at home and with its Fascist neighbors, it's surmised (with sufficient reason, it seems) that the French will then be unable to carry out the provisions of the defensive military pact with the U.S.S.R. Then it'll be easy, so runs the theory, to crush Czechoslovakia, Russia's greatest ally in Central Europe. With the above three democratic countries brought to their knees, the hordes of Hitler will be free to carry out the policy that has guided his political ideas since the days he wrote his book, *Mein Kampf*, in which he outlined a program that swallowed most of the countries to the immediate South of Germany and a great drive into Russia to annex the immensely rich Ukraine wheatlands. In his speech at the Nazi congress in Nuremberg, Hitler cast all discretion to the wind and announced that he wants not only the Ukraine, but the Ural mountains and Siberia's limitless natural resources.

Spain's martyrdom is only an incident in the vast conspiracy. But Russia isn't asleep. The great leaders of 170,000,000 united people know what's facing them, and they will give a good account of themselves. Russia is taking Hitler's insults, because they are only words—but such words, from such a source, imply deeds in the near future. When the overt acts come, Russia will rise as a man. It will fight—Japan and Germany. Its weapons will be of the best; its morale of the highest. If Spain and Czechoslovakia are crushed to powder, Russia will know that its turn has come. That's what is facing civilization, unless something happens in Germany to strip its ruling degenerate of his immense powers. Where is such a power? Only in the working class, as things are today. The army won't unseat Hitler now, because Hitler is ready to give it everything it wants, even

though such services to militarism mean the direct, plain ruin of the nation's economic and financial structure. The working class could still stop Hitler, if it were to strike—a complete, overwhelming general strike.

Naturally, Hitler would turn on his people with every weapon of destruction that could be used to drive them back to the wheels of the war machine. That's why the situation looks so gloomy in Germany. The workers, who know what is in store for them—slow starvation, exploitation, slavery, terrorism, and eventually a new war—may figure it would be better to wait until Hitler declares war and puts guns in their hands. With millions of Germans, hating everything that Hitlerism means, sent forth with arms, they could either turn on their rulers at once, shooting their officers and establishing peace, or waiting, as in the first World War, until the armies are defeated before hitting at the regime.

Meanwhile, whatever happens in Germany, Russia stands as the world's protector of civilization. If Russia has to ward off Germany's military machine, its armies will be fighting to crush the worst tyranny the world has ever known. When the day of battle comes, those who hope to see civilized institutions made secure again will look to the Soviet Union as their savior. Russia is ready to pay the awful price. It won't surrender an inch of its ground to Hitler. And when Hitler strikes, as he says openly he plans to do as soon as he feels he's ready, Russia may be counted on not only to defend itself but to carry its sword into the enemy's territory, where it will go as a liberator, not as a conqueror. If Russia breaks down Hitler's expected attack, the world will go forward. If Russia is defeated, the rest of the world will have to pick up the sword and carry on or go under.

* * *

You say that the reelection of Roosevelt will mean governmental assistance to the cooperative movement. Please explain what forms this help will take.

There are five ways in which the federal government can aid consumer cooperatives, as follows:

1. Direct financial gifts.
2. Loans at low rates of interest.

3. Cooperative profits exempt from taxation.
4. Laws of incorporation that embrace special advantages.
5. Assistance of an educational and promotional nature, with the facilities of the government used to advertise, endorse and advise.

* * *

How old is our air mail service?

On September 23, 1911, a bag of mail was put on an airplane at Mineola, N.Y., which flew to Belmont, about 12 miles distant, where the mail was delivered, thus accomplishing the first official handling of air mail.

* * *

If Mussolini fixes up some sort of a war debt settlement with the U.S., will he then be able to float loans in this country?

Several hints have been whispered in Italian official circles that would indicate a desire on Mussolini's part to bring about some sort of a deal on the war debts. This, of course, doesn't mean that the Fascist government is anxious to pay what it owes. Rather does it mean that Mussolini hopes to follow this up with a big loan, thus enabling Americans to throw good gold after bad. If our government permits Mussolini to get away with such a raw scheme, the protests from opponents of dictatorship should inundate the State Department and the Securities Exchange Commission. The Italian tyrant wants to get around our Johnson law, which forbids public or private loans to countries that have defaulted. But even if the war debts were to be adjusted to his satisfaction—which would mean a tremendous reduction in the amount owing us—Mussolini would still find several obstacles to overcome, several of them decidedly embarrassing. For example, he would be compelled, under our laws, to file an application with our S.E.C., in which he would have to outline what the money is to be used for and (here's the ringer) a complete financial statement showing whether or not the would-be borrower is solvent. If he is insolvent, the application will be denied. Mussolini, since the Ethiopian war, has refrained from making public any kind of statement dealing with his financial affairs. If he continued to keep such matters secret, our S.E.C. would, under the law, have to keep that near-bankrupt from picking American pockets. Yes, Mussolini isn't going

to have an easy time skinning Americans. Maybe he could do better in Patagonia, Outer Mongolia, or Siam.

* * *

Please comment on the following sentence taken from T. R. B.'s Washington Notes, in the September 23, 1936, issue of *The New Republic*: "For its own institutional reasons, the Church (Catholic) is at present on the whole strenuously opposed to Fascism and war."

It's difficult to understand how the well-informed editors of *The New Republic* could let such a howler slip into their columns. I refuse to believe that so inaccurate and stupid an observation reflects the opinions of men like Bruce Bliven, R. M. Lovett, John Dewey, Wado Frank, Lewis Mumford, and other *New Republic* editors or contributing editors.

The slightest knowledge of what's going on in the world gives the lie to that sentence quoted from T. R. B. The Catholic Church is "at present on the whole strenuously opposed to Fascism"? The opposite is the truth. Is the Catholic Church opposed to Mussolini? A schoolboy ought to know that the Vatican and Italian Fascism are inseparable allies. Austrian Fascism (which included the murder of 1,500 Socialists in their Vienna apartments) is as Catholic as Italy. Polish Fascism and tyranny has written the Catholic Church into its Constitution, as an official arm of the State. Spanish Fascism, in its war on the Republic, has the moral and financial support of the Church. Every Catholic institution in Spain was, and is, actively engaged in helping the Fascists destroy Republicanism and bring about an anti-proletarian, authoritarian, anti-Semitic Fascist regime. Catholic Portugal, with its Fascist government, is helping the Spanish Catholic-Fascists fight the Leftists who are giving their lives to the great ideal of rescuing civilization from the twin curses of clericalism and Fascism. In the province of Quebec, Canada, the Catholic Fascists (under the name of the Action Libérale, and as a part of the reactionary National Union Party) are obeying the dictates of the powerful Catholic Church and furthering a menacing, growing propaganda for Canadian Fascism, separation of the Province of Quebec from the more democratic, liberal, parliamentary western provinces, miseducating the

public into the acceptance of anti-Semitism, and the destruction of Parliamentarianism through the establishment of a Totalitarian State. And in this country, we have our own Father Coughlin, who is speaking the language of Fascism and hopes to become America's Mussolini.

As for being opposed to war, what did the Catholic Church do when Mussolini marched his blackguards into Ethiopia? It blessed his bloody banners. Did the Catholic Church oppose Catholic Portugal's martial assistance to the Spanish Fascists? And didn't the Spanish Catholic Church serve as an arm of the Spanish Fascist civil war?

* * *

What is your forecast of the popular vote for Roosevelt and Landon?

I have no forecast to offer my readers. I don't like to play at that game. However, it's my notion that Roosevelt will be reelected, but by what sized vote I refuse to even try to guess.

* * *

Could you tell me whether ex-President Hoover was arrested and held in jail in March, 1933, by order of President Roosevelt, for trying to escape to Europe with \$3,000,000?

The story is unmitigated, unqualified balderdash.

* * *

Is it true that seven or eight Governors who preceded Landon in Kansas balanced the budget?

I've explained this situation before, but numerous inquiries convince me I should touch on the subject again. Kansas can't have an unbalanced budget, because it's one of the few States which has, written into its Constitution, the provisions that make an unbalanced budget impossible. Under our fundamental law in Kansas the government can't spend money it hasn't in hand, while large items passed by the legislature must be approved by the public at the next State election. Landon certainly did nothing new in balancing the State's budget during his two terms. Davis did it. So did Woodring. So did Reed, Allen and Capper. The budget, however, would never have been balanced under Landon's administration if he hadn't turned to the federal government for funds (about \$400,000,000) to take care of the needy and finance great public works pro-

jects. If the money spent by Uncle Sam had really been spent by Landon, the State treasury would have gone several hundred million dollars in the red.

And, while I'm on this subject of federal funds to help the States, let me say that the federal government has done wonders with the money it spent. Right here in my own county (Crawford County) I've seen with my own eyes more improvements of a permanent nature during the past three years than were made during the previous 30 years of good times. PWA has spent a lot of money in this county, but even the surface results prove the people have a great deal to show for the money. The streets are in perfect shape, many of them paved for the first time. Hundreds of miles of gravel, asphalt and concrete roads have been constructed. Many new bridges and culverts have been installed. Several immense overpasses have been constructed at railroad crossings that have been the scene of fatal accidents. The county was given a \$65,000 fair grounds, with a race track, public dining hall, several buildings for stock and other displays, roads, electricity, water, and the like. A new fire-station is right next to the Haldeman-Julius plant. A \$15,000 swimming pool was given to the Girard people, and work is soon to begin on a \$35,000 gymnasium at the renovated high school. Eight miles North, at Farlington, the CCC camp is constructing a vast artificial lake and a high dam, which will give the people of this county a wonderful summer resort. The sidewalks have been taken up and put in order. And that's just for my neighborhood.

There are a half dozen communities in the county that were treated as liberally—and, let me add, as efficiently. And while these public works were going forward (all at federal expense, of course) hundreds of women were scattered about the county working in sewing rooms, where supplies were being made for the needy—mattresses, pillow cases, sheets, overalls, shirts, dresses, underclothes, towels—and, let me add in all seriousness, even diapers. Governor Landon's budget didn't budge loose a penny for all this. The federal government did it. And while Landon

was posing as the financial savior of the State. he resisted all suggestions that he call a special session of the legislature to pass an amendment to the State Constitution, which would permit the State to shoulder its share of this necessary expense. Landon resisted successfully until after he landed the Republican nomination, and the suggested amendment to the State Constitution won't be voted on until next November. Even if it's passed it'll be necessary to wait at least another year before the State will be permitted to pay something on needed social security, especially old age pensions. There'll be some other Governor at Topeka then, so Landon has nothing to worry about.

There's been a vast amount of criticism about Roosevelt's spending, but I can say, from personal observation, that the people are getting value for their money—permanent improvement that'll be here 50 years from now. There undoubtedly has been a certain degree of politics about all this—remember the whole public works administration had to grow into maturity and function almost overnight, so many mistakes could be looked for. But mistakes aside, the results, on the whole, have been splendid. The people are getting a lot for the money that's being spent. And these improvements have saved lives, too. The rich hate all this, but the poor farmers, workers, mechanics, unemployed, relief workers, and others, without a doubt, will praise the policies, perhaps to the extent of 75 percent of their numbers. Roosevelt's unbalanced budget isn't anything to be ashamed of. It's evidence of his policy of having the government assume responsibility when the masses are in distress. As for Landon's balanced budget, it's all splattered with human blood.

* * *

You say the plight of the Jew in Poland is tragic. Isn't it a fact that the Jew is no worse off than the general population?

It's true that about 8,000,000 non-Jewish Poles are as close to starvation as Poland's 3,500,000 Jews. But there is one important difference. The general population is suffering want, but at least isn't persecuted, while the Jews are both starved and discriminated against for racial rea-

sons. Catholic Fascism insists on continuing the persecution because of political and economic reasons. We in America simply can't imagine what Poland's Jews have to endure.

* * *

Is it true that Landon closed down over 400 schools in order to save the taxpayers the expense of running them?

The Governor of Kansas has no authority in this field of human endeavor. The authority rests with the counties, cities and townships. Something like 400 schools have been closed during the past few years, and wages of teachers, have been cut—in many cases down to \$25 per month—but the blame here doesn't rest with the Governor.

* * *

Comment on the filthy rumor that President Roosevelt has been having an affair with his private secretary.

I haven't heard the rumor, so I can't comment. It sounds fishy to me. I'm sure the yarn was cooked up by political enemies for campaign purposes. Pay no attention to the rot. It isn't worth being noticed. I apologize to my readers for giving this much space to the trash.

* * *

You people in Kansas have an awful lot of cause for complaint against God and other exterior forces, but Mr. Landon is your own damned fault. Hang your head and drop an intellectual tear on your intellectually arid dust.

I don't see that my Waukegan, Ill., correspondent has so much to blow about when he looks at his own State. After all, Landon's running mate—the Hon. Knox—is one of the lights of Illinois, as is the amazing demagogue and quack, "Big Bill" Thompson. We prisoners in the Kansas intellectual desert have plenty with which to complain about to God, but Illinois has its Zion City, and that beats anything we've got out here in the dust bowl. I've never heard a Kansan claim the earth is flat, while you, in Illinois, have a city that's populated by people who think just that. Kansas has plenty of faults, but it's by no means the booby-hatch of the nation. Other sections have plenty to be apologetic about.

* * *

Please explain how we can organize and operate a Consumers Cooperative General Store.

You can get the material by writing to the Cooperative League of the

U.S.A., 167 West 12th St., New York City, where you will find reliable and disinterested information. This organization is interested in furthering genuine cooperation among consumers and is completely unlike the so-called cooperative scheme furthered by Oscar Ameringer, as explained in previous issues. And, by the way, let me add, in all fairness, that Ameringer stopped advertising his so-called cooperative scheme for the real estate company he has been promoting, soon after my first criticism appeared. His paper has contained no promotional advertisements, which would seem to indicate that my criticisms have gone to the right spot. Of course, I won't be loved by Ameringer for putting him on the spot the way I did, but that my points were well taken would seem to be established by the obvious fact that my exposures caused the seeming abandonment of the project. If my assumptions are valid, mark down another victory for the power of a fearless, honest, candid, debunking press.

* * *

Will the new Soviet Constitution permit priests to vote?

There's nothing in the new Constitution to bar the clergy from enjoying the rights and privileges of citizens, including the ballot. This was made clear on September 21, 1936, when Emil Yaroslavsky, head of the League of Militant Atheists, in Moscow, stated that when the new document is accepted this winter the right of suffrage will be bestowed on priests. Certain elements in the movement opposed the plan to give the franchise to the clergy, but general sentiment seems to hold that no exceptions should be tolerated. This, of course, doesn't imply that the Soviet Union is growing friendly towards religious ideology and institutions. Russia's Atheism is rooted powerfully and is growing stronger year after year, as religion grows weaker and more ineffectual. It's safe to predict that all church activities will practically disappear in a few decades, after the older inhabitants die off. The younger generation is atheistic to the core and gives the lie to those church propagandists who held that religion could never be vanquished in Russia. The facts show that religion, once it is denied official support and

is made to stand the scientific scrutiny of realistic, liberated minds, wilts and slowly dies.

Among other things, Yaroslavsky said:

"With the disestablishment of the church from the State priests retained their influence only over the backward part of the peasantry and part of the former lower middle class in the cities. Should some priest take it into his head to stand as a candidate for the Supreme Council, we would be entitled to oppose him and to spread widely the undesirability of such a candidate on the basis of harmfulness of religion and religious superstition."

I was glad to have this question brought up at this time. I have received numerous letters from readers who have studied the official text of the New Soviet Constitution, which shows there is keen interest in Russia's emergence as a democratic government. I urge all readers to become acquainted with this great document. As I've said several times in the recent past, one isn't informed about the new Russia unless he is thoroughly familiar with the various articles in this social declaration.

* * *

I have a chance to take a course in gold mining, at \$400, which you will find described in the enclosed circular. What do you advise?

Since you live in Los Angeles, why don't you take advantage of the evening course in gold mining at the University of Southern California? You will learn all about staking a claim, methods of mining, etc., and the damage to your purse will be slight. I wish more of my readers would learn that our public educational institutions can always whip private enterprises, both in the quality of teaching and fees.

* * *

Please list the classes of aliens who can't become citizens of the U.S.

The following list covers every class ineligible to citizenship:

1. Members of the Chinese, Japanese and other so-called "yellow race."
2. Hindus.
3. Persons who can't understand the English language.
4. Anarchists.
5. Polygamists.
6. Criminals.
7. Fugitives from justice.
8. Deserters from the U.S. army or

navy.

9. Persons who dodged the draft in the World War by leaving the country.

10. Persons who came into the U.S. illegally after June 3, 1921.

* * *

Have you ever given your position on Zionism?

I have consistently written against this gigantic blunder, showing that the attempts of the Jews, consisting of only one-third of Palestine's population, would provoke counter-attacks from the Arabs, who are a majority of the population. History, as written in the past year or two, substantiates this criticism. Zionism is a tragic experience which is costing the Jews millions of dollars and will, in time, cost tens of thousands of lives. Even if there were no anti-Jewish movements in Palestine I would still oppose Zionism because the country couldn't support a sufficient number of Jews to lessen perceptibly the sufferings of the Jews in countries where they are made to endure overt anti-Semitism.

* * *

The other day I heard recited a piece which contained many long words, but the gist of which was a plea for short ones. How does it go?

The piece you refer to was popular when I was a boy, 35 years ago. Recently *The Atlantic Monthly* printed the complete text of this literary oddity, from which I quote:

"In promulgating your esoteric cogitations and articulating your superficial sentimentalities and psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your conversational communication possess a clarified conciseness, a concatenated cogency, a coalescent consistency. Eschew jejune babblement, asinine affectation and flatulent garrulity. Sedulously avoid polysyllabic profundity and vain-glorious rhodomontade. That is, don't use big words."

* * *

As one who has lived in Kansas many years, could you give us an idea what the average provincial Kansan thinks about the world?

Another Kansan, Miles Vaughn, for some years United Press correspondent in China, has written a book, *Covering the Far East*, which gives a good summary of the Kansas credo, though he adds it was for the years around 1910. Now, more than 25

years later, the doctrines could be worded differently, but they're still to be found around these here parts. The credo:

The United States is the greatest country on earth.

All foreigners are untrustworthy, and most of them dirty.

All Mexicans are bandits.

The British use all other nations as catspaws.

France and Italy are inhabited largely by dissolute counts.

The Japanese are a sturdy and amusing little people who speak funny English and grow tea.

Chinese are heathen who eat rats.

During and after the World War, Kansans got peeks at the wide world, so the old-style provincialisms are a little too outlandish for the more educated portion of the population. Today, one hears interesting and intelligent discussions of world affairs at luncheon clubs, though perhaps all too infrequently. I've heard both bad and good short talks on Russia, Central Europe, the British Empire, China and Mexico, at little meetings of local businessmen, so it's pretty safe to say that the credo summarized above doesn't apply for the run of the mine. But I'm sure there's unanimous approval for the first statement.

Below I give my own summary of the credo of 1936 Kansas:

The Rooshians used to kill all the children and nationalize the women but they quit all that when they gave up Bolshevism and turned to Communism.

The people of Italy are living without a worry in the world because they turned over the job of making a living to Mussolini, who sees to it that every Eye-talian gets taken care of; except the Communists, and who the hell cares?

Hitler had to sit down hard on the Jews because they was all Communists. (Pronounced Communists.)

The Japs must be oakie-dokie because look how hard they're tryin' to be just like us.

We sure never will send our boys over there to fight in a foreign country again but first we ought to send a few of them over there to make them furriners pay us what they owe us.

One American soldier can whip two Japs, three Rooshians, one and a half Germans, two and a quarter

Eye-talians, one Canadian, five Mexicans, one British Tommy or nine Chinamen.

Coolidge sure was right when he said: "They hired the money, didn't they?"

Every Rooshian keeps a bird-nest in his whiskers.

Every Eye-talian eats garlic.

Every Frenchman eats Frogs (which is right nice eatin' when you ketch 'em the right size).

English babies are weaned on roast beef.

All Irish boys begin early to train in Dublin or Cork for the time they're to jilin the New York police force.

A Spaniard would as leave knife you as look at you.

You can't trust a Greek.

A Bulgarian is the same like a Hungarian except they come from different places.

All Jews have black hair, black eyes and hook noses.

Roosevelt is movin' our gold away from the coast because he don't want it to happen again like four years ago when Hoover helped himself to four millyun dollars worth while he got caught as he was shipping it out of the country to a furrin place.

The Pope don't know which way to turn now that the lease on the Vatican has expired and he's got to find him a new place for headquarters.

Only the poorer class of Chinaman eats rats.

* * *

I have lived in this small town (3,600 population) for many years, during which I ran a small plant that sells several metal contraptions to almost every country in the world. As I have no local interests, would you advise me to participate in community activities?

By all means, be a part of your community, even though you make your sales outside your town. Your home is there; your employes are there; you pay taxes there; your children go to school there—so look on yourself as one of the townspeople, instead of acting like a stranger. By this I don't mean that you should put your finger into every pie. Pick out some community organization—a luncheon club, or the like—and become a member. That means you'll meet with your town-neighbors once each week for an hour—and the time will be well spent. That little contact will make you a member of the

community. I advise strongly against drawing to one side and always being a mere spectator. Of course, such a club permits many foolish things to happen or idiotic things to be said, but you can overlook such nonsense.

* * *

I find need for intelligent relaxation and am undecided between two choices—golf and gardening. What do you suggest?

Since you were careful to put the word "intelligent" into your question, how can you be in doubt as to which to choose? Gardening is as healthful as golf, if not more, and at the same time it, unlike golf, allows intelligent use of one's time and energy.

* * *

"Joseph McCabe was a guest at my home in 1917 when he was in America. It was my pleasure at that time to have an intellectual feast with one of the greatest brains in the world. I have all of his books—and have read them. His fairness and accuracy are most remarkable. You are doing a wonderful work in putting out these publications. Our social civilization would be much improved if we could get people to read them. I wish you the best of luck."—Dr. J. D. Taylor, Orleans, Mass.

* * *

Have never heard you discuss that "great American Sport" baseball; I refer of course to the Big League organized stuff. How about it?

I never pay any attention to it, except during the few days of the world's series, when I pump up a perfectly artificial and temporary interest. Then I'll even bet two bits on my hastily-chosen favorite. And that's the limit of my interest in Big League baseball. I can't name three players, since Babe Ruth went into retirement. I know about Dizzy Dean, but can't remember what the other brother is called. However, I know that one's dizzy and the other's screwy. When I was a kid, in Philadelphia, I was a great admirer of Rube Waddell, and an Indian pitcher, named, I believe, Chief Bender. I used to see the team leave a hotel a few blocks from Broad and Market. They'd all crowd into a bus that was drawn by a team of horses. There'd be a rush of boys to grab the bag of bats, and the one who got it was permitted to carry it to the ball grounds, where he got free admission for his enterprise and service to civ-

ilization. Once I was lucky enough to become the possessor of the bag, which I carried into the bus and sat on, while I looked at all the gods in uniform—chewing tobacco or gum, swearing about a twisted wrist or an ailing ankle; whispering how one player was given the greatest and most intimate privilege a beautiful woman can bestow on a man—talk about liquor, and more women, and a wrenched back, and voiced suspicions that the dice used the previous night were crooked—but not a word about baseball. That puzzled—and disappointed—me. My gods weren't interested in their divine kingdoms. The game I saw that afternoon—at no cost, mark you—seemed a little cut-and-dried. I had rather expected those huskies to ride to the park cheering for the good old Athletics, promising to wipe out the opposing team, peppering one another to greater baseball endeavors. That's what I would have done had I been a member of the team. But then, I'm naive, or at least I was then. So, it seems, I lost my interest in Big League baseball through the indifference and cynicism of its conquering gods.

* * *

FATHER COUGHLIN'S CITIZENSHIP

Dear Mr. Haldeman-Julius:

Thank you for acknowledging and answering my interrogations regarding Thomas Paine, in the November Freeman. Your comments have enlightened me considerably.

Now, let me submit something on Coughlin. On page 2, of the November Freeman, a correspondent asks you: "Do you believe that an alien has a right to criticize the country he is living in, but of which he isn't a citizen?" Part of your answer ran as follows: "Coughlin, let's not forget, is an alien. He was born in Canada and was never naturalized."

In March, 1935, General Hugh Johnson directed a biting blast at Coughlin's political tactics. One of the high spots of the general's speech ran thus: "This political padre . . . may or may not be an American citizen, but certainly once was not." Here was Coughlin's retaliation:

"My paternal grandfather's bones are buried in Lackawana, New York. My great-grandfather dulled many a pick with the pioneers who dug the Erie Canal. If you mean that I have sprung from the laboring class and chance to be born of American parents on Canadian soil

I have no apologies to make. By an Act of Congress, February 10, 1855. Sec. 1993 U.S.R.S., I was always an American citizen!" (Quotation from "Lectures on Social Justice," March, 1935, p. 222.)

Don't forget, Mr. Haldeman-Julius, that I am very pleased with the way in which you take this clerical con-man into camp, and I really relish all the remarks you make regarding his pleas for "Social Justice." May I anticipate your elucidation of that "citizenship" question?

Chicago, Ill.

GERALD P. DWYER.

I have covered this point before, but believe the subject warrants further treatment.

Father Coughlin says he was born in Canada, of American parentage. This is true. But, the law from which he quotes plainly says that American parents, in foreign countries, may establish American citizenship for their children by signing the proper documents at one of our consulates. There is no evidence that Father Coughlin's parents ever did this. Father Coughlin's father (no wisecrack intended) permitted the future father to lose his father's citizenship. After Father Coughlin's father left Father Coughlin in Canada as a citizen of that dominion, Father Coughlin remained there until he became an adult, when he was assigned to a church in Detroit. It was only when he became a radio priest that Father Coughlin decided it would be well to claim to be an American citizen, despite the fact that Father Coughlin's father never went through the formality of preserving the padre's citizenship. The facts, therefore, indicate that Coughlin is an alien.

* * *

I have just written a letter to The Revealer, Wichita, a copy of which is attached. Please comment.

My correspondent is Walter J. Becker, who is a businessman in Peoria, Ill. His letter follows:

The Rev. Gerald B. Winrod,
Editor, The Revealer.

Dear Sir:

For some unaccountable reason I have just received a copy of The Revealer, which is styled "A Christian News Journal." After satisfying my curiosity by reading several articles appearing in this paper, I believe The Revealer would be more fittingly described as a "News Jour-

nal of Christian Hate."

After all, no one is sure of his ancestry, nor is any one responsible for his ancestry. I believe (and I am not a Christian) that if there is a God and he made things as they are, it is rather indiscreet of us to criticize our Jewish brothers for not having picked parents who measure up to the standard of our exalted ideas.

It seems as though Christian hate will never cease.

Of course, Mr. Becker's letter will have no effect on such a filthy, lying swine as the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, an intellectual pimp and cultural bastard who pours forth millions of words in speech and print in an effort to arouse prejudice against a helpless, innocent minority. The Rev. Winrod is frankly a disciple of Hitler and Julius Streicher, notorious Jew-baiters, whose lies, forgeries and screeds he helps spread among Americans. If you want some particularly dirty job to be done—such as murdering a population which wants freedom and democracy, as in Spain today—or promoting Fascism in America as is being done by Father Coughlin—or go around arousing the rabble to hysterics and out-and-out Hitlerism, as is being done by the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith—hunt for a preacher or a priest. The gentlemen of the cloth are our social scavengers. They have dignified and respectable fronts for behavior that reeks with swinishness. As I've shown a dozen times, the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod is nothing more than a professional hate-monger, who deals profitably (for his treasury) in lies, malice and persecution. I can be polite to intelligent, sincere political or intellectual enemies, but when I come on a sewer-rat like the Rev. Winrod I refuse to stick to the amenities. One can't stoop to argue with such a hyena. The crumy skunk belongs in the sewer, where he gets his ideas.

* * *

I note you use the term "fakir" to designate a fraud. According to Webster, the word is "faker."

You're right. *Webster's New International Dictionary* is always my final authority and it says it's erroneous to call a "faker" a "fakir" when one would describe a quack or all-round deceiver. I've had this slip called to my attention before, but I

go right on repeating the error, which shows how hard it is to teach an old dog new tricks. This mistake is engraved way down deep and I don't seem able to rub it out. So, I'll probably bust right out some of these days calling some fraud a "fakir," when I don't mean the people who pull those tricks in the East, such as sitting on spikes or skipping over hot coals. Maybe I'll break myself of this misuse of a single word if I'm reminded often enough.

* * *

Do you have Little Blue Books branches in foreign countries?

We have only one office—here at Girard, Kansas—but there are several exclusive Little Blue Book agencies in some foreign countries. We are looking for opportunities to increase these agencies until the entire world is covered.

During the past four years we have sold literally hundreds of thousands of Little Blue Books through Mr. John H. Saunders, General Manager, Little Blue Book Distributing Company, Mendes Chambers, 8a Castle-reach Street, Sydney, New South Wales. Mr. Saunders sells direct to the entire Australian public or through trade channels. He has been doing so well, over so long a period, that he is now expanding, having taken over the entire territory of New Zealand, which he is sub-agenting to Mr. John Bright. New Zealand readers will undoubtedly soon see newspaper and magazine advertisements offering Little Blue Books from the stock managed by Mr. Bright.

We have also been doing extremely well through the Little Blue Book Company, Philippine Agency, Third Floor, Arguelles Building, 519 Rizal Ave., Manila, Philippine Islands, under the management of Mr. Ranulfo R. Ortiz. This new agency, which is hardly more than four months old, has developed a thriving business, with the result that during the past two months we have been getting orders at the rate of about \$500 per week, the last order, a few days ago, being for \$900. He started like the others—with an initial order for \$200, which gave him the exclusive agency for a period of two years, at the flat rate of \$37.50 per 1,000 Little Blue Books, carriage charges prepaid. We allow all foreign agencies this flat

price of \$37.50 per 1,000, regardless of whether they order 32, 64, or 128 page Little Blue Books, which, of course, retail at 5c, 10c and 15c in the U.S., but higher in foreign countries, starting at 7c per book, delivered, for retail customers. The agencies charge what they think they should get, after taking into consideration conditions of exchange. They invariably remit with each order, going to a bank in their home city and buying a draft on a U.S. bank, which we are able to cash at once and start the books on their way to the agency. This price of \$37.50 is good only when an order calls for at least 1,000 books. Anything less than 1,000 books must be paid for at the regular catalogue price. Of course, these 1,000 or more books may be made up from our catalogue as the agent chooses, and, as already stated, he can select from all these sizes at the flat price. Such an arrangement enables the agent to make a handsome profit.

We also have an agency in South Africa, though this concern has only sent in its first order and is just getting started. We refer to the Plato Book Club, 1 Edinburgh Court (First Floor), Cor. Von Brandis and Jeppe Streets (near New Post Office), Johannesburg, South Africa.

We are sure that profitable agencies could be established throughout the rest of the world, for the Little Blue Books sell readily wherever they are displayed. We also plan to arrange for Little Blue Book agencies in U.S. cities and counties, but here the wholesale price will be \$30 per 1,000, F.O.B. Girard, remittance with orders. The freight or express charges will be very low, because a shipment of 1,000 Little Blue Books weighs only an average of 70 pounds.

Agents could establish themselves in large cities or counties and make a regular, substantial income just from the sale of Little Blue Books. American cities can be had for initial orders of \$100, instead of the foreign requirement of \$200. Prospective agents who want additional information are urged to address the Haldeman-Julius Company, Trade Department, Girard, Kansas. (Agents in the U.S. or foreign countries are not permitted to use the name of the Haldeman-Julius Company, but they may make use of the name Little

Blue Book Company so long as they are selling our books.)

* * *

How many times does the human heart beat in a lifetime?

About 2,000,000,000 times.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, says the heart, during a normal lifetime, generates enough power to "raise a ton of coal 75 feet." Dr. Fishbein warns the public that it's important to give the heart a rest as often as possible. "Only by lying down," he writes, "can you rest your heart, for then it beats more slowly and with less force."

* * *

AN OPEN LETTER

September 18, 1936

Secretary of State Cordell Hull,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Information from an authentic source has it that the Italian government has a scheme whereby subscriptions to a new loan will be taken from Italian-Americans in violation of the Johnson Act that Congress passed in 1934. As you know, Mussolini's government became a debt defaulter when even token payments were stopped two years ago, thereby making it illegal for the Italian authorities to offer their bonds for sale in this country.

The plan to circumvent the Johnson Act includes the organization of an American corporation by Italian nationals, who, it is claimed, would then be free to issue bonds to Americans. This corporation would later make loans to the Italian government. If such a scheme is legal, the Johnson Act becomes a huge joke. As you know, Mussolini looks on Italians who have left the homeland as subjects of his government, regardless of the fact that they may even become naturalized American citizens. Through various propagandistic campaigns, they are being worked on by Fascist agents to make loans to Mussolini's practically bankrupt regime, the favorite weapon being that of blackmail. Recently I was visited by several Italian-Americans who informed me that they had been warned to prepare to accept certain quantities of these worthless bonds, and failing to comply their relations in Italy will be made to suffer various penalties. Such methods suggest Al Capone gangsterism, but anyone who has made the slightest study of Italian Fascism knows that hoodlumism is an accepted part of Mussolini's program.

These Italian-Americans are being told that their money will be used to build

up Ethiopia, but even a superficial knowledge of Italian finances should convince the most gullible that this is nonsense, for the money is needed sorely to restock Mussolini's depleted store of foreign exchange. Without American and other foreign money he will be unable to purchase raw materials so necessary to his war plans.

I hope you will advise me if the above financial plan of Mussolini's government will be legal in the United States, and if not what steps will be taken to protect alarmed Americans from being forced to accept the bonds that Italy is determined to unload in this country.

Sincerely,

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

* * *

What is your opinion of Father Divine?

I have paid my respects to Jehovah Divine, telling the Negroes about his buffoonery and quackery, but they seem to pay no attention to my strictures, preferring to go right on accepting the little fellow as God Almighty. Such rejection of my advice leaves me bewildered. I thought a paragraph or two would be enough to dispose of that picturesque gentleman, but it begins to look as though a thousand paragraphs wouldn't budge him from his high pedestal. Of course, Father Divine is a fraud and a fake like Aimee Semple McPherson, but when we have a country that's lousy with gullible morons what else can we expect? The people prefer the Father Divines, Father Coughlins, Rev. Smiths, Dr. Townsends and the rest of the blind leaders of the blind. Father Divine, I see, claims to have from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 followers, but here I prefer to be skeptical. I believe the little Jehovah is putting it on thick there, but why be critical about exaggerations from a fellow who doesn't hesitate about putting himself forward as God? Yes, Father Divine's followers are crazy about him, undoubtedly because they are crazy to begin with, while Divine himself is also crazy—like a fox. He rolls in the dollars, by the bucket. He owns no end of businesses, farms, Harlem real estate, and what not. As for his followers, he can fill their minds with taffy, but when it comes to their stomachs he's always there with roast chicken and beef stew—all the fools can eat, and every morsel of it free-gratis. Maybe there'll be 30,000,000 followers, when Divine has the money to buy enough pork chops

to fill their stomachs while they gather strength to cheer for Father Divine.

* * *

Do you keep some questions for future use, or do you destroy those that are not immediately answered and discussed?

I keep a file of all interesting questions which I can't handle at the time they are received, mainly because of pressure of space. Remember, I get more than 500 questions from readers each month, of which only about 125 can be taken care of in *The Freeman's* limited space. If the question is of general interest, I keep it around, because I've found that if I can't handle the item separately it will manage somehow to fit into some other piece I may be writing. I've known some cases in which I not only disposed of a reader's question but turned in information that covered questions asked by as many as a half dozen different readers during previous months. I like to get many letters of comment, opinion and requests for information. It's my hope that conditions will permit me, before long, to expand *The Freeman*.

* * *

I sometimes hear the argument advanced that machines aren't really labor-saving because they make necessary the creation of so many new jobs that the supposed economy is canceled. Please comment.

The claim, though frequently heard, betrays a serious lack of knowledge of the most obvious conditions in modern industry. If there's one thing that's been demonstrated to perfection it's the simple fact that machines save labor-power. Let me give you an illustration, which, of necessity, will be over-simplified in order to achieve brevity.

The printing industry was one of the first to enjoy the benefits of the age of machinery, being put early on a mass-production basis. A good press that'll print books, let's say, costs \$10,000, and is capable of making 10,000 impressions in eight hours (a conservative statement), each impression being 32 pages of a book.

Printing presses are so well made that they practically refuse to wear out. The press described above ought to last 50 years, which means only 2 percent depreciation annually. That would mean the press, spread

out over its period of expectancy, costs only \$200 per year. Now, let's suppose each impression is worth only 1c (a really conservative statement); 10,000 such impressions would mean a volume of production worth \$100. Two days' production of that press could pay for itself on the basis of its yearly depreciation. This, as I've already stated, is greatly oversimplified, but the point is clearly established that the machine is capable of producing far more values than the labor-energy that went into its creation.

* * *

To what extent is crime in this country a matter of juvenile delinquency?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in its report for the first half of 1936, says it received 219,868 records of arrest throughout the country, of whom 88,513 (18 percent) were under 21 years. About 35 percent were less than 25 years of age. The same report shows how many youths were found to be engaged in specific crimes, as follows:

	Total arrested	Less than 25 years	Less than 21 years
Robbery ..	6,718	54.5%	26.2%
Burglary ..	15,563	58.2	38.3
Auto theft	5,279	71.5	48.2

A study of crimes committed by persons under 21 years of age showed:

Criminal homicide	302
Assault	1,422
Larceny	7,286
Forgery, counterfeiting	472
Carrying weapons	478
Rape	575

* * *

How many fingerprints are on file in Washington?

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 1936, had 6,094,900 fingerprints on file in Washington, of which 1,000,000 were obtained in the last fiscal year.

* * *

Are Russian farms making use of combines?

Grain combines, which are such common sights in this country, are about 100 years old. In pre-Soviet days an attempt was made to introduce these wonderful labor-saving machines into the czar's domain, but the powers-that-be dismissed the invention as very clever but not acceptable in Russian agriculture because it would be cheaper to use peasant

labor than to go to the expense of installing combines. It was only after the revolution that serious thought was given to combines, and it wasn't until 1927 that the first combine was brought into Russia, by the late Harold Ware, an American. The combine's value was so clearly established that the Soviet authorities imported several thousand machines between 1927 and 1930, by which time Soviet industry was ready to begin manufacturing its own combines. Rapid progress was made, as the following table shows:

Year	Output
1930	347
1931	3,548
1932	9,974
1933	8,578
1934	8,289
1935	25,000

The program for 1936 calls for the production of 61,000 combines, there being three immense plants in the Soviet Union. In the U.S. we have a normal production of 40,000 combines, but our plants have a capacity of 265,000 machines annually.

* * *

How many people in the U.S. are without access to public libraries?

According to a report issued by the American Library Association (Chicago), there are 45,000,000 people in this country—one-third of our population—who are without library facilities of any kind. It's a mistake to assume that this condition prevails only in the rural, unsettled sections of the country. The report claims that Pennsylvania has 4,350,000 persons who are without access to public libraries. New York State has 1,500,000 persons in the same condition. This problem is being studied by the Federal Office of Education, which has been given \$25,000 to make a survey and suggest remedies. While our large cities usually have good libraries—some of them being among the best in the world—the country at large is in a sad condition.

* * *

I am considering going to Saratoga Spa. Have you any data?

The Saratoga Springs Commission is a department of New York State, which owns Saratoga Spa and runs it as a State-operated institution. The State, with federal aid, spent about \$10,000,000 on the project, before

opening it, in 1935. During the first year, 129,211 treatments were given at the three baths, which are located at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. There were, in addition, 500,000 visitors who didn't take treatments. The minimum fee is \$110, which pays for three weeks of treatments, living expenses and fees to the medical department.

* * *

Have you any figures that show what the depression has meant in the waste of man-power through enforced idleness?

The American Federation of Labor's monthly survey of business, for July, 1936, estimated a loss of 59,000,000 man-years of work, during the six years from 1930 to the end of 1935. Putting this in terms of dollars, there was a loss of at least \$132,000,000,000 in national income. The report claims the full use of the available man-power, during the last six years, could have given each family an additional income of \$4,400. During 1935, says the report, the failure to use the labor energies of 11,000,000 unemployed caused a loss of national production that amounted to \$30,000,000,000 in goods and services.

* * *

Please give me some facts dealing with educational institutions intended to take care of the needs of our Negroes.

The Journal of Negro Education, Howard University, July, 1936, contains data along the lines you want. There are 111 institutions of higher learning for Negroes in the U.S., with 26,000 students. There are about 2,000 Negro high schools. Approximately 2,000,000 Negro children attend about 25,000 elementary schools. The schools listed above are intended to take care of the needs of about 90 percent of our Negroes, of whom there are about 15,000,000. It's important to bear in mind that the system is inadequate. For example, of the elementary schools about 64 percent are one-teacher affairs; 19 percent are two-teacher schools. This accounts for 83 percent of all elementary institutions.

The same authority claims that about 75 percent of all Negro pupils never go beyond the fourth grade. When we get into the deep South we meet appalling conditions. In Alabama, for example, only 63 percent

of the Negro children are enrolled, with a daily average attendance of about 50 percent. In Mississippi, only 57 percent are enrolled, and 47 percent in average daily attendance. Each white pupil in 11 Southern States, in 1930, had \$44.31 expended on him, but only \$12.57 was spent on each Negro pupil. In Mississippi, according to the authority quoted, \$45.34 was spent on each white child; \$5.45 on each black child, or at the rate of \$9 for each white pupil against \$1 for each Negro.

As for secondary schools, they are notoriously lacking in most of the South. During 1935, there were almost 250 counties entirely without secondary schools for Negroes. In the Southern States, during the same year, almost 1,000,000 Negroes of high-school age weren't permitted to enroll in any kind of a secondary school.

* * *

Is the mind of man superior to that of woman?

This question has been studied by psychologists for several decades, and the conclusion has been reached that there is no difference. The latest study was made by Commonwealth Fund, which endorsed the results of many earlier studies.

* * *

It is claimed that Tarzana Mineral Water will "prevent or cure rheumatism, neuritis, arthritis, stomach ulcers and high blood pressure." Please comment.

This water is sold by Tarzana Mineral Water Co., Hollywood, Calif. Richard Soberanes is the owner. The water can't do what the seller claims. It isn't even beneficial, let alone a cure.

* * *

Before long I'll be out of middle life. I have always been a keen student of intellectual and world affairs—through my own efforts, of course—and wonder if I must expect to suffer a serious decline in my mental powers, now that I must approach old age.

Drs. Theodore Weisenburg, Anne Roe and Katherine E. McBride were put to work on the minds of adults aged from 20 to 60 years (by the Commonwealth Fund, which released their findings in July, 1936) and these psychologists came to the conclusion that a man who is 60 years old can have a mind that "is likely

to be practically as keen as it was at 20."

These three scientists reported that "men get their growth mentally sometime before they are 20. From 20 to 60 there is little further gain and comparatively little decline."

The report continues:

"While the magnitude of the development before 20 far outweighs any change between 20 and 60, smaller changes do occur in the adult period.

"Older people cannot do so well as the youngsters in those mental tasks not involving the use of language.

"Language, as has been shown by the British psychologist, Professor Spearman, is a special mental ability apart from the more general 'mind power.' Good talkers, whether they are glib salesmen, preachers, Senators, teachers, or perhaps newspaper writers, have this gift of words. They may or may not be equally gifted in intelligence of the non-verbal sort. In this world of words, verbal ability is perhaps the most important intellectual talent."

After 60, of course, one can expect to decline, but even this can be avoided if a person continues to discipline himself as he goes farther down the road of life. A man who has spent most of his life studying good books, let us say, doesn't have to quit because he is approaching his 70th birthday. His intellectual, literary, historical, scientific or philosophical pursuits can continue right through an extremely old age, thus helping to make existence a delightful experience. In this matter we must remember that we are assuming the individual has been following intellectual endeavors right through manhood to old age. A person who has neglected his mind through, let us say, the first five or six decades of his life, can approach intellectual questions in his old age only after the most difficult efforts. But a person who has made hundreds, perhaps thousands, of inquiries into the discoveries of the world's great thinkers should look forward to an old age that's filled with new, and perhaps more wonderful, mental adventures. Be of good cheer, my friend, as you go into the twilight years. It's late afternoon for you now, soon the dark shadows will form—but many of us find the evening the

best hours of the day, and perhaps you will be able to find the evening of your life the most fruitful and interesting.

* * *

How many Eskimos are there?

Dr. Kaj Birket-Smith, of the National Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, in his book, *The Eskimos*, says there are barely 40,000, of whom 15,000 are in Alaska, about the same number in Greenland, about 2,000 in the U.S.S.R., and something like 6,000 in Labrador and Canada. This author says they all speak practically the same language, despite the way they are scattered. They have a common culture, but have never developed a State or government. They form a community that is without rank or class.

Absolute equality rules among the Eskimos. Every man is expected to join in the chase for food and clothing. Those who refuse to cooperate aren't thrown out of the community to starve. They are fed and clothed, but are made the objects of collective scorn. There is no private ownership of hunting grounds. It doesn't even belong to the community. When the hunter traps or brings down plenty of game it doesn't follow that the food belongs exclusively to him.

In the matter of personal property, the Eskimos take the view that a person can claim property as his own only so long as he uses it. Thus, if he has a trap which he isn't using, and some other Eskimo wants to use it, the latter has a valid claim to it. In Greenland, at least, says Dr. Birket-Smith, an Eskimo who already owns a tent can't own another one which he has inherited. However, the Aleuts and Pacific Eskimos, through outside contacts, have taken on ideas of slavery and hereditary chiefs or bosses.

* * *

What do people call their fathers?

A survey by a group of New York scientists showed that "Dad" heads the list, by a heavy plurality. "Pop" comes second. "Father" is third.

* * *

Is there such a thing as pure white?

David L. MacAdam was placed in charge of a three years' study of white by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his report says there is no such thing as a perfect

white. The nearest thing to white is new-fallen snow. Next comes pure chalk. Man-made white comes third. The color laboratory reports that all whites studied were "slightly darker than perfect white or were slightly colored. In many cases they were both." Instruments found grayness, blueness or darkening that couldn't be seen by the eye.

* * *

Is it true that most policemen are flat-footed?

The Trenton police department—232 men—were examined in August, 1936, and only eight had flat feet.

* * *

I agree heartily with your friendly comments on the new Soviet Constitution. The thought comes to me that you and many of your readers are expected to react that way to this new document. Can you quote something from a less ecstatic source?

I am delighted to see such a strong interest in the new Constitution of the U.S.S.R., a document which I was quick to describe as a triumph for Democracy when I wrote several pieces outlining its principles.

The great German scholar and historian (now in exile because he isn't acceptable to the Nazi barbarians), Emil Ludwig, greets the new document with the following words:

"Humanity has a new light. It is the new Soviet Constitution."

That quotation, I believe, should satisfy my reader who, quite properly, wants our conclusions checked by certain independent authorities. Dr. Ludwig continues:

"It is not Russia's destiny that impresses us in these pages: it is—and we say this with great feeling—the destiny of a new humanity that is being built there. Out of the masterful structure of these 12 chapters there emerges the plan of the future world."

I don't want to put this subject aside without a final piece of advice to my readers: By all means, read—and study—the complete text of the Soviet Union's new Constitution. This great social document must be mastered by every student of world affairs. What you believed in the past about the Soviet Union must be reconstructed in the light of this new Constitution. If you don't know what this new declaration provides, you won't be able to comprehend and in-

terpret important current events and tendencies.

* * *

I am troubled with stomach disorders. I have seen advertisements in newspapers and magazines, and have heard, over the radio, reports that Nuga-Tone is the remedy. What do you suggest?

Nuga-Tone is made by National Laboratory, Chicago, a company which spends large amounts promoting the sale of this patent medicine. The company claims its dope will remove the cause of belly-aches and remedy indigestion, stomach trouble, etc. The claims are unfounded and I warn my readers against the use of this preparation. It can't do what its promoters claim. In fact, tests have shown that the stuff is really injurious. When prescribed by laymen, fatalities may result. Nuga-Tone is one of the most dangerous concoctions on the patent medicine market.

* * *

Is it true that onions will cure a cold and that celery is a nerve tonic?

Both notions have no support in science. Dr. Clifford Barborka, of the medical school faculty, Northwestern University, says they are common fallacies. He also says there's nothing to fear about eating lobster and ice cream together, despite the general warnings one gets that such a combination will result in serious stomach disorders. He adds that it's also safe to eat milk and cherries—another combination frowned on by the lay public. The professor denies that fish is a brain food, that milk is fattening, and that oranges will cause acid stomach.

* * *

I have worked out a sure-fire system that will win at horse races. It is based on doubling each bet until the man who places the bets wins. I want to put out my system as a mail order enterprise. Is it legal?

I doubt you'll get very far with your "discovery." The idea may sound reasonable to certain people, but even a superficial examination should show that it isn't foolproof. Your first assumption is that the person who lays the bet on the horses is bound to win sometimes. That's a mere inference. There may be something of a chance that a bet will be won eventually, but it's not certain, by any means. Furthermore, your system implies that the gambler's

funds are bound to hold out long enough to win after a series of doubling the bets. That's another guess. Let's suppose Mr. A places the usual \$2 bet to start off with, and then plans to double his bets until he wins. At the 20th bet he would have to have \$2,071,552, not counting the several millions of dollars in losses before he reached his 20th unsuccessful bet. The system therefore is unsound and I warn you to lay off. Trying to sell such an unsound scheme may cause you serious trouble.

* * *

Name the 10 most beautiful cities in the world.

It would be difficult to get two persons to agree on such a list. But, since you ask my opinion, here it is:

Rome, Venice, Paris, Florence, Vienna, Nice, Naples, Rio de Janeiro, New York and Washington.

* * *

I studied violin for seven years and harmony for two years at a well-known Chicago musical school, but was unable to continue because of lack of funds. I have been teaching myself in violin, for the last year, with the aid of Carl Flesch's "The Art of Violin Playing." About three years ago I bought the U.S. School of Music's "Harmony, Counterpoint and Composition," but received little good from it. I have heard of several well-known composers (Chabriat is one) who were self-taught. Do you think it is possible for me to teach myself how to compose classical music without the aid of a teacher? I can't afford a University Home Study Course or a personal instructor. Are there any inexpensive books suitable for self-instruction in harmony, counterpoint and composition? If you think I should give up the idea of learning to compose (I am 27), please be frank.

I sent the foregoing letter to Dr. Isaac Goldberg, because I knew he was able to give my reader the information he seeks. Dr. Goldberg's answer follows:

It should be possible for a man with a working knowledge of harmony, and a certain proficiency upon an instrument, to teach himself the subjects necessary for composition in the higher forms. This does not mean that he could become another Bach, Beethoven or Brahms. It does mean, however, that he could manage to write an overture or even a symphony—if his technique and his ideas held out—much as a man with a knowledge of gram-

mar and literary form could manage to write a novel or a play. The externals of the subject can be acquired by anyone who has the minimum of preparation and the will to pursue the formal studies. As for the internals, so to speak, that is another matter. And that matter is the difference between ambition and creation—between competence and genius.

Off-hand, away from my library, I should recommend that true-and-tried compendium, Percy Goetschius' "Methods and Materials of Musical Composition." It is a large book, but well worth owning for study and re-study.

The age of 27 is rather advanced for the person who has ambition to compose in the larger forms. By this time the technical apparatus—and in music this is much and tricky!—should be second nature, just as writing correctly should be second-nature to the playwright or novelist or poet. Of course, there is always the exception, but it is safe to take for granted that one is not, especially in music, the exception. Of all gifts, the musical one seems to show up earliest. Your correspondent might look forward to producing some creditable songs, or pieces in the lyric forms. It all depends upon his application and upon his natural gifts.

* * *

What do gamblers mean by the word "spots"?

"Spots" are crooked dice. They differ from legitimate dice in various ways. One of the favorite tricks is to have sixes on two sides and ones on two other sides. After the player makes his point with straight dice, the dealer or stickman "palms" the honest dice and hands the player the "spots." This means it's fairly certain the player will make a seven and lose his bet. I've read of "spots" being thrown 18 times and coming up seven no less than 14 times. It's easy to detect such crooked dice, but a first-class sucker or a drunk can be fooled easily—and skinned.

* * *

I live at White Plains, N.Y., where I see a future for the air-conditioning business. I have an opportunity to take a course, at a cost of \$400, in a private school which also offers courses in radio, television, etc. What do you recommend?

I advise you against the school. Columbia University, in New York City, offers two courses in the sub-

ject which interests you, both of them evening classes. If you are interested, make your application direct to the School of Architecture. Your time there will be well spent. You will get the best kind of instruction, and the terms are reasonable.

* * *

When was the name Chicago used? What does it mean?

Edward J. Hughes, Illinois Secretary of State, writes that "the first mention of the name seems to have been in Marquette's Journal, dated November 1, 1674. Marquette speaks of an Indian named Chacagouessiou. Historians consider this Indian name identical with the name Chicago. Chicago is an Indian word meaning "wild onion," a plant found in great quantities near the banks of the river. Some claim the word in the language of the Algonquins means "skunk."

* * *

Which American university has produced the greatest number of eminent men?

Without hesitating a moment, the credit goes to Harvard for producing the nation's greatest Hall of Fame. Recently, *The Boston Herald* appointed a committee of eight well-known Americans to select Harvard's 50 greatest graduates, with instructions to eliminate all living alumni. The committee consisted of Dumas Malone, editor, *The Dictionary of American Biography*; A. N. Marquis, editor, *Who's Who*; Dr. Elliott C. Cutler, president, Harvard Alumni Association; William Allen White; Newton D. Baker; Dr. Karl T. Compton, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Irita Van Doren; and Harper Sibley. This committee made its selections on the basis of "specific accomplishment, relative attainment of eminence among their contemporaries, enduring quality of their endeavors and the scope of their influence." The list follows:

Adams, Charles Francis
Adams, Henry
Adams, John
Adams, John Quincy
Adams, Samuel
Agassiz, Alexander
Baker, George Pierce
Bancroft, George
Briggs, Lebanon Russell
Brooks, Phillips
Channing, William Ellery
Choate, Joseph Hodges

Coolidge, Thomas Jefferson
Cushing, Caleb
Dana, Richard Henry
Eliot, Charles William
Emerson, Ralph Waldo
Everett, Edward
Fiske, John Edmond
Greenough, James Bradstreet
Hale, Edward Everett
Higginson, Henry Lee
Hear, George Frisbie
Holmes, Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Oliver Wendell
Howe, Samuel Gridley
James, William
Lowell, James Russell
Lowell, Percival
Mather, Cotton
Mather, Increase
Millet, Francis Davis
Motley, James Lothrop
Newcomb, Simon
Norton, Charles Elliot
Otis, James
Palmer, George Herbert
Parker, Theodore
Parkman, Francis
Phillips, Wendell
Prescott, William Hickling
Quincy, Josiah
Richards, Theodore William
Richardson, Henry Hobson
Roosevelt, Theodore
Shaler, Nathaniel S.
Sparks, Jared
Storrow, James Jackson
Story, Joseph
Thoreau, Henry David

About a half dozen of the eminent men listed above might be questioned by persons who would prefer that the qualifications also include consideration for the modern spirit of independent criticism and rejection of religious obscurantism, but otherwise the Hall of Fame strikes one as being another proof that our greatest university is not only a national institution but an international force for culture and civilization. Until a decade or so ago Harvard stood about on a par with Germany's greatest institutions of learning, particularly Heidelberg, but since the advent of Hitlerism German universities have become so inferior that one wouldn't think of even comparing them with Harvard, which, it seems to me, now stands as the world's greatest university.

* * *

Do the American people believe in birth control?

A large majority of the American public would like to see contraceptive information disseminated legally, es-

pecially through the mails. *Fortune*, in its July, 1936, issue, printed the result of its survey on the question: "Do you believe in Birth Control?" The results: Yes, 63 percent; No, 23 percent; Don't know, 14 percent.

* * *

Which sports are most popular in the U.S.?

The Index, issued by the New York Trust Company, July, 1936, lists the most popular sports as follows: Fishing, 10,000,000 sportsmen; Billiards and bowling, 8,000,000 sportsmen; Ping-pong, trap shooting, 5,000,000 sportsmen; Golf, 2,000,000 sportsmen; Lawn tennis, nearly 4,000,000 sportsmen; Baseball, no estimate.

The same report says paid admissions, during 1935, were estimated as follows: Basketball, 80,000,000; Baseball, 50,000,000; Football, 40,000,000; Swimming, 1,200,000.

"The figures indicate a steady increase in sports participation, and a downward trend in spectator interest," says the survey.

* * *

Bruno Lessing, in the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*, February 4, 1936, devoted his syndicated column to "The Liberty Book of Quotations," which I'm certain your readers will want to read. I'm enclosing it herewith.

The column is called "Vagabondia," with the sub-head: "Reading Quotations on a Lazy Day." The text follows:

On board M.S. Amerika.—Sitting on the lower aft deck with a package of second-class mail on one side and Petey on the other. We are in the tropics, the air is muggy and both Petey and I are too lazy to move. This mail had accumulated in London for weeks and I brought it along to while away time on the voyage. Most of it was advertising matter—circulars from stock market tipsters, publishers, tailors, organized charities, seed merchants, etc. I've often wondered why seed growers send me their catalogs. I have no garden. I have sown my wild oats and I don't eat seeds. One by one I handed these communications to Petey, who loves to chew paper.

Then I came upon "The Liberty Book of Quotations," brought out by Haldeman-Julius Publications of Girard, Kansas. And I settled down to amusing reading.

All the quotations were brief and when I wearied of reading I could lay the book down and, later,

take it up again without having missed any continuity. Ideal reading for a lazy person on a lazy day.

What was most amusing was that these quotations had evidently been compiled by a cynic. [The book was compiled by Rex R. Eastman.—Editor.] Some one with a chip on his shoulder who defied you to discover anything good in mankind. Schopenhauer would have reveled in this collection. Where cynicism was lacking, the quotations were eminently practical. The compiler evidently had no use for poetry, idealism or what is commonly called "uplift." Frankly, I sympathize with him because I find most "uplift" stuff to be the bunk. But one could quote sentimental and spiritual thoughts or expressions that would appeal to sensible folk.

To quote a few quotations:

"A conservative government is an organized hypocrisy."—Disraeli.

"The public pleasures of far the greater part of mankind are counterfeit."—Samuel Johnson.

"Life and love are all a dream."

—Burns.

"King David and King Solomon
Led merry, merry lives.

With many, many lady friends,
And many, many wives.

But when old age crept over them,
With many, many qualms,
King Solomon wrote the Proverbs,
And King David wrote the Psalms."

The last is a humorous classic. But canned thought, while it may be humorous or ponderous or impressive, is rarely comprehensively truthful and, quite frequently, is misleading. Many conservative governments have been sincere. The commonest pleasure of the greater part of mankind is to mingle with their kind, and there is nothing counterfeit in that. King David was quite a serious person in his youth. You can easily shoot holes through epigrammatic quotations.

"There is nothing truly valuable which can be purchased without pains and labor."—Addison. Oh, my! How about air and sunshine and water and love and kisses?

"Justice, though moving slowly, seldom fails to overtake the wicked."—Horace. That may have been so in ancient Rome, in Horace's day, but the times have changed. Nowadays many a crook travels by auto or airplane while Justice hoofs it and sleeps by the wayside.

"If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some."
—Benjamin Franklin, It doesn't al-

ways work, Ben. I remember, a long time ago—about 1927 and 1928—when the banks were so glutted with money that they urged their customers to borrow. A better way to learn the value of money is to be compelled to work for it.

"Silent people are dangerous."—La Fontaine. A silly generalization. Many silent people are merely dumb. And what was there that was dangerous about the late Calvin Coolidge, who was a silent man?

A book of quotations makes easy reading and easy reading is a recreation—like playing games. But the mind is not improved by playful methods. One of the best thoughts in this book is from the pen of Alexander Pope:

"Some people will never learn anything, for this reason, because they understand everything too soon."

* * *

Some years ago I heard a piece dealing with what it costs to join the Odd Fellows. The point was that the information could be found in the Bible. How does it go?

The pleasant bit of tosh goes this way:

Add to the number of Jacob's sons the number of measures of barley Boaz gave Ruth. Subtract the number of Haman's sons. Multiply by the number of stones David took in his shepherd's bag when he went forth to slay Goliath. Divide by the number of anchors cast out by Paul when shipwrecked. Add the number of human beings saved in the ark. Subtract the number of degrees in the order (four).

* * *

What are these "ports of entry" which various States are planning to establish?

In 1932, Kansas established its ports of entry, through which trucks and buses must clear in order to have a legal right to use the roads. Fees must be paid on the basis of mileage. There are 65 ports of entry in the State, covering every important highway. There are 176 enforcement officials in charge. The fees paid are in addition to gasoline taxes and licenses. The receipts are large.

New Mexico is installing the system. Nebraska and Oklahoma are studying the plan. Maine and Utah have adopted the scheme and will put it into practice before long. The legislatures of California, Iowa, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York have received bills covering the idea, so it looks as though the

48 States, before long, will have 48 sets of ports of entry, which won't be good news for the trucking interests but will bring shouts of joy from the railroads.

* * *

Are America's recreation facilities increasing?

The figures show rapid headway in the fine work of making recreational facilities available. The National Recreation Association released a report (July 8, 1936) which shows gratifying progress. In the 10 years ended 1935, according to the Association's survey of 2,204 communities, the number of bathing beaches, public golf courses, ice skating areas and swimming pools doubled. During 1935, 1,790 new recreation centers were thrown open to the public. Tennis courts and baseball diamonds increased 150 percent. In 1925, 17,000 individuals were employed in recreational areas; in 1935, 44,000. In 1925, the public spent \$18,800,000 on recreation; in 1935, \$37,500,000. Of this money the federal government contributed about \$16,000,000. Individual activities are listed by the Association's report as follows:

	1935	1925
No. of cities . . .	2,204	748
Employed recreation leaders	43,976	17,177
Volunteer leaders	10,346	6,799
Cities with training institutes	219	115
Total expenditures	\$37,472,400	\$18,816,200
Playgrounds under leadership	9,650	5,121
Indoor centers under leadership	4,949	1,613
Recreation buildings	1,149	265
Baseball diamonds	4,197	2,831
Bathing beaches	605	273
Golf courses	336	153
Ice skating areas	2,324	1,217
Swimming pools	1,098	534
Tennis courts	9,880	6,110
Wading pools	1,292	629

* * *

What is the mortality rate among American retail businesses?

Domestic Commerce, in its issue of July 10, 1936, reports that during the past 26 years the mortality rate among business establishments, mainly retail concerns, averaged 20 per-

cent per year. There were 1,537,000 retail stores in this country in 1929, but by 1933, 559,000 of these had gone out of business, or 36.4 percent. Observers of the business situation hold that the future will see many businesses headed for extinction being turned over to consumers cooperatives. As the cooperative movement grows, there will be a tendency to blame that movement for the high mortality rate among retail concerns, but the facts show that the rate was high during the many years when there were hardly any cooperatives.

* * *

Is it true that Hitler is a great lover of nature?

Yes, the illustrious pansy is a great nature-lover—he gets a big thrill out of putting his head down where the grass grows.

* * *

I have read your numerous articles on how Austrian Catholic Fascism slaughtered 1,500 Socialists, in Vienna, during February, 1934, in order to put the Catholic politicians in power and crush the forces of Democracy. Have Catholic editors written in explanation of their behavior? What is their attitude?

In *The Commonwealth* (best known Catholic laymen's weekly), July 24, 1936, you will find, at the bottom of the second column, page 317, the following Catholic opinion quoted critically from an official Catholic publication:

"When a man's faith is menaced it cannot be without danger to his immortal soul. Since there was no other way of removing the menace, Dollfuss (Austria's Catholic chancellor) would have been justified on this score alone in blowing the Socialists to pieces."

You see, Catholicism plainly admits that massacres are justified when Socialists insist on advancing their humanitarian ideals of justice and security for the toiling masses. Our Catholic editor, from whom we have just quoted, puts his case crudely, but he gives the world an accurate picture of the Church's fascistic policies. It's considered an act of piety to murder 1,500 men, women and children because they protested against Catholic Fascism.

* * *

What does it cost to police our cities?

The Department of Commerce reports that police protection, in 1934, in cities of more than 100,000 popula-

tion, cost on the average \$4.53 per capita. In 1933, the per capita cost was \$4.55; in 1926, \$4.46. Of the money spent for municipal running expenses, in 1934, 9.8 percent went to police departments. In 1933, it was 9.9 percent; in 1926, 10.6 percent. The same report gives the per capita cost for various cities, from which the following are selected:

	1934	1933	1926
Jersey City	\$8.32	\$9.05	\$9.52
Newark, N.J.	7.50	6.83	6.59
New York City	7.20	7.68	5.73
Chicago	4.60	4.46	4.77
Philadelphia	5.83	4.84	5.36
Los Angeles	4.06	4.18	5.46
Boston	6.20	6.54	6.49
San Francisco	4.75	4.72	5.40
Milwaukee	4.22	3.98	3.69
Yonkers, N.Y.	5.97	6.55	5.93
Paterson, N.J.	4.17	4.23	4.33
Albany, N.Y.	6.35	6.07	4.50
Trenton, N.J.	3.86	4.18	3.89

* * *

How many lynchings did we have last year? Which States had the most?

During 1935, 23 Negroes were lynched. Mississippi, with eight, headed the list. Alabama came second, with six.

* * *

How many radio sets are there in the world?

The International Broadcasting Office, Geneva, reports there were 56,168,500 radio sets throughout the world, in 1935. The U.S. had the greatest number—22,500,000 in homes and 3,000,000 in motor cars. On the basis of homes equipped per 1,000 population, the U.S. had 177.95. Denmark came second, with 164.41 per 1,000.

* * *

How many guests and visitors go to the White House in a year?

There were 34,527 guests at the White House during the year ending June 30, 1936, as follows:

House guests, 378; lunch and dinner guests, 2,299; guests at tea, 19,449; others, 12,401.

The White House was visited, in addition to the above, by 660,000 tourists. Of these, 132,159 had letters from congressmen which permitted them to visit certain rooms not usually open to tourists.

* * *

Are permanent waves injurious to the hair?

Professor W. T. Astbury, Leeds University, in a paper read before

the international Congress of Physical Medicine, London, in August, 1936, explained that too many permanent waves can result in injury to the hair, but that moderate applications of the treatment should do little or no harm.

Professor Astbury explained that in a permanent wave the hair is stretched, which explains the artificial curl. When the hair regains its normal length the "permanent" (what an inaccurate word!) wears out. He found that "permanent waving causes a breakdown in the molecular linkage of the hair."

In claiming that permanent waving of the hair is injurious, Dr. Astbury laid the blame to too much steam or alkaline agents. Such applications cause the hair to lose its gloss. "It (the hair) becomes dry-looking and fuzzy," he said. "That is not only due to the molecular breakdown of the hair. The scales on the surface of each individual hair, which serve as a kind of protective mackintosh, are also injured. Then the hair becomes lifeless."

* * *

What's the difference between a swamp and a bog?

Dr. E. M. Grace, Pennsylvania botanist, writes a bog and a swamp aren't the same thing, as so many people erroneously believe. A swamp gets its water from a surface stream; a bog gets its water from springs, usually from below.

* * *

Is the practice of Chiropractic a science? If so, what are its limits?

Chiropractic is not a science, and never will be. It has absolutely no standing in the world of science. While I have several acquaintances who are Chiropractors, and like them very much as individuals, candor compels me to say that their abilities to diagnose disease and apply remedies are quite inadequate. And they are representative of the entire "profession." One was a filling-station operator several years ago, who decided to spend a year at a "school," where he learned the few dogmas that go by the name of Chiropractic. Now, I have no prejudice against my friend's past as an unskilled worker—I respect all kinds of workers who follow honest vocations—but I happen to know that he's no more quali-

fied to treat me when I'm sick than I am to treat someone's motor car when it gets out of whack. He lacks scientific background, preparation and knowledge, despite the fact that he's a pleasant, kindly fellow. I know he'll read these lines and will hit the ceiling the next time he meets me. His favorite argument is that he spent 12 months concentrating on tested, sure-fire knowledge, while the "ethical doctors" (his favorite phrase) spend about 12 years meandering around picking up a lot of things that "ain't so." Thus does an untrained, unscientific, crudely-equipped man—otherwise of good character—rationalize his shortcomings and ineptitudes.

* * *

Which composers are drawn on most often by our great musical organizations?

The Lewisohn Stadium, in New York City, gave eight weeks of concerts during the summer of 1936, and a tabulation of the programs shows that Wagner's music was played oftenest. The tabulation:

Andre	1	Haydn	2
Bach	2	Liszt	4
Beethoven	18	Mendelssohn	6
Bennett	1	Moskowsky	1
Berlioz	2	Mozart	12
Bizet	1	Purcell-Bliss	1
Boieldieu	1	Ravel	1
Borodin	2	Rimsky-Korsak- off	7
Brahms	11	Rossini	1
Chausson	1	Saint-Saens	3
Chavarri	1	Sarasate	2
Chavez	1	Schubert	4
Cui	1	Schumann	2
Debussy	5	Sibelius	3
De Falla	2	Smetana	1
Dukas	2	Strauss, Johann	12
Dvorak	1	Strauss, Rich- ard	8
Elgar	2	Stravinsky	2
Frank	3	Strong	1
Gershwin	4	Tchaikovsky	13
Glazunoff	2	Turina	2
Glinka	2	Wagner	23
Gluck-Mottl	1	Weber	8
Granados	3	White	2
Grieg	1	Zimbalist	1
Handel	1		
Hanson	1		

* * *

What's your opinion of the "Natural Eye Sight Institute"?

This California outfit offers a system, by mail, for \$25, which is "guaranteed" to correct all defects, refractions of the eye, including cross-eyes, weak eyes, farsight, near-sight, astigmatism, etc. If you fail

to grab the offer at \$25, a second letter, according to one of my correspondents, cuts the bargain down to \$12.50. Beware of these concerns that offer "magical" results. They aren't interested so much in your eyes as in the contents of your purse. If there's anything wrong with your eyes, do the sane and sensible thing and go to a good optician. There must be one in your town. If not, go to the nearest city. You will get the best that science has learned about the treatment of eyes. Beware of irregular companies (especially in the mail order field) who offer to give you the "benefits" of their "magical discoveries"—which, of course, aren't known to the great specialists among the world's expert oculists! Stick to the expert opticians and keep clear of these rank outsiders.

* * *

Could you give the address of Joseph McCabe?

It's 22 St. George's Road, Golders Green, London, England.

* * *

What are some of your favorite radio programs?

I never miss the broadcast of a big fight, like the Baer-Braddock, Schmeling-Louis mix-ups. At such times the radio serves very well indeed. As for concerts, even good ones, I prefer my victrola, which gives me the choice of my large library of records, included among which will be found several dozen symphonies, an equal number of operas, orchestral productions of the great masters of Russia, Germany, France and other countries that have produced great music, and, of course, the world's finest vocalists and instrumentalists. I've never been a radio fan, and rather doubt I ever will be much of a listener, though I have a powerful radio connected with my victrola and could put it to work with a mere twist of the wrist. Given my choice, I let my fingers move several inches away, where the victrola part is controlled.

* * *

I have read somewhere that the theory of Eugenics is of recent origin. Is this true?

Eugenics breeding was understood by the ancients. In the 6th Century B.C., the Greek poet Theognis wrote a poem which made a strong plea for Eugenics, which I'm sure my

readers will want to see quoted. The poem:

With kine and horses, Kurnus! we proceed

By reasonable rules, and choose a breed
For profit and increase, at any price,
Of a sound stock, without defect or vice.
But, in the daily matches that we make,
The price is everything: for money's sake,

Men marry: women are in marriage given.

The churl or ruffian, that in wealth has thriven,

May match his offspring with the proudest race:

Thus everything is mixed, noble and base!

If, then, in outward manner, form, and mind,

You find us a degraded, motley kind,
Wonder no more, my friend! the cause is plain,

And to lament the consequence is vain.

* * *

Who discovered the process of making modern mirrors?

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry says the process was discovered by a German chemist, Baron Leibig, early in the 19th Century. This modern method of making a mirror consists of pouring metallic silver on glass. The magazine adds:

"He found that by pouring silver ammonium nitrate, mixed with certain reducing agents, on a glass plate the silver would precipitate and form a film of pure metallic silver on the glass. From this discovery has evolved the present-day method of mirror manufacture."

* * *

I notice that you are a smoker. What brand of cigars?

My silly, unrationalistic, illogical, inconsistent habit of smoking is fairly constant on the pipe side (my current favorite being Edgeworth), but on the cigar side I do a little meandering. Before the depression, I splurged, burning up Antonio and Cleopatra perfectos that cost three for a half, which made the habit too expensive, but the times permitted the gross extravagance, so I let it stand. After 1929's big crash, and before our recent Lord High President 'erbert 'oover said the country is "fundamentally sound," I switched to 10-centers. After 'oover's announcement that prosperity is "right around the corner," I experimented with several five-centers, the names of which I can't even remember.

During the bank "holiday" and for several weeks after the banks reopened their doors, I fell to the ignoble depth of a two-for-five-cents smoke which threatened to gas me (they tasted as though they were made of rags soaked in axle-grease), so I hunted around for what the late Vice President Marshall described as the country's greatest need—a good five-cent cigar. It was about that time that I started puffing a brand called Cold Cash and varied the diet with an occasional box of Roi Tans. These two brands are still serving me, because they contain more cabbage and less rope.

* * *

The press tells us that Dr. Frank Crane said: "The whiter the bread, the sooner you're dead." What truth, if any, is in this?

Personally, I'm very fond of white bread, rye bread, black bread, hot bread, stale bread, toast, zweiback, rolls, bread sticks and any other kind of bread. I take what comes, though white bread predominates.

There's no scientific authority for the notion that white bread is harmful. Only food faddists and other health freaks harp on the "menace" of white bread. The people of this country have always eaten more white bread than the people anywhere in the world, and the life-span keeps constantly increasing.

There's no proof that white bread shortens one's life. If there were, then our people would have had a declining life-span. It's always been my experience that health faddists are ready to spread endless dogmas, but an examination of their arguments shows them to be ill-prepared to even discuss the subjects they go into hysterics about.

* * *

Which countries have the greatest regard for cleanliness?

This is an important question, and if it's to be answered realistically the only test I can think of is a table showing the comparative use of household soap. I mention household soap, not toilet soap, because the former is the real test of fundamental cleanliness, while fancy toilet soaps deal only in the superficial, surface aspects of the situation. A person may use a great deal of toilet soap to scent his person, merely for the purpose of concealing his basic

dirtiness, while the use of household soap shows a deep regard for the cleanliness of one's home, bedding, clothes, and the like. The facts:

Annual consumption of household soap per person	
Holland	478 ounces
United States	333 "
Denmark	318 "
Belgium	303 "
France	272 "
England	270 "
Germany	227 "
Hungary	211 "
Italy	152 "
Austria	151 "
Soviet Russia	91 "
Poland	45 "
Jugoslavia	30 "
China	8 "

Being an incorrigible political philosopher, I can't resist the temptation to make a point for democracy. Note that the democracies—Holland, the U. S. A., Denmark, Belgium, France and England—lead the world in the use of household soaps, while the countries ruled by Fascists, Catholics and dictators in general fall far behind in the use of articles that make for cleanliness. The Soviet Union is still among the backward ones in this regard, but (and here my passion for political theorizing asserts itself again) perhaps the adoption of the new democratic constitution this year will bring about a change that will put Russia up near Holland and the U. S. A. And, by the way, while I'm willing to grant Holland first place, as the figures definitely establish, I believe the U. S. would be much closer to the Dutch if our statistician had gone to the additional trouble of getting the facts regarding our use of other means of household cleanliness besides household soaps, referring, of course, to our immense use of chemicals and branded cleansers like Bon Ami, etc. But, even if we were given credit for such articles, I believe the palm for anti-dirt habits would still go to the Hollanders.

* * *

"The only criticism that I have to make of your splendid paper, The American Freeman, is the fact that it is issued all too infrequently. I suggest you sound out your subscribers as to whether they would welcome a change from a monthly to a semi-monthly, or, better yet, a weekly paper. Such a change would undoubtedly entail a great deal of additional work on your part, but I assure you a real need for

such a weekly paper exists."—Ben J. Bromberg, Chicago, Ill. (I'd like to hear from other subscribers on this theme. I stand ready to be convinced.)

* * *

I should like to see included in the category of your wonderfully priced books some of the great, stirring and inspiring masterpieces written by men of the spirit. You certainly, of all people, must know that although religion has been filled with bunk, superstition, and corruption, because of foibles and frailties of some of the ministers in religion, nevertheless the religious spirit will remain forever exalting and exalted and utterly invincible.

The writer of the above comment, Rabbi Joseph S. Shubow, Brighton, Mass., is known to me as a liberal, alert, wide-reading, tolerant man. I judge him from the kind of literature he orders, books that are among the best. His request that I issue "the great, stirring and inspiring masterpieces written by men of the spirit," leaves me confused, for I must confess I don't know just what kind of literature he means.

I know of great, stirring and inspiring masterpieces written by men of learning, culture, science, emotion, action, intellectuality, thought, beauty, humanism and idealism, but that word "spirit" leaves me out on a limb. Of course, my learned friend doesn't mean "enthusiasm" or "ecstasy" or "verve" when he hands me that word "spirit"—he means something akin to spirituality, and that, to me, can mean but one thing—an essence or something separate and above our materialistic world. I must put myself down as hopelessly lost, for while I can recognize triumphs of the mind, I can't comprehend "spirit."

I rather suspect my correspondent wants me to issue the religious utterances of great figures in the field of Theism, Immortality, and the like. It happens, of course, that I've done these very things—on a rather limited scale, I'll admit. I have been fair to my believing friends, giving them opportunities to read books containing the words of Jesus, compilations from the great books of the main religions, including Judaism, and poetry from the pens of some of the world's great believers in the God-idea. But I prefer not to stop here. There is a vast, neglected world of non-theistic thinking that I feel called upon to make available to the masses—and,

I'm proud to say, it's such literature that is accepted readily and enthusiastically by common and uncommon people alike. I brought out religious titles in order to give that school of thought a certain amount of recognition, but I must, in all candor, confess that I felt an almost Messianic urge to give all possible emphasis to that vast field of neglected, supposedly unpopular, heterodox, skeptical, mind-liberating, genuinely uplifting expressions from the world's best thinkers who served culture and civilization down the ages—from Lucretius and Epicurus down to Erasmus, Bacon, Nietzsche, Hugo, Gibbon, Hobbes, Bertrand Russell, Joseph McCabe, Thoreau, Goethe, Heine, Anatole France, Diderot, Voltaire, Bruno, Darwin, Huxley and scores of other figures who created and contributed their priceless gems.

I am a poor prophet, so I won't surrender to the temptation of telling the people of a thousand years hence what they will believe and do about religion. I am a creature of my generation, and not a genius who is 10,000 years ahead of his time. But it seems to me that religion rests on shaky foundations, when one indulges in a bit of history. Humanity still bears a great load of religious ideas, but even a superficial observer can see at a glance that the people of today are less religious than were the people of two generations ago; much less religious than the people of a century ago, and almost Atheists when compared with the people of five centuries ago, especially as religion expressed itself in Catholic Europe during and after the Dark Age. The mood seems to be away from religion—not rapidly, as though moved by a fad—but slowly, steadily, relentlessly, implacably. It's that slow, certain, almost inevitable process of secularization that leads me to venture the guess that the future will see less and less religion as humanity grows more educated and intelligent, and as the great figures of thought, science and culture assert themselves and are given friendly hearings.

Whether the day will come when all religion disappears, I don't know, nor do I care. I suppose the world will always have its mental cripples. Who knows but that an atheistic world of 2,000 years hence will have

its circles of believers who will tell one another that Genesis is better than science, that Adam and Eve started the race, that Jonah swallowed a big fish—or was swallowed by one—and other ridiculous notions.

We see such vestigial remnants in the intellectual world today. Take astrology, for example. Five hundred years ago emperors had their court astrologers. It was accepted as a reliable means of foretelling what the future had in store. It isn't much more than 200 years since real efforts were made to teach the thinking portion of the population that such a set of ideas were worth exactly nothing. The whole idea of astrology was torn to shreds, so that today no intellectual person would dream of sullying himself with such a set of shabby, shoddy, unscientific, illogical, infantile insanities. And yet, there are many people in the most civilized lands who still insist in believing such rot, as there are still many people who insist that the world is flat or that germs don't cause disease, or that nature's calamities are visitations from an outraged God who is discontented with the sinful behavior of his creatures. Yes, we have people who believe every idea that was discarded in the onward march of culture, but they don't count because the sound-minded dominate and are free to continue their studies and are free to expound their discoveries or accumulations of sound, verifiable knowledge. We look with mild amusement on those who want to know what the stars say about our future, or say that this world is a pan-cake floating in a sea of water. It took hundreds of years to undo their mischief, and the battle's been won. There's nothing to be gained in trying to coerce individuals who insist on believing what no genuinely educated person can accept, and this same attitude, in the future, may apply to perhaps millions of individuals who will continue believing in religion though the skies fall. But they, like our present eccentrics, won't dominate civilization, so there won't be much to worry over.

* * *

Recently I heard Fannie Brice sing her famous song—"My Man"—in the film "The Great Ziegfeld." I couldn't catch the exact words, but I got the idea that the theme doesn't deal with what we

would call a normal love between a man and woman. Please comment.

Your hunch is correct. The song is the story of a whore's love for her pimp. Dr. Ben L. Reitman, who perhaps knows more about pimps than any man living (his book is considered authoritative) makes this point in his interesting and valuable article on pimps in the *Encyclopedia Sexualis*. He says: "The well-known song, 'My Man,' is a favorite in brothels, and is a perfect illustration of the average prostitute's attitude toward her pimp." Dr. Reitman then gives the most frequently quoted words, as follows:

It costs me a lot, but there's one thing

I've got,

It's my man.

Two or three girls has he, that he likes as well as me,

But I love him.

He isn't much for looks,

But I love him.

He isn't any good, he isn't true, he beats me too,

What can I do?

Oh, my man, I love him so, he'll never know.

All my life is bare, but when he takes me in his arms,

All the world is bright—for a while—

What's the difference if I say

I'll go away,

When I know that I'll come back, on my hands and knees,

Some day?

No matter what my man is, he is mine and I am his

Forever more!

* * *

You tell us that we should patronize government-owned industries, and yet you sent me a package of books by express prepaid. You do not seem to practice what you preach.

The express company's rates are lower—by about 2c per lb.—for shipments intended for the 5th, 6th and 7th zones. In the first four and the 8th zones, the postoffice's rates are lower. Being a businessman, and not an idealist, I gave orders years ago that all outgoing packages should be routed so that the express company will get the business that it can handle cheaper than the P.O. department. I fail to see any inconsistency there. Because I have always argued in favor of the socialization of the large-scale industries, it doesn't follow that, as a businessman, I have the right to patronize a service that is more expensive than one that is as readily avail-

able. I buy my supplies where I can get them at the lowest possible prices. While I favor municipal ownership of power plants, and while it's true that my plant receives power from a plant owned by the municipality, I don't hesitate to say that if the power trust were to run a power line to my plant and offer to deliver juice at a rate that would save me a single penny, I wouldn't hesitate 10 seconds about accepting. I've said it before, and I want to repeat it again—I'm a businessman, not a philanthropist. I buy paper at a certain price, smear ink on it to make certain words in a certain order—and then try like Hell to sell the product at a price that's higher than it cost me. That's Capitalism and the profit motive from beginning to end—and so long as I'm functioning as a publisher and editor under the present economic system I'm going to play the game according to the rules. Of course, this doesn't imply that I would permit myself to palm off watered stock on the innocent public, that I would permit myself to use misrepresentations in advertising, that I would ignore the accepted rules of honor, honesty and fair-play. Furthermore, I will always—as in the past—follow a strict policy of giving the public value for every penny spent with me. But beyond that I can't go and remain in business very long. As a business executive, I follow the dual roles of a buyer and seller—I buy at the lowest the market affords; I sell at a price that will cover all my costs and leave me a profit. You might say that because I seek to make a profit under Capitalism I must be inconsistent when I propose a social order in which production will be conducted (in the large-scale, key industries) for use instead of profit. But there is really no inconsistency. I can't make my business establishment an oasis in the desert of Capitalism. It must follow the best rules that have been laid down or it'll go under so fast I'll get dizzy looking at it. In other words, I'm not giving anything away.

* * *

How many cities are putting in parking meters?

Parking meters are automatic taxing devices which collect nickels from motor car owners who want to use the business streets of a rapidly grow-

ing number of cities. These machines have been installed in many cities, a few of which I am listing below:

Kansas City, 2,000 meters; Dallas, 1,400; Houston, 1,000; Oklahoma City, 775; El Paso, 500; Miami, 400; St. Petersburg, 150.

It is estimated that the plan, if installed in New York City, would use 100,000 meters, which would produce an estimated annual revenue of \$12,000,000 gross, and \$10,000,000 net.

The American Automobile Association released a statement (July 2, 1936) which criticized the plan as "creating another tax for the car-owner." The statement holds that "the plan will not relieve traffic congestion but will enrich a private company by municipal ordinance."

* * *

I enclose a clipping in which Mr. Preserved Smith pays tribute to that great classic you admire so much—"In Praise of Folly," by Erasmus. I know it will give you deep pleasure.

I was more than happy to read Mr. Smith's short tribute to a little book that ought to live as long as men appreciate humanism, wit, and civilized thinking. The clipping says:

The great fame which gave him a sort of dictatorship in the Republic of Letters was founded in "The Praise of Folly," first published in 1511. It is one of the wittiest as it is certainly the kindest, satire ever published. The savage indignation of a Swift or a Sinclair Lewis, the supreme contempt of a Voltaire or a Mencken, did not move him. He regarded the foolishness of mankind not as a cancer to be cut away, nor as a vice to be scourged, but as an amiable toy which grown-up children should be indulged. He even found the illusions cherished by men rather useful to society than otherwise. Noble and estimable acts are often induced by an ambition that a cautious philosopher would see to be vain.

I have always insisted that people who would be familiar with the great classics of literature must read Erasmus' immortal masterpiece, *In Praise of Folly*. And, by the way, the above clipping arrived on my desk on the afternoon of July 13, 1936, exactly 400 years and one day after Erasmus died, after a lifetime of work and devotion to giving the race great translations of the ancient

classics, attacks on hypocrisy, bigotry and tyranny, and exhibitions, to quote Mr. Smith again, of a wit that "was a scimitar so sharp that it could cut a sofa-pillow in two without knocking it over." And, as Mr. Smith adds, "it several times cut a man's head off so neatly that the man never knew it until he sneezed."

It's hard to believe that the man who wrote *In Praise of Folly* has been dead 400 years (and one day), so modern does his short treatise sound. This book is as modern as Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw and Heinrich Heine.

How many acres have we in cotton, compared to previous years?

The Department of Agriculture reported, as of July 1, 1936, an estimated 30,621,000 acres of cotton in cultivation. In 1935, we had 27,880,000 acres, or an increase for 1936 of 9.8 percent.

Are any of our large cities doing anything to fight venereal diseases?

The puritanical attitude towards venereal diseases is growing weaker year after year. Only a few decades ago the position was that venereal diseases were right nice things to have around, because they frightened people away from sexual experiences. The notion prevailed that such diseases served to inhibit the masses. Of course, the idea was nutty, because men and women followed their sexual instincts regardless of the danger. The result was more venereal infection instead of less immorality. Today, the States and cities are beginning to tackle the venereal problem seriously, especially in New York City. The federal government, under its new director of health, is expected to take constructive measures in the near future.

The Bureau of Social Hygiene, New York City, released some valuable data on July 5, 1936, as follows:

"Patients under treatment for venereal disease in N.Y. City Dept. of Health clinics increased by 95 percent in the first half of 1936, numbering 13,602, as compared with 6,941 a year ago. The educational drive helped in raising the number of venereal patients under treatment in the entire city from 28,833 to 40,273, a gain of 31 percent. The largest increase referred to syphilis,

the number of cases rising from 23,665 to 33,720."

Please summarize the poll on the minimum wage.

The American Institute of Public Opinion, on July 19, 1936, released in about 70 newspapers the results of its poll of citizens, who received 105,000 ballots, on the question of whether or not they favored a constitutional amendment to regulate minimum wages. The result: Yes, 70 percent; No, 30 percent. The vote, by parties:

	Favoring Amendment	Opposing
Democrats	84%	16%
Republicans	51	49
Socialists	84	16
Third party	78	22

How did your effort at developing latent talent in new writers ever turn out?

As a business proposition, the idea was sound, for I had few difficulties in getting enrollments, but what discouraged me was the fact that an overwhelming majority of the registrants bore unmistakable signs, before they had taken the first printed lesson, that they were wasting time and cash. I found, after a survey, that only 2 percent were worth bothering with as writers capable of handling an editorial assignment, while 98 percent were parting with hard-earned money that would never bring them to a goal that seemed so near and easy of approach. So I chucked the idea overboard. And yet, I insist, the project was financially sound and could have made me wads of money. I suppose my cynical friends will put me down as a fool for passing up such a sure source of revenue. Well, I just happen to know better. Doing the honest thing was the best way out of a venture that could bring nothing but disappointment to so many ambitious, but incompetent, men and women. I like money just as much as the next fellow—perhaps more—but there are lots of things I won't do to get it.

What is your opinion as to the teaching of Latin and Greek in the public schools?

I'm by no means a believer that education always should be "practical" and serve vocational ends. Cultural, classical subjects—including the so-called dead languages—are important branches of learning. When

one realizes what tremendous cultural and social contributions the ancient Greeks and Romans made to civilization; when one surveys the vast literature—most of it very much alive and significant—they passed on to us; when one measures the intellectual and philosophical influence of the ancient thinkers, one should consider the learning of Latin and Greek as preliminary to great adventures among many of the race's most constructive geniuses. Of course, it may be argued that these works are available in English (I, alas, know neither Greek nor Latin, so I must depend on good translations) but here the answer is simply the observation that we who don't know the originals are getting our experiences second-hand. We get by, of course, but our pleasure and profit would be increased many times if we had been fortunate enough to get at least a reading knowledge of these tongues.

* * *

How much electricity is in an electric eel?

Scientists at the New York aquarium conducted experiments with electric eels and found that even a small one gave off 196 volts, which developed three watts. One that was seven feet long had nearly 300 volts stored in its body. The report claims that "if the power in a one-foot eel could be harnessed it would lift a four-pound sack of flour five inches per second."

* * *

What, in your opinion, is the prospect that photography will shortly supersede all other techniques in illustrating and advertising?

The advertising pages show a constantly growing volume of photographs, where not long ago a preference was shown for reproductions of wash drawings, cartoons, pen and ink sketches, and even portraits and other works of art in oils. I imagine—and here I make my guess only as a layman—that the advertisers find that the camera turns out cheaper work, and therefore go in for that form of illustration as a measure of economy. As for the future, I hope the photograph won't supplant the creative efforts of our artists, but this is only a wish. The men who buy "pictures" are out for bargains, always. Artists are expensive. The camera is a mass-production machine.

Original work cuts into the treasury; the machine saves dollars. Which, under Capitalism, is bound to win out in the end? It's like the movie people and their thousands of musicians before the invention of the talkies. The living artist was thrown into the street to starve, because he was expensive, while the sounds that came out of a can were accepted because they cost very little in comparison. The profit motive rules under Capitalism; not the impulse to advance esthetic ideals.

As to whether photographs put over their message in general publicity advertising, I can't say. I've had considerable experience in writing mail order advertising copy, and I've come around to the opinion that the best advertisement is just a good announcement, and that type is the best medium for the announcement one wants to make. To me, an advertisement, in its perfect sense, is the dissemination of information that must be paid for because it's of a commercial nature. Such advertising serves a useful social function and can never be dispensed with. I refer, naturally, to the announcements of lectures, theatrical performances, concerts, meetings, subscriptions, books, and the like. Such messages, which are invariably of an informative nature, depend primarily on type. Pictures can be used, of course, but they can't give the reader the information one wants to impart—that rests with type.

In my own experience—which covers the sale of more than 200,000 books—I've come around to the idea that the best advertisement is one which is the most simple. To sell a book, to my notion of advertising, means telling the reader of a circular or advertisement that such-and-such a book, by So-and-so, is available, that it covers a certain subject in this-and-that manner, and that it costs so much money. That's all there is to it when one takes the "mystery" out of advertising. Those facts are wanted by the prospective reader, and if the facts indicate that the advertised book will be helpful or entertaining, the sale may be made. Type, as I said before, is best suited to that end. And it wants to be simple, always simple, if I may repeat myself. Freakish lay-outs, eccentric dis-

plays of type, trickiness, typographical stunt-flying will serve only to complicate things.

* * *

What changes have taken place in the size of our army?

The War Department reports that the army, in July, 1936, had 146,782 enlisted men, which is an increase of 28,000 over the previous year, when we had 118,750 men. The army is taking in new men at the rate of 1,500 per month, in order to reach the total of 165,000 authorized by Congress. Our present forces are divided as follows: 107,239 men in the nine corps areas; 35,624 in garrisons overseas, in Hawaii, Panama, the Philippines and Tientsin, China. In 1935, the army officers numbered less than 12,000, which has been increased by 112. Congress authorized the army to increase its officers to 14,000. The second lieutenants will be supplied by West Point. In addition, we have 150,000 men to be trained in the reserve officers training camps. In 1935, the reserve camps had 127,500 men under training. These camps will provide the regular army with any additional officers, if needed.

* * *

Please comment on the reports one reads frequently which describe so-called haunted houses.

Sensational newspapers, which appeal mainly to the uneducated, are always happy to supply their moronic clientele with weird stories about ghosts. Joseph Dunniger, prestidigitator, illusionist and debunker of psychic phenomena, has for a long time had a standing offer of \$10,000 to anyone who can point out a "haunted" house or ghost that he can't prove to be a hoax. Thus far there have been no takers.

The same man is chairman of the investigating committee of *Science and Mechanics Magazine*, which has posted \$21,000 as a reward to anyone who can "produce any effect in supernatural manifestations" which the chairman couldn't explain or repeat through realistic, natural or scientific methods.

On several occasions "mediums" did some "spirit" guitar-playing and bell-ringing, produced some "astral images," and "spirit pictures," but Mr. Dunniger always repeated their

tricks by natural means, invariably improving the performance.

When asked about the "wonders" performed by Indian fakirs, Mr. Dunniger said:

"A good American or European magician can do more amazing tricks in a half-hour performance than the average Yogi or fakir does in a whole lifetime. The famous rope trick, in which a boy is said to climb a rope seemingly suspended in thin air, and then vanish, has never been performed.

"I'll pay \$10,000 to any Indian who can do it in the open air as it is supposed to be done in India. No man ever saw the trick. It was always 'his wife's cousin, who had friends in India, who knew the nephew of a woman whose husband's aunt had a friend who had been told about it by an acquaintance.'"

When the mediums are confronted with Mr. Dunniger's charges and various offers of rewards, they dismiss him as a "secret spiritualist who finds it more profitable to pose as one not having psychic power." But such a claim disposes of itself when the mediums refuse to come forward and perform the acts that will entitle them to the substantial sums of money Dunniger and his committee offer.

* * *

How far ahead do our weather bureaus attempt their weather forecasts?

Our meteorologists attempt to estimate weather conditions only about two days ahead. The Smithsonian Institution is soon to conduct experiments on solar radiations "at widely separated points on the earth's surface" which "may make long-range forecasting possible."

* * *

What is the record for non-stop flights?

In July, 1936, three Soviet fliers—Chekaloff, Baidukoff and Beliakoff—made a non-stop trip from Moscow to a place near Nicolaievsk, Siberia, a distance of 5,858 miles, in a single-motored plane. This distance was covered in 56 hours and 20 minutes. The best previous record was 5,657 miles, in 1933, by two Frenchmen (Codos and Rossi) who flew from New York City to Rayak, Syria.

* * *

I once heard a hymn dealing with flies, but can't recall the words. Can you help me?

The shoutin' Christians frequently

use a hymn that's considered appropriate during fly-time, as follows:

You'll find no flies on Jesus,
You'll find no flies on Jesus.
There may be flies on you and me—
But there ain't no flies on the great J. C.

* * *

Is there a sure way of making a test for death, in order to avoid premature burial?

The British Medical Journal, in its August, 1936, issue, says a new test of death has been discovered at Queens' University, Kingston, Ont., Canada, the general application of which "would remove all traces of one of the most haunting fears of mankind—the chance of premature burial."

An ophthalmoscope—an instrument for inspecting the retina—is used to study the appearance of the eye. "If the columns of blood in the retinal veins are broken, the patient is beyond resuscitation," says the article. "This phenomenon takes place after the circulation has been stopped for about 10 minutes."

* * *

Editor, *The American Freeman*:

Should answers to problems be in the same issue of *The Freeman* as the problems themselves? I would say that this should depend on whether or not many readers write to tell you the answers before they are published, and, more significant yet, whether or not such letters also contain questions which you can use. I think that if they were answered in the same issue it would save the serious reader some trouble preserving the answers for a month to verify them (and in some involved, hard-to-remember questions, the particular issue of *The Freeman* itself, instead of passing it along to a possible prospective subscriber as should be done). On the other hand, carrying the answers in the next issue may be the means of inducing some to renew an expiring subscription. If this resulted in even a few instances, and fairly constantly, it alone would be reason enough to continue the present practice, but I suppose it would be rather difficult to arrive at any exact conclusions as to that. What do you readers think about this?

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG.

* * *

"It may interest you to know that I have long been an ardent reader of your *University in Print*, which has played an important part in my intellectual awakening and progress. I may add that I am most heartily in favor of the work you have been doing all

these years, although our views do not exactly coincide. I have even had occasion to defend your name against the angry attack of a certain noted clergyman, an evangelist, who hails from Siloam Springs, Ark., though in a small and inconspicuous way. I have saved our controversial correspondence and think someday to put it in a book, in which I am sure you will be interested. You are not directly concerned, but his attack upon you was one of the primary causes of our disagreement."—James Russell Lowell Morrell, Ind.

* * *

"I have just finished reading the November *Freeman*. I note one correspondent says he considers the October number excelled all predecessors. Why pick on October? From where I stand that appears true of each month's paper.—E. C. Helm, Brentwood, Md.

* * *

"Being one of the readers of your paper from this far-off corner of the world you would naturally feel happy if I tell you that I find the reading of *The American Freeman* very bright and useful."—S. V. Kirlaskar, Dist. Satara, India.

* * *

"I have received every issue of *Father Coughlin's* official newspaper, and after reading every word of them I'm frothing at the mouth. That paper, if it has no opposition, will, in its own rabble-rousing way of insinuation and half-lying, ruin America. We Atheists and radicals must learn the lesson of the great power of the printed word. When we find a periodical that expresses our ideas honestly and intelligently it's our duty to see that it's distributed far and wide. About two years ago I started sending copies of *The American Freeman* to a friend in the Canal Zone, and as a result I 'converted' him, so that he is a subscriber himself. Your other readers should do likewise, in order to build up the radical press."—Clifford Pearson, Minn.

* * *

Antonio Del Riego, Parral, Chih., Mexico, who is known to *Freeman* readers by his valuable letters on the political and economic situation in his country, writes me another letter in which he tells how his fellow-countrymen are reacting to the civil war in Spain. He adds:

"Here in Mexico this movement is as actual as if we were doing the fighting. There are no neutrals here. Everybody takes sides. And, if I may take a meager outlook on the matter, at least Spain's intense sufferings have served to bring out in the open the true fascistic inclinations of many of our so-called

liberals and democrats. Just like Unamuno in Spain. Unamuno, the would-be representative of the libertarian spirit of Spain, lauding the military brutes that betrayed her and are stabbing her in the back!"

Mr. Riego writes that he would turn from these current horrors and renew his acquaintance with the works of Shakespeare. "Once more I want to thrill to 'Ophelia's candor, Iago's perfidy, Lady Macbeth's remorse and Shylock's avarice.' These days one reads much that needs to be purged out from the system at once, if one wishes to preserve his or her mental balance."

* * *

"A reader says he reads The Freeman at one sitting. I don't. I nibble along at it and make it last several days. It is too long to wait if you gobble it up in one day."—E. C. H.

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"The American Freeman is a swell paper. Wild horses couldn't tear me away from it once I started to read it."—W. J. Weidman, R.D. 1, Delmar, N. Y.

* * *

FROM A BOMBAY READER

Dear Mr. E. Haldeman-Julius:

May I congratulate you on the excellent work you have been doing in the cause of education by your publications?

Years ago I chanced to come across a Little Blue Book in a small second-hand bookshop. When I took it up, it was just that to me; and I might have left it there but for the fact that it happened to be written by that grand fighter in the cause of humanity, Mr. Joseph McCabe, with whose activities I was then vaguely familiar.

It was but a question of time before the series assumed an entity of its own and became for me the Little Blue Books; and from the 50 odd volumes by McCabe to those by Messrs. Fenton, Markun, Will Durant, Carrington, William Fielding, Wood, and others, (just to mention a few names) was the inevitable step that I took, with the result that today I possess about 300 volumes in the series. Hence this humble letter of appreciation.

BOMBAY, INDIA. J. B. H. WADIA.

* * *

PATENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

Editor, The American Freeman:

Your article on patents in the U.S.S.R. was very interesting, especially the paragraph in which allusion is made to the attitude of reluctance with which its citizens avail themselves of the benefits of their patent laws. It occurred to me that here is a concrete refutation of the old howler against Socialism that "You can't change human nature." It should be perfectly apparent to

every one that this fact alone (and there are many others discoverable by any student of the subject) shows that human nature in the U.S.S.R. HAS, in a short 20 years at that, been changed profoundly, mostly by changed educational standards and economic incentives with personal security thrown in for good measure. The ideal of "ours for us" instead of "mine for me" has already been so deeply implanted, that is, human nature so changed, that there is, in the minds of many, an obvious doubt as to the ethical soundness of a law which would confer advantage, however slight, on any individual at the expense of the mass. When it is realized that the very government which has so uniquely succeeded in developing in its citizens a high degree of social idealism, finds it necessary for its, and their, immediate best interest, to counteract in some degree the effects of such a development, I should think no one with any discernment whatsoever would again resurrect that threadbare can't-change-human-nature foolishness. Maplewood, Mo.

C. A. LANG

* * *

"My admiration for your paper grows daily. It takes The Freeman to call things by their true names, without beating about the bush. And it is so full of useful information and new ideas. Here's wishing you long life and sustained strength to carry the torch for many years to come."—E. C. H., Maryland.

* * *

Please comment on the national election.

While President Roosevelt's personality played its part in the gigantic campaign, the victory was primarily a demonstration of the American people's growing liberalism. The American public isn't ready for radicalism, but that it's wholeheartedly for political and social liberalism is the obvious lesson of the election.

The issue was clear and undisguised. On one side stood labor, the farmers, the liberal portions of the middle class, and a sprinkling of the wealthy. On the other side stood reaction, conservatism, near-Fascism, race prejudice and Bourbonism. These elements were personified by such figures as Hoover, Hearst, Father Coughlin, Dr. Townsend, Wall Street, the great industrialists, the labor-haters, the American Liberty League, Raskob, the duPonts, the large and small bankers, and all sorts of economic and political riff-raff. The lineup held right to the end of the bal-

loting, and the result is now history.

President Roosevelt goes into his second term with the knowledge that there are at least 11,000,000 more liberal voters than reactionaries, which means, under a democracy, that the policies of liberalism are to be realized. Had Landon won, the country would be headed perilously in the direction of Fascism, with the tremendous powers of the government used to make more devastating the rule of capital. The masses sensed this fact, and their answer was overwhelmingly against the ideology of those who would keep the country from building up democratic institutions that would bring greater economic freedom to the common people.

This doesn't mean that the American people voted for a program of socialization, though there's no doubt that a limited degree of public ownership of utilities and the like will be acceptable. American liberalism, as it asserted itself at the polls on November 3, declared itself for greater measures of social security within the framework of the capitalistic system. Whether this will be the foundation on which the enlightened forces of genuine socialization can construct a new civilization rests for history to say. At any rate, under proper, intelligent leadership, the people of the United States are now free to establish a powerful, constructive labor movement, great consumers' cooperatives, governmental protection for the unskilled and unorganized workers, and legislation intended to compel the powerful economic elements to pay more towards the expenses of the government's measures of social advancement.

Reaction and Fascism will be able to do little to promote dictatorship during the next few years, at least. If mass support for liberalism grows, and if it goes gradually into far-sighted radicalism, the specter of Fascism will be practically removed from the American scene. The American people seem to know what it's all about, so far as Rooseveltian liberalism is concerned. And they have let it be known that they don't want a dime's worth of the rabble-rousing, racialistic Fascism of the Coughlin type. Nor do they want a penny's worth of the red-baiting of the Hearstites. These gentlemen, along

with many others, put their full strength behind Landonism—and the American people would have none of it.

Democracy in the U.S. is safe for a time. Our minor Fuehrers may garner stray morons into shirt movements, *a la* Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith and his ilk, but the public has shown definitely that it wants none of that truck. Incipient Fascism needs mass support to grow to maturity, and such support isn't in sight in this country—at least for the present. All the issues have been met head-on, and it's the heads of the Fascists that have the bumps.

But, let's not forget that about 15,000,000 people supported Hearstism, Coughlinism and rank reaction at the polls. The tremendous powers of money are still in the hands of our economic royalists, and they have surrendered none of their financial and industrial influence. They aren't dead; they haven't surrendered—they have merely retired to previously prepared positions. Of course, under our Democracy, they can't call in a Hitler, a Mussolini or a General Franco to undo the work of the masses and destroy the governmental edifice they are building. Their reaction will be much subtler. But growing liberalism will watch carefully for every act of the enemy, be it conspiratorial, propagandistic, or plain acts of bribery.

Lovers of liberty, democracy and progress will stand on guard, ever ready to meet the propaganda of the Tories. The people are not helpless. They have facilities for reaching those who want to preserve the institutions that enable civilization to function. They can't be stampeded by false propaganda, however cunningly devised. The recent campaign showed how willing the masses are to listen to the opponents of social progress, weigh their words and accept or reject their proposals. In the campaign that closed with Roosevelt's gigantic victory, the powers of economic darkness had access to most of our great newspapers. About 90 percent of the press was for Landon, and the result was farcical.

The capitalistic press received a body blow from the masses—those millions who were supposed to be put-

ty in the hands of the rich schemers. The great papers—such as *The Kansas City Star*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Herald Tribune*, the Hearst press, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Daily News*, and scores of other newspapers—poured their barrage of propaganda into the ranks of liberalism, but instead of disorganizing the millions who believe in social progress they helped make them stronger. That in itself marked a new day in American history.

Now, if the people would take the great lesson to heart, is the time to build up a press dedicated to the truth, to justice and to methods of honor and decency in the nation's political and economic affairs. The free press was abused in the hands of the Tories, but the opportunities for a free press are still with us, and it's to be hoped that the masses, or at least the more literate portion of the public, will lend its support to those editorial enterprises that seek to help instead of hinder the forward march of humanity in the direction of economic independence. The bought press of Capitalism has received a blow which it will always remember. But the answer, from the people's side, isn't to look to these great publishers to come over to liberalism—that's too dangerous, for most of them will be insincere—but to establish a press great and powerful enough to bring contemporary history to the American public, without the bias of Hearst, plutocracy and monopoly.

The basic problems facing society are still to be solved. We have merely established liberalism as a going concern and have put incipient Fascism into near-bankruptcy. Capitalism is still the system that prevails in the U.S., and is likely to endure for a long time. The evils of Capitalism have been examined only superficially. The patient is still very, very sick. And the sudden relapses of Capitalism—depressions—can come again and again if we fail to follow up our liberalism with genuine, scientific radicalism.

The American people have merely won the right to go ahead. Whether they will march forward to victory or stand still in a sea of phrases remains to be seen. With our great

democratic ideals, with our popular rights, with our traditional liberties, with our fundamental fairness—with all these weapons we can establish a new civilization, based on social justice and economic emancipation. The preliminary bout was won. The main fight is still to be fought. That will come to a great climax when the masses rise to their full stature and declare that the mighty forces of wealth production shall and must belong to the people who do the country's necessary work, whether that be of brain or brawn.

* * *

Perhaps you have many times discussed the depression—causes, etc. If so, I missed it. Will you do it again? Many people say we have always had depressions, always will, and settle it at that. Are these 17-year (or thereabout) catastrophes necessary? Are they deliberate acts or inevitable? Will you give your opinion and a remedy?

While the economic situation is showing steady improvement, while the indices make it obvious that the country is headed in the direction of "prosperity," the simple fact remains that we still have a long distance to travel before we reach what we can call really good times. That such good times will come, I don't doubt, but nothing has been done thus far to make depressions impossible. Roosevelt, with all his fine, humanitarian impulses, with all his admirable courage and honesty, has only made feeble gestures in the direction of a panicle, or depressionless, society.

What is a depression? What is prosperity? What makes depressions "inevitable"? Can depressions be eliminated? Such questions have been asked by the people, and are being asked today. It's such questions that led over 25,000,000 American citizens to cast their ballots for F. D. R. in the greatest political landslide in our history. While the Rooseveltian policies won't remove the causes of depressions from our economic order, the people have felt, with some justice, that his liberalism and progressivism, added to a candid desire for social reform, will lay the groundwork for that social security which the masses must achieve if they are to survive. Given their choice between Landon, who wanted Capitalism with all its established abuses, and Roose-

vult, who showed he believed in the capitalistic order of society but wanted the system to make compromises, the people chose the latter. By this step they didn't go an immense distance forward, but nevertheless forward they went, instead of backward to reaction, semi-Fascism and Hooverism indifference.

The people had a chance to vote for a Socialist program, but as they weren't and aren't ready for such advanced measures they did the next best thing—elected Roosevelt for another four years. In many ways this election was wise. It lays, for at least four years, the menace of Fascism. The minor Mussolinis, quacks and misleaders of the people—Father Coughlin, Dr. Townsend, Al Smith, Herbert Hoover, Landon, Hearst, the Liberty League, Henry J. Allen, Jim Reed, the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, the Rev. Winrod, the shirt leaders of the Pelley brand—were properly rebuked by the people. The masses spoke like claps of thunder. They voted overwhelmingly for the preservation of our precious democratic institutions, for free speech, free press, civil rights, protection of minority races and other groups. The people voted against dictatorship, Fascism, rampant Capitalism, monopoly, "rugged individualism." The people voiced their approval of non-radical measures that are intended to protect and advance the interests of the workers and farmers. The mood of the people was splendid, firm, reasonably intelligent and determined.

The enemy had his complete say—no spokesman of privilege was denied his say—and then democracy (with a small d) went into action. What a glorious, and civilized, way of approaching our social problems! What a rebuke to the rotten, brutal, uncivilized, barbarous dictatorships of the Mussolini and Hitler stripe! The American way, with all its faults, asserted itself—and with honor and dignity.

But all this splendid mass action merely showed the people's mood for action. It didn't demonstrate a keen, scientific comprehension of our vast social problems. But here we must be fair. We have no right to expect the millions to move at a gallop. The crowd moves slowly, but at any rate we know it moves. The

groundwork has been built for future activities of a progressive, fundamentally effective structure. The people elected a great politician—the greatest in the history of the nation—but the people also chose a man who is several steps ahead of the crowd he leads, so intelligently and competently. If the country is to go forward, it needs leadership of the Roosevelt type—able to show the masses what it's all about, where we should head, and what measures we plan to take for our future welfare. Roosevelt isn't the perfect leader, because he doesn't go far enough, but he is faced in the right direction, the people are with him, so we can insist in all sincerity that he is the right man—considering the times—for the country.

The American people have given Roosevelt a mandate to go ahead into the worlds of social security, permanent prosperity, the cure for unemployment, fairer distribution of wealth, and the like. So far, so good. Roosevelt understands the mandate the people have given him, and he'll make a good President during the next four years, as he did during his first administration. I say this freely and without evasion, though I insist on the right of independent criticism.

The people are all in the kindergarten, so far as the sciences of political economy, economics and sociology are concerned, but they show signs of intelligent interest, they are willing to learn, and, for the present, a leader of the type of F. D. R. is the best possible instructor the masses could have. Yes, Roosevelt is the man of the hour—the month—the year—but by this I don't mean his present policies, or those to be proposed in the near future, can have any possible effect on such fundamental questions as depressions, and the like.

Under what we naively call prosperity we find a condition in which most people are at work, many at fair wages, many at very poor wages, and a minority of highly skilled workers at high wages. There are, comparatively, few unemployed in the land. Those who are unemployable are provided for either by their relatives or by charity. The employers, bankers, promoters, industrialists, financiers,

public utility magnates, and other leaders of the country's economic and financial institutions are drawing down immense profits, dividends, interest, rents, royalties, etc., so, by and large, the game looks like a boom. The middle class is able to keep up with the Joneses, so that large element is contented. The farmers find a ready market for their crops, so there's very little grumbling there. This situation we call prosperity, and, compared with the last years of Hoover's administration, with the climax of March 4, 1933, when every bank in the country was closed, the older times did spell prosperity. But genuine prosperity wasn't there, in the best days of the great boom period, because the fundamental weaknesses of Capitalism were at work, like a slow, implacable cancer.

Let's see what was the matter. Capitalism had reached a climax of activity because ready markets were available for surpluses. American capital, goods and services were wanted. At home, the workers and farmers were enjoying a purchasing power which managed to keep the machinery of production and distribution geared to full capacity. But there was a slow, insidious disease at work during all these rip-snorting times. What? The simple fact that the working class was receiving less than the social value of what it produced—a surplus that went to the owning class. This owning (Capitalist) class had few worries, because the markets of the world seemed able to absorb what the American toilers lacked in buying power. But suddenly there came a time when the foreign markets, because of their own fundamental incapacities, contradictions and inadequacies, were unable to pay for what American Capitalists offered to sell. So the Capitalists had only the American market, by and large, to turn to, but only on condition that the workers and farmers accept less than the value of their work in the form of wages and market quotations for farm commodities. The machine went right on spinning out wealth, the masses bought as fast as they could produce the money, but there came a moment when the vast machine's productive capacity found itself way out of line with the ability of the masses to buy—and with a

tremendous groan and a world-shaking thump, the machine stopped, the millions of workers who weren't needed were thrown into the streets, farmers found their crops selling for hardly anything—and we were in a great depression before we had time to know what had happened.

I have over-simplified the whole question of Capitalism's contradictions, which is a dangerous thing to do, but I have kept strictly to the main lines because I wanted to emphasize the system's weak point—its inability to keep the machine going full tilt on a permanent basis so long as John Doe produced \$10 worth of shoes, let us say, and received only \$5 or \$6 in wages, by way of example. The surplus is very fine for the Capitalist when his shoes go into any market in the world. But the surplus can smother that Capitalist if the workers go right on producing shoes when there's no purchasing movement at home or abroad. Let a great industrialist keep workers producing too long without a sure outlet for what they produce and he'll find himself engulfed in no time, smothered by his own gravy, stifled by the system which permits him to exploit the great masses who have nothing to sell but their power to supply energy and intelligence to the industries of the nation.

That's why I warn my readers, in these days when we still comment on the amazing manner in which Roosevelt's policies won out at the polls on November 3, that the sickness that brought about the great depression is still with us. Roosevelt has straightened out a few of the kinks. He has changed some of the unfair, dirty rules. He has announced that the government is responsible for the welfare of the people, which can best be expressed by social security, which, in turn, means old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and the like. Such things are all to the good. They are the ideas and policies of a humanitarian, but they aren't the cure for the basic fallacy of Capitalism—the fact that those who are to keep the machine moving will NEVER be able to buy all that that machine produces, thereby setting up a real or theoretical surplus which in time will clog and stop the machine. We may go into a period of prosperity that's

greater than that enjoyed in any period in the past, but that doesn't mean depressions won't return. They will, because the conditions that make for depressions are still with us, and promise to remain for years to come.

The large-scale means of production, distribution and exchange are in private hands which are concerned only with the accumulation of profits. The fact that the people need services and goods means only that here is an opportunity to make some profit. The fact that goods are needed means nothing to these realistic-minded men in control of our economic system if the masses are unable to buy what the masters have to sell—at a profit. The large-scale industries, etc., would have to be socialized—owned by the social order, controlled by the people, operated for the satisfaction of human needs instead of dividends for Capitalists—if we really wanted to do away with the causes of depressions. The people will look on gratefully while Roosevelt goes about the necessary, humane business of taking the rough stuff out of Capitalism. By this, I mean he'll pull the system's fangs and clip its claws. But so long as the great industries remain as private possessions, so long will there be the standing menace of depressions, regardless of the fact that we may head into another, even greater, period of industrial, business and financial activity. If Roosevelt is a mere reformer, he'll merely patch up the system through social services. If he's merely that, the times will out-march him before long, and instead of being a real leader he'll find himself in the rear of the procession. But if he's a genuine leader, he'll learn, if he doesn't already know, that patching up Capitalism will never take insecurity out of life, for, when the entire machine gets out of whack, supplying the masses with relief can't remove the fatal contradiction that is part and parcel of Capitalism—the exploitation of labor by paying it, in purchasing power, only a fraction of what it's able to produce.

Please comment on the injection of Communism into the national election by the Hearst-Landon interests.

Hearst's red-baiting was a disgust-

ing spectacle, a complete misuse of the press, which should always be used for honorable ends, with truth as the ever-present objective. The attempt to brand President Roosevelt as a Communist was one of the most disgraceful expressions of gutter politics in the history of the country, and the way the public reacted to such rot proves that it takes more than the cry of Bolshevism to scare the voters. They listened patiently—too patiently, I thought—and turned to more important issues. The Communist red-herring—as Roosevelt properly called it—only served to stink up the Henry J. Allen-Hearst-Coughlin word-mongers. To show how essentially unimportant the Communists are in this country, one need only refer to the election returns. New York State (including the metropolitan district) is supposed to be the hot-bed of Communist propaganda, and yet the returns show that the Communist Party of New York didn't receive enough votes to keep it on the ballot for the next election. The Communist vote actually failed to reach 50,000, the minimum required for getting on the ballot. In New York City, where the Communist party concentrated its efforts, the vote for the presidential candidate, Earl Browder, was unofficially put at only 31,900, a drop in the bucket when compared to the total vote. The red-herring, on examination, turned out to be only a red-sardine.

Please comment on Father Coughlin's reference to President Roosevelt as a "scab President."

Father (of what?) Coughlin has been showing plain signs of hysteria, a la Hitler, and his use of the word "scab" in reference to the President is just one more indication of his growing mental instability. Any ordinary reader during the past few years should know that F. D. R., more than any President in the history of the country, has been, and is, a consistent friend and supporter of union labor. He has gone out of his way several times to show that he believes the U.S. needs a strong labor movement if the processes of recovery are to be accelerated.

Persons familiar with Padre Coughlin's record are amazed at his

effrontery in using the term "scab," for the man has shown himself to be thoroughly scabby whenever he deals with matters that pertain to labor. During the past three years, in which I wrote scores of columns exposing this Detroit Fascist, I have presented numerous facts that prove Coughlin to be a scabby enemy of labor.

First, Coughlin's church was built by scab labor, and he even insisted on continuing the use of scab labor after the Detroit Building Trades protested against his hiring non-union workmen who were compelled to accept his starvation, scab rates of pay and other onerous conditions. Who's the scab?

Second, for several years (until numerous articles by others and myself compelled him to change) Coughlin had all his immense printing contracts handled in scab shops. In 1934, as I've shown before, the International Typographical Union, at its annual convention, passed, by unanimous vote, a resolution condemning Coughlin for his use of non-union printing shops. Who's the scab?

Third, Father Coughlin, on May 29, 1936, condemned American unionism on the score that "workers have been coerced into labor unions," which showed that the Catholic priest was really opposed to labor's formal organizations. He aimed to give the general public the impression that unionism is a "racket," to which workmen must pay money in order to satisfy the "racketeers," which, of course, was a gross, dishonest libel. Who's the scab?

Fourth, as I showed in earlier articles about Coughlin's anti-labor policies, the priest put forward as one of his "principles" the demand that labor should be prohibited from striking and employers should be prohibited from ordering lock-outs. As I commented at the time, a lock-out is unnecessary when labor lacks the right to quit work in protest against unfair conditions. The shaft at the capitalists, therefore, was dishonest, while the Fascist's real anti-labor purposes were exposed in this cunning attempt to deprive labor of one of its most effective weapons of self-defense. If Coughlin had his way, American labor would be on the same low level as the slaves of Italy and

Germany, where strikers are treated as traitors against the State. Who's the scab?

Fifth, Father Coughlin has announced that he is for a law which will compel workers to submit to compulsory arbitration before the Department of Labor. But, and here Coughlin shows his claws, he doesn't want anything like the present Department of Labor but a branch of the government that is "reformed" in accordance with his policies, which, naturally, means a department run along Fascist lines, bossed by a dictator (Coughlin?) who is to pass on any of labor's grievances. Who's the scab?

And yet this dirty rat has the unmitigated gall to call President Roosevelt a scab!

* * *

What's your opinion of Father Coughlin's decision to quit the National Union for Social Justice?

It isn't quite accurate to say that Coughlin is having his Fascist organization quit. What really happened was that the people quit his Union on November 3. This blatherskite claimed he had 6,000,000 members, of whom at least 95 percent could be counted on to vote as the Father (of what?) dictated. He claimed a floating vote of at least 3,000,000 more. When the votes were counted, it was found that Coughlin's Union was so much wind. The 9,000,000 votes got snarled up in the Roosevelt landslide. As Coughlin put it on November 7, when he announced the dissolution of his little dictatorship, "I regret to announce that less than 10 percent of the National Union members lived up to their promises." Which speaks pretty well for the members.

Our other cockroach Hitler couldn't find their "millions of followers" when the ballots were counted. Dr. Townsend kept announcing that he controlled 10,000,000 votes. The voters didn't seem to know who belonged to the Townsend movement, for when the election was held, only about one percent did as the leader directed. And there was the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, who kept shouting at numerous anti-Roosevelt meetings that he controlled from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 votes. It would be difficult to find 10,000 of them.

Our little Mussolinis have learned that the American people aren't ready for strutting dictators. Of course, these shouting bedbugs might become dangerous if some new emergency were to arise, but for the present they're all on the shelves, where they'll gather dust, and, we hope, keep their loud mouths shut tight.

* * *

With Landon getting only eight electoral votes, isn't Roosevelt's victory the greatest in the nation's history?

On the basis of the popular vote, President Roosevelt's victory smashes all previous records, but on the basis of electoral votes his record is the best in 116 years. In 1820, James Monroe received all but one of 232 electoral votes. The reason he missed getting that one vote was because William Plummer, of New Hampshire, held that George Washington's unanimous election shouldn't be challenged by Monroe. Historians explain his stand not so much on the score of his love of Washington as his dislike for Monroe. Thus, Monroe received 99 6/10 percent of the votes of the electoral college, while Roosevelt received 98 5/10 percent.

* * *

Hitler has announced that it is a punishable offense for anyone in Germany to publicly "incite to limitation of the number of offspring." Please comment.

Hitler, through this law, wants more babies, so he can have more soldiers, thereby making it possible to bring about immense limitation of the species through war.

* * *

What impresses me most about your work is the ease with which you write. I mean, rather, the ease with which your pieces can be read. How did you develop such a talent for clarity?

I really give the matter very little thought. To me, writing means merely the knack of getting what's in my head onto paper, with the fewest possible words.

During the past three decades I've made a practice of watching how other writers put down their notions. And here, it seems to me, I've learned more from the literary fellows who get their words all mixed up. When I meet a paragraph that's gosh awful, I study it a few minutes, trying to figure out how the author could have said his piece with greater simplicity. Some writers can pull

some terrific sentences. The worst I've met in many years was in an article by C. Patrick Thompson, entitled "Europe Stocks Up for War," in the October 25, 1936, issue of *This Week*. Here's the sentence that hit me between the eyes and almost sent me down for the count:

"When the Geneva League imposed sanctions upon Italy, and British pacifists and anti-Fascist elements headed a campaign to put oil on the prohibited list and so paralyze the Italian attack on Ethiopia (the desperate Fascist leader would have retorted by attacking Britain in Egypt and the Mediterranean, and attempting to explode prematurely the war gases gathering in Europe; but that is by the way), an intensification of the war larder process in every state with a war (commonly termed a 'defense') problem, was assured."

* * *

I am an alcoholic who wants to quit but doesn't know how. Any suggestions?

You drunks are usually accepted humorously, but my attitude is always that the victim is a very sick man in serious need of the best treatment at the command of science. I've had some experience with alcoholics—especially among employes—and have found them to be extremely difficult people to deal with. A person who wants to achieve a real cure will have to turn to a good psychiatrist, for self-cures are rare.

Dr. Karl Menninger, who runs a hospital in Topeka, Kansas, says, as a psychiatrist of international reputation, that "drunks aren't funny, and they should be pitied and helped." He also holds:

"The alcoholic is invariably a person with a deep neurotic deformity.

"He is almost invariably a disappointed spoiled child who has adopted an attitude of passiveness, of extreme friendliness and jollity to cover a deep wound.

"He is tolerated by society far beyond his just deserts. The affliction is deep-seated and no treatment which requires less than a year is effective."

Dr. Menninger holds that "confinement, psycho-analysis and redirection of aggressiveness into a more normal channel are the only factors which might effect a cure."

After studying the above opinions

of a renowned expert, you undoubtedly realize that you're in for a real fight if you want to sock booze for the count. I wish you luck.

* * *

How many house-wives are there in the U.S.?

About 25,000,000.

* * *

Does the average person really want to hold correct ideas?

The average person doesn't mind holding wrong opinions on any subject so long as the people with whom he comes in contact can't call attention to his errors.

* * *

How do Fascist newspapers treat American news?

Countries ruled by dictators have formal propaganda ministers who see to it that each item of news that comes out of the U.S., or any other democratic country, serves to give thoroughly black eyes to democracy, tolerance and freedom. For example, let us consider Poland, where, as I've shown several times, the Fascist-Catholic government permits an anti-Semitic policy that is incredibly cruel and devastating. Poland's 3,500,000 Jews are treated with inhuman harshness, denied even the rights of ordinary human beings. And yet, to read the Polish press, one would get the impression that Poland's persecution of the Jews is the world's natural reaction to the Jews.

Poland's gagged and misinformed subjects are made to infer that anti-Semitism is as strong in democratic countries as in Central Europe. For example, when the news came out about the Black Legion of Detroit, a band of Jew-baiting, Negro-killing, fascistic gangsters, the Polish press gave countless columns of space to these hoodlums but with this moral: **THE BLACK LEGIONS ARE COMMON TO ALL THE U.S.A.**

Polish newspapers and the radio created the impression that America is run over with Black Legions, which, of course, are only echoes of Poland's bands of murderers out to destroy helpless, innocent Jews. They were careful to refrain from giving their readers the truth, that our Black Legions are not representative of American life, and, above all, we were using the full powers of government to arrest and punish these criminals. The fact that these members

and officers of the Black Legion were sentenced to long prison terms was kept from the readers of Polish newspapers, thus helping misinformed Poles to believe that their own anti-Semitic murderers were doing a patriotic service to civilization, a service that persons of the same stripe were giving to the people of the U. S. The same attitude, needless to say, is exploited in other Fascist countries, including Germany.

In Germany, where Goebbels runs the regimented newspapers for Hitler, the people were given no real news about our recent national campaign because it was considered unwise to remind the Germans that there is a country in which the people are still permitted to discuss public issues and vote as their consciences dictate.

Goebbels gave orders to his American correspondents to send only such news as described acts of violence in connection with the political campaign. If two or more persons somewhere in the U.S. got into a fight over a question of politics, that, of course, was news for the German press. It's always possible to pick up such items here and there when a nation of 128,000,000 people are in the throes of a political campaign. The purpose that Goebbels had in mind was to give the impression that democratic countries which tolerate political parties, free discussion, free press, etc., only invite disorders, while Hitler's country, which knows no such liberties, is a haven of refuge, peace and calm.

Such methods serve to buttress Fascism and discredit democracy. But any literate American knows that our Black Legions are sporadic organizations and that our election campaigns are, by and large, orderly and conducive to discussion and enlightenment on political and social issues.

* * *

Which do you consider the more practical philosophy for one to adopt toward life—"Survival of the fittest" or "Live and let Live"?

In its scientific sense, the survival of the fittest refers to non-human existence. If the wild dog is to survive, he must chase that rabbit. If the wolf is to survive, he must pounce on that sheep. If the lion is to sur-

vive, he must have a plentiful supply of zebra meat. And so on. Nature demands merciless exploitation if any form of animal life is to survive. Man consumes or utilizes other forms of life in order to remain alive. These points are obvious, of course, but must be restated if my inferences are to be accepted.

As a philosophy of life FOR HUMAN BEINGS, I feel that "Live and let live" is workable, practical, decent and civilized. Primitive man had his reasons for enslaving the men he conquered and putting them to work. The economic situation demanded such behavior. It was a case of exploiting in order to survive. But as man's powers grew, as civilization became a reality, as culture grew, as the capacity to produce wealth multiplied, the idea of "survival of the fittest" among human beings became a mere shadow of the philosophy that maintained life in the jungle.

Man today, by cooperative action, can make life more secure. Life is safer today—and lasts longer—because, in no inconsiderable degree, man has learned to work WITH his fellowmen, instead of AGAINST them. Many of our economic and social ills can be traced to the jungle hangover of the survival of the fittest, which, too often, becomes merely the survival of the slickest.

Social justice, community cooperation, mutual aid, mass security—such things make life worth living, not the laws of the tooth and claw. By working together, we can supply ourselves with everything that nature, science and human intelligence can produce. Therefore, it seems to me that "living cooperatively," in matters of economics and the like, should be the philosophy for sane, civilized human beings to follow.

By "Live and let live" I don't mean that man is to live in peace with disease germs or other real enemies of his. That would be a gross corruption of the ideal of social cooperation. What I do mean is merely this: Society should own and control the instrumentalities of wealth production, distribution and exchange when they are of such a size that individual ownership can imperil man's chances for economic survival. Knowledge should be thrown open to all who would achieve learning. Cul-

ture should be turned into a free republic. The spirit of inquiry should be encouraged and protected. The scientist should be given even greater opportunities for service to humanity—for the purposes of health, security, safety and happiness. That's what "cooperative living" means to me.

If the slogan "Live and let live" means that, then I'm for it. It's both humanitarian and in harmony with nature's laws, for it's a mistake to conclude that all nature is competitive. While there is a great deal of cruelty and selfishness in raw life, there's also a great deal of cooperation, even among forms of life that are much lower than man. The cooperative impulse doesn't dominate the world, but the evolutionary advance is always in the direction of more cooperation, not less.

* * *

How does tea drinking compare with coffee in popularity?

The Association of American Railroads, reporting on the eating habits of patrons of dining cars, says 85 out of 100 order coffee; 15 order tea.

* * *

How many tornadoes do we have in the U.S.?

An average of 133 per year, according to figures compiled during the past 20 years.

* * *

Do you think that sexual energy can be sublimated in physical exertion?

If by physical exertion my correspondent means the partial or complete exhaustion of one's body through excessive toil, then I'd say that sexual energy will be reduced, wholly or partially. But the usual meaning is somewhat different. I recall, when I was a boy, how puritanical Y.M.C.A. lecturers (who then weren't as liberal as many such secretaries are today when questions of sexual behavior are discussed) used to throw out their chest, beat it with both fists and yell: "When you feel thoughts of sin come over you, jump into a cold shower, play tennis for an hour, rough it up at football, take another cold shower, and you won't think about such worldly sins as sex any more." And, I recall, not one kid in a dozen believed a word of that "teacher's" piffle. I, realistic skeptic and incipient cynic, asked my pals if it didn't sound more reason-

able to believe that when one develops the body so it gets stronger, doesn't it follow that sexual powers and capacity for sexual experience grow stronger? Sexual energy can be deadened by excessive toil, but it seems to me that it'll be stimulated by reasonable, healthful sports and exercises.

* * *

What is America's favorite dessert?
Apple pie.

* * *

Please comment on Gene Tunney's defense of preparedness, which you will find in the enclosed clipping.

On his return from a tour of Europe, Gene Tunney, former heavyweight boxing champion, told reporters, on November 2, 1936, that he was sure there would be no European war because of the preparedness of European governments through rearmament. He added:

"You seldom see a brawl in a prizefighter's training camp, because everybody there is in shape. It is usually when men are not prepared that they fight."

It may sound reckless for this sedentary scribbler to dispute Gene Tunney's comment on behavior as it's found in training camps, but I can't resist the impulse to remark that pugilism is a business and the boxers in that business aren't organized to fight in training camps because the money isn't there. The training camp is used in getting ready for the fight that's to come. If this decade isn't to see war in Europe because the countries are all prepared, then we are made to wonder how it was that Germany, Austria, Russia, France, England and a few other governments, in 1914, got into their famous brawl, considering they were all armed to the teeth and just rarin' to go.

* * *

What causes hunger pains?

Physicians have long held the theory that hunger pains are caused by muscular spasms in the stomach when that organ is empty. But that theory may have to be revised. Recently, in Toronto, Canada, surgeons removed a cancerous stomach from a patient, who survived and, at the end of six weeks, was able to eat meats, vegetables, and other foods. This patient asserts he feels the pangs of hunger, and, since he has no stomach,

physicians will have to re-examine their theory.

* * *

I have just read a circular which states that a certain stock that once sold for 25c is now worth \$2, "an advance of 800 percent," and certain preferred stock which sold at \$2 is now worth \$22, "an advance of 1100 percent." Is that right?

The 25c stock advanced 700 percent; the \$2 preferred stock advanced 1,000 percent. This is a common error. Sometimes I forget myself and make the same mistake.

* * *

I am enclosing clipping of a quotation from one of Abraham Lincoln's addresses which I heard and read a number of times in political speeches and which I would like to see identified.

The quotation follows:

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of war, corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all the wealth is aggregate in a few hands and the republic is destroyed."

Abraham Lincoln never fathered the foregoing quotation, and those who quote it as a sample of Lincoln's political wisdom are disseminating a forgery. I have seen this quotation in radical and liberal newspapers, magazines and books for about 25 years. I've heard it from dozens of speakers, so it looks pretty hopeless for one to set himself the task of getting the country to recognize the fact that a false quotation is being used in the name of Lincoln. A careful examination of all Lincoln's speeches, messages and letters fails to reveal anything that even resembles it.

Professor John C. Freeman, University of Wisconsin, one of the authorities who looked into this alleged Lincoln item, says the lines may be a paraphrase of a speech delivered in 1873 by Edward G. Ryan, a chief justice of Wisconsin.

Readers who come on the Lincolniana given above are asked to join in a crusade to expose this deathless forgery, not that it'll do any good—the hoax will go right on—but they'll get the thrill that only a

debunker in action enjoys.

* * *

After a large orchestra fusses and scratches around for many minutes tuning up, can it be said that the instruments can all be put in perfect tune?

So far as the average layman's ear is concerned, the orchestra is in tune, but the expert knows that no orchestra can do better than achieve an approximation of true harmony. Sir Henry Wood, distinguished London conductor, recently called attention to the fact that heat has unequal effects on various instruments, the piano going down in pitch while others go up. Director Wood explained:

"It is all a question of compromise. For two years I have kept a very careful record of temperature in the Queen's Hall, and the effect of the temperature on the piano and orchestra in concertos.

"Unfortunately, with heat the piano goes down in pitch and the pitch of the wind instruments goes up. If a piano concerto comes half an hour after the concert has started, the whole of the wind instruments may have gone up, while the piano has remained stationary, or has probably gone flat."

All this, of course, is on so fine and delicate a scale that only the most sensitive ear can distinguish the difference.

* * *

What is the meaning of the German slogan: "Drang Nach Osten"?

It means "Drive to the East," and refers to the Nazi aim to satisfy Hitler's appetite for more land by cutting eastward into the Soviet Union. In his Nuremberg speech, Hitler expressed the hope of having the grainfields of the Ukraine, the minerals of the Urals and the forests of Siberia, all of which are unobtainable except through war. His constant claim that he wants peace and his equally constant harping on "Drang Nach Osten" are irreconcilable contradictions.

* * *

Do you believe a day will ever come when Hollywood will run out of movies to make?

Dramatists will have material for plays and scenarios as long as there are human beings in the world. It has been said that each person's life contains the material of an interest-

ing book, an observation which strikes me as sound.

Hollywood hasn't begun to write stories yet, because the industry made such a bad start and directed its appeal to the lowest average of intelligence. It's only in the last decade that the producers began to give some regard to better stories, and even here many of the leaders in that chaotic world believe it will hurt the business (box-office) to make the tales "too good." The remedy will probably result in some sort of a division of policies, which will be a healthy thing for Hollywood. The trouble in cinemaland thus far has been, in the main, that stories were considered on the basis of the widest possible appeal, when the obvious experience of other art forms has resulted in productions intended to please, amuse or enlighten different publics. A real forward-step will be taken when Hollywood frankly decides to issue one picture for children, another for morons, a third for sophisticates, a fourth for audiences of taste and discrimination, and so on. Such an idea would upset Hollywood's present policies, but that, in the end, would be all to the good—for both the public (or publics) and the producers.

As for the possibility of exhausting dramatic material, that is as impossible as for the artist who uses the medium of oils to exhaust the supply of fit subjects for portraits and other forms of painting. So far as actual dramatic situations are concerned, they are very few in number. About 200 years ago, Carlo Gozzi, the Italian dramatist, remarked that life offered only 23 situations capable of being dramatized. The layman, of course, was puzzled by that statement, but Goethe and Schiller saw the truth of Gozzi's dictum and accepted it as valid.

Later, a Frenchman, Georges Polti, increased the number of basic dramatic situations by 13, to 36. A London critic then found that Shakespeare's plays—36 in all—contained every dramatic situation capable of being used, and yet one wouldn't dream of saying that Shakespeare exhausted the stage's possibilities for theatrical art. The 36 situations which will be found in Shakespeare's 36 plays are merely so many scaffolds on which those who see life

through the eyes of the artist can build their structures, depending on characterization instead of the mere elaboration of plots, which, after all, are merely the mechanics of the trade. The 36 dramatic Classifications, as listed by Polti, follow:

1. Supplication.
2. Deliverance.
3. Crime pursued by Vengeance.
4. Vengeance taken for Kindred upon Kindred.
5. Pursuit.
6. Disaster.
7. Falling Prey to Cruelty or Misfortune.
8. Revolt.
9. Daring Enterprise.
10. Abduction.
11. The Enigma.
12. Obtaining.
13. Enmity of Kinsmen.
14. Rivalry of Kinsmen.
15. Murderous Adultery.
16. Madness.
17. Fatal Imprudence.
18. Involuntary Crimes of Love.
19. Slaying of a Kinsman Unrecognized.
20. Self-Sacrifice for an Ideal.
21. Self-Sacrifice for Kindred.
22. Sacrifice for a Passion.
23. Necessary Sacrifice of Loved Ones.
24. Rivalry of Superior and Inferior.
25. Adultery.
26. Crimes of Love.
27. Discovery of a Beloved One's Dishonor.
28. Obstacles to Love.
29. An Enemy Loved.
30. Ambition.
31. Conflict with a God.
32. Mistaken Jealousy.
33. Mistaken Judgment.
34. Remorse.
35. Recovery of a Lost One.
36. Loss of Beloved Ones.

* * *

Are you going to issue a second edition of the American Rationalist Annual? The first edition (1935) was a success.

The Annual costs a great deal of money—more than I could spare at this time, so it seems probable I'll skip a year before bringing out another number, in the hope of walking into better times.

* * *

Don't you think it's terrible the way we owners of automobiles are made to pay so much in taxes?

My correspondent encloses a clipping which says that owners of motor cars pay 13 percent of all taxes collected in the U.S. "For instance," says the clipping, which, by the way, is unidentified, "on gasoline alone 26,000,000 motorists in the U.S. pay

an average price of 19.2 cents a gallon, 5.4 cents of which goes for federal and state taxes."

Frankly, I don't get very hot under the collar when I, an enthusiastic motorist, pay 5.4 cents in taxes on each gallon of gas that goes into my tank. I think the charge is entirely reasonable, knowing that most of this money, when properly spent, goes to improve or build highways, and in other ways makes the way of drivers a little easier and perhaps safer. Gasoline could be five or six cents cheaper if the great oil companies would tolerate less waste and pass on at least a part of such savings.

When I buy my five or 10 gallons of liquid pep, I often remember that the same quantity of gas, but of a much inferior grade, would cost me \$1.25 per gallon in Mussoliniland. An ordinary motorist can buy five or more gallons of gas in this country without going into bankruptcy, while in Italy you have to be a millionaire to drive a car, or, if of the middle class, you buy gasoline by the quart.

* * *

Let's suppose a person has some important conclusions to present and wants to put them over. Should he resort to exclamatory outbursts, emotionalism, semi-hysteria, noise and clamor? Or should he be strictly mental?

I prefer to be guided by the wise advice of the great philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer, who, a century ago, said:

"If you want your judgment accepted, express it coolly."

A rabble-rouser can whip a mob into a frenzy, but that merely means he has succeeded in transferring his own inferior mentality to the crowd. The person who has a sound position, which is supported by verifiable data, and has reached judgments by logical methods, can be most effective by lowering his voice instead of raising it and ripping off his shirt, a la Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith.

It's a fact, which is accepted by psychiatrists, that the person who resorts to yells, rantings and bellowings is really the possessor of an inferiority complex, which he's trying to conceal by a terrific uproar. This viewpoint was expressed by Sofie Lazarfeld, psychologist, in the *Woman's Digest*, for November, 1936, as follows:

"Loud-voiced, over-emphatic talk-

ing, the frequent repetition of what one has just said, the habit of always using a sneering or sarcastic tone, are all indications that we ourselves do not consider our remarks of sufficient importance and try by such means to give them more weight and significance. The talkativeness always ascribed to woman comes from the fact that her utterances have been too often disregarded."

I remember a remark Clarence Darrow made to me in July, 1925, when I met him during some 14 days spent at Dayton, Tenn., during the time the famous Scopes Monkey Trial was on full-blast, with the Chicago libertarian on the side of science and William Jennings Bryan on the side of superstition and obscurantism. I mentioned that Darrow often spoke in a low, even, unemotional voice. Darrow picked up my comment, adding:

"I've learned, after a half century in the courts, that the best way to be heard when everyone gets noisy is to lower one's voice instead of trying to out-shout the others."

That, I submit, shows that Clarence Darrow, one of the greatest figures in the history of the legal profession, was guided by the idea quoted from Schopenhauer.

* * *

I guess your exposure of the Oscar Ameringer-American Guardian fake cooperative colony did a lot of good, because I see the subject has been dropped for good in Ameringer's weekly paper.

My open letter dealing with the Hon. Oscar Ameringer's land-selling scheme drew the following note from Clarence Senior, executive secretary, Socialist Party of the U.S., 549 Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill.:

"Answering your letter on Oscar Ameringer and his latest.... (word deleted by E. H.-J. because of legal considerations, though he is convinced the word was used in its most accurate sense), I sent your letter on to the Committee on Cooperatives of the Socialist Party for its information and for a possible note in the Cooperative Column of the Socialist Call, which is edited by the chairman of the committee."

I now have information that Oscar Ameringer is still at his questionable scheme of selling land to persons interested in the cooperative movement. One of his readers, a farmer in

Kansas, sent me a letter written by Ameringer, as follows:

Lake Providence, La., Oct. 12, 36.

Mr.
....., Kansas.

Dear Comrade:

Sorry you did not attend our organization meeting. Perhaps you are not as much interested in cooperative farming as you thought. If so here is something that should interest you.

We have a section of over cut land two miles from the center of our tract which we could sell separately. Then if later on you should desire joining the cooperative you can always do so.

The price is \$20.00 per acre. Cost of clearing \$12.00 per acre. Terms one-fifth down, balance in four yearly installments, or if you prefer one-fourth of cotton and one-third of corn raised on the land. . . .

We have an offer for that section at the price mentioned half cash, but I rather would see it in the hands of a comrade who might eventually join our cooperative.

But above all things see the land yourself. I feel so strong that you will buy it if you do that I agree to pay your gasoline and oil bill in the event you should decline acquiring after a thorough inspection.

Don't miss this opportunity of getting what I believe is one of the richest sections of farm land in the U.S. Please wire at my expense care of Fisher Hotel where I can expect you. Sincerely your friend and Comrade,

OSCAR AMERINGER

The foregoing letter was written in Ameringer's own hand, in pencil, on a plain sheet of paper. Note that this reader—an utter stranger—becomes a "friend" and "comrade," when it comes to a land deal that is to cut the poor man from his life's savings. Note, also, that the land could be sold today, without having to waste time on this "friend and Comrade"; that the cash customer would be willing to pay one-half down at once whereas the "friend and Comrade" can come in on the basis of only one-fifth cash; note the come-on about gas and oil, and, above all, see how clearly the follow-up shows the ditching of the cooperative colony idea and the promotion of the scheme on an old-fashioned land-selling basis.

Oscar Ameringer's latest is typical of his record. Incidentally, his associate on the *Guardian* is none other than the world-famous Socialist leader—the great Fred D. Warren—who

is also running a patent medicine scheme guaranteed to "cure" psoriasis, eczema, etc., but which was condemned in a formal bulletin by the Federal Trade Commission because the article offered can't do what Warren's advertising claimed for it. But, despite the exposure of his proposition by the federal government, Warren goes right on selling his patent medicine and at the same time being an editor of a paper that is supposed to advance the cause of Socialism. Ameringer and Warren—what a pair!

* * *

A preacher defends Theism with this remark: "I've never seen San Francisco, but I'm sure it's there." Please comment.

The remark is typical of the half-literate. The least respect for logic would make a speaker hesitate before releasing such a howler. The preacher to whom you refer has, as he says, never seen San Francisco, but he can safely accept the belief there is such a place because its existence is verifiable in the most realistic sense of the word. Would he hold that the notions of a God are subject to the same precise tests as a position in geography?

* * *

Since there would be no government relief under Socialism, what would happen to the man who didn't feel like working?

If by "government relief" you mean charity, there would, of course, be none under a Socialist commonwealth. Charity is unscientific because it depends on individual impulses of kindness. Instead of turning to people who are humanitarians or sentimentalists to remedy the problems faced by an unemployed, worn out or sick person, a Socialist community would provide what has always been a cardinal demand of the Socialist movement—social security.

Even under capitalistic society we see beginnings in the direction of social security—unemployment insurance, old age pensions, health insurance, hospitalization, etc. Under Socialism such services would be supplied by a society which would, in return, demand from each able-bodied person the application of his brain and brawn to the productive and other enterprises of the social order.

But my questioner wants to know

what will happen "to the man who didn't feel like working," and though he doesn't say so he seems to get over the impression that he has in mind the person who simply doesn't want to work; who, in short, says the world—or society—owes him a living.

The answer is all too simple. If he is too old, he will live off his pension. If he is superannuated before reaching old age, he will also be pensioned. If he is unable to get work when willing to work, he will receive his unemployment benefits. And if he is sick, he will receive the best medical aid that society has to offer, at the expense of the community. But if he's able-bodied, well supplied with the powers to work usefully, and refuses to render a proper service for the rewards the social order is ready to give him, then, naturally, he will be told, in plain speech, that he'll work or starve.

A person so worthless as to want to be a parasite on the community doesn't deserve consideration, except insofar as he may be mentally sick and therefore entitled to the services of psychiatrists.

Parasitism under Socialism will be the most immoral form of behavior known to man.

* * *

What kind of devilry is Cardinal Pacelli up to in this country?

Cardinal Pacelli, who in position is second only to the Pope, didn't come to this country for a vacation, as he falsely announced. He crossed the Atlantic with a view to furthering the interests of the Church. There are several things the Vatican would like to get out of the U.S. First, as always, is the element of cash, for the Vatican has lost rich sources of revenue in Europe. With Mexico, Spain, Germany and Austria giving little or nothing to the Papal coffers, the Church must turn to the richest sucker of all—the U.S.A.

The next objective of the Church is official recognition of Vatican City by our government, in a diplomatic sense. Nothing would please the Church more than to have the government send an ambassador to the Vatican. Roosevelt has been, or will be, promised a less bothersome Coughlin if he will put the Pope's temporal domain in the same status as any other foreign government. Here, of

course, Roosevelt is treading dangerous paths. It's difficult to believe that so astute a judge of public opinion would so blind himself to the facts as to assume that official diplomatic relations with the Vatican would work to the benefit of either his administration or his country. He will find, if he doesn't already know it, that the U.S. public overwhelmingly disapproves of our sending an ambassador to the Papal court.

Next on the program is to enlist the U.S. in what the Church calls its "war on Communism," but which should be more accurately described as its "war for Fascism." Fascism and Catholicism work together effectively because both represent intellectual and political authoritarianism, but it's the writer's notion that this country is unwilling to make any kind of a deal with the Pope which will imply official support to pro-Fascist movements, even though they may be disguised as anti-Communist crusades.

Pacelli is here for two things—money and power.

* * *

What is the Jewish population of the world?

Dr. Erwin Rawicz, celebrated statistician, in a survey which appeared in the *Central Verein Zeitung*, official newspaper of the Central Union of Jews, in Germany, gives the Jews of the world a population of 16,300,000. The report, which was published on October 26, 1936, added:

About 7,500,000 Jews live in Eastern Europe. The U.S.A. has the second largest Jewish population, 4,500,000. Mediterranean countries come third, with about 1,333,000.

Germany now has 400,000 Jews, as against 550,000 when Hitler took power in 1933.

Jewish population, by continents, is given as follows:

Europe, 9,736,000.

Africa, 560,000.

Asia, 936,000

North and South America, 5,031,000.

Australia and New Zealand, 27,000.

* * *

W. G. Clugston, distinguished newspaperman, in the October 13, 1936, issue of *The Kansas City Journal-Post*, asks why "followers of the theories of Karl Marx in America cannot accept the way the Communists of Russia have put

these theories into practice in their country." Can you supply the answer?

American Socialists accept without equivocation the principle of collective ownership of the large-scale industries, means of communication, instruments of exchange (banks, etc.), and the other socially necessary facilities of society. The Soviet Union's revolution and social reconstruction were based on that Marxian assumption. But there was a serious difference.

The Socialists have always taught that socialization of industry must rest on democratic control, management and full civil rights. The Russian Communists, on the other hand, demanded, and enforced, the ideas of dictatorship. Civil rights were destroyed. The press was gagged. Free speech was denied. Anyone who disagreed with Stalin was called a counter-revolutionary and put in prison, exiled or shot. Socialists, who believed in democratic Socialism, were persecuted by the Stalinites, as though they were so many czarists trying to bring back the horrors of the old regime.

Throughout the world the Socialists accepted the policy of disagreement with Russia's methods, but at the same time insisting that nothing be done to injure the nation. They helped educate the world to let Russia work out its own salvation. Even though they criticized the ideology of dictatorship, they supported Russia's plans to industrialize, and to get foreign nations, including the U. S., to recognize the regime as a legitimate government.

That, in brief, was the schism, and a most serious one it was. I speak in the past tense in the previous sentence because it seems probable that the near future will see a complete change in Russia's fundamental policies with regard to democracy, civil rights, dictatorship, etc. In fact, there is increasing evidence that the Communist leaders of the Soviet Union have, at last, seen the validity of the arguments presented by the Socialists during the past two decades.

I refer, of course, to the new Soviet Constitution, which, at this writing, is being debated in Russia and seems almost certain of acceptance in November, 1936. If this Constitution is put into force it will mean the emerg-

ence of a great power from the slavery of dictatorship to the sunlight and freedom of democracy—socially, industrially, politically, culturally, etc. Such a change will mark one of the greatest advances in the history of modern civilization.

The text of the New Soviet Constitution is now available for all to study and ponder. I believe any fair-minded person who examines it with scrupulous care will have to confess that the principles laid down therein are of the very essence of democracy.

I have, during the past few months, urged my readers to study the full text of this new social document. I insist on repeating again the advice. It shows the way to better forms of social life, and will, if applied honestly and sincerely, cause all democratic-minded Socialists to accept the regime of the Soviet Union as being in harmony with the most conscientious regards for a social order based on freedom, democracy, and the precious rights of expression and political freedom.

* * *

Why do all Fascist organizations include anti-Semitism in their programs?

The Jew is a favorite scapegoat. When anything goes wrong—especially in politics, economics, finance, business, etc.—it's always effective, when appealing to a semi-literate, prejudiced portion of the population, to blame everything on the Jews. The Jews usually can't defend themselves, so the charges stick so long as fair, intelligent people are unable to spread accurate knowledge fast enough to keep up with the lies of the Fascists.

In mid-October, 1936, a mob of French-Canadian Fascists went from store to store in the business section of Montreal, breaking the windows of establishments belonging to Jews. These Fascists, most of them young men who were also members of Catholic youth organizations, had been told they had been "exploited by Jewish financiers and industrialists," so they became unruly and attacked Jewish places of business. The Fascist leaders know it's easy to arouse mobs to anti-Jewish acts.

It happens that all of Quebec hasn't a single Jew on the directorate of even one Quebec bank, nor are there any Jews on the directorates of transportation or utility corporations,

shipping, pulp and paper or newspapers. Yet the Jews of Eastern Canada are being made to suffer as the result of unintelligent, uncivilized Fascist propaganda.

Fascism is the revolt of the ignorant, led by the cunning.

* * *

Please give the 1935-36 U.S. population figures.

Department of Commerce census experts estimate the population by States as follows:

NEW ENGLAND

	July 1, 1935	July 1, 1936
Maine	845,000	853,000
New Hampshire	502,000	508,000
Vermont	377,000	380,000
Massachusetts	4,375,000	4,425,000
Rhode Island	681,000	681,000
Connecticut	1,717,000	1,734,000

MIDDLE ATLANTIC

New York	12,890,000	12,935,000
New Jersey	4,288,000	4,328,000
Pennsylvania	10,067,000	10,136,000

EAST NORTH CENTRAL

Ohio	6,707,000	6,713,000
Indiana	3,429,000	3,459,000
Illinois	7,817,000	7,845,000
Michigan	4,731,000	4,783,000
Wisconsin	2,908,000	2,908,000

WEST NORTH CENTRAL

Minnesota	2,627,000	2,635,000
Iowa	2,534,000	2,543,000
Missouri	3,913,000	3,959,000
North Dakota	700,000	703,000
South Dakota	692,000	692,000
Nebraska	1,364,000	1,364,000
Kansas	1,878,000	1,886,000

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Delaware	256,000	259,000
Maryland	1,669,000	1,674,000
Dist. Columbia	594,000	619,000
Virginia	2,637,000	2,671,000
West Virginia	1,816,000	1,830,000
North Carolina	3,417,000	3,457,000
South Carolina	1,840,000	1,860,000
Georgia	3,035,000	3,060,000
Florida	1,614,000	1,642,000

EAST SOUTH CENTRAL

Kentucky	2,846,000	2,883,000
Tennessee	2,824,000	2,964,000
Alabama	2,824,000	2,864,000
Mississippi	2,008,000	2,008,000

WEST SOUTH CENTRAL

Louisiana	2,120,000	2,122,000
Oklahoma	2,509,000	2,528,000
Texas	6,077,000	6,117,000

MOUNTAIN

Montana	531,000	531,000
Idaho	479,000	485,000
Wyoming	232,000	233,000
Colorado	1,062,000	1,066,000
New Mexico	422,000	422,000
Arizona	406,000	406,000
Utah	515,000	516,000
Nevada	99,000	100,000

PACIFIC

Washington	1,633,000	1,643,000
Oregon	1,008,000	1,017,000
California	5,997,000	6,059,000

The same authorities estimate our population will be 132,000,000 in 1940; 139,000,000 in 1950, if present trends continue. They claim 1955 will see this country reach the "saturation point," with births and deaths just about balanced and with immigration laws as strict as they are in 1936, when only 8,044 immigrants were admitted. The 1955 population is estimated at about 143,000,000. Our population on July 1, 1936, was estimated at 128,429,000, which registered a gain of 908,000 over July 1, 1935. This puts us about 15,000,000 below the estimated maximum. From 1920 to 1930, population increased 17,064,000. Our biggest gain since 1930 took place between July 1, 1930, and July 1, 1931, when there was an increase of 1,022,000. In 1932, the increase was 860,000; 1933, 796,000; 1934, 856,000; 1935, 895,000; 1936, 908,000. Since immigration has declined sharply, the increases are credited to more births than deaths.

Do you intend to publish more than eight issues of the Appeal to Reason Library?

No.

At what rate is Germany producing airplanes?

During 1936, production was at the rate of 4,000 per year, according to authorities in this field, though there have been no official announcements.

Is Leon Blum the first Jew to become prime minister of a government in Europe during the present century?

Blum, premier of France, is the second unbaptized Jew to occupy such a high office. The first was Luigi Luzzatti, who became Italy's premier in 1910.

When we describe a daffy person as being "cuckoo," do we infer that the bird itself is a stupid creature?

The cuckoo is a smart bird, says a report issued by National Parks Service. Cuckoos, according to the statement, have learned to watch for parked cars in Zion National Park, Utah, where they perch on the bumpers and feast on the grasshoppers and other insects stuck in the radi-

ator. They have an easy time feeding on these imprisoned bugs.

Another department of the government, the Biological Survey, reports that the cuckoo is a great lover, "yet always escapes the responsibilities of domestic life. It lays its eggs in the nests of others, forces other birds to hatch and feed its young—and gets away with it," writes Frederick C. Lincoln, of the Survey.

You write glowingly of the Soviet Union's increased industrial production. How does it compare with that which was maintained in the days of the Czar?

Today's industrial production in Russia is 800 percent greater than it was in 1913. The Soviet Union's 300,000 industrial establishments are now working 24 hours per day.

How does the Russian standard of living compare with the U.S.A.?

In the summer of 1936, Dr. Jules I. Bogen, editor of the *New York Journal of Commerce*, put this question before a number of high officials of the Soviet Union, and received the following reply:

"By the close of the Third Five-Year Plan (1938-43) the standard of living of the Russian population will closely approach that of employed workers in advanced countries of Western Europe, and by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1943-48) it will begin to approach that of the United States."

This statement, I believe, covers the situation. Russia started at zero—with a population that had endured centuries of oppression and poverty, a primitive industrial organization, backward agriculture, widespread illiteracy, religious obscurantism and political tyranny. In addition, the country had gone through a disastrous war, revolution, counter-revolution, economic blockade, famine, and foreign intervention.

It took tremendous courage and self-discipline to begin to rebuild Russia from such a beginning, but the Soviet government met the issue bravely, and the results have been amazing. But the real benefits—for the masses—are still to be achieved, though the general standards of the masses are higher than they have been at any period in Russian history, illiteracy is almost wiped out, religious superstition has been com-

pelled to make room for scientific realism, agriculture is being mechanized, the transportation system is being modernized and expanded, the industrial organization is being developed along the most up-to-date standards, social services are fundamental functions of the state, and political progress and democracy are practically assured by the new Constitution which is certain to be adopted in November, 1936.

Russia is headed in the right direction, and the masses will enjoy a higher standard of living when industry and agriculture are finally geared to greater productivity and the country is guaranteed a measure of territorial safety through comprehensive defense measures.

The Soviet Union is no paradise, by any means, but the people are moved by ideals that will, in perhaps a generation, bring about a standard of living that will be the highest in the world, unless other better-equipped countries come around to the idea of production for use instead of capitalist profit.

* * *

Which trees have the greatest age?

Dr. E. A. Douglass, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, counted the rings of a sequoia, in California, and found its exact age to be 3,250 years, which is the greatest exact age learned thus far. Another long-lived tree is the giant redwood of the Pacific Coast. Dr. Waldo S. Glock, also of the Carnegie Institution, says these two trees have a rival in the juniper tree, one of which he studied in Tuolumne County, Calif., and found to be more than 3,000 years old. It was 21 feet and 8 inches in diameter. Growing its last 12 inches of radius required 700 years.

* * *

It seems to me you've been neglecting our dear, precious Wm. Dudley Pelley of late.

It's hard to keep up with that nut, for he's always up to something fantastic. Recently, he told the world how he went to heaven and spent seven or eight minutes in a personal confab with Gawd. Now our No. 6 Fascist and No. 9 anti-Semite claims he was born of a virgin mother. If you think I'm spinning fairy tales, just turn to a sheet headed "Christian Party Program," issued by Pel-

ley in Washington State. Here's the dope:

"All political and economic power shall be vested in our president, Wm. Dudley Pelley. Our Congress of corruption shall be eliminated as well as all radical organizations. All decrees will be rigidly enforced by our loyal storm troops. . . . We will reorganize all the warring religious denominations into a nationally conscious and militant church under the banner of our great Christian Party led by our Savior Pelley who was himself reputedly born of a Virgin Mother."

Do you wonder I insist the man's plain crazy?

* * *

Was Columbus an Italian? Was he a Jew?

There is no real evidence that Columbus was an Italian. First, there is no record of his birth in Italy. Second, he never wrote a word of Italian in all his life. As for his being a Jew, the evidence here is very slight. It's true that Columbus was welcomed and praised among the Jews he met and it's also true that Jews financed his first expedition, but these two undisputed facts don't make a Jew out of Columbus.

* * *

Why do some cigars yield a dark ash and others a light ash?

Dr. P. J. Anderson, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, conducted studies of tobacco and reports that a dark ash, which isn't desirable in a cigar, is the result of improper soil treatment, which can be corrected by better methods. He says that "a dark or muddy ash in most cases is associated with poor taste and aroma, while good cigars produce lighter-colored ashes." Dr. Anderson explained that "dark cigar ash was caused by excess potash in proportion to other bases, a leaf condition which may be changed simply by adding magnesia to the soil. More than .04 percent of manganese in tobacco leaf will cause cigar ashes to be muddy or brick-colored, a situation which may be corrected by adding lime to the soil to reduce acidity."

* * *

Does housing have any connection with juvenile delinquency?

According to the *Monthly Labor Review*, August, 1936, PWA made a survey in Washington, D.C., which showed that juvenile crime could be

expected to decrease if housing conditions were improved. The figures, which show what fearful handicaps are put on Negro children, follow:

		More than 1 per Housing son per adequate room
White:		
Juvenile delinquents (161)	28.0%	72.0%
Other school children		
(564)	64.9	35.1
Colored:		
Juvenile delinquents (360)	27.5%	72.5%
Other school children		
(255)	30.6	69.4

Please give some figures dealing with our forests, amount of timber ruined by various causes, what acreage this country gave to forests originally and the condition today.

Before the original forests of the U.S. were touched, there were 822,000,000 acres covered with timber. This covered about 1,500,000 square miles, or almost half the country. We have today 139,000,000 acres of virgin forests, neither cut over nor burned. It is estimated that since the days of the pioneers about 300,000,000 acres were cut or permitted to burn, according to an article in *Today*, September 26, 1936.

It is figured that our annual loss is \$140,000,000, as the result of fires, storms and insects, which destroy 7,000,000,000 board feet of timber, worth 2c per foot.

A religious publication writes condescendingly of you as a "small-town Voltaire." How does that suit your majesty?

I've no objection to being called that, since it's the small towns that are most in need of a Voltaire. What that editor meant for a sneer I take as a compliment. It'll take more than that to make me chew nails and spit rust.

Is there any proof that individuals have lived for more than a century?

There have been many reports of extreme longevity—some of the claims being for ages that ranged from 110 to 150 years—but insurance actuaries hold real proof is lacking. These reports come frequently, but are from remote sections, where faulty records enable liars or sincerely mistaken men and women to make claims that defy substantiation.

Actuaries insist, after examining

millions of records, that the oldest individual they know of was 106 years of age. They add that only 30 persons out of 1,000,000 reach the age of 100. These figures are based on inquiries that go back more than a century. During the past 150 years many millions of policies have been issued and not in a single instance did a policyholder live beyond 106 years, though many did live to be from 100 to 106 years of age.

Dr. Raymond Pearl, of Johns Hopkins University, in one of his books, gives a table of life duration among various forms of life, as follows:

Lower invertebrae, under 100 hours.
Insects, under 100 hours to 17 years.
Fish, up to 267 years.
Amphibia, up to 36 years.
Reptiles, up to 175 years.
Birds, nine to 118 years.
Mammals, 1½ to over 100 years.

What do you think of these zippers on men's pants?

For the first time, last summer, I bought pants that had these slide fasteners in a strategic place, and I found them amusing and convenient. For the first few days I got a kick out of playing with them, which was a silly thing for an adult to do. Even after the novelty wore off, I had to admit they were a great improvement on the old buttons, though I've been warned that linen summer suits have to be laundered carefully lest the wringer put the zipper out of whack. I got by all summer without a single casualty, though I was horrified to read, in the respectable *Journal of the American Medical Association*, that one should be careful how these zippers are used, for it seems—and here I'm quoting accurately—that one fellow had to get five stitches in a most delicate part of his anatomy because of the reckless way he used his zipper. It seems, according to the warning, that the patient yanked the zipper up before the track was clear. Please pass this warning on to all zippered men lest they find themselves all tangled up and yelling for a doctor to separate pork from stool.

I am enclosing a press clipping, which says J. Edgar Hoover's department claims that crime, among boys in their late teens, has declined because the movies and press have helped make heroes of his G-men. Please comment.

Mr. Hoover is giving more time to

getting favorable publicity than to the duties of his office, if one is to judge by the volume of releases his press agents are handing out. His office's generalization isn't worth anything because it is without factual support. Such a sweeping claim calls for facts and figures, which I'm sure Hoover can't supply.

While Hoover's G-men were being publicized into heroes, the CCC was taking hundreds of thousands of young men off the streets and giving them jobs under healthful conditions. I believe an objective inquiry would show that this program of rehabilitation had more to do with the decline in crime among our young men than the psychological effect of Hoover's Alger-like heroes.

* * *

I have just read the following from O. O. McIntyre's syndicated column (October 18, 1936): "It doesn't appear difficult to visualize what happens to a country that lets Communists get out of bounds. Spain, blood-soaked and economically prostrate, is the ghastly answer. Eight years ago the leading newspaper in Spain wrote: 'Communism has no chance to gain a foothold among the Spanish people.' America is murmuring the same thing." Please comment.

McIntyre, who recently was exposed as a literary thief by Christopher Morley, continues stealing his ideas, but this time he stoops to the gutter editorials of the Hearst press. That's the trouble with a plagiarist—he'll swipe something good, but, lacking sound standards, he'll steal trash and hug it to his bosom as though it were a bundle of pearls. A writer must be pretty low to join the Hearst chorus and lie about the leaders of the great Spanish people.

To read McIntyre, one would imagine the civil war was started by the Communists. As a matter of fact, Communism was insignificant at that time—hardly more than 50,000 Communists in a nation of 24,000,000 people. Even today, while the heroic Spanish people are defending their country, Communism is no issue and Communists aren't in control. Only two members of the cabinet are Communists, who were admitted only after the civil war had gone so far that it was necessary for the republican government to give representation to various factions in the

People's Front against Fascism. The charge of Communism in Spain is on a par with the Hearst propaganda that tried to draw the red herring of Communism across the Roosevelt path, as F. D. R. so well expressed it in an early speech of his campaign.

It was the Fascists—militarists, Catholic Church, rich landowners and monarchists—who started the uncalled-for revolt against Spain's liberal, decent, civilized, progressive government. Why does McIntyre fail to mention this fact? Because, plainly, it would destroy his argument about Spain's troubles being caused by Communism. If McIntyre, who apes the Hearst press, were a real friend of the unhappy Spanish people, he would refrain from stealing other scoundrels' lies about Communism and place the blame where it belongs—with the Fascists and the Catholic hierarchy.

The Spanish Communists have joined with the democratic Republicans, Liberals, Socialists, Syndicalists, trade unionists, many Catholic laymen, land-hungry peasants, and progressive middle-class elements to save the Republic from the Fascist-Catholic revolt, but the Communists, like the Syndicalists, were—and are—a minority of the People's Front. If the Spanish people have traveled leftward since the middle of July, the blame rests with the Fascist and Catholic leaders whose reactionary policies drove the masses in that direction as a measure of self-preservation. The Spanish people have been—and are—blood-soaked, as McIntyre puts it—but it was the Fascist-Catholic black front that did the butchering. The legitimate government, in order to defend itself, shot priests caught with guns in their hands and burned churches which were used by the Fascists as arsenals, but what government wouldn't do the same when it found itself stabbed in the back by the army sworn to defend the people?

According to McIntyre, America "is murmuring the same thing"—that "Communism has no chance to gain a foothold." Communism has always been pitifully weak in this country—mainly because Communism usually makes insignificant headway in any country where the masses are guaranteed full political rights and

are permitted free access to governmental facilities for social reform. Communism is weak in this country today, mainly because the spirit of protest can assert itself in orderly, legal, liberal ways. But let Hearstian ideas of Fascist repression take hold, and the spirit of Communism and other forms of extremism will grow, as they did in Spain after the Fascist-Catholic criminals began slaughtering the people.

Let's suppose our army were to make an agreement with Father Coughlin and the Catholic Church to stage a march on Washington, conducting mass executions along the way, killing tens of thousands of men, women and children merely because they believed in republicanism. Would you praise or blame the masses if they rushed to the defense of the government and offered their lives to prevent Fascism from gaining a stranglehold on America? Well, that's exactly what happened in Spain, and it takes the Hearsts and the McIntyres to slander the people who are baring their breasts to the bayonets of the gangsters and the priests.

* * *

Writing in the New York Herald Tribune, Lucius Beebe, who is something of a snooty epicure, says a gourmet can tell from the flavor whether a woodcock's leg is the one on which the bird is accustomed to roost. Please comment.

I believe in good eating and practice the art with some consistency. As for Mr. Beebe's gourmet, I have only one comment—the man's a damned liar.

* * *

Aren't some of your questions the product of your own mind? I ask this as very often the questions and answers seem to run in a series.

Most of the questions handled here come from the readers, but now and then I have a piece of information I feel sure all or some of my readers will be interested in, so I word a question on my own in order to pass on the facts or comment. However, I notice that such subjects, before long, draw questions that are the same, or at least along the same lines, as the ones I fixed up on my own.

* * *

In your editorial articles and answers I try to find a change of style, always looking for a possible stooge, but you have a pungent style that I imagine is hard to imitate. Tell me, do you

really answer all the questions yourself?

Yes, the answers are all my very own. The style isn't as fine as Walter Pater's, the humor doesn't stand with Mark Twain's, the satire is far below the best of Jonathan Swift or G. B. S., the wit doesn't measure up to Wilde's, the scientific survey does not approach Einstein, the historical review doesn't stand alongside Joseph McCabe, the literary criticism is three notches below Anatole France at his best, but the faults are my own, so I can't blame a ghost writer when something goes wrong. This writing job takes a lot of time and effort, but it keeps me from going nuts in these screwy times. If I didn't have this outlet from my mental explosions I'd probably go on a binge, take to smoking cigarettes and biting my nails. I'm the kind of person who is given to worrying about the world. When things don't go the way I figure they ought to head, I'm given to melancholy thoughts, which can be dissipated only by the purge of authorship. I envy a neighbor farmer who has the reputation of being the county's champion optimist. Once, on a Saturday afternoon, he was called to the phone by his banker, who informed him, in lugubrious tones, that unless he paid \$8,000 on his mortgage by the following Monday he'd have to foreclose on the farm. The farmer quietly informed the town financier that he had only \$24 to his name, but he'd try to see what he could do between Saturday and Monday. Hanging up the receiver, our champ optimist turned to his wife and said: "Well, maw, nothin' to worry about until Monday."

* * *

Would a course in public speaking at some standard college be of much practical value?

Assuming that you mean a State university or college when you speak of "some standard college," I don't hesitate a moment in telling you that such a course would be practical and inexpensive. Every person should learn a few of the tricks of public speaking. It's terrible to be called on for a few words at a luncheon club, political gathering, committee meeting, etc., and stand there like a bump on a log.

I'm sure there are few persons who

don't get called on now and then for something like a speech, or at least a talk. I remember how I used to feel 15 or 20 years ago when suddenly called on for an impromptu address. My heart would go racing at a thousand licks a minute (at least it seemed to be beating that fast) and my lungs would suddenly stop drawing in oxygen. Then would follow several minutes of torture for myself—and my audience. Once I decided quite calmly and simply to get over that silly fear, so I threw away a carefully prepared manuscript and walked right on the platform to sink or swim—and being in just the right frame of mind to keep my nerves in check, I went through the job easily and fluently. Since then I don't hesitate a moment about 30 or 60 (or even 90) minutes on a public platform, without notes or manuscript. I just talk quietly and effortlessly, organizing my material and ideas as I go along.

Having been through the mill, I feel I have a right to advise my friends who would learn the knack of speaking in public. I say it can be done, provided, of course, you have something to say. That's the most important feature. If you have something worth while in your head that you want to hand out, you can, after very little effort, learn how to communicate the ideas (or notions) to your hearers.

But let me give you just one word of warning: never, never, never try to pull off anything "oratorical." That old-fashioned bellowing and rabble-rousing is detested by all intelligent people, and I always believe in treating an audience as though it were crowded with intelligent students and scholars, though I know quite well that the average intelligence of that group may be something like that of a 12-year-old. But cut out the flourishes and the table-banging. Try to be quiet and convincing, resting your case on your presentation of verifiable data and orderly logic and development of your theme. Of course, I grant you a Rev. Smith or a Father Coughlin will send their audiences into hysterics by their forensic oratory, but let them go ahead with their noise. I prefer to stick to facts and arguments that are based on sound information. The

"orator" will get all the cheers, but the quiet, calm, sincere, earnest speaker will have the satisfaction that he made his small contribution to rational thinking instead of merely helping increase the volumes of heat and sound. I know of many cases in which the fellow with a sure fact followed a loud pulpit-pounder and punctured him with a calm, collected exposition.

The same correspondent asks how much of an asset public speaking is in shaping public opinion, compared with other educational agencies—the editorial, for instance. The platform has its place in mass education, and I believe it has tremendous usefulness (and menace when misused) but I'm not convinced that it has more influence than the printed word. Here, of course, I may be prejudiced, for I am a professional writer and printer, and it's easy for one to exaggerate one's own vocation. But I believe that when we take every form of literature—books, pamphlets, circulars, broadsides, magazines, reviews, digests, newspapers, editorials, comments, outlines, leaflets, etc.—we have a force for good (or evil) that is almost incalculable. For one thing, it frequently happens that a speaker is far more careless about his facts and assumptions and inferences and conclusions than is a mass educator who makes dominant use of the printing press. A speaker can frequently get away with murder when he goes into some subject that requires data that's the result of careful, exhaustive research. The speaker gets off his figures and other facts with almost certain success, regardless of the fact that his data may be all warped. A listener isn't always sure to catch the facts quite straight, isn't likely to remember them when they are followed by other facts (usually corruptions of facts), so the lecturer goes pattering on, telling fairy stories and getting away with them, though there are many forums in this country where alert hearers have their in-nings at the close of the lecture. Such gatherings are rare, however, compared to the run of public meetings. Most gatherings—in churches, political halls, luncheon clubs, etc.—are conducted by people who want to bring out only their viewpoint and who look on debate and controversy

as the very guts of the devil.

The fellow who puts his ideas in print is always faced by his folly, if he made a foolish statement. His errors of fact are always challenging him, because alert readers like to tear to pieces those writers or editors who are given to carelessness about their facts. There's one public speaker in this State I have met several times—a distinguished Kansan—named Henry J. Allen, our former Governor. He is an able public speaker and keeps appearing at meetings all the time, because he is clever that way. But he talks nonsense, mostly. His facts are all crooked. His conclusions are insipid. His material is sketchy. Any intelligent person can tell after only a few minutes that he talks much and says little, and what he says is usually cock-eyed. He gets away with those meetings all the time and is kept busy filling engagements, many of them at handsome fees, though the fellow will throw in any number of free lectures just to satisfy his craving for strutting before an audience.

It happens, however, that this same person is also the editor of an important daily newspaper, *The Topeka State Journal*, one of the most influential papers in the State. Of course, he didn't become editor of that paper because of his great ability—he had the money to buy his way in, and enough stock to declare himself editor-in-chief. So, when he sits down in his editorial chair to go into high-powered action, he carries with him the habits and methods of the time-serving platform hack. He then writes numerous editorials—but they are all in the spirit of his speeches. And there we see the difference immediately. The speaker gets away with it most of the time, and when called on the carpet by an intelligent person in the audience can always talk his way out of his difficulty or get around the incident by some cut-and-dried wisecrack. But Mr. Allen, the editor, echoing Mr. Allen, the speaker, can't wisecrack himself in print. His misstatements, guesses and stabs in the dark are there to howl for him after he's forgotten them and turned to other inaccuracies. His intelligent readers check up on his facts and find out easily enough that he's all wet.

The result—the man writes himself down as an incompetent ass, able to puff up and impress an audience but unable to escape the tragic fate of exposing his foolishness in words that refuse to be erased. My point here is that the same man who is effective as a speaker is a failure as an editorial writer because he carries the worst practices of the platform over to his editorial room. This leads me to conclude that the man who learns to use the printed word intelligently and honestly can always whip the fellow who rests his arguments on what his mouth is able to throw within four walls. Much nonsense is printed, of course. One would be foolish to even try to shut one's eyes to the obvious fact that the printing press is usually used by incompetent or dishonest hacks. But when the medium is used properly, without evasion or circumlocution, the results are always for the best and the outcome is more enduring than that "wisdom" which pours like a flood from the speaker's stand.

* * *

Knowing that you are a great reader, please advise me when it's the best time to pursue one's literary endeavors.

Read anytime, anywhere, except when walking. I don't mind glancing at newspaper headlines while walking, but I don't like to do any real reading on the go. I used to be so crazy as to read books while walking, when a boy in Philadelphia, but soon decided to abandon that impossible habit. To begin with, the interruptions are too numerous, which means one doesn't cover considerable wordage, and, besides, there's always the danger of bumping into pedestrians or trying to challenge the right-of-way with a taxi. So don't read while walking.

A good time to read—and here I speak from long experience—is while one's eating. A page or two caught that way seems to hold on the same way that pot-roast sticks to the ribs. In the bathroom, one's reading is strictly limited. While washing, it's impossible, unless one employs a secretary to read aloud to one, which never appealed to my tastes. One can't read while shaving. One can read while sitting in the tub, but that's a pleasure I've never followed, because I usually use a shower.

However, there's one physiological function that permits reading, and it's really wonderful, except that it's all too brief. Continuing to sit and read after the experience has lost its biological glow is outlandish and I want to put myself on record as being opposed to such dawdlers.

And now we come to the greatest of all ways of reading—in bed. I've heard a thousand warnings that reading in bed is bad for the eyes, and all that sort of rot, but I'm here to say, after about 40 years of bed-reading, that it's the most pleasant thing one can do in bed—well, at least the second-most pleasant. And, coming to grips with this discussion, the pleasures of bed-reading can last for hours and hours—while who can make enjoyment last that long with what is usually admitted to be the most pleasant thing that can happen in bed? I can't imagine anything more felicitous than to pull up a small table, on which I have laid out a plentiful supply of pipes, cigars, pipe tobacco, an ash tray and all the matches one's likely to need. And then crawl in between the sheets, put one's pillow in order to hold the head in the right position, see that the light is just where it should be—about two feet above and slightly behind one's head—and sail into a book, some magazines, or a pile of newspapers. That's my idea of reading under ideal conditions. Such an orgy should be continued until drowsiness makes further reading impossible, when one reaches up to put out the light, turns over on one's side and goes off like a baby.

As to the kind of literature one should read, that's up to the reader to decide. When eating, I prefer the news. When in bed I prefer anything from biography and history to science and philosophy, or some worthwhile things on international affairs, the last named in magazine form, if possible. I rarely read fiction, poetry or drama, so they're out for me, but that doesn't mean the next reader couldn't have such subjects fit into his reading between the sheets.

When catching those few swift minutes of reading while settled on that bizarre stool one finds in the bathroom, my choice runs to very deep stuff, so here I'd say that authors like Schopenhauer fit in great while

going through the thrilling and ever-fresh experience of evacuation. I've always noticed that such moments key up the brain to its highest efficiency, thus enabling one to do enough thinking for an entire department of philosophy in a great university. Alas, the bladder's moments offer nothing substantial to the congenial reader, except a hasty glance at a letter or a telegram.

And that's about all I can think of right now.

* * *

Religious friends have challenged me to name any scientist or historian who regards McCabe as an authority on scientific or historical matters. Please comment.

Religious opponents of Joseph McCabe's work—especially Catholics—should keep mum about this doughty fighter for Freethought. When they belittle McCabe they really belittle their own greatest educational institution—Louvain University, in Belgium. In his early twenties, McCabe was professor of scholastic philosophy at this famous Catholic university—the youngest man ever to occupy that important chair—important, of course, from the viewpoint of the Church. That was about 40 years ago, and during these four decades McCabe's intellectual and literary powers grew from year to year. He never was stronger in mind and scholarship than he is today, and the years before him promise new and greater achievements in popularized education.

As for his scientific achievements, ask any informed professor of psychology in any of our great universities who it was that wrote the first book on the evolution of the mind. McCabe was a pioneer in this significant scientific field, and his discoveries haven't been outdated, as shown by the fact that his book, written about 20 years ago, is still to be found in the libraries of our great universities. A few years ago, when McCabe lectured at Princeton, he was told by the professor who occupied the chair in psychology, that his volume on the evolution of mind is used in his classes.

McCabe's fearless attacks on religion and the Church have made it difficult for conventional-minded teachers to come right out and endorse his scholarship. The Church is still

powerful in the academic fields, where professors who are too outspoken on questions of Theism and church history can be punished by the defenders of priestcraft. But that merely shows McCabe's greatness. He is so uncompromising that the timid ones are compelled to give him the hush-hush, which, of course, merely amuses our famous and brilliant writer.

The Church follows the only course that's safe—and that, to be sure, is to ignore the man. Now and then, McCabe gets a slap on the wrist, but the usual thing is to let him go his own way, unchallenged and uncontradicted. McCabe is always ready to defend his position, but he knows of no way that will compel the Theocrats to lock horns with him in the arenas of thought. He has written hundreds of books that were so much dynamite to the Catholic and other Churches, but they take the attacks without so much as a reply. They pretend there has been no cyclone! That's quite different from the situation which prevailed less than a century ago. Then, the least little book or pamphlet attacking the position of the Church was made the center of controversy. But time showed that such replies were dangerous—from the viewpoint of the Church. It was found useless to argue with Freethinkers, because they usually won out in the end, to the embarrassment of the priests and preachers. But their silence in the face of sincere and convincing attack is only one additional proof of their intellectual bankruptcy.

In history, McCabe stands head and shoulders above any scholar living today. If there's one subject of which McCabe is in complete mastery, it's history—and the historians know it. But here again we meet a peculiar situation. The tendency, during the last decade or two, has been to make compromises with the Church's historians, in order to gain wider circulation for the professors' books. The older historians—like Lecky, Gibbon, etc.—fought openly against the religious obscurantists. The newer historians, lacking their courage and intellectual honesty, prefer to toady to the Church and color their reviews with ecclesiastical propaganda. But McCabe challenges them again and again—he exposes their

misinterpretations, he sets their facts straight—and this is considered quite outlandish. So they go placidly on with their historical lies. One exception is Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes—a truly able historian—who has written in high praise of McCabe's historical scholarship. But there are few men like Barnes loose these days. This is the great age of trimming, as reaction sets the stage for a comeback. Reaction can make the ordinary historians twist, and squirm, but it can't budge McCabe. He fights back with both fists, so it's considered expedient to let that buzz-saw alone.

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What do economists mean when they write of "real wages"?

Wages mean very little when expressed only in terms of money. "Real wages" means what the money received in wages will buy.

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Was Abraham Lincoln an only child?

Lincoln had a brother and a sister, the former dying in infancy, and the latter marrying but having no children.

* * *

H. R. Ratcliffe, Tucson, Ariz., suggests I'm passing up something good when I give up peanut butter because of trouble in masticating it. A simple way to avoid having the tasty morsel stick to the palate is to add a little honey to the peanut butter, either mixing it beforehand or simply adding some after the peanut butter has been spread on the bread. This, he adds, will also reduce the amount of saliva needed to prepare the food for its final trip down the hatch-way.

* * *

LETTER FROM A RABBI

Editor, The American Freeman

In the December, 1936, issue of The American Freeman I have seen your question and answer in regard to Zionism. For a man of your intelligence, possessing world-wide information, I am thoroughly amazed at the puerile, prejudiced and perverted concept that you have of the Zionist movement when you call it a "gigantic blunder," apparently, for two reasons—first, it will provoke attacks from the Arabs, and secondly, because Palestine could not support a sufficient number of Jews. Why doesn't a man of your vast reading take the trouble to get the facts and obtain some real information instead of living on the idle gossip and foaming froth of rabid opponents of the great ideal who know little or nothing about Jewish history or Jewish

ideals, and love the Jews even less. If you took the trouble, you would learn that the Zionist ideal has been the most buoyant force in modern Jewish life, that this ideal has produced a veritable renaissance in the spirit and literary creativity of the Jewish people. You being a lover of literature would be thrilled to learn that the Hebrew language has been revived and a great literature has been produced in this medium because of the Zionist ideal. This in itself would justify the Zionist movement.

Now, as to your superficial opposition, let me state that you should know that the great masses of the Arab people look with affection and high regard upon the Jewish influx to Palestine. The Arab masses have greatly benefited by Jewish contributions to the hygienic and sanitary development of Palestine, and the economic improvements have been so marked that only he who is deaf, dumb, and blind would fail to notice them. Compare, sometime at your leisure, the economic conditions of Palestine with that of their brethren in the neighboring countries like Syria, Iraq, Hedjaz, Arabia, and even Egypt, and see for yourself the marked contrast due entirely to Jewish immigration and Jewish economic contributions. It is only the few effendis, or the rich enslaving land owners, who have for hundreds of years oppressed the mass of Fellaheen, the Arab proletariat—it is this class of economic slave-owners and task-masters who have stirred up hatred against the Jews, and they have been abetted by insidious agents of Italian Fascism and Hitlerism. I am sure, knowing something about you and your paper, these oppressing elements in human society can find little sympathy in your heart.

As to the ability of Palestine to support the Jewish population, Palestine has been the most prosperous country in the world. It is the only land on the entire globe that has escaped the depression. Read—contemporary bankers' journals, and government reports and statements, and you will see how prosperous Palestine has been from the point of view of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry, and the like. If you were more familiar with the facts, you would know that the mere development of the Dead Sea Concession is sufficient to support all of Palestine with a potential population of millions; and the greatest authority states that Palestine, with the inclusion of Trans-Jordan, is capable of supporting a population of some 5,000,000, so please don't be worried about the possible lack of economic support. And once the Jews possess a little country of their own

which they themselves built up in every respect with a potential trade balance and with an exemplary intellectual life, respect for the Jews will everywhere be increased and anti-Semitism lessened. This is almost a platitudinous utterance, but will appear to you as a self-evident, axiomatic truth as you become more conversant with the facts and more sympathetic to the ideals of the Jewish national home.

RABBI JOSEPH S. SHUBOW
Brighton, Mass.

* * *

"I hope you will soon be able to publish Rene Descartes' 'Discourse on Method.' I am glad to see your list of publications growing steadily. Keep up the good work. We are with you! True education is the paramount need of the day—education of ALL subjects."—R. M., Ohio.

* * *

W. Ralph Hall Caine, of England, brother of the late Hall Caine, writes: "I have distributed among my friends all the copies of The American Freeman thus far to hand. One and all are tremendously impressed with your candour no less than your immense learning. From a letter to hand this morning I quote: 'The editor must have an expert staff to supply so much varied information. No one man's head could possibly hold such a quantity of knowledge—his head would simply bust.'" (I'm sorry to have to set my British reader on the right line. I have no staff of "experts." As I've written before, I do this whole job by myself, in addition to running a printing plant, editing many books that are published by my concern, arranging advertising campaigns in outside publications, preparing dozen of circulars, broadsides, etc., and several other jobs the nature of which doesn't happen to come to mind as I write this piece. And I've plenty of time for a lot of reading, movies, driving and other recreations. I don't expect my head to bust, though I do express occasional concern over a growing excess of avoirdupois in the neighborhood of the navel.)

* * *

"Did you ever hear this class-room boner: 'The difference between science and religion is that science is material while religion is immaterial.'"—H. R. Blazek, Ill.

* * *

A KEY TO ANTI-SEMITISM

Ed'tor, The American Freeman:

The way in which you combat the propaganda of the professional anti-Semites in The American Freeman, by countering with facts and figures, is certainly laudatory, to say the least, so please allow me to salute you for that.

I seem to think that the silence on the part of Jews, with respect to anti-Semitic propaganda, rests on their belief that the stuff put out by the anti-Semites is so absurd that it is equally absurd to expect the common sense of non-Jews to accept such stupid bunk.

But the apparent ease with which so many non-Jews are ready to believe any charge or accusation detrimental to Hebrew character makes Jewish silence an erroneous procedure. My impression is that Jews underestimate the capacity for belief, on the part of gentiles, for rascality on the part of Jews.

I sometimes think that the mentality of ever so many non-Jews is burdened by a distorted figure of a Jew and who perennially seem to make a studied search for characteristics in Jews to conform to the character of a fantastic ghost of a Jew gripping their minds.

I, as a Jew, have often wondered if the above offers a key to explain the anti-Semitic stupidities.

Southbridge, Mass. ROSS A. LAKIN.

COMMENTS BY A CHEMIST

Editor, The American Freeman:

I have a few comments to make on the December, 1936, issue of The American Freeman. Under the heading, "Who discovered the process of making mirrors?" you state: "This modern method of making a mirror consists of pouring metallic silver on glass." The quotation from Industrial and Engineering Chemistry is correct and specifically states that silver ammonium nitrate, together with a reducing agent, is used. To a chemist, the difference between pouring metallic silver and pouring an ammoniacal solution is tremendous. Metallic silver would be poured at over 1760°F while silver mirrors are produced at approximately room temperature.

As a matter of fact, the most modern mirrors, used only for special scientific optical instruments, are not silver mirrors at all but are made from other metals and by other methods. The best telescope mirrors are now aluminum, on glass, of course. For the construction of interferometers, etc., mirrors made by the cathode sputtering process are much in favor.

Another point of interest is that other metals may be deposited from solution by the Liebig process, notably copper. Beautiful copper mirrors can be made by substituting copper nitrate for the silver salt.

You really should have a science editor or else simply quote from your source. The slip on metallic silver is insignificant to a layman but makes one who has had scientific training wonder how many slips you may make on mat-

ters outside one's immediate knowledge.

On page three, column one, on the question of a sure-fire system to beat the horses by doubling each losing bet till won, the name of any system based on this principle is a "martingale." It is an ancient method for doing the impossible and not at all original with your correspondent. As you point out, the individual can't beat the system, in the long run.

In general, your paper is interesting and reliable. I particularly enjoy your comments on foreign affairs.

Pittsburg, Pa. EMERSON VENABLE
(Research Chemist)

* * *

From London, Joseph McCabe writes me as follows on the European situation: "Spain seems to be doomed. The French Radical Socialists (who are neither radicals nor Socialists, but compare roughly to Roosevelt's New Dealers) are mortally afraid of war, and Blum believes if he dropped them and resigned, France would turn semi-Fascist. So they snapped up this totally improper formula of non-intervention. I read in the Berliner Tageblatt that it was Ciano (Mussolini's mouthpiece) who supplied it! Labor here in England has rotten leaders and has been fooled into accepting it. The Spanish war has been won entirely by the Germans, Italians, Portuguese, and Berbers. Now we'll see how our British Tories like the reward they'll get."

* * *

"Your October, 1936, issue of The American Freeman answered the question: 'How many U.S. Presidents were from New York?' You named four, but did not mention Grover Cleveland, who was from Buffalo, N.Y. Why the omission?"—F. L. Boynton, Okla. [Cleveland was born at Caldwell, N.J.]

* * *

"Permit me to join with thousands of others in commending you upon your beneficent service of liberating the minds of our people from the superstitions, prejudices, and hatreds of the dark past. Although I find it unpleasant to live mentally isolated in a community where intolerance and religious bigotry are tragically rife, I wish to assure you that, as a citizen and young writer, I stand ready at all times to do whatever little bit I can for the enlightenment of my fellowmen."—Melvin J. Wrenn, Ripley, Miss.

* * *

"In writing your fine piece replying to Rabbi Shubow, you remarked that among other eccentrics there remained still those who think that 'germs don't cause disease.' Perhaps when these few have seen (if they have not by that time themselves succumbed) the sort of

a devil's brew in the shape of disease bombs which a new world war will turn loose on us all, they may begin to believe even that."—C. A. L., Mo.

* * *

LIFE AT MENA, ARKANSAS

Editor, The American Freeman:

I emphasize the fact, unhesitatingly, that you had almost everything to do with my decision to come to Commonwealth College, here at Mena. To be specific, it was through The American Freeman that I learned that a school like Commonwealth existed.

I am delighted to learn that you contributed cash to the school. It certainly is a great inspiration to know that E. Haldeman-Julius has not only backed up Commonwealth with good-will but with cash also. Such an action on your part makes us, at Commonwealth, strive all the harder to prepare ourselves as well as possible, so that we can be able to do our bit in making this world a better place to live in.

I am among 35 students and we are all anxious to learn. We have a fine faculty, the chairman of which is Haven Perkins, a Harvard graduate and Rhodes scholar.

As living conditions are more or less primitive, there are inconveniences, such as studying by the light of a kerosene lamp and carrying water to one's room. We have no ready-made pleasures, such as movies, night clubs, etc. There are very few co-eds on the campus, and that seems quite a hardship for the male comrades. However, I can truthfully say that these obstacles do not deter our zeal for Commonwealth and the labor movement.

We contribute our share of manual labor, 20 hours a week. Being a husky fellow I was put on the wood-chopping crew. However, it seems I have been demoted. For, in spite of my vigorous pretexts, I have been forced to join the dish-washer's union.

We have a magnificent library. Eight thousand of the best volumes in the 48 States and territories, also a various assortment of pamphlets. Many times have I consoled myself with the fact that I have 8,000 fast friends in Commonwealth Library.

Our classes here are novel. We talk along realistic and truthful lines. When we see something wrong we mince no words in correcting it. We are candid with each other, and when we offer criticism, we do not do so to chastise, but to correct.

Politically, the great bulk of the students here are Communist Party members, and, let me tell you, a Socialist has a damned tough time in defending his position around here.

Those of us whose minds can carry

a full measure of truth call ourselves Atheists. The others are indifferent or just about indifferent, so far as religion is concerned.

It looks as though the shysters are getting ready for another investigation of the school this winter. Recently, a reactionary, fundamentalist preacher, the Rev. Summers, attacked Commonwealth in a speech at Mena. We are getting ready to deliver an answer to him as soon as a place can be procured. Haven Perkins, who, by the way, is also a Reverend, will do the answering. If the bucolic pettifoggers think they are going to have an easy time of it, so far as their investigation is concerned, they are mistaken. We intend to offer plenty of resistance and we certainly are not afraid to fight.

One incident always reminds me of Richard Jefferies' sublime book, "The Story of My Heart." That is when I stretch out on the campus green and gaze out toward the distant Ouachitas. What a beautiful sight! What a superb view! One falls in love with nature. It burns those words of Jefferies into one's heart, "Give me more soul life."

Yes, we live here at Commonwealth with an ideal in view, a sacred ideal, which is the complete emancipation of the masses. We hope to live to see the day when such an achievement will have been accomplished, with our help.
MENA, ARK. SAM EPSTEIN

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Editor, The American Freeman:

You stated, in one of the issues of The American Freeman, that homosexuality was found only among human beings. This is an error.

The following quotations are taken from Robert Briffault's interesting article, "Is Chastity a Virtue or a Disease?" in the symposium, "Our Neurotic Age," edited by Samuel Schmalhausen (Farrar & Rinehart, 1932), p. 199:

"Homosexual relations are so general among monkeys and apes that they appear to be normal. The sexual interests of male monkeys which have not reached the adult stage . . . are much more related to the same sex than to the opposite sex. The tendency seems to be towards an increase of interest in the opposite sex after the adult development has been reached, but even then the total or even a very decided abandonment of homosexual interests has not been observed." (Kampf.) Homosexual behavior takes place 'even when opportunities for heterosexual intercourse are present.' (Hamilton.) Homosexual behavior is of relatively frequent occurrence in the female, but is less frequent than in the male. A mother baboon who had long been separated from her daughter was observed by Hamilton

to . . . indulge in homosexual excitation as soon as they were reunited. (Homosexual incest—W.M.)

"Bestiality, or intercourse with other animals, has frequently been observed. Different species of animals commonly have intercourse together. When Hamilton introduced a dog among his monkeys, a female descended to the ground and assumed the female position. . . . The dog mounted her dog fashion. . . . She displayed marked sexual excitement and ever thereafter would descend to the ground and copulate with the dog whenever he entered the yard. Monkeys and chimpanzees have been observed to attempt copulation with a fox, a puppy, a kitten, and a snake (!). When coming upon a human baby lying in a hammock, one of Hamilton's apes 'promptly endeavored to copulate with the infant.'"

Grantwood, N.J. William E. Monaghan

* * *

VIEWS OF FAMOUS MEN

Editor, The American Freeman:

I noted with amusement how nearly my own impressions of some of the celebrities discussed by Marcet Haldeman-Julius in her recent book, "Famous and Interesting Guests at a Kansas Farm" (which I gained from reading their works and from a limited observation of them on the platform), coincided with hers. As to Will Durant, however, I would go much further than she, and say that when he did that Russian stuff for The Saturday Evening Post he deliberately sold himself. These little sketches of Marcet's renewed my interest in her, so that I went back and read for the first time some of her earlier work which I had until now neglected: "Talks with Joseph McCabe," etc. In the latter volume, bottom of page 9, I found this, "Say what you will, scruples or no scruples, there is that in almost any way of life which, once chosen, constrains one to its pattern." This so aptly and forcefully applies to Will Durant, and so much more than to Joseph McCabe, that I cannot help referring to it here. Perhaps of all of Durant's work, the most useful to a student of human motives, is his "Transition." That long case-history of internal conflict, irresolution, vacillation and folly impressed upon me very deeply the irrevocability of early religious, and especially Catholic, influence. Also the essential unendability of his type in crises is repeatedly shown. Of course, I do not mean to over-generalize; Durant is a horrible example not to be confused with such exceptions as McCabe and E. Boyd Barrett. We always have these, but they are exceptions. And while it may, and again may not, surprise you to hear me

say it, even in these two I seem in places to detect the old virus, more especially of course in Barrett.

While on the subject of Marcet's work (and, by the way, where did ever the kids of the town get for her that delightful appellation Bo-peep?) I must record too that I was almost overcome by her allusion to a debate between McCabe and the two Chestertons wherein she mentions that G. K. Chesterton thought McCabe lacking in humor. On the radio I have heard G. K. painfully lug out some of the ponderous stuff which was supposed to be taken as humor. And then complacently grunt and chortle over it himself—well, I must have a different standard of humor! When he and Maxim Gorki shuffled off at about the same time it seems that the fates for once were determined to keep the balance between reaction and liberation about equal.

Maplewood, Mo.

C. A. LANG

* * *

Does a renunciation of all religion based upon supernaturalism, including a belief in God, prayer and the after-life, necessarily mean the abandonment of all religious attitudes? May not a thoroughly secularized and naturalistic humanism, as already espoused by such rationalistic thinkers as Clarence Darrow and Harry Elmer Barnes, be embraced as a form of religion in the true sense of providing a meaning to life and man's aspirations?

Religion has been defined thousands of ways—from the most orthodox to the most liberal—but the scientific approach is that of "common consent," by which I mean the way most religious people look on this subject. Here, of course, we find that perhaps 95 percent of the religious community accepts the orthodox idea that religion, as defined in Webster's New International Dictionary, is "the service and adoration of God or a god as expressed in forms of worship, in obedience to divine commands, especially as found in accepted sacred writings. . . ."

Therefore, to be religious in this widely-accepted sense, means to believe in God, to believe that God has a directive interest in our beings and lives, to believe that God will answer our appeals, or prayers, or supplications if He is approached properly (which means in accordance with some ceremony or ritual approved by sacred writings or teachings.) This expression of religion fits the ideas of the religious world, though there are minority groups which in-

sist on more liberal interpretations. We even have certain people who claim they are "religious" even though they do not believe in God, supernaturalism, the after-life, etc., all of which is misuse of the word and a deliberate attempt to impose an insignificant body's eccentric interpretation on the great mass of people who think in terms of religion as defined above.

Just because a rationalistic thinker strives to provide "meaning to life and man's aspirations," it doesn't mean he is religious. It is quite easy to look at these matters in a detached, scientific spirit. For example, I, as an unbeliever, can feel deeply that I should aim to put meaning into my life, and yet insist that I'm not accepting religion as it's understood. Here we find that philosophy serves much more constructively than religion; scientific ethics takes the place of a set of social rules handed down by some supernatural power or holy book. Man's aspirations, to the Rationalist, can mean a continuation of the evolutionary process, an endless attempt to achieve a higher scale of biological, cultural, esthetic, social existence along naturalistic, non-spiritual, scientific, realistic lines.

In the foregoing sense, it's impossible for a Materialist to be religious. And yet, we frequently hear ill-informed, superficial thinkers insist that because a skeptic in religion shows zeal for forms of individual or social idealism, shows enthusiasm for expressions of art, thought, beauty and culture, serves his fellow humans in an attempt to make life more livable and put newer and higher meanings into a life that basically has no meaning, he is often charged with having made a religion of his unbelief.

Our Russian friends—Atheists, all of them—are accused of making a religion out of Atheism, because they are firm in their rejection of Theism. The position is expressed frequently, so many educated people must believe it, but the simple fact remains that it's silly to say a person really believes in Theism when he goes to elaborate pains to explain why he accepts the position of Atheism. One might as well say that a Pacifist must really be a Militarist because he has such a passionate in-

terest in peace. Or, a hater of force, violence and exploitation must really be a criminal because he insists so warmly on an orderly, decent, non-violent, non-exploitative, non-parasitic life. Or, that a great teacher of Evolution must really be a Fundamentalist-believer in the creation story of Genesis because he strives so energetically to educate himself and others in the scientific laws of the evolutionary process. No sensible person would say these things, except with regard to Atheism, and here we find how easy and plausible it is to put aside good sense. To say that an Atheist in the Soviet Union makes a religion of Atheism is, scientifically, to say that this person who rejects the assumptions of Theism is really a believer in God, Immortality, and the like. Put plainly, the trick of calling such repudiators of religion really religious is to resort to the shoddiest kind of illogical thinking.

A religious person's Theism has definite, clear meanings, as defined in my first paragraph. However, when a militant Atheist—a strong believer in Marxian Dialectical Materialism—devotes all or part of his life to serving humanity—as an organizer of the toilers, as an educator, as a fighter against injustice, etc.—he doesn't become religious but is socially useful. This attitude can be explained and understood in these scientific days without having to resort to mysticism or supernaturalism.

An Atheist can show allegiance to something greater than one's individual self-interest. Does it follow, therefore, that he is a believer in religion, or, rather, a person with a religious outlook? Of course, not. The false assumption here is that our upholders of religion insist that only with the appearance of religion did man turn to humanitarianism, justice, righteousness, truth, honor, beauty, conscience, and the like. The facts of history don't uphold this claim.

It was when men were most religious that humanitarianism was at its lowest, justice was most rare, truth was persecuted, honor was rejected. As religion declined, humanism, social idealism, social service, truth-seeking and social justice, grew stronger. Religion, which de-

pends on supernaturalism, was found to be an obstacle to man's advance in the direction of a life that's tolerable in a civilized sense.

When life rested on dogma and superstition, it was an age of darkness. It was only after the searchlight of science lighted the way that man turned to his own powers rather than to a god, that he learned that he has great capacities within himself to build a better civilization and give meaning to his life. The facts, it seems to me, show that the less we depend on religion the better for all concerned, looking at the matter from the view of social progress instead of group or individual privilege.

I don't agree with my friends who would take the word religion—with its long history of dogma and superstition—and try to make it fit into a new concept, a view that eliminates the essential trappings of religious thinking. That, to my way of reasoning, is to make compromises with the ancient enemy. The reasonable and logical thing to do is to eliminate it, to relegate it to where it belongs—in the dark, dismal abyss of mass terror and ignorance. Why try to give a "good name" to that which has shown itself to be one of man's worst enemies?

* * *

"Perhaps E. Haldeman-Julius will feel insulted if I call him a missionary. Nevertheless, to me he is just that—a missionary of civilization and culture, as well as a successful publisher."—Harold Emery, in *The Llano Colonist*, October 3, 1936.

* * *

Please tell me where I can get a copy of Joseph McCabe's book, "Getting the Most Out of Life." If you don't have it on your present list, I suggest that you add it to your publications, as any book of McCabe's is well worth reading. You have done the public a great service by publishing so many of McCabe's books.

The work you ask about ran as a serial in *The Freeman* about five years ago. It attracted considerable comment, most of it cordial. I have the Ms. in my vault and will bring it out, but right now I can't say when, for I have a crowded schedule. It may be a year or two before I can get around to it, which is just too bad, for here's a work of general inspirational helpfulness which ought to be in circulation. I wish I had the means to issue more titles than I do.

But I'm limited by the amount of money I take in from the public. If the book-buyers spent more with me, I'd be able to give the reading public a larger list to select from.

* * *

How do scientists and scholars analyze religion, as an illusion or as a disease of the mind?

A great deal has been written on this question, the best, to my notion, being Dr. Sigmund Freud's book, *The Illusion of Religion*, which I once hoped to print but which was passed up because of a crowded schedule.

What do we mean by the word "illusion"? Simply this: an unreal image; a state or fact of being deceived. In this sense (and my authority is *Webster's New International Dictionary*) religion certainly is an illusion.

Religion is an illusion because its assumptions are accepted without objective verification. A thing is believed because a certain sacred authority or holy book says so, without recourse to inquiry, review, examination or interrogation. Believe, or be damned, puts the issue crudely, but with accuracy.

For example, the religionist says there is something above and beyond matter—spiritual reality, is his favorite phrase—but he resents the suggestion that proofs be submitted for impartial study. The realistic mind, unable to accept dogmas just because some holy person pronounces them, is compelled to express skepticism and doubt. The fact that the religionist—illusionist is just as good a word to apply at this point of the discussion—is willing to believe without evidence or supporting facts, leads scientists of the standing of Dr. Freud to insist that religion is an illusion.

Our religionist insists that man has a soul, which, according to most of his kind, leaves the body at death to appear before the great Jehovah for judgment and reward—or punishment. A pretty set of notions, I say, but before accepting the idea I'd want to see a few verifications. But none are available. Our religionist—again the illusionist—says one should believe on faith, regardless of the facts. This is a direct appeal to illusion.

Our religionist insists on the myth of immortality. He has never seen a dead body regain life. He has never seen a part of man's entity go on existing after death, but he insists personal immortality goes on, regardless of lack of factual support. This, like the others described above, is illusion of the worst kind.

I have mentioned only a few of the major illusions that are presented to us by the religionists. There are others—the idea that matter was created out of nothing by the operations of what he calls God; that a divine power is interested in the activities of man and is willing to grant favors or administer punishment, according to conditions. We also have such major illusions as belief in miracles—the acceptance of the more primitive mind's belief that natural laws may be suspended, as, for example, when man prays to the great Jehovah for special favors that involve suspension of natural processes. But why lengthen the list?

If the elements of illusion were taken out of religion there wouldn't be much left. Coming now to the question regarding religion as a disease of the mind, we merely continue our argument about illusions, the only change being that of application instead of mere acceptance. If I let my mind accept an illusion, I put myself down as gullible, of course, but I can still be considered mentally sane and healthy if I refrain from applying those illusions to actual living conditions. It's here that we find that the illusion of religion develops all too frequently into a disease of the mind, either of the individual or the mass mind. Horrible illusions—destructive and anti-social concepts—are actually applied to their lives, with the consequence that great injury is done to the individual or the community. Thus, when adherence to a set of dogmas causes its illusioned victims to injure themselves—physically, mentally and morally—we can only conclude that the notions have graduated to actual mental disease. The records of the race are crammed with millions of illustrations. Countless human beings have been sacrificed to the dogmas and superstitions of religion. Science, for many centuries, had to fight for its right to help humanity. The best men and

women were persecuted or even destroyed, because of their refusal to declare allegiance to illusions. The human mind has been warped and twisted by the cruel or stupid illusions of religion. Fanaticism, one of the symptoms of the mental disease of religion, has left its long record to shame and humiliate civilization.

* * *

Can you tell me if the Hindu rope trick is a manifestation of supernatural or supernatural powers?

The rope trick is more than 2,000 years old. The favorite version has it that a fakir throws a rope into the air, which grows rigid and holds a small boy as he climbs into the sky and disappears. Later, the fakir calls to the boy to return, and when he hears the boy's refusal to come down he grows angry, draws a knife, climbs after the boy and, somewhere in the clouds, cuts him to pieces, which he throws down at the base of the rope. Later, the fakir slides down the rope, gathers the scattered pieces of the boy, puts them under a cloth, says a few words, and the boy reappears, as sound as he was before the trick was done.

That's some trick, if it's done as thus outlined. I have, in the past, called attention to numerous cash prizes offered by individuals and societies to anyone who can do this trick away from trees or buildings, in broad daylight. The great magician, Thurston, while in India, showed his stock of tricks before an audience of 3,000 Hindu magicians, and, after the close of his performance, offered a large sum of money to anyone present who could do the rope trick described above, but there wasn't a single taker. In fact, all denied knowledge of such a trick.

Some gullible people have insisted they saw the trick done, or heard someone say he or she saw it done. Some of these people suggest "mass hypnotism," but that is impossible because scientific hypnotism knows nothing about the hypnotism of more than one person at a time, and that single subject must be willing to be hypnotized.

The facts indicate that the famous rope trick is done by trickery, pure and simple. It was popular at one time when people were more ignorant and superstitious than they are to-

day, which enabled the fakir to go through his crude trickery without fear of discovery. In these more skeptical days fakirs prefer to let the trick alone, because the methods for getting it done can be detected easily by any experienced observer. The magician Thurston, when he returned to this country after his tour of India, did a form of the rope trick on the American stage several times, but admitted it was such a poor illusion that he dropped it. He said the rope is made rigid by a copper wire in the center of the rope, or, as sometimes happens, a bamboo pole is covered with strands to simulate a rope. Apparatus is necessary to get the rest of the trick done.

It's claimed that many Hindu fakirs can do the rope trick—without magic or supernaturalism, of course—but refuse to accept challenges from societies of magicians and individual experts because of the simplicity of the trick and the certainty of exposure. An article in *Scribners*, August, 1936, by Arthur Train, gives a valuable history of this famous trick and establishes the conclusions I gave my readers years ago—that the rope trick is a good one when it's done, but it's only a trick.

What's the longest word in the English language?

There is a little controversy about this question, the National Puzzlers League of America claiming it's pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis. I quote it, but refuse to pronounce it. As for the word's meaning, the League explains it means "a special form of silicosis caused by ultra-microscopic particles in siliceous volcanic dust."

An Englishman, T. L. Peacock, makes one of his characters in his book, *Headlong Hall*, say a word that's six letters longer than the one used by the League, according to *The Manchester Guardian*. The character speaks of "that osteosarchaematosplanchnochondroneuromyelous, or, to employ a more intelligible term, osseocarnisanguineoviscericartilaginonervomedullary, compages, or shell, the body."

Is Buenos Aires growing?

This great and beautiful city is making rapid headway. In 1895 its

population was 664,854. In 1914, 1,575,314. The October, 1936, census showed 2,338,645.

"I get a great kick out of The American Freeman, and have quite a few waiting for my copy when I am done. Some day I'll get real mad and make them a present of a year's subscription, so I won't have to be annoyed."—Philip Markowitz, architect, N.Y.C.

"I have been reading your American Freeman for over a year and enjoy it very much. It is both educational and entertaining, and I hope you'll publish it for many years to come. I admire your candor, your expression, and your extraordinary ability to debunk, although at times I consider you just a trifle dogmatic, just a little too sure of your opinions."—Ralph Tilford.

"I don't remember ever reading anything quite so full of straight-to-shoulder material as Mr. and Mrs. Haldeman-Julius write. I am thankful to have a little to keep up with The American Freeman."—Louisa Favreau, Shelburne Falls, Mass.

Please comment on Edward VIII and Mrs. Simpson.

Freeman readers may remember a piece I wrote about the present King. Some reader wanted to know if the man was a homosexual, and I went to elaborate pains to explain that there was nothing to such a rumor, that the young man was hanky-panky about the ladies, that he had had his string of beautiful dames, and, furthermore, that was nobody's damn business, because the fellow never posed as a moralist.

Since then Mrs. Simpson has come into the picture—and a right snappy picture the woman makes, with all her 43 years. She is, I understand, very attractive, witty, a good fellow, and able to keep the King happy any hour of the day or night. As soon as I saw her picture and glanced at the leading facts, I decided, in my grandfatherly way, to give the couple my blessing, even promising to drink a toast to them the day they marry. And while I think of it, I suggest that one of my 28 British readers take this piece around to Buckingham Palace, ring the bell and tell the head privy-polisher to deliver this comment direct to His Majesty, for I want him to know that his plans are all O.K. by me, and the sooner

he gets this marrying business over the better for all of us who want to turn to more important questions like militarism, Fascism, Civil War, and the other issues of the day.

As I write this, our newspapers are filled with alarming reports—there's a constitutional crisis in the tight little island, Baldwin is threatening to put the grave issue before Parliament, the Duke of York is being built up by the tory press to mount the throne when Baldwin's crowd of blue-nosed puritans get through with Edward, Mrs. Simpson will be told to get back to the U.S. where she came from—and all that sort of earth-shaking stuff.

The fact that the present King likes a good time with the ladies isn't anything particularly new in British history. The playboys keep cropping up regularly—reactions and actions. Queen Victoria was reaction—as prim and sour-pussed a conventional-minded fuss-pot as ever lived, only to be followed by her son, Edward VII, who went in for action along the lines of gambling, affairs of the heart, drinking, and all that sort of thing. But his son, George V, was reactionary again, like his grandmother—all conventional and orthodox—a good Babbitt. Then came Edward VIII, who is like his grandfather, and so goes it. You can't tell—he may marry Mrs. Simpson, have a son, who, if he ever mounts the throne, may turn out to be as respectable and chaste as the Archbishop of Canterbury. The wheel turns that way. But, given my choice between a colorless, dull prune like George V and a gay, devil-may-care rounder like Edward VII, give me the latter.

I was amused, in following this case, to observe the actions of the British Labor Party. Everywhere else, organized labor has little patience with sticklers for the proprieties, but in England these questions loom large. British Labor, which is supposed to be somewhat radical in economics, is as conservative as a country parson when matters of sex, marriage and behavior arise. So I wasn't bowled over when I read that a leader of the Labor group in Parliament had announced (on his own initiative) that the British people wouldn't like to see the King marry a twice-divorced woman who was, in

addition, a commoner. Coming from a spokesman of the Labor party, this sounded funny, but it was in the tradition of British conservatism among the leaders of the most radical party in British politics that enjoys substantial representation in the House. Of course, I could tell from here—thousands of miles from the scene of this great comedy—that the labor leader was all wet about the British people. The common masses are hot for the King, don't mind the fact that Mrs. Simpson has been twice divorced, and will treasure the thought that their King was democratic enough to go into the ranks of the people for a mate. All the world loves a lover, to coin an original epigram.

But that's British Labor all over again. The record is appalling. When Labor ran the government, with J. Ramsay MacDonald as prime minister, not a move was made to liberalize the country in matters of behavior. For example, the labor people objected to any attempts to repeal silly, ancient blue laws. They fought the idea of putting divorce on a civilized, liberal basis, as many decent countries in the world have done. They refused even to help the farmers who were being robbed under the tithe laws—compelled to give 10 percent of their crops to the Church. But when the Simpson case reached an anticlimax, I noticed that the representatives of the Labor party began pulling in their conventional horns and refusing to bait the King for wanting to marry a divorced commoner. It may be that these leaders began hearing from the masses.

Mrs. Simpson is good enough for the King. I understand she is the first woman who has ever brought him real happiness, his affairs with other women being disappointing to himself and the women who essayed to stimulate his emotional nature. His failures (premature ejaculations) helped give the young man something of an inferiority complex, which is all comprehensible to the student of man's sexual behavior. Mrs. Simpson breezed in with something that pepped him up, and now it looks as though the inferiority complex has been conquered—all because Mrs. Simpson, a woman of the world and of generous experience in boudoir

problems, has been able to take her royal friend in hand and show him how to come across like a real guy. Edward even may be able to sprout hair on his chest before another year. And if he does, it's Mrs. Simpson he should thank. And he does feel grateful for all past favors, knowing that the game of love that seemed to be played so badly by the would-be Don Juan has been turned into a happy sporting event because of this wise, comforting, gracious American woman.

* * *

Are Americans the world's greatest meat-eaters?

Statisticians connected with the Department of Agriculture report that the annual per capita consumption of beef is estimated as follows: Argentina, 296 pounds per person; Canada, 66.1; Great Britain, 62.5; the U.S., 41.4.

* * *

Why did the Catholic Church turn against the regularly elected Spanish government (Loyalists) and support the Fascists?

The most serious blow which was resented by the Catholic Church in Spain was the decision of the Republic to dispense with all subsidies to the priests. This meant that the Catholic Church was deprived of \$12,000,000 per year from the national treasury. In addition, the Church objected to the Republic's decision to secularize all public schools, thus denying priests and nuns the control over education that they had commanded during previous centuries. Also, the Republic refused to take political orders from the Church, insisting on strict separation of Church and State. When called on to devote itself exclusively to religious questions the priests joined in the conspiracy of the Fascists, monarchists, and great landowners to crush the popular government and drown the liberal, democratic elements in their own blood.

In taking the foregoing-listed steps, the Republic was entirely within its rights, following as it did the policies adopted by other enlightened democracies, particularly the U.S. and Mexico. Like our own Constitution, the new Spanish Constitution guaranteed religious freedom. To the Spanish liberals this meant, quite properly,

that no particular Church should be favored with funds from the public resources. All this was distasteful to the Catholic-Fascists, for the Catholic Church, in the words of Dr. Fernando de los Rios, Spanish ambassador to the U.S., "never stood for the weak and humble, preferring to fight side by side with the powerful."

The Catholic Church has made much of the alleged fact that the Loyalists have destroyed many churches and killed some priests. It is true that churches have been burned by the Spanish masses, but the facts show clearly that such edifices had been used by the Catholic-Fascists as military bases. No end of proof has been offered to show that the Catholic churches in Spain were used to store arms and ammunition, that the strong towers and other parts of the churches were used by snipers and other armed forces to murder the defenders of the Republic, and that the priests themselves had been caught red-handed with arms and bombs, for which they were either imprisoned or shot. The Catholic Church thinks it's "persecution" for republican forces to punish or otherwise control elements which are against the regularly established government. On this point Dr. de los Rios commented, as follows:

"In view of the general reports on Spanish revolutionary atrocities, it is unbelievable that the Spanish Church has never voiced a protest against the murdering of thousands of innocent victims, women and children, in savage bombardments by the rebels."

Some reactionary elements in this country have criticized Dr. de los Rios because of his numerous speeches in support of his nation's cause. I have followed his work carefully during the few months he has been in our country and can find no real cause for complaint. Every speech he has made contains legitimate discussion, even from an ambassador. In fact, Dr. de los Rios occupies the same position that our own ambassador to England occupied during our own Civil War. In those dark years the British people were being given a false picture of what was happening in the U.S., so President Lincoln sent Charles Francis Adams to England as our ambassador. Ambassador

Adams proceeded to make many speeches and give numerous statements to the press in support of the Union cause, thus helping the federal government at a time when its future looked bad. Dr. de los Rios is doing only as Adams did—going to the people of a friendly nation and relating the true story of his country's troubles.

* * *

What's happened to "Hearst's Metrotone News?"

Many moviegoers got into the habit of hissing every time this newsreel was shown. The theater managers got tired of this booing, so they prevailed on Hearst to change the name of his film to "News of the Day." Incidentally, Edwin C. Hill, who did the announcing, was given the boot the same time the Hearst name was deleted. This shows how protests have their effect, though we must admit the Hearst movie property will continue being shown. Of course, Hearst knows the public will boo and hiss again—perhaps louder than before—if "News of the Day" turns as rank as the disgracefully-biased and reactionary "Hearst Metrotone News." Chalk up another minor victory for the defenders of liberalism in the U.S.

* * *

What is the military situation in Spain?

As I write this, on December 1, 1936, Loyalists are on the offensive on almost every front, the latest report putting one republican column only 45 miles from Burgos, the rebel capital. Madrid seems safe from rebel capture, though the Fascists continue bombarding buildings of no military significance, with civilian deaths numbering almost 2,000. I have seen numerous photographs of victims of these bombings and must say that the barbarities of the Catholic-Fascists are far worse than I had ever imagined them to be. I saw numerous photographs of dead children, who had been killed by rebel airmen while they were playing in a public school playground. They had been hit by numerous machine-gun bullets fired from above, which would indicate that the Fascists deliberately sought the deaths of these innocent, helpless children.

Many thousands of foreign anti-Fascists have poured into Spain and

are doing much to lift the morale of the wearied Loyalists. These German, Italian, Czechoslovakian, French, British, Mexican, American and Austrian anti-Fascists immediately took the offensive when they reached the front near Madrid, pushing back the rebels several miles and keeping the initiative.

One doesn't hear any more boasts from rebel sources to the effect that Madrid would be taken "in a few days." It seems they are having their hands full and that the worst for the Loyalists has passed, unless Mussolini and Hitler decide to give new credits of munitions, planes, tanks, artillery and experienced officers and men to buttress the badly shaken Fascist structure. A defeat for Fascism in Spain will be a tremendous moral and material victory for democracy throughout the world, and a severe blow to German and Italian prestige. Liberal, civilized opinion everywhere is hoping for an early victory for the Spanish Loyalists, but the situation seems to indicate that many months will be needed to clear the country of the Fascist priests, militarists, monarchists and African savages.

Each day that passes without a decisive victory for the Fascists help the Loyalist cause, for the government forces have greater reserves of man-power to draw on, training can be advanced under the direction of disciplined officers, and the Loyalists' substantial store of gold can finance needed munitions. The rebels have secured large credits of munitions from Hitler and Mussolini, the consideration being territorial and other advantages for the Germans and Italians when (and if) the Loyalists are defeated, but there is a limit to such Fascist support because of the grave economic and financial conditions that prevail in the lands of the Nazis and Fascists.

If Hitler fails in Spain he may be expected to cover up his disappointment and set-back by beginning his long-expected attack on Czechoslovakia. This little country forms a corridor from Germany to only a few miles from Russia's wheatlands. It is felt in many informed quarters that it's through this little democratic country that Hitler will strike when

he feels ready to begin his war on the Russian people.

Though small, Czechoslovakia is a rich country, particularly in heavy industries. Its world-famous Skoda munitions plant is one of the largest in existence, and if it were captured by the Germans it would be a severe loss to the anti-Fascists. Also, this country leads into Rumania, where the Hitlerites could get all the oil they need and which they can't produce at home, except through synthetic processes, which, of course, are an expensive way to produce motor fuel. Already one reads that German propaganda is agitating the misled German masses with reports that Czechoslovakia is only an "outpost" of Moscow Communism, which, of course, is only a much-used smoke-screen to hide Hitler's imperialistic designs. It seems likely that Hitler will go into Czechoslovakia when he is ready to get closer to Russia, the excuse being the old, familiar red-herring—"we must save Europe and the world from Communism, therefore we must take Czechoslovakia." The argument fools only the regimented German people who are forbidden to read the truth as it appears in free newspapers.

* * *

I agree with our Free-thinkers who have advanced the thesis that the Catholic Church is openly allied with Fascism. Do the leaders of non-Catholic sects recognize the same international condition?

After publicists like Joseph McCabe have gone to great pains to establish the fact beyond dispute that the Vatican is working with reactionaries everywhere to destroy democracy, the Protestants are beginning to see the truth of this highly important presentation. There are signs that Protestant elements are sensing the danger, the latest, and most impressive, being the report of a survey made by the Methodist Federation for Social Service, released in November, 1936. The warning, which was prepared by Dr. Harry F. Ward, of Union Theological Seminary, brands the Catholic Church's war on Communism in Spain and elsewhere as mere bluffs for a campaign against democracy, the aim being to drive democracy from the face of the earth. A statement, released by the

New York headquarters of the Methodist Church, informs the public that Dr. Ward's survey was written after his return from a long tour of inquiry in Spain, Germany, Italy, and the U.S. This grave review of the situation was delivered to Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of New York, who is head of the federation and who decided to pass on Dr. Ward's facts and conclusions to the general public.

The report insists that the Vatican in its Pro Deo societies has aimed at winning the collaboration of non-Catholic groups by bringing in "the false battle cry against Communism," and adds:

"The issue is not religion and anti-religion. . . . The issue is not Fascism or Communism; it is Fascism or democratic government. The Pope put his attack on Communism in between those of Hitler and Mussolini. He became their ally. That means settlement of the Catholic educational question in Germany as it was adjusted in Italy. The Vatican is one of the international triumvirate lined up to destroy democratic government and restore autocracy.

"The statements of each make it clear that their purpose is to destroy democratically elected people's governments, first in Spain, next in France; then to prevent them elsewhere. Hitler and Mussolini leave no doubt of this. The Pope says plainly that many of the elect have been deceived into political cooperation with Communists and this must be stopped. So when the democratic procedure leads to a coalition of all anti-reactionary forces to protect democratic government against Fascism, democracy must be destroyed. Anti-Communism is the smoke-screen for this attack."

Dr. Ward's report warns fellow-Protestants, and others, that their foolish support of the Pope's red-baiting campaign "will eliminate peaceful transition to a better way of life, will put the democratic process out of the picture, and will bring the Fascists to power in America and internationally."

Freeman readers have long been conscious of the Fascist-Catholic collaboration, and they will welcome the foregoing endorsement of their viewpoint, knowing that Protestant leaders have always been more liberal

politically than the spokesmen of the Vatican. Leaders of the Protestant Churches can perform a genuine social service by bringing to the masses the knowledge that the Pope is in an obvious conspiracy to foist Fascism on the world in an attempt to crush democracy.

When the Catholic Church is only a minority in a democratic country, it bides its time, working quietly to strengthen its powers against the eventual war it plans against free institutions. But when the Catholic Church grows strong enough to assert its will, the mask is thrown aside and the priests become the open allies of the Fascist elements which would put the world back into the darkness of medievalism.

The Catholic Church thrives on obscurantism, superstition, authoritarianism, miseducation, labor exploitation, the suppression of free speech, the censorship of the press, the denial of the right to meet in open assembly for the purpose of discussing great public questions, and, in all, a thorough-going war on all forms of liberalism, republicanism, and the spirit of free inquiry.

The Catholic Church and Fascism are the world's greatest enemies. They stand ready to destroy everything that's precious in civilization. They crush the individual, terrorize the masses, promote a false patriotism that eventually bursts into war, enslave labor, poison education, arouse racial prejudices, and persecute Free-thought. There's no hope for our generation until we relegate to oblivion the Fascist gangsters of the secular government and their "spiritual" partners in crime, the priests.

* * *

Please comment on the enclosed clipping, which reports an anti-Soviet speech by a Catholic priest.

The clipping, taken from the November 12, 1936, issue of *The Davenport (Iowa) Democrat and Leader*, tells of a speech in Clinton, Iowa, by the Rev. M. M. Hoffman, head of the political science department in Columbia College, Dubuque, Iowa. It is the usual anti-Soviet bosh—from mass starvation to the destruction of family life, and the building up of the anti-God philosophy. Such trash goes well when the audience consists

of the uniformed or those who are plainly moronic.

It would be simple to answer these arguments from official statistics, reports and other data that can be checked, but because they would come from pro-Soviet sources our priest would simply wave the whole case aside as "propaganda," while he continued his slanderous tirades and misrepresentations. But it happens that the same mail that brought the foregoing clipping also put on my desk a quotation from the *Weekly Observer*, a private news service which caters to corporation executives at a subscription rate of \$25 per year. Its news and comments won't reach the average ditch-digger, so it can indulge in the truth, even when the facts are as bitter as gall.

This news-magazine contains some facts about Russia which won't be found in the Rev. M. M. Hoffman's future sermons, even though he should be given access to them, because our Catholic propagandist is a party to the campaign of deceit and hate that is intended to turn the workers in capitalistic countries against the great land which is struggling so heroically to bring economic emancipation and security to the masses. But, Freeman readers, who always approach social questions with open minds, will welcome the *Weekly Observer's* facts for late 1936, which I quote:

"Russia now leads the world in the production of tractors and is second only to the United States in the production of automobiles. Emphasis is now shifting gradually to the production of 'luxury' and 'comfort' items. Consumption is increasing because of higher wages and lower commodity prices. . . . Last year the average earnings of a working family increased 71 percent over the preceding year. . . . Since the beginning of this year, lower commodity prices have increased the average monthly purchasing power of working-class families by an equivalent of 200 rubles. . . . Wages have increased 29 percent since last year."

* * *

How many men are under arms in the world today? How many of these are in the naval forces?

At the end of October, 1936, according to a report issued by the League of Nations, at Geneva, there were

8,200,000 men who were permanent members of the armies of the world. The above figure included 545,000 who were in the navies of the world.

The same report shows we now have more militarism and navalism than prevailed before the outbreak of the World War, when 5,900,000 men were under arms, not counting those in the navies. There has been an increase of 1,700,000 men in the armies since 1931-32.

A majority of the world's men under arms are concentrated in Europe, where there are now 4,800,000, as against 3,600,000 in 1931-32.

The foregoing figures deal only with permanent, regular soldiers, not with "semi-permanent military organizations," along the lines of Hitler's "labour units."

* * *

About a year ago you wrote a piece to the effect that the Soviet Union has made numerous offers to disarm. I can understand such a proposal when a nation is weak, in a military sense, but would Russia's statesmen make such an offer today when the government is powerful?

It's important to bear in mind that Soviet Russia, with its non-capitalistic economy, has nothing to gain from militarism, except expense, because a Socialist system doesn't embrace imperialistic ambitions. A government goes imperialistic when it wants to gobble up some other country in order to satisfy a desire for profit, as was the case with Mussolini in Ethiopia. But when a country has no designs on any other people, even so-called backward people, imperialism doesn't appear in the nation's foreign policy. That explains why the Soviet Union was sincere in its offer of complete disarmament when the Soviet Union appeared as a member of the League of Nations for the first time, in the person of Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinoff. It's true that the Soviet government wasn't a great military power then, but today it is as strong as any single government in the world—and the disarmament offer still holds.

When Litvinoff was presented with the Order of Lenin—the highest honor the Soviet Union can bestow on one of its citizens—the great statesman, in November, 1936, said:

"We offered peace to the nations

at a time when that proposal could be interpreted as a weakness. We have repeated it at every opportunity and we repeat it now, despite the fact that the growth of our armed force, of our military industry and of our military potentialities give us supremacy over any possible enemy or even a possible combination of enemies."

We must always bear in mind, when considering Russia, that such talk isn't the idle chatter of diplomats. The Soviet Union's offer of complete disarmament would become a reality almost immediately if the great imperialistic powers could be brought to accept such an advanced, humanitarian, civilized policy. The Soviet Union would be more than willing to demobilize its vast army—and put about 1,300,000 able-bodied men at productive tasks; it would jump at the chance to transform its gigantic military and naval industries into mechanisms for the production of necessary commodities, and even luxuries, for the nation's 170,000,000 inhabitants.

* * *

Has there been a definite agreement reached by President Roosevelt and the Vatican that diplomatic relations shall be established between the United States and the Holy See as soon as public opinion in America can be brought around to the idea?

When the Papal Secretary interviewed our President early in November, 1936, there's little doubt that the Vatican had two objectives in mind. First, to have the U.S. join Mussolini, Hitler, Franco and the other Fascist gangsters in a holy war on Communism. Second, to convince the President that it will work to his advantage if he will agree to exchange ambassadors with Vatican City, the Pope's temporal domain. However, no formal statements were released to the public.

So far as joining in the Pope's red-baiting, Roosevelt knows how to get closer to home tried to smear him with the red taint, and, while he was careful to make clear to the world that he doesn't accept communistic doctrines, he emphasized his firm belief in democratic processes, civil rights, and republicanism in general. Roosevelt would have to shed many liberal ideas on government before he could join in the

Fascist-Catholic crusade. The possibility seems remote.

As for diplomatic relations with the Vatican, here again Roosevelt undoubtedly will see the folly of such a project. There's no more reason for our sending an ambassador to Rome than there is to send diplomatic representatives to the Lutheran, Jewish, Mohammedan, Mormon or Episcopal Churches. The fact that the Pope rules over a few acres (given to him by Mussolini in order to cinch Catholicism's support for Fascism) should mean nothing to the libertarian, secular government of Washington, Jefferson, Adams and Lincoln.

It should always be our policy to keep away from religious institutions. It is our duty always to grant full religious liberty, in the same way that we must protect any person who has conscientious scruples against religion and would express his anti-clerical views orally or in print.

Traditional Americanism is the best solution of the religious problem—hands off, no official support, strict separation of Church and State, public schools strictly secularized, and every right given to all persons who would criticize or expound religious ideas.

* * *
Please comment on Black Mountain College in North Carolina.

An article by Louis Adamic, entitled "Education on a Mountain," appearing in *Harper's* and later summarized in the June, 1936, *Readers Digest*, speaks highly of this experiment in labor education. As I see it, the North Carolina school is trying to work along the lines of Commonwealth College, of Mena, Ark. From what I can gather, this new educational center is doing some really useful, constructive work.

* * *
What is your opinion of prospects in Alaska for a young fellow?

Vast Alaska, like the U.S., was hit hard by the depression, but reports indicate steady progress in the direction of better times. That great section hasn't even begun to have the population it can support. But, as I've written before, Alaska hasn't many people, but what it lacks in quantity it makes up in quality, for the people up there are among the best, most intelligent, avid, knowl-

edge-thirsty, broad-minded, mind-liberated people in the world. As a publisher I've received thousands of proofs of Alaska's genuinely superior type of man and woman. I'd advise my correspondent, before he decides to leave for Alaska, to ask the Superintendent of Public Documents, at Washington, D.C., for a list of government-printed pamphlets describing the various phases of life up there.

* * *
Please give the figures dealing with overlapping state and federal taxes.

During 1935, the treasury report shows, the federal and state governments realized the following sums from the six largest duplicate taxes:

	Federal Revenue	State Revenue
Estate and inheritance	\$140,400,000	\$100,800,000
Individual income ...	527,112,000	100,000,000
Corporation income ...	572,117,000	56,900,000
Gasoline ...	161,532,000	589,200,000
Liquor	411,021,000	166,600,000
Tobacco	459,178,000	28,600,000
Total	\$2,271,400,000	\$1,049,900,000

* * *
Shortly after the national election, the Supreme Court sustained a New Deal labor measure that originated in New York State. This was followed by frequent references to Mr. Dooley's characterization of the Supreme Court. Can you give me the exact quotation?

Mr. Dooley said it this way: "No matter whether th' constitution follows th' flag or not, th' supreme court follows the illiction returns."

* * *
What percentage of motor cars sold today are closed cars.

In 1935, 99.5 percent of all cars sold in this country and Canada were closed cars, against 22.1 percent in 1921.

* * *
How'd you like Walter Huston in Dods-worth?

I enjoyed this movie version of Sinclair Lewis' novel, and considered Walter Huston's acting just about perfect. And, while I'm handing out the compliments, let me add a good word for the convincing work Ruth Chatterton did as the selfish, superficial, disloyal, insincere wife. In all, here was civilized entertainment. The scenario was top-notch, the direction was faultless, the dramatic situations

were thrilling, the acting was brilliant—in all, a picture that should be seen by all who appreciate mature art.

* * *

Can frozen organisms be revived?

P. Kapterev, of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, reports that it is easy to take organisms that have been frozen for thousands of years and revive them by the simple process of melting the ice. This scientist took ice that was 30 feet below the surface and was able to bring to life organisms that had been encased there for scores of centuries. They were daphnae (water fleas), mussels and shrimp-like things. The inference is that living organisms which are able to withstand the winter in ponds that freeze solid down to the ground are able to endure much longer periods.

* * *

If a hitch-hiker couldn't thumb a ride, how fast could he get to where he's going?

As I understand the question, my reader wants to know how fast an unhitched hiker could walk. The only information I have on this is a report of an Ithaca, N.Y., man, Frank Tozer, who started out to walk 100 miles in 24 hours. His log showed he made 90 miles in 26 hours, but he blames this on a headwind. At that, Mr. Tozer didn't make such a bad showing, for he walked at an average rate of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour, which is exceptional.

* * *

Recently, for the first time in my young life, I saw a man wearing red flannel underwear. You could have knocked me over with a feather. Please comment.

E. T. Pickard, chief of the textile division of the U.S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, reports that "lots of American men still wear red underwear," which will come as something of a surprise to the younger generation that knows only those neat, snappy, sensible shorts. It's been at least two decades since I've worn long underwear, and now, in my 47th year, I can boast of the pinkest, greenest and whitest rayon shorts (held up by broad bands of elastic), and the way I feel now I'll be wearing the same kind of underwear when I'm in the first decade of my second hundred years of life. I've seen extremely old men who were

wearing shorts, even in the coldest months of winter, so Mr. Pickard's report will cause some surprise. However, he offers the public no statistics, which is disappointing. If Mr. Pickard were really scientific he would let us know exactly how many pairs of red underwear were made each year, how many men are wearing them, and their geographical distribution. Such information is of value in these days of scientific inquiry.

Mr. Pickard says many men like red underwear for two reasons—first, red is supposed to be warmer than white; second, red underwear doesn't have to be washed as often as white. The idea that red is warmer may refer not only to keeping the heat closer to the body but impressing one's lady-love when stripping, thus giving her an enormous thrill as she sees her Casanova is wrapped in supposedly manly, sexually-invigorating red drawers. That's the notion and it looks like bunk to my skeptical mind.

Our government authority says, however, that the fact that many men still wear red underwear doesn't mean we are to question the fact that we have gone through an underwear revolution in the last few decades. The facts indicate to the hilt that men are shedding more and more, thus following the lead of the ladies. He explains this masculine revolution on the score of "the new way of living." Central heating, according to Mr. Pickard, had a lot to do with the change to lighter and briefer pieces of garments under one's shirt and pants. "Central heating," he says, "became a fixture almost everywhere, and the average citizen ceased perennually to dodge the frigid drafts that previously invaded his home and working place every winter."

More heat in the home, office and shop meant that something had to come off, and as it couldn't be one's shirt or pants it had to be the undies. Another factor, says Mr. Pickard, is modern transportation. We travel today in abundantly warmed motor cars, buses, trolley cars, trains and subways, so the "heavies" had to go into limbo.

Mr. Pickard, who ought to know, insists "the itching reputation of heavy red underwear was exaggerated

and had no place in undergarment history." As I never wore the red things, I can't argue with this textile authority, but as one who went through many winters, as a young man, wearing "heavies," I can say they itched a whole lot, especially at the first twit-twit of the robins.

* * *

While reading a Communist paper recently I came on the phrase "partial revolutionary struggle." What does it mean?

You have come on a new contribution to the Bolshevik lingo, which has always been a highly technical, involved and obscure mouthing of jaw-breaking ponderosities. The one you came on is the very latest addition to the revolutionary dictionary, and I congratulate you on your sharp eye. Its meaning requires going into recent propagandistic methods of our hair-splitting minor Lenins. Until recently it was considered very unrevolutionary to favor any sort of social reform measure, because demands for immediate concessions from the ruling class were considered bad for the revolutionary fervor. It was long feared that slight, and even substantial, concessions from the ruling powers would dampen the desire for complete, 100 percent revolution. Socialists who favored old age pensions and unemployment insurance were described as enemies of the world proletariat because they were doping the toilers into tolerating a system that, by rights, should be destroyed a week from next Thursday, weather conditions permitting. The Socialist platform, which always gave an entire section to "immediate demands" was ridiculed unmercifully because it was plain "reformistic slop" and belonged to the traditions of "rotten liberalism." But in recent months the Communists have changed. They have come out for immediate demands—reforms. But hating the word "reform," they hit on a new formula, which was summarized in a corking new phrase by a budding Karl Marx. Lo and behold, the result was "partial revolutionary struggle." It's a new name for something old—and the old thing was always considered dreadful. But the new phrase has a fine communistic sound, so it's repeated oracularly, with the reforms slipping

through the revolutionary back door. Yes, the communistic ideology of Browder, Foster, Minor, the *Daily Worker* and the *New Masses* crowd is a wonderful phenomenon.

* * *

In a speech in San Francisco, Louis B. Mayer, of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, said there are "Communists in Hollywood who are drawing down \$2,500 a week. . . . The industry knows who they are, and knows too that they are financed and supported by the Third International." Please comment.

The remark doesn't make sense. Why should Moscow want to finance a fellow who's drawing a salary of \$2,500 per week? When people turn to red-baiting they can usually be depended on to get off a lot of howlers, and this movie big-shot is no exception.

* * *

I've often wondered why Walter Winchell, who knows what happens in every boudoir, has never mentioned Hearst's hotsy-totsy hullabaloo with nifty, sexy Marion Davies.

Walter Winchell works for *The New York Mirror*, a Hearst newspaper, and the syndicate which scatters his stuff also belongs to Marion Davies' bed-buddy. Winchell is nobody's fool. (Note: As I've said before, in my most oracular manner, private matters are nobody's damned business, but Hearst's case is different because he poses as a public moralist, especially in the movies. Remember his gyrations because of Mae West's "immoral" influence?)

* * *

Do the American people approve of the federal law against the dissemination of birth control information?

The anti-birth control law was passed by Congress in 1873 as a result of the "purity" propaganda of the notorious Anthony Comstock, a reformer who succeeded in doing the country a great measure of harm because of his propaganda to keep scientific sexology from influencing the people. The statute, frequently called the Comstock Law, makes it a penitentiary offense for anyone to use the mails or any other common carrier in order to spread information or supplies connected with birth control.

The people, however, are not in favor of such a puritanical law, and the latest survey, conducted in November, 1936, by the American In-

stitute of Public Opinion, gives factual support to my statement. The fact-finding body polled 100,000 American citizens, on the question: "Should the distribution of information on birth control be made legal?" The result showed: 70 percent for birth control; 30 percent opposed.

The most reactionary city in the Union, on this question, is Boston, because of its large Catholic population, but even here almost a majority of the voters favored birth control. The poll of our 10 largest cities showed:

LEGALIZE BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION?

	Yes	No
Boston	45%	55%
Detroit	60	40
Baltimore	64	36
Philadelphia	65	35
Chicago	68	32
Cleveland	68	32
Pittsburgh	70	30
St. Louis	72	28
New York	76	24
Los Angeles	79	21

The Institute also reported that women, who are most directly concerned, favor birth control overwhelmingly, 71 percent voting "yes," and only 29 percent voting "no." By a queer quirk, it's the people who are on relief who are most opposed to birth control, while college students tend to balance their stand by voting almost unanimously for contraceptive information. The groups voted as follows:

	Legalize Birth Control Information?	
	Yes	No
Relief cases	58%	42%
Farmers	61	39
Small town residents ..	72	28
Urban residents	71	29
Women	71	29
Young persons	81	19
College students	94	6

A study of the table of States shows that the farther one travels West, the greater is the proportion in support of birth control, with Nevada and Arizona heading the list. But even conservative New England favors birth control by 65 percent, which means that the blue-nosed gentry haven't a majority anywhere in the country, and yet have their Comstock Law. The situation resembles Prohibition, wherein the people generally opposed the Drys, but were unable to get liquor legalized for many years,

and, at the same time, enjoyed the right to drink in Prohibition times through the courtesies (at a price) of the bootleggers. Thus, today we find that the great majority of Americans (even in the States in the solid South) favor birth control information, but being unable to get it through the malls they turn to other sources, mainly through birth control clinics and the courtesies (again at a price) of the corner drug-store. It happens that while the nation is blanketed by the Comstock Law, there are 41 States which have no laws against birth control information, so, to meet the situation, the birth control supporters operate many clinics which give the desired information to married women. Even in sections that are priest-ridden we find that the clinics are patronized to the extent of 40 percent by Catholic mothers. We read frequently about the "immoral" Russians running open birth control clinics, forgetting the interesting fact that the U.S. is second only to the U.S.S.R. in the number of its birth control clinics.

The Institute's vote by States (from the greatest "yes" vote to the smallest) follows:

	Yes	No
Nevada	90%	10%
Arizona	90	10
Washington	82	18
Colorado	81	19
Montana	80	20
California	80	20
Oregon	79	21
New Mexico	78	22
Georgia	78	22
Connecticut	78	22
New Jersey	77	23
Florida	74	26
Texas	74	26
Maine	73	27
Vermont	73	27
New York	73	27
Delaware	73	27
Nebraska	73	27
Tennessee	72	28
Arkansas	72	28
North Carolina	72	28
Alabama	71	29
Virginia	71	29
West Virginia	70	30
Mississippi	70	30
Idaho	70	30
Wyoming	70	30
Utah	70	30
Kentucky	69	31
Maryland	69	31
Louisiana	69	31
South Carolina	68	32

Ohio	68	32
Pennsylvania	67	33
Indiana	65	35
Illinois	65	35
Iowa	65	35
Missouri	64	36
Kansas	64	36
Oklahoma	64	36
Michigan	64	36
Wisconsin	63	37
New Hampshire	62	38
Rhode Island	62	38
Minnesota	61	39
Massachusetts	59	41
North Dakota	54	46
South Dakota	53	47
NATION	70	30

The foregoing data establishes definitely that the work of the libertarians who advocated birth control legalization has achieved real results among the people. And yet, the 70 percent who want birth control information and supplies can't get it through the mails, express companies, railroads, buses, trucks, etc., while the 30 percent are able to keep the rotten Comstock Law on the books. If democracy means anything, Congress should be made to respect the wishes of so substantial a majority of our citizens. The nation, by and large, favors a liberal treatment of the important question of birth control. The facts prove this beyond debate.

Here we find just another instance of the social value of the educational work of Freethinkers. It was a Freethinker like Charles Bradlaugh who helped start the birth control movement in England. He persisted in advancing the movement, in the middle of the 19th Century, even though he was sent to prison because of his humanitarian stand. During those years when Rationalists were fighting Comstockism, the Church—Catholic and Protestant—continued to abuse and insult the spokesmen of the birth control movement. Persecution was resorted to. Hundreds were made to serve prison sentences and bear social disgrace, but they persisted, with the result that their enlightened ideas are now accepted by 70 percent of our people. The chances are that many of the people among the 30 percent would come over to the side of the birth controlists if they could be reached with the sane, sound, scientific, humanitarian arguments of the social-mind-

ed men and women who advocate free education in birth control.

It's only in recent years that the more liberal Protestant Churches came over to birth control as a means of social improvement, after 75 years of vile attacks on the pioneers in this sphere of human activity.

Today, the only important Church to continue its stand against birth control is the Catholic Church, and even here we see signs of wavering, as shown by the queer manner in which the priests accepted the so-called Rhythm Method of Birth Control. Today, the Catholic Church continues to fight birth control that is practiced by means of chemicals or devices, but tolerates the use of the so-called sterile period. This is a small compromise, but still it's a surrender, however slight. It serves to show how the wind is blowing. Seeing that the people generally are turning towards liberalism in matters of family limitation, the Church makes a small concession while it clings to its old prejudice against the philosophy and science which would help women by enabling them to have children that are wanted, instead of breeding unwanted children that are doomed to poverty or to serve as cannon-fodder for the militarists.

* * *

Is there any truth to the opinion that the Japanese, while smaller physically than the Russians, are superior because of better health?

There's no authority for the belief that the Japanese are a physically healthy people. The facts indicate a serious decline in the nation's health. One of the most powerful newspapers in Japan, the *Asahi*, recently quoted army statistics which showed that 400 applicants out of every 1,000 are rejected by army doctors because they are of poor physique or otherwise unfit. Furthermore, reports show that the general population is succumbing increasingly to serious diseases like tuberculosis, heart ailments, arterial disturbances, and the like.

The average person has the notion that the Japanese are a powerful, healthy people who simply can't be defeated. The known facts don't support such an assumption. Japan's victories in past conflicts didn't show

superior physique, because the Japanese have never participated in a really big war. Their war with China in the middle 90's was far from a real fight. The war with Russia early in the present century didn't show superior fighting ability on the part of the Japanese but rather a readiness to take advantage of the Czar's internal troubles.

During the Russo-Japanese war Russia was seething with revolutionary activity, the government was corrupt, the army was neglected and ill-supplied, transportation from supply centers in European Russia was almost completely inadequate.

The recent rape of China showed Japan in the character of a bully, for the Chinese forces were unable to cope with Japan's better-equipped forces.

Thus, Japan has never, in its militaristic record, done a first-rate job of fighting. Of course, a war with the Soviet Union will be the real thing, and the Japanese will have their first opportunity to prove their worth as fighters. Japanese imperialism has built up a tremendous military establishment, and there's no doubt that the Mikado's forces will make themselves felt, especially during the first year of the struggle, but the eventual outcome is by no means certain for the Japanese. Man for man, the Russians look, act and are better physical specimens.

* * *

What do comedians mean when they speak of "topping a gag"?

The best way to answer this question is by telling a story that will illustrate the answer. Max Eastman, in his book, *The Enjoyment of Laughter*, tells of a man who was picked up unconscious and rushed to a hospital. When the patient was received, doctors found a note pinned to his vest, reading: "To the house surgeon: This is just a plain case of fit, not appendicitis—my appendix has already been removed twice." As Eastman points out, the patient's warning that his appendix must not be tampered with, because previous doctors had already removed it, is a good gag, but when the patient reported that that same appendix had been removed twice, he resorted to the subtle art of "topping a gag." Not that it's necessary, but merely be-

cause the aged wheeze happens to come to mind as I type this masterly dissertation on the philosophy and mechanics of gagging, let me repeat: "If I had some ham I'd make ham and eggs if I had some eggs." That is another case of "topping a gag," and, to demonstrate my utter humorlessness, let me analyze this gag—one of the gravest crimes that can be committed against the civilized mood for humor. There is a modicum of fun in the statement that if a person had some ham he'd make ham and eggs, for obviously he hasn't any ham and therefore can't make ham and eggs. But the wheezer goes even further and says that he would also need a supply of eggs in order to finish out his order for ham and eggs, thus achieving what practitioners of laughter call "topping a gag." And now, to prove that in addition to being humorless I am afflicted with a teaching complex, let me pass on a little joke I found in a recent cartoon by Webster, without explaining the joke but leaving to my readers the job of finding how the gag had been topped: Cop: "Did you see the number of the car that knocked you down, madam?" Woman: "No, but the woman in it wore a black turban trimmed in red, and her coat was imitation fur."

* * *

Though a Canadian, I've followed your recent national election with interest. In studying the vote I find nothing reported from Washington, D.C. How does the District of Columbia vote and where are the figures recorded?

The permanent residents of the District of Columbia, numbering about 500,000 inhabitants, aren't permitted to vote. The district is ruled by Congress, and the fact that the government declines to grant the ballot to hundreds of thousands of citizens has provoked criticism for many years. It's an old story, but the issue refuses to die. The favorite argument in Congress seems to be that it wouldn't be wise to let Washingtonians exercise their right of citizenship because many of them are employed by the government and would use the ballot to express their selfish interests. The argument, of course, is silly, because genuine self-interest is no argument against the right to the ballot. If it were, how many U.S. citizens would have the

right to enter the polling booths? The people of the District of Columbia should, be given the right to vote, like all American citizens, but it's hard to get the rest of the country interested in the complaint of the people of Washington (who pay taxes without representation), while Congress pays slight attention to the demands made by these disfranchised Americans.

* * *

I will be able, from now on, to invest \$50 per month. Where can I put that much money without seeing it become worthless a year or two from now, like the German marks?

I believe the best use this reader can make of his monthly nest-egg of \$50 is to deposit that money with the Postal Savings Banks. I urge him to go to the nearest postoffice and buy one or more of the government's certificates of deposit. They will pay a modest rate of interest, but the depositor will have the satisfaction of enjoying complete safety. There is slight danger of our dollar going the way of the German mark. We can figure on a sound dollar for at least five or six years, which is about all anyone can expect. As for what will happen later, we'll cross that bridge when we come to it. Meanwhile, let Uncle Sam use all available funds that are idle.

* * *

How would you characterize popular humor in the U.S.?

American popular taste runs to a form of humor that deals in outlandish exaggerations. Of course, such a concept of humor isn't absolutely confined to our country, and to prove this I mention the first foreign example that comes to mind—Baron Munchausen's amazing whoppers, which started in Central Europe and have gone around the globe. But what I mean is that the people—especially of Middle and Western America—have developed a general comic mood that is founded on the surprise presentation of ridiculous exaggerations.

The best way to illustrate what I mean is to reach into a collection of typical expressions of comical exaggeration and present a few, all of which I'm sure are familiar to many of my readers. Notice that each gag is funny not because of its humor but because the subjects were so inflated

that they suddenly became distorted, and therefore ridiculous. If the exaggeration had been ever so slight, the point would have been lost; the statement would have become a mere inaccuracy.

Just how far one must blow up a subject before it gets funny, I don't know. It's something of a problem. If the exaggeration is under-stated, the joke misses. Most of the jokes that come under this classification are not funny. A few are pretty good, while now and then one comes on a gem. The examples below are just ordinary mine-run of humorous exaggerations, which may be amusing to my readers. Even the worst of them enable one to work up a smile, while here and there one can't resist a chuckle. Here goes:

He went around a corner so fast his vest pocket scooped dirt.

We know a man so stingy that he talks through his nose to save wearing out his false teeth.

We know a woman so cross-eyed that when she weeps the tears from her right eye fall on her left cheek.

The laziest woman lives in Eldorado. She puts popcorn in her pancakes so they will turn themselves.

The latest prize winner is the man who is so bowlegged that he has to have his shoes soled on the side.

A mail clerk down in Texas has been held up so much that he became cross-eyed from looking down the muzzle of bandits' six-shooters.

J' ever hear about the absent-minded prof who fell in while boating and sank twice before he remembered he could swim?

The laziest man in the world took the sulphuric acid bottle off the shelf by mistake, noted the error, but drank the acid rather than reach again for the cough syrup.

We've all heard about the absent-minded professor who poured the syrup down his back and scratched his pancake, but the one who worries us is he who poured the catsup on his shoe and tied his spaghetti.

A goat and a rooster had a fight. During the fight, the goat swallowed some of the rooster's feathers,

and that night when the goat was milked, its owner was surprised to see cocktails instead of milk.

Two Kentucky Colonels were showing an Englishman what a wonderful country the South is. When the Briton had traveled from Baltimore to New Orleans and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, he said, "Yes, the South is a fine country, but you have no industries here."

"No industries?" retorted Colonel Smith, with indignation. "Why, suh, Colonel Robinson in Kentucky has a dairy where he produces a million pounds of cheese a month."

"Impossible!" said the Englishman.

Colonel Smith turned to his fellow for corroboration.

"I don't know how much butter and cheese Colonel Robinson produces a month," said the second Kentuckian, "but I do know that he has 12 sawmills and he runs them all with buttermilk."

A live grasshopper will eat a dead grasshopper. A Missouri farmer mixed paris green and bran together and let a hopper eat it; it died; 20 ate him up; they died. Four hundred ate those 20, and they died. Eight thousand ate those 400, and they died. A hundred and sixty thousand ate those 8,000, and died, and the farmer was troubled no more. In its flight from the Far West, says our informant, the name of the statistician of this story has become separated from his figures, but the fact that the incident occurred in Missouri is regarded as evidence of its possibility.

"My home town is so tough," boasted the bold, bad man to his crony, "that the canaries all sing bass."

"Huh, that's nothin'. Where I hail from they had to shoot a man to start a graveyard."

Lady (to guide in Yellowstone Park): "Do these hot springs ever freeze over?"

Guide: "Oh—yes. Once last winter a lady broke through the ice and burned her foot."

"The boy who gets this job must be fast."

"Mister, I'm so fast I can drink water out of a sieve."

"Jones always strikes me as an indolent sort of chap."

"Indolent? Why that fellow is so

lazy he always runs his automobile over a bump to knock the ashes off his cigar."

It was in the sales room, and the talk had turned to hens.

"Talking of hens," remarked one of the gentlemen, "reminds me of an old hen my dad once had on the farm in Dakota. She would hatch out anything from a tennis-ball to a lemon. Why, one day she sat on a piece of ice and hatched out two quarts of hot water."

"That doesn't come up to a club-footed hen my old mother once had," remarked the other. "They had been feeding her by mistake on sawdust instead of oatmeal. Well, sir, she laid 12 eggs and sat on them, and when they hatched, 11 of the chickens had wooden legs and the 12th was a woodpecker!"

I have said something about this form of humor being related to the glorious whoppers of Baron Munchausen. Let me give you an American joke that is absolutely a Munchausen yarn. Here it is:

1st Liar: "Up where I've been it was so cold that the milk was delivered in chunks of ice."

2nd Liar: "Aw, that's nothing. Where I was they didn't even need fire ladders. They'd just spill a bucket of water out of the window and slide down."

And now, to give only one example (though I could easily throw in dozens) of how the English also indulge in the same kind of humor, let me hand you one that I found in a British publication. It proves that the Munchausen tradition also appeals to the English. Such a gag could never come from the mouth of Jonathan Swift, Laurence Sterne, Bernard Shaw, or even Chesterton, though I grant you it could have come out of Charles Lamb. It goes this way:

A Scotsman had a dog, and each morning he gave him a penny to buy a bun. The dog deposited his penny each time in his kennel till he had five. Then off he went to the baker's shop and bought six buns for a nickel.

Please comment on the enclosed press report, which says that Father Coughlin has "quit."

Father Coughlin's "farewell" address, after the November 3 election showed that even his own followers refused to vote for Lemke in any sort

of numbers, gives the impression that his Fascist activities are ended, but a reading of a subsequent issue of his weekly organ, *Social Justice*, gives no hint of Coughlin's retirement.

"Temporarily in abeyance" is the way *Social Justice* describes the status of Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice, which means just what it says—that the times aren't propitious for an out-and-out Fascist outfit, but that the "abeyance" can be ended by Fuehrer Coughlin when he thinks the country "needs" his brand of salvation.

Meanwhile, Coughlin plans to continue his official newspaper, which will enable him to keep the more militant part of his following in touch with his plans. The soft-spoken, kindly, liberty-loving, democratic-minded, liberalistic, idealistic padre—Duce Coughlin—isn't through, by any means—he's merely withdrawing to his ivory tower to think out what was wrong with his 1936 technique and see if he can't do a better job when circumstances call him back to the ramparts.

It's a sad, heart-tugging tragedy when one's followers yell themselves hoarse at vast mass meetings and then vote as they please. I'm sure that little problem has cost Coughlin a great deal of sleep, and it's possible he doesn't know the answer even now. Perhaps 40 days and nights in the desert will help him organize his thoughts.

* * *

Last summer I took a motor trip through many of our States and was impressed with the number of communities that are known as "company towns"—centers that belong to great corporations. Many of these places contained only one vast plant, which meant that the industrialist controlled every activity in that community—the schools, retailing, hospitals, homes, recreation centers, churches, municipal buildings, halls, etc. Of course, such communities usually crush unionism. How do they control the political activities of their slaves?

"Company towns" are beginning to wake up, though slowly. Even the company unions, which were organized by the employers in order to keep their workers from joining real unions, are beginning to make uncomfortable demands. It seems fairly certain that before long most company unions will be turned into free unions,

because the toilers don't seem to be so afraid of their bosses as they were only recently.

Politically, the "company towns" have usually been conservative, which means, of course, that the voters were expected to vote for Wall Street's favorite candidate. During the recent national campaign, the industrialists in control of "company towns" moved heaven and earth to frighten or cajole their workers into supporting Landon, but here something went amiss. The workers did their own voting.

I have the returns from a number of "company towns" to show how the citizens voted in the last election. The places listed below are all known to be important centers of the steel industry. The results:

Weirton—Roosevelt, 4,747, Landon, 1,603; Farrell—Roosevelt, 3,365, Landon, 963; Aliquippa—Roosevelt, 6,145, Landon, 2,970; Homestead—Roosevelt, 5,921, Landon, 1,313; McKeesport—Roosevelt, 12,715, Landon, 6,806; Clairton—Roosevelt, 3,828, Landon, 1,618; Duquesne—Roosevelt, 4,259, Landon, 1,451.

* * *

Recently I moved to New York City. I find that the people here have the idea that eggs, to be good, must be white. Brown eggs are frowned on as inferior. Please comment.

For many years, New York's millions have been demanding white eggs—and paying more. I've read that the public has been willing to pay as much as 10c per dozen extra to get the much-sought white eggs. The prejudice against brown eggs, I understand, is slowly disappearing. The facts, of course, are simple. The idea that brown eggs aren't as desirable as white ones is bunk. A good white egg is no better than a good brown egg. Put this down as just another instance of the way bunk costs the people real money of the realm.

* * *

I've heard a number of New York City butchers boost their beef as "Kansas City beef," some even claiming it was "grown right in Kansas City." Please comment.

There's no such thing as "Kansas City beef." It's just beef. Many Easterners are appallingly ignorant about the West. They think Kansas City is a vast grazing section, so they slap an eccentric name on the commodity they offer. There are many

restaurants in the Middle West which offer "K.C. steaks," but anyone ought to know that refers merely to the fact that the cut is extra thick, the assumption being that Kansas Citians, when they go to a restaurant, insist on extra thick cuts. But the beef may never have seen Kansas City when we ask for that special cut in our eating houses.

Why does Hitler usually release his important statements on Saturdays?

There are two reasons. First, a Saturday announcement usually gets bigger space in the newspapers the next day, because the Sunday issues always have more room. Second, the foreign offices of other nations are closed on Sunday, which means that Hitler's declaration is unchallenged or uncontradicted until Monday, which is a distinct advantage to Hitler, from a propagandistic viewpoint.

Is it true that Vice President Garner automatically became President pro-tem when Roosevelt left the U.S. for Argentina?

The Vice President, under the Constitution, doesn't succeed to the Presidency until the death of the President. The fact that the Chief Executive leaves the country—something which has happened several times in our recent history (Wilson going to Europe and Harding visiting in Vancouver, B.C.)—doesn't have any effect on his status.

How does the federal government define beer?

Federal regulations hold that malt beverages containing at least one-half of 1 percent and not more than 5 percent alcohol by volume will be held to be beer. Anything less than one-half of 1 percent is only near-beer. The alcohol administration also says that ale, porter and stout must contain at least 5 percent alcohol.

An acquaintance of ours rooming with us has made over \$300 on the wheat market in the last three months. Is there any system by which one can play the stock market and make it pay?

"Make it pay" means, no doubt, buying low, selling higher, buying lower again, selling higher, and so on without end. One must be getting in and out of the market with almost lightning speed, and this the average little trader can't do. He will get

his fingers burned in the end. There's no "system" by which to play the stock market. Even the wisest (and biggest) insiders take beatings now and then. If you have some money to spare, buy some shares outright, preferably in a well-financed, strong company, like U.S. Steel, A.T.&T., General Motors. But don't gamble. Consider your purchase an investment, not a bet. Even here I make my suggestions reluctantly, because it's my conviction that your type of saver should put his money into the postal savings banks. Your money will be safe with Uncle Sam, and even though the interest return is modest you are ahead in the end, because your investment is never jeopardized, you always get back what you put in, and you save yourself the time and effort it takes to watch the silly gyrations of the stock exchange.

What is the population of the world? What portion is of the white race?

The world's population is about 2,000,000,000; the white people number about 1,000,000,000.

How much garlic does New York City eat?

For years it took 150 carloads of garlic per year to satisfy the New York City demand, though recent reports show something of a decline.

From what points is it possible to make the longest telephone call in the U.S.?

The A.T.&T. answers the above question, as follows:

"The longest distance telephone call possible within the U.S. is from Eastport, Me., to Bay, Calif.—2,947 air-line miles."

What was the population of the U.S.A. at the time our government was first organized?

2,800,000.

When did New York City's population first pass 1,000,000?

In 1860.

I like your favorable comment regarding the CCC. Do you have many readers in this organization?

I suppose I must have about 200 subscribers in the various CCC camps, but from reports I receive from some of these young men, it seems that each Freeman is read and circulated

until it's worn to shreds. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that about 10 CCC boys read each copy. The Little Blue Books, of course, have much wider acceptance in these labor camps. A steady stream of orders is being received right along, and an examination of a number of these communications indicates that the boys aren't afraid of what goes by the name of "heavy" reading. These young fellows have keen, alert minds, which they seem anxious to expose to unorthodox, debunking literature.

* * *

What is the world's record for ski jumping?

Reider Johnson, in 1935, at Plancia, Jugo-Slavia, jumped 311.60 feet, a world's record. The best U.S. record was made by Halvor Halstead, in 1934, at Big Pines, Calif., when he jumped 262 feet.

* * *

With the press full of alarming reports from Europe and Asia, I wonder if the U.S. will be able to keep out of the new world war that is now being prepared.

During the past two years I have written, at least four times, to the effect that a German-Japanese attack on the Soviet Union couldn't leave the U.S. as a mere spectator. Neutrality in such a conflict would be most unlikely; not because the American government has any particular friendship for Russian Communism but for the sound interests that would be seriously jeopardized.

The new pact, as I've already written, means that Germany and Japan have an anti-Soviet accord. That Italy is also a party to this holy alliance (against the Russian government and world democracy) is obvious, and we can look for an early acceptance by Mussolini of Hitler's vast war plans. While Hitler and Japan are attacking Russia, Mussolini will put in his mightiest licks in the Balkans and consolidate the Fascist position in the Mediterranean. What Britain and France will do in such a situation isn't clear, but it's a fairly safe assumption that both will be compelled to take up the Duce's challenge, however reluctant they may be to go to war. And, of course, a war with Italy would naturally have to include Mussolini's ally, Hitler. Both of these great powers are twisting and squirming in an attempt to avoid facing what appears to be an inevi-

table situation, but once the Fascist powers cast the die they will be compelled to spring to action. Neutrality in such a crash would be tantamount to national suicide.

That leaves Russia facing two gigantic military machines, on the West and the Far East. Here I can repeat what I've said before, but drawing on new information that has been given to the world in recent weeks. Russia is tremendously strong. Its latest report claims 7,000 military planes, of which hundreds are capable of making 280 miles per hour. The Soviet Union has 100,000 trained pilots, with another 8,000 soon to be graduated in the 1936 class of the Society for Preparedness and Defense, which, of course, is only one source of new air fighters. These figures aren't pipe-dreams, but realistic evaluations. When I last reported on Russia's armed strength, I put the figure at 1,300,000 men, of whom about 500,000 were in the Far East facing the Japanese and Manchukuo forces. From what I can gather, it seems more than likely that January or February, 1937, will see a new report from Russia showing upwards of 2,000,000 trained men in the standing armies of the Soviets, with perhaps 10,000,000 men in reserve. Naval armaments have been added to almost frantically, the latest report, issued in November, 1936, showing 1,700 percent increases, the most vital being those in the submarine fleets in Europe and the Far East.

As for Germany, I don't believe it's wise to underestimate its military might. I believe we should accept in toto the claim of Air Minister Goering that Hitler's strength is even greater than the Kaiser's in 1914. Germany hasn't reached its fullest military strength, but it has already gone far enough to make the Kaiser's armies seem weak in comparison. Just how much more power he can add, no outsider can even estimate, but there most certainly is a limit, for Germany's economic structure has been put completely out of gear in order to supply the war machine with its steady Niagara of money and labor power. Fascist Germany is "broke" financially, but it isn't lacking in military strength. Such a situation pushes a dictator to risk all on a military gesture, in the hope of

a great victory making up for the financial troubles at home. If Hitler could hurl his armies into Russia and take the Ukraine (plus anything else he could grab) he very likely could get out of his economic and industrial jam at the expense of the Russian people. The risks are enormous, but the tempting prizes are real and beckoning. And Russia knows all this.

A simultaneous attack by Germany and Japan would put Russia to the severest test. Stalin is keeping a self-sustaining army in the Far East, where it's living off the country and even making its own war supplies, with certain exceptions, of course. The new trans-Siberian railroad opened in November, which was put well in Siberian territory, will be a tremendous weapon of defense against Japan. Russian submarines will be gravely effective against the Japanese navy and shipping. The under-sea fighters and giant bombers could be expected to cripple, and perhaps destroy, Japan's essential fishing industry. All this means that Russia, while hard pressed, won't be anyone's cinch, even when attacked by two enemies like the ones described above.

After reviewing the situation we are now ready to ask what the U.S. can do to stay out. If the war were limited to Europe alone, I believe there would be few difficulties in our remaining neutral. But the danger spot, for us, isn't Europe but Asia. Would the U.S. stand idly by and see Japan not only gobble up most of China but a great portion of Asiatic Russia as well? It's inconceivable. The U.S. will try, for a time, to keep out, but the situation will bear down on us until we will be compelled to face the realistic issues and save our own hides by using our mighty navy to attack Japan at sea while Russia comes to grips with Japan's land forces. We have real economic interests at stake; the Japanese empire, after defeating Russia and finishing off China, would leave us staring at a military and naval machine that would logically turn in our direction, first kicking us out of the Far East and destroying our foreign trade. Yes, a World War will touch the U.S., and, whether we like it or not,

we will fight—in the Pacific.

* * *

I have lived in San Francisco many years and have grown to love the city. I always thought this beautiful place was a favorite with all sorts of artists, but imagine my surprise when I learned recently that the great tenor, Enrico Caruso, hated San Francisco. Can you tell me why?

You can't be blamed for loving San Francisco, one of the most beautiful and interesting cities in the world. I never spent much time there, but the hours were filled with excitement and enthusiasm. As for Caruso, don't let his disappointment worry you. It happened that when he arrived in your city to give its music-lovers the joy of listening to his golden voice, nature conspired against him by putting on a first-class earthquake. He ran around the streets, in huge furlined overcoat and pajamas, muttering: "Ell of a place! 'Ell of a place! I'll never come back." Caruso kept his threat. Poor Caruso, he took the earthquake as a personal insult. Another distinguished visitor in the city at that time was the actor, John Barrymore, who then was known as a ne'er-do-well rather than an actor. He was taken in by our troops and put to the task of helping to clear the streets of debris, which led his famous uncle, John Drew, to get off this delicious line: "By God, it took an earthquake and the United States army to put John to work!"

* * *

Please explain why you have failed, thus far, to comment on the execution of the 16 Old Bolsheviks by the Soviet government?

I have refrained from discussing this case because I never could quite make up my mind. At one time I'd be sure the defendants were guilty, at another I'd be equally sure they were the innocent victims of a government frame-up. A great deal of evidence has gone over my desk, and a careful sifting shows that the men were given all the formalities of a fair trial, but that the cases against them depended almost entirely on so-called confessions.

Now, a confession is always a clinching business, and yet a confession is sometimes the easiest thing for government authorities to get, especially when the prosecution is in the mood for hunting down heresy.

Students of history know how most

of the executions ordered by the Catholic inquisitors usually involved confessions. There, in black and white, were confessions in which the person under charges admitted he or she was a witch, that sorcery had been practiced, that the wretch was in a conspiracy with the devil to injure God's domain. The confessions, of course, were obtained under threats, or torture, or insincerely-proposed promises, or the subtle influencing of a mind that was unable to resist the suggestions of a stronger personality.

We all recall how the great scientist, Galileo, when brought before the Roman Inquisition, told the assembled cardinals and prelates that he was guilty of the charges hurled against him. He also signed a "confession," though the world soon saw how ridiculous that confession was, that it was in truth, just another charge against the wickedness and unprogressiveness of the Catholic Church. But his confession could have been enough to send that scientist to the stake, had the Inquisition declared its unwillingness to accept Galileo's promises to refrain from future expressions against God's own, immortal truth. Let me quote one short passage from Galileo's famous confession:

"I abjure with a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, I curse and detest the said errors and heresies . . . that is, of having held and believed that the Sun is the center of the universe and immovable, and that the Earth is not the center of the same, and that it does not move..."

The 1936 confessions of the 16 Bolsheviks, who later were shot, didn't deal with heresy against an infallible book, but they did confess to heresy against a leader's infallible policies. In Galileo's time a man could be burned to death for believing the earth was round; today a man, though a Bolshevik, can be shot by fellow-Communists because he believes the Soviet Union should follow certain social or political policies that don't happen to be acceptable to the powers in command.

Of course, the confessions betrayed more than disagreement with policies—political heresy; they showed alleged readiness to indulge in conspiratorial acts of aggression against Stalin, and other Soviet leaders.

Academic disagreement is one thing, but overt acts that embrace murder and violence are entirely different; but it's here that my mind resists accepting the usual explanations of the orthodox Stalinites. I find that they rest their cases entirely on alleged confessions, and it's at this very point that history teaches me to insist on something more—on verifiable data, on documents, on witnesses who can be relied on, on information that can be checked and made to fit. Such proofs were lacking, and even though most of the confessions included Trotsky as the arch-conspirator—which Trotsky goes to great lengths to deny—there isn't a single independent fact, outside of the confessions, to warrant such an inference.

* * *

An editorial in the Topeka Daily State Journal, November 9, 1936, says Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate for President, received 108,000 votes, against more than 800,000 in 1932. I am enclosing the clipping. Please comment.

The great Henry J. Allen, who helped F. D. R. so effectively by campaigning tirelessly for Landon, is the editor of this paper, so I assume he wrote this piece, in which he says: "It doesn't mean that the size of Mr. Thomas' party has shrunk 700 percent." I understand how something could shrink 100 percent (a la Coughlin), but how something can shrink that much and then shrink an additional 600 percent defies everything I learned in the sixth grade of public school. Allen has achieved another miracle by reducing something to zero and then shrinking it some more for good measure.

The Socialist vote doesn't mean that Socialism is dead. The principle of socialization of the large-scale industries is only beginning to receive public acceptance, but political conditions were such that the electorate decided, with what almost amounted to unanimity, that it was important to preserve Roosevelt's liberalism lest the country be grabbed by the Fascist elements backing Landon. Allen, who was Kansas' No. 1 Fascist before Hitler was ever heard of, joined with Hoover, Al Smith, Jim Reed, Father Coughlin, Dr. Townsend, the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, the Rev. Winrod Hearst, the Liberty League, the whore-house press and other pub-

lic nuisances in an attempt to put their puppet in the White House.

Such a calamitous victory for reaction would have set the country back a generation, perhaps heading it to the authoritarianism of Hitler and Mussolini. The impulse of the masses was healthy—they did the logical, realistic thing, meaning, of course, that they turned to Roosevelt. Under the pressure of such a threat a vote for Thomas was considered a vote against Roosevelt, which, in turn, would mean a vote for economic toryism. So the Socialist ticket was shelved, but this doesn't mean that the policies of socialization are repudiated.

As the people grow accustomed to Rooseveltian liberalism—which will most likely include a generous program of labor legislation within the framework of Capitalism—the gradual effect will be to indicate to growing bodies of citizens the logic of the philosophy which demands that the great mechanisms of modern industrial organization shall become the property of the people.

* * *

Is there any basis in fact to the common belief that human inbreeding causes offspring which are mentally and physically inferior?

Dr. Harry L. Shapiro, a biologist, made an exhaustive study of the entire problem of human inbreeding, at Pitcairn Island, and wrote an important book on his findings. Pitcairn, which is almost 3,800 miles southwest of Hawaii, (with its nearest neighbor being the island of Tahiti, 1,400 miles away), was the place chosen by the men of the *Bounty* who mutinied in 1789 and organized a colony a year later. The moving picture, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, tells an over-dramatized version of this famous incident, but the story is based on facts.

Dr. Shapiro spent many months studying the inhabitants of Pitcairn, because in this setting he was able to observe what is perhaps the world's most perfect experiment in human inbreeding. Six white men and nine Polynesian women left Tahiti for Pitcairn, in order to escape the British authorities who were seeking to arrest and punish the men for their mutiny, but, as is well known, the colony was never disturbed.

This small group resorted to inbreeding, which was continued generation after generation, from 1790 to the present, and, according to Dr. Shapiro, the results indicate that even close inbreeding doesn't cause physical or mental degeneration among the offspring. This scientist found that the people of Pitcairn Island kept complete and accurate records from the very beginning—marriages, births and deaths—and after seven generations the children are exceptionally healthy, physically and mentally. The records show every possible combination—marriages of cousins, nephews and aunts, nieces and uncles—and the results, according to Dr. Shapiro, show "their medical record is good, with no evidence of degenerative diseases peculiar to them. Abnormalities of physical structure are practically non-existent on Pitcairn."

Today, there are 200 inhabitants on Pitcairn, and Dr. Shapiro claims he found "only two or three who were distinctly below par mentally—a small proportion in a group of 200." Several individuals were dull, reports Dr. Shapiro, "but able to manage their affairs efficiently enough. The rest seemed to fit into the average range of intelligence."

Another important observation Dr. Shapiro reports is the fact that continued inbreeding doesn't tend to reduce the reproductive powers of the people. This geneticist shows that from 1790, "when the colony was established, the population more than doubled in the succeeding 18 years, doubled in the next 18 years, doubled again in the next 21 years, and almost doubled again in the succeeding 20 years. By 1934 the six mutineers who lived long enough to have children had a living progeny exceeding 800 on Pitcairn and Norfolk Islands and an additional 200 who have wandered away . . . a prodigious spectacle of human breeding."

* * *

What's your opinion of the new pact signed by Germany and Japan?

Freeman readers have known for almost 18 months that Hitler and Japanese militarism are committed to mutual action against the Soviet Union, the aim being to cut off a generous slice of Siberia for the Mikado while Hitler helps himself to

a great part of European Russia. What was accepted in informed circles as a secret policy now is admitted openly by the two great predatory powers.

The wording of the pact, as given to the public, is full of evasions and distortions, the most obvious one being the claim that the Fascists have no designs on Russian territory but only a determination to deter the Third International (the Comintern) in its "conspiracy" to spread the "menace" of Communism.

The vast military and naval establishments of Germany and Japan certainly have nothing to fear from a committee that hasn't a rifle to its name. The "menace of Communism" is a favorite red herring that would be laughable if the organized red-baiters didn't intend to use it as a mask for their real objective—the dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

Communism means something tangible only in one country, Russia. It never was, and isn't today, a "menace" in any other part of the world. Even before Hitler stole power, the German Communists (then a legally-recognized political party) could muster only 15 percent of the total vote. The "red menace" did service in the recent U.S. election, with Hearst leading the chorus, but the election returns show that instead of being a "menace" the American Communist party, with less than 100,000 votes, is hardly more than a mouse-squeak.

Only the other day I read a report of a speech by a leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in which he claimed the Communist Party of the U.S. has 36,000 paid organizers, millions of followers, over 3,000 periodicals, and limitless supplies of Moscow gold. The national vote should have served as something of an answer to that hokum, but the flood of idiotic howling continues without let-up. Instead of having 3,000 periodicals, I find I can list only about a dozen, and I make some little effort to keep up on such matters. As for the 36,000 paid organizers, they should be discharged at once, because it looks as though each paid organizer is able to account for only two votes. If there are millions of followers, they certainly haven't been led to the polls when given a chance to declare themselves for the

policies of the Communist party. As for Moscow gold, let's remember that the men in Moscow are a realistic, hard-boiled, practical outfit who would be more likely to use their gold to buy good American trucks and machine tools rather than wasting their substance on political pipe-dreams in foreign lands.

A pact against Communist propaganda (by two dictatorial governments that never were even threatened by Communism and which today have succeeded in crushing every semblance of even liberal opinion, let alone revolutionary policies) is nothing more than a smoke-screen.

The Russians know what the game is all about. Hitler and Japanese imperialism have designs on Russian territory, but not an inch of Soviet land will be taken without the most extreme forms of resistance. The Russians will fight hard—and they won't have to face the enemy this time with bare hands. Mechanization of Russian forces has been advanced, and each month of peace means just that much more strength added to the defensive forces of the Soviet Union. If Hitler and the Japanese are to get anywhere with their pact they will find that unless they get into action within the next year or 18 months the whole offensive will collapse, before the increased might of the Soviets. Even today, it's highly doubtful that Hitler and the Mikado could go into Russia and carve out the sections they plan to take to themselves. Russia certainly doesn't want to fight, but fight she will if these two powers—and any others that care to join this holy alliance—even so much as attempt to steal a turnip from a Soviet garden.

* * *

Please comment on the enclosed editorial, which praises Mussolini.

The November 25, 1936, issue of *The Topeka State Journal* contains an editorial, obviously written by Henry J. Allen, which claims that "Mussolini has made an economic success in Italy. . . ." Such a generalization should have been given factual support, but perhaps Mr. Allen thinks his say-so should be enough for the most skeptical anti-Fascist.

Of course, the *Journal's* editor can't back up that statement, because the facts indicate tragic failure, instead of "economic success." When

Italy had a democratic, liberal, tolerant government its economic position was much sounder than it is today under Mussolini. The first test, of course, is the cost of living, and here the reports all agree that prices have been mounting steadily, while wages have been depressed and stabilized at semi-starvation levels through the policy of outlawing free labor unions and making strikes for improved conditions crimes against the State.

Italian labor's standards have been declining, taxes have mounted, commodity prices have been hiked skyward (gasoline costs \$1.25 per gallon, in our money), foreign trade has gone down without halt, credit is a thing of the past, and militarism has been turned to as a substitute for constructive useful employment.

Mussolini couldn't buy a barrel of oil in any market in the world without first putting the money on the barrel-head. A regime that boasts of real "economic success" is always able to command credit. The world knows that Mussolini is an economic bust—a bankrupt who keeps the sheriff away because he himself is the sheriff. It's almost two years since Mussolini has issued a financial statement, which in itself proves that Italy's "economic success" had better be ignored lest things get even worse than they are.

Before venturing on his Ethiopian campaign (which was intended to divert the public mind from internal troubles), Mussolini had a substantial gold reserve, but that was spent to the last ounce in order to conquer Ethiopia (at a cost of \$1,000,000,000, with the end not yet in sight because about half of that vast country is still to be pacified). Mussolini has earned himself some temporary military "glory," but the headache will come when the economic structure is called on to assume the full load. Mussolini will have to throw new hundreds of millions of lire after the immense fortune he has spent to crush the Ethiopians, so it's safe to charge that the economic failure will grow even more acute as time passes.

It's true that hundreds of thousands of able-bodied men have been taken from the ranks of the unemployed and put to work in Fascism's military establishments, but such a remedy can well ruin a country if con-

tinued long enough. To keep pouring new tens of thousands of men into the army or into work connected with the army will never produce a dollar of real wealth. Such a program means waste, expense—and financial insecurity. The constant increases in military expense will bring the situation to a head, and by that I mean Mussolini will have to put his fighting men to work—war—or see the whole framework of Fascism collapse. And that, a schoolboy can see, is what Mussolini is facing now. Almost 15 years of pouring every possible lira into the army has created a set of circumstances that demands actual warfare on a large scale in order to find outside wealth to take the place of domestic waste. Such a policy can never be construed as an "economic success."

Fascism means militarism, and militarism means war. If war provocations are the test of success, then Mussolini will go down in history as one of the world's greatest successes, but thinking people know that real economic prosperity can never rest on a foundation of glorified militarism. It will cost the world millions of lives and countless billions of dollars to pay the cost of getting rid of its Hitlers and Mussolinis. They are glorified gangsters—Al Capones—raised to the dignity of government heads. The gangsters aren't interested in creating wealth. They figure they can arm their millions and steal the wealth created by others. And should these gangsters succeed in killing off those who would protect democratic countries, they will—again like so many gangsters—turn on each other. Such hoodlums can function only when there is wealth at hand for them to confiscate.

* * *

What do you think of Mussolini's son-in-law as Il Duce's successor?

Count Galeazzo Ciano, 33 years old, husband of Mussolini's favorite daughter, Edda, seems slated for his father-in-law's job, if numerous signs mean anything. The build-up started early in the war on Ethiopia, when Ciano was given a bomber and told to spread civilization among unarmed savages. He flew over hundreds of mud-hutted villages and enjoyed many inspiring moments blowing women and children to shreds. How

many he murdered the world may never know, but it's safe to put the number well up in the hundreds. That's a good way to begin one's apprenticeship.

When Ciano returned to Rome his delighted father-in-law had him hailed as Italy's No. 2 hero (Il Duce always comes first, you know) and then vacated one of his numerous positions in the cabinet. As foreign minister, Ciano has been given the run of the Italian press, so that now the cheers for the son-in-law are only 11 percent less voluminous than those offered to the reincarnation of Caesar.

However, my careful, impartial, scientific research leads me to the conclusion that Ciano has far to travel before he can be considered another Mussolini. First of all, his jaw doesn't protrude far enough forward and to the sides. That could be remedied by a plastic surgeon. I understand that several layers of paraffin could fix up that rather ordinary jaw, though here the incorrigible debunker in me compels me to harp on the claim that something like 78 percent of Mussolini's jaws are nothing more than an extra layer of chin, caused by too-hearty consumption of spaghetti and meat balls, with double portions of ravioli.

Ciano does pretty well when he holds the right hand to his hip while he speaks, but he hasn't learned papa's trick of weaving his shoulders. Practice ought to help here. The lad is doing fairly well with his frown, and the curt words sound almost acceptable, except for a gruffness that can come only after years of effort.

But Ciano's achievements as a murderer mustn't be permitted to stop at those hundreds of Ethiopians. Our future Duce must strike out boldly and kill at least 4,000 Italians, especially intellectuals, and compel something like 40,000 more to take liberal doses of castor oil prior to being shipped off to some island in the Adriatic.

And philosophy musn't be neglected. The papa has just about exhausted all of the ideas to be found in Machiavelli, so perhaps Ciano will have to plagiarize Hitler's Nietzsche, though that source of ideas may lead our future Caesar into perilous by-paths, for the German Superman said many things that don't exactly jibe

with Fascism or Nazism. Perhaps it would be best to make Mussolini his intellectual inspiration, merely quoting his speeches.

But there's another physical defect that persists in provoking doubts about Ciano's future. Since he fills the bill in so many ways, it's a pity he can't make the veins in his forehead stick out like whipcords.

* * *

Do you think "slow but sure" is a good motto?

"Slow but sure" is an old stand-by that always sounds sensible when said in a pontifical tone, but it doesn't seem to hold up under critical examination. Lawrence J. O'Rourke, director of research in personnel administration, United States Civil Service Commission, says "slow but sure" is bunk. Here's the way he debunks it:

"In our research a number of nice-sounding phrases which were quite generally accepted as guides in personnel work were found not only to be fallacious but to be misleading to personnel people.

"Slow-but-sure is an example of a theory which applies only to the exceptions and not to the majority. Clerical workers who did less than half as much work were found to make five-and-a-half times as many errors as rapid clerks. Slow postal clerks who did less than half as much work as the rapid clerks made three times as many errors as the rapid ones."

* * *

What you say about writing as an outlet "to keep from going nuts" is a good idea. If more people would try their hand at it, pestering the editors of capitalist papers and politicians with all manner of richly-deserved criticism perhaps we would get somewhere faster than we do. Incidentally, such a practice would be valuable training in straight thinking, which, in a democracy, is just about the most useful function the people can acquire.

C. A. Lang, of Maplewood, Mo., who sends me the above, is himself a great letter-writer, and I can say, in all sincerity, that his communications are the most interesting among the half thousand that flutter my way each month as a result of my editorial work. I endorse his idea. In a democracy there is great social value in expressing one's opinions in print or in communications to the proper persons.

I confess I'm an incorrigible letter-

writer myself, in addition to typing reams of copy each month to fill this organ of piety and righteousness. I can't resist having my say, when something hits me in the right—or wrong—place. And I know the letters frequently have their effect.

For example, recently I had my attention called to a political advertisement that appeared in a Kansas newspaper a few days before the recent national election. There, in large type, was the announcement that the Italian Consul for Kansas would address a Landon mass meeting in a nearby community. It struck me as an outrage to see this Fascist tool—the official representative of the mass-murderer Mussolini—mixing in our domestic, political affairs. He was actually appearing openly in support of the ticket that was being promoted by Hearst, Coughlin, the Rev. Smith, Al Smith, the Liberty League, the great industrialists, the mighty labor exploiters, and, to cap it off, Mussolini and Hitler. Of course, it's old news about Fascist propaganda being conducted on a tremendous scale in the U.S., but it was novel to see the thing put over so baldly. But I didn't let the matter rest there. Like a good citizen—pardon my blushes—I tore out that advertisement and attached it to a letter of protest which I addressed to the State Department. As a result of my little letter I had the satisfaction of seeing that Fascist gangster given his walking papers out of the country. You see, letters are effective.

* * *

"For nearly 10 years I have been a steady reader of your publications. I hold the greatest admiration for your fearless writings against the shackles of ignorance and superstition. Your American Freeman is full of vital information and timely eye-openers. The greatest fault I find is in the long wait between issues."—Beatrice Rosenberg, Detroit, Mich.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

As a student at Commonwealth College I want to take exception to a couple of statements made by a fellow student here, Mr. Sam Epstein. In your January issue. While the article of Mr. Epstein is very good he makes a few remarks which are not in accordance with facts.

Mr. Epstein's statement, "Politically the great bulk of the students here are Communist Party members and let me

tell you a Socialist has a darned tough time in defending his position," in my opinion creates an entirely wrong impression of the school.

In the first place there are all kinds of political opinions expressed here. There are members of several political parties and I am certain that the "great bulk" of students are not members of one particular party. As chairman of my home precinct of the Democratic party I personally resent this remark very much. Maybe some of us lose out in arguments on many subjects, but that does not mean that the Communists are in the majority. Commonwealth College is not a factional institution and is not allied with any one political party.

We have instructors here of various political thoughts. One is a minister of the Episcopal Church. Another, a prominent member of the Methodist Church. I am a member of the Church of Christ; other students belong to the Church and we take exception to the well-intended but inaccurate statement of Mr. Epstein. I personally came to Commonwealth to study some of the practical things that face a young farmer who has a family to look after. With very little education and experience, I realized the need very much of going to school. Since the tuition fee was small, and it was impossible for me to go through an ordinary high school, I came here for three months. I feel that the courses I am taking will help me very much in my home community. We are here to be taught practical subjects that will serve to make us better citizens and make it possible to gain the knowledge which will be of great value in helping to build our respective organizations upon our return.

I feel that Commonwealth College is doing a splendid job towards this goal and hope that no other impressions should be given to the readers of your paper.

MENA, ARK.

ORIEN WORLEY

[Editor's note—This letter gives the impression that Commonwealth College is just like any of the hundreds of jerk-water religious colleges in the sticks, which, I'm sure, is far from the mark. There are, no doubt, some church members there, and a few political Tories, but the red idea is everywhere, in religion and economics, and it's fatuous to try to dissemble that "guilty" condition. I believe Student Epstein was mistaken in saying most of the people there are "Communist Party members." There are, most likely, few MEMBERS, but the majority of the individuals there range from a strong pink to ox-blood red. I wouldn't have any respect for Commonwealth if its intellectual at-

mosphere suggested a Fundamentalist revival meeting or the quiet dignity of the Episcopal Church—a dignity that is only a mask to cover superstition and stupidity. Commonwealth is not a citadel of revolution, by any means, but it's certainly not a pillar of intellectual conventionality. Mr. Orien Worley is more interested in giving a "good impression" to "respectable" citizens than in giving a strictly accurate portrait of his neighbors, it seems to me.]

* * *

What was the weight of the largest baby ever born?

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports that the largest baby ever born weighed 25 pounds. The birth took place in the U.S., in 1916. This authority says there is a connection between excessive size in babies and diabetes in their mothers. It adds that one in 30 babies weighs more than nine pounds; only one in 200,000 weighs more than 13 pounds. Giant babies have a high death rate—14.9 percent, as against a rate of 3.2 percent for babies of normal size.

* * *

How many pounds of grass can a cow eat in a day?

It has been found that a cow can eat 218 pounds in a single day.

* * *

Joseph McCabe writes from London, England, as follows: "Here heaven knows what is coming. The insolence of Hitler's and Mussolini's public talks, and the cowardice of the English and French, pass all historical precedents. Russia has no fleet and aren't send a ship past Italy to Spain without the risk of losing it and perhaps causing a new 'incident.' Already my prediction that Czechoslovakia will get it next, at which people laughed, gets serious support. A German-Rumanian plot against it has come to light."

* * *

Bishop Robert L. Paddock, chairman of the American Friends of Spanish Democracy, on November 28, 1936, asked me to express my opinion of an editorial in the *New York Times*, which I responded to immediately with the following open letter:

Editor, *The New York Times*,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

During the 20 years that I have been a mail subscriber to your paper I never read an editorial which was so unfair and prejudiced as the one in your issue of November 25, 1936, which attacked Ambassador Fernandos de los Rios because of an alleged attempt "to

decide the policy of our government." The representative of the Spanish Republic had a perfect right to tell our citizens the facts of the Fascist attempt to crush democracy and freedom. As for his few sentences dealing with America's interest in the Spanish situation, you surely know that what is happening in Europe and Asia today touches American interests, even to the extent of our being forced into a new world war through developments by Fascist elements in the Far East, all of which are related to current happenings in Spain. Sincerely,

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

* * *

"I enjoy *The American Freeman* very much."—Senator A. O. Devold, Minnesota State Senate.

* * *

"The *Freeman* is one of the month's highlights around here.—Richard E. Greene, CCC Camp, Springfield, Colo.

* * *

"I always find *The American Freeman* educational, entertaining, and then some. It's a GOOD paper."—Sam Malvin, Ill.

* * *

Editor, *The American Freeman*:

You accidentally (or was it accidental?) evolved an euphonic triumph in one little phrase in your recent answer in *The American Freeman* about zippers; to wit:

"... lest the wringer
put the zipper
out of WHACK."

Roll-I-I-I that o'er your tongue and you'll see what I mean.
CLEVELAND, OHIO

T. N. BATES,

Cleveland Plain Dealer

[It was pure accident, but if I'm able to pull off such a triumph unconsciously, maybe I ought to revise my literary methods and reach out for the mantle of the late Rudyard Kipling. E.H.-J.]

* * *

"I never was so pleasantly surprised and so greatly gratified as when I opened a copy of your *Freeman* and began reading. In this age of bigotry, prejudice and ignorance I was unaware that such a paper as yours existed. I've been a reader of a Scripps-Howard paper which, though in contrast to *Hearst's* and such propaganda sheets is liberal and courageous, is way behind the daring, righteous audacity of your *Freeman*. I sat up until 2 o'clock in the morning reading through five back numbers of *The Freeman*, marking off pieces that especially interest me."—S. C. Marchese, Harmarville, Pa.

* * *

A reader says accidents caused by pants zippers may be more common than some of us imagine. "Only a few days ago," he writes, "I heard of the same

thing happening to a small boy in one of our local schools. He was not as badly damaged as the fellow you described, but nevertheless needed the services of a doctor."

* * *

I've enjoyed the Rabelasian spoofing of Benjamin Franklin, especially on wind-breaking, and would like to meet up with some similar foolishness. Have you anything to suggest?

One of the best pieces of bawdy literature I can think of at the moment is James Whitcomb Riley's masterpiece, "The Passing of the Back-house." This immortal gem is far superior to the late Chic Sale's recent best-seller, *The Specialist*. Of course, this Riley item will shock our prissy friends, but who cares? Here's the lusty yawp:

When memory keeps me company and
moves to smiles or tears,
A weather-beaten object looms through
the mist of years.
Behind the house and barn it stood, a
half mile or more,
And hurrying feet a path had made,
straight to its swinging door.
Its architecture was a type of simple
classic art,
But in the tragedy of life it played a
leading part.
And oft the passing traveler drove slow,
and heaved a sigh,
To see the modest hired girl slip out
with glances shy.

We had our posey garden that the women
loved so well,
I loved it, too, but better still I loved
the stronger smell
That filled the evening breezes so full
of homely cheer,
And told the night-o'-ertaken tramp
that human life was near.
On lazy August afternoons, it made a
little bower
Delightful, where my grandsire sat and
whiled away an hour.
For there the summer morning its very
cares entwined,
And berry bushes reddened in the
steaming soil behind.

All day fat spiders spun their webs to
catch the buzzing flies
That flitted to and from the house,
where Ma was baking pies.
And once a swarm of hornets bold, had
built a palace there,
And stung my unsuspecting aunt—I
must not tell you where.
Then father took a flaming pole—that
was a happy day—
He nearly burned the building up, but
the hornets left to stay.
When summer bloom began to fade and

winter to carouse
We banked the little building with a
heap of hemlock boughs.

But when the crust was on the snow
and the sullen skies were gray,
In sooth the building was no place where
one could wish to stay.
We did our duties promptly, there one
purpose swayed the mind.
We tarried not, nor lingered long on
what we left behind.
The torture of that icy seat would make
a Spartan sob,
For needs must scrape the goose-flesh
with a lacerating cob—
That from a frost-encrusted nail, was
suspended by a string—
For father was a frugal man and wasted
not a thing.

When grandpa had to "go out back" and
make his morning call,
We'd bundle up the dear old man with
a muffler and a shawl,
I knew the hole on which he sat—'twas
padded all around,
And once I dared to sit there—'twas
all too wide I found.
My loins were all too little, and I jack-
knifed there to stay,
They had to come and get me out, or
I'd have passed away.
Then father said ambition was a thing
that boys should shun,
And I just used the children's hole 'till
childhood days were done.

And still I marvel at the craft that cut
those holes so true,
The baby hole, and the slender hole
that fitted Sister Sue;
That dear old country landmark, I
tramped around a bit,
And in the lap of luxury my lot has
been to sit.
But ere I die I'll eat the fruit of trees
I robbed of yore,
Then seek the shanty where my name
is carved upon the door.
I ween the old familiar smell will soothe
my jaded soul,
I'm now a man, but none the less, I'll
try the children's hole.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

While admitting fully the humanitarianism and good intention of the President, I think you are over-sanguine as to the things we may expect from a continuance of the Roosevelt administration. If radical pressure could now be brought to bear, then yes, we might go quite a piece. But what have the radicals done? Instead of maintaining their sanity and voting their respective tickets (most of us were reasonably sure Roosevelt would not need our aid in order to defeat Landon) they climbed

on the band-wagon along with the rest. Otherwise what does the terrible slump in the radical vote mean? And now I suppose the next thing will be to allow party activity and organization to sag. The chance of doing anything effective in the way of exercising minority pressure seems to me therefore as just about zero. There are to me just about two things in this election which are heartening. First, the thorough discrediting of the Digest poll and therefore the destruction for a good while to come of its power for harm in influencing future elections, which another "uncannily accurate" forecast most certainly would have given it. And second, and much more important, the fact that the vast machinery of publicity of entrenched privilege, 80 to 90 percent of the press, most notably, was quite powerless to influence the outcome—at any rate, positively. Perhaps we may yet see the triumph of such devices by a negative application! Do you think the John Hamilton's capable of strategy of such subtlety?

A MISSOURI READER

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Your remarks on bathroom reading and bed reading were amusing, to say the least. But have you not heard, apropos "hours and hours," that there are people who advocate drawing out in that manner that usually conceded greatest of pleasures? I am, of course, aware of, and somewhat in agreement with, the caustic comments of the late Dr. William J. Robinson on that subject, and I have belly-laughed my share at them. Coming back, however, to bed reading (and smoking), I am reminded of some stories my mother told me long ago of certain happenings in her youth, high under the rafters of her father's farm home in Illinois. She had a number of brothers who followed practices even such as yours. But in addition to yielding to the seductive wiles of Lady Nicotine while devouring the thrillers of that day, it seems that on occasion they also made libations to Bacchus by having handy on the floor beneath the slats a cob-stoppered jug of hard cider. Such goings-on several times nearly resulted in the house burning down. Now I am not hinting that perhaps you follow such further dissipations, but the sand-man and unguarded fire are not good companions even under the most favorable conditions, and since premature incineration is not to be desired, I suggest that if you must drowse and smoke at the same time, you have an automatic sprinkler installed or at least invest in a hand fire-extinguisher.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *

"I would be interested in your reaction

to the articles on telepathy in the November and December issues of Harper's. I think your readers would be interested also."—Upton Sinclair, Pasadena, Calif.

The articles show that some efforts are being made to study telepathy, a subject about which I said all Rationalists have open minds. Freeman readers know that I have, several times during the past three years, said that while the subject of telepathy is still in the clouds, there's a possibility there may be something to it. Of course, if one mind can send its thoughts to another without resorting to words, signs or symbols, the phenomenon, while causing great wonder, can give no comfort to our anti-Materialists who would like to twist such a development into something that'll support a "spiritual concept" of life. After all, the mind is a function of the brain, and the brain is a thoroughly materialistic, physical mechanism, so if it does something along the lines of telepathy it'll mean that the machine is capable of doing some pretty extraordinary things. The experiments, it seems to me, are superficial. Monkeying with cards and numbers might give skeptics the hint of trickery. Experiments in thought-transference should deal with thoughts, under test conditions. I have looked into reams of printed matter on this topic and can only say that the subject still strikes me as being in an unsettled, debatable stage.

I notice that Upton Sinclair has plenty of time to write letters prodding his intellectual opponents but that he still finds it convenient to say nothing about Joseph McCabe's ruthless review of his recent book, entitled *What God Means to Me*, one of the most pathetic works ever to come from the pen of an acknowledged literary genius. McCabe's long review, which was brought out under the title *Upton Sinclair Finds God*, was sent to Sinclair the day it came off my presses, and all he did was to claim he was too busy writing a book on the cooperative movement to have time for McCabe's childish nonsense. That accounts for my writing Sinclair the following note, after getting his letter of inquiry regarding telepathy:

"... I think my readers would

... be interested in knowing how you reacted to McCabe's review of your gigantic, devastating, annihilating opus on Our Father in Heaven. Knowing how you rush replies to all criticisms—even to the extent of penning articles containing at least \$500 worth of words for papers of obscure circulation—I can't understand why you took McCabe's barrage without so much as a postal card. Don't tell me you're too busy on some other book that needs writing. During the past 25 years I've seen how you're always ready to set the world right about your correctness. McCabe's analysis of your immortal masterpiece on Gawd deserved something better than silence. Is it your practice to shut up when put in your place and to yell only when you have a leg to stand on?"

* * *

Is it true that a Hollywood company plans to bring out a picture based on the siege of the Alcazar?

One of the most important producers in Hollywood has announced a forthcoming picture, to be called *The Siege of the Alcazar*. Such a film should arouse protests, either at once, in order to get the company to abandon the project, or when the picture is shown, the latter protest taking the form of boycotts against the theaters. I urge all Freeman readers to write letters at once in an attempt to dissuade the movie concern from carrying out its plan. I've already written my own letter, which may give my readers ideas for their own protests. Hollywood is sensitive about public criticism, so it's quite possible the venture in Fascism may be dropped if enough Americans take the trouble to let the officials know how they feel. Here's my letter:

Mr. Darryl Zanuck,
20th Century-Fox Co.,
Hollywood, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I was shocked to read that your company plans to issue a picture to be called "The Siege of the Alcazar," which obviously will attempt to glorify a cowardly remnant of an army of mass-murderers. The fact that the Fascists hid themselves in the cellars of a structure built five or six centuries ago doesn't make them heroes. They were highly-trained men, with almost limitless supplies of munitions, and yet they were too cowardly to go out and take the city of

Toledo, which was being held by untrained, poorly-armed workingmen. I'm positive that every liberty-loving, democratic-minded American will be offended by any picture that attempts to portray the workers of Spain as villains and the Fascists of the Alcazar as heroes. Sincerely,

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

On December 1, 1936, Jason S. Joy, writing for the 20th Century-Fox Film Corporation, answered me as follows:

"We appreciate your letter of November 26. Unfortunately, the information which reached you was somewhat inaccurate because most certainly it is not our intention to produce a picture which will be, directly or indirectly, a medium of propaganda for fascism or war.

"On the contrary, it is our purpose to produce pictures which will entertain our patrons, and to this end the picture to which you refer will confine itself entirely to a personal story of individuals. We feel sure that when you see it you will be perfectly satisfied and will be one of the first to tell us so.

"Meantime, please accept our thanks for your interest and advice."

I answered the foregoing communication, on December 5, with this letter:

"It seems obvious to me that your answer to my letter of November 26 is only a form letter, for it fails to discuss the point I made when protesting against your proposed picture dealing with the Alcazar siege. You stress the argument that your picture will not be 'a medium of propaganda for Fascism and war,' when the fact is I didn't say it would be that at all. What I urged was that your picture, to be called *The Siege of the Alcazar*,' according to press reports, would glorify the 'heroic' defenders of that ancient citadel. I limited my complaint strictly to the 'heroes' who, heavily armed, were too cowardly to come out and meet the workingmen of Toledo, who, inexperienced in warfare, were able to pen them in their fortress for some weeks. I insist, that if you are seeking an opportunity to glorify heroes, you produce a picture showing the behavior of the people of Spain, who, betrayed by 80 percent of their army, sprang to improvised arms and fought what seemed to be a hopeless cause, with the possibility that the heroic masses are going to crush the forces of reaction, provided Hitler and Mussolini are kept from sending in additional help.

"From your letter it is plain that you have no interest in the truth. Your picture of the Spanish situation will, I'm certain, say nothing about the murderous betrayal of Spain by its Fascists, nor will it portray the support given the rebels by the Catholic Church.

"It's my hope that the part of the American public which is friendly to the regularly elected, democratic, liberal, enlightened Spanish government will protest against the showing of 'The Siege of the Alcazar.'"

* * *

How do you manage to get by the libel laws in such outbursts as the one in the December, 1936, issue on the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod?

I don't try to "get by" any libel laws. I believe firmly in the fairness of our libel laws and strive always to obey them, for I agree with the lawmakers that a free press must never be abused. The libel laws of this State, and many others, permit me to say sharp things about public figures like the Rev. Winrod, Father Coughlin, pansy Hitler, syphilitic Mussolini, and the other enemies of humanity, so long as I stick to the truth. TRUTH is a defense. If the things I write about some men weren't true, I'd be rotting in a cell today instead of pounding out my ideas on this typewriter. If I'm sure of my facts, I shoot the works, regardless of questions of "good taste" or expediency. I have no advertisers to alienate, I represent no special interests, my subscribers take the paper because they want it and not as a favor to its editor, so why should I be afraid to tell what strikes me as the literal truth? I'm always careful to be courteous to people for whom I have respect, even though I disagree with them, but I refuse even to try to be polite when dealing with scum like sewer-rat Winrod, a vile denizen of slimy sewers who comes up once a month to spread his filthy lies about minority races that are unable to defend themselves. I always am polite when dealing with honest people, but I waste no words when bawling out a swine who makes it his life's work to arouse racial prejudices and thereby fan the fires of bigotry and intolerance. I've learned from long experience that it's useless to make a rational, logical, factual appeal to such a scurvy outfit. The truth means nothing to a Rev. Winrod. He aims to bring to America the

racial hatreds of Nazi Germany—many of his editorials and articles are nothing more than rewrites of the propaganda releases of the German hate-factories—and since his poisonous tactics are succeeding in corrupting many uninformed minds, the dastardly work goes on, with new lies cropping up every time the old ones are exposed, and after a while the old are revived for further use. That's the sort of person I despise, and I make no bones about saying so in black and white. If a Rev. Winrod thinks I'm lying about him, he knows what he can do. He lives right here in my own State, so it wouldn't be hard for him to crack down on me if he thought for a moment I couldn't back up what I've written about that stinking swine.

* * *

What do you think of the mayor of Milwaukee?

Daniel W. Hoan has been mayor of Milwaukee so long he has ceased being a person and has become an American institution, like baseball, Coca Cola, ham and eggs, sleeping porches, swing music, Major Bowes, dated coffee, Reno, Lydia Pinkham, Ex Lax, Shirley Temple and pay-toilets.

Dan Hoan is one of the best burgo-masters the country has ever known—honest, efficient, social-minded, practical, sane, constructive and progressive. Milwaukee knows when it has a good thing.

I remember Hoan back in 1912-13, when I was a reporter on *The Milwaukee Leader*. He was city attorney then, and when I covered the city hall "run" for some months I made daily visits to his office way up near the roof of Milwaukee's red-stoned, impressive, somewhat-eccentric city hall. He was rather young then—tall, gangly, friendly, democratic and absolutely loyal to his trust. I took for granted he was headed for important public jobs, and I never felt the least bit surprised when he was made mayor and then got reelected oftener than I can remember.

* * *

I have read and studied the text of the wonderful new Constitution of the Soviet Union. Has this document been accepted officially?

After a period of months of discussion through the entire Soviet Union, the new Constitution was

formally accepted and adopted on December 1, 1936, by the unanimous vote of the 2,016 delegates to the eighth All-Union Congress of Soviets at Moscow.

As I've said before, every informed person should become familiar with the text of this document which is now the basic law of the greatest social development in history. I'm glad to be able to say that while the press of the U.S. was referring vaguely to the provisions of the Soviet Union's new Constitution, Freeman readers, during the past four months, have had easy access to the complete, official text.

* * *

How much carbon dioxide do our motor cars manufacture?

Some experts have figured that our motor cars burn enough gasoline to produce a sufficient quantity of carbon dioxide to make 160,000,000 tons of "dry ice" per year.

* * *

Give population figures of Athens and Rome when these cities were at their zenith in ancient times.

Athens, about 300,000; Rome, about 2,000,000.

* * *

What was the attitude of Abraham Lincoln towards the Supreme Court?

The outrageous Dred-Scott decision of the Supreme Court showed the nation's highest tribunal was on the side of the slave interests, and this, added to other instances, gave Lincoln many worries. He expressed himself unevasively in his inauguration address, in March, 1861, as follows:

"If the policy of government upon vital questions affecting the welfare of the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their government into the hands of that tribunal."

Americans of these days should ponder Lincoln's words, for the Supreme Court's determination to exercise control over the people's power to pass needed legislation is still a grave issue.

* * *

Have you any figures dealing with the business side of birth control in this country?

The November, 1936, issue of *The*

American Mercury contains an article that gives numerous facts regarding the production and distribution of birth control devices in this country. Despite the fact that birth control items are illegal and must be handled by businessmen under bootleg conditions, the American people spend an estimated \$300,000,000 per year for the facilities provided by the impresarios who cater to those who want contraceptives. The article's facts are summarized as follows:

"The trade, thriving on free, word-of-mouth publicity, is divided between nine large and some 200 small manufacturers; known distributing agencies number about 125,000, including 64,000 independent drug stores, 35 chains of pharmacies with 7,000 shops, 40,000 cosmetic stores and beauty parlors, several thousand gasoline filling stations. These estimates exclude trade returns from physicians, female canvassers and mail-order houses, all of which carry a full line of standard devices advertised with legally censored blurbs."

* * *

I notice that our newspapers are beginning to throw off their puritanism and are speaking openly about sexual diseases, but the material I have read gives almost all its space to syphilis. Very little is said about gonorrhea, and frequently it is completely ignored. Have you any late facts?

The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, for October, 1936 (page 328), contains valuable data dealing with gonorrhea, which the report says is far more prevalent than syphilis and the most neglected of all communicable diseases. As this comprehensive report shows, syphilis has been "sold" to the American people as the Killer, the Crippler, the Abortionist, but very little attention is paid to gonococcal infection.

The U.S. Public Health Service, which is attacking problems of venereal infections honestly and constructively, released some estimates which it applied to the entire U.S. population on the basis of data gathered from a study of 29,000,000 Americans, as follows:

Each year, 1,037,000 fresh infections with gonorrhea and 518,000 infections with syphilis reach medical attention—a ratio of 2 to 1.

Another million persons with gonorrhea or syphilis in later stages also seek medical attention annually.

On any given day, nearly 650,000 persons with syphilis and nearly 500,000 with gonorrhea are under treatment or observation.

Ratio of male to female infections with gonorrhea under medical care is nearly 3 to 1, while that for syphilis is 3 to 2.

Returning to the Milbank report, we learn that "few women realize that major operations and much sterility are the result of unsuspected and undiagnosed gonococcal infections.

Several times a day I am aroused by sirens of ambulances rushing to emergency cases. Looking out of the window of my office, I see them halt traffic, go tearing up and down the street as though they were getting somewhere. Do they really do any good, outside of scaring the community out of its wits?

Most of these ambulance dashes are made without internes and are of slight value. *The Red Cross Courier*, in its issue for November, 1936 (page 18), contains an article that discusses this question in an authoritative manner and presents little-known, sensational facts. The article says:

"Fast ambulance service without internes in attendance kills more persons than it saves, in contradiction of the general opinion that the best ambulance service is the one that arrives on the accident scene the fastest, leaves with the injured the quickest and travels through the streets at the highest rate of speed. Ambulances—except those operated by hospitals—are often not equipped with first-aid supplies, splints and other emergency equipment. Too few of the drivers have had training in first aid and the proper handling of the injured. Often no effort is made to staunch the flow of blood because the attendant does not know how to stop it. The victim is lifted to a cot and away they go in a race to the hospital. If the victim has enough blood, he may live or last until he reaches medical care. Many a simple fracture has been turned into a serious compound break by a reckless ride to the hospital. Many a person with a broken back or internal injuries has died because of such treatment."

What is the advantage of a "sit-down" strike?

"Sit-down" strikes are growing in the U.S., where they were tried out

shortly after strikers developed the new tactic in Europe, especially in France. The idea of a "sit-down" strike is very simple—the employees remain in the plant, day and night, near their idle machines, thus keeping strike-breakers from taking their jobs. It's a great idea, and what's more, it shivers the timbers of the bosses.

Is the medical field becoming overcrowded?

During the past 20 years the number of physicians practicing their profession increased by about 20,000, but allowing for the increase in population, the proportion of doctors is lower than it was a score of years ago. The *Statistical Bulletin* of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, for August, 1936, says there was one physician for every 694 persons in 1916. In 1936, there was one for every 778 persons. At that, *Medical Economics*, for August, 1936, estimates there are 25,000 more doctors in this country than actually necessary. The surveys show that the rural sections are under-supplied, while the urban sections are over-supplied. This is made evident, so far as rural places are concerned, by the following figures, which show fewer physicians today than 20 years ago:

	1936	1916
Maine	966	1,205 physicians
Iowa	3,146	3,751 "
Georgia	2,765	3,421 "
Kentucky	2,770	3,584 "
Montana	483	636 "

To what extent is the Soviet Union engaged in explorations?

The geological administrator at Moscow reports 800 expeditions are at work in Siberia, of which 720 are surveying mineral deposits.

Are the publications of the Eugenics Publishing Co., N.Y.C., of any real use in solving sex problems?

Books issued by this concern are authoritative and worthy of careful study.

How many legal-aid societies are there in this country? How do they work?

There are 84 legal-aid organizations in this country, devoted entirely to giving legal protection to poor people who are unable to hire regular lawyers. These societies charge

an average fee of only \$1.45 per case, and workers who can't afford to pay even that small fee are not deprived of protection. *The Monthly Labor Review*, August, 1936, reports, on page 285, that about \$750,000 is collected annually from upwards of 300,000 clients. The organized bar, which first looked on these organizations with unfriendly suspicion, is getting much less antagonistic, and in many instances even cooperates. It's reported that every American city of more than 350,000 population now has free legal-aid societies, with the smaller communities next in line for social agencies tendering opportunities for justice to persons of little or no means.

* * *

What is the ratio of expenditures by the federal government to national income?

The National Industrial Conference Board issued the following table, which shows the percentage of the people's income that goes to the government:

1921	9.3%	1929	3.0%
1922	5.7	1930	4.6
1923	4.8	1931	6.1
1924	4.3	1932	10.2
1925	4.0	1933	10.8
1926	3.9	1934	13.6
1927, 1928 ..	3.8	1935	12.8

* * *

With airplanes growing larger each year, it seems likely that the near future will see flying machines almost as large as boats. What are the designers planning along this line?

Igor Sikorsky, who is among the great designers of aircraft, said in a speech before 600 engineers in the Engineering Societies' Auditorium, N.Y.C., on December 4, 1936, that the Atlantic will be flown regularly, before 1950, by flying boats weighing 1,000,000 pounds and carrying 1,000 passengers. The next five years, he said, would see ships, either in construction or in use, weighing around 200,000 pounds, gross weight. The same authority said it was likely the ultimate speed limit, for practical purposes, would be "200 miles an hour for flying boats and 250 miles an hour for land planes."

It's only in recent years that engineers, chemists and physicists won the right to outline seemingly impossible tasks for early execution without having to endure the ridicule

of small-minded critics who were unwilling to see the great things science is tackling. As an illustration, which I can select among thousands, let me refer to an editorial which appeared nearly 80 years ago, in the *Ladies' Home Journal*, June, 1857, which ran this way:

"Some 10 years ago, an enthusiastic chemist tickled the fancy of the credulous by announcing the discovery of a process for converting grass into new milk without the aid of the time-honored good 'mooly cow,' but our staunch old friend the cow still keeps her place as an 'institution' without the slightest indication of a tendency to become obsolete.

"Recent intelligence from over the water states that a Frenchman has immortalized himself by a parallel discovery; and we now have silk from the mulberry leaf without the humiliating intervention of the disgusting worm! Well, we shall see! Nature keeps some of her secrets remarkably close; and we are yet inclined to think that she will reserve for some time to come the sole monopoly of both milk and silk making. When Chemistry gets this far, it will only be a short step to the secret of gold making. But the world is not quite ready for that."

Rayon, first discovered in Europe in 1884, was put on a commercial basis in this country in 1911, when we manufactured 363,000 pounds of a man-made fiber which is almost as good as the produce of the silkworm. In 1936, according to *Business Week*, we produced almost 1,000 times as much rayon as our plants turned out 25 years ago. Rayon is being produced in growing volume, topped only by cotton and wool. And that registers another triumph for chemical research. We've only begun. One of the pleasant things about the future of science is the fact that the dumb skeptics have been taught how to keep their mouths shut lest they show the world what monumental fools they are.

Research has become a vast industry. A study of the projects shows that the individual inventor is gradually giving way to organized research. By this I don't mean to say that individual invention is dead. By no means. There probably will always be individuals who will work by themselves to advance scientific

achievements. On this point—if I'm not wandering too far from the subject I started out to discuss—let me call attention to a valuable article that appeared in the November 21, 1936, issue of *Today*, which shows that the research laboratories of industrial corporations, in this country, "now account for at least 75 percent of useful inventions." That shows the trend—towards scientific teamwork and collaboration, instead of individual enterprise. The *Today* article continues its interesting discussion, which is summarized as follows:

"Few individual inventors could afford the laboratories, or in a lifetime acquire the technical knowledge necessary for today's industrial inventions. When the patent system was introduced 100 years ago almost every patent was basic. Now, the total number of patents granted exceeds 2,150,000, including 200,000 relating to the automobile. Most of the thousands of inventions turned out each year are improvements on something already invented. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the individual inventor to exploit his patent which is nothing but a 17-year license to start litigation for the protection of the monopoly. Modern industry could not exist were it not for systems of patent exchange among the various companies."

Scientific progress is becoming organized, but only for the purpose of satisfying the profit motive of the great industrial corporations. When society takes a hand and organizes production for use instead of profit, just try to imagine the contributions that science will be able to render the people. The thing simply staggers the imagination. The Soviet Union, as I showed in recent articles from authoritative sources, is demonstrating what can be done along this line of attack. That country, where scientists are put to work to serve the people instead of the private interests, is becoming one vast research laboratory. The future is bright indeed, provided, of course, that intelligence is permitted to motivate the situation and is able to keep the militarists and Fascists from using this great scientific engine to destroy the civilization it is intended to serve.

* * *

Is the average farm in the U.S. grow-

ing larger or smaller? Is the number of farms growing or declining?

Data compiled by the U.S. Census of Agriculture, for 1935, shows that the size of farms is declining, while the number of farms is increasing. The facts:

In 1930, the average farm in the U.S. contained 156.9 acres; in 1935, 154.8 acres.

In 1930, there were 6,288,648 farms; in 1935, 6,812,350, an increase of 8 percent.

At the beginning of 1936, nearly 20 percent of our farms were less than 20 acres in size. About 80 percent of our farms contained less than 175 acres. However, while one-fifth of the farms contained over 175 acres, these large farms embraced about two-thirds of the farm area. The following table explains this:

Percent of acreage	
1,254,283 farms under 20 acres ..	1.2
1,440,143 farms of 20-49 acres ...	4.5
1,444,007 farms of 50-99 acres ...	10.0
1,404,297 farms of 100-174 acres ...	18.0
1,259,620 farms with 175 acres or more	66.3

* * *

If the American people had more dollars to spend, what would they do with the money?

Fortune's quarterly survey, published in October, 1936, gave the results of an inquiry among thousands of Americans, who were asked: "If you had more income, what would you rather spend it for?" The answers were as follows:

Thrift: savings, insurance, debts	30.7%
Home: new home, improvements, furniture, rent	27.6
Luxuries: travel (mostly), automobiles	21.7
More abundant life: daily needs	14.7
Other	5.3

100.0%

* * *

How many shoe repair and shoe shine shops are there in the U.S., and how much business do they do? Also, some facts about beauty parlors. Barber shops. Undertaking establishments.

There are 60,903 shoe repair and shine shops, which last year took in \$108,784,000, placing this service business in third place numerically and fifth in the volume of revenue.

There are 17,096 funeral directors in this country, which, figured on the money they took in, are at the head of our small shopkeepers. In 1936 we had an increase of 35 percent over

the number of undertakers in 1933. The average "take" is \$165 per funeral service alone, everything else being extra.

The average annual income of our barber shops is \$1,800 per shop. Barber shops head the list of service establishments, in the matter of employment, and are second in gross income and wages. Beauty parlors come second with regard to the number of shops, and first in payrolls. Beauty shops do an average annual business

\$2,791 per establishment. The beauty parlor business is growing rapidly, increasing 45 percent between 1933 and 1936, with an increase of 46 percent in income.

* * *

I can hardly pick up a paper without reading something about the gas-mask business in Europe. Can you give me some figures about this new industry, costs, etc.?

In Europe, gas masks sell at from \$2 to \$20 each. England is making about 35,000,000 gas masks, which are intended for free distribution. The English government graduates 80 instructors in gas-mask manipulation each month and sends them out to educate the people in anti-gas practice.

The French municipal authorities are issuing building permits for new structures only on condition that each place shall include gas-proof rooms.

The governments of France, England, the Soviet Union, Germany, Italy and Poland have already provided all employes in public utilities—such as waterworks, light and power plants, transportation systems, munitions factories, telephone and telegraph exchanges—with gas masks and shelters that are proof against gas.

Everywhere in France, gas masks are sold in drugstores; in Czechoslovakia, in department stores; in England, by the concerns that make them; in Germany and Italy, by government departments.

Whenever Germany, Italy and other governments in Europe want to hike the military appropriations, they stage a series of mock gas attacks, which scare the populace out of their wits and make it easier to get the masses to tighten their belts so the military machine can get more money.

On August 5, 1936, *The New Re-*

public printed an article on gas protection in Europe, which showed that the efforts to "sell" the people on gas masks are meeting with some opposition, especially in England, where 46 towns and 26 trade councils declined to vote funds. Opposition to gas drills has developed among the masses in France. According to this article, the main arguments are as follows:

Adequate protection of entire population impossible, both for technical and financial reasons.

It is found that minimum equipment of individual would cost \$50. A good filter mask sells for \$12.50; adequate protection against mustard gas (which can enter the system through the skin as well as through the respiratory passages) \$70.

There is doubt about the efficacy of even the most up-to-date masks in view of constant improvement of poison gases.

* * *

Can you tell me something about the business side of the Chinese ricksha industry?

China Today, for October, 1936, contained an article about the ricksha coolies, from which I gathered the following facts: A ricksha costs, on the average, \$70, and as the coolies are too poor to buy them (only 3 percent own their own rickshas) they rent the vehicles from owners, who find this business lucrative. In Shanghai, the owners make a monthly profit of from \$22 to \$24 per ricksha, which means a yearly profit of 1,200 percent on the investment. In Shanghai a coolie has to pay 55c rental per 12-hour shift, which leaves only 59c per day as the average income for the puller. In Peiping, the pullers get only 38c per day; in smaller cities, 25c per day. Greater Shanghai has 68,000 public and 25,000 private rickshas. As each ricksha is hired to two pullers each 24 hours, there are something like 200,000 pullers in Greater Shanghai alone. The total number of pullers for all China is estimated at 800,000. It is claimed that the rickshas employ more men than any other industry in China.

* * *

Have you any facts dealing with the prevalence of heart disease?

Dr. E. A. Cameron, in *Hygeia*, writes that heart disease causes nearly one-third of all deaths in this country. During 1935, nearly 1,000 people in the U.S. died daily of heart

disease. The year 1935 had about three times as many deaths from heart disease as in 1930, with men victims outnumbering the women by about three to one. Dr. Cameron adds:

"Increase in deaths due to heart disease since 1910 has been 75 percent. Main cause is hypertension brought about by strain of modern life. U.S. Public Health Service states that twice as many deaths whose basic cause was hypertension, occurred in 1934 as in 1932."

* * *

It is claimed that the radio does serious harm to composers of popular music. Have you any information dealing with this subject?

The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers has issued a report of a survey which shows that the radio hurts popular hits. The findings are summarized as follows:

"Rapid destruction of popular music is reflected in the fact that the popular songs of 1934 depreciated 80 percent in the second year of their life, as against only 19 percent in the second year of classical or standard works. During 1934, 87 leading popular songs were broadcast 1,255,669 times by the two major networks; these same songs received only 252,025 performances in 1935.

"Early in the century, the composer and author produced two or three big songs in a year which carried through several years. Today, these writers must create eight or 10 hit songs each year, and even then they do not earn as much as their predecessors. Their songs are rendered stale by repetition."

* * *

Did the depression put much of a crimp in the incomes of the big headlines—people like Jack Dempsey, Eddie Cantor, Mae West, and their kind?

The depression has had little or no effect on the "takes" of our big-shots. Today, in its issue of September 19, 1936, gave the current earnings of a list of celebrities, some of which follow:

Jack Dempsey, total income	\$200,000 a year
Major Edward Bowes, on radio alone	25,000 a week
Fred Waring, orchestra leader	13,500 a week
Eddie Cantor, radio alone	10,000 a week
Fred Allen, radio alone	6,500 a week

Amos 'n Andy made for a long time	100,000 a year
Lawrence Tibbett, radio alone	4,000 a week
Lanny Ross, radio alone	3,500 a week
Grace Moore, radio alone	3,000 a week
Fred Astaire, radio alone	4,000 a week
Greta Garbo, film income	9,000 a week
Mac West	300,000 a pict.
Jerome Dean, St. Louis pitcher	20,000 a year
Arthur Brisbane	260,000 a year
James J. Braddock, heavyweight champion	150,000 a year
Bill Counselman, comic strip artist	100,000 a year

An examination of the foregoing table shows that the people are ready to pay their entertainers handsomely, as ever in the past, and as they will always be in the future. We'll grumble over a nickel for a pork chop, or three cents for an egg, or a dime for ready-sliced bread, but we never regret the big money it costs to be amused or entertained. And this doesn't apply only to the U.S.—it's true everywhere, even in the Soviet Union.

I remember reading about the "richest man in Russia" recently—a real millionaire—and I found that he was some chap who had written what struck the Russian theatergoers as a screamingly funny farce. I forget the dramatist's name, and I can't recall the title of his smash hit, but the fact remains with me that he was drawing down something like 6 percent of the box-office receipts whenever and wherever his play was produced in the vast domain of the Soviets. He made his millions of rubles legally, and paid his heavy income tax, so Stalin and the other powerful figures who were getting along on modest salaries just had to "take it." They merely told him to live "inconspicuously" to keep his savings in the State Banks, so they can be used by the government, and to buy a reasonable number of State bonds.

Yes, entertainers get theirs, even when the people of capitalistic countries are scraping the bottom or when the comrades in a communistic country have done away with the profit motive.

* * *

How'd you like Ring Crosby in "Pen-nies from Heaven"?

I was bored stiff, and when the tedious, slow-gaited, flatulent, unfunny.

hammy, storyless monstrosity ended, I found the entire lower half of my body paralyzed, requiring the help of three pretty usherettes and a half-pint of whisky to bring me back to consciousness. Another abortion like that and Bing Crosby will be through.

* * *

Being a foreigner, every time I discuss conditions in this country of my adoption I am met with the cry: "Go back where you came from!" Please give your opinion.

I've heard people say that a thousand times and always wince when I feel the harsh impact of the words. Being a native American, I don't hear the insulting remark applied to my own criticisms, but I often meet angry, unthinking fellow-citizens who use the words against aliens who make the slightest criticism of social or other conditions in our land.

If an alien is in this country with a view to furthering the propagandistic aims of a foreign government, he should be shipped out as soon as his behavior is detected. But such individuals are few in number. The average alien has a right to criticize the form of government in a country of which he is not a citizen, provided his motives are honest—that is to say, he isn't serving as a tool of outside influence—and his aims are entirely constructive. The Constitution doesn't say that only American citizens are to enjoy the right of free speech. A foreigner has as much right to discuss political and other public questions as a citizen whose ancestors came over in the Mayflower, provided he doesn't participate in any illegal action of a conspiratorial nature, make appeals to violence, and the like.

Many foreigners will make ideal American citizens once they are naturalized, even though they criticize institutions that displease them on grounds of public policy. A foreigner may say he dislikes American Capitalism, but that doesn't make him a bad man, for it's obvious that he is equally ready to criticize the capitalistic regimes in other countries, including the one he came from.

Our patriots must learn that it's only an accident they were born in this country. They exercised no particular intelligence or virtue in being born here, since they weren't

consulted. It just happened that papa had a peculiar glint in his eye one Saturday night, and everything that came later—including the patriot—was an accident. Besides, our patriot should remember that the Founding Fathers refused to shut their eyes to social evils. The great leaders actually started a revolution to back up their bill of complaints. Undoubtedly there were many Tories in this country who, when they heard Washington, Paine, Jefferson, Franklin, and other patriots, complain about conditions in the colonies, shouted: "Go back where you came from!"

* * *

Please comment on "Born to Dance."

That was excellent, fast-moving entertainment that put new life in these creaking bones. Eleanor Powell's work was sensational, though I'm never hot for tap-dancing. I can stand a little tap-dancing while in a night club, at a vaudeville show, or a popular movie, but even the best kind of tapping never satisfies my craving for good dancing.

Bill Robinson, Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell are clever at this popular "art" form, but the only one of the three who arouses my genuine enthusiasm is Fred Astaire, not because of his smart tapping but because he can do delightful, beautiful ballroom and ballet dancing. Eleanor Powell's dancing is sensational, even breath-taking, but she never achieves beauty.

Mere stuntiness gets pretty tiresome, but that doesn't dismiss Miss Powell, by any means. That woman has astonishing sex appeal, and a hot figure that puts a man to thinking about forbidden things. I'm reminded of a remark made by Ted Shawn when he once discussed tap-dancing, a form of expression that he properly looks down on. He said if the music were stopped suddenly and the dancer were to continue tapping, one would get the impression that a person was going through a rather violent fit of St. Vitus' Dance. But, even Ted Shawn admitted that once in a while, just for the sake of amusement, a good tap-dancer can put on a pleasing show.

The others in *Born to Dance* were mostly good, especially that goofy fellow who burlesqued the conductors of symphony orchestras. I don't re-

call ever having seen three or four minutes of crazier cavortings than that exaggerated Toscanini-Stokowski-Creatore-like maniac went through. It alone made the picture worth while.

Another funny scene was when half the U.S. Navy dove into the Atlantic Ocean to rescue Virginia Bruce's pooch.

In all, a funny, satisfying piece.

* * *

Did you care for "Three Men on a Horse"?

I enjoyed that show when I saw it on the stage, and I liked it equally well as a movie. The thing's a gem. The lines are really funny, the characterizations are brilliant, the direction is lively, the story is clever. It seemed to me the best work was done by that tiny gambler, Frankie. Next came Patsy, the leader of the three admirers of man's best friend. Frank McHugh made a dandy "Oi-vin," and the rest of the cast, especially Kennedy as the bartender and Joan Blondell as the small-time gambler's floozy, were good. I recommend *Three Men on a Horse* to all lovers of delightful nonsense. It's one movie in a thousand.

* * *

Recently I heard someone quote a neat little jingle about a Mary Somebody who lived and died a virgin. Can you give me the exact lines?

The nasty, disgusting, obscene, filthy, pornographic, Rabelaisian, offensive, uncouth, coarse and vulgar piece you ask about goes this way:

Here lies the body of Mary Jane
A prey to fear and terrors.

A virgin born, and virgin died—

No hits; no runs; no errors.

* * *

How is the federal government dealing with patent medicine frauds?

Two government departments handle such matters, the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Commission. In addition, the postoffice takes a hand through the issuance of fraud orders, in some cases.

In a release dated November 7, 1936, the Food and Drug Administration reports that "cures" for "cancer, tuberculosis and diabetes, as well as for pneumonia, influenza, gallstones, rheumatism and venereal diseases are continuously offered on the labels of

medicines that have no value whatever in the treatment of these conditions. As to the first three diseases, medical authorities do not recognize any cure and medicine so offered is considered fraud. Yet, during the last fiscal year 21 preparations so misbranded were found within the jurisdiction of the Food and Drugs Act."

In the field of staple drugs, the administration examined 399 manufacturers and found that 91 percent conformed to the official standards of strength and purity.

* * *

Wouldn't old people live longer if they had something to do?

Dr. W. A. McKeever, Oklahoma City, Okla., has been running a school for men and women over 70, with almost 1,000 enrollments. The "pupils," who pay nothing for the service, are taught lessons in diet, it being found that an alkaline diet—mainly fruits and vegetables—helps materially in the process of psychophysical regeneration. *The Magazine Digest*, November, 1936, describes Dr. McKeever's interesting experiment in giving classroom instruction, entertainment, social intercourse and opportunities to escape the evils of loneliness, lack of activity and employment, bad diet, and cultural starvation. It was found that this work resulted in a drop in the mortality rate to below normal among members who have availed themselves of Dr. McKeever's facilities for practical activities and the exercise of hobbies.

The gradual development of ample old-age pensions should make it possible to expand such work among the superannuated, or rather among those who, though unable to compete with the young people, are still able to do things of value either to society or themselves. Two systems of old-age pensions are now in force in this country, each embracing over 20,000,000 employed men and women. A summary of both plans appeared in the *U.S. News*, November 23, 1936, page 1, as follows:

"Federal plan, effective Jan. 1, 1937. A system of forced saving, supported by payroll taxes (1 percent paid both by employer and worker in first three years, the levy increasing in three-year periods to 3 percent). Funds collected are held by the government at interest; no

payments to individuals are scheduled before 1942 when small benefits will be available to workers who reach 65 and give up their jobs.

"State plan, now accepted by 40 States. A system of doles; in it, the federal government agrees to match State funds, up to \$15 for each individual, to provide pensions for aged persons who lack an income sufficient to support themselves. Pensions are available to any needy individual above an age set by the State. Maximum pension for single persons is \$30 a month. This system is designed to care for those not covered by the new annuity system: 11,000,000 agricultural workers, 5,500,000 self-employed and professional workers, 2,500,000 domestic and personal employes, 1,000,000 government employes, 1,000,000 seamen, casual workers, etc."

* * *

I believe in higher education, but it seems to me that it would be better if our educational institutions recognized frankly that many people are taking courses in engineering, law, medicine, chemistry, teaching, etc., who will never work in those fields. Wouldn't it be better for all concerned if schools accepted conditions as they are, trying to teach efficient methods of running filling stations, groceries, retail shops, beauty parlors, etc.?

Some steps have already been taken to cover the activity suggested by the foregoing question. The Federal Office of Education, in a report, emphasized the fact that the country has real need of commercial education along practical lines. In June, 1936, Congress appropriated \$10,000,000 in order to promote commercial education in this country.

On this point it is interesting to study what is being done by the Central School of Business and Arts, connected with the public school system of New York City. According to a bulletin, this school opened a sales laboratory in order to give actual experience to students who would be trained in operating small retail stores. This laboratory opened a small store, and since May, 1936, has been doing business at the rate of \$20,000 per year. It started as a haberdashery, then switched to stationery, and is now (December) running the establishment as a gift shop for the Christmas trade. The school's 8,000 pupils are invited to make purchases at the store.

The work was first financed by city,

State and WPA funds, but this help was soon withdrawn when it was found that the store was paying its way. This sales laboratory has an enrollment of 150 high-school pupils and 32 adults, who are receiving practical instruction in the art and science of running a small retail establishment.

* * *

Is there any truth in the old saying that a fool can ask questions that a wise man can't answer?

It's a mistake to assume that fools can ask questions. Fools can ask silly questions, or crazy questions, or questions that betray their ignorance, but it takes wisdom to ask a question of a wise man. The saying would be much more appropriate if it were worded something like this: A wise man can answer certain questions that a fool can't even ask.

Cassius Jackson Keyser, whose article in the April, 1936, *Scripta Mathematica* suggested this line of thought, gives a list of pseudo-questions, one of which goes this way: "Who made the maker of all things?"

Such a question could be asked only by a fool. The questioner assumes that all things had a maker. That implies there was a time when matter didn't exist, which is an assumption. Before one could ask such a question one would have to prove logically that there was a time when the materials of the universe didn't exist, which would be quite a job. However, there is a hint of more sensible things in this question, and it could be worded something like the following manner:

"If we are asked to accept the assumption that every effect has a cause, thus going back to a first cause, we are faced with the fact that a first condition exists which isn't the effect of any cause, and is therefore a causeless effect. This is untenable. Is it logical to assume that what is referred to as the infinite can act on nothing to produce the finite?"

Such questions can't be asked by a fool, because they imply knowledge and understanding.

* * *

Please comment on the remark Mussolini made after the Ethiopian invasion, to the effect that he was "satisfied."

One shouldn't take that remark as a valid reason for concluding that

Mussolini's imperialism was satisfied with Ethiopia's fall. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, in his valuable little volume, *We or They: Two Worlds in Conflict*, refers to Mussolini's feeling of "satisfaction," as follows: "So is the boa constrictor when it has just swallowed a calf. The intermission is only digressive."

There's no limit to a dictator's appetite. Before Mussolini had even succeeded in swallowing all of Ethiopia, he was in up to his chin in the Spanish Civil War, for that section looked like a promising hunting ground. Our Hitlers and Mussolinis are constant threats against peace and civilization.

The world will never be able to begin work on its temple of peace until its last dictator is brought down in impotent defeat.

* * *

Was it a fact that Bob Ingersoll said on his deathbed, when his wife asked him how she should bring up her children, that he hoped she "wouldn't bring them up as I have been but bring them up the Christian way"?

Poor Ingersoll has had more lies told about him—especially his deathbed—than any man in American history, not excluding even Thomas Paine. I've already answered several other Ingersoll "death-bedtime stories" which refuse to die a natural death after being exposed again and again.

The first proof that Ingersoll never made the foregoing statement on his deathbed is because Ingersoll had no deathbed, for he died suddenly of a heart attack. If he begged Mrs. Ingersoll to bring up the children "the Christian way," his wishes weren't carried out, for the Ingersoll family has been true to the great Agnostic's ideas. One of his daughters, who died only a few years ago, used to write me regularly about my editorial work, letting me know again and again that she approved of the educational efforts Jos. McCabe and I were expending in an attempt to teach the masses the awful truths about religion.

It seems that those who would mis-educate us into "the Christian way" have never learned to rest their case on the truth, which would indicate that those who would "save" us are themselves in need of "salvation."

Our religious fanatics will never forgive Ingersoll's great work for intellectual emancipation. He took up the fight when America was almost solidly Fundamentalist, and look what's happened since then. Religion has been growing weaker and weaker each year as the people have been growing more intelligent and educated. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the great liberator, who, with Thomas Paine, helped millions to learn that "the Christian way" is the reactionary, superstitious, medieval, uncivilized way.

And while I'm on this subject let me give a little attention to a Missouri high-school student, who tells me his science teacher says that religion and science do not conflict. My student-friend should suggest to his teacher that he read several books on this subject before giving expressions to such pish-posh, especially Draper's *History of the Conflict Between Science and Religion*, and White's famous book on the same theme. Space doesn't permit me to give much attention to this subject, especially since I have written about it so many times during the past 20 years. But let me comment on just one point.

Religion approaches the questions of life, death, Immortality, God, etc., on the basis of "authority." That is to say, religion claims such and such a thing about Theism must be true because someone, or some sacred book, said so. That's a form of intellectual Fascism, if I may be permitted to apply a new name to an old evil. On the other hand, science rests its claims on experiments, experience, observation and verifiable evidence. The two—science and religion—are therefore totally dissimilar in their methods of achieving truth. Science is on the right road, while religion's method defies logic and reason. Since there can be no accord between methods that are diametrically opposed, the methods of science are certainly in conflict with the methods of religion.

And, before I drop this subject, let me add a few more thoughts. Several clippings have been sent to me which reported a sermon delivered by Bishop Ernest M. Stires, of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, in which it was claimed that "the great

scientists of the world are today more humble and reverent than ever before." That's an interesting statement, but there's one serious flaw about it—it's simply untrue.

When Darwin's superstition-shattering theories were being considered by the annual conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science—at which Prof. Huxley did the public fighting for Darwin, the great scientist himself being unwilling to indulge in public controversy—it was found that 95 percent of the members were not only religious but actually believed in the Creation theory as expounded in Genesis. And that, my dear priests, preachers and rabbis, was less than 75 years ago. The almost unanimous opinion of the world's most distinguished physicists, chemists, biologists, anthropologists, botanists, geologists, and other important figures in the world of science, was against the theory of evolution because it struck at the notion that the world was "made" and that Adam was put in the Garden of Eden, along with Eve, and told to beget and beget, without touching the tree of knowledge. And because they tried to do what they were told, the Lawd got mad and put them on the official blacklist. That was scientific opinion! And Huxley had to fight to get his and Darwin's ideas even considered.

Since then there has been a vast intellectual revolution. I have given numerous facts and figures in previous articles, all of which are available in my books of questions and answers, which prove definitely that today the almost unanimous view of the distinguished men of science is definitely against the dogmas of religion, and, what's even more important, definitely and irrevocably atheistic, rejecting as they do the fundamental ideas of God, Immortality, and similar notions. Of course, here and there one hears an eccentric voice in favor of religious ideas. Out of thousands of famous and brilliant scientists it's possible to bring up about a half dozen men—such as Millikan, Eddington, Compton, and Carrel—who manage to forget their scientific training long enough to expound religious ideas long rejected by the educated portion of the population. While these supporters of

theistic ideas are able men in their own fields of knowledge, in the sphere of religious thinking they accept without debate the dictums of men who reached their conclusions through unscientific means. Scientific leaders in general look on such theistic believers as being eccentric.

* * *

Which ice cream flavor does the public prefer?

Robert C. Hibben, Washington, D. C., executive secretary of the International Association of Ice Cream Manufacturers, reports that vanilla is the favorite flavor everywhere, 40 percent of ice cream sales in the U.S. being of that flavor. After vanilla, says Mr. Hibben, the different sections of the country have varied flavor preferences. They run this way:

In Boston it's coffee ice cream.

In Washington, D.C., it's butter-pecan.

Chicago—chocolate.

Atlanta—butter crunch.

Philadelphia—strawberry.

Pittsburg—raspberry in season.

Kansas City—chocolate.

San Francisco—maple-nut.

New York—coffee.

New Orleans—chocolate.

Richmond, Va.—peach in season.

Baltimore—coffee.

Charleston, S.C.—peach in season.

Huntington, W. Va.—maple-nut.

* * *

In a speech to Catholics in Detroit, in December, 1936, Bishop Gallagher said: "If we don't look out, the Communists may seize the city and start a red terror. We are not exactly sitting on a volcano, but we are in danger within three or four years. It behooves us to get busy." Please comment.

Bishop Gallagher is merely following the "line" that has been worked out as international policy for the Catholic-Fascists. The most important plank in the Catholic-Fascist platform is to build up an enemy to scare the world into accepting the "protection" of the Church, Franco, Mussolini and the other mass-murderers.

For Bishop Gallagher to try to frighten the people of Detroit into an orgy of red-baiting is to betray a cynical attitude in the matter of the public's intelligence. I refuse to believe that even the Detroit followers of the Church are as gullible as Gallagher would have us believe. Surely, the Catholic masses—however ignor-

ant they may be—must know that the Communists in Michigan received less than 4,000 votes out of almost 2,000,000, which would indicate that instead of being a “danger,” Communism is nothing more than a mouse-squeak.

As I’ve written many times, Communism is strong in only one place in the world—in Russia. Everywhere else, Communism is a joke. And, if I may repeat myself once more—though here I’m afraid I’m beginning to tire my readers—Communism at its strongest moment in Germany, before Hitler stole power, had only 15 percent of the total vote. Today, in the U.S., we have 80,096 Communist voters out of 45,814,377—and yet our red-baiters, who want to advance Fascism, have the nerve to talk about an impending “red terror”—not today, but maybe three or four years hence.

The Catholic Church’s policy is very clear. It wants the people “to get busy,” as Bishop Gallagher says, not to fight Communism but to destroy democracy in order to give Catholic-Fascism command of the world.

Wherever Catholic-Fascism gains control, the people are made to accept a black terror. Think of the murderous rule of Mussolini in Italy and his ruthless destruction of 250,000 helpless Ethiopians—all blessed by the priests. Think of the Catholic-Fascist reign of terror in Spain, where the Catholic-Fascist tool, Franco, has already murdered more than 300,000 unarmed, helpless civilians because they believed in democratic civilization. Think of the Catholic-Fascist bombardment of the apartments belonging to Austrian Socialists only a few years ago. What the world has to fear is a black terror, not a red terror. The red terror is a red herring; the black terror is real.

* * *

What’s your opinion of Alka-Seltzer?

The company that is selling this patent medicine does a great deal of radio, newspaper and magazine advertising, and keeps pounding its slogan, “Alkalize with Alka-Seltzer.” When the soda-jerker—who is supposed to be able to diagnose and treat ailments like headaches, constipation, colds, sour stomach, gas in stomach, heartburn, flatulency, fatigue and

rheumatic fever—fixes up a dose for a customer, he merely throws a tablet into water, lets the concoction fizz noisily for a few seconds and hands over what the company offers as a “cure.” The Bureau of Investigation of the American Medical Association has studied Alka-Seltzer in its laboratories and reports a tablet contains five grains of aspirin, $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of salicylic acid, and some citric acid and baking soda. This means that all you are doing when you pay a higher price for a dose of Alka-Seltzer is to take an ordinary aspirin and something to make the mess fizz. The fizz cures nothing, of course, while the aspirin can be taken, under certain conditions, by the average person for about a half cent per tablet, or even less. Medical authorities question seriously the statements and claims made for Alka-Seltzer, especially the much-advertised sentence that reads “The real reason for many of our everyday ailments is too little alkali in our systems, etc.” The whole build-up is dismissed by competent experts as so much advertising ballyhoo. Aspirin, under certain circumstances, is a valuable drug, if properly administered, but when it’s dressed up and called Alka-Seltzer, it’s just another patent medicine racket.

* * *

Please give us the final, official returns from the Presidential election.

The official vote for every State is 45,814,377, a record. Roosevelt’s plurality was 11,069,785, another record-breaker. The totals:

Candidate	Vote
Roosevelt	27,752,809
Landon	16,682,524
Others	1,379,565
Lemke (Union)	892,793
Thomas (Socialist)	187,342
Browder (Communist)	80,096
Colvin (Prohibition)	37,609
Alken (Social-Labor)	12,793
Scattering and void	168,911

* * *

What is a morganatic marriage?

It is defined by *Webster’s New International Dictionary* as follows:

“A form of marriage which members of various royal families in Europe and certain nobility formerly belonging to reigning families may contract with persons of inferior rank, and wherein the wife, if inferior, does not acquire the husband’s rank and the children do

not succeed to the titles, fiefs or entailed property of the parent, whether father or mother of higher rank. It is sometimes called a 'left-handed marriage' because the left hand is often given in the ceremony. A morganatic marriage is a valid marriage, and, while existing, precludes any other; the children of it are legitimate."

* * *

Which is the larger city, London or New York?

The above question was asked of *The Kansas City Star*, which answered by referring to the *World Almanac's* listing of the population of Greater New York, as of 1930, as 7,986,368, and the population of London, as of 1921, as 8,202,818.

* * *

Do all the tires on a car wear evenly?

R. A. Moyer, a highway engineer connected with Iowa State college, Ames, Iowa, made a study of the question of tire wear and found that the right rear tire gets the most wear—"almost three times as much wear as the left front tire." This engineer suggests that owners of motor cars "switch their tires diagonally every 3,000 or 5,000 miles to assure uniform tread wear."

* * *

How much is Hitler spending yearly on his war preparations?

I have given considerable space to Hitler's frantic rearming of Germany. Instead of restating what I've already said, I prefer to quote a paragraph from one of Winston Churchill's speeches. This conservative British statesman said:

"When I know that Germany is spending much more than \$4,000,000,000 in war-like preparations in the course of a single year, that she is ruining her finances and depriving the German people of pork, butter and other food stuffs in order to turn the whole nation into the most prodigious and terrible fighting engine the world has ever seen, I cannot help asking, 'For what is this terrible preparation made and what awful event hangs over the future of Europe?'"

The world is being compelled to recognize Hitler's mad militarism, with the result that countries that don't want war—like France, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, and a number of others—are bending energies that could be used

for peaceful, constructive ends to the gigantic task of building up armaments capable of meeting Hitler's offensive designs. War will come, when Hitler feels he is ready, unless he is convinced that the nations against which he plans to hurl his engines of destruction are stronger than the Nazi degenerate. Even then he is capable of risking everything, on the blind chance of catching other nations off their guard. I don't see what any country can do, in the face of such a situation, except to hurry up and build tanks, bombers, warships, submarines, and the other weapons that can be relied on to meet Hitler's onslaughts. If the test of arms finally comes, it will be terrible beyond words, for we have seen what Fascist dictators are capable of when they put on their dress rehearsals in Ethiopia and Spain.

The duty of civilization, as put by Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British Trade Union Congress, is to prepare for the end of Hitlerism. His words follow:

"German Youth will be infected with the poison of Nazi race-theory, disciplined by the Nazi tyranny and mentally crippled by Nazi 'education'—ready to be driven by his rulers to the shambles. In common humanity, we, who are free, must help to release our fellow-humans from their slavery. The Nazi regime must go!"

The military power of the Nazi regime will be crushed only by the greater strength of the democratic powers. Meanwhile, what can we, as anti-Fascist individuals, do to help hurry the day of Hitler's collapse? We can join in the world-wide boycott against Nazi Germany. On this point, I find food for thought in the following words of Samuel Untermyer, President, World Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi Council to Champion Human Rights:

"The main object of civilization just now should be, not to build up the Hitler regime, but to destroy it, so far as that is possible within the rules of international law; and the way to break that power peacefully is through economic sanctions, of which the boycott is the most powerful."

As we wait for Hitler's terrible day of destruction, let all lovers of freedom, democracy, tolerance and

peace stand together and boycott Nazi Germany.

"Don't spend a dollar on German goods or services."

"Don't mail, ship or travel on German vessels."

It's our duty to support this boycott because "Nazi Germany represents the biggest threat to civilization and the peace of the world." Remember, if any of your money gets to Germany, it will inevitably be turned into bullets to kill decent humanity.

Nazism isn't to be limited to Germany. Hitler is spending millions of dollars in all democratic countries—especially in the U.S.—to spread his propaganda of religious persecution, anti-Semitism, annihilation of democracy, and Fascist war. Fascism wants to rule the entire world, and such rule can mean only one thing—the death of civilization. This point is well expressed in another statement by Samuel Untermyer, from which I quote the following pregnant words:

"Let us not forget that in Germany a heartless reactionary government is rearming itself to the teeth, is inculcating its people with a philosophy of hate, is imbuing its youth with the glories of militarism and war. If you cherish peace, if you cherish humanity, if you are concerned about liberty and democracy, then you will recognize the impending danger coming from Nazi Germany, the threat of a bloody, ghastly destructive world war."

"No other interpretation can be given to the Nazi party conference held in Nuremberg. Its military display of a rearmed Germany, its anti-Semitic proclamations, the Jew-baiting speeches of the Nazi leaders from Hitler down, . . . its glorification of militarism, its demand for vast territories in Europe, Asia and Africa are proof that Germany is ready to plunge the whole world into war."

"We must arouse the civilized people of the world against Hitler's attempt to drown the world in blood."

"The Nazis are not satisfied with what they have done to Germany. They are actively spreading their propaganda in all countries, including our own, the United States. The danger cannot be overestimated. Their agents are everywhere working day and night in an attempt

to poison the minds of the American people. The country is flooded with millions of dollars worth of Nazi and anti-Semitic propaganda. Many notorious and reactionary organizations have been formed through Nazi influence and financial support for the express purpose of undermining our democracy, our free institutions and replacing them with a dictatorship of the Nazi type."

* * *

Is it true that the Nazis have worked out a biological test that absolutely establishes the fact whether one is a Jew or not?

The fanatical Hitlerites sometimes resort to a crazy "test," and its net result is only to give just one more proof of Nazi insanity. The ridiculous notion has it that a human hair, when applied to fire, will curl only when the person to whom it belonged is a "non-Aryan."

This great biological "discovery" could be settled very easily by putting a match to a hair from Hitler, Goebbels or Goering.

I'm reminded of the existence of "Confederate biology," before the Civil War, when millions of fanatics in the South actually believed that the Negro is physically different from the white man in that he has an extra layer of skull. It never dawned on these bigots to take a look at a Negro's skull. They wanted to believe their nonsense, so they went on repeating it. And that's the way our Nazis react to this new "scientific" method for discovering a hidden Jew.

It's getting so that only insane, screwy reports come out of Germany, as though the rulers were determined to prove to the world that they are capable of any kind of idiocy. One day they destroy Mendelssohn's statue, the next they burn Heine's immortal books, then they deprive a great novelist like Thomas Mann of his citizenship, then they decide to outlaw all art critics, then they take serious measures to see that all bulls are strictly "Aryan" before impregnating some strictly German cows, then the discovery is announced that 98 percent of all Russian Bolsheviks are Jews, then we are informed that Jesus was a Nordic blond, then people are warned they will be beheaded if they try to send even 10 marks out of the country, then the world is warned against taking the Wasser-

mann test for syphilis because this is only a scheme whereby Jews get gentle blood for ritual purposes, then Roosevelt is charged with being a Mr. Rosenfeld in disguise, and so on, without end. It used to be amusing to keep tab on these inanities, but years of the sport has made the game pretty tiresome, so that the Hitlerites are able to let loose with any new stupidity and cause hardly a ripple.

* * *

When Joe Louis knocked out Eddie Simms, on December 14, 1936, in 26 seconds, didn't he make a record?

Jack Dempsey knocked out Fred Fulton, in 1918, in 21 seconds.

* * *

At a Y.M.C.A. gathering I once heard a preacher's son recite a ribald piece of foolishness entitled "The Son of the Beach," which I wish you would pass on to your pious, righteous, clean-minded readers.

The "poem" (author unknown) gallops along like this:

'Twas on a dark and stormy night,
The waves dashed high and wild.
A band of sailors bowed their heads
For the sake of an unborn child.
They lashed the mother to a mast
And cast her to her doom.
A child was born on the sands that night,
But the waves were the mother's tomb.
Long years have passed, the child has grown,

A lifesaver bold is he.
And as he walks along the sands,
He sings this song of the sea:
"I'm a son of the beach, I'm a son of
the beach,
A son of the beach am I.
Born on a dark and stormy night
When the waves dashed wild and high.
I'm a son of the beach, I'm a son of
the beach,
A son of the beach, am I."

* * *

I agree with you when you go into raptures over science, but I believe it's amusing to watch the goofy things done

by science's lunatic fringe. Please list some choice nuttichisms.

Gerhard A. Ellestad, patent attorney, Rochester, N.Y., makes a hobby of collecting goofy inventions. Here are only a few of the freakish inventions that nutty inventors wanted to patent:

"Coffin with bell to be rung by a corpse who comes to life. A ladder is also provided in case the corpse should regain enough energy to climb out under his own power.

"A washing machine to be filled with soapy water and soiled clothes and attached to the running board of an automobile. The car is then to be driven over rough roads while the agitation washes the clothes.

"Shaving device consisting of a sandpaper-covered cylinder which is rolled vigorously over the face to wear away the whiskers.

"Suspenders from which may be unraveled a long, fireproof string when the user is trapped in a burning building. He lowers the string through a window. Another person waiting on the ground is supposed to attach a rope to the string."

* * *

Do you think it would be a good idea to offer cafes the service of printing menus on one side of the bill of fare and the latest news on the other side?

Many Paris restaurants have been doing this for I don't know how long. I understand about 5,000 menus are printed that way each day—the news summary being long enough to keep the diner interested while waiting for his victuals—and the way the business keeps going month after month must show that it's financially sound. It seems to me the scheme could be made to work only in very large communities. Maybe the promoter could get a newspaper to sponsor the idea.

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