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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1936

Congratulations!

The City Council is to be congratulated upon having taken immediate steps to secure the necessary acreage for another reservoir at the water plant. For completion of this project will prevent in all probability any future water shortage here even in drouth years such as 1930 and 1936.

The Mercury is sure that the people of this community are willing to contribute, in reasonably increased water rates, whatever is necessary to aid in financing this improvement.

There will be some criticism, of course; there will be some "knockers," as always. But remembering the folk who said the taxpayers' money was being "wasted in a frog pond," when the present water works reservoir was built, and their rapid conversion, when water began to flow through the mains, such criticism may be regarded as usual and scarcely worth consideration.

Two reservoirs and no more restrictions on the use of water is what the majority of Carlisle people want. The City Council, very wisely, is taking steps to see that this is done as quickly as is humanly possible.

Naive Audacity.

The arch-Republican New York Herald-Tribune reaches the conclusion, in a recent editorial, that the New Deal is not so bad although, the evil lies in the method of putting it into effect—used by the man who originated it.

"With many of the objectives of the New Deal there has been and still is much sympathy," says the Herald-Tribune, "but with the personal and arbitrary nature of Mr. Roosevelt's maladministration there is less and less sympathy. As has so often happened in history when a reform party has been in power, it becomes the task of a more moderate government to administer more wisely and effectively the measures which the reformers too hurriedly introduced and ineffectively tried to apply."

So the Tribune admits that Mr. Roosevelt's administration has been a reform administration! Whether you are among the leading definitions of the verb "to restore to a former good state, to bring from bad to good, to change from worse to better; to induce or cause to abandon an evil manner of living and follow a good one." Certainly it is not difficult to agree with the Herald-Tribune that Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration is a "reform" administration, when the word is thus defined.

Since Mr. Roosevelt took charge and almost overnight restored hope to a country paralyzed with fear and brought dangerously near to economic chaos by the ineptitude of the Hoover regime, we have been steadily changing from worse to better and are rapidly being restored to a former good state. That fact every reasonable man must admit and now the Ogden-Mills-owned Herald-Tribune admits it. It, unintentionally no doubt, in order to point the moral of its editorial screed to the effect that "in the present world crisis the American people would have much greater confidence in an administration which combines the wisdom and experience of all groups."

There is a familiar ring about that "wisdom and experience of all groups." In 1928 and later we seem to remember that it was "the best minds" that were to be called in to abolish poverty and put a chicken in every pot, two cars in every garage. But under whatever name this group may be masquerade, it is the same old gang of the unmercifully rich and their farming satellites—the Liberty Leaguers de Ponts, the Ogden Mills and their ilk. Again they hunger for the flesh-pots of political preferment and have the audacity to "say the American people "The New Deal is not so bad after all; the man who saved your homes and your farms and your bank deposits and set the feet of the Nation on the road to recovery—the man who appointed Jim McConnaughey to the job—is a dictator." That's the name—when Mr. Roosevelt has a bit too much self-confidence to do as they would have him do, when he refuses to go forwards along the backslidden path, when he refuses to follow the night-blooming seress through the dark and dismal swamps, tying with jackstraws and "Old Maid," was the sedate enjoyment of looking through the lenses of a hooded instrument at pictures of the Grand Canyon and The Crucifixion and John L. Sullivan, the latter if you remember, was a jut dictfish or sportively inclined.

We remember looking through one of these shadow boxes at the home of Mr. Roosevelt's father and the "Manser" and the "Wise Men," the latter being somewhat generous stretch of the imagination, were almost a whiff of heavy perfume from the waxen depths of the night-blooming cereus. Our eyes were crossed or not or something, after looking through one of those things; but it was a wonder, folks said, of a rapidly moving age for which Nancy Hanks set a dizzy pace now and there were dreamers who continued to talk of horseless carriages," despite the pitiful ridicule of Richard. At least it served, did this thinguma —stereoscope? that's the name—when Mary's little lamb was not playing hookey from school and the kids were fooling with the best minds, plus the wisdom-and-experience groups of today's New Deal Administration.

Such industry is typical of the Old Guard intelligence behind the candidacy of Mr. London. Even though the record of the Kansan's public life for the twelve years of their government of this country plunged mankind in chaos, still not always their supine conviction that "we are the people and all wisdom will die with us."

The Coolidge Fetich.

It is difficult to understand why a trumped-up myth of political foolishness so far removed from the actual accomplishments for which he made his principal claim to fame in the parlance of today, is yet being used as a political issue by the Republicans. Only a few days more at its own thinking, is surveyed less by the cold instinctive philosophers.

Mr. Calvin Coolidge—fortunate in his generation of office during four fat years—and little more—was the personification of prosperity. The Coolidge system being an era of fat profits by the stock market, so-called exploitation of the common people by which stock manipulators and financiers made their profits, resulting in the ills of the present day industry who had furnished the sinews of war for a continuation of the ascendency of "normalcy." It is but natural that these "big boys" of the ruthless individualistic groups have since looked upon the Coolidge reign as a golden era.

So it is no surprising that the present stalwart house of this group is more or less widely advertised as "the Kansas Coolidge." What effect this fetish-making of an ability to be close-mouthed will have on a generation that is rapidly becoming nonchalant regarding the political heroes of more than twelve years ending with Hoover is to be seen. A delight.

reaction, that of Heywood Broun, the famous columnist, may be typical. Writes Mr. Broun:

"As far as I can tell from Gov. Landon's speeches," remarks Heywood Broun, "the Chief Executive of the nation ought to be a man confined within a stockade, with a ball and chain at his ankle and supervised every second by armed guards. The Republican nominee is forever saying, 'In Kansas we did that' or 'In Kansas we did this.' I wonder why he is willing to swap a job in which he has a certain amount of power to hold a post which he seems to regard as about as vital as the head keeper of the Sultan's harem."

Why "They Hate Roosevelt."

Woodrow Wilson once said that no one could hate a man he knew. Head turned, he added, could be felt only for the unknown. If this be true, it is difficult to understand the gospel of hatred that has been spread over the land by President Roosevelt's opponents. Surely, the American people know him and his human qualities.

Discussing the psychology of those who proclaim that they "hate Roosevelt," the editor of the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times wrote recently that it is probably far from the truth to describe the character of the political assaults on President Roosevelt as expressions of "hatred." They are, in his opinion, rather expressions of resentment.

"It would be quite impossible for reasoning people," he wrote, "to 'hate' a man of President Roosevelt's kindly character and unquestionably high American and humanitarian ideals. But nothing could be more certain than that any such man in the White House, who would undertake to turn the tide of human humanitarian ideals into legislative and administrative policies, would incur the bitter resentment of all specially privileged interests and that is exactly what President Roosevelt has earned and is now being subjected to.

"Of course, no one 'hates' Franklin D. Roosevelt, but many persons high in business, financial and political realms are desperately resent his success in placing the country back on the road to economic recovery, in spite of them, that the effect upon them personally is not materially different from actual hatred.

"Undeniably, certain manufacturers who have seen their earnings and profits grew by leaps and bounds under the stimulus of the Roosevelt New Deal, resent his success to a degree almost indistinguishable from hatred.

"Certainly some bankers, who have lost the fear of runs under the protection of the deposit guarantee system, are now in a mood of resentment. So are some capitalists who have been enabled to earn sure dividends on guaranteed mortgages, by the Home Owners Loan Corporation executives, who have refinanced them at interest levels from the deficits of a few years ago, now have it in for him and would destroy him politically if they could. Politicians have been enabled into private industry, etc.

"In fact, reserve requirements have had to be increased to prevent speculation from getting out of hand, the Wall Street Journal declares that 'Pessimism becomes difficult.'

"What, then, are the Tories hot under about? Why do they hate? Why do they hate Roosevelt with a fury that is the real?"

The Profit System

"The profit system and their own profits seem to be threatened and the nation has been rescued from disaster. Why all this bitterness, this meanness, this fury, this malice? . . . What, then, is the fire?