

The Minister's Corner

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

BY J. ALFRED NANSEN

Philosophy is as ancient as civilization. But ancient philosophy dealt only in generalities. It specialized in nothing. Specialized philosophical study, with the limitations of a definite field, is a recent development.

I have been recently absorbed in the tangles which present themselves in a comparative study of the rise and fall of great empires. I have been attempting to deduce from such study a list of characteristics which have always marked a growing national life and also a list of the accompanying characteristics of the decline from a position of leadership and greatness.

Some over-zealous reformers would have us believe that irreverence for God and a disregard for His commands is at the root of all decadence in national life but saner thinking disallows the claim for nations rose and fell long before the Christian era of civilization. Great civilizations flourished entirely apart from even the limited conception of Jehovah God which was stock knowledge of the Hebrew people.

While a nation is climbing to greatness her citizens are to be described by three economic characteristics. These are industry, economy and productive employment. Under such conditions the separation between rich and poor is not clearly defined and the number who could be described by that odious term, "Idle rich" is almost negligible.

The outstanding characteristics of national decline in all past ages have been luxury, extravagance and an abnormal development of non-productive enterprises. Along with these characteristics of the life of the citizens of such a waning nation has been the marked widening of the gap between rich and poor and the increase in the number of "Idle Rich."

"Commercialized Amusement" is an almost exact synonym of "Non-productive Enterprises." It applies equally well to ancient gladiatorial combats, bull baiting and the modern "Movie" craze. It is the outgrowth of an abnormal development of perfectly natural instincts. This abnormality has made possible the development of such enterprises to proportions which are dangerous to social welfare. Amusement has always been a healthy thing when its activities were so centered in the home that it exalted home life. But immediately capitalists get hold of the situation and commercialize amusement it must be withdrawn from the fireside to the glitter and glamor of artificialities.

The wisest economists look upon Commercialized Amusement as a parasite on the social organism. When a parasite grows to be larger in bulk than the living organism to which it has attached itself it not only destroys the life of the organism but thereby also cuts off its own source of life and in consequence both perish. In this way great empires have crumbled when, to the casual observer, they were at the height of their glory.

This industrial parasite of Commercialized Amusement has fastened itself with deadly grip upon the economic life of our nation and is growing at an alarming rate, producing as it grows many disturbances in our industrial activities. Two years ago it was ranked fifth among the "Big Business" enterprises of the United States. I understand it is now rated as third! A prominent economist recently estimated that if it were barred from Sunday activity it would drop back to about tenth place. Is not this a plain indication of how far we have gone in desecrating the Christian Sunday? It is significant

that nearly all of the wealthiest promoters of Commercialized Amusement are Jewish Capitalists.

I believe the true patriot and worthy citizen is he who will invest his talent and his capital in a productive enterprise. Thru such an investment his children will reap a heritage far more valuable than a fortune. It will be citizenship in a better and greater America. Only such an America is fit to lead the world and only such an America will survive the test of centuries.

It is true that larger and quicker returns are to be had by investment in the stock of Commercialized Amusement than in any productive enterprise. But that investment produces no commodity for consumption, no equipment for the craftsman. The investor grows rich to the detriment of the masses who patronize his business. He has drawn into his coffers many millions of dollars annually which should have been used for home improvement, community improvement, national improvement if not for the very necessities of life. Like the hungry man with a depraved appetite for liquor who begged a dime and spent it for beer instead of bread, many with abnormally developed appetites for amusement will spend their last cent at a "Show" not knowing where their next meal is to come from and often with a needy family dependent upon them.

Now if Commercialize Amusement maintained a high type of moral idealism inspiring men to become more industrious laborers, satisfied citizens—exalting the sacred relations and responsibilities of home life, recognizing God on His throne in the universe and inspiring the masses with fitting reverence for Him—there would be no case against it. But the exact opposite is true. America now leads the world in murder, divorce, profligacy and criminality. These immoral vices have increased in recent years in strikingly exact ratio to the phenomenal growth of Commercialized Amusement.

Let us apply the principles discovered by our comparative study of past national life and I think we will find the period of our greatest national prosperity a demonstration of the truth of our conclusions. Our past national life has been marked by industry, economy and productivity among a satisfied citizenry. But what of present tendencies? We have already pictured these. Hard headed economists are rightly alarmed at the growing spirit of luxury and extravagance, the widening separation and ill will between rich and poor, the phenomenal development of non-productive and parasitic enterprises.

I hope that this treatise may arouse those who have read it to a thoughtful consideration of national problems from the historical viewpoint. Snap judgements are too often false. We need sincere searchers after the truth—a more thorough appreciation for the philosophy of history.

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KIDWELL GARAGE SIGNS CONTRACT TO HANDLE DODGE

Show Room Being Fitted up Where Old Office Was Located Will be Pretty.

The Kidwell Garage Company have signed a contract to handle the Dodge automobile in this territory and are fitting up the space formerly occupied as an office at the corner of Warren avenue and Main street as a show room. This will make one of the prettiest show rooms along the Burlington with its large plate glass windows and with the new decorations will make a beauty spot out of the corner.

Three of the cars have already been sold and other prospects are waiting to be closed. The firm is awaiting the return of the contract before making any further effort to procure business but expect to sell quite a number of new cars during the coming season.

But It Pays "Anyhow." "De man dat tends strictly to his own business," said Uncle Eben, "sometimes don't git no credit 'cep' foh bein' unsocialable."

DAYLIGHT SAVING GOES INTO EFFECT ON EASTER SUNDAY

Community Almost Forced to Adopt "Chicago" Time Because of Commuters.

Daylight saving, approved by referendum in the city of Chicago, goes into effect there at 2 a. m. Easter Sunday, March 27th, when clocks and watches will be set ahead one hour. The railroads are already making up their "summer" time tables.

P. S. Eustis, passenger traffic manager of the Burlington, stated today that his road would make the necessary changes in suburban train service to conform to the Chicago daylight saving plan and as a matter of convenience to suburban patrons, print the suburban time table folder to show the schedules of suburban trains in the language of Chicago city, or daylight saving time—that notwithstanding the fact that the general time tables and operating cards would continue to show standard (central) time, or the time used by the railroad.

Downers Grove and other communities along the "Q" are almost forced to adopt the new time and work on Chicago schedule. The fact that almost ninety per cent of local people either work or have business in Chicago, makes this imperative.

Mayor Barber and the Village Council have taken no action on the matter as yet but it is intimated that they will do as they did last year; announce that the village utilities and employes regulate their time to daylight saving and leave the balance of the people conform or not as they see fit.

National daylight saving is, we believe, a good thing. This local setting the clocks ahead, however, works out differently. Last year nearly everyone in the village kicked about the confusion caused by the difference in time, but so closely are we interwoven with the life of Chicago that we can do nothing but follow her lead, especially as all suburban trains will run by "Chicago" time.

RADIO AMATEURS OF VILLAGE ARE IN ASSOCIATION

Boys Have Formed Club and Will Invite Public to Final Meeting of the Month.

As the result of a meeting of the radio amateurs of Downers Grove, the Downers Grove Radio Amateurs Association has been formed.

Regular meetings are to be held every Thursday night at W. J. O'Neill's at 123 Summit street. This club has at present twelve members who are actively interested in the art of wireless telegraphy and telephony.

Anyone either interested in wireless or desirous of joining this club are cordially invited to attend visitor's night which is the last Thursday of every month, or communicate with the Club's Secretary. At this meeting it is planned to have several talks given on the fundamental principles underlying wireless telegraphy. At the meeting on Thursday the 31st, the probable topic of discussion will be "Ohms Law."

The following officers have been elected for a term of six months:

- President—L. Finzel
Vice-President—L. P. Prickett
Secretary—W. J. O'Neill, Jr.
Treasurer—E. H. O'Neill.

The members in addition to the above are: John Dawson, Lyman Dum, Ballard Miles, Clifford Sedwick, Charles Sievers, William Sievers, Preston Snow and Alfred Wander.

VESTA CHAPTER CELEBRATES ITS 28 ANNIVERSARY

To Have Program of Music for the Members at Regular Meeting on Next Tuesday.

Vesta Chapter No. 242, Order of the Eastern Star, will celebrate its twenty-eighth anniversary next Tuesday evening with a musical program as a part of its regular meeting.

Singers and musicians, all members of the local chapter, will entertain for the members of the order. Chartered in 1893, the chapter has shown steady growth until now it is one of the largest along the Burlington and one which commands the admiration of the Grand Officers on their annual visits around the state. It is known not only for the excellence of its initiatory work but for the general way in which the chapter details are handled and for the social goodfellowship among its members.

"FOLLIES" AGAIN PLAYS TO BIG CROWD FRIDAY

Curtiss Theatre Packed at the Third Showing of Benefit for the Local Library.

The Curtiss Theatre was packed again last Friday evening at the third showing of the "Follies" of Downers Grove given under the direction of Miss Helen Newton and Mr. J. C. Thomas Rogers for the benefit of the Downers Grove Free Public Library.

The third showing was made by popular request by many people who had no opportunity of seeing either of the first two performances, the tickets being sold long before the dates. In fact this is the first authentic case where ticket speculation was indulged in in Downers Grove. There were several instances where the original price was boosted by the ticket holders and sold to those anxious to see the show. This was be-

fore the management announced that third showing would be made.

Those who took part in the performance will be rewarded in a slight measure for their efforts by the Library Board. The board has issued invitations to the cast to take part in an informal dance at Library Hall this evening.

There is no doubt that this is one of the best ways of raising money for a worthy cause. Those who purchase tickets more than get their money's worth in the pleasure of the evening's entertainment. It gives the talented folks of the community a chance to show what they can do in the way of entertaining and the money realized is not "begged" out of people's pockets.

Elmer Uhlhorn, proprietor of the Curtiss Theatre deserves the thanks of the community for the part he played in the affair. He charged not one cent for the use of the theatre either for practice nights or for the evenings on which the play was given.

STORES ANNOUNCE SUMMER SCHEDULE ON HALF HOLIDAYS

Will Close Wednesday Afternoon Starting March 30th, Continuing Until Nov. 1st

Downers Grove stores announced this week that they would start on their summer schedule of half-holidays on Wednesday, March 30th, and would continue until November 1st. Almost every store in the village will close at noon every Wednesday during the spring, summer and fall and remain closed for the rest of the day.

Proprietors of local business houses are following the program of previous years in announcing the Wednesday afternoon closing. They do this that their employes and themselves may have a half a day a week in which to enjoy themselves. Small retail business employes work long hours, longer than almost any other class and the half day a week is appreciated.



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But do not decide on this evidence alone. Let us demonstrate with a beautiful new 1921 model. Experience for yourself the physical satisfaction in the comfort, roominess, beauty and refinements of these new models; the mental satisfaction in the absolute Buick dependability.

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WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT, BUICK WILL BUILD THEM

"Why Advertise?"

One of the first things said by the average merchant of the average small town when approached on advertising is "WHY ADVERTISE, everyone knows I'm in business here."

Granted. And yet there is an advertising solicitor who is willing to bet that he can go into any town of 3,500 inhabitants or over and prove to the contrary. He is willing to wager that he can take the name of any business man in the town, who is a non-advertiser, stand on the main street, stop the first ten people that pass him with the question, "Who is Blank," naming the business man, and that five out of those ten people will not know. He can then stop the next 100 people, ask them if they read The ———, naming the community newspaper and ninety-nine of them will answer in the affirmative. You will agree this is SOME DIFFERENCE!

Why advertise? Because that is the only sure way to get and keep business. Because it has been proven over and over that firms which do not advertise, in other words, which do not make a bid for business, have five times as many chances of failing than firms which do.

What is advertising, anyway? Reduced to its simplest explanation, advertising is just an invitation to buy.

Will people read your ads? They will if you have something to sell for which there is a demand, if you present your "invitation" in a readable way, if you charge a fair price for your product and if you are prepared to "deliver the goods."

There is no mystery about advertising as so many people seem to think. The simplest sort of every day, man-on-the-street language is the best to use. The same words you would use if a customer was in your store and you were showing him something you had for sale.

If you do business in Downers Grove advertise in The Reporter. It goes into the homes of people you wish to reach.