

F. J. MILNES "COMES BACK" AT BRUBAKER

Writer of "Ode to Pessimism" Gives Facts of Demoralization of Present Generation.

That my recent "Ode to Pessimism" should have attracted anyone's attention to the extent of reply, even though hostile, is a congratulation to the writer. I had not "come back," had not so many asked me "why?" with the inference that silence is consent.

My worthy opponent says: "The 'Ode to Pessimism' is so misleading that I'm impelled to expose its fallacies." But he makes no attempt to expose fallacies. Instead his space is occupied by the introduction of new argument apparently to overbalance rather than refute my contentions. He says I'm "bomb-proof against fact and reason and argument." He refers to me in illustration as a "pitiable spectacle... supposed by his neighbors to be sane... a fit subject for the psychopathic hospital," etc. He implies that I'm ignorant by repeatedly asking me to read a little history, go back to 1890 and make comparisons, etc. Answer: I will go with my esteemed critic and take examination on history before any impartial judge, it being agreed that the one standing the lower test mark shall give \$500 worth of books of the committee's selection, to the Downers Grove public library.

As for the defense of pessimism, I insist on my own definition of the word. And I admit that any man of ordinary intelligence can debate either side of the question and not lack for facts and illustrations to round out his argument. The immediate stimulus which impelled me to espouse the unpopular view was the flamboyant intolerance of Judge Gammel's recent Sunday evening address. Knowing his record as I do, Judge Gammel can't preach any of his brand of optimism to me.

But to the argument (pardon my digression): My revered objector cites prohibition, freedom of slaves, increased hospitals, charity, better prisons, etc., as reason for optimism. But prohibition came about by showing "big interests" that it pays financially. As long as the appeal was based on morality or conscience abler champions than any that live today—like Frances Willard, the greatest organizing female genius of the nineteenth century—all pleaded in deaf ears. Prohibition, therefore, rode into being on the wheels of greed and cannot be cited as proof of any improvement in character.

The same argument applies to slavery. As long as it was profitable to the Northern states, New England had slavery with politicians in congress and ministers in her pulpits to defend it. But about the time Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, causing profit in slavery to predominate in the South, Northern agitation began to abolish the dreadful curse.

Space fails me to mention all my dear antagonist's similar supports of optimism. But I must not overlook war. How an optimist dares to mention war is past comprehension. Of all justifications for pessimism, war is supreme. Every war we have blights all the moral uplift of the generation on which it falls. And as the human race grows more intelligent, it becomes more vicious and fiendish and devilish in its method of warfare. Increased intelligence means only increased invention of more vicious means of torture. That's the hopelessness of it all. End war, my opposing sir? Not as long as the Tribune with its chain of satellites, backed by Wall street, is swallowed by the public. Why, even now the corrupt press of this country, through a stealthy and insidious false education, is seeking to "put over" another war in less than two years.

Is the world getting better? Not during our generation. As an evolutionist (and who does not believe in evolution is too ignorant to argue with) I admit some progress has been made during the last million years. But I'm discussing our generation. At present we are going down hill. The whole business world is steeped in dishonesty. A few days ago I paid \$14 for a pair of shoes. The firm that sold them is not a "profiteer," not a "grafter," but just a plain d—n thief (why coin so many useless words). I'm a criminal for paying the price, I admit, and ought to serve 30 days in jail. It's a crime for any man to pay over \$5 for a pair of shoes today. In view of the price of leather no shoe made is worth more.

You can't even buy a coconut today which has not been robbed of its milk by some thief manufacturer. If you'll examine the nut, you'll find the hole through which the milk was extracted and a cheap chemical substituted. There's not an honest dimension of lumber in the retail yards of the world. The business end of the Great War was a dastardly prostitution of the patriotic impulse. More money was wasted and stolen in

that war than the total cost of our whole four years' rebellion. Not one of these thieves are hung or even in jail. Why? Because they are big thieves.

Look at our amusements. You can judge humanity better by its play than by its work, for the reason that we work because we have to, while we play because we choose to. Every known form of game today is debauched with professionalism and commercialism. Commercialism has left its blight on music, art, literature and every craft or handiwork. That's why we have no artists today in anything. Workmanship has given place to mere "wages and hours."

All our amusements are at the lowest ebb of demoralization ever known since men and women rolled over each other like hogs in the streets of Athens and Corinth, doing homage to Bacchus, the God of Lust, just prior to the downfall of Grecian civilization. Yet those ancients had "nothing on" the indecency of our modern dance. They don't dance with the feet any more. The feet scarcely move while the bodies of the young couples, pressed tightly together, writhe and twist and wriggle and jiggle.

And the "movies" are not responsible for this. These canned theatricals are the result and not the cause of the present demoralized taste. But the point is that he who recognizes all this is the "pessimist" sounding the alarm like Paul Revere awakening the Colonists and saving his countrymen from destruction.

F. J. MILNES.

WEDDINGS

ZARN—HAGEMANN

On Wednesday, August 24th, Miss Elizabeth Zarn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Zarn, and Edward Hagemann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hagemann, were united in marriage. The ceremony was solemnized at the home of Miss Zarn's parents at 140 Belmont street, the Rev. Walter Burmeister, pastor of the Lace Lutheran Church, officiated at the altar. Miss Lula Zarn and Miss Marie Hager, acted as brides maids. Mr. Arthur Zarn and Arthur Hagemann acted as best men. This happy couple will make their future home on the Hagemann farm. Many friends and relatives witnessed the ceremony.

WHEELER — HAMMERSCHMIDT

One of the prettiest weddings of the year took place at the Baptist Church at 4:00 p. m., Saturday, August 27th, Miss Florence Wheeler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wheeler of Fairmount avenue, and Mr. Ernest Hammerschmidt, son of Mrs. Ella Hammerschmidt, were united in marriage by the Rev. Gilbert H. Newland, pastor of the First M. E. Church. Miss Vance Gesner acted as bridesmaid and Judson, a brother of the groom, was the best man. Miss Thelma Roe pleasantly rendered "I Love You Truly," accompanied by Mrs. Taylor Everett. Only close friends and relatives attended the nuptials.

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THOMPSON—BOHNSACK

Miss Ida Louise Bohnsack, of Monee, Ill., and Mr. Henry Leroy Thompson, of Downers Grove, motored to Kankakee Wednesday, August 24th, where they were married.

The ceremony was performed at the manse of the First Presbyterian Church at three o'clock, the Rev. David Creighton, officiating.

The groom is one of the municipal engineers of the Grove, being employed at the Light Plant, and the bride, a Monee girl, has been engaged at professional nursing there for a number of years.

They returned to Downers Grove Sunday evening, and will make their home at 36 So. Forest avenue, where they will go to housekeeping.

BOX SCORE OF LAST SUNDAY'S LEGION GAME

Table with columns for player names and statistics (AB, R, H, C, E). Includes players like Shanabrook, Curtiss, Carpenter, Ehninger, Binder, Nash, Karesch, Ehninger, Klein, Cline, Dickson, Marshalls, Gavin, Wagner, Phillips, Hoffman, Chinnow, Stewart, McCauley, McGraw, Young, and Downers.

Three base hits, Ehninger. Two base hits, Shanabrook, Carpenter (2). Base on balls, off Ehninger—2; McGraw—3. Struck out by Ehninger, 7; by McGraw, 9. Umpires—Bruns and Mrkwicka.

FIREMEN TO RAFFLE COAL AT PICNIC MONDAY

The Firemen have decided to raffle off the coal at the picnic on Labor Day. If you have not as yet bought a goodly number of these tickets, you are not to late, as any fireman will gladly sell you the lucky number. For a dollar you can win \$100.00 worth of coal. Come to the picnic and buy a few raffle tickets.

CHANCERY NOTICE

State of Illinois, County of DuPage ss. In the Circuit Court of DuPage County, October Term, A. D. 1921. Julius Johnson, complainant vs Margaret Kent Johnson, defendant. Chancery General No. 8907.

Notice is hereby given to the said Margaret Kent Johnson, defendant herein, that the said complainant, Julius Johnson has filed his bill of complaint in this Court, on the chancery side thereof, and against the said Margaret Kent Johnson; that summons have been issued, returnable to the next October term of said Court to be holden in the court house in the City of Wheaton, County of DuPage and State of Illinois, on the third day of October, A. D. 1921, and which said suit is still pending.

Lewis Ellsworth, Clerk of the Circuit Court.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Estate of Francis Aldrich Rogers, Deceased.

signed. Dated this first day of August, A. D., 1921.

James Chilvers, Administrator. Bunge, Harbour & Schmidt, Attys. 8-19-3

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"Get It While the Getting's Good"

is a slang phrase but it applies to COAL right now.

Our advice is "Order Your Coal While the Getting's Good."

Conditions are gradually working themselves around to the same as prevailed in the early part of last winter. The mines have not been worked to full capacity during the summer months which makes a shortage at the mines.

Added to this is the danger of a serious car shortage. Grain and other things are starting to move very fast with the gradual resumption of business, leaving less cars for coal.

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