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EDITORIAL

The Problem of Reconversion

Strikes of the past few weeks would lead one to the conclusion that some workers in war industries were just as greedy as some war profiteers of the so-called "big interests," and selfish motives have prompted their actions to retain big wages and little work that contribute a share to the wastefulness of all wars.

Just as all countries had a difficult period in the adjustment from peace-time industry to production of war material, so is it necessary for a period of adjustment when industry has to be turned back to the production of peace-time goods. The saying might be reversed from "Don't you know there's a war on," to one such as "Don't you know the war is over." Not that we like either one of these sayings, but all people must realize that there is no longer any need for production of arms and the weapons of destruction. To suddenly stop this war production is bound to make a dislocation of industry. The skills that have been acquired over the years of war must be diverted and trained to other work in producing the things we need and can use in our ordinary pursuits of peace-time.

Canada has had good leadership during the war and it might be well to remember that even before V-J Day 40 out of every 100 workers on war production had been switched to the output of peace-time goods.

The senseless strikes and refusal of workers to apply themselves in the reconversion are not helping Canada in the present problem or helping workers in their bid for a continuance of a high standard of wages and living conditions. No one desires to see these conditions lowered, but all must be ready to change jobs and acquire new skills in peace-time industry and the period is bound to have some disagreeable situations.

No Idle Threat

When Japan rejected the Potsdam ultimatum it was clear that the enemy government failed to take literally the Allied threat of "utter destruction" as the alternative to unconditional surrender.

But the ultimatum meant exactly what it said. It was backed by the Allies' knowledge that in their hands lay a machine of death powerful enough to give terrifying effect to a threat hitherto used only in a figurative sense. The dropping of atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki quickly brought home to the Japanese warlords the literal accuracy of the words used in the surrender demand.

Had the Japanese known that the United Nations possessed a secret weapon of such potentialities there is no doubt they would have heeded the warning which was given in an effort to prevent misuse.

The atomic bomb marks a turning point in the world's history. Bombs and other weapons used in the Battle of Europe were as toys by comparison. The horror of war has become a matter of human survival.

"We have seen war, this greatest of all evils—mount to its maximum, reaching dimensions unknown before with the use of weapons which menace the foundations of human society." Prime Minister Smuts of South Africa said recently. "Perhaps we had to come to the uttermost bounds of evil to realize that war cannot remain the arbiter of our destinies. I hope that with the work we have done at San Francisco and the atomic bomb mankind is learning its lesson; that this is the end of war and that a new beginning needs to be made."

In the development of atomic energy science has harnessed colossal power that, properly used, can be of inestimable benefit to mankind. Improperly used, it is conceivable that it might mean the end of civilization as we know it.

Smile Again

Here and there, now that the war is over, are great billboards that say, "SMILE." And, to play on words, these billboards are more a sign of the times than any others. They mean that with the fighting done and the strains of the last six years eased, somebody has at last come around to thinking of how far folk slipped from courtesy to discourtesy during the war.

This return to politeness has been long overdue. Now they can take those seven dreadful words "don't you know there's a war on" and forget them for keeps. They are out of date and so in the manner that went with them. This is the new era of the smile, when courtesy and not bad manners, earn the pay off.

A lot of people, unfortunately, will not be able to forget entirely the impact of those seven words which typified the days when sellers of all things forgot the pleasant business of going about business pleasantly and stood off with harsh words the customer seeking something scarce.

For some customers it will be hard forgetting like the young chap who left the Clyde back in 1942 in an old tub of a ship that plowed the North Atlantic all alone because she was so small and so slow that no convoy wanted her. But she made it and the young man, in civvies, went ashore for breakfast. He didn't know it but while he was away oranges had become scarce in Canada. And when he asked for a double orange juice the waitress froze him to his stool with "Don't you know there's a war on." That's how ridiculous this discourtesy became.

So in the end those surly days may cost those surly people something in custom and the people who smiled their way through the tough times will find it was the cheapest and best advertising they ever did.

Why Men Don't Want to be Councillors

Municipal Councils receive some very unusual requests. One of the strangest we have heard of came in a petition from a ratepayer in Mount Forest asking the town council to pass a by-law making it illegal for a rooster to crow during the early hours of the morning. The petition has prompted the Owen Sound Sun-Times to make this editorial comment:

We are reminded of when we owned a small and very energetic terrier. One morning we were called in front of the magistrate in a certain city in Ontario because this virile animal had been discovered on a voyage of discovery in one of the city parks in spite of the fact that at every entrance to the park there was a notice in large letters, "No Dogs Admitted." On the spur of the moment we argued that as our little dog could not read, he could, quite legally, be excused from breaking the law much to our surprise this excuse was accepted.

Should the Town Council of Mount Forest grant the petition which it now has before it the Councillors will have several major problems to solve. First, they must find some means of indicating their wishes to the offending roosters; Second, they must ascertain what those roosters consider to be "the early hours of the morning"; Third, they must clearly define "crowing" as there is no doubt they will not wish to take action against any poor bird that happens to let out a couple of little innocent clucks. Fourth, they will have to decide upon definite penalties suitable for a first offender, second offender and an habitual criminal. Fifth, they must discover which birds keep daylight saving time and which remain on standard time during the whole year; Sixth, in order to be perfectly fair, they must also make penalties for the old hens, many of whom have often been known to imitate the more lordly males; Seventh, they must set up some very definite procedure under which the identity of any alleged offender can be proven beyond doubt; Eighth, they must discover some means of hearing the offenders above the din made by jittersbugging parties on their way home.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hardly seems possible but the season for fall fairs is at hand. They are going to be a grand place to meet old friends again now that many restrictions on travel have been lifted.

Wonder if all those things that were promised for "after the war" will actually be forthcoming? Perhaps we won't want them even if we could remember what they all were.

Only better men and women can make a better world. And the truth is that, when it comes to morals, men and women grow better, not through ruling or through schooling, but through a change of heart.—Campbellton (N.B.) Tribune.

"Sugar Still Tight" is the headline of an article in the Financial Post. If the anticipated loosening in the flow of alcoholic stimulants, materializes there'll be a lot more than sugar "tight" comments the Barrie Examiner.

Acton can at least be sure of the arena again before the fall of 1946 because the lease only runs for a year after the close of the war. But surely the young folks are not going to be deprived of the winter sport this place affords and be forced out of town for their skating and hockey this winter.

The Sunday School Lesson

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1946

JOSEPH'S PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN Golden Text: "Sweet thou a man diligent in his business" he shall stand before kings Prov. 22: 29. Lesson: Matt. 25: 1-13. Time: About 17th 1715 H. C. Place: Pharos's prison and palace.

Exposition: 1. Joseph led into prison, 39: 20-23.

Ten years have passed, Joseph has grown from a lad of seventeen to a man of twenty-seven. He has maintained his integrity and purity in the midst of Egyptian corruption and peculiar temptations of sin. Jehovah was with him and gave him prosperity (vs. 2). Loyalty to God by the foundation of his purity of character (vs. 9). He was not afraid to profess his religion to the face of the wicked (vs. 17). His purity of life and loyalty to God brought down upon him the bitter hatred of an unprincipled woman (vs. 20-21). She had not been told to tell about him an infamous lie (vs. 18-19). His integrity had apparently proved expensive, but the sequel will show that in this case as always the suffering that came from righteousness was really but a stepping stone to exaltation. Potiphar seemingly had not altogether believed his wife's story. If he had Joseph would probably have been executed rather than merely imprisoned. But Joseph was put into prison.

He was passing through the experience the Saviour was later to pass through (vs. 53; cf. also 2 Tim. 2: 9). There was one friend of Joseph's whom they could not shut out from him, Jehovah. "Jehovah was with Joseph." Better to be in prison and have God with us than to be in a palace without God. Joseph was far happier than Potiphar's wife. Joseph could have no fear or anxiety even in an Egyptian prison with Jehovah with him (vs. 41: 10; 43: 2; Rom. 8: 31, 32, 37). He was proving in his own experience that no one, not even an unprincipled woman or the captain of the guard, can harm the man who is a follower of that which is good (1 Pet. 3: 13, 14, 17; 4: 14-16).

If God is on our side He can give us favor with anyone whose favor will really profit us. Joseph was put into a position of authority in the prison. He became practically the governor of the prison which he had entered accused of infamous crime. Just as Potiphar had recognized his God-given abilities and made him ruler over his house (vs. 16) so the keeper of the prison recognized them also and committed to him all the prisoners that were in the prison. Character and ability and the favor of God will tell anywhere, even in prison. Many a modern prisoner by the favor of God has arisen to a position of influence and power in the prison. Joseph's experience as governor of the prison was doubtless a good training for the larger authority he was soon to have over the whole land. God sends His servants to very strange schools, but they are always those best adapted for the work God has ahead for them. Joseph's authority in the prison was absolute.

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If Joseph Exalted to be Prime Minister of Egypt, 41: 43-45.

Joseph had spent those two years in prison. God had left Joseph there to learn lessons of faith, patience and strength, and until the fulness of time was come. These years of imprisonment would not have been hard to bear could Joseph have seen this outcome. He had the promise of God to sustain him (vs. 21: 22). Joseph did not lose any of his faith in God in these days of trial and seeming failure of His word (vs. 41: 16). It must often have seemed as if his dreams had come to naught. Joseph's thirteen years of humiliation corresponded to the humiliation of Christ (John 2: 1, 8). Joseph was not at all scorned or ridiculed by the hard ship which his loyalty to God and his master had brought upon him. Joseph's path to the throne had been a hard one (vs. 41: 22), but when Joseph had reached it, doubtless he did not think the cost great in comparison with what he had gained (cf. 1 Tim. 4: 8). Many things had seemed to stand between Joseph and the fulfillment of God's word, the moral and social purposes of his brothers, the weakness of Potiphar's wife, the ingratitude of the king's brother, but all these things did not really hinder but furthered his progress toward the throne of Egypt (vs. 26).

It was because Joseph had found God before Potiphar that God was now honoring him (cf. Num. 2: 30). Joseph got wisdom in a way that is open to all (vs. 1: 5; Ps. 119: 29, 109; Job 14: 26; 46: 13). Potiphar gave Joseph all authority in the land (vs. 10: 41, 41; cf. Matt. 28: 18). This authority was really given to him by God (vs. 7: 9, 10). Joseph was worthy of the honor and power bestowed upon him. He became worthy of it by obedience and loyalty to God, by faith in His promises and by constant looking to Him for wisdom and guidance. He had been fitted for it by the long discipline of temptation, suffering and waiting. His faith and faithfulness had paid well in the long run. They always do. We, too, can get larger opportunities and more power by the faithful use of the opportunities and power that we already possess (Matt. 25: 21-29). All the insignia of power were bestowed upon Joseph (vs. 42: 42; 43: 29; Matt. 28: 18). There is also a robe and a ring for each penitent sinner (Luke 15: 22). His power was unlimited all princes of the realm were put under his feet (Ps. 105: 20-22; cf. Eph. 1: 20-22; 1 Pet. 3: 22). Every knee was to bow to him (vs. 43).

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TIME TABLES

Table with columns for CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS, Going West, and Going East, listing train numbers and times.

GRAY COACH LINES

Table with columns for COACHES LEAVE ACTON, Eastbound, and Westbound, listing times and destinations.

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