

OBNOXIOUS PAPERS MAY DIG OWN GRAVE

DANGER IN STRICTER LAWS

Famous English Editor in Talk Here Says Domination of Big Business May Lose Liberty

"If the modern newspaper becomes too obnoxious through its domination by 'big business,' the government will step in and let the liberty of the press go hang," J. Alfred Spender, editor of the Westminster Gazette of London, told members and guests of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity, at Northwestern university, recently.

Mr. Spender, who described himself as "an old-fashioned English journalist, who took his politics seriously," is a senior holder of the Walter Hines Page Fellowship and is in this country studying American newspapers. He publishes one of the oldest and most conservative London papers.

"There is in England a movement toward control of the press by syndicates and powerful financial organizations," Mr. Spender told his audience. "But if modern newspapers permit their policies to be dictated entirely by business considerations someone will come along and will have new laws and stricter ones. That is what has happened in Russia, Italy and Roumania today."

Part in World War
The part that newspapers played in precipitating the world war was deplored by the ruddy-faced English journalist. "Not that they were directly responsible," he said, "but for years ill-feeling was provoked by the printing of inelegant incidents and the suppression of explanatory circumstances surrounding them. This era of ill-advised propaganda culminated in that epic of blood — the world war."

"But the young man entering journalism must not be discouraged by the present tendencies of the profession," he went on. "I believe the press is now passing through one of the most critical periods of history due to the enormous size of the modern publication. But already in England I believe that I can detect a swing back to the more conservative journal of opinion. Young people entering journalism can make the profession whatever they want it to be."

American and English
The most important difference between the American and English newspapers, according to Mr. Spender, is not in the content but in the presentation of news.

"Some of your most sensational editions," he said, "if presented to London in the English fashion would really be considered highbrow papers. I think most of the so-called American newspaper sensationalism starts at the top of the front page and runs out at the bottom. When you turn the page they are as conservative as the London papers."

"But my chief criticism of American newspapers is the fact that they allow their news columns to be busedled about the pages by the advertisements. London papers print the same features in the same place every day. The Englishman knows this and likes it, and when the London newspaper man finds his news space being dictated by advertisements, he limits the advertisements."

English papers allot about the same space to sports as the American papers do, according to Mr. Spender.

"Of course," he said, "we have nothing like your Sunday supplements, but for the weekday editions we give tremendous space to horse-racing, football and cricket. In the summer, this latter game receives about the same news consideration as your game of baseball."

"Hieroglyphic" Newspaper
In commenting on the American tabloids and the roto-gravure sections, Mr. Spender said: "It looks as though the American newspapers were tending to return to the old hieroglyphic form of writing that told its story by pictures of birds and animals instead of words."

He disagreed with Henry Mencken, who contends that modern journalism is becoming a cut and dried profession with most of the stories written by re-write men who receive the news over the telephone.

"Some people imagine that a good journalist is one who can write quickly," Mr. Spender said. "It is true that every journalist is one who can write quickly," Mr. Spender said. "It is true that every journalist has to write quickly in an emergency, but the art of writing well can be acquired by writing slowly."

Some of the models used by Mr. Spender in acquiring a journalistic style in his writing were Matthews Arnold, John Morley, W. T. Stead and Cardinal Newman. He also praised the speeches of Abraham Lincoln as models of simplicity and directness.

Background of History
"I think schools of journalism should be careful to supply their students with a background of history," declared Mr. Spender. "Recent history especially is very important. In England, where a good many of our journalists are young men just down from Oxford and Cambridge, we find that they have a substantial knowledge of history up to the time of the world war. Then, when most of the history books stop, I find that most of their minds are blank."

"Now the journalist is a universal busybody who weaves the facts he acquires into a background of life. To do this he should have at his fingertips certain elemental facts about his own country: statistics of the birth rate, a knowledge of the trade, facts of the financial resources. I find that young journalists are as a rule ignorant of these things."

A knowledge of international affairs was also considered very important by the speaker. Although not advocating any particular international doctrine, he pointed to the world war as an example of how a country may be suddenly plunged into the heart of international affairs.

"I consider it the responsibility of the journalistic profession," he said, "to chart out and map the dangerous whirlpools and rapids of internationalism, so that when a crisis does arrive the public being informed may act intelligently in the matter."

BUILDING TREND IS DOWNWARD IS REPORT

OCTOBER RECORD BASIS

Survey of U. S. Improvements During That Month Show Decrease, According to Straus & Co.

The trend of new building commitments dropped rather precipitately in October, according to the official reports from 551 cities made to S. W. Straus & Co. The total of building plans filed or permits issued in these places was \$288,879,612 compared with \$412,893,035 last October, a loss of 32 per cent. In September the totals were \$297,934,153.

The cities included in this survey account for more than 80 per cent of the entire urban population of the United States and are the major centers in the 48 states. These figures, therefore, represent the only approximately complete official data on building prospects in the country and are to be distinguished from reports of activities already passed. These records also exclude estimates of road building and engineering projects which at times are erroneously incorporated in building figures.

The loss in October was much more severe than that sustained in any previous month in recent years and brought the activities of the industry about 13 per cent under the level of 1926.

A study of the October record is, however, more reassuring than might be indicated by the comparative total. While it is true that the slowing down processes are general, the spectacular drop in October was due to a considerable extent to conditions in New York and Chicago. The former exhibited a loss, in round numbers, amounting to \$58,000,000, while Chicago's loss was \$24,000,000. Thus, these two cities lost 82,000,000 out of the \$134,000,000 of the entire 551 cities.

Twenty-five Leading Cities
The group of twenty-five cities in which the greatest volume of permits were issued in October reported \$169,531,628 compared with \$254,437,728 in October 1926, and \$237,094,216 in October 1925. The loss was 33 per cent from October 1926 and 28 per cent from October 1925.

In these heavy losses the lead was taken by New York City where only a little more than one-half of the volume of new building is now in prospect as compared with the corresponding periods of the last two years. Less severe losses are revealed in Chicago while other large cities showing unfavorably on a two year comparison are Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, San Francisco, Washington and Houston.

The Labor Situation
The immediate necessity for a labor tribunal to replace the National Board of Jurisdictional Awards was emphasized at the opening of the month when the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers withdrew from the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. Information from confidential sources points to the formation of an arbitration board to be made up of presidents of several international unions. It is expected that the withdrawal of the bricklayers' union will hasten the expected meeting of labor chiefs in their selection of a city in which to hold a meeting of the new tribunal.

Indiana is building a temple in memory of Lincoln. Every prospective politician over there should be made to sit and gaze at it for one year before running for office.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

We'd worry a lot more over a possible air invasion of this great republic of ours if the successful Atlantic flights were not exclusively those going east.—Detroit News.

President Coolidge evidently believes that the way to economy in government lies not only in cutting taxes down to normal but in cutting the sessions of a generous Congress down to the same level.—Brooklyn Eagle.

It is claimed that we should have a navy sufficient so we can say "scat" to all nations, but unfortunately if we get it, we may also say "sicum" and get into war before we know it.

STYLES REQUIRE THAT WOMEN REVIVE HIPS

Newest Fashion Modes Slightly Accentuate This Line, Says Report

Early showings of late winter fashions have established definitely that women are actually going to have hips again. At least hips are to be accentuated, a fashion writer for the Woman's Home Companion finds in the advance Paris models.

This distinct innovation of swathed hips, so different from the straight line models of the past seasons, appears in many of the gowns made of the new winter fabrics the characteristics of which are their softness and pliability. These materials, caught rather tightly about the hips, fall into draperies as natural and as soft as sprun, uneven hem-lines accentuating the drape effect. Two especially pleasing evening gowns have arrived from abroad, one being in old rose velvet and another of gold brocade in checked pattern with a tiny flower in each square. Both are made up in the swathed-hip fashion. No gowns, so beautiful are the highlights of the materials themselves.

Another interesting fact concerning the new ultra-pliable materials is that slightly faded, or off shades are considered particularly smart and give the wearer greater opportunity for individuality.

The Paris correspondent of the magazine finds in the advance winter showings that the growing popularity of the circularly cut skirt is partly responsible for the closer hip effects and the ever-growing tendency toward flares also increases the trend toward hip definition. Flares are appearing everywhere, directly in the front of skirts, off center and at the sides. The effect is unusually uneven hemlines, especially for evening gowns. The rage for velvet is also particularly pronounced in Paris.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS STATE

Alva S. Kellogg, at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Quincy, is the only living Civil War soldier who heard Lincoln deliver his Gettysburg address.

Calhoun county, the apple kingdom of Illinois, produces more apples than any area of equal size in the world. Illinois ranks second of the states in the number of electric light and power customers.

On an average children in Illinois attend school 8:36 years. The average for the United States is 7 years.

Registration of autos in Illinois during the first half of 1927 numbered 1,366,060, an increase of 12.2 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year.

Gas is used exclusively for baking ice cream cones in Chicago, where more cones are baked than in any other city in the world.

The custom of holding an annual homecoming, now so popular among American colleges and universities, was originated by the University of Illinois in 1910.

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SILK FROM CORN IS LATEST PRODUCTION

Means Much Prosperity For Farmers If General Use Follows

That American farm women may soon become the best dressed class in the United States through their ability to gather silk gowns and stockings from the bleak, autumn corn field is held out as a possibility by a recent exhibition of corn stalk products at the Iowa State College.

Products viewed there by a representative of Fire & Fireside prompted an article in which he stressed the silky, fibrous products on exhibition there. Innumerable skeins of brightly colored silks, hardly distinguishable from real silk were given a prominent place in the exhibition, along with cloth woven from the product. The silk thread is of fully as good quality as the fibre silks woven from wood pulp and now being sold in huge quantities abroad and in the United States as well.

But aside from the use of the silk, itself, the writer sees much prosperity in the offering for the farmer on account of corn stalks that clothing the family in the best of style is not far off. It is estimated that 200,000,000 tons of cornstalks are going to waste in American each year and that, by the newly perfected processes, 90 per cent of the weight of these stalks is convertible into silk fibre, lumber substitutes and other articles which are increasing through experiments which are being carried on continuously.

Tentatively, it is believed that the average corn farmer can raise his product, market the ears, pasture the field and still sell the remaining stalks for a value which will reach \$7 per acre within a short time.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic was all right for war time, but what we need now is a working hymn.


Some of our men who fall violently in love, at least retain consciousness sufficiently to do their courting over the telephone, instead of putting it down in black and white.

The newspapers tell the girls how to cook well, but they seem more ambitious to look well.

The time the girls use to put in operating the flatiron, seems now to be devoted to manipulating the curling iron.

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