

Editorial

The HIGHLAND PARK PRESS

Features

WHAT OF IT?—

By Eddy Smith

Salaries paid to city officials are interesting . . . for instance the dog catcher receives \$500.00, the mayor \$1,080.00 per annum. On a salary comparison the mayor is worth about twice as much as the dog catcher, while the city collector (salary of \$3,240.00) is worth about three times as much as the mayor, or six times as much as the dog catcher. A further study reveals that probably the most expensive institution is the garbage department. For your information we quote the 1932 appropriations recorded in the city records . . . salary of man in charge of incinerator \$1,512.00 . . . total wages of helpers \$3,988.00 . . . coal for incinerators \$600.00 . . . repairs to garbage burners \$1,500.00 . . . Burning garbage \$500.00. In other words, that's the garbage situation in a nut-shell.

The cost of city government in 1932 totals about \$259,940.00, not in Russian rubles—but in American dollars.

The city employs a moving picture censor to protect us from seeing what we shouldn't . . . cost, \$1,134 per year.

PROFESSOR WATSON

The splendid address by Professor Watson at the Elm Place school last week left us with one very definite impression . . . that the majority of local parents don't care enough about their children to attend P. T. A. meetings, which doesn't say very much for our "mecca of culture."

Interesting excerpts " . . . the presentation of education is to give those opportunities to children denied to parents . . . greatest drawback to progress in our school system is the professional patriot who thinks he's a patriot when he's only excited . . . that two students with equal intelligence and equal economic background, one a high school grad, the other a college grad, the high school grad will become the greater success . . . the paramount problem in modern education lies in adult education . . . our civilization is the most inefficient in the history of man . . . we have all the fun and the future generation pays all the bill."

The owner of a cheap watch brought it to the jeweler's shop to see what could be done for it. "The mistake I made, of course," he admitted, "was in dropping it."

"Well, I don't suppose you could help that," the jeweler remarked. "The mistake you made was picking it up."—London Opinion.

"Well, Sambo," said an American judge, "so you and your wife have been fighting again. Liquor, I suppose?"

"No, sah," said Sambo; "she licked me this time."—Montreal Star.

An Invitation—

The Highland Park Press welcomes short, sincere letters discussing matters of local importance to this city and the north shore, and will print a select few each week. Contributions, to be accepted for publication on this page, must be signed by the writer, must be short and to the point, must avoid personalities, and must reach this office by Monday noon for publication in the following issue. We reserve the right to use or reject all letters. Anonymous contributions will be ignored, regardless of their merit.

"Like the ouija and the crystal ball, beloved of clairvoyants, a mysterious thing known as Technocracy seems to have captured for a time the public imagination and aroused violent public apprehension" writes Willis J. Abbot in the Christian Science Monitor.

"So far as I know, this contribution to economic science, which thus far savors somewhat of the occult, has not had very wide publicity. But all that has been published by its promoters has been put forth with such solemnity and profundity, has professed such absolute authority, that the portion of mankind which encountered these articles has been aghast at the conditions they set forth, and seldom stops to consider the foundations upon which this new cult of despair is built.

"For it is a cult of despair. We are told of a group of distinguished college professors, physical scientists, engineers and architects, with headquarters at Columbia university, who have been studying industrial progress and reached the conclusion that at last man has been overwhelmed by his machines. They have assured us that there is nothing novel in the present heavy ratio of unemployment in the United States, but that it will be doubled next year, and increased rapidly until only one in five of the people of the United States will be working.

"They inform us that the process of depriving men of the opportunity to work for a livelihood is one that cannot now be checked. It is as inexorable as the rotation of the world on its axis. Inventive genius will put forth just so many new devices annually to throw men out of their jobs, and as we have not sense enough to throw inventors out of theirs, the rest of us must suffer.

"Furthermore, the whole theory of prices is going to be cast into the discard. No longer will it be possible to estimate what a thing will cost and what it should sell for. Happily, however, certain revelations as to the nature of these profound researches make even the most timorous feel that remedies will not be needed for an evil which is probably wholly imaginary.

"The New York Herald Tribune has taken the honors in meeting the propaganda of Technocracy with an apparently authoritative response. A representative of that paper discovers that the chief figure in Technocracy, instead of being an eminent engineer or a natural scientist of comprehensive education, is in fact

a graduate of no scientific or technical school of standing; possesses no degree of any kind from any institution of learning, and was indeed for a time a propagandist of the I.W.W., better known as the 'Wobblies'. There is testimony to the fact that he was a workman in a cement-pouring gang at Muscle Shoals, not, as some of the publications have said, 'chief technician' of that work.

"The 'large laboratories' at Columbia college which have figured in some of the publicity turn out to be a vacant room which has been put at Mr. Scott's disposal by one of the professors who had an impression that he was a famous doctor of something or other, with a German degree. The Herald Tribune's investigator is unkind enough to say, 'The haunts of technocratic science are situated at numerous places about town, principally in cubbyhole restaurants in Greenwich Village, where food may be obtained for small expenditure and where the proprietors are not averse to lots of conversation extending into the hours'."

WANDERING BOYS

It is estimated that there are between 300,000 and 200,000 homeless boys tramping the country. What is to be done?

Army care for these thousands of nomadic lads has been suggested to President Hoover by Senator James Couzens, Michigan Republican. This is a worthy recommendation. It may be proposed to congress in the form of a bill drafted during this session, and its passage, if drawn up properly, is to be hoped for.

Senator Couzens says: "It seems to me that the problem must be solved through the federal government. It should not be difficult of solution by the war department. With all the forts, tents and other facilities they have, and with a staff of army officers and plenty of time and training in handling groups, they could with moderate appropriations feed these boys and keep them in training as long as economic conditions make it necessary."

"I've eaten beef all my life, and now I'm as strong as an ox!" said he.

"And there, son, you have the story of your dad and the Great War."

"Yes, Dad, but why did they need all the other soldiers?"—Snelling Bulletin.

COLUMN RIGHT—

By Jay Orr

A lot of silly stuff, erroneously labeled "news" by its purveyors, comes across the desk of every newspaper editor in the land each week. This matter, which usually hits the wastebasket with a resounding "whack," is publicity matter from our too-numerous bureaus, institutes, rackets, etcetera.

For instance, I received a "blurb" from a bureau with the high-sounding name of the "National Beauty Institute" this week. I leave it to the judgment of our readers to pass on the truth in the following statement in the "handout" from the "beauty institute":

"Lake county women spend 13,340,890 hours and 899,650 dollars annually to make themselves beautiful."

The person who spent the time estimating those "vital" facts, could have spent it better in some other pursuit—for instance, swatting people who have picked up the dumb habit of saying, "Was you there, Sharley?"

Rear-Admiral Wat T. Cluverius, commandant of Great Lakes Naval Training Station, has worked out a remarkable plan to absorb 12,000 youths from the ranks of the unemployed through a system of four-month enlistments in the service of their country.

The admiral made the plans known after he had received the endorsement of the navy department, and emergency legislation, in which influential senators are already interested, is needed to put the plan into effect. "Write to your congressman."

The cost of training a recruit for four months, the period newly-enlisted men in the navy spend in a land station before assigned to ships, is \$340, which includes clothing, training, subsistence, and \$21 a month pay. The admiral's plan would include compensation for four-month recruits, but less pay than regularly enlisted men, and an intensive period of physical, mental, and technical training. Admiral Cluverius points out that at the present curtailment of operations in the navy, 1500 wandering youths could immediately be taken at the Great Lakes Station without disrupting the organization or making necessary an increase in the staff of commissioned officers. The plan seems sound.

A contributor to this column says, "Our American flags are waving to shreds through this 'Battle of Depression.' One with half a stripe missing has been eyed recently. All ye girls by the name of Betsy Ross please come forward—our country is calling ye.

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