

## Winnetka Weekly Talk

by  
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1924

*Depress the Tracks.*

*Give the Business Men Fair Play.*

*Build a New Village Hall.*

*Enforce the Traffic Laws.*

*Build the Truck Road.*

### WOODROW WILSON

He led his country through the most destructive war the world has ever endured. With patriotic enthusiasm and sharp vision he worked out a plan for universal peace that will inspire the counsels of the world for long years to come. He devoted himself without reserve to the progress of universal democracy.

Who will not say that Woodrow Wilson died not alone for his country but for suffering humanity everywhere? He spent himself in striving toward that ideal.

He has helped us to carry on better the great fight against the powers that break down civilization. Let us address ourselves to that tremendous enterprise.

### SCIENCE AND RELIGION

The Glencoe Union church is planning to engage an educational expert to assist it in its work of religious instruction. We take it for granted that this expert will be scientific, that is, that he will be well acquainted with the literature and methods of science, and will practice scientific principles.

There is no real conflict between science and religion. A scientific man can be religious, and a religious man can be scientific. Both men are engaged in the same business—the living of a good life. As a recent writer in the Atlantic Monthly put it, each man is trying to discover, not explain, the facts of life.

It will be interesting, perhaps exciting, to watch this partnership in actual operation. If the expert believes with Psychologist Pillsbury of Ann Arbor that all knowledge comes originally from sensation, how will he, the expert, explain the reception of the Ten Commandments from God on Mt. Sinai? Will the expert agree with A. K. Rogers, author of The Theory of Ethics, that a good aim is one that the individual approves of on subsequent reflection?

The old hit-or-miss methods of the 19th century Sunday School have passed on—mostly. The belief that anybody over sixteen can teach a class is obsolete. The day of the expert in religious education is here.

### THE MELLON PLAN

The Mellon Tax Reduction Plan is popular. We were not fully convinced of this fact until we witnessed the unanimous applause with which, at a large movie theater, 5,000 people greeted a film explaining the Plan. The applause was as spontaneous and abundant as that which used to greet the picture of the American soldier.

Of course it is true that everyone, except those who sell, delights in the lowering of expenses of any kind. And doubtless there are some who would welcome the immediate reduction to zero of all taxation.

Secretary Mellon has no such persons in mind. He has in mind the average sensible American, carrying unduly heavy tax burdens. His Plan proposes no giving of gifts but a reasonable reduction all along the line.

That's why North Shore taxpayers want to see Congress pass the bill embodying the Mellon Tax Reduction Plan. That's why a section of this paper will be devoted next week to a setting-forth of the Plan and to an appeal that North Shore men and women actively foster the passage of this bill.

### PLAYING THE PIANO

So much has been said in general about the value of being able to play the piano that we asked a friend of ours just what use he had made of his ability to play at sight on the piano music of moderate difficulty. This friend is now in his middle fifties and since he was twenty has been able to play about as well as he does now. We asked him to tell in simple, honest, and frank language what his piano playing did for him. And here's his answer. "I can't play by ear. I play only by sight. I have a poor technic, never having practiced scales and exercises systematically. But for twenty years I've played hymns at home and in Sunday School; and almost all the moderately difficult pieces in existence. Also I've played accompaniments to songs of all sorts. I never perform in public, modesty not being my reason, but rather inability.

"In the very first place I like to play. It pleases me to sit down before a little waltz by Brahms and play it, avoiding difficulties by going around them. I like the sounds I make. I suppose, also, that I like the physical exercise. There are few things that I like more than "reading" pieces in an album of fairly classical selections. I play them at all times of the day but usually after breakfast and dinner.

"I never, as said before, play solos; so I don't know that pleasure. I used to like to pound the piano in Sunday School on 'Onward, Christian Soldiers' and others of similar spirit. But that was before I got a wife. She's toned me down considerably.

"Doubtless, my piano playing accounts largely for my love of the compositions of Brahms and Bach. Once in a long while I try a little jazz, but I soon tire of it, just as I do of radio and phonograph music. I don't care much for grand opera, but I don't believe my piano playing has had anything to do with that particular dislike.

"So here we are. My piano playing has enabled me to use much time very pleasantly. It has been of some use to others. It has developed in me an appreciation of good music. It has, once in a while, helped me to wipe out the effects of a few troubles. I haven't put these benefits into logical shape, but I've answered your question."

### WHO'S NOT WHO

So full are the North Shore towns of prominent people that it is a great deal easier to say Who's not Who on the North Shore than Who's Who. Almost every other home contains a railroad president or a famous writer or a well-known cartoonist or a great singer or a captain of industry or a—but the list is endless. The man on the train beside whom you are sitting may easily be a lawyer of national importance. The woman across the aisle is probably a noted composer.

If we should, each week, make a full report to our readers of all the honors that have come to their fellow-citizens during the week we would have no room left for less exciting news like fires, robberies, and parties. That's why we make no attempt to keep strictly up to date on these honorific doings. It would be like trying to tell your wife all her charming qualities, omitting none.

Our reticence is, therefore, not modesty. Not at all. If the editor of a metropolitan daily writes us a little note praising our paper we do not hesitate to mention the fact in some such language as this: "The editor of The Chicago Daily News, Henry

Justin Smith, by the way a citizen of Wilmette, dropped us a line the other day to say that our paper was a good example of community journalism!"

People come to the North Shore for health and happiness and not to be talked about—much.

### MEN'S SUNDAY CLASSES

Discuss and learn.

Thoughtful discussion of problems is the surest means of achieving growth. This truth was discovered in prehistoric times, doubtless, and has been acted upon ever since. Savages sat around the council-fire and talked about their troubles. Ancient peoples parleyed over their difficulties. Individuals everywhere and always have discussed live issues and been enlightened.

Men's Sunday classes in all our north shore towns formally and informally speak about and

talk over topics of interest. Questions of all kinds are taken up, but perhaps most attention is given to those growing out of Bible accounts and teachings.

Men who have recently come into any of these towns will find

that one of the best ways of getting into the life of the community is through attendance upon these classes. Taking part in debates and discussions is remarkably effective in breaking down barriers of every kind.

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