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Notes and Comments

A Dime for an Orange
What can happen when the OPA lifts ceiling prices on certain commodities is illustrated all too plainly by the sudden jump in the cost of citrus fruits in the Buffalo area. Ceiling prices on oranges and lemons were removed on Monday, immediately housewives had to pay twice as much for them. On Saturday a housewife could buy a dozen California oranges for 60 cents. On Monday they cost \$1.20. Similarly, the price of lemons had gone up from 45 and 50 cents to \$1.

There might be some reason for a slight increase, but an exact doubling of prices seems inexcusable. As OPA Director Thomas J. Reese put it: "Here is a specific example of what happens when price control is lifted on a commodity which is in heavy demand. This incident should be an object lesson to all consumers on the value of controlling prices which prevents inflation and insures a fair dollar value."—Buffalo Courier-Express

Taxing Co-operatives

The recommendations by the McDougall Royal Commission on Co-operatives seek to bring about an equitable distribution of the tax burden as between private business concerns and the co-ops. It appears that certain types of business enterprise have taken the form of co-operatives escaping taxation. Money which ordinary business concerns pay in taxes went to the formation of huge reserves, available for expansion. It is this situation that the report states should be remedied.

In connection with credit unions the report recommends continued exemption with amendment of the Income Tax Act to make it clear that the membership of the union might include other unions, co-operative associations, parishes or school districts and that organizations enjoying exemption must derive their revenues primarily from loans made to members.

During the investigation of the co-operatives marketing movement, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce told the commission it had been estimated that the tax loss through co-operatives and state-owned enterprises approaches \$100,000,000 a year. That's a sizable sum. The federal Government could make good use of it in financing postwar rehabilitation.

Private business concerns take the stand that the co-ops, doing essentially the same kind of business as the private companies, should be put on the same income tax level.

Debunking the Fairies and Santa Claus

By Lewis Milligan

Charles Dickens was a keen student of human nature, and while some of his characters may have been overdrawn in certain features, they were mostly true to life. The characters he depicted were, of course, typical of the times in which he lived and it may be said they were the product of the social conditions prevailing in England, particularly in London, in the early part of the nineteenth century. But although times and conditions may change, human nature is fundamentally the same in all generations.

We have our Pickwicks, Micawbers, Dombey, Bumbles, Fagins, Gradgrinds and the rest of the Dickensian species with us today under different guises and circumstances. Outstanding among these in this age of science and realism are the Gradgrinds. They may not be very numerous, and our Gradgrinds may not be quite as outspoken as their original; they are usually more subtle and scientific. But occasionally one of these realists bursts out his suppressed contempt for anything and everything that is not strictly in conformity with "Facts." The realm of imagination is outside of their mental orbit, and as for poetry and fantasy, they are so tone-deaf and color-blind to the things of the spirit that they impatiently dismiss them as non-existent, or as per-versions of "Facts."

The latest of these modern Gradgrinds to reveal himself is Maj.-Gen. Brock Chisholm, Deputy Health Minister at Ottawa. In a speech at Washington recently he derided the theology and moral teachings of the Christian churches, and he followed this up later by cruelly exposing the myth of Santa Claus. In an address at the Women's Forum of the Young Women's Christian Association at Ottawa, the General said that children should be told "the literal truth about everything." He said that "no child can believe in Santa Claus and not be afraid—because Santa Claus was then a ghost—unless he (the child) was a moron or an imbecile." He was sure that everyone present, including himself, would have been afraid during his teens to sleep on a grave in a cemetery. The reason was that magic and ghosts were believed in and thinking was distorted. He went on to say that if mothers would make sure children understood that fairy stories and Santa Claus were a pretence and only "for fun," the distorted thinking would vanish as a result and would increase the chances of the human race surviving for 100 years by 75 per cent.

The General himself seems to be entering into the realm of fantasy when he talks about a child sleeping on a grave in a cemetery, and claims that human life would be extended to 100 years if children were told that Santa Claus and fairy stories were only for fun. No child, unless he were a moron or an imbecile, would ever think of sleeping in a graveyard, and there is something deficient in the child who cannot, without explanation, enter into the fun and enjoy the mental stimulation of Fairyland. To the normal child-mind the world into which he has just entered is itself a wonderland.

"Heaven lies about us in our infancy," said Wordsworth, "shades of the prison-house begin to close upon the growing boy; soon enough; but when the 'vision splendid' fades into the light of common day, the realms of fancy and imagination, poetry and religion, remain. That man is to be pitied who is shut out from those romantic and refreshing regions of the mind. If children are to be told 'the literal truth about everything,' then they must be taught that music is merely a combination of air-waves impinging upon the tympanum; that poetry is an arrangement of words, syllables and rhymes, and that the emotions stirred up by these arts are unreal and deceptive.

WHEN TURKEYS LAY especially from Feb. 1 onwards. At no time should turkeys be housed with chickens, because chickens are carriers of blackhead disease, although the chickens themselves are seldom affected by it.

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