

CITIZEN'S LEAGUE BULLETIN

To Popularize Civic Information and to Spiritualize Our Citizenship No. 542 KANSAS CITY, MO.,
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1932 Non-Partisan

Citizens' League Director Worthily Honored

The dinner given to Mrs. Henry N. Ess by the Athenaeum and attended by 325 friends of Mrs. Ess was a magnificent tribute to a woman whom Kansas City delights to honor.

The spacious auditorium of the Athenaeum was transformed into a splendid dining room. The tables were decorated with carnations and roses; and when the drawn curtains revealed the life sized picture of Mrs. Ess, the audience stood in recognition and broke into prolonged applause.

The personnel of the diners indicated the various interests of the guest of honor. Democrats and Republicans; Northerners and Southerners; the clergy and the laity; officials and civilians; historians and poets; club-women and club-men; orators and musicians; aristocrats and plebeans, the gay and the grave, all united in expressing their appreciation of the life and works of Mrs. Henry N. Ess.

The tributes given to Mrs. Ess were as varied as the individuals in the audience. She was accorded the spirit of youth and the maturity of wisdom. During her long life in Kansas City she has been connected with almost every worthy project, the originator of many of them and the dependable support of all good enterprises.

Mayor Bryce B. Smith said that Mrs. Ess asked no quarter in her battles for the right and gave none. Col. Ruby D. Garrett told the audience that anyone who did not want Mrs. Ess's opinion on any subject, needn't ask for it. City Manager McElroy, speaking for the Democratic party, commended Mrs. Ess's political faith and her words: "I am a Democrat." Rev. I. E. Deer said she was a good fighter for world peace and was a faithful adherent to the ten commandments; and that as far as he knew the ten commandments were one of the few things that she had neither founded nor been a member of.

To these kindly spoken tributes Mrs. Ess responded:

"I have received the greatest present that ever can be bestowed upon any human being, the love from your hearts. In my heart there has been placed a thrill that will not die while I live.

"Indeed, I have felt tonight that you have transformed this room into a garden of hearts. It is a garden the leaves of which will ever shade us from unjust criticism and jealousy. Let us all pledge ourselves tonight that we will plant the rose of friendship. It will flower with love and loyalty for all time."

MRS. HENRY N. ESS

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After the Depression, What?

The following is by Mr. W. Robert Smalls, the new Executive Secretary of the Kansas City Urban League:

The current business recession has set the Negro back immeasurably. Occupations in the household field have been taken over by others. Service jobs in the hotels and apartment houses have been lost. There are fewer servants, seamstresses, barbers and contractors. Street cleaning and street paving jobs, formerly done by Negroes are not now being done by them.

Agricultural work, no longer as profitable as it was, is giving the Negro perplexing problems on the farm, with an over-supply of cotton and with seasonal unemployment covering longer periods.

Communists have sought Negro adherents in all large industrial centers. However, only in a few cities have they made pronounced headway. Commentators cite the failure of Negroes to get an "even break" in employment as the chief cause of their interest in Communism, but Communist efforts to organize them for concerted action have failed.

Time and again have Negroes begged for work and scorned charity but charity is what they are getting. We may expect them soon to scorn work and demand charity. The dole is rapidly being accepted by them without protest. In such an extremity as they face today they have to accept charity or starvation.

The Negro is changing from rural to urban life. He is trying to make a three-fold adjustment and each phase requires a heroic struggle. First, there is the adjustment that all rural populations have to make in learning to live in town, adjustment to conditions of housing, employment, amusement, etc. The second adjustment is to a change from the status of a chattel to that of free contract, from servitude to citizenship. He has to realize in his own consciousness the self-confidence of a free mind. Finally, he must adjust himself to the white population of the city.

Chicago Gangland's Power

Judge James H. Wilkerson who sentenced Al Capone to 11 years in the penitentiary has been honored by being made a federal judge. It appears that a tentative arrangement was made with Capone whereby he was to plead guilty and receive a lighter sentence. But Capone gave out the arrangement to the press and on account of this preliminary announcement of the court's forecasted action, the judge gave him the longer sentence.

Trees Are Our Friends

Mrs. Florence Adams, Field Adviser of the National Wild Flowers Preservation Society gives Bulletin readers some timely thoughts on trees.

Some trees enjoy being exclusive to certain sections yet grown in other sections do better there than those which are native. Evergreens of the Northwest are most successful when raised from seeds.

Our trees of needles and cones add to any landscaping provided the choice is of the right varieties. However, do not use too many evergreens—they are monotonous.

In planting evergreens they must be screened the first year from early warm winds, otherwise they turn brown. Occasionally they need thorough spraying to furnish moisture both for needles and roots, to remove dust, thus rendering tree less susceptible to insects.

Trees are necessary for bird life. Who has a cherry tree and wishes the robins will not find it? But Robin Redbreast will devour many worms on the cherry tree to pay for his cherries.

Trees have many economic values, especially for food, medicine, providing other necessities of life and protecting water-sheds. But their greatest value is in prevention of land erosion. Much valuable farm land ruined by erosion has been reclaimed by tree planting to prevent future erosion. You who own rural acres should not tolerate waste land. Plant trees on non-productive land. Bare hill sides may produce a forest of commercial value.

To transplant safely take up with a large ball of dirt, not disturbing roots, wrap immediately in wet covering, dig a wide, deep hole in which to straighten out roots, prepare soil with the

fertilizer, dampen it and tramp soil firmly about roots to prevent air pockets.

Never mound up the dirt but make a shallow trench around the tree near the extent of root and tree spread.

Plant new trees—but of more importance, save those trees we already have. Give them protection—that's a queer word applied to trees, but we are in imminent danger of loosing forever, Redbud, Dogwood, Crab, along our highways. Thoughtless picking, uprooting, breaking of branches of trees or shrubs, points to a countryside shorn of beauty.

There are over a million teachers in the public and private schools in the United States.

“Consistency,” wrote Emerson, “is the hobgoblin of little minds.”

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SIX HONEST MEN

I have six honest serving men

They taught me all I knew

Their names are what and why and when

And how and where and who.

KIPLING

Dr. Stratton D. Brooks will speak on “The Children of Tomorrow” for the Citizens' League over KMBC on Tuesday, May 3, at 2 o'clock p. m.

Today, April 30, Atlanta University dedicates a new \$300,000 library, made possible by a grant from the General Education Board. The facilities of the new library will be available for Negroes.

Boycott Silk?

Chinese women have appealed to the women of America not to purchase Japanese silk in order to restrain the Japs from aggressions on China. The Federal Council of Churches favors this boycott if the results hoped for cannot be obtained in any other way. The United States receives 85 per cent of its silk from Japan.

But it is pointed out that there are in this country 1,648 silk mills, employing 136,978 workers. An effective boycott would probably throw most of them out of employment.

Also, Japan takes 40 per cent of the cotton exported from the United States. An American boycott on silk might lead to a Japanese boycott on cotton.

It is thought that a boycott on silk might be immediately effective on Japan and might accomplish its purpose before our trade relations would be disturbed. All of which shows how closely the different nations are now related to each other.

Too Heavy Taxation

“The Public Service News” says that the federal government will cost the American people this year nearly 4 1/2 billion dollars. The cost of state and local governments will consume about 9 billion dollars more—a staggering total of around 14 billion dollars. The amounts of these expenditures which could be saved by efficiency and reasonable economy in government would provide a steady job for every unemployed man and woman in the United States.

“The tragedy of the thing is that during these hard times many business concerns can only meet their tax bill by cutting wages or laying off employees. The insatiable demand of government for more money to spend, in spite of universal business depression, has brought many businesses to a point where taxes must be taken out of payrolls.”

P. R. Gets Good Candidates

“A proportional representation plan,” writes Mayor Samuel A. Carlson, of Jamestown, N. Y., “would bring into the governing body a number of strong, independent and scholarly men, who would wield a wholesome and guiding influence in the determination of public policies.

“Everybody knows that such men, as a rule, are not mixers or skilled in the political tricks of securing majorities under the old election method in vogue in most cities and states, hence this caliber of citizen is seldom elected. But under the proportional representation plan such men and women would not find it difficult to secure the support of a sufficient percentage of like-minded citizens.”

Confidence Needed

After business depressions there are periods of excessive business timidity. Caution is necessary at all times but the present situation needs a combination of caution and courage.

Mr. R. Perry Shorts, a regent of the University of Michigan, gives some wise counsel:

“No other nation in the world is even half as well off as we are. Our life insurance assets alone amount to more than all of our government debts put together. Why should we worry about war debts when, even if they were all cancelled, our annual income would be reduced by about \$2.00 per person? Why fret any more about bank failures, when over twenty-thousand banks are still doing business?

“It is distressing, of course, to think about the four or five million men now unemployed—but how about the thirty-six million men who are still at work. Everybody talks about the farmers who can’t pay interest on their mortgages—but we hear little about the fifty-eight out of every one-hundred farms that are not mortgaged at all! We know that America has a one-hundred per cent record of marching straight through every depression to new record peaks of prosperity.”

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Eighteenth Amendment Criticisms

The following article concludes the reply to the Bulletin’s New York City correspondent’s objections to prohibition:

(5)“Prohibition is not within the intent of the Constitution.” The Bulletin feels that the repeated decisions of the Supreme Court affirming the constitutionality of prohibition fully covers this point.

(6) "The rights of others have been set aside." Personal liberty ends where the rights of others begin. Drivers of automobiles understand this. Prohibition would have little to stand on if the evil effects of alcoholic liquors were confined to the ones who drink it. But alcohol reduces the drinker's physical and moral control over himself and he becomes a menace to society. Society, therefore, has the right to withhold from an individual the use of that which imperils itself. "What is civilization," said Edison, "but the restriction of personal liberty for the benefit of mankind?"

(7) Prohibitionists should "state constitutional and valid legal justifications for the 18th amendment on other grounds than ethics and emotion." Why rule out ^ ethics and emotion? Ethics is the science of duty. When the country finds it should or should not do certain things to "promote the general welfare" its action to do or not to do seems to be well within constitutional authority; and emotion or "Sentiment," as Woodrow Wilson said, "rules the world." Public sentiment aroused by "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was one of the deciding factors of the Civil War. Public sentiment put the 18th amendment into the constitution and it will remain there until public sentiment takes it out.

Our national and state laws have largely to do with things that people are forbidden to do; in another word, prohibitions. We are prohibited by law from committing murder, theft, arson and hundreds of other crimes. These laws are not fully enforced but they prevent many crimes. Prohibition is not fully enforced but it has prevented 80 per cent of the former drinking. The saloon is now an outlaw. No one argues for its return but most of the wets are in favor of bringing it back. The movement for the repeal of prohibition would collapse were it not for the support of the fellows who hope to make money by the sale of liquor.

Our federal constitution is entitled to the support of all national and state officials. Many have violated their oaths of office by refusing allegiance to the constitution. Some states attempt to nullify the constitution by publicly refusing their support. The Bulletin hopes that they will soon recognize this treasonable position and get back into the Union.

Turkey and Greece at Peace

The mutual animosities of Turkey and Greece are fading away. They have limited their navies. The prime ministers of the two countries have exchanged courtesies. The "Congregationalist" says:

"Athletic contests between the youth of the two lands have been instituted. Orders have been given that history and geography shall be taught in the schools in a way which will promote mutual understanding and goodwill. Each country is encouraging students from the other to study in its national university. The former Greek population of Asia Minor, which was "exchanged" some years ago, is now allowed to return for fixed periods. Thus are two traditional enemies manifesting an attitude of mutual esteem."

To Prevent Tuberculosis

"Tuberculosis doesn't just happen," says Miss Marion Ferguson, executive secretary of the Kansas City Tuberculosis Society, "it comes only from tuberculosis, just as weeds spring only from other weeds. The real cause of the disease is a germ. If a few tuberculosis germs get into a healthy body, they do no harm because the body fights back. But if many germs get in, and if the person's resistance is weakened, they may grow in numbers and destroy the body.

"The object of the Society is to trace every case of tuberculosis back to its source, which we know by experience frequently is another case of which nobody is aware, in the same family.

This other case keeps on infecting people who are in close contact, and until it is found and precautions taken to stop him spreading the germs to others, he remains a constant menace and a perpetual obstacle to the final victory of society over tuberculosis.”

Membership in the League is \$1.00 per year, which includes the subscription price of the weekly Bulletin. As dollar memberships do not meet the League’s expenses, larger payments are desired. Group subscriptions and Associate Member Clubs, fifty cents. Quantity copies of single issues, \$10 per thousand. Check below the amount of your remittance and send to the Citizens’ League, 510-11 Ridge Building, Kansas City, Mo.

\$1__ \$3__ \$5__ \$10__ \$25__ \$50__ \$100__

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