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Now It Has Been Told

WHAT does the oil scandal mean to us? What are the benefits we may expect from the publication of the long story of business and political intrigue and corruption? With all its ramifications the story is dramatically simple.

At the end of the war we said we were sick of idealism. We had done enough for humanity. The time had come to look out for ourselves. Very practical men in business and politics decided to get theirs while the getting was good.

President Harding was persuaded to transfer the navy's crude-oil reserves from the Navy Department to the Interior Department.

Albert B. Fall, a hard-boiled adventurer from New Mexico, was Secretary of the Interior. Fall turned over rich oil-bearing government lands in Wyoming and California to groups of oil men headed by Harry F. Sinclair and Edward L. Doheny.

Sinclair and Doheny shared their expected riches with Secretary Fall and Sinclair gave Will Hays \$260,000 worth of Liberty Bonds to be used for the Republican National Committee.

Will Hays used some of these bonds and gave others to certain rich men in return for which contributions were to be made to the National Committee. Smooth and indirect as were the methods employed, the affair could not be kept secret.

Rumors reached the United States Senate and in 1923 an investigation of the oil leases was begun. During the subsequent five years the Senate Committee has explored a maze of deceit and corruption.

Meanwhile the United States Supreme Court canceled the oil leases "brought about by means of collusion and corrupt conspiracy" and President Coolidge revoked former President Harding's order and put the oil lands back in the Navy Department.

The net result of this attempt to loot the public is tragedy. It is safe to estimate that not one of the unscrupulous oil men has been enriched by this speculation. They expected to get hundreds of millions. Actually they lost millions. The politicians immediately involved, expecting immunity through their associates, have been driven from office and discredited. Criminal indictments and jail sentences hang over the heads of some of the conspirators.

Fall and Sinclair thought anything was possible so long as it promised dividends. Others close to them not actually corrupt were complacent in the face of wrong.

Some of them regretted the apparent necessity for duplicity but, life being what it was, they were silent.

What good has all this five years of investigation done?

Men in high position have been torn down, reputations have been blemished, careers have been destroyed.

Tragic as is all this destruction, its public value is of incalculable importance.

Right does not always triumph in this world. Yet we must cling to right and uphold honor. The invincible majesty of honest dealing is the inspiration which lifted men above beasts. Take away the belief in righteousness

and everything precious in life is destroyed.

The trail of infamy explored by Senator Walsh and his associates is an assurance, and a welcome assurance, that no man is rich enough and none is powerful enough permanently to prosper on dishonesty and crime.

The mass of men and women understand, if the plotters do not. Righteousness was challenged and catastrophe came as inevitably as in the old Greek tragedies.

They have served as they never could while they were riding on the wave of success. By sacrificing themselves to greed they have proved the power of right.



Lost in the Jungle

American Economy

THE peasants of Greek Macedonia and Thrace have found a way to quadruple the life of their sixty-cents-a-pair shoes, or sandals. They are making them of heavy, reinforced rubber instead of leather. The rubber? Discarded American taxicab tires. The peasants can pay the freight on these tires from New York to Saloniki, add the shoemaker's labor cost, and make money by getting three pairs from one casing. About 12 per cent of these tires are so good that motorists buy them at bargain prices.

The obvious moral is that a Greek peasant getting a year's wear from shoes of American junk is a model of thrift compared with his American cousin. Wear

tires instead of shoes and get rich? No. The true moral is that if the tires had a dime's worth of an American's time in them for American use, the Greeks would never see them. Be rich enough to free yourself of petty economies.

Some nations could live on the unused by-products of American industry, yet Americans are not wasteful. They save when it pays to save. The fact that an American useless tire is the raw material of a Greek shoe industry merely means that, according to American business practice, the American's time is worth that much more than the Greek's time. The American used the tire only so long as it paid its way in his money.

We save time as well as materials. That explains American prosperity.

Tolerance in Georgia

NEITHER tolerance nor intolerance is indigenous to any section. Either is a habit of mind rather than a matter of geography.

Charlton, a county in Georgia, has chosen as tax collector a candidate who is a woman, a Roman Catholic and a "Yankee," all three supposed to be insuperable handicaps to election. Yet she led the ticket and defeated a man who was a native of the county.

The people named her because she seemed the best qualified of the contenders.

This is the fundamental that in the end defeats intolerance, both in public and private affairs.

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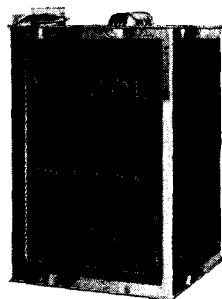
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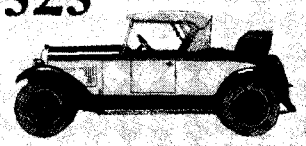
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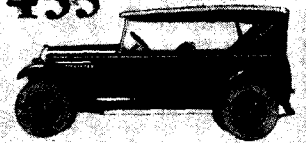
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