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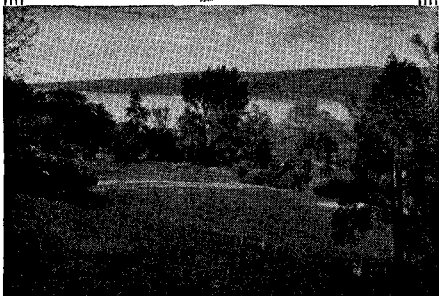
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## OUR ROSTRUM

*These columns are open to brief letters commenting upon any article or subject that has appeared in THE FORUM. Because of space limitations, the Editor must reserve the right to publish letters only in part.*

### SEASONAL LABOR

To the Editor:

Mr. Beals is entirely correct in his contention that California wants the "Migs" but only during the harvest season ["Migs," by Carleton Beals, January FORUM]. The Southern States have traditionally used the Negro in the same way. He can starve and be damned after the cotton is out. "Furnish" doesn't begin till spring plowing and then is discontinued again when the crop is laid by.

More particularly is this seen here in the sugar bowl during the cane harvest. Sugar cultivation is more highly mechanized and the industry is more closely controlled. Each year a great "emergency" is announced. The Governor issues a proclamation; the national guard is called out; and WPA does a fade out.

Even this doesn't solve the problem, for men with trucks must go raiding the Mississippi plantations for colored labor. It is a dangerous occupation for Mississippi planters are none too friendly when they still have cotton in the fields. But if dangerous to life and limb it is still quite profitable at \$1.00 per head. One can run in an average of 40 to the load and carry back an equal number the same day. It only takes the Mississippi Negro about a week to learn that he hasn't a fool's chance to get the wages he has been promised. He is then glad to waive any wages due and give any man \$1 to get back up to his wife and kids.

GORDON MCINTIRE  
State Secretary

Farmers' Educational and Co-operative  
Union of America  
New Orleans, La.

### STOOGES?

To the Editor:

As one of the guilty "innocents" participating in united front movements initiated by Communists, I regard Mr. Rorty's evidence of conspiracy as pretty naïve ["Mobilizing the Innocents," by James Rorty, January FORUM]. . . .

The plain fact of the matter is that Communists, having determined to support democracy as against Fascism, are now to be found in every liberal movement. . . . Mr. Rorty doesn't like that. As a revolutionist of the Trotsky persuasion he wants his tactics and doctrine pure without middle-class confusions.

As to the League against War and Fascism (now the League for Peace and Democracy) let me say that I have been on its executive committee from the beginning and am so innocent as to be unaware of any manipulation of the League

in behalf of lining up forces for war against Fascism. . . .

ROGER N. BALDWIN  
New York, N. Y.

To the Editor:

The article . . . is, I think, basically sound. . . . Generally speaking Communists today bless in America precisely the policies which they most vigorously damned prior to 1934. Some of the changes in line may be to the good. The reason for them is not. It is the substitution of a Holy Land with a holy leader, Stalin, for the great cause of the workers. . . .

. . . As for the American League for Peace and Democracy — the general idea of which is good — I think the liberal and non-Communist elements in it are perhaps larger and more influential than he indicates. The program of the League with regard to war is essentially the Communist program stated in a rather vague and partially contradictory form. But the source of this kind of program is at least as much certain liberal delusions. . . .

NORMAN THOMAS  
New York, N. Y.

### THINGS HAVE CHANGED

To the Editor:

. . . I was preparing a talk for a seminar recently on the social significance of current non-fiction; so I made a comparison of the magazines of the year 1900 with the same magazines in 1937. I was reading along in the July, 1900, issue of *Century* when I came upon an extremely florid and eulogistic article about a certain Sarah Porter who founded Miss Porter's School at Farmington, Connecticut. She was the greatest educator — the pioneer in education for women — "advanced" — the advocate of high thinking and simple living — the creator of the famous "Farmington type." In fact, her school marked the top in education.

I chuckled. For thirty-seven years later the successor to *Century* bought my article criticizing finishing schools as a social menace ["What Good Are Finishing Schools?" January FORUM]. And the particular school aimed at was this same Miss Porter's for it is today one of the most backward of all the fashionable schools in that it blandly refuses to prepare a girl for college, believing no doubt that the best people are not too well educated. I thought the gap between those two articles, thirty-seven years apart, did represent social progress, or at least social change.

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## Our Rostrum

### WHO STANDS THE DAMAGE?

To the Editor:

That is a thought-provoking article of Messrs. Leslie and Quinn ["You Bet Your Life!" by V. A. Leslie & T. J. Quinn, January FORUM]. . . .

I happened to have been associated in that study sponsored by the Columbia University Council for Research in the Social Sciences which is referred to. . . .

The Massachusetts plan of compulsory insurance eliminates financial irresponsibility, but it does not provide a prompt remedy nor eliminate the necessity for dealing with the really impossible question of whose fault the accident was.

I have believed for many years that the ultimate solution would be found in an accident compensation plan, analogous to that provided through the workmen's compensation acts for industrial injuries. It was the conclusion of the Columbia Committee that such a plan is the way out. . . .

ARTHUR A. BALLANTINE

Root, Clark, Buckner & Ballantine  
New York, N. Y.

### MOTHER TROUBLE

To the Editor:

Katharine Winant ["Problem Mothers," December FORUM] has done an exceptionally good job on two counts. She has described a very common and painful problem in clear terms and has further contributed an instance of successful solution.

I wonder whether she realizes that the solution was found first in herself and only secondarily in her mother's changed behavior. Maybe Miss Winant's modesty minimized this part of the story, but for the sake of others I wish she had told how many times she had struggled with herself before that eventual frank talk. Often she must have run away, talked back, given a cool lecture, a good shaking, a dose of poison, all in conscious or unconscious phantasy. Until she came to terms with herself she couldn't really help her mother.

. . . It is the child's own need to retain mother-approval which leads him to fall in with the indulgence against which another part of himself rebels. Miss Winant has projected too much undesirable feeling out onto the actual mother. Granted that in one sense the child "got this way" because of what the parents did during early years, still there comes a time when the young adult should take over responsibility for his own thoughts, feelings and actions. Blaming parents is a poor "out." Miss Winant's major adjustment was not of her mother but of herself. . . .

GOODWIN WATSON

Teachers College  
Columbia University  
New York, N. Y.



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