

With Our Readers

Military Education

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Knoxville, Tenn.

SIR—Upon finding Mr. Archibald Rutledge's article, "Miniature West Points," in your October 8 number, I commenced to read it, anticipating a flaying of the numerous "tin schools" with which the nation is burdened. Imagine my surprise at finding Mr. Rutledge digressing from what started to be his theme, to an attack on all military training and the honorable profession of arms. True, he somewhat lamely finishes with a reference to the harmlessness of C. M. T. C. and R. O. T. C., which he immediately proceeds to controvert with his last sentence. But taken all in all, his tirade is an attack on all things military.

Mr. Rutledge's is evidently one of those "sensitive and reflective" natures (like that of Poe and that of Lanier) which does not feel at home in the atmosphere of robust masculinity to be found around things military. That perhaps explains why he cannot reconcile military training as one branch of education. That is perhaps the reason he limits the "fruits" of education to "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." That is probably why he says, "many a good soldier is also an eminent scholar despite his training."

The professional soldier deplors the existence of the individual over-balanced on the side of physical development, at the same time recognizing the lack of proportion in the man with a nature so "sensitive and reflective" that it causes him to stress his mental development at the expense of his physical. Were our author capable of visualizing the happy mean, he would find, in one and the same individual, the intelligent educated citizen and the ideal soldier. So much for his digression.

As to what purports to be his theme, he is right as to the uselessness of some "tin schools" as educational institutions. The War Department has found, however, that the schools where the academic work is so lacking as to preclude their being listed as "accredited" schools (for college entrance), are usually the schools where military training is such in name only.

It is unnecessary for a parent to send a son to such a school when several of the reputable periodicals maintain educational advisory service, and an inquiry of almost any army officer will bring forth a list of accredited schools where boys will not only be properly prepared for college entrance, but will receive the rudiments of a military training which all save "sensitive and reflective" natured individuals will find beneficial in preparation for the struggle of life . . .

J. K. EVANS, Capt. U. S. Army.

Voyage to the Moon

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: New Haven

SIR—I am filled with increasing wonder as time goes on why you continue to print such stuff as the weekly "Backstage in Washington" article, but the climax of waste of space and printers' ink is the piece by Philip M. Barr, headed, "New Worlds to Conquer," in your issue of October 8.

If it was written as a joke, I fail to see the humor of it. If there are any persons outside of insane asylums who are working on such ideas as he sets down, they haven't the faintest conception of conditions a few miles from the earth's surface. A man who believes that explosions in empty space, however violent, would have any propelling force whatever is simply crazy.

M. H. LEWIS.

Criticizing the Institute

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Cambridge, Mass.

SIR—In order that there may be no misapprehension as to why I wrote the criticism of the Williamstown Institute of Politics which appeared in the October 8th issue of the Outlook under the title of "Summer Sewing Circle," I think it necessary to correct here the statement, apparently emanating from Institute headquarters and seemingly designed to invalidate my criticism, that I was "on the pay roll of the 1929 Institute but was not retained this year."

The facts in the situation are that at the 1929 session of the Institute I represented the Springfield Union and the International News Service and also had a position on the staff of

Mr. Andrew Ten Eyck who conducts the Press Bureau of the Institute. At the session this August I acted as special correspondent for the Outlook, the Paul Block Newspapers, the New York World, the Springfield Republican, and the International News Service. I also retained my position of the previous August with Mr. Ten Eyck until just before the opening of the session when Mr. Ten Eyck insisted that I should split my salary, which I received from the five newspapers with him and his assistants, asserting that this was the custom. It had not been done the year before when I represented only two papers and further investigation showed that it had not been the habit before that. Consequently, since Mr. Ten Eyck had had nothing to do with my obtaining positions with any of the five newspapers, I resigned my job on his staff.

I regret very much the necessity of mentioning personal affairs but it seems imperative that this false statement by means of which the Institute administration is apparently attempting to discredit the recent criticism in the Outlook, should be corrected.

WILLIAM LOEB, JR.

American Nobility

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Oakland, Calif.

SIR—Present day happenings indicate that the time has arrived for amending Art. I, Sec. 10 (1) of the United States Constitution. As a result of that section our girls are making themselves ridiculous in their chase after European titles, and Mrs. Brossard, President of the Daughters of the American Revolution, is driven to attending court functions in England. Meanwhile Presidents of the U. S. A. are facilitating the dictum that this nation consists of so many people "mostly colonels" (said as a set-off to Carlyle's remark that England had a population of thirty millions "mostly fools"). At the outset of the war a whole crowd of "patriots" who feared to risk their own skins used political influence to obtain the title of Major, well-knowing that, except inadvertently, a major never went near enough to the front to be in any danger. Again would it not have been much better for President Wilson to dub his physician "Sir" than to make him an admiral?

Think how well Viscount Morgan would sound. Baron Doherty, Sir Henry Ford, Marquis of Orange (for Edison), or the Duke of New York for John D. Why not? The ground of objection is obsolete. The economic position is the basis of nobility. It has been so ever since the first tax-farmer grabbed a public utility. What good are the titles of the pauper princesses and counts who have flocked to this country since the war, except to delude social climbers? In England directly a man is rich enough and subscribes sufficiently to party funds they ennoble him. Even Miss Burdett Coutts, on account of her wealth, had to be made a baroness. Why not Hetty Green? In no country in the world is pomp and circumstance more greatly esteemed. Our fraternities and sororities are evidence of this; they provide the opportunities for emulating the rank which the state withholds. Seriously, an American nobility would make American society much more enjoyable, and also keep our wealthy folks at home to spend their money on American goods, and so help the farmer.

EDITH STUDHOLME.

Supporting Governor Long

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Shreveport, La.

SIR—We are very much surprised over the remarks you are making about our Governor Huey P. Long under "Trend of Events" in your issue of September 9.

Only absolute ignorance on your part in regard to the real political, financial, and moral condition of the state of Louisiana can excuse you for printing and publishing bunk like this and trying to make the people of our nation at large believe that our governor is the kind of human being you have pictured him.

Why do you not come down here to our good state of Louisiana and post yourself a little and not take for granted the stuff a biased and lying press is feeding you? You must think the majority of the people of Louisiana are born fools, when you call a man a "buffoon and demagogue" whom the people elected by more than 38,000 majority in an election where about 250,000 votes were cast.

This man "Long," we are going to tell you for your own enlightenment, has done more for our state than any other governor or all former governors together since reconstruction times. Here are a few things this man, as our governor, has done for this state: He gave us free school books for all children, he supplied funds, with the help of the legislature, for our charity hospitals, asylums for the insane, for the deaf and dumb and blind, and also tubercular and epileptic asylums, night schools for illiterates between the ages of twenty-one and seventy years. The last mentioned have already taught 125,000 to write and read.

Is a man a demagogue who does all these things? He has done all of this in a little over two years. No other governor has ever tried to do anything in this line for our people. Has this man been pictured to you as being a demagogue by this bunch of political "has-beens and grafters" just because he tried to put an occupational tax on the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana, which company is not paying anything in this line, notwithstanding the fact that every professional and merchant, etc. pays an occupational tax today in our state? We have always believed in your writings, but if the truth is handled by you in the same manner in your other articles as it has been shown in this instance, we will have to take the truthfulness of the balance with a grain of salt.

W. P. SCHROEDER.

Brainstorm

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Cookeville, Tenn.

SIR—Neither the writer nor the institution he represents relishes the prospect of being drawn into the vortex of a brainstorm that has been animated by the righteous public acts of sovereign Americans, especially the acts of those living in the South. The mind of the author of "Through a Glass Darkly" shows unmistakable sign of too much cloudiness in the issue of the Outlook of October 8, 1930. He perhaps overlooked the fact that the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute was established by the General Assembly of Tennessee in 1915, and that eight hundred and thirty-four students were enrolled in the year 1929-30. His jagged reference to the teaching of the law of gravitation and the satirical insinuations cast therewith may be somewhat clarified when he understands that should the Outlook succeed by October 4, 1950 in making the law of gravitation intoxicating, or should the teaching of it otherwise become damning to the soul, the agencies governing the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute will be justified in promptly banning it from the curriculum.

Q. M. SMITH.

[EDITORS' NOTE—The names of institutions, companies, etc., appearing in "Through a Glass Darkly" are generally fictitious. Unfortunately, the list of universities and colleges of the *World Almanac*, which was used in order to avoid referring to a contemporary institution, does not include the Tennessee Polytechnic Institute.]

Plan for Liquor Control

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Vancouver, Wash.

SIR—The fact that I differ emphatically from the Outlook in the matter of handling the liquor problem, does not impair my interest in reading it, nor my belief that your forum is conducted impartially.

America rejoices in (potential) majority rule. What do the majority wish in this issue of wet and dry? I believe the majority desire a change which will be constructive and not destructive. The weakness of both wets and dries lies in the fact that neither has a constructive plan to offer. The bone dries advocate merely a more intensive effort along present lines; the wets advocate repeal but offer no substitute, inferentially giving the impression that no federal control is better than the present situation. Many of the wets advocate state option and enforcement. This may seem a constructive suggestion. It is destructive. If our national frontiers alone cannot be successfully defended from the liquor smugglers, how can the much longer frontiers represented by state lines between wet and dry states be safeguarded? Enlarging the problem will not help to solve it. In this era of automobiles and

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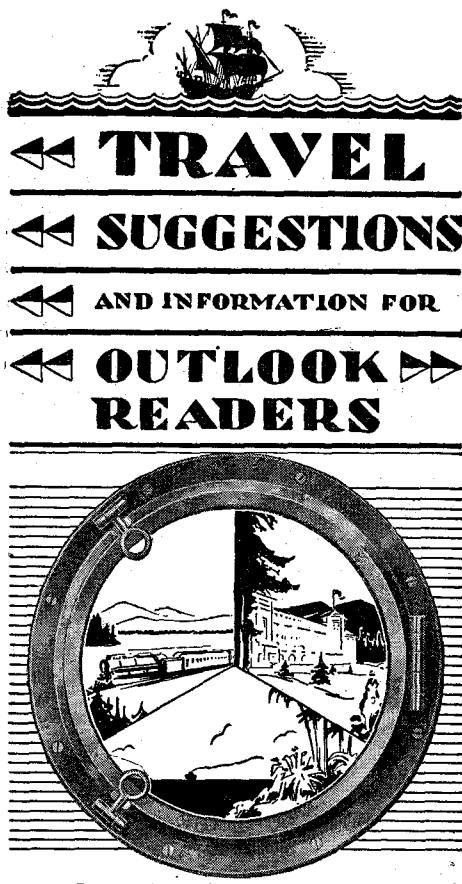
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With Our Readers

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airplanes, state responsibilities do not disappear, but federal assistance becomes more essential. The majority of decent American citizens, wet or dry, do not desire the return of the saloon; and finally, the majority desire the elimination of the bootlegger.

In line with meeting these desires, the following concrete measures are I believe worthy of consideration.

(a) Distinguish sharply between distilled and fortified liquor on the one hand; and malted and simple fermented drinks on the other. Whisky should be considered a dangerous narcotic, so classed, and placed with morphine and cocaine. The Harrison Law should be amplified to cover the distilled liquors and enforcement rigidly maintained by a strengthened narcotic bureau. State and federal co-operation should be insisted upon in the enforcement and administration of the amplified narcotic law . . .

(b) Beer and malt liquor of not over four per cent alcohol, and simple unfortified fermented wines (rarely over eight per cent) might be permitted under strict federal regulation and in limited quantity. Bone dry states, however, should have the privilege of excluding these absolutely and should have the co-operation of the federal government in so doing. That there would be some seepage across wet-dry state borders would be expected; but it would be minimal in amount and the huge profits of the whisky bootlegger would not figure, assuming adequate enforcement of the narcotic law. Hence a better crime situation.

(c) The bootlegger, especially the bootlegger of distilled liquor, morphine and cocaine must be exterminated ruthlessly. It is futile to expect that permission to sell or consume light wines and beer will eliminate the illicit whisky purveyor. The hands of the law must be strengthened by special measures. Two, drastic but beneficial, may be mentioned; first, a prison term of five to twenty years for violation of the amplified narcotic law; second, a usury sales law which would limit permissible profit in any commodity transaction whatever to a certain percentage—say one hundred and fifty per cent for example. This would be applicable whether the business itself were legal or otherwise.

Incidentally such a usury sales law might be invoked against an extortionate middleman, a predatory public utility corporation, or even such a slippery customer as certain petroleum interests. If so, why not?

H. L. UNDERWOOD.

The Bratt System

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Anten, Sweden

SIR—We have been receiving your publication for the past three years and have noted the change of cover and contents for the better. Your opinions on prohibition have been very interesting to follow.

Over here they have a system of rationing out liquor which I believe is known as the Bratt System in the United States. A Swedish citizen is issued a book, if desired, provided he pays his taxes at the age of twenty-four, that entitles him to draw a litre of strong drink per month. This can be revoked if he abuses the privilege by the parish pastor or authorities. There is no limit on wines, but the people in this section at least can't afford them. They do not buy much as it is so easy to make it themselves and thereby conserve some of the fruit crop.

Even a widow may have a book if she wants it and can buy a litre a month. The man's allowance can be increased according to the size of his family and the number dependent on him. The clerk selling or distributing the stuff is responsible for every drop. If the book is loaned to some one else it is forfeited. All hard liquor must be signed for when ordered.

A drunkard is a drunkard and no regulation can stop him from getting something with a real kick as long as sugar yeast and the laws of fermentation exist. No man-made law can stop him even here where they are quite sensible. Drunkenness can only be curbed by public opinion and the society a man keeps, and even they can't always help. Every drop seems to be accounted for over here in this cool climate.

A. T. HELBERG.

Dominant Drys

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Manchester, N. H.

SIR—In your issue of Oct. 8 under "Trend of Events" you comment on the action of the New

York State Republican Convention in nominating wet Charles H. Tuttle for governor and the adoption of a plank favoring repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and say, "The New York Republicans have joined the wet movement in the Republican party now directed by Dwight W. Morrow. Needless to say, this brings them into direct conflict with Mr. Hoover and the dominant drys."

What is your authority in designating Mr. Hoover as a "dominant dry"? Let us look at the record. On August 11, 1923, in his speech of acceptance, he said "I do not favor repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment." In the two years and two months that have elapsed since that statement was made much water has flowed under the prohibition bridge. A number of men of high standing, some of them close to Mr. Hoover, have declared themselves in favor of repeal. Mr. Hoover has made no public statement regarding his attitude on the amendment since the one quoted above. Since he has been President he has had quite an education regarding the feasibility of keeping the amendment in the Constitution. He is compelled to be a "dominant dry" to the extent that, inasmuch as he is President and took an oath that he would support the Constitution and enforce the statute laws, he is obligated to do his utmost to enforce the provisions of the Volstead act. This is his job regardless of any private opinion which he may have at the present time as to the Eighteenth Amendment. If he now favors repeal it would be unwise for him to make a public statement to that effect, and it is not necessary for him to do so until such time as he may become a candidate for re-nomination.

In the same issue of the *Outlook*, under the caption, "Backstage in Washington," the writer intimates that the President favors a liberal attitude regarding the making of home brew and light wines in the home. If that is the case, how can he be classed as a "dominant dry"?

G. H. BAMMANN.

Prohibition's Record

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Lincoln, Neb.

SIR—Your series of articles by Charles Merz on the history of the Eighteenth Amendment is a fine and worthy piece of work.

I take this occasion to confess that I was one of the men who did his humble part to bring on state and national prohibition, and finally rejoiced when it went into the Federal Constitution. Now I cheerfully admit my share of the great mistake. We have gone too fast and too far. Here in Nebraska the law is fairly well enforced, pretty much in line with the sentiment of the state. Lincoln, our capital, according to the *Literary Digest* poll, appears to be the driest city of its size in the country.

I judge that prohibition is likely to be permanent in our group of states. At the same time I think it a mistake to spread Volsteadism over the whole United States. What is good for the rooster may not be good for the gander. Even in Nebraska I deplore the unwarranted raids on private homes. Today I should be glad to vote for a repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, but I don't expect Volsteadism long to remain the law of the land . . .

Within ten years I expect to see a wet House of Representatives in Washington. This wet house will vote against appropriating money for Volsteadism and finally destroy the enabling acts entirely. This will leave the liquor situation almost exactly where it was prior to 1920. This would appear a rather drab and uninspiring finale for the Noble Experiment but quite in keeping with our frame of government and the exigencies of an intolerable situation.

Andrew Jackson once said "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it." A wet House of Representatives will eventually say something like this concerning the Eighteenth Amendment.

W. T. DAVIS.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

To the Editor of the *Outlook and Independent*: Washington

SIR—It's a pity all of your readers do not realize what a degenerate your publication has become and what a self-evident mouthpiece it is for the liquor interests and the donkey party.

No respectable publication allows one of its regular writers to systematically attack and belittle the President of the United States, and hide behind his (the writer's) initials.

The above are the principal reasons why I do not want another copy of your muck-raking sheet. When I subscribed I imagined I would receive an equivalent for my money.

CHARLES H. COE.