

POOR DOCUMENT MCMXXIII

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1922

The Evening Times and Star

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THE FLAPPER AND LIBERTY OF ACTION.

The new dean of women at the University of Michigan, Miss Jean Hamilton, a thoughtful but daring figure in educational circles, has advanced certain ideas about flappers.

Personal liberty, and "freedom to live one's own life in one's own way," which have been the subject of considerable comment and some controversy. The flapper is not a great national or international issue, but the flapper is among those present in large numbers here, there and everywhere, and the flapper is in some sense important because this whole question of living one's own life in one's own way, after all, too interesting and important to be merely whistled down the wind by any reformer or set of reformers who want to regulate this world by the old curfew law. The answer is that it can't be done.

Reasonable liberty is necessary in this world, and we always are going to have a whole lot of people who do not know the difference between liberty and license, a whole lot of people who go to extremes in one direction, and just about as many who go to extremes in the other. The truth, as the philosopher said long ago, seldom lies in extremes. There are reformers and reformers. The world would have been a very dark place yet but for some reformers, but the world would be a much more pleasant place today if some reformers would reform themselves, or keep quiet long enough to learn the value of a proper sense of proportion.

The idea that the whole world is either drunk or immoral—an absurd idea which keeps some reformers awake at night—is quite as ridiculous as that which some other clodpates hold, namely that everything under the wide arch of Heaven is just going along exactly as it should. Life is a wonderful thing, properly considered, but life is also a battle, and by no means all the soldiers in the army of humanity are well clad, clean, courageous, honorable, and fit this minute to be translated to that invisible Heaven which some of our forefathers created out of their own imagination because of a somewhat faulty interpretation of the Great Book which is the guiding star of so great a portion of the human race. Heaven there undoubtedly is, and it is quite reasonable and proper that there should be many conceptions, and many varying conceptions, of its nature. If it were like the Heaven some of them have conjured up, it would be a poor place.

All of which brings us back to Miss Jean Hamilton and the flapper. The lady flapper says that "must" and "must not" are words that should be discarded. There may be differences of opinion as to that, but if the lady means that there are too many children in this world, and too many young people, who get the impression in their early years that their first name is "Don't," she is quite right. The child should be led rather than driven, and if the child has sufficient intelligence, or doesn't gradually acquire sufficient intelligence, to be guided somewhat by reasonable admonition, the excited and frequently unjust parents had better take a good look at the bean in their own eyes.

Miss Hamilton sagely observes:

"Everybody pencils and lipsticks aren't moral issues; so why waste ammunition on little rabbits when you might need it later for big game."

"All too often when older persons lay down the law for the young women, they are based on their own likes and dislikes instead of real moral foundations. If I succeed in getting across to my girls an idea that is four square to the world, it is because the idea itself possesses authority rather than I."

No doubt this philosophy will shock a great many people, but they will just have to put up with it, because no doubt their own narrow philosophy has shocked an even wider circle, and is repulsive to a wider circle; and in this world we just cannot have things all our own way.

Everybody dislikes dictation and imposed rules of conduct, and we simply have to go on tinkering away at the world and trying through education, and conciliation, and understanding, and the use of reason, to make the race better—in the proper sense of better—and to convert the old Footstool into a better place in which to live. When we think of the occurrences, the history, the failures, the advancement, the successes, of the human race, say since Blenheim and Waterloo, it must be admitted that we should have done some better in that length of time. On the other hand, seeing that humanity is, after all, but human, and recognizing how much courage, and purity, and unselfishness you still can find in the world today if you go looking for it, there is no reason for discouragement. But while there is no reason for discouragement, it must also be recognized that we must not lose too much time in attacking so-called moral problems which we have not first analyzed them with a clear and unprejudiced mind. We must recognize that the flapper is not

a portent of national or international decay or ruin, but that the flapper is merely one manifestation of the fresh groping after increased personal liberty of action which began during the great war and which has been very much in evidence since.

The desire "to live one's life in one's own way" is a wholly natural and proper impulse. Of course, young people having that desire, frequently would not know how to live their own lives usefully and well, even if they had complete liberty of action. Nevertheless the world, hard as the task is, must gradually more and more free itself from the wrong idea that it is well to force young people into certain grooves and keep them there notwithstanding the fact that they are uncomfortable, or unhappy, in those grooves, and must see that to compel a young man who wants to be a farmer to become a carpenter or a doctor, is very frequently to lose a good farmer and a happy one and create a poor doctor and a miserable carpenter who are going to do a great deal of damage to themselves and others in trying to make a living in the wrong occupation.

Parents and teachers must have reasoning powers, and balance, and patience, and a sense of justice, if children are to be reared and trained so that they will grow up to become happy, contented and useful citizens. No one questions the virtues of the great reformers, and no one who is wise will attempt to minimize the inestimable services they have rendered humanity. But there is many a man, and there is many a woman, who wishes to change the ways of others and who are blind to the fact that before attempting to do so he or she should first bring his or her life and conduct into harmony with those rules of life and of thought that make for the solid advance of the race.

So, if Miss Jean Hamilton is held up to scorn in some quarters and to obloquy in others, let it be said for her at least that she does possess some sense of proportion, and that she does know that while eyebrow pencils and lipsticks may frequently be out of place, and that the world might live without them altogether, they are useful things, and she is not the flapper population, does not mean that some Samson of Iniquity has pulled down, or is likely to pull down, the pillars of the world's moral temple.

"ANONYMOUS"

The editor of The Times has been favored with an anonymous letter dealing with the hydro issue. Now, anonymous letters received by a newspaper are consigned to the waste paper basket, but usually they are first read, and sometimes they are not lacking in the elements of amusement. When a citizen, or citizeness, writes an unsigned letter to the editor, it is often the case that the motive, childish as it may seem, is to annoy, to add to the troubles of the recipient. If those who write anonymous letters, from the security of that sometimes crowded space under the barn, knew how small the chance was of annoying the editor by such means, they would post such letters in the fireplaces in accordance with the advice of a very famous authority on this subject. But if their motive was to amuse the recipient, and to beguile his sometimes tedious hours, they would keep on writing them—as doubtless they will.

The Times does not print anonymous letters at all. That is, it does not print any letter the author of which has not made himself known to the editor, and it does not allow writers to use its columns by signing a pen name unless it knows that the author of the letter is not trying to attack or injure some other individual or class of individuals without having the courage to say over his own name what he desires the paper to say publicly while he remains in hiding.

So much for that. The letter received this morning is signed "One of the Widows." The Times is not an expert on handwriting of widows, but it is willing to bet a good cigar that the "widow" who wrote this particular letter had a strong beard, and either needs a shave or wears those facial adornments which are not now so popular as they were before the clean face came the prevailing rule. Another thing: This particular writer says: "And may I ask you to be a gentleman and leave the widows alone?" This is a wholly improper sort of thing to write to any editor, and it shows exclusively that this particular writer does not know editors at all. Otherwise he would know that this advice, or suggestion, is wholly unnecessary, and is even likely to be resented by the friends and acquaintances of any newspaper man to whom it is addressed.

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF RADIO EACH DAY

By Edward N. Davis

Formerly Technical Electrical Expert For U. S. Government

Lesson No. 132.
RADIO DICTIONARY.

BAND FILTERS.

Types of circuits which have the property of transmitting oscillations within a prescribed range or band of frequency and eliminating other oscillations which are not included within the limits of the desired band. These circuits perform important functions in connection with wire telephony and may be used to replace the tuned transformer in radio circuits.

SKIN EFFECT.

When alternating current flows in a conductor the tendency of the current is to flow in the outer portions of the conductor instead of being distributed uniformly over the cross section. If high frequencies are employed, the current flows in a thin layer at the surface of the conductor with the result that the resistance of the conductor at radio frequencies is considerably greater than the resistance of low frequencies. The conditions arising from this non-uniform distribution of current is known as "skin effect."

DECREMENT.

A wave-meter designed for the purpose of measuring decrement. This instrument is provided with a scale from which the decrement can be read directly.

LOGARITHMIC DECREMENT.

When oscillations are created by an electric spark discharge the shape of the train of waves is such that the ratio of one oscillation to the next preceding it is constant and this ratio is called the damping of the oscillation. The Neperian or natural logarithm of the ratio between two successive amplitudes in the same direction of the conductor with the decrement and in order to comply with United States regulations the decrement of the emitted wave must not exceed 0.2, which necessitates twenty-three complete oscillations for each single spark discharge.

SPECIFIC GRAVITY.

The relation between the density or weight of one cubic centimeter of a substance and the weight of one cubic centimeter of chemically pure water. In a storage cell the specific gravity of the electrolyte is determined by means of a hydrometer.

POLARIZATION.

A condition which exists in an electric cell when hydrogen bubbles collect on the positive plate and reduce the potential of the cell by generating an opposing potential.

FARAD.

The unit of capacity is to the Farad. A condenser has a capacity of one Farad when the addition of one coulomb of electricity increases the voltage across the condenser one volt. This unit is so large that the microfarad or one-millionth part of a Farad has been adopted as the practical unit.

UNDER-LOAD CIRCUIT BREAKER.

A device commonly employed in storage battery installations for the purpose of operating the circuit and stopping the flow of current in case the voltage of the charging source should fall below the voltage of the battery. In case where the Battery is charged from a generator this device prevents the battery from discharging into the generator.

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THE SAVIOURS.

Sir Thingummy Jig was breakfasting on bacon and ham and eggs, And kidney and toast and mushrooms, And a couple of partridge legs; And all the time in The Sunny Glime, as a baronet ought to do, He studied the state of the Universe and saw that it was blue.

"Death!" remarked Sir Thingummy Jig. "Bring me a pen and ink; Bring me a fair white writing-pad, and something strong to drink. And wrap a towel about my brow and my face, and let me lie down; For I must write to the Times tonight and save the world from sin."

But Admiral Bunkum sits in bed and quietly chews a roll, And sausage and mash and marmalade, And the simple, manly soul! He lights his pipe and he reads the tripe "Sir Thingummy" wrote and then, With a nautical cry of "Hell!" or "Hi!" he snatches a fountain-pen.

And far away in a leather chair the Duke of Doodledoo Nibbles a rusk with a single tusk and sears the papers through. And a little while ago he was the Duke of Doodledoo, and the Admiral gives him pain.

So Sir Thingummy for a young stenographer and saves the world again. Civilization seems to me to be just a Black and ruin all around, and look at the price of beer! Black and white are the clouds to date, but if ever the skies are blue Oh, don't forget Twas Thingummy Jig that pulled the nation through.

Not to speak of the Admiral and the Duke of Doodledoo! —A. P. H. in London Punch.

LIGHTER VEIN.

The Difference.

"In French, pays means country," announces a well-informed contemporary. In Germany, the word has no meaning. —London Opinion.

What He Found.

"You remember that 'handsome watch I lost five or six years ago?' asked Graves. "Yes, I recall how I looked high and low for it and could not find it anywhere?" "Well, yesterday, I put on an old waistcoat that I hadn't worn for years and what do you think I found in the pocket?" "Your watch, let me congratulate you!"

"No; I found the hole I must have lost it through." —Chicago Daily News.

Sociability an Asset.

A political candidate, on paying a second visit to the house of a doubtful voter of the agricultural class, was much pleased, but somewhat surprised, on hearing from the elector that he would support him. "I said to hear it," said the candidate. "I was at first," said the other. "When the other day you called here, and stood by that pig sty and talked for half an hour you didn't budge me an inch." "But after you had gone away, sir, I got to thinking how you'd reached your hand over the rail and scratched the pig's back until he lay down with the pleasure of it. I made up my mind then that when a man was so sociable as that with a poor fellow creature, I want the man to vote against him."

Little Household Economists.

Cut the old man's hair yourself, then he will never leave the house and you will know where he is evenings. If there is any spaghetti left over, you can knit a very satisfactory shawl or wrap out of it and it will wear several years. An old bird cage can be used as a hat frame for a new hat. The trimming should cost about nine cents. The hat will come about down over the ears and be right in style. —New York Mail.

BOOTLEGGING IS TO BE LOST ART ON THE PLAINS

Rum Runners Have Turned to Bank Robbery Profession, Police Officials Say — Police Hampered by People's Silence.

Winnipeg, Oct. 18.—"Bootlegging" may be a lost art in Western Canada if predictions of police are to be taken as a criterion. Bank robbery, as a profession, seems to have taken its place. The change of profession is not considered due to the outgoing of one band of crooks and the incoming of another, but to the machinations of the police. "Boots" who were once the backbone of "gangs" whose headquarters Canadian police have good reason to believe is in Minot, N. D., the biggest little criminal city on the North American continent.

There is no question in the minds of provincial and mounted police that the "gangs" and "bootleggers" in Western Canada are presided over by the same gang. Facts prove this. The other day at Blenheim, Sask., the bandits adopted a novel method. Instead of endeavoring to steal a quantity of liquor, they shot the agent dead after the liquor had been paid over to him, later stealing the whiskey on its way to the border. Police declare it was a very clumsy effort to evade suspicion. Contempt For The Law.

Well-known "bootleggers" embodied by their success in running contraband liquor across to thirsty souls in the United States and hardened to a contempt for the law as a result of many brushes with custom officers, undoubtedly have organized the series of bank robberies that have terrorized residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba during the last six weeks. Police claim they have proof for making these statements, although they are exhibiting considerable reticence, falling back on the excuse that too much publicity would result in the crooks making their escape undetected.

There is no doubt that the series of bank robberies was the work of United States crooks, for of the seven or eight attempted during the last six weeks, no town visited has been more than 80 miles from the border—just far enough away to enable the robbers to get back across the line before daylight. That their method of operation was well founded is evidenced by the fact that although the entire police forces of two provinces have been concentrated on rounding up some of these crooks, their efforts up to the present, have been without success.

People Remain Silent.

True, the police have been hampered in their work by lack of information concerning the bank robbers, for townspeople refused to take any chances in endeavoring either to apprehend them or furnish police with an adequate description of them. "Why should we take chances?" they asked. "The banks are protected against burglary and no one is likely to be hurt. If he were shot up by the robbers."

Col. John G. Rattray, commissioner of Manitoba provincial police, says it is easy to understand the viewpoint of the people in the rural towns but that they do not help him to solve the mystery with which robbers have been blowing safes during the last two months.

Recently, following the robbery of the Union Bank of Melita, Man., when \$7,000 in cash and \$100,000 in Victory bonds was stolen, active measures were taken to strengthen police protection along the border. This included the formation of a "border patrol" and the establishment of a "border committee" in all towns along the border. The committee was formed and patrolled the town and byroads during the night, compelling every motorist to give an account of himself. Then the robbers changed their tactics.

Performed Dining Coup.

Close students of the situation declare, however, that the police have been too busy catching the "big fry" and missing the "higher-ups." If Dame Rumor can be trusted to any degree there appears to be weight in this argument. Just now police authorities are wrestling with a problem that has many angles. As a result of an hotel-keepers' association, recently formed, two city aldermen have become involved in the hotel business. Developments are expected shortly, which probably will result in one or both being removed from the city council. Also the same scandal monger has coupled the name of one of Winnipeg's most prominent professional men with the head of what is said to be the biggest "run running" outfit operating in the city, an international connection that is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

J. King Kelly, K. C., county secretary, who was a lay delegate from this province to the general assembly of the Methodist church in Toronto, arrived home Monday. He had a most enjoyable trip and heard a number of eloquent addresses delivered at the conference.

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Tiers of Boxes, the Contents Overripe, Ooze with Bryan's Tittle — New York Wine-Grape Mad.

(New York Evening Post.)

The wine-grape season of 1922 has opened with the gutters of West street running red with the juice of Zinfandel, and Alicante and the pockets of the fruit merchants in that bustling thoroughfare are bulging with the produce of their latest bonanza. New York has gone wine-grape mad.

Piles of boxes, their contents so ripe that the juice leaks out and stains the pavement, tower ten feet above the sidewalk. He who would pass along West street must do so between a narrow lane of grape boxes through the crevices of which oozes the rosy fluid that is Mr. Bryan's favorite tittle. Trucks loaded with crates and cart away twenty-five, fifty, two cases at a time. Customers, men and women, bend over the simple boxes and huddle up the deal to get a glimpse of the fruit. The hands of the truckmen are dyed an inky red with loading cases. Their trucks drip with the juice of the grape. Crushed grapes clog the gutters. The passerby tramples a discarded bunch under foot. He is glad they are not bananas.

Provincial Police are wondering how they put in the time. In this province the temperance squad has been the victim of circumstances. As a matter of duty these men have been compelled to administer an act they have been totally out of sympathy with, and they have done the job well, judging from the way the vines have swelled the provincial coffers during the last six months.

Catch the Small Fry.

Close students of the situation declare, however, that the police have been too busy catching the "big fry" and missing the "higher-ups." If Dame Rumor can be trusted to any degree there appears to be weight in this argument. Just now police authorities are wrestling with a problem that has many angles. As a result of an hotel-keepers' association, recently formed, two city aldermen have become involved in the hotel business. Developments are expected shortly, which probably will result in one or both being removed from the city council. Also the same scandal monger has coupled the name of one of Winnipeg's most prominent professional men with the head of what is said to be the biggest "run running" outfit operating in the city, an international connection that is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

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