

SOCIAL EXPEDIENCY AND SOCIAL WELFARE TESTS DEMANDED FOR PRESENT LIVING CONDITIONS

Can No Longer Expect to Defend the Fundamentals of Our Present Social Order by Obstinately Standing Pat on Constitutional Law—National Bank of Commerce of New York Reviews the Social and Economic Structure.

Something more than constitutional law and the mandates of the courts will be necessary to meet the social and economic conditions of the world as facing the National Bank of Commerce in New York as it is in its publication, Commerce Monthly, for October under the heading "Is Private Property Secure?" Social expediency and social welfare, it says, are the tests demanded for present conditions of living and are the logical solution of the problems presented by the growing assaults on private property, free enterprise and competition, which the bank declares, are the three great fundamentals on which the present order of society rests. The article says:

"We can no longer expect to defend the fundamentals of our present social order by obstinately standing pat on constitutional law. It is no satisfactory answer to the social radical to say that our institutions are grounded in court decisions. Men are no longer willing to settle social and economic issues on such grounds. The test now being urged is that of social expediency and social welfare."

After reviewing the assaults made upon private property, free enterprise and competition by the various cults of social radicals the article proceeds: "A wise social policy in the future, aimed at the abolition of poverty, will seek both to restrict the numbers of the population, and to prevent the further breeding of those elements of the population which are by birth condemned to inferiority. It will also lay heavy emphasis on efficiency in production."

"What shall we say for private property, free enterprise, and competition under one or all of which the shafts of the social radicals are aimed? We must hold that these fundamentals of the present social order are vitally important, and thoroughly defensible. Modifications in them we must make, but in the interests of social welfare we must defend them."

It is no valid defense of them, however, to say that they are lawful; that they are established in court decisions, that they are established by long custom. The time is past when men are willing to draw their concepts of justice from lawyers or from ancient custom. Institutions must stand on their own merits, and they must be tested by the fundamental test of social welfare. Do they, or do they not promote the well being of society?

"They do. Private property, for example, corresponds first to a fundamental human instinct, the instinct of acquisition, the instinct of possession. A man is constituted, he desires to own and to hold things. It is by appeal to these elementary things in human nature that we draw out men's energies. The desire for private property is one of the most powerful agencies in spurring men to effort that can be found. Men will work harder for their personal ends than they will for general public ends. Men will take better care of their own property than they will of what belongs to the group as a whole. A system in which each man is made responsible for his own welfare and the welfare of his family leads to far greater effort on the part of men than any other system known. Industries run by governments are in general far more wastefully conducted than are industries run by private individuals whose profits depend on the outcome of the operations. Exceptions can be found among some municipal enterprises in which the activity under observation is relatively simple and observation is relatively simple and can be found among the enterprises conducted by great governments. Whatever else we may seek to do in improving the social order, we must do anything which will lessen the efficiency of production. The fundamental fact in the whole social problem is the fact that we do not now produce enough."

"This does not mean, however, that all phases of private property and all of the rights connected with private property should be regarded as sacred and not subject to criticism. Private property should be subject always to public regulation and subordinated to the public interest. In a great city, a man should not be allowed to put up a high building in such a manner as to cut off light and air from his neighbors. We do not allow them to maintain public nuisances upon their private property. In arid and semi-arid regions, the rights to streams flowing through a piece of land are subject to the larger common need. If private

property is needed for public use, it may be taken either by taxation or under the rules of eminent domain. Again how far is the unlimited right of bequest or inheritance an essential part of private property right? And again, is it necessary in order for us to get the best out of private property for social purposes that fortunes should be allowed to grow to unlimited size? These are questions on which we may well ponder."

"With reference to competition, the issue is equally clear. The instinct of rivalry is fundamental in human nature, and the spur of competition is needed to make men do their best. Competition is the protection of the consumer against high prices which accompany exorbitant profits. It is the automatic force which reduces the gains of the inefficient and makes profits depend upon low rather than on high prices. It evokes in individuals the fundamental characteristics of energy, thrift and power. It harmonizes the interests of the individual and of society."

"Whether competition is wholesome or not depends upon the level of competition. When unfair and unwholesome methods of competition are introduced, the adulteration of goods, the making of false representations, local underselling for the purpose of ruining a local competitor—these and other unfair methods can and should be prevented. Trade practices and public sentiment go far in this matter. Where necessary, the law should step in. The game of business competition must be played fairly. There must be no hitting below the belt. With competition, again, together with competition and private property, is vital to economic progress. The man with ideas and initiative must be given free scope to carry out his plans. By and large, free private enterprise is so enormously superior to government ownership of industry, or industry under government regulations, that the man who has seen both systems in operation intimately, can have little doubt about the matter."

"Free enterprise and competition are highly undesirable under some conditions. There is general agreement that unregulated competition between two parallel lines of railroads may bankrupt one or both. Competing telephone systems in a given city are pernicious. There is no room for competing street railway systems upon the city streets. In cases of this sort we reluctantly surrender competition, and we introduce government regulation. Unregulated monopoly, vice agree, is intolerable. In cases where monopoly is inevitable, we accept the fact. We make the best of it by subjecting it to governmental control. But when we do this, the demand of the Socialists for going further becomes insistent and strong because they feel that the full realization of their program is within sight. A powerful movement arises for government ownership of railroads, or telegraphs, and the like, and it is not certain that this movement can be resisted. Even in the case of regulated monopoly, however, private is preferable to government ownership. Private ownership is more efficient than government ownership and operation, but business men will do well to realize that there is no certainty that private ownership can be retained in these cases. If industry generally is allowed to become highly concentrated and combined under the regulation of such a body as the Federal Trade Commission, it may not be long before the situation is more efficient than government ownership and operation. For the general field of industry, private enterprise and competition must, in the long run, share the same fortune."

Stiff Neck, Lumbago

Aches and Pains of Rheumatism Sometimes Almost Unbearable.

There are weather conditions that make rheumatism worse. They are not the same in the case of all persons. Some victims of this disease suffer more in dry warm weather than in moist cold weather, but all suffer more or less all the time. The cause of rheumatism is an excess of uric acid in the blood, affecting the muscles and joints. Hence the blood must have attention for permanent results in the treatment of this disease. Hood's Sarsaparilla has given entire satisfaction in thousands of cases. Do not fail to give it a trial. If a laxative is needed, take Hood's Pills—they don't gripe.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Margaret M. Irwin. Her friends will hear with sincere regret of the death of Margaret M. Irwin, Millidgeville, which occurred last Sunday at her home.

The deceased, who was a daughter of Captain and Mrs. Robert W. Irwin, is survived by her parents, husband, one son and three daughters, who mourn a daughter, wife and mother who comprised the ideal virtues of each relation. An earnest church worker, and a friend who could always be relied upon, she will be greatly missed by her wide circle of friends in the community.

The funeral will leave her late residence today. The service will start at 1:30 Standard time and the coaches will leave Scott's Corner at 1 o'clock. Interment will be made at Fernhill Cemetery.

Arthur C. Burnett.

The death of Arthur Burnett occurred at Bloomfield, Kings County, on October 12th, leaving his wife, two sons and two daughters to mourn. The sons are Harry D. of Sudbury, Ontario and Walter at home; the daughters, Mrs. George Halliday of Hamilton, Mass., and Miss Edna at home.

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Question Left Until Next Year

Women's Auxiliary Decided to Leave Matter of Taking up Social Service Till 1920 Convention at Hamilton, Ont.

The question as to whether the Women's Auxiliary of the Anglican Church should take up social service, including it in its work has been under discussion for some months. At the Annual Convention of the Dominion Board held recently at Hamilton, Ont., this point was thoroughly discussed and at the conclusion of the discussion a resolution was brought in that the question be left over until next year, but in the meantime the subject should be studied and the discussion done, social service work should carry it on at their own pleasure. The Auxiliary devotes itself to Foreign and Home Missions. A budget amounting to \$129,786.14 was adopted at the closing session and it was reported that \$7,000 of the "Thank Offering Fund" would be available for the quilting and sending over of three missionaries. Two missionaries from Japan, home on furlough Miss Florence Hamilton and Miss Florence Spencer gave accounts of their work. Mrs. George F. Smith and Mrs. W. D. Foster of St. John attended these meetings.

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FOR KIDNEY DISEASE, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, BRIGHT'S DISEASE, NEURALGIA, MIGRAINE, DIABETES, ACIDITY, AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE URINARY SYSTEM.

23 THE PHARMACY

CAMERA MAN FOR EASTERN CANADA

William Berdick, of New York, has been appointed camera man for the maritime provinces for the Fox Film Corporation and will have his headquarters at the Fox Exchange on

Market Square. Mr. Berdick arrived in the city on Friday and will take a number of views all over the province for the Fox News. The first industry to be photographed will be the fishing at Lunenburg. Another addition to the staff of the Fox office is E. P. Houle, formerly of New York, who is now shipper in St. John.

A. S. Sewall, superintendent of the Water and Sewerage Department, returned yesterday from his holidays. While away Mr. Sewall attended the annual convention of the National Waterworks Association of the United States at New York, where many matters of interest were discussed.

The formal opening of King's College Law School will be held this evening in the Chancery Court Room at 8 o'clock. The Hon. J. B. M. Baxter, K. C., will deliver an address on Legal Ethics. The public are invited.

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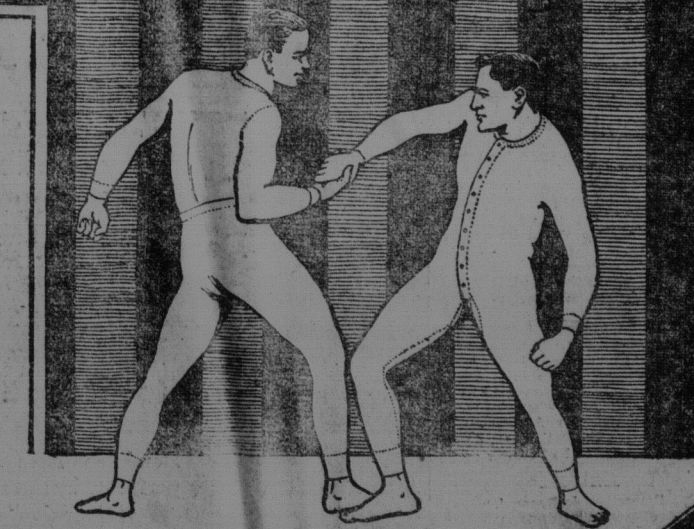


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LATE SHIPPING

City Island, Oct. 8.—Bourl South: Schrs. M. J. Taylor, St. John, N. B. for New York; Francis Goodnow, Windsor, N. S., for Newburg, N. Y.; Thomas H. Lawrence, Windsor, N. S. for Newburg, N. Y.

Glasgow, Oct. 8.—Arrived—Steamer Cassandra, Montreal. New York, Oct. 13.—Steamer B. G. Liverpool via Halifax, arrived. Gibraltar, Oct. 13.—Arrived—Steamer Admiral Hamilton, Montreal for Piraeus.

Manchester, Oct. 8.—Arrived—Steamer Manchester Brigade, Montreal via Halifax.

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