

THE JARVIS RECORD

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DEMOCRACY NEEDS THE TRUTH

There is something worthy of comment in the nearly simultaneous news from Italy and from Spain, during the last two weeks, that a rigid censorship of the press is being enforced by the two autocratic dictators who rule these two countries.

With Russia, these two countries typify what is the only important remnant of the old theory that might makes right throughout the area that pretends to civilization. So that the history of the present as well as the history of the past now stands to buttress the proof of the proposition that autocracy is made possible only through ignorance. Mussolini in Italy and Rivera in Spain are able, with a few soldiers, to maintain an autocratic sway which is almost beyond understanding to people accustomed to democracy, because they are able to keep knowledge from the people.

From this there follows a corollary that needs to be emphasized every so often among democratic peoples. That corollary is that democracy is made possible only through information, and that the truth is the best defender of the right, whether that truth be pleasant or unpleasant.

The forefathers, in founding this country, had this in mind when they wrote into the constitution in provisions guaranteeing the freedom of speech, of the press and the right of the people peacefully to assemble.

It is true that these rights are not inalienable as was aimed for states like California have abrogated those rights and done it by legislative act. Freedom of conscience is denied there and two dozen men and women are languishing in prison in that state because of their belief, not because of any action but because of their misguided belief that the Constitution means what it says in regard to freedom of speech and the right of assembly.

The war, fought to save the world for democracy, very nearly defeated its own end by making, instead, the world easy for autocracy, because it was thought necessary during those days to disseminate good news rather than the truth. It was an age of propaganda; an age of truth only if the truth happened to be of the happy kind that suited the ears upon which it fell, the kind that damned the enemy into a satanic hell-hellness and kept him there while it made angels with wings out of everybody and everything connected with our own cause.

The truth, of course, is that the enemy was not all devil, nor ourselves all angel. It is six years since the war ended and the whole of that truth has not yet been relearned. And out of the fact that it has not been relearned have sprung a thousand and one fungi of autocracy—intolerance, race prejudice and terrorism.

Democracy needs to have the truth—the truth about itself, the truth about its neighbors—whether that truth be happy or unhappy. A fear that democracy may perish, or languish, under the truth is the best revelation of little faith in the principle of democracy.—I.O.&F.R., Ft. Worth.

LOOK AT THE STARS

"Be glad of life because it gives you the chance of love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars,"

said Henry Van Dyke. What does life mean to you? What are you making of it? Are you letting the more sordid phases consume your life? Are you doing this under the false thought that there is some material objective that is vital to your future happiness? Are you allowing yourself to get into the habit of thought that the material side is the real and the lasting?

These are questions every person ought to ask in moments of serious introspection. Take yourself aside. Go over into a secluded corner where you will not interrupt yourself with other things, and ask a few questions of yourself and dare to answer truthfully.

Put behind you the sophistries you deal out to others. Deny yourself the subterfuge of alibis. Just ask yourself squarely what you are making out of life. Don't permit the material part of you to get the floor and do all the talking.

Make it fierce introspection. Take yourself apart and see what it is that is puckering permanently your brow and wrinkling your soul.

To work is joy; to labor is drudgery. Productive effort to make yourself and those associated with you better and happier is work and it is joy.

To play when you can and when you can't to get some enjoyment out of the knowledge that others are playing—that is selfishness that will begin to bring you golden returns.

To look up at the stars! That is to realize the greatness of creation; that is to let your soul grow; that is to get away from pettiness, bickering and criticism of a discouraging and destructive character; that is to live a better and happier life.

See if you can't come out of the corner where you have had communion with the better part of yourself a better and happier soul. See if you cannot supplant enmity with friendships, bitterness with sweetness, hate with love.

Do this and listen to your soul singing inside of you.

Be glad of life and make others glad. Rejoice when you have made a friend, be it the humblest of your fellow creatures or an animal in the street. Realize that when you hurt, bruise, wound or wrong anyone that it instantly reflects on you and scars your own soul.

This is what Van Dyke meant. He said in a few words what your introspection will tell you in many.

Harmony, peace and love—that is looking up at the stars.

"No person can do a higher duty than to resist the majority when he believes it wrong—to assist the right of individual judgment and maintain it; to cherish liberty of thought and action against the tyranny of his own or any other party."—Whitelaw Reid.

LOCAL TRAIN SERVICE

From So.—Pt. Dover to Canfield Jc.
No. 119—arr Jarvis 7.35 a.m.
No. 126—lv for Canfield Jc. 7.55 a.m.
No. 121—arr Jarvis 4.45 p.m.
No. 123—lv for Canfield Jc. 5.10 p.m.

From No.—Hamilton to St. Thomas
No. 234—arr Jarvis 11.00 a.m.
No. 235—lv for St. Thomas 11.35 a.m.
No. 236—arr Jarvis 8.15 p.m.
No. 237—lv for St. Thomas. 8.20 p.m.

From Canfield Jc. to Port Dover
No. 123—arr Jarvis 9.30 a.m.
No. 122—lv for Pt. Dover. 11.05 a.m.
No. 125—arr Jarvis 8.10 p.m.
No. 124—lv for Pt. Dover. 8.20 p.m.

From St. Thomas to Hamilton
No. 230—arr Jarvis 7.50 a.m.
No. 231—lv for Hamilton. 8.10 a.m.
No. 232—arr Jarvis 5.00 p.m.
No. 233—lv for Hamilton. 5.10 p.m.

Mixed Train—East and West
No. 355—West—lv Jarvis. 12.45 p.m.
No. 356—East—lv Jarvis. 12.45 p.m.

— ON PARLIAMENT HILL —

By a Member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery

OTTAWA, February 21st, 1925.—An indication of the desire of Parliament to save the public money by eliminating needless talk and getting down to business speedily was furnished on Monday last when the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne terminated without an amendment being offered by the Opposition, and the same evening the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926, were tabled by Hon. James A. Robb, Acting Minister of Finance. That debate established a record for brevity. That one week compares very favorably with the three weeks consumed last year and with any session of this fourteenth Parliament. An amusing fact in this connection is that while last year the Conservatives were scolding the Progressives for prolonging the discussion, the Opposition this year were scolding the Liberals and Progressives for not talking and charging that a "conspiracy of silence" had been arranged between those two parties. It was also declared by Conservatives that the Liberals had refrained from talking so that the session could be shortened in order to hold a general election at an early date. The Liberals and Progressives both refrained from talk, after the leaders and a very few others had expressed themselves, but for another reason which was their desire to get down to business and to save the country avoidable expense.

ECONOMY IN PRACTICE

A reduction of almost \$7,000,000 was the outstanding feature of the main estimates. Another notable fact is that, if the reductions in the

main estimates of the last three fiscal years are added together, there is to the credit of the Dominion Government a total cut in estimated expenditure of nearly \$105,000,000, and this in the face of heavy uncontrollable outlays that cannot be cut and that must be paid to meet obligations contracted by Canada during the war and as a result of the war. Still another important feature is that where any considerable increase of expenditure is to be provided for it is really in the nature of an investment on behalf of the taxpayers of the Dominion. An illustration of this is the proposed additional expenditure of \$700,000 toward the maintenance and operation of the dredging fleet in the River St. Lawrence channel. The effect of this will be to further reduce the hazards of navigation, which are now really at

(Continued on last page)

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