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Cannot Last.

Under the heading "Unwisdom of Government," the Rochester "Democrat & Chronicle" criticises both the Soviet of Russia and the National and State Legislatures of America for tinkering too much with law and trying offhand and by legislation to change over night the centuries old habits and custom of the people. Our esteemed contemporary says: The Soviet regime in Moscow is following in the footsteps of the French Revolution leaders. In the wild years when they undertook to overturn and abolish many ancient institutions. The Komisar of Worship declares that the government cannot tolerate a calendar marked with church holidays and festivals and religious designations for months and days. They are to be renamed—January for Lenin; March for Stalin and so on. Sunday will be known as Lenin day; Monday as Soviet day; Tuesday as Revolution day, etc.; and the weekly rest day will be on Saturday instead of Sunday.

It is a crazy, futile undertaking, as it was in France. Not one per cent of the people will use the new names. The order to do so will be resented and ignored; the old names will persist as they did in France, where, as soon as a man of brains took charge of things, the absurd attempt to change them was brushed aside.

It is measures of this sort, impossible of enforcement, sure to result in a state of anarchy and confusion and disgust, and of no benefit to anyone if they were adopted, which shows the unwisdom of the doctrinaires who are running Russia to-day. No ruler of sagacity ever aggravated and incensed his people unnecessarily by seeking to put over them some new system upsetting their traditions and usages of hundreds of years. It only brings home to people how foolishly and arrogantly they are misgoverned. If a system be a manifest improvement on an old one it will slowly come into vogue, whereas a governmental decree forcing its instant acceptance would be resented and resisted by the mass of any population. No existing government is so firmly seated or so highly thought of that it could attempt to change the language, customs, religious observances or ancient weights and measures without infuriating great elements in the population. The reason why the metric system has slowly come into use in Europe is that there were many local systems, and their lack of uniformity made commerce—Continental business—inconvenient. It is not so with us. Our bushels, gallons, pounds and yards are everywhere in use. If any producer seeking foreign markets finds metric measures profitable he can use them and does; and that permissive usage is as far as a rational government can go.

As for our month and day names, they come down to us from a past that is more remote than even the well informed among us realize. Our day names came from Scandinavian religion, or mythology if that word be preferred. But where the Norsemen got them no one knows, for their roots run back into Sanscrit and perhaps beyond it into some language of which no hints or vestiges remain. As day names they serve their purpose as well as any others that could be devised; and imagine the uproar and indignation if our Federal lawmakers were so imbecile as to try to change them.

All history proves that wise rulers let well enough alone; do not invite popular odium or avoidable trouble; interfere as little as possible with traditional systems; pass only needful laws and leave their people free to lead their lives in their wonted ways. The Soviet regime, reversing all this, is tottering at the base and will not endure. And our own political system, with equal new laws in personal freedom, is in a case one respect inviting a severe check of popular approbation which will lose in time. We have the

greatest law factories earth has ever known. There is one main plant, forty-eight lesser ones and innumerable small ones with enormous aggregate output; and on top of this is all our court-made laws. Results of this are a growing contempt for all law and a confusion of moral values.

Straws.

Our elart and studious contemporary the "Union and Times" keeps its weather eye on prohibition developments and this is its latest contribution to the discussion:

Two outstanding events in that ever enthralling subject of Prohibition are recorded this week. In the province of Ontario the official permits for the sale of liquor are being issued preparatory to the opening of the government stores at an early date. On the other side of the border the experiment of over-restriction of personal habits provided a failure.

In New York City the Church Temperance Society, an agency of the Episcopal Church has taken its stand officially for "voluntary temperance and not for Prohibition." A questionnaire is being circulated among 7,000 members of the Episcopal clergy asking for the views of this clerical body on the subject of whether the existing laws on liquor selling in the United States have proved a success and what remedy is advised if a negative answer to this question is returned.

The expectation is that a great majority of the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church will indicate a desire to return to temperance by discarding Prohibition. The importance of this action is in the evidence thereby given of a return to sanity on the part of persons who were led away from their natural judgments by the propaganda of noisy fanatics, who were encouraged and led on by the salaried employees of various Prohibition organizations. A reverend gentleman, lately domiciled in Sing Sing prison for a period of two years, is at the head of one of these uplifting organizations.

Prices—Prosperity.

According to the recent report of the United States Department of Labor, there has been a decline of 16 per cent in farm prices, and a decline of 10 per cent or more in prices in other lines of production. It shows also that farm products still average 35 per cent above 1913 prices, while prices of metal products show a gain of less than 22 per cent. This is taken by the "Wall Street News" that the farmers' problem is apparently no more acute than that of the industrialist.

The Journal of Commerce agrees in part with this conclusion. It points out that a large fraction of all concerns which report their incomes to the Federal government report no net incomes, or that they are not making money. It asserts also that the ratio of business failures both in number and volume of assets, is higher than in the past. Nevertheless it finds that producers of agricultural goods are much less able to command the products of others than they were before, during or just after the war.

It may be that these conclusions are as close to the facts and as correct in summarizing general conditions as any nation-wide survey can be. They seem to show that while exceptional industries, or concerns composing them, are prospering, production in all lines is confronting conditions calling for careful management. No class as a whole is relieved from problems and anxieties. Prosperity is always "spotty," and in all ages the biggest profits have gone into a few bags. Just now many of these few bags are the big bags; but it is coming to be the rule that the profits of huge organizations are divided among hosts of small stockholders. Yet if prosperity is most observable in spots, is local, individual, so also for that matter, is health, impoverishment, deprivation and everything else. The one class which, on the whole, has gained the most in recent years and held its gains the best are the wage workers of the land. Their dollar wage holds up to the high marks attained; and the lowering prices for commodities amounts to a further wage increase.

Right!

We are apt to think of actors and actresses as sort of human parrots and glorified mannequins, repeating by rote their lines and as listlessly wearing the garbs supposed to be appropriate for their roles never for a minute crediting them with ordinary intelligence. So, far as routine, every day matters are concerned.

But just read this interview with Patricia O'Hearn, who is playing in Rochester with "Abie's Irish Rose" and concede that, any way, here's an exception to the general rule: Miss O'Hearn is an ardent motorist. She drives her own car, and knows something about the difficulties encountered in traffic congestion. She favors strict traffic regulations for pedestrians as well as for motorists.

"People will kick, of course. Some there will be who will say that such a regulation is in favor of the motorist, that it is another invasion of liberty or life. I have watched the Market and Chestnut streets in Philadelphia. At almost any time during the heaviest traffic you will see persons dodging to the middle of the street when the signal is against pedestrian traffic, and standing in the middle of the thoroughfare waiting a chance to dash to the opposite curb. Should a car driver attempt the same trick, there would be a howl from the pedestrians and a bawling out from the traffic officer. Parents should teach their children to remain on the sidewalks in their play. Laws on this subject are valueless, unless there is public opinion behind them."

Jury System.

The Rochester "Times-Union" in a recent editorial criticized our present jury system and offered suggestions for changes therein in the following editorial:

The Baumes Crime Commission will have some recommendations to make to the Legislature at the next session regarding the jury system in this state.

Public opinion is thoroughly aroused against the farcical delays incident with the selection of many juries, consequently it may be expected that the Legislature will be willing to make some reforms, even though it may not care to go as far as desirable.

The Baumes Commission has several points under consideration. It is likely to recommend that a jury need not be unanimous in order to return a verdict. It may ask that six men, instead of twelve, constitute a jury, thus doubling the number of persons available for jury service.

One of the most important points under consideration, according to a member of the commission, is the proposal that the judge select the jury, rather than the contesting attorneys, and that he confine the questions solely to the eligibility of the juror, and not inquire into his views on questions involved in the case.

The selection of the jurors by the judge would save a great deal of time, and save almost every county in the state thousands of dollars each year. Undoubtedly men of superior knowledge and sounder judgment would compose the juries under such a plan.

Another proposal is that the attorneys be confined to questions on the eligibility of the juror. That would be an advance over the present license to ask questions on almost any line, but it would not be nearly as effective as placing the responsibility upon the judge. A jury judge selected, permitted to make a ten to two verdict would be in the interest of justice in this state. A "ten to two" verdict might be an improvement on present conditions but not an exclusively judge-selected jury. That would put too much power in the politically selected judges.

Ban On Priesthood

For Hair Contained In Will of Briton

London, May 23. — A ban on the priesthood is contained in the will of Major George Frederick Green, of Chetwode Priory, Buckinghamshire, who died last February leaving estate valued at \$205,315.

After provision for his wife during widowhood, for his daughters and for his servants, he left the ultimate residue upon trust for his son, Charles Henry Green, as long as he is not a priest or a novice in the Catholic Church, or does not become a priest or novice in the Church. If he does become a priest he is to receive only \$1,000 a year.

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ELECTRICAL WEDDING GIFTS FOR THE JUNE BRIDE

Electrical appliances are the ideal wedding gifts of to-day. They are appropriate and pleasing gifts because of their attractiveness and beauty. They are wise gifts because of their convenience and usefulness. They will help to bring joy, comfort and contentment into the little new home of the newly married folk. They will be a lasting reminder to the bride of the kindly thoughtfulness of the giver. Satisfy your desire to have your gift appreciated by choosing an electrical appliance for wedding gift, for such gifts are always appreciated.

We are prepared to give particular attention to the buyer of gifts and are offering a large selection of electrical appliances appropriate for June wedding gifts.

A few Electrical Wedding Gift suggestions:

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