

Houston Post-Dispatch

OFFICE OF
W.P. HOBBY,
PRESIDENT

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Sept 20, 1926

OFFICE
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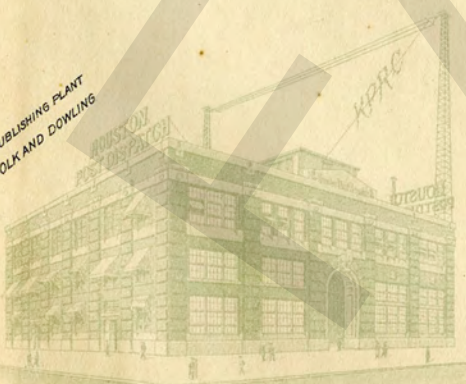
Dear Mr. Elias -

I am enclosing you
editorial comment from the
Houston Post Dispatch of
today which I believe you
will find of interest -

Sincerely yours

W.P. Hobby

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H O U S T O N POST-DISPATCH

Houston, Texas,
Sept. 20 de 1926.

Muy estimado señor Elías:-

Le incluyo un comentario editorial del "Houston Post-Dispatch" de esta fecha, - que creo será de interés para usted.

Sinceramente,

W. P. Hobby,

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Houston Post-Dispatch

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Houston, Texas, Monday, September 20, 1926

Post-Dispatch Daily Survey.

BEFORE all the grain of the 1926 crop is threshed, the farmers of the Middle West are busily engaged in putting another crop into the ground. This year's crop was an unusually large one, but estimates indicate that the acreage for the 1927 crop will be considerably increased, so that in the normal run of events, a still larger crop will be produced next year. If, as the vociferous spokesmen of the political farm bloc declare, wheat growing is a losing proposition, why are the farmers going in for more wheat? If they lost money this year, is it possible that they are taking a chance on losing more money on next year's crop? The claims of the McNary-Haugen group seem to be at variance with authentic department of agriculture reports, and are not supported by reports of what is actually going on in the farming districts.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI of Italy has long been known as a profound egotist. The latest attempt upon his life has developed the fact that he also is a profound fatalist. The stars decree a natural death for him, he assured an American newspaper correspondent, and therefore he is safe from the infernal machine and the assassin's bullet. People who know Mussolini well bear out his assertion, declaring that he believes with all his heart in his own favorable destiny. Napoleon Bonaparte, whom the Italian dictator greatly admires, held a like belief. So did Caesar, Alexander the Great and several other strong men of history. The resemblance between Mussolini and the giants of former years, who hewed their way through a hostile world and subdued it, ceases at this point. The Italian dictator had much rather send a hot speech across the Alps than to send an army. He would never weep for new worlds to conquer, since he is continually devising novel ways to press agent himself in the little world which he rules.

ONE of the most hopeful signs of the times in Europe is the attitude France is adopting toward land armaments. Since the war, France has maintained the largest standing army on the continent, with the exception of Russia. The existence of this large army has handicapped French economic progress and has stood in the way of a reduction of military expenses by other nations. Apparently, the French government has come to realize that maintaining such a large land force is both unnecessary and a positive detriment to France, and to the development of better relations between the European powers. Admission of Germany to the league has probably influenced French sentiment with regard to military preparedness. With Germany in the league there appears to be much less for France to fear from Germany, and since it has been fear of Germany chiefly that has encouraged the French to bear the burden of maintaining a great army, the new conditions indicate the possibility of relief. The rapprochement that is developing between France and Germany is the most significant movement in Europe.

THE use of poison gas in office and bank safes as a means of thwarting burglars and nitroglycerine artists has been suggested repeatedly in recent months. One inventor has perfected an apparatus to release a large quantity of mustard or chlorine gas when a safe is pried open by marauders. The trouble with all such appliances is that they damn the innocent more often than the guilty. As an illustration, take the case of the Richmond, Ind., garage owner who rigged up a burglar trap. His place of business had been entered so often that he decided to use a drastic remedy. He arranged a wire along the floor of the garage in such a manner that a thief, on approaching the cash register, would stumble into it. The wire was attached to a pistol, concealed behind a screen. Soon after the trap was arranged, the garage owner's brother accidentally kicked the wire and the pistol was discharged. The ball narrowly missed taking effect. Less than two weeks later the garage owner himself, forgetting about the burglar ambuscade, opened his place of business and approached the cash register. His foot struck the wire and a pistol ball passed through his body, inflicting a serious wound. Human forgetfulness is a strange thing. Poison gas in office safes probably would kill or injure a great many more clerks and office employees than burglars.

THE peculiar sophistry which argues that ignorance of the conditions under which society lives is a safeguard against crime is encountered in unexpected places. Even a few persons supposed to be gifted with intelligence have launched attacks upon the newspapers as promoters of crime. A Baltimore grand jury, however, has furnished the classic example of this form of mania. After a study of penitentiary conditions it has recommended that convicts be denied the right to read daily newspapers, declaring that perusal of the press converts the penitentiary walls into "laboratories of crime." The Maryland penitentiary houses murderers, hijackers, rapists and other criminals of great and small degree. Just how their morals, if any, would be further injured by reading the newspapers is a question which the grand jury did not elucidate. There are certain schools of yellow journalism in America which dramatize crime in such a way that the effect upon young minds might be injurious. The great body of American newspapers constitute the most powerful bulwark in the Nation, on the side of law and order. That

even the few yellow journals could exercise a depraving influence upon penitentiary inmates is a belief so ludicrous as to be untenable. Crime will never yield to an ostrich-like attitude on the part of citizens or press. Ignorance is the criminal's most powerful ally, while aroused by public opinion is his nemesis. The most complete information possible to obtain and disseminate and the broadest and frankest discussion of all phases of the crime situation are necessary if law and order are to triumph and the appalling savagery of crime in America is to be curbed. The press is doing more than all other agencies combined to spread the facts before the people and to impress upon them the need for remedial action.

Senator Simmons' New Issue

The announcement by Senator Simmons of North Carolina that the democrats in congress will insist upon a further cut in taxes sounds very well, but to make tax reduction a genuine issue will require more than merely offering amendments to the law. It is possible, of course, that the Federal revenues may be large enough under the present laws to warrant another substantial reduction, and if so the people will welcome it.

Up to the present time, President Coolidge has pretty well identified himself as a reductionist, and it will not be easy for the democrats to force him into a position of opposition, or, rather to take from him his prestige as a friend of economy and reduced taxation.

It is true that the president has said that taxes can not well be reduced much further unless the congress shall find a way to reduce the expenses of the government. After all, that is the main point, viz., a further reduction of taxes based upon sharp reductions in the expenses of the government.

Admittedly, a reduction of expenses is not easy to effect under present conditions. In the first place, governmental activities have so expanded within the past ten years that further reduction of the annual outlay is difficult. Our experience is that new bureaus, new benevolences, new enterprises, all affording places for thousands of employees, are not abolished, when once created. They must be maintained, and as time goes on they grow and become more and more expensive.

Then, progressively, salaries must be increased, as the bureaucratic establishments broaden their operations, and perform services that are expensive, however unnecessary they may be.

The trend of the Federal government is not in the direction of reduced expenses. Members of congress, under the urge of the blocs and groups that are in attendance upon every session in Washington, are year by year proposing new adventures into the domain of paternalism that involve large outlays of money. The co-partnership, or 50-50 schemes, in which States or local governments are invited to participate are becoming popular with certain members, who regard as the surest test of their value to their districts the amount of Federal money they may be able to get for expenditure at home.

Observation teaches us that neither party is better nor worse than the other when it comes to increasing public expenditures in these different ways. Neither party can be acquitted of the charge of extravagance, and neither can claim a monopoly of the virtues of economy and frugality.

Another thing that our democratic members might ascertain, if they would, is that there is nothing more difficult than for a government to retrace its steps. When it has once set out upon a policy of extending the scope of governmental functions, the rule is for it to proceed in that direction. Abolishing offices, however useless, is almost impossible of accomplishment, and where useless offices or bureaus are not abolished, other useless offices and bureaus are sure to be created.

Grover Cleveland never said a truer thing than that "the way to perplexing extravagance is easy, but a return to frugality is difficult."

We would have much more faith in Senator Simmons' plan to reduce taxes if it were accompanied by a feasible plan to reduce expenses.

Swiftness of Mexican Justice

We were discussing yesterday the imperious demand of our government upon the Mexican government that the brigands who murdered Jacob Rosenthal of New York be speedily apprehended and punished, and comparing it to the slow tread of justice in this country in punishing murderers of Mexicans or even the gunmen who slay our own citizens.

The Mexican government seems to be confronted by numerous difficulties as a result of the ferment in that country, and no doubt struggles amid many deficiencies and shortcomings, but delay in dealing with the Rosenthal murderers does not seem to be one of them. On the contrary, they are affording us an example in swift justice that is startling.

While our state department was engaged in making stern representations to our neighbors beyond the Rio Grande, the Federal troops of Mexico captured ten of the Rosenthal murderers and summarily shot them.

Three more suspects are under investigation, and it may be inferred from the reports that the offenders will be shot as rapidly as they are caught, regardless of the number implicated.

As for the five Mexicans recently ambushed and killed in this State, while in custody, it is safe to say that nothing will ever be done about them. The officers who had them in custody have been exonerated, and we may assume that the matter will be dropped. There seems to be nothing the Federal government can do about it, further than to pay a small indemnity to such dependents as may survive the victims of the ambush. If we understand the investigation made by our own authorities, the five Mexicans were either assassinated by their own countrymen, or possibly killed themselves.

The prompt execution of the slayers of Rosenthal calls to mind that in the numerous cases of outrages committed upon American citizens in Mexico the Mexican authorities have been more successful in the apprehending and punishment of Mexicans responsible for them than our American authorities have been in apprehending and punishing Americans who perpetrated outrages upon Mexicans. Even where Americans have killed Mexicans in Mexico, we have usually been able to secure their release.

It is almost as safe for a white man to kill a Mexican in Texas as it is for him to kill a negro; indeed, as a rule, it is not especially dangerous, so far as the law is concerned, for a white man to kill a white man or woman nowadays.

The Rosenthal case reminds us that a murderer is much safer from punishment in the States than in Mexico, a fact that is not to the credit of American civilization.

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LA RAPIDEZ DE LA JUSTICIA MEXICANA.

Estábamos discutiendo ayer la exigencia imperiosa de nuestro Gobierno al Gobierno mexicano para que los bandi dos que asesinaron a Jacob Rosenthal de Nueva York, fueran violentamente aprehendidos y castigados, y hacíamos comparaciones con la lentitud de los pasos de la justicia de este país para castigar a los asesinos de mexicanos y aun a los rifleros que asesinan a nuestros compatriotas.

El Gobierno mexicano parece que tiene que hacer fren te a numerosas dificultades, como resultado de la fermentación de aquel país, e indudablemente lucha en medio de muchas deficiencias y negligencias, pero el retardo en arreglar la cuestión de Rosenthal no entra en el número, al contrario nos están dando una muestra de rapidez que asombra.

Mientras nuestro Departamento de Estado se ocupaba de hacer duras manifestaciones a nuestros vecinos de --- allende el Río Grande, las fuerzas federales capturaron a diez de los asesinos de Rosenthal y después de un juicio sumarísimo los fusilaron.

Otros tres sospechosos están siendo vigilados, y de los informes recibidos se deduce que si resultan culpables también serán fusilados, según los vayan cogiendo, sin importar su número.

En cuanto a los cinco mexicanos, a quienes se les ---

puso aquí una emboscada y se les asesinó, mientras los custodiaban, se puede asegurar que nada se llegará a hacer a ese respecto. Los oficiales que los custodiaban fueron relevados, y podemos presumir que el asunto se dejará abandonado. Parece que el Gobierno Federal nada podrá hacer en ese sentido y se concretará a dar una pequeña indemnización a las familias de las víctimas de la enboscada. Si hemos de creer en las investigaciones que hicieron nuestras autoridades, los mexicanos fueron asessinados por sus propios paisanos, o se mataron ellos mismos.

La violenta ejecución de los asesinos de Rosenthal nos hace recordar los numerosos casos de ultrajes cometidos a ciudadanos americanos en México, en que las autoridades mexicanas han alcanzado mayor éxito en la aprehensión y castigo de los mexicanos responsables de aquellos, que nuestras autoridades americanas, en la aprehensión y castigo de americanos que han perpetrado atropellos en mexicanos. Aun cuando los americanos maten a mexicanos en México, casi siempre hemos logrado su libertad.

Casi hay tanta seguridad para un blanco que mata a un mexicano en Texas, como cuando mata a un negro; como regla general, casi no corre ningún peligro, en lo que concierne a la ley, el blanco que mata a otro blanco, hombre o mujer, en estos tiempos.

El caso Rosenthal nos hace pensar que un asesino corre menos peligro de ser castigado en los Estados Unidos

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que en México, cosa que no favorece mucho a la civiliza-
ción americana.

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