

ANDOVER NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY J. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

OUR KEYNOTE: "If There is Not a Way, Cut a Way."

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MEMBER OF



Have We Planned For the New Year?

ANOTHER year has passed and a new one is before us, to be whatever we shall make it. It is young and pliable and may be modeled to our fancy.

Time never carries. Days slip by with great rapidity. Unless there is a plan for improvement, a community blueprint to direct our course, 365 days will have gone into history and we will have come to the end of the year without an accomplishment to our credit.

Has Andover a plan for the new year? Is there any course for our action? Or are we going to just drift along like a rudderless ship, aimless and purposeless, with no idea of making the most of our opportunities?

Communities that go along with the current never get any place. They follow the line of least resistance until they lose their initiative and a desire to forge ahead. They begin slipping and once started backward they move faster in that direction than they did forward.

If we get careless about the welfare of our community, if we are satisfied to "let well enough alone" and unresistingly drag along thru the year without ambition or hope of bettering our condition, there is no hope of any advancement. We are headed for the community graveyard.

To progress, as we should, a course of action, unselfish leadership and thoro co-operation on the part of all the people is essential.

We can get whatever we go after if community loyalty is placed first and individual selfishness is not permitted to interfere.

Eminent automobile manufacturer says the future car will be small. One small enough to make crossing the street safe is all any of us ask.

Two Classes

THERE are just two classes in every community—knockers and boosters—and Andover is no exception to this infallible rule.

It is one sure way to divide people into two camps and every one belongs to one or the other camp.

We sometimes wonder whether people who leave the impression that they are knockers, really are at heart—whether they do not tear down what others are trying to build up because of pure thoughtlessness.

Many a knock is a careless word from one who has some knowledge on the question under discussion and is not adverse to exhibiting it, but is not in possession of all the facts.

Such knocks are dangerous and often mean the defeat of worthwhile community projects that would be beneficial to everyone.

Every person who at heart wants his home town to get ahead will think twice before saying or doing anything that will damage any enterprise that is being undertaken with the avowed purpose of bettering the town.

There may be things done which all cannot subscribe to, but if the ultimate goal is to improve and make this a more thriving place, even the some individuals may profit, let the knocker lay up his hammer and realize that he will profit as much as the booster. In time he might turn into a booster.

Rumor is Never Idle

IDLE rumor is a busy body. It never does any good and it frequently does considerable harm, and all too often innocent people are its handmaidens.

Any person can suggest something that is utterly absurd, and there will be hundreds of people ready to believe it, especially if it is at the expense of some other person.

The next time you hear a juicy piece of scandal, be not too hasty to swallow it whole. Three-fourths of it may be rumor grown to huge proportions.

Because a man has a reputation for telling the truth is no indication that his truthfulness in all cases is commendable.

Some people with even the best of intentions do not know how to curb their tongues. They blurt out the truth upon all occasions, and very often at the wrong time.

There are times when the cause of truth and humanity requires the suppression of truth until the psychological moment for divulging it. Any other course would result in disaster or miscarriage of justice.

A wise tongue knows when not to wag.

The two easiest things to make a mess of are our budgets and home plumbing.

The Fly in the Prosperity Ointment

OUTLINING the economic prospects for the new year, Secretary Hoover believes the world is on a more solid foundation in 1925 than at any time since the war. There has been a real advance, he says, in social, economic and political stability.

Reviewing our own country, Secretary Hoover says the outstanding economic improvement has been the very large recovery of agriculture after its two years lag behind the recovery of industry. The farmers, he says, have yet a large measure of losses in the last three years to recover, but their outlook is encouraging.

For industry we learn that the average wage remains stable at about 100 per cent. above pre-war scale, while the cost of living remains about equal to the cost for the last three years. All of this will be good news to employers and workers. The workers may look forward to continued greater expansion of trade. The hard nut to crack, of course, is the farmer. If he must work for the next three years to recover the losses for the last three years he is not likely to burst for joy because he is told that the outlook is encouraging.

Leadership

THOSE who differ with Samuel Gompers, late president of the American Federation of Labor, are constrained to admit, after his passing, that he was an unusual man and that he won unprecedented leadership of American labor unions thru unselfish devotion to the cause he represented.

None doubted Gompers' integrity, even his worse enemies. Many who had been his most severe critics became his admirers when he piloted labor safely thru the war by preaching the doctrine of Americanism and threw his influence on the government's side with a vigor he possessed.

The leadership of American labor in less patriotic hands would have been a serious menace to America's successful culmination of the war.

Gompers had many admirable traits, not the least of which was his devotion to American ideals and institutions. His last words were a prayer that they be better and better.

Gompers' life may well be a lesson to men and women who aspire to leadership, whether large or small. He won the confidence of his followers by never betraying their trust. He placed the interest of the American laboring man above even his own, refusing to use his office as a stepping stone to political power.

Those who have ambitions to become leaders in their communities, in the state, in nation, in their professions or business, should remember that leadership is based on sincerity and honesty will fail.

The Famous Islands

THE Isle of Yap became famous over night when it was involved in an international controversy and the Isle of Pines bids fair to become equally famous, due to a dispute as to its ownership.

Old maps have been searched for the blot on the ocean designating the isle since it has been appearing in the news and has been raised to the dignity of being the subject of a treaty.

The Isle of Pines is a small patch of ground with an area of about one thousand square miles located south of the west end of Cuba. It was discovered by Columbus in 1494 and is rich in buccaneer lore.

It rose from obscurity after the Spanish-American war, when Americans began to settle there, after its ownership was unsettled by the treaty of 1903 with Cuba.

Since that time its possession has been in dispute, but ingenious Americans have gone ahead developing its rich soil and there are now some 4,000 living there.

The little island was regarded as a part of Porto Rico, which passed to the United States by the treaty with Spain, but Cuba has been pressing its claim to the territory and a treaty recognizing its rights has been framed and will probably be ratified by the senate during the present session of congress.

A committee of Americans has been busy in Washington lobbying against the treaty to protect their interests there in the face of the fact that the United States supreme court in April, 1907, decided the island was not American territory; that the department of state has declared that the island was always administered as part of Cuba and that Secretary of State Root declared it rightfully belonged to Cuba.

The United States may recognize Cuba's right to the island, but there is nothing to prevent this country from buying the patch of ground because of the American capital invested there.

Kicking Gets No Results

A MAN worth more than \$50,000,000 who died last year, had paid no federal income tax since 1916, settlement of his estate lately revealed.

He didn't defraud the government out of one cent. He bought tax-exempt state and municipal bonds yielding four and one-half per cent.

Had he invested his money in tangible property that could be taxed, he would have done his share toward bearing the tax burden of his city, state and nation. And he would have paid the government alone \$850,000, not counting the local and state taxes that would have been collected from him.

We complain about high taxes and still permit such things as this to occur every day in every community.

The taxpayers who own the money that makes the business of the country keep on paying taxes and keep on kicking.

Some day they will awaken to the fact that complaining is not accomplishing anything—that the wealth that should be doing its part will have to be put on the assessment roll before taxes for the average person can be reduced.

WHEN DAD WAS A BOY — By SATTERFIELD



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Putting Salt On The Rainbow's Tail

From the days of Plato in Athens to the time of Trotsky in Moscow, the pursuit of Utopia has always been one of mankind's favorite indoor sports. But this harmless pastime of a philosopher's library may become dangerous when fanatics carry it out into the world of stern realities.

For while philosophers dream and fanatics try to salt down the rainbow's tail—somebody must be doing the work of the world.

We hear much talk just now about Utopian schemes for water power development. While waiting for Utopia, it is worth remembering that The Niagara Falls Power Company sells electricity at the lowest average price received by any generating system on the North American Continent.

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