

VIEWS ON THE AMERICAN SCENE

By Arthur C. Parker

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Charlie Chaplin, America's funny man, possesses not only a splendid education but an exceptionally brilliant mind. He numbers among his most intimate friends George Bernard Shaw, Prof. Albert Einstein, and Theodore Dreiser.

He recently released to the Federated Press the following statements:

"Generals die in bed. Old men profiteers and capitalists plot wars and wear stars and the imposing looking decorations; while the young saps play with the rats in the trenches, live in mud and filth, plunge bayonets into enemy entrails, inhale poison gas, leave their arms, legs, or heads on the battle field and do all the dirty work of War!"

The fiery outbursts of patriotic oratory inciting to war usually emanate from those who haven't the remotest idea of getting into personal contact with an enemy. If they are too old to be included in the draft, they may be connected with some organization which does its fighting from the side lines; or else they may be cockeyed, flatfooted, toothless, swaybacked or mentally disabled in such manner as would interfere with the performance of their patriotic duty of killing or being killed. So like our good generals they also die in bed.

In view of the light, increasingly being shown on the horror and futility of war and its nasty tenacles it is somewhat an amusingly tragi-paradox to see colored Americans clamoring for an opportunity to join the Army and Navy. Colored Americans have always faithfully answered America's call to arms in all her wars. Thousands of colored boys bled and died in the gory battle fields of France. Their reward was unemployment! segregation! Jim Crowism! and lynching!

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William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, demands that President Hoover call a conference of business leaders, economists, and bankers to Washington to make a study of the present unemployment problem and formulate plans to solve it or admit that the existing economic structure is an abysmal failure.

President Green is a labor leader. That man is supposed to represent the organized interests and opinions of the American working classes. Working class folks are the ones who suffer, sicken, and die from prolonged unemployment. Strange President Green forgot to demand adequate working class representation on that committee.

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It costs about \$25,000,000 to elect a president in the United States, about \$5,000,000 to elect a Governor, \$2,000,000 to elect a Senator and several hundred thousands to elect a Congressman.

Working men and women seldom or never contribute as much as five cents to Democratic or Republican campaign expenses. Yet somebody donates these tremendous sums to these parties at each election.

Who are the elected officials obligated to serve--the working class citizens or the folks who pay these enormous bills?

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The Ku Klux Klan circularized Boston with handbills soliciting membership. Here is part of their oath. Certain other parts affecting colored people, Jews and Catholics were left out to be administered in secrecy.

K. K. K. OATH (in part)

"I hereby solemnly promise and swear to the following without any mental reservation whatever: I believe the Holy Bible to be the revealed word of God. I promise to uphold the enforcement of all Constitutional Laws. I believe in free public school, the Protestant Church, the sanctity of the home, the defense of womanhood.

"I am an American Citizen and believe political office holders should be persons believing in pure Americanism, and I will not recommend or vote for any persons for office who I know are not as good Americans as myself. I pledge to keep secret the names of those whom I come in contact with in this organization."

A most subtle and hypocritical document. They mean uphold all Constitutional laws except the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, protect the sanctity of white Protestant homes, and defend any and all kinds or types of white Protestant women. Not to vote for anyone not 100% American means to vote for no one not a clansman or very friendly to the Klan.

The Indian is the only real American and the rest of us either came here, were brought here, or chased here; or are the children of persons who landed here for one reason or another, mostly another. American citizens will do well to drive this hooded abomination back into the far South from whence it was spawned and thence into the Gulf of Mexico and Selah!

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The National Benefit Insurance Company of Atlanta, Georgia, has been declared insolvent and placed in the hands of a receiver by the district court.

It is significant that this company is owned and operated by colored people and the receiver appointed is a white man who now holds full power to manage the business and handle all the money collected. It is in this man's power to completely wreck this large colored corporation. If this did happen, certain well known large white insurance corporations would benefit from the acquisition of the defunct business and the enrollment of the thousands of colored policy holders in the National Benefit Company. John H. Risher, President of the company, declares the company is not bankrupt and is suing to have the receivership lifted immediately so it will be possible for them to gain resume business operations. We hope he succeeds.

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