

Pampa Daily News

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"It's Like This"

THE REMARKABLE extent to which an outstanding character may fasten himself in the esteem and admiration of the modern world is nowhere better illustrated than in the passing of Melville E. Stone, long the guiding genius of the Associated Press.

The royalty of kingdoms honored his memory, and his admirers knew no special station in life and no religious or political strata—he was of and for civilization. And true to the best traditions of his life, the men who walked by his casket were those who had worked by his side when he was in active direction of the organization to which he devoted such a great portion of his life.

Freedom of the press in America underwent its fullest definition under the influence of Mr. Stone and his associates. He fought the battles for a journalism that presents news that is fit to print in an accurate, complete, fair manner that cannot be bribed. The importance of guaranteeing to the people of this republic an unfettered, aggressive, honest news source can hardly be overestimated.

No great organization is formed without sweat and blood—both of which Mr. Stone gave and inspired others to give. It was a great task to furnish the news to papers of every creed and shade of political thought, without bias and in a form that each could use. Nor was it easy to insist upon truthful news told interestingly when "yellow" journalism was making its strongest appeal. But the Associated Press, made up of members each having a voice in its affairs, invoked the principle of the will of the majority and so won a confidence among its membership and the world at large that is still its major asset.

Mr. Stone's life may be said, to parallel in American newspaper development that of Samuel Gompers in the guidance of the American Federation of Labor. Both showed their organizations the way to power and influence while avoiding the rocks of partisanship and discord. Lesser works have been accomplished by many characterized as "great" in the annals of this nation.

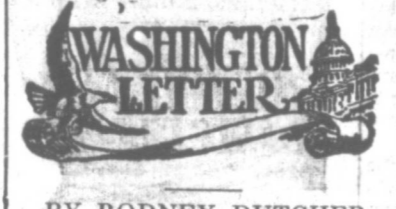
The retirement of Mr. Stone a few years ago brought into the general manager's chair Mr. Kent Cooper, whose policies are extensions of the well known A. P. principles. Recognizing the importance of the "features" of everyday life and the mechanical innovations adapted to their distribution, Mr. Cooper has caused to be developed one of the most thorough services of the kind obtainable. Specialists in every social and business activity write illustrated articles, and news camera men "cover" every important event on the globe.

But this aggressiveness has

not resulted in a sacrifice of accuracy or judgment. Those of us close to the workings of the A. P. know that the organization has a "soul", but that the state division and the structure as a whole. Many stories are "killed" instantly when an error is discovered. Corrections are cheerfully given when warranted. Not infrequently "scoops" are passed up rather than risk the reputation of some individual or institution.

A recent Texas instance comes to mind. The A. P. was given a tip that a state banking examiner was on the verge of closing a rather well known bank in a city of about 20,000 population. It verified the tip and obtained the story. The correspondent added the note that directors of the bank and the banking examiner said the institution might be saved if its condition remained a secret, but that a hint of its instability would be disastrous. Disregarding the possibility that some rival news agency might distribute the story, the Texas A. P. head notified client papers that he was killing the story. The bank was saved. Such a policy deprives the public of no information to which it is entitled, and at the same time prevents much anguish and possible inaccuracies.

An old newspaper adage is "When in doubt, leave out." A continually aggressive organization can afford to act upon this principle. The world at large would be better off if gossiping tongues would adopt a similar course.



BY RODNEY DUTCHER

WASHINGTON—There were many who asked, after the election, what would happen to the Democratic party, but only a few to weep over the plight of the Socialists. Yet the poor Socialists not only polled the lowest presidential vote they had cast for 28 years but also lost their sole representative in Congress.

Victor Berger of Milwaukee, the defeated Socialist congressman who is now about to retire, was asked about the future of his party, if any, and proved equal to the occasion. In the first place, said Mr. Berger, he can be re-elected to his seat in 1930 if he desires. He was beaten only by about 300 votes after 32,000 voters, mostly Republicans, had split their ballots to mark crosses for Berger—a record for ticket-splitting which Mr. Berger challenges any other congressman to match. If so many persons hadn't voted the straight Republican ticket blindly for fear of the Pope, if so many others hadn't voted straight Democratic on ac-

count of the Ku Klux Klan and if so many workers had not voted for Smith in the hope of more and better beer, says Mr. Berger, the Socialists would have been elected.

Concerning national politics, Mr. Berger says there is only one party except for the Socialists and that the Democratic party has been non-existent for many years. Another party must develop as a strong opposition group which in time will be elected to run the nation, says he, whether it be the Socialist party or some other progressive movement.

The Socialists, claims Mr. Berger, are possessed of a marvelous resiliency. They bounced up to 5,000,000 votes when they adopted Senator La Follette in 1924 and last November they bounced back to a mere 260,000, despite the excellence of their candidate, Dr. Norman Thomas.

Mr. Berger sees no reason why they shouldn't bounce back to 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 in 1932. In fact, Mr. Berger sees several reasons why they should. And by 1936 there ought to be 10,000,000 Socialist votes. Mr. Berger, now 68 years old, only hopes that he will live to see 50 or 60 Socialist members of Congress.

"There is bound", he says, "to be a very strong progressive or Socialist party. The only other possibilities are a dictatorship of the Mussolini type and anarchy; I want neither of those. Big business will have full sway for the next four and possibly eight years. Don't forget that, after all, Calvin Coolidge had the point of view of the New England manufacturer. Herbert Hoover was part of British big business and for the last few years has been part and parcel of big business here.

"I am convinced, after 50 years of public life, that this big business crowd will create its own opposition party. The Democratic party is absolutely beyond hope. There is no such thing. At best it is the Republican party of the South. Factories in New England and Pennsylvania have gone down to Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia, so now our Democratic friends want tariff protection.

"My optimism may seem exaggerated to you, but if there are no signs of a healthier political situation today it is because our workers have about 27 per cent more buying power than before the war and thus can buy radio sets, automobiles and even clothes on the installment plan." Socialists, of course, thrive on business depressions when they are out of power. Berger expects a minor slump, producing considerable unemployment, next year or possibly this year. But a real major slump, or industrial panic, he believes, will be along about 1935. Such a slump, he holds,

can be expected every 14 or 15 years. "When that comes", he says, "almost anything might happen politically."



Wolves are eating people in Russia. Wonder if they eat clean-shaven people too?

And will someone report on the condition of our coyotes?

We are confidently looking forward to the suggestion that people give more attention to their roofs in order to improve the scenic effects as seen from airplanes.

Several college gridiron stars who have played their last football are in hospitals having their noses rebuilt and other injuries cured. But the poor freshmen the Sophs break up have to get along the best they can.

Probably the English will laugh at this next summer: "Strike me, then. Strike me. Go on, yer rotten coward. I defy yer." "I wouldn't flatter yer by alterin' the shape of yer face". London Daily Express.

Now that they have liquid oxygen, maybe some of the old sots can reduce living to just one drink after another.

Mary Garden has the flu, so maybe we're in luck and she will be immunized by the time she sings in Amarillo in "Thais".

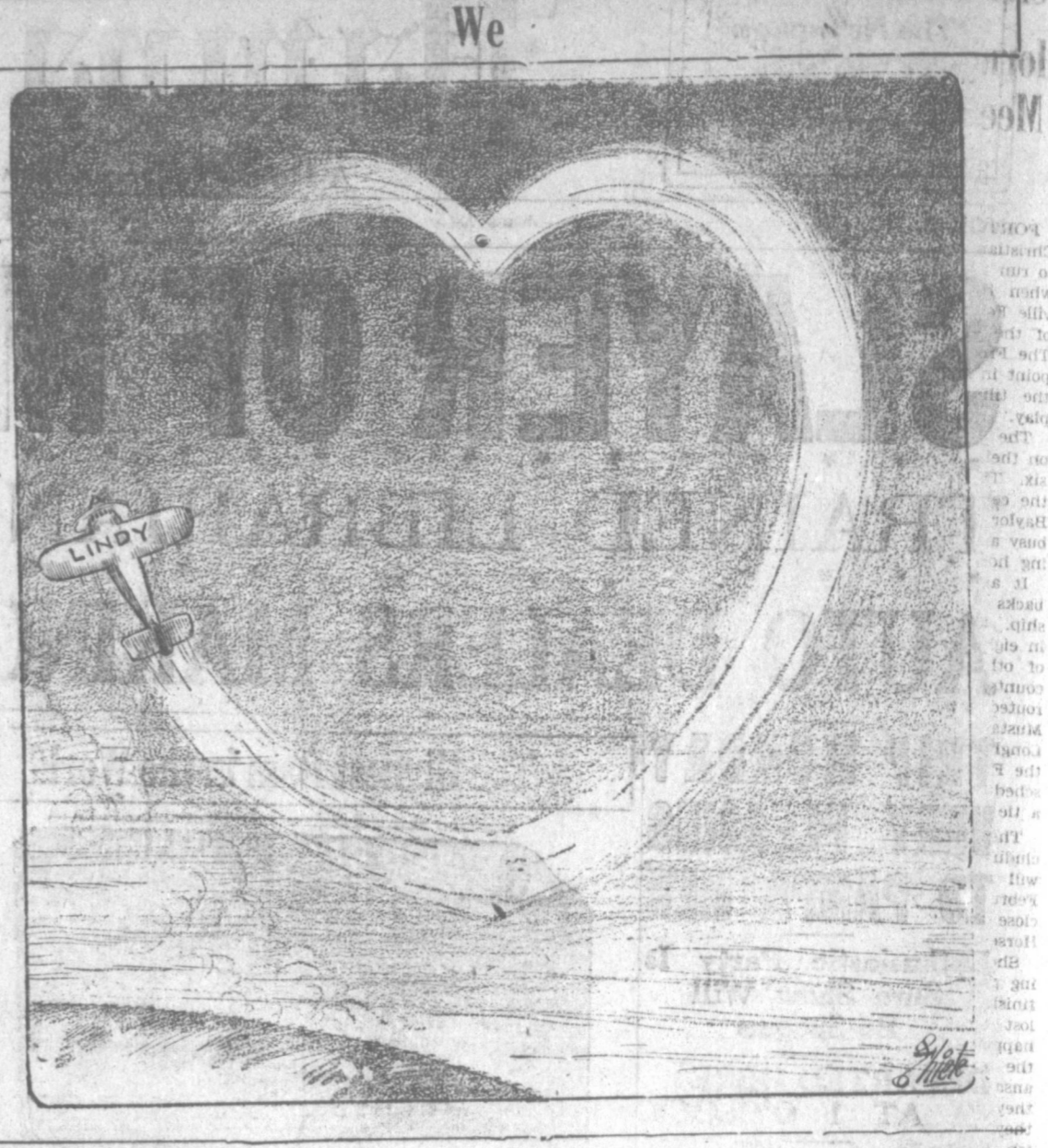
San Francisco has more telephones than any other city in the world, according to population. Talking about Hollywood?

Give Berger credit for being a better house cleaner than Chicago.

No, when we advocate a water softener we are not thinking of the ice that sticks to our streets sometimes as if it were part of the brick.

Some of the crooks who are given rather long sentences must feel very much behind the times when they get out of prison and view the methods of the successors.

ELKS B. P. O. E. Meeting 7:30 Friday night at the Basement Brunow Bldg. New Ruler makes it easy to reinsert



OUT OUR WAY By Williams

