Oil Drum to Stove

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Monday's Wash and Social Reform

Electric dryers are nice, but I enjoy hanging clothes on a line, especially in the Spring. One sunny April morning I hung an older sheet alongside a brand new one. How gray this looks,” I thought, “this won’t do.” I realize that the placement looked clean. But out in the bright sunlight it certainly didn’t. Except for the quality whiteness of the new one, I probably would have been satisfied.

Then I got a washboard; soaped and rubbed hard. And for good measure I gave the sheet a half-hour’s boiling atop the stove. Back in the sunlight, nearly—but not quite—matched the brilliance of the new one.

So it is with social reform. For lack of something better with which to replace our own, we all too easily find ourselves in a “pretty good world.” They find it hard to understand the feelings and efforts of those who see something “better and whiter.”

One reader asked: “Things aren’t really as bad as you think, are they? It seems to me you have a certain touch of government, land-ownership, interest, war, scientists, high prices, low wages, taxes, commercial farming, the food industry, the medical profession, factories, public education—just about every human institution one can name. What kind of a future do you want? You aren’t really serious about land reform and decent government, are you?”

To which I answer. “Yes, I’m serious. Isn’t this affirmed by 23 years—out of my 27 homesteading years—of editing, something I have done, not because I have been paid for it, but because I have been driven by what I have been discussing these matters? And a good many of our readers and our contributors are equally serious.”

In fact the experiments and experiences we work with “hang on our line” as a brilliant new sheet. By comparison, the ones our reader enumerates are worn and gray. And if I and others bemoan their dinginess—why? It can only be because of the sharpness with which better conditions are seen.

Action For A Human Culture

Nor has it all been negative. We have reported and discussed. Each evening, the soap and hot water treatments that we believe will change the old to a better, brighter hue. It seems to some of us that School of Living people are in the forefront of such action—on all the levels from home delivery of their infants and human education of their children up to Boulder’s low credit, commodity based currency, The International Foundation for Independent Education, commenting on the need for reorienting government, we advocate and practice independence from government via non-payment of war taxes, and development of all kinds of voluntary associations, primarily family homesteads and intentional communities. In place of finance capitalism’s inflation, high prices and low wages, we show how to get a truly free market via free land, free banking, and money—under the control of work, a majority of families supporting themselves on family homesteads; instead of a giant food industry, families producing their own food; instead of a giant sports and entertainment industry, we advocate and practice independent education. For public schools, substitute private and home education of children, have cooperative and student-faculty owned institutions, city planning which is designed for people in every community. For giant cities and commercial farms to feed that urban population, decentralize into small villages, support local and regional economy, cooperate and lay the foundation for a recreation “industry” and bizarre art, let’s have cooperation with nature, indigenous crafts, folk singing and dancing and functional art.

All this to fit and enhance the nature of human beings, whose need is to choose—and whose joy is to create—a brighter life and society.

Peace Seminar, cont’d

International Foundation for Independence of which he is field director, and the New School of Living a “project based on commodities” and it can be described as a sort of experimental, thus definition-free, life-plan.}

Let’s take a hard look at this year’s sentiments. It’s been a good year. True, there are those who say we’ve not achieved anything, and that’s true. But if the past three years have taught us nothing else, they have taught us that we must be realistic, that the solution to the problem of the world is not to be sought in the creation of a thousand new organizations, but rather in the strengthening of the existing ones. At the same time, it has also taught us that we cannot do this alone. We need the help of those who believe in the same goals we do, but who may have different methods of achieving them. This is why we are establishing the Peace Seminar, to bring together people from all walks of life who are interested in peace. Our goal is to create a movement that will work for a world without war.

The Seminar will begin with a series of lectures on various aspects of the peace movement, followed by discussions and workshops. We will also have guest speakers from all over the world who will share their experiences and knowledge. Our aim is to create a community of thinkers and activists who can work together towards a common goal.

We are looking for people who are committed to the cause of peace, who are willing to put in some time and effort, and who want to be part of a movement that can make a difference. If you are interested, please contact us to find out more about the Peace Seminar and how you can get involved.

The Peace Seminar will be held at the New School of Living, 200 Front St, Westport, N.Y. Our first meeting is scheduled for next month, and we will continue to hold weekly meetings thereafter.

We hope to see you there.
To the Editor:

for cooking.--Jane Preston, But­

log fire, in three sizes, with top

data for Alaska gold miners, cast iron

Letters, cont'd

A few years after we moved to the county a brother of mine was

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