

COMMENT ON MEN AND THINGS

By The Spectator

The weather was our topic a while back. There is much to be said and I expect to tell more about it, according to a very interesting study which has come to me.

What about water? Wind and weather and water. Do you recall the remark attributed to the Kentucky Colonel, in discussing water? "Water? It may be suitable for bathing purposes but no gentleman would use it for a beverage."

I'm reminded of a remark to me by a distinguished son of the middle west. He inquired about conditions in this state and I told him that we had been having heavy and frequent rains. This was some years ago. "Well," he said, "you can't produce anything without water."

We think of water as pre-eminently associated with growing plants, but industry uses vast quantities of water, millions of gallons in a short time.

Here is something interesting about water:

"In England, where one is never served a glass of water in a restaurant unless he demands it, water is defined as 'dog soup'. When you journey over to Paris, you find this precious substance described as a substance used more for making oceans than anything else. You and I know that water is by far the greatest factor in our lives. Even our bodies are composed of 77 per cent water—and, as a matter of fact, only a minor part of the earth itself is land. 71 per cent of the whole globe is composed of oceans or frozen areas. Below the equator the oceans comprise 81 per cent of the entire area.

The most important things in life we take for granted, including water. Because someone else takes care of the problem of water in our life, we are apt to forget that the very civilization under which we exist is dependent on water. Thomson King, in his book, "Water, Miracle of Nature," says: "Above all, water is the bearer of life. All life is sustained by and in protoplasm, which is a suspension or solution of a number of substances in water. Without water, there can be no protoplasm. Without protoplasm, there can be no life. Not only human bodies, but those in all forms of life that ever existed on this planet, animals, birds and bacteria, have been largely water and could not have existed without it. So, to the manifestations of water, we must

add all beauty and grace of living things, of waving grain, of blossoming trees and flowers, of flying birds and leaping fish; without water, none of these could be.

Research in connection with weather showed beyond the slightest doubt that there, too, a revolution is taking place in respect to the relationship of water and mankind. Let us discuss, first, what is taking place in the waters in the ocean and in some of the great lake areas of the world. Suppose you read in your daily paper, for example, that the water level in Lake Ontario was now the highest since the year 1860, and that this very high level was typical of what was occurring throughout the Great Lakes area. In another column of the same paper, you would read that large areas in the southwest are suffering from one of the most serious droughts and that millions of people are affected by the greatest lack of water in the history of Africa and South America.

Earlier I have stated the observation of Huntington that a rise of 4 degrees in world temperature would have a disastrous effect for mankind. Meteorologists have estimated that a rise of only 2 degrees in the earth's temperature would melt all of the ice in the polar seas and increase the height of the ocean level by 150 feet. And let us not forget that the large amount of polar ice has a profound effect on the climate of most of the western world. This polar ice has lowered the temperature in the past in the United States and Canada by many degrees. It is the most important factor in controlling the temperature of the ocean, especially at great depths. The icebergs and the large amount of polar ice definitely control the temperature of most of the ocean at great depths. We see, then, that anything which affects the temperature of the polar areas of the world will completely change the course of nations and the balance of power in the world today.

"As I see the irrigation situation, there are a few basic facts which we must always keep in mind. First, the population of the country has increased so enormously in an area which nature evidently originally meant to be an arid or semi-arid area. Second, mankind has been very wasteful in destroying the trees that hold the water which nature gives in those areas. Now there are two ways to reclaim and get water for irrigation. The first is by sinking wells, which we find is no solution at all if thousands of others sink wells and lower the water level. A second system is to hire a 'rainmaker'. But I prefer to call such individuals 'rain thieves' and not 'rainmakers'. It is true that if there are clouds going over a specific area, a 'rainmaker' can, by chemical methods, hasten the pre-

cipitation of that moisture and get to fall on an immediate area when nature itself would have carried the moisture to a more distant spot where in time it would precipitate itself by natural means. We see, then, that the so-called 'rainmaker' is, in most cases, just stealing the moisture from another area.

A third method of obtaining water for irrigation is by damming up rivers from mountains and hills and holding back the water so it may be 'doled out' throughout the year in ditches and irrigation projects. But, obviously, if the winter snowfall in the United States is steadily declining and the amount of rainfall is declining, there simply isn't sufficient water existing to hold back in the reservoirs or dams. With glaciers of the United States decreasing in size, obviously the amount of water running off into rivers from the higher areas in the spring will be lost.

It is a peculiar quirk of fate that

the area of the largest population growth and the largest increased use of irrigated water is in the Southwest part of the country—where NATURE IS CREATING ONE OF THE MOST SEVERE DROUGHTS WE HAVE EVER KNOWN. The Department of the Interior calls this drought, 'one of the eight most severe droughts in the Southwest since the 13th century'. Year after year for the past ten years the situation grows progressively worse. The government defines the area of drought as consisting of all of Arizona and New Mexico, the Southern part of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, most of Texas and a small part of Oklahoma. It did not begin in all of these areas at the same time. Government records show that it began in Arizona in 1942, in New Mexico in 1943 and also the same year in Western Texas, in Southern California in the year 1945, and the year 1947 or later in Central Tex-

as. The Eastern margin of the drought area has been until recently in Central Texas and Western Oklahoma. Historians agree that the most severe drought in the past 700 years lasted twenty-three years and began in the year 1276. At about that time, a thriving Indian civilization founded on irrigation in the Gila river basin disappeared, as did also the cliff dwellers in Southwestern Colorado."

CITATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

The State of South Carolina, County of Laurens, Probate Judge By J. H. Wasson, Probate Judge WHEREAS, S. G. Sulton, made suit to me to grant him Letters of Administration of the Estate and effects of Maggie Wicker Sulton.

These are, therefore, to cite and admonish all and singular the Kindred and Creditors of the said Maggie Wicker Sulton, deceased, that they be and appear before me, in

the Court of Probate, to be held at Laurens Court House, Laurens, S. C., on January 13, 1954, next, after publication hereof, at 3:30 p. m., to show cause, if any they have, why the said Administration should not be granted.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of January, Anno Domini, 1954. J. HEWLETTE WASSON, Jan. 7-14-w-c J. P. L. C.

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