

Law Order Day
Jan 25-20

The undying spirit of America--the spirit of loving justice for all men--yet determines the mode of thought and course of action of the American people. We have not departed from the teachings of the Fathers of our country: That every man is entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that happiness can be won only when privileged classes are forbidden; and that the best government of the people is for the people and by the people. Through a century and a half the American republic has demonstrated the splendid possibilities for human liberty and welfare in a land which provides, for all, equal rights, opportunities and privileges.

Those who declare America a land of oppression are either careless or ignorant of the truth. The spirit of America has not touched their souls. Faults there may be in the exercise of our government or errors in the building of our social or industrial structure--growing pains--but America remains, in spirit and practice, the world's great land of freedom.

Faults and errors that develop in our national progress must be corrected. To that all agree. All who feel themselves wronged or oppressed must have the right to state their wrongs and claim relief. No good citizen can object to that. It is the difference of opinion concerning the method of stating a wrong and seeking redress, that make difficult our present-day problems.

There should be, indeed, no such difference of opinion. Our political faith is clearly stated by the Declaration of Independence, and just as clearly is our governmental path of

safety laid out by the Constitution of the United States. Those who wish reform must secure it by the orderly procedure prescribed by the Constitution and the laws derived from it. Those who will not do this are undesirable citizens, who menace the security of American institutions.

America is built upon just laws. It lives by the orderly compliance with the letter and the spirit of the requirements of its government, operating under the Constitution. The determining characteristic of enlightenment is its adaptation to law. Ignorance opposes law and rejoices in dark chaos. Modern civilization came into being when men learned to understand that the whole universe, animate and inanimate, is dominated by law. We of this age live under the reign of law. Of all forms of human government, popular government must for the sake of self-preservation, establish, recognize and obey law; and must do all things in order.

To-day's contest is between fundamental doctrines. We must maintain the Republic for ourselves and our children, and for the enlightenment of the world. No quarter should be given those who will not respect law and order. Lawlessness brings only confusion and sorrow. If men do not see clearly the path to their own good, and insist on weakening the foundations upon which America rests, they must be taught, forced if needs be, by those with clearer vision, to reform themselves and to understand that the first condition of American citizenship is respect for law and order and a willingness to achieve reforms under the laws of the land.