

President Masaryk of Czecho-Slovakia and Professor Howard O. Eaton of the university philosophy department had a delightful hour's chat in Prague recently about a mutual hero—Franz Brentano. What this famous statesman and Doctor Eaton—one of the keenest young philosophers in America—talked about is told below

Visiting Masaryk

The University of Oklahoma professor who is the foremost authority among English writers on Franz Brentano and the Austrian philosophy of values school, Dr Howard O. Eaton, distinguished student of Brentano, Thomas J. Masaryk, the life-president of Czecho-Slovakia, found many things of mutual interest to talk about at 11 o'clock the morning of December 4.

Doctor Eaton, now associate professor of philosophy, and on leave of absence in Europe, and author of the widely reviewed *The Austrian Philosophy of Values*, has spent the past several months in that medieval city of Prague. There he has been continuing his researches of Brentano and attending lectures.

One evening he was wandering through the halls of the University of Prague, in search of a lecture. Now, the Czechs are intensely nationalistic; they spurn any other language than their own. Doctor Eaton was inquiring his way, first in English, then in German, now in French. He met with response in Czech, which he did not know.

Finally, as he was about to give up the search, he drifted into two famous philosophers. Doctor Eaton put his question in English and to his delight, the reply was in English.

The professors introduced themselves but failed to catch Mr Eaton's name.

"What are you doing in Prague?" one of the professors asked.

"I am continuing my researches into the life and philosophy of Franz Brentano," responded Doctor Eaton.

The questioner looked askance at the visitor. "You are rather late," he remarked kindly. "There is a most complete account of Brentano written recently by an American named Eaton. We are using the book here in our seminars."

Recently, Mr Eaton visited President

Masaryk's great library. It was a delightful privilege, this exploration of the hundreds of volumes lining the shelves of this famous philosopher-president. The president was not at home on that visit, but later, the opportunity came for a talk between the American whose work on Brentano's school has been called by an English philosophical journal the complete and definitive work on the movement, and the former student.

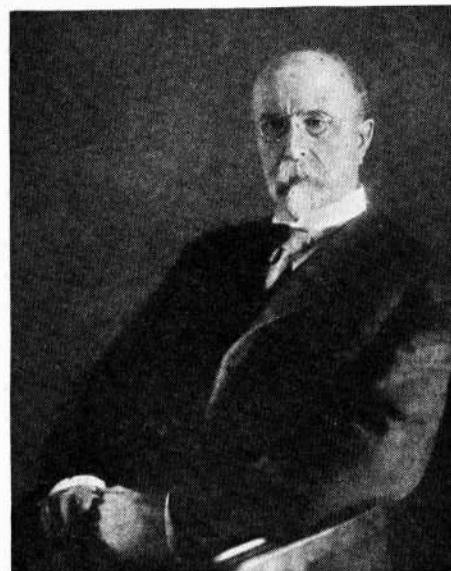
President Masaryk has been in ill health for some time, and his condition was such that last October 28th, he had to forego for the first time the national independence celebration. Therefore, it was the more thrilling when Doctor Eaton received notice that President Masaryk would have an audience with him at 11 o'clock the morning of December 4.

"Needless to say, in view of his illness and the fact that he has granted very few interviews this year, I was on hand by 10:30," remarks Doctor Eaton.

He found the famous professor-statesman a most delightful man in the conversation of over an hour, simple, sincere and charming.

"I first had a talk with Doctor Shrack, the personal archivist of the president, who is a very intelligent gentleman, charged with the task of collecting biographical data," Doctor Eaton writes.

"By him, I was introduced to the president's secretary, who announced me to Mr Masaryk. My first impression of Mr Masaryk was of a very agile man, who was just replacing a book from a lower shelf of his library, but who stood briskly erect and greeted me cordially and with complete absence of affectation. I instantly felt at home with him, and not once throughout our conversation was there a hint that this was the head and founder of one of the important states of modern Europe.



"I rather was made to feel that here was an elderly philosopher, keenly interested in his profession, in his recollections of his old teacher, Franz Brentano, and in his interpretation of our modern life. We spoke English, and one would never detect a foreign accent in his pronunciation; just the normal hesitancy between sentences which marks the man of measured thought. He did not have to grope for words to express himself once he had made up his mind what to say. His gestures and the changes of his expression were fully as interesting and revealing of the true man as were his words. In repose his face is severe with almost a tired look; when he smiles, however, which proved to be rather frequently during our conversation, his whole face softens and brightens with genuine interest, and wrinkle after wrinkle curves across his cheek until he seems to be smiling with his whole being."

The conversation began simply, directly. "You are interested in Brentano?" inquired the president.

On Doctor Eaton's replying that he was, very much so, the president told of his first acquaintance with Brentano, and of the later life of that great teacher. The president's opinions agreed in many points with what Doctor Eaton had learned from other sources.

"It was intensely interesting to hear it from a man who had actually known Brentano in those hectic days of 1874 when he first came to Vienna as the liberal thinker from the west, bringing a knowledge of Comte and of Herbert Spencer and John Stuart Mill into an academic atmosphere fetid with Kant and Hegel and Herbart," Doctor Eaton comments.

President Masaryk had not been able to attend all of Brentano's lectures because of the necessity of earning his liv-

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happy that we are returning, and I am glad, but of course you were a little crazy when you told me of the storm. I see of course that all is tranquil, and that a storm will not come. You have a reason for returning at this time. Perhaps you have a family, is that not so?"

He beamed with good nature. "Yes that is so monsieurrr-a, I have a family."

"I hope that there is no one ill, that you would hurry so."

"No monsieurrr-a there is no one ill, thank the good Lord."

"Then tell me how many are there at your home?"

"There are seven, monsieurrr-a, and one *en voyage*." He said this smiling very happily.

I felt suddenly interested in Pietro and his family. "Good then, I shall go home with you and take presents to your wife and children."

"Monsieurrr-a is good, but I live a long way and monsieurrr-a would not care to go so far."

"No, Pietro I don't mind. I shall take pleasure."

His face was troubled. "Monsieurrr-a will understand; tomorrow perhaps he will come and eat of our food, but tonight no. I cannot go home till late tonight."

"Then you will go to the wine shop and drink with the others till your head has no sense; you will waste all your money. You will tell your wife you stayed

late on the island." I could picture Pietro at the wine shop sitting around a table with others of his kind, laughing at coarse, obscene jokes, or talking of politics. I could hear the arguments and smell the acrid odour of the sour wine, smoke and dried sweat. I could visualize Pietro leaning on his elbow, listening with mouth agape, while some glib member of the party talked drivel.

His face brightened and he was quick to assure me; he seemed transported by happiness.

"No, truly monsieurrr-a, I shall not waste the money; I work all day and give to my wife the money. Me, I care nothing about the people at the wine shop. It is not for me, such things. But tonight there is the moonlight, and there will be much beauty. Everything will be silver and the warm air will carry the perfume of the flowers." He took his hands from the oars and spread his arms as though he would include the universe. "The night-birds and the trees will whisper, and the moon will rise like a beautiful lady." He seemed unaware of my presence for the moment. "It will be a night for *amore*. Me, I go with Luca and Guisepe and Pietro Benzalli, under the window of the second floor of the Hotel Barromeo. There we will sing of *amore*; there we will sing of the night to a beautiful lady, to the playing of our guitars. A beautiful lady has come to Stresa and we will sing of the night under her window."

VISITING MASARYK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 172)

ing. In Europe, where this is rarely done, Mr Masaryk's performance in earning all of his way through school was a remarkable performance.

"His impressions of Brentano were still fresh, for he had cultivated his acquaintance in every way open to him, on walks, and in visits in Brentano's home. His characterization of Brentano was that he had never known a keener mind, 'like a knife,' to use his phrase. He made the interesting point that one could not appreciate the quickness and sureness of Brentano's mind from his books—when one writes a book he polishes and refines the 'quickness' away. He told of how Brentano had stood behind him in his own efforts to find himself in a religious way, and of Brentano's friendly and helpful criticism of his own early publication," Doctor Eaton writes.

Doctor Eaton was amazed to find a statesman with the genuine interest in philosophy that President Masaryk possessed. Earlier, Mr Masaryk had written an important contribution to philosophy, his *Concrete Logic*, but even in his busiest years in this century, the president has not put aside his interest in philosophy and seems anxious to exchange opinions with wandering philosophers.

Franz Brentano was born in 1838 near

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life, blind and in ill-health, he settled in Italy and Switzerland, dying in 1917. His most famous book was *Psychology from the Empirical Standpoint*. Brentano was one of the mainstays of the Austrian school of the philosophy of values. His brother-in-law, Theodore Funck-Brentano, is a famous contemporary Parisian professor and writer.

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KENNETH C. KAUFMAN

Stabilization: a legal view

Stabilization of the Oil Industry and Due Process of Law. By Maurice H. Merrill, 3 Southern California Law Review, 396-410, June, 1930.

The stabilization of the oil industry involves three sciences, law, engineering and economics. At the present time the limiting factors in achieving this goal lie in the field of law and economics. Professor Merrill, '19 arts-sc., '22 law, has in this article pointed out the legal obstacles. Proration, temporary complete suspension, and compulsory unit operation are the devices used by the industry for bringing stabilization about.

Professor Merrill summarizes his paper as follows:

Protection of the respective interests of producers from a common pool, the preservation of irreplaceable natural resources against waste and the devotion of such resources to socially preferred uses, at least within reasonable limits, all have been recognized as legitimate ends justifying state control of the activities of those exploiting mineral resources such as oil and gas. No case, as yet, squarely decided that maintenance of a sound economic structure in the oil industry represents such a socially justifiable end of governmental activity; but decisions upholding the validity of measures designed to promote economic well-being in other fields indicate that it should be regarded as legitimate, especially in view of the fact that stabilization of the oil industry does involve an element of conservation as well. Granting the legitimacy of the end, two of the means proposed, the two that have been put in actual practice to date, namely, proration and temporary curtailment of operations, seem clearly consistent with due process. The third, compulsory unitization of oil fields, presents more difficulties, and it seems very doubtful whether it can constitutionally be imposed upon non-assenting landowners and operators without compensation. Possibly the small chance of loss as compared with the almost inevitable gain to be realized by the operators would make compulsory participation in such a program good as against them, but the constitutional claim of the landowner to compensation seems almost unassailable.

This paper is a very scholarly presentation of the question from the legal angle and is a distinct contribution to the literature on the subject. It should be read by all students of the problem.

LEONARD M. LOGAN

Gas industry trends

Tremendous improvements are being made in the natural gas industry, making for cheaper production, less hazards in production and distribution, Wright L.

Belles lettres and bell ringers

THE STORY OF LITERATURE

Folk-Say: A Regional Miscellany. Edited by B. A. Botkin. Norman. University of Oklahoma Press, \$5.00.

The slender proportions of Mr Botkin's first venture in the collecting and editing of folk material, the 1929 issue of *Folk-Say* have nearly doubled in the present number; new names, names of writers and gleaners of national importance have been added to its list of contributors; in format, binding and illustrations it has become as handsome a volume as one could wish to see grace the shelves of a library; but the general plan, the ideal behind the work is the same. For *Folk-Say* is not a collection of folklore but a collection of folk material, necessarily including what they have to say about themselves.

The definition of folklore is a nebulous one among the experts; even the question of whether there is such a thing as an American folk is a debated one; some hold that whatever groups of American people there are have been so influenced by cultural contacts and the encroachments of a machine age that there is no natural culture among us. By a wise foresight Mr Botkin has avoided becoming embroiled in any such battle. His thesis is that any culture developed by any group of people, however affected by extraneous influences, is folk material, that any literature or lore they may invent is "folk say," is a popular creation and therefore worth preserving. In so many words the picturesque oaths invented to cuss a balky flivver are as much a folk creation as those used to anathematize a cantankerous mule. Hereby his field becomes unlimited; and in so far as the material, be it the product of an untutored child of nature or an interpretation of the same by a literary artist, is of

any value and interest at all, it is of an extremely great value and interest.

Nor is the publication of a merely local interest; the subtitle is A Regional Miscellany; and the regions referred to are as unlimited as is the choice of material; scanning its pages one finds the products of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Indiana, several states of the Deep South, of the North, of the Middle West. Anything, from anywhere, written down by anybody, so long as it reveals the spirit of the folk, so long as it has an intrinsic value and interest is grist for the mill of *Folk-Say*.

And most of the material in the present volume has such value and interest. Here are poems in the style of Indian chants from the Far West; here are the tales of the Old Timers, from the short grass region and the pioneer days in Oklahoma back to early days in Indiana. The picturesque jargon of the pipeline crew rubs elbows with a sympathetic essay on New Mexican freighters. Reminiscences of witch lore in a Southern swamp neighbor with superstitions from the Ozarks; folk riddles and party-games are ranged with some appealing negro poetry (by negroes); and names of the great and the near-great are signed to theoretical discussions of who? where? and why? are folk; and what? when? and how? is folk lore.

A list of contributions and contributors would exceed the space allotted for this note, but much of the material has a curious value; much of it has a literary value; and all of it is the virile, genuine, sympathetic, human product of real folk. It