



April Fool!

THIS is the season of FOOLS, Merry Andrews, harlequins, masquerades, tricks, pranks and jokes; when hats loaded with stone are placed temptingly to invite kicks; when purses with wires attached are dropped nonchalantly to the sidewalks; when telephone calls are made to the zoo for Mr. Lvon and Miss Seal.

April Fools' Day is a GAY and surprising time, and all have a good LAUGH or two, even if it be a wry one, at their own expense; but it probably does not thrive in totalitarian countries where the officials have no sense of HUMOR.

But April Fools' Day is not the ONLY day of the year on which people are fooled, and usually there is NOTHING to laugh at because it is NOT funny.

People are fooled CONSTANTLY when promised something for nothing, a fiction in which it seems that a large proportion of humanity believes.

If it is not cards, dice, numbers or horses, it is the Spanish Prisoner HOAX, the lost pocketbook racket or some sports pool.

This FOOLING seems to go on and on, and for every person who gets wise there are ten GULLIBLE recruits.

This enables several thousand Americans to live quite WELL without doing any useful work or contributing ANYTHING to the national welfare; quite the contrary.

People are also being continually fooled by politicians and political parties making extravagant PROMISES which every intelligent citizen knows cannot be realized.

Indeed, since promises are made to every segment and class of the population, they are frequently CONTRADICTORY, but cynical politicians have long since realized that public memories are SHORT.

Even more TRAGIC is the manner in which the people are fooled into WARS and yet come to revere the

MEMORIES of those who led them into the SLAUGHTER, often without rhyme or reason.

There has not been a war in history which HONEST, intelligent men could not have AVERTED, including the most recent one, but nevertheless it will be simple to inflame the people into entering ANOTHER one.

Then, of course, there is the CONSTANT business of people fooling THEMSELVES.

Despite evidence to the contrary, they PERSIST in believing that they are smarter, more handsome, more persuasive or charming than they really are.

The failure of OTHERS to accept these estimates causes a tremendous amount of frustration and unhappiness (and sometimes DISASTER) because, unhappily, there are so many people who cannot face and accept REALITY.

They not only fool and ruin THEMSELVES, but are instrumental in making MISERABLE the lives of those about them.

We all know MANY people fool themselves with the false belief that "I could have been, etc., if I had only had this or that, and a measure of good luck."

Nevertheless people in their SAME position and circumstances succeeded where they FAILED; because success or failure depends more upon what a person has INSIDE him than what he has AROUND him.

There is such a thing as GOOD LUCK, but more important and more profitable is good MANAGEMENT.

It is those who have FAILED to manage their affairs intelligently and have consequently encountered ADVERSITY, who are always looking for miracles: that is, something for nothing.

For THEM every day in the year is All Fools' Day, and unlike April First there is nothing funny about it.