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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Hoover and Wage Cuts
President Hoover is muddled again.

It took him a year and a half to discover that unemployment in our history to discover that unemployment had reached serious proportions, and then one of his own government departments had to make a special survey to show that unemployment was twice as high as the Hoover estimate.

It took him a year and a half to discover that wage cuts are prolonging the depression.

At least he appeared to have made that belated discovery on Thursday. But on Friday he denied the fact. What he thinks today, we don't know.

On Thursday various newspapers, including Republican organs especially close to the administration, published circumstantial stories quoting White House sources to the effect that the President was alarmed by the tendency to cut wages, that this trend jeopardized revival of prosperity, and that Hoover intended to do something about it.

On Friday the White House officially denied that there were disturbing wage reductions in important industries, and asserted that the President, on the contrary, was pleased greatly by the generally high wages being maintained.

Why did the President have this sudden change of mind?

Does he not know that the recently published report of the bureau of statistics of the United States department of labor states that, in the month ending Jan. 15, in fifty industries, 335 establishments made wage cuts averaging 10.2 per cent and affecting 80 per cent of all the employees in the establishments concerned?

Has the President forgotten his earlier efforts to prevent such wage cuts?

Immediately after the Wall Street panic, the President was smart enough to understand that maintenance of high wage levels should be the key to continued industrial prosperity. So his contribution in the emergency was the White House conference, which agreed to a capital-labor truce, in which labor would not strike and capital would not cut wages.

But many of the employers broke their pledge and cut wages. Increased depression was the result.

Last September the President made a second appeal to employers to keep up the wage level. When J. W. Barton, head of the national bank sections of the American Bankers' Association, advocated a lower living scale as a cure for depression, Hoover replied with last minute changes in his prepared address to that association.

"Any retreat from our American philosophy of constantly increasing standards of living becomes a retreat into perpetual unemployment and the acceptance of a cesspool of poverty for the large part of our people," he said.

Heedless of this warning certain bankers continued their drive for lower wages. Much of this has been under cover. But recently such leading bankers as Albert H. Wiggin, chairman of the Chase National Bank of Chicago, openly have justified wage cuts.

Colonel Arthur Woods, as chairman of the President's emergency employment commission, is in a position to set at first hard the ruinous results of this drive. Hence his statement that "it would be indeed unfortunate if employers generally took advantage of the present situation to engage in a wage-slashing movement."

Wage-slashing is no longer a threat, but an actuality—as proved by the latest report of the United States department of labor.

This must be stopped somehow, and quickly. It is destroying the little remaining purchasing power of the workers. That means suffering not only for the wage earners and their families, but for professional men, for merchants, for the entire country which is dependent upon the ability of consumers to buy goods.

If President Hoover can persuade short-sighted employers and bankers to stop these suicidal wage-cuts it will be a great achievement.

But he can not accomplish anything by denying the facts.

Impugning Our Sense of Humor

If you have any one grievance against France, it is that she constantly implies that we are a nation without humor. By clever propaganda she induced us to enter the World War to pull the French and British chestnuts out of the fire. We loaned her much money. After we had canceled 60.7 per cent of what she had borrowed from us to aid in her war to recover Alsace and Lorraine, she converted our Uncle Sam into Uncle Shylock.

Now the press announces that M. Briand states that "It is evident that a half has come in our relations with Germany." The German-Austrian customs treaty is held up as the most serious threat to European peace since the armistice and a revival of the horrible spirit of William II.

Without calling any names or expressing any preferences for Pölli or Boche, let us look into the background of this matter. France, with American aid, won the World War. She immediately recovered Alsace and Lorraine and executed great gobs of spoil from Germany in the way of coal, rolling stock, livestock and the like, even though German women and babies were starving like flies.

Next she helped to knock Wilson's Fourteen Points into a cocked hat and draft a vindictive treaty which will prevent European peace as long as it remains in operation.

She also secured heavy reparations payments from Germany for starting the World war, though the most moderate of historians concede that France was fully as guilty as Germany in 1914. She almost hooked the United States into signing a pact with Britain and France guaranteeing France perpetual possession of her spoils.

Next she built up a wall of steel about Germany. She entered into firm treaty engagements with Belgium and helped to finance the large Belgian army. She made similar arrangements with the little entities, composed of Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Still closer relations exist between France and Poland, and French francs help support the gigantic Polish army. Even Italy has been rendered dependent by recent loans. A secret Anglo-French naval pact was rendered temporarily impotent only through its exposure by Mr. Hearst.

Today France is by far the most impressive military power in the world. She has a vast army, innumerable well-trained reserves, incomparably the greatest air force in the world, the most submarines and three times as many tanks as the rest of the world combined.

Her own forces joined to those of her confederates outnumber those of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and European Turkey by more than four to one.

Never in European history has there been as one-sided a military dictatorship on that continent. Ger-

many was accused of being a military colossus sitting astride Europe in 1914, but on July 1, 1914, the German army fell short of the active French army by some 70,000 men. It has been for this that American money and blood was spent to rid Europe of dictatorships.

In the post-war settlement, all other nationalities save the Teutonic were allowed to join up politically—Poles, Czechoslovakians, Serbs, Rumanians, Greeks, Italians, Letts, Lithuanians, Finns and whatnot.

But the Germans of Germany and Austria were kept apart resolutely and ordered to remain apart. When Austria became bankrupt, she was compelled to renew her promise to rebuff Germany before she could contract loans.

Now Germany and Austria have perfected a little customs union. They carefully have safeguarded the commercial interests of the rest of the European states. The arrangement conforms perfectly to Britain's proposal of European economic union.

But the French papers, parliament, and publicists immediately assume apoplectic symptoms, accuse Germany of being a violator of sacred treaties and hint of war clouds.

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"It is a public secret that the menacing development of criminality in America is a direct consequence of this situation."

Yet, both Republicans and Democrats have been speaking of prohibition as a nonpolitical problem that must not be allowed to become an issue in the next campaign.

Fortunately, American voters are beginning to see what Einstein has discovered.

Time to Go Slow

Secretary of Labor Doak, with \$500,000 to supplement his department funds, plans to ship out some 100,000 of the 400,000 estimated aliens here illegally.

Do doubtless the new labor secretary is sincere when he says he will administer the deportation law "humanely and as a liberal-minded man." Yet we fear it will not be done as he blandly suggests.

Dagnet drives inevitably result in brutality, the negation of fundamental human rights, anarchy under cloak of law. The recent raid upon a Finnish dance in New York City, in which Doak's men and police lined up 1,000 guests, demanding that they prove their citizenship and carted away to the police station eighteen who could not, indicates what may be expected if agents are turned loose on the country with blanket orders to get their men.

A law dealing with human relationships can not be enforced too delicately. Placed in the hands of raiders, it can become an instrument of the most shameful oppression. In the past such raids have resulted in denial of legal counsel, separation of families, arrests on suspicion, punishment of innocent men without redress, and other evils.

It is time to go slow.

Men who think, says a noted physician, are more likely to get sick than those who don't. We've noticed that motorists have been looking rather hearty of late.

"I beg your pardon," as the lifer wrote the Governor.

"At least," said the fellow with the mumps, "I'm having a gland time."

REASON BY FREDERICK LANDIS

DURING these lean days it has been frequently remarked that the boys in jail are having a better time than those at large, but up against it inasmuch as those who are in are well fed, yet they toll not, neither do they spin.

You doubtless remember the days when jail birds were compelled to earn their keep, by breaking stone, if no other activity presented itself.

Why not interrupt the ping pong game and once more call the boys to the nobility of toll?

A lot of them arrange to be locked up in order to be cushioned against the toll and stress of the world. Particularly this is true when the weather is cold.

A charming picture of this strategy was presented down in Missouri the other day.

A SHERIFF went away and left the jail door wide open, but on his return found all of the prisoners in their places.

He asked them why they didn't get away, and they replied:

"Leave our happy home? Not on your life!"

Fellow taxpayers, it's time to make them work!

Mahatma Gandhi is having trouble with his folks because they think he made too easy a bargain with John Bull.

Theirs are trying to scalp him whenever he appears in public.

This is the way our ancestors attacked John Jay when he made the treaty with England after the battle of the world.

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M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

Peace Officers Who Can't Tell the Difference Between the Victim of Thugs and the Victim of Hooch Are Unfit to Make Accurate Reports.

NEW YORK, April 3—Frank B. Gorman, master-at-arms and clerk in the United States Senate for more than forty years, died in Chicago Wednesday morning under circumstances which leave a bad taste in the mouth.

He was visiting a brother in Chicago. Last Monday afternoon he went out for a walk. At 10 o'clock that night, passersby found him unconscious on the sidewalk. When summoned to the scene, police took him to the station and locked him up as a common drunk.

A little while afterward, he regained sufficient consciousness to say that he had been assaulted and robbed. Later investigations disclosed that his skull had been fractured.

It might have happened in any American city. As a matter of fact, it had happened in several.

Unfit Peace Officers

IT is said on good authority that the next report issued by the Wickersham commission will emphasize the inadequacy and unreliability of crime statistics in this country.

As long as men with fractured skulls are booked as common drunks, how can we expect anything else?

Peace officers who can't tell the difference between the victim of thugs and the victim of poison hooch obviously are unfit to make accurate reports.

Arrest may mean anything, while lack of it may mean far more.

There is no way one can find out what the police have accomplished, much less what the community has suffered.

The number of crimes committed is not reflected by the number of criminals caught, and the number of criminals caught is not reflected by the number convicted.

Who Framed Who?

HUNDREDS of Chicago women having gone out on their own account and discovered how gloriously the people were being shortchanged, the state's attorney makes a spectacular raid on city hall, picking up twenty-eight men as well as most of the records in the office of the scales of weights and measures.

Big Bill Thompson, who just has been renominated for mayor and who represents a different faction of the Republican party from that of the state's attorney, says that it is all a political trick to help his Democratic opponent.

Just another illustration of how partisan politics enters into every character of law enforcement.

Let a man in public office be charged with anything these days, and his first alibi is to yell "Framed up" at the opposition. The people can't tell who or what to believe.

The only things they are sure of is lying, or cheating, somewhere.

The same extent that partisanship has become a smoke screen for dishonesty, it obscures honest effort.

U. S. Is Haven No Longer

IN February, 1913, 176,000 aliens were admitted to the United States. In February, 1931, the number was little more than 3,000.

That speaks of a profound change in our policy; also, in our future development from a social, industrial, and political standpoint. This nation will not grow as fast during the next twenty-five years as it has during the last twenty-five. It will not be able to build cities with such rapidity, or stage such stupendous shifts in its population.

Neither will it be regarded in the same light by people of foreign lands, especially oppressed people. Until the great war, this country was looked upon universally as the world's Crosses, rich, powerful, threatening.

When a person has reached this stage in the use of the narcotic, he is described by addicts as having the habit, the colloquial term being that he is "hooked."

Dr. W. L. Treadaway of the United States public health service is convinced that the chief factor in drug

addiction is ease of access to the drug.

The causes of addiction are divided into: First, previous use of