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

An Economic Council

A year ago when Senator La Follette and other liberals suggested that a national economic council might help our economic sickness, their plan was regarded as visionary and radical.

In year opinion has changed. Today industry is looking with growing favor upon the idea. Some of the most efficient business men in the country have come to Washington during the last week to record, with the senate committee on manufactures, their willingness that such plan be tried.

This is probably the most significant development of the hearings now in progress, the first governmental attempt to get at the root of our present troubles and correct them.

It is true that some bankers who have testified before the committee have been cold to the national economic council idea. Their eyes have been fixed upon Europe and upon the need of restoring Europe's buying power and private debt-paying capacity. Much of their treasure lies abroad and men's hearts and thoughts are apt to follow their treasure.

Industrialists, on the other hand, whether or not they engage in foreign trade, feel acutely the gravity of the problem at home, and the need of dealing with it intelligently. Some of them prefer to attempt this without the help of the government.

Some of them feel that the government alone can tie together the many different elements in the economic situation which must be considered in forming competent opinion on any phase of it.

Economists and social workers, without exception, have told the committee that "the job is so necessary it is going to be done somehow, soon."

If there were any doubt of this other than in the minds of the bankers, the appalling figures presented at the beginning of the hearings by E. A. Goldenweiser, chief of the federal reserve board's division of research and statistics, and L. H. Sloan of Standard Statistics Company, would force unwilling belief.

These men told the committee that the present depression is the longest and worst of history, that the national income is 25 per cent less today than two years ago; that a billion dollars is being hoarded; production is off 50 per cent; employment down at least 27 per cent, with a very large percentage of part-time work; farm prices have reached their lowest point; 1,234 banks have failed so far this year, and 3,300 commercial firms, including banks, have failed, an all-time high; interest payments on bonds valued at two billion dollars have been defaulted this year; the net income of corporations has declined by two-thirds since 1929, and, after paying dividends this year, their reserve funds show a deficit of \$500,000,000.

To this picture the economists have added that while other depressions have been ended by growth of a new industry or discovery of new gold deposits, neither of these seems to be a possibility at the present time. And the social workers have translated the story into terms of broken bodies and spirits, into the incalculable cost in human life.

So what is left? What, indeed, but human intelligence; the wit and will to master our situation and plan that we may not have to face this again. Only the counselors of despair deny that we can help ourselves if we will.

Japan and Western Intervention

Japan may be in the wrong in opposing and representing western intervention in the Manchurian crisis. Yet no calm student of far eastern history will can deny that she has solid grounds for doubting the 100 per cent altruism of the western nations who now seem so solicitous about peace and the integrity of China.

Japan is in much the same position as a man who has watched a sick neighbor receive a series of visitors to express their sympathy. After one Good Samaritan left, the neighbor missed his choice cut-glass vase. Another's departure was signified by the disappearance of his wife's diamond necklace. The third seemed to have taken a special fancy for his first edition of a rare old English essay.

In due time, the observer might be forgiven for wondering if his neighbor might not better bear his pain and misery in solitude.

Japan has been compelled to observe European intervention for the "good" of China for practically a century. But each kind service to the great Mongolian power has been followed by a generous helping to Chinese territory, trade or both. Hence, she may be forgiven if, in 1931, she is mildly skeptical about the whole-hearted benevolence of the good people of far complexion at Geneva.

From the time of the visit of Marco Polo in the thirteenth century until the first quarter of the nineteenth century, China was able to maintain her integrity and aloofness from the west. She allowed only limited trading privileges through a very few ports like Canton. Then came three-quarters of a century of pilfering.

First came the opium war of 1840-42 with Great Britain. As a result of her victory, Britain forced China to open four more important ports to British trade. Britain then helped to put down the Taiping rebellion between 1853 and 1864, thus strengthening herself with the dominant Chinese government.

During a part of this period—from 1856-60—however, Britain and France were at war with China and pried open six more ports. They also forced China to give additional guarantees of the position and safety of the foreign trader in China.

In 1894-95 came the Chino-Japanese war, which did more than any other major episode to stir doubts in the Japanese bosom. After the sweeping Japanese victory, the European powers came in to preserve the integrity of the prostrate Chinese giant. They went out with more of the Japanese spoils in their pockets. Japanese resentment over this international hypocrisy never has been eradicated.

In 1898 Germany, as usual late and on the heels of the French and British freebooters, seized the Shantung peninsula to avenge the death of two German Catholic missionaries. In Germany the highly Lutheran Kaiser never has been observed to be especially sentimental about Catholics. But he immediately discerned in these slain priests two "dear brothers in Christ."

He sent his brother Henry with German warships to China to seek proper recompense. Shantung was to China to seek proper recompense. Shantung was the price ultimately exacted.

Two years later the patriotic Chinese arose in the Boxer revolt of 1900 to kick out the hated and intruding foreigner. They failed ignominiously, with the result that China was placed under the commercial and fiscal tutelage of the western powers. She could not even determine her own tariff schedules.

China was thrown wide open to outside exploitation. John Hay, by his "Open Door" policy, insisted that this grand larceny should be carried on without discrimination.

In these seventy-five years, many Chinese dependencies have been lopped off. France took Indo-China between 1862 and 1885. Britain grabbed Burma

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

The Republicans Have No Out, Except to String Along With Hoover, and That's Not a Sure "Out," by Any Means.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—Wheat advances, the outflow of gold ceases, Mid-Continent crude goes up 15 cents a barrel, and nine major industries report increased production.

Twenty-two countries agree to a year's holiday in armament construction as proposed by the League of Nations.

Japan and Russia accept each other's assurances, and Japan says that she won't declare war, even if China does.

Trade revives steadily in England, and the Sankey committee prepares a tentative constitution for the government of India.

Hold the Excitement

SUCH items, as well as many more of similar import, warrant a certain degree of optimism, but let us not get too excited.

We have been fooled several times during the last two years. If the tide has turned, it proves only that we were fooled again, since this was about the first time we were dead sure such a thing couldn't happen.

Who looked for wheat to take a jump, or British business to improve on suspension of the gold standard?

Sometimes, you wonder whether the shrewdest of us can see an inch ahead of his nose when it comes to a change in general conditions.

Who Can Be Sure?

WE'RE just twelve months away from the presidential election of 1932, but is anybody sure who will be the Democratic nominee, much less which party will win?

It is taken for granted that the Republicans will renominate President Hoover, but some people even doubt that.

Senator Borah of Idaho is reported to have had some attractive offers of support if he would become a candidate.

Borah Is Right

SENATOR BORAH has a large following. He could put up quite a battle if he went at it in earnest. But, as he says, the man in power has a distinct advantage when it comes to corralling delegates, especially from the south.

The late Theodore Roosevelt found that out twenty years ago. Though able to run away with more than one-half of the Republican party's rank and file, he couldn't take the nomination away from President Taft.

The best Senator Borah, or another opponent of Hoover, could hope for would be such a split in the Republican party as would make rich America could assume a portion of this burden, all given impetus by the fact that taxpayers now pay less in the pension states than they did for poor house care.

Senator C. C. Dill announces that he will introduce a bill in the coming congress granting federal aid to states for old age pension funds. Senators Couzens, Schall and others urge similar measures. The time is here when the federal government, with taxing access to the great fortunes and inheritances, should help out the states, especially the poorer ones, in creating old age security reserves.

Bishop Francis McConnell estimates that for \$150,000,000 a year all the nation's 600,000 needy who are over 65 years of age can be pensioned. Surely rich America could assume a portion of this burden, to make secure and happy the declining years of its useful citizens.

All in Danger

Why all this furor about two mere labor leaders, Mooney and Billings, now turning aged and gray as they serve out their fifteenth year in California prisons for crimes they did not commit?

The question has been asked by many, including three California Governors; even by lawyers and judges. Neither of these men is an important person. Perhaps you wouldn't like them personally. They are agitators, and one of them has a penal record. Why worry? Let United States Senator Edward P. Costigan, himself a westerner, answer.

The known facts in the Mooney-Billings cases are such that the custodians of our civilization indict themselves if they fail to use their controlling influence so as possible to correct an indefensible record; Senator Costigan wired to a Boston protest meeting.

"Whenever the humblest among us are wronged under the forms of law, the mightiest are in jeopardy. Justice, therefore, to all, and more than ever in this critical industrial era, continues to be the best safeguard as well as the essential end of government."

With Mooney and Billings, innocent, in jail, all of us, even Governors and Judges, are unsafe. We all may say, as John Wesley said when he saw a beggar on the street: "There, but for the grace of God, am I."

In the recent British election, England's only pro-bono member of parliament lost his seat. Beastly annoying, just when he was sitting pretty.

The Republicans, the Democrats and Central Europe have attacked the Hoover-Laval debt plan. And Al Capone, with those federal enemies against his property, probably wouldn't approve of it either.

A few years ago the whole world was yelling "H. C. of L." Today half is howling "S. O. S." and the other half, "C. O. D."

A million people cheered Mussolini at Naples. Probably because the Fascists had given them the Duce.

Al Capone's bodyguard asked for mercy on the charge that he carried a loaded pistol into court during Al's trial. Maybe he just carried it as a plaything or a rattle.

Sign on the Line

SPEAKING of war debts, no one can review the Hoover-Laval conference without suspecting that this government will have to do some smooth trading to avoid re-sumption of the sucker role.

According to the program, Germany is going to ask France for a "new reparations deal" while the President asks Congress for power to revise war debt settlements.

That leaves France in a position to grant what we are willing to give, or vice versa. In other words we are expected to pay for all the misery she shows.

A virtuous task, no doubt, but what, or where, is the reward? If it's an agreement to disarm, we ought to get somebody's name on the dotted line before going too far. Or is ours the only government that signs on the dotted line?

How much should a gold fish grow in a year and what is its average life span?

The rate of growth depends upon the feeding and general care. The average is about 2 inches the first six months, and 3 to 4 inches during the first year. The life span depends also upon the care they receive, ranging from 6 months to 9 or 10 years. Goldfish have been known to live for 30 years.

How does the area of Texas compare with that of Germany?

Texas has an area of 265,896 square miles; the Republic of Germany has 183,889 square miles.

A woman, on the contrary, who must appear in a skirt longer or shorter than the prevailing mode, is not only self-conscious and incapable of logical thought, but completely miserable.

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Daily Thought

A bruised reed he shall not break, and the smoking flax shall not be quenched; he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.—Isaiah 42:3.

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