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

An Emergency Exists

Governor Leslie, summoning the members of the legislature for a special session, properly says that an emergency exists.

It is not exactly the emergency which he has in mind. It is greater. It does not stop with the prospect of an empty public treasury in the state and in the counties. It is not limited by the fact that an unfair distribution of tax burdens in confiscating the farms, transforming the owners into tenants, and changing the little home owner into a renter.

When the regular session was held, all proposals to change the sources of public revenue were defeated by a lobby representing the great industrialists and capitalists who were shocked at the thought that an income tax on individuals and corporations might lift a part of this burden.

At that time the Governor gave some service to this lobby. There is nothing on record to indicate that he has changed his own attitude.

The Governor attempted to secure a pledge from the members of the legislature that there would be no action on any subject except that of taxation, which, of course, would include reduction of wages and numbers of employees.

The legislators can not afford to limit themselves. The conditions have changed since the Governor so arrogantly declared that the law makers could not meet.

For one thing, the cost of poor relief has mounted in most counties to a sum that is staggering. The limit of relief has been reached.

Unless there is state action of some sort, there will be hunger.

It is now generally accepted as a fact that the federal government will attempt to give some relief. President Hoover has been forced to change his attitude. He no longer relies on such gestures as those made in Indiana and other states. The congress will vote funds for this purpose before it adjourns.

The legislature must create some machinery for caring for the unemployed in this state when federal money is available. If one fact has been demonstrated thoroughly, it is that these funds can not be trusted to the machinery set up by Governor Leslie for the distribution of the small sums collected from football games and donations by Purdue professors. Federal relief must not mean private penance.

The legislature will wish to reduce costs of government.

It may find some clew to possible methods in the fact that wages are already being reduced by the expedient of assessing those on the public pay rolls for political purposes. Stenographers with small wages must pay 5 per cent of a year's income to the "party" under an edict delivered through a member of the highway commission.

If public employees must pay for their jobs, the pay should go back to the people.

In any plan to rescue the state from its predicament there should be provision for a transfer of the present gasoline tax, license fees on automobiles and other sources of the huge highway funds to places and uses where the money will take care of those in need and lift a part of the general tax burdens.

That the Governor recognizes an emergency is a hopeful sign. Public opinion will indicate the direction the legislature must travel.

The first objective is the care of those who will suffer next winter unless some new means and methods of help are found.

A World Economic Conference

The Washington-London suggestion of a world economic conference is splendid. Two things have been taught this nation and others by the depression. One is that the basic causes are economic. The other is that economic forces are not national, but international.

Drop a stone in our economic puddle and the ripples circle out across the Seven Seas to the end of the earth. So when another nation puts its foot into it we get the repercussion over here.

Such being the case, it is only a matter of very obvious intelligence for the nations to get together to eliminate causes which injure them all and to produce results which will benefit them all.

Of course there is nothing new about the idea of a world economic conference. There was one at Geneva in 1927. There was another, though more limited in scope, in 1928. Neither of them improved the state of the world, which, on the contrary, has grown worse.

On the basis of this record one might consider another effort hopeless. That, indeed, was the attitude of President Hoover recently, when he vetoed the Democratic tariff bill, which carried a provision for a world economic conference.

"The American government has participated in several economic conferences for these identical purposes since the great war," he said, and added: "They have resulted in very little accomplishment."

It seems to us fortunate that the President has become more hopeful. He has accepted the idea, at least in a limited way, according to the state department announcement. In fact, Foreign Minister Simon told the British house of commons Wednesday that this latest proposal originated in Washington, which means at the White House.

Just why Washington should announce that the idea originated in London, and London should insist that it was born in Washington, is not clear. This confusion, however, is not important unless it means that the two governments are practicing the old

diplomatic trick of discussing solutions which they have no intention of carrying out.

That was the trouble with those other two economic conferences about which Mr. Hoover was so discouraged. The fault was not in the conference method. Nor was it in the failure to discover causes and to find at least partial solutions.

The trouble was the insincerity of the governments participating. They were not willing to abolish their own selfish trade restrictions against foreign commerce and to batter down their own tariff walls. They were not willing to cut down war debts and reparations to a point which necessity now imposes upon them.

It is futile, however, to blame the other fellow as long as our own attitude is so unintelligently selfish.

In the very breath that the state department announced acceptance of the international conference plan, it specified that the "conference would have nothing to do with war debts, reparations, disarmament, or any other than purely economical subjects."

There may be some disagreement—though we can not understand it—as to whether disarmament is an economic question. But if debts are not an economic question, words have lost their meaning.

Tariff is another economic question which Washington apparently would shut out from the "purely economic" conference.

For many months there has been an economic conference on debts, disarmament expense, and tariff—the three-in-one economic issue which must be settled to stop the world depression.

But a world conference which concentrated on results like the fall in commodity prices, without getting back to causes, would be just another conference.

The Philosopher Speaks

We have heard plenty from the politicians and the economic experts since the depression started. Let's give the philosopher a chance. Let's read Emerson, in light of what is going on today, and see whether what the philosopher says applies. Here are excerpts from his "Essay on Compensation":

"Every excess causes a defect; every defect, an excess. Nature hates monopolies and exceptions."

"The waves of the sea do not more speedily seek a level than their loftiest tossing than the varieties of condition tend to equalize themselves."

"There always is some levelling circumstance that puts down the overbearing, the strong, the rich, the fortunate, substantially on the same ground with all others."

"The farmer imagines power and place are fine things. But the President has paid dear for his White House."

"Things refuse to be mismanaged long."

"Though no checks to a new evil appear, the checks exist, and will appear. If the government is cruel, the Governor's life is not safe. If you tax too high, the revenue will yield nothing; if you make the criminal code sanguinary, juries will not convict. If the law is too mild, private vengeance comes in."

"Punishment is a fruit that, unsuspected, ripens within the flower of the pleasure which concealed it."

"Cause and effect, means and ends, seed and fruit, can not be severed; for the effect already blooms in the cause, the end pre-exists in the means, the fruit in the seed."

"There is a crack in everything God has made."

"In nature nothing can be given, all things are sold."

"Our property is timid, our laws are timid, our cultivated classes are timid. Fear for ages has boded and mewed and gibbered over government and property."

"We are idolators of the old. We do not believe there is any force in today to rival or recreate that beautiful yesterday. We linger in the ruins of the old tent, where once we had bread and shelter and organs, nor believe that the spirit can feed, cover and nerve us again."

"The changes which break up at short intervals the prosperity of men are advertisements of a nature whose law is growth."

When Roxy's theater in New York went into receivership, Roxy, it developed, had sold his interest and was on his merry way to Europe. Foxy Roxy.

A New York jury awarded a young dancer \$6,000 because a young man had "cast a spell on her." Evidently, the spell didn't work on the jury.

If television really is perfected soon, a lot of our soprano crooners will create a run on the beauty parlors.

The noise abatement commission overlooked a good bet when it let the new spring suits get by without a protest.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

OWN in the Ozark hills the other day I saw a man, a woman and five children riding into town on a load of wood. They were trying to sell it for 75 cents to get food.

I talked some time to the mother. She was 32 years old and had seven children. They just "got along somehow," she explained. They had a pig now, and raised green stuff in the spring, and her man chopped wood. The one crop that never failed them apparently was the baby crop.

How many more would this woman have, I wondered. And this was but one family.

Many rural sections are peopled by just such prolific folk. Most of them never have enough to eat all the year through. They have no possible chance for a decent life, and a good many of their children have less than average intelligence.

What worth may be bred into them from heredity is well destroyed by their environment, coupled with dire poverty.

IT is hard to see how we can continue to look upon such conditions with calmness. Shall we ever wake up to the alarming increase of mediocrity, criminality and imbecility in this country? If we are determined to breed feeble-minded citizens, then we need not hope to have other than a feeble-minded citizenship.

Birth control, intelligently taught, is the one thing that can save America from a future of complete stupidity.

It is a good many able advocates of birth control, it seems to me, do far less than their duty when they merely preach fewer children for the dull-witted. They also should be as zealous in promoting more children for the intelligent.

There is today, as we know, a very low birth rate among the sturdy-minded element and a very high birth rate among the dull-witted and poor. These two facts combined constitute a grave danger.

If we are to hope for an improvement of conditions in the future, we must impress upon the better class of men and women the necessity for more babies in the home.

To eliminate the stupid is not enough. We must rear strong, well-balanced and intelligent individuals for coming years.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Prejudices Have Come to Play Too Dominant a Part in Our Political Attitude.

NEW YORK, June 2.—This is June, 1932, with the country facing a most critical situation. Both great parties are about to meet in convention. Presumably, they will devote themselves whole-heartedly to the approval of such men and measures as promise relief. At any rate, that is what we teach our children.

Our children believe in the ideal. The country would be far better off if more of the older people did. We are too wise, however, or think we are.

We not only recognize the shams and tricks, but accept them as evidencing progress. We have reached that point of sophistication where we can look on crooked, or purposeless, politics without being afraid. A wonderful frame of mind, when you come to think about it, is a wonderful example of stoicism.

Can't See Warnings

WE see nothing amiss in the fact that twenty years ago, Woodrow Wilson was nominated as the Democratic presidential candidate because William J. Bryan came out for him when Tammany Hall decided to support Champ Clark.

We read no sign of stupidity in the fact that four years later we elected Wilson for a second term, on the ground that he had "kept us out of war," though we found ourselves in war less than thirty days after his inauguration.

We see nothing to worry about in the fact that Warren G. Harding was nominated by the Republicans in 1920 as a compromise when the delegates found themselves unable to agree on any one of three abler men.

We see no warning in the fact that we stuck by Coolidge on the supposition that he was a safe man and was bound to make the country safe, when his administration was just a bubble-blowing spree, as Hoover discovered within seven months after entering office.

We Go Blithely On

IN spite of such a record, we go blithely on, laughing at the night caucuses, hypocritical platforms and wad-heeling strategy.

At this precise moment, millions of us are excited over the possibility that the mayor of New York City may be ousted by the Governor or the state of New York, not so much because of its moral effect.

Many people believe that if Governor Roosevelt turns Mayor Walker out of office, he will have strengthened himself sufficiently with southern and western Democrats to insure his nomination, but that if he does not, his chances of getting it will be much slimmer.

Thus, and in spite of existing conditions, we come back to the very issue which made Wilson the Democratic nominee in 1912—the issue of Tammany Hall.

"Course Is Folly

ONE need hold no brief for Tammany Hall to realize it a folly of making it a national issue in times like these. Recovery from such a depression as we are passing through calls for much more than thwarting, or even smashing, a political machine in one city.

That is as far as millions of people get, however, when considering who the Democrats should nominate, or why.

Prejudices, or even mere impressions, have come to play too dominant a part in our political attitude. We prefer to fall back on some pet grievance or enthusiasm, rather than study problems.

When we can't think of anything better, we are likely to vote for, or against, a man because of the church he attends, where he was born, or the kind of socks he wears.

A great deal has been said about leadership, but how can there be the right kind of leadership without the right kind of a following?

Unless the Democratic theory of government is all wrong, the popular attitude has much to do with producing and maintaining the right kind of leaders. If law is no stronger than the sentiment behind it, neither is a leader.

Was Colonel Lindbergh's father a member of congress? How long has he been dead?

Charles A. Lindbergh Sr. was a Republican member of congress, and died May 24, 1924.

Editor Times—The writer and no doubt many others of your readers were pleased to see the timely letter of Miss Martha Long of Irvington in a recent edition of The Times, calling attention to the good singing of our national anthem, the "Star-Spangled Banner," by the children of St. John of Arc school, Forty-second and Rueckle street.

That is only school in which it is sung well. For years the excellent vocal glee class of St. John's academy on Maryland street (near The Times office), has

rendered the great national song excellently.

Miss Long refers to the rarity of the second verse being sung. She means it is the third verse.

Democrats were in the majority in both branches.

How many votes are necessary to a choice in the Republican and Democratic national political conventions?

In the Republican convention, a majority vote of the delegates is re-

quired for nomination, and in the Democratic convention two-thirds majority is required.

What, exactly, is a Yankee?

What originally was applied to the people of New England, but during and after the Civil War, the southerners applied it generally to all inhabitants of the north. In Europe, all Americans are called Yankees.

Who was the first child born in America of English parents?

Virginia Dare, born in 1587.

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