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ROY W. HOWARD President
TALCOTT POWELL Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager
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AN IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT's preparations for attack on our foreign problems are necessary to support his partial victories on the domestic front. No amount of artificial emergency farm relief, unemployment relief, railroad relief and business relief long will sustain our economic structure unless our foreign markets can be revived.

Our entire productive machine is geared to produce a surplus. Unless we can dispose of that surplus abroad it will pile up and smother us—just as it did in the beginning of this depression.

The alternatives are to scrap much of our productive machinery or co-operate with other nations for restoration of world trade.

We are dealing not only with an American depression, but with a world depression, and we shall not climb very far unless other nations go with us.

This is the hard reality which necessitates the series of personal conferences which the President now is arranging with the heads of other foreign governments or their special representatives. Following Mr. Roosevelt's conversations in Washington with Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain, the latter part of this month, he will confer separately with spokesmen of France, Italy, Germany and other countries.

The range of problems for discussion includes political, military, trade and monetary questions, along with war debts. Though a reconciliation of the political and territorial friction, which Prime Minister MacDonald explored on his recent visits to Rome and Paris, is in a sense basic to any general economic accord, there is very little that the United States can or should do with the distinctly foreign political problems.

The President can do little more than encourage the foreign governments to make their own political adjustments, meanwhile making clear that the United States will not participate in any so-called security pacts for Europe.

But on the other questions, the President doubtless will assume the leadership which is inherent in America's position as the world's largest commercial and largest creditor.

That there must be a virtual cancellation of war debts, however sugar-coated the process, generally is admitted. But it would be absurd to attempt world rehabilitation through lifting the debt burden, without at the same time lifting the much larger burdens of armament waste and of tariff and other trade barriers.

All these depressive factors are part of an interrelated world situation, and therefore must be dealt with together—actually, if not formally.

No job undertaken by the President during his administration will be more important than his effort to bring international order and co-operation out of the present chaos of competitive tariffs and armaments.

GIVE HIM A MEDAL

THE President has been asked to cut army expense. The appeal is not from a pacifist. It comes from Major-General Johnson Hagood, commander of the Eighth corps area. He is not only one of the highest ranking officers in the army, but one of the most respected. In charging the army with extravagance, the general says:

"It needs close trimming to make it fit the pocketbook of the man without a job. It takes \$300,000,000 to run the army under its present organization. We can get a better organization for less."

"So far as the army is concerned, we have too many bureaus and we could spare six or eight of them, with advantage to the national defense and to the joy of the taxpayer."

"There is no duplication between army and navy. But there is duplication within the army, and it is hoped that the President, with his extraordinary power, will be able to accomplish consolidation and simplification within the army itself that could not have been accomplished with the complicated machinery set up by congress."

"I have twice as many staff officers, clerks and orderlies as I need, but I can not get rid of them under the existing set-up."

General Hagood is a brave officer, indeed. For a soldier to attack the army's inefficiency, or to propose smaller expenditures instead of larger, requires more courage than storming an enemy stronghold. We hope he is not shot for treason to the bureaucracy.

The general's demand is from a military expert. The civilian budget experts can add to the general's indictment of army expenses by showing that the army gets more than its share of the total federal budget and that it has not taken its fair share of economy cuts.

The army and the navy each get about 8 per cent of the total federal expenditure, compared with the agriculture department's 3.15 per cent, interior department 1.54 per cent, justice department 1.18 per cent, commerce department 1 per cent, labor department 35 per cent and state department 34 per cent.

In the federal personnel and salary reductions for the period 1932-34, the cut in total military pay rolls was only \$9,257,829, or 4 per cent, compared with a decrease in the civilian services of \$53,379,087, or 10 per cent; in personnel the military cut was 1,247, or 4 per cent, compared with the civilian decrease of \$8,223, or 17 per cent.

Every person familiar with the federal budget knows that, while many small economies are possible, only two large cuts can be made. One is the veteran appropriation—which President Roosevelt with great political courage and wisdom is reducing by \$400,000,

000. The other is the military-naval expenditure.

With the federal government during the last two and one-half years running a deficit of nearly five billion dollars, with the government now in debt more than twenty billion dollars, and many more billions of necessary bond issues in the offing, the groaning taxpayer will welcome the President's anticipated army expense cut in the name of economy and efficiency.

A HISTORIC MONTH

(From the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor)

AT times in a nation's history, years of progress are collapsed in a few months. The present is such a time.

Our people have been rudely brought to face realities in the last month and have seen that fundamental changes are needed. Lasting progress can be made. The President's forceful leadership gives opportunity to accomplish much. Emergency measures came first, but more basic adjustments are now beginning.

The bank crisis was a severe shock to business. It increased unemployment, reduced buying power, brought business to new low levels. Even three weeks after the crisis, dominating forces still are deflationary. Reliable business forecasters state that business still is on a downward trend, with no immediate improvement in sight.

This downward trend is our worst enemy. Government examination has re-established confidence in the 13,000 banks that are open, but unless we check deflation at once they soon will be threatened again with shrinking assets.

Stock prices have declined 10 per cent in the last two weeks (to March 29). The only way we can reverse the downturn is to get back to work producing goods and employing men.

If we act at once, while 70 per cent of our banks are still sound and railroads and insurance companies still can be saved, we can pull out of depression. Time is an essential factor. It is not an exaggeration to say that every day lost makes the task of reconstruction harder, for every day more mortgages and debts are defaulting, more men are thrown out of work, national income declines still further.

After the banks, the railroads and insurance companies are threatened, and even the tax resources of the government dry up when income is cut away. Those who believe that affairs can be left to take their natural course dare not forget that the "natural course" now is the course of destruction.

This can be reversed only by direct government action to start production of wealth again.

To pay off debts, we must have income; to raise prices, we must have income and buying power; to pay taxes to the government, we must have income.

Yet for three years the government has followed a policy of giving out relief, and taking no measures to start the production which alone can create new funds and get men back to work.

It is time now to use government credit for direct stimulation of our industries by loans or underwriting on a large scale.

WHAT CHILDREN DREAM ABOUT

WHAT do children dream about?

A Columbia university psychologist, Dr. Arthur T. Jersild, decided not long ago to find out. So he interviewed some 400 youngsters, asking them about their hopes, their wishes, their dreams and their fears—and he learned some rather surprising things.

To begin with, the bulk of childhood's dreams are not happy or pleasant ones.

Children reported more unpleasant than pleasant dreams," he says. "Fewer than half, when questioned, expressed a desire to continue to dream."

Furthermore, fear plays a big part in these dreams; and this fear usually ignores such actual dangers as accidents, illness, and the like, and deals with ghosts, corpses, murders, and eerie, darksome places where nameless terrors lie in wait.

The realm of childhood is a queer sort of place; and although all of us have been through it, we nevertheless have a way of misinterpreting it, and our memories of it are not always very accurate.

We like to tell ourselves that it is an idyllic and enchanted place. We use such expressions as "carefree as a child" as superlatives; we like to talk of "a child's happy laughter," and few of us are free from periodic desire to go back to childhood and shed our troubles.

Part of the time, of course, childhood really is like that. But there is another side to it, and few people but children realize the fact.

For a child is facing a world which is utterly unknown; a world which may contain bright miracles, but which also holds plenty of shadowy corners where practically anything can happen.

There is much in it that a child can not hope to understand; it is a world to be explored distrustfully, lest it disclose hurtful things unexpectedly.

As we pass out of childhood, we forget about the hobgoblins and remember only the sunny places; we forget that every enchanted land has its ogres as well as its fair princesses.

But children know; and we might remember that almost every child wants, very badly, to grow up.

THE SUPREME POWER OF SOCIETY

WE are assuming for the purpose of this story that you are a holder of fourth Liberty loan bonds in the amount of \$10,000, the date of issue being Oct. 24, 1918.

We also are assuming that it is your intention, on May 2, 1933, to appear at the treasury in Washington and collect the first half year's interest of \$212.50, which becomes due on April 15.

The language of the bond reads: "The principal and interest hereof are payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value."

On May 2, therefore, you show up at the treasury and ask for gold. We are going to assume further that you get it. But if you take it, the same government which issued the bonds and promised to pay you in gold will prosecute you, and you will be subject to imprisonment for ten years and a fine of \$10,000, or both.

That, under a presidential order just issued, becoming effective May 1.

When a city is on fire and it is deemed

necessary to dynamite a building to check the fire, the building is dynamited. For that is an emergency, and therefore the "police power" supersedes all other power. All constitutional limitations about taking property without due process of law are off.

When President Roosevelt entered office, an economic emergency was raging. So a long unused law book was dusted off and out came Section 58 of the Act of 1917. Under that act, and without further legislation, it now is made a crime to possess more than \$100 in gold.

All this is merely a lesson that citizens have to learn on occasion, in times of stress and danger, that the power of society to act in its own protection is, in the final analysis, unlimited.

ENDING A RACKET

A NEW YORK legislator has introduced a bill which would abolish suits to collect damages for breach of promise to marry. It provides that "no court shall entertain any suit with respect to a contract entered into by virtue of mutual promise to marry"; and it would seem that every state in the Union profitably could copy this proposed law.

As things stand now, most breach of promise suits are little better than a legal kind of blackmail.

To be sure, the man who promises to marry a girl and then changes his mind inflicts a grave psychic wound; but it is not a wound which money can assuage.

The deeper the hurt, the less likely is the person who has been hurt to take the affair into court. That, most of the time, is left for the racketeer. Society as a whole would be better off if this racket were abolished.

FORSAKING AN EARLDOM

THE eleventh earl of Egmont, who holds one of the most distinguished titles in Great Britain, has decided that being an earl isn't nearly as much fun as being a Canadian rancher.

So the ancestral estates of Egmont are up for sale, and the above-mentioned earl is back on a ranch at Pridis, in the province of Alberta, where he wants to be.

The earl was brought up on the ranch, in the days before his father had succeeded to the title. When he was taken to England, on his father's accession to the earldom, he found that being a member of England's nobility wasn't all that it had been cracked up to be.

He wanted to get back to western Canada, to his ranch and the open country; and when his father died, and he himself became the earl, he promptly did so, marrying a Canadian girl who had been working as a dentist's assistant in Calgary.

And most of us, no doubt, will feel that the young man has been eminently sensible. Between an English earldom and a ranch in Canada's northwest—who would hesitate in making his choice?

Magazine runs a story on "How to Lay Out a Baseball Diamond." Most fans are more interested, however, in how to lay out an umbrella.

Burglars broke into a department store, but stole nothing but a dummy from a window. Probably just trying to make up a fourth at bridge.

Judge complains that many modern novels are an incentive to violent crime. Maybe that's why so many of our novelists live abroad.

Remember the old days when a public relations counsel was just a press agent, and a torsorial expert was just a barber? And a conservator was just a receiver?

A share of stock in hand is worth two in a holding corporation.

M. E. Tracy Says:

BUSINESS can not be said to have improved much this far, but there are signs. The most reliable of all these signs is a new note of confidence.

For the first time since 1929, people believe that times are going to be better, and they are more optimistic.

The campaign is bound to fail, however, for the simple reason that Hitler already is headed for disaster and oblivion. Even the suggestion shows how utterly unfit for rule is Hitler, and the German people will not be long in awakening.

By R. C. D.

Riotous demonstrations on the occasion of the return of beer will not help the cause of prohibition repeal. The brewers seem to be the only ones able to keep their heads, in the general rejoicing, when they deplore excesses to greet the new brew.

Indianapolis seemed to be more moderate than many other cities in welcoming the return of beer and in general it does not seem that the drys accumulated much ammunition here, in arguing against the bad effects of legalized beer.

The rate at which the beer was sold out in downtown cafés shows what the people want. Let there be moderation and the whole pernicious prohibition structure will fall, never to be rebuilt.

Trying to get across town with one of these lamps blinking at you every other block is a very discouraging process. Several such trips a day, as I make in my business, soon wear out brake linings and causes

By Traffic Jam.

A badly badgered motorist, I want to raise my voice in protest against the epidemic of stop and go signs that are being installed by the city.

The rate of travel is being held down by these signs, and the traffic is becoming more and more gridlocked.

It is only when the blood pressure is approximately high in relationship to the general condition of the person concerned, or abnormally low, that it requires medical attention.

There are numerous devices for recording the blood pressure accurately, and any competent physician can make measurements.

It is to be thought that a blood pressure of 100 plus the age of the person concerned could be considered a normal blood pressure.

Now Dr. Maurice Campbell points out that variations of 15 per cent in weight, height or intellectual capacity are not extraordinary.

Is He Coming Out of His Hole at Last?



The Message Center

Still Intolerant

By Times Subscriber.

News from Germany should stir every church member, no matter of what denomination, to protest and action. The proposal of Hitler to make the Lutheran church a political organization is one of the most nefarious moves of modern times. There seems to be no limit to the audacious insanity of this fanatic.

The campaign is bound to fail, however, for the simple reason that Hitler already is headed for disaster and oblivion. Even the suggestion shows how utterly unfit for rule is Hitler, and the German people will not be long in awakening.

They are passing up a great opportunity for good and should take heed of the example of England, where real temperance is being achieved, without any attempt by law to mold the morals of the people.

Let the W. C. T. U. awaken or change its name.

any conscientious motorist to have the jitters.

Take Sixteenth street. It looks like a forest of stop and go signs.

The heavy traffic traveling north and south must halt for long periods to give way to the east and west traffic, which usually is very light, if any.

It is proverbial that the smaller the town, the more stop and go signs according to population. Indianapolis should grow up.

By N. R.

What has become of our estimable police chief's proposed ordinance to prevent all-night parking, by prohibiting parking in the residential section longer than four hours at any one time?

Could it be that one of his own flatfeet has tipped him off that such an ordinance, limiting parking to six hours, already is on the statute books and has been for many years?

This ordinance, if properly enforced, which it never has been and probably never will be, would take care of the situation of which Chief Morrissey complains.

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By W. C. T. U.

What is fiat money, and is it issued in the United States?