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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1933.

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 to be 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 1.19 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 83,223, 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 downward trend 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 desires 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 umpire.

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 tonsorial 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 thus 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 believe this to such extent that they are willing to take a chance.

A few effective measures recommended by President Roosevelt and passed by congress have served to turn the psychological tide. The idea that this country could do nothing for itself until or unless the whole world had been salvaged gradually is giving place to one of self-confidence.

Faith in American ability and American resources to provide for American needs is reasserting itself.

This does not mean a narrow or intolerant outlook, but merely the abandonment of that profoundly stupid notion that the United States could make progress only by hollering for other people to pull it out of the mud, when most of them were bogged down worse than we were.

Each government, our own included, must try its own house in order before anything worthwhile can be accomplished toward putting the world in order.

THE endless parade of international conferences by which statesmen have tried to solve domestic problems has been a handicap rather than a help, and nothing would do more good than to call it off for a while.

The world is in much the same condition as a community struck by a cyclone. That community could not put itself in shape to do business as long as it frittered its time away holding conferences, with each citizen neglecting his own affairs.

Ever since the war, and especially since the crash four years ago, governments have shown a tendency to lean on each other and to look for recovery through plans and efforts which put the burden on somebody else.

It was all a part of the dumb dream that if society only could be made to do the right thing, no one would have to work or worry.

THE good work done by the Roosevelt administration thus far hinges largely on the fact that it has minded its own business from an international standpoint, and concentrated on purely domestic problems. It could do no better than go right on with that policy.

When our house is in order, and when some other governments have shown some capacity for putting their houses in order, it will be time enough to resume palaver.

The Hoover administration failed to right conditions at home because it devoted too much of its time and energy to righting them for the whole world.

That simply was too big a contract for any one government to assume, or for all governments to assume, unless they began with the idea of attending to their own affairs first.

Foreign trade can not be stimulated except through improvement of domestic trade. It is ridiculous to imagine that the people of a country can do an increased business abroad on decreased buying at home.

Such a conception belongs to the category of witch medicines.

Is He Coming Out of His Hole at Last?



: : The Message Center : :

(Times readers are invited to express their views in these columns. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By Times Subscriber.

News from Germany should stir every church member, no matter of what denomination, to protest and action. The proposal of Dictator 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.

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 cafes shows what the people want. Let there be moderation and the whole pernicious prohibition structure will fall, never to be rebuilt.

By Traffic Man.

As 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.

Trying to get across town with one of these lanes 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 Dr. Morris Fishbein

Editorial Director of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

It is coming to be thought that a more accurate standard will be 100 plus one-half the age for the systolic pressure, and 75 plus one-fourth the age for the diastolic pressure.

These figures are, of course, somewhat low, whereas the former standards were probably somewhat high. In general, it is thought that a variation of 15 above or below these figures is within reasonable limits for the systolic pressure and 10 above or below for the diastolic pressure.

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

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

FROM the New York state department of labor comes a terrible indictment of the housewife. "She is," says the report, "the most unfair employer in the city of New York. Some of these women work their maids nine hours a day, six days a week, paying \$25 a month."

They ask 15-year-old girls to take complete charge of a seven-room apartment and to do the cooking, washing, ironing and cleaning.

This charge, damning though it may be, undoubtedly is based upon truth. The American housewife, whether in New York City or Poughkeepsie, is the world's worst employer. She is concerned with getting her work done for nothing, if possible. But to be fair to ourselves we must seek a reason for such behavior.

And the average housewife in this land has worked for her own room and board at some time, if she still does not do so. The majority of our home women, even in this century, get nothing for their labor except a few clothes and the food they eat.

The American farmer's wife has been known to toil for twelve hours a day through the four seasons for

Still Intolerant

By Moderation.

The refusal of the W. C. T. U. to co-operate in a temperance movement with the women's organization opposed to prohibition shows how intolerant the white ribbons have become. Temperance is a misnomer as applied to their group.

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 signals.

By N. S.

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 flatfies 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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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 little, if any.

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

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