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AMERICA VS. CHAOS

THE swift devastation of American mass buying power must be curbed at once. If this is not done, misery will multiply. The danger is seen by labor and by every thinking employer. And the Roosevelt administration is moving up for an offensive along the whole front.

Having provided for emergency hunger relief, the administration proposes to attack the deflation which is sapping American trade, commerce, and industry. Through Secretary of Labor Perkins it is learned that the administration will support three measures for immediate relief: (1) A big public works program; (2) The thirty-hour week, with certain flexible amendments to the Black bill; (3) minimum wages to put a bottom to the sinking American living standard.

Labor has asked for a \$6,000,000,000 public works program. Secretary Perkins thinks this not excessive for a spending project for federal, state, and local communities. But more important even than the amount is the type of work to be undertaken.

This is to be work that will not further depress wages. Also, it will be the type of construction that will add permanent wealth to the nation. Modern homes for working men to supplant the dingy, germ-breeding tenements of the cities, rural and village sanitation works, schoolhouses, parks, grade crossing elimination, and similar works are urged by Miss Perkins.

She thinks upward of \$3,000,000,000 worth of such projects could be put under way by this summer. Surely, with commodity prices low, public credit in fine shape, and labor and business in desperate straits, this is the time for such program.

The Black thirty-hour-week bill, recently passed by the senate, furnishes opportunity for absorption of possibly 6,000,000 industrial workers now jobless. With administration amendments, it can be made less rigid and more enforceable.

The third proposal is most important of all, since it would bulwark the shorter work week against efforts of blind employers in many industries to spread misery by shortening wages along with hours.

The administration is considering a proposal for joint capital-labor-government boards to regulate hours, wages, and production. The purpose is to prevent wholesale pauperization of American workers and restore purchasing power.

The offensive can not begin too soon. It is a fight between the United States and chaos.

THE GUARANTEE MISNOMER

THE nation should learn from the experience of the states in the matter of so-called bank guarantee.

In the early years of the century, a group of western and southwestern states tried the "guarantee." In each case the trial failed. The failure was due to false labeling and false advertising of the plan. The public was led to believe that the state, with all its resources and all its power of taxation, was behind the guarantee. As a matter of fact, there was no guarantee, in the common understanding of the term.

There was a protective fund, subscribed to by the banks. It represented only a portion of the total deposits. The state did not contribute and was in no way responsible as an administrator.

But because the fund was advertised as a state guarantee, the public ceased to discriminate in the matter of where it made its deposits. One bank looked as good as another so long as the state seemed to be back of it. Result, any banker, skilled or unskilled, honest or crooked, could get his share of the public's deposits.

A bank charter was much to be prized. Politics entered into that. Too many banks resulted—and loose banking practices thrived. The first failure was "bailed out" by the fund. And the second and the third. Each of the early failures therefore favorably advertised the "guarantee." It worked. But the fund was shrinking. Finally there wasn't any more.

And the whole thing blew up, along with the banks. Had the system not sailed under false colors, had the general assumption that the state was the guarantor not been allowed to grow up—had the plan been called what it was, a bankers' protective fund, instead of a state bank guarantee, the vicious misrepresentation and the loose banking which grew out of it would have been avoided.

Now most of the present national proposals involve the same general formula that was tried by the states—a fund subscribed to by the banks to protect depositors in banks that fail, but only up to the amount of the fund. The responsibility for the guarantee would run to that fund, not to the government.

Insofar as such a plan is put forth and described and labeled for what it is, it might be helpful. But if it is allowed to masquerade under the misnomer of government guarantee, it will be as dangerous as was the state system, and will come to the same pathetic end.

RETURNING OPTIMISM

THERE is no question that America today holds more optimism than at any time since the depression began. People at last are beginning to believe that the end of their troubles is, if not actually at hand, at least in plain sight.

The administration is acting with speed and determination, and the people are giving it a support such as few administrations have ever even hoped to receive.

That much of this optimism is justified seems pretty certain. The only danger is that we carry it too far, so that we forget that

many weighty problems still remain to be solved. The upward climb has begun, but it is probably going to be a long one and a hard one, and we shall probably be asked to make further sacrifices before it is accomplished. We need now to guard against overconfidence.

A NEW RADICAL?

THE depression is said to be making few radicals out of the poor. What of the millionaires?

Connecticut's G. O. P. Senator, Frederic Collin Walcott, is a Yale man, former banker, manufacturer, one of New England's Brahmins. In a speech the other day, he made the senate gasp by coming out for nation-wide and mandatory unemployment insurance to free charity "from paying industry's wages," for public employment exchanges, for a 36-hour week, for a big program of public works. Said he:

"Individually we have set up high standards for labor; collectively wielding the club of mass starvation for bargaining power, we use labor to the point of physical exhaustion, slash wages to a cruel subsistence level, call the chaotic protestations of gnawing bellies and outraged dignity radicalism, and in the name of liberty and the Revolutionary fathers attack it with machine guns, night sticks, and gas bombs."

"In the year of our Lord 1933, in the year of our progress 157, individually we stand—collectively we reel."

G. B. S.

THE ancient kings had to have court jesters to tell them the truth about their royal selves. Democracy has George Bernard Shaw. And like the old jesters "G. B. S." mixes a lot of nonsense with the truth he speaks. His hour-and-a-half speech in New York was about 50-50.

True were such comments as—
 "When it comes to millions of unemployed, then the capitalist system really has broken down."

"Your farmers are enslaved, they are bankrupt and they are in open revolt."

"The employer of today belongs to the proletariat. He is an employed manager Your country is run by financiers. At present it is run into the ditch by them."

"Instead of your ridiculous Uncle Jonathan, your ridiculous 100 per cent American, you really are coming to the point in which America may take the lead and possibly help save the world."

ROOSEVELT LEADS WORLD

MOST Americans, probably, get a thrill of pride out of the fact that their President is trying to lead the whole world back to prosperity. To have an American President inviting the rulers of nearly a score of nations to confer with him and with one another about ways of restoring good times, to know that the hopes of the world once more are centered about the White House—all this is very gratifying to our self-esteem.

What we don't so quickly recognize is the fact that a very heavy weight of responsibility rests upon us, as individual citizens, in connection with this venture.

It is hardly going too far to say that one of the biggest obstacles in President Roosevelt's way, as he moves toward this world economic conference, is made up of the prejudices, the misconceptions, and the mistaken judgments of his own fellow-citizens.

You can't get anywhere with a conference of this kind without being ready to make some sacrifices yourself. That goes without saying. But there has developed in this country since the war an iron-headed obstinacy quick to assert that we can make no concessions, that the other side must do all the sacrificing and that we need not and must not relax any of our old creeds.

This finds expression in various ways. For example: There must be no cancellation of any part of the war debts.

We must not make any agreement under which we shall buy any goods of foreign manufacture.

We can not bind ourselves to co-operate with European nations for more than two weeks at a time.

All American diplomats are helpless and innocent babes and all European diplomats are cunning and conscienceless schemers, so that Uncle Sam is bound to lose his shirt every time he sits in on international conference.

Those are some of the most widely held planks in the platform on which some of us have been standing for a good many years. And if this world conference is to amount to anything at all, those are planks which we must be prepared to discard.

CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC

ONE of the bits of good news in recent dispatches from abroad is the fact that twenty-six nations finally have ratified the international convention under which the League of Nations will be able to control world manufacture and distribution of narcotics.

Under this scheme, a board established by the league will set strict limits on the amount of narcotic drugs which each nation will be allowed to produce and distribute.

This, incidentally, is something new in world affairs, for the plan undeniably is an infringement upon the national sovereignty of the governments involved—of which the United States is one.

But it represents a great step forward. Until the world supply of narcotics is put under definite control, no nation can handle the illicit drug trade within its own borders effectively.

A splendid new implement has been put in the hands of those waging war on the drug curse.

ENVIRONMENT AND CRIME

WHEN the Illinois Tax Service Association went before that state's board of pardons and paroles to plead for the life of Russell McWilliams, 16-year-old condemned murderer, it advanced an argument that every citizen in the land profitably might have listened to.

This argument was a bold assertion that the state of Illinois itself has a share in the responsibility for this lad's crime, and that, having such share, it properly can not put him to death.

McWilliams lived in a blighted "slum area,"

in a home which, in the words of the association's brief, "offered no normal amusements or wholesome opportunities for happiness."

The modern world, furthermore, has evolved commercialized pleasures so rapidly that to many minds "pleasure is identical with purchasing." The only way, then, in which a lad like McWilliams can get pleasure is by getting money.

In other words, an abnormal temptation to steal is put in front of him; and the state, instead of counterbalancing such temptation, "tolerates an antiquated and socially inimical tax system that directly contributes to the dissatisfaction and delinquency of youth through its degrading influences upon housing and home life."

This plea is something new in American criminal procedure. The state, always ready to take the responsibility for ending a murderer's life—on those rare occasions when it can catch and convict him—has not yet thought of assuming partial responsibility for his crime.

It always is ready with Cain's plea—"Am I my brother's keeper?" But the responsibility is there. The least sentimental of men, walking through a city slum, can not escape realizing that children brought up in such a place start life with the cards stacked against them.

Society, in the last analysis, creates all of the evils that afflict it. Gangster, murderer, harlot, thief, dope-smuggler—we provide the forcing-ground that produces them; and when they are brought to book we belong in the dock with them.

Man reports his canary, silent thirteen years, began to sing the day Roosevelt was inaugurated. Sure it wasn't a bluebird?

The Italian who invented the post card just has gone to his reward. While we hope he is having a fine time, we are glad we are not there.

Easter is one time when a woman may be depended upon to use her head.

News item says there is a cave on Manhattan Island that was used by the early Indians as a home. Bet if you'd look it up you'd find it full of bankers.

Speaking of deflation, it ought to bring the bloated bondholder back to normalcy.

Shoe strike in Massachusetts promptly settled. Maybe they found out where the shoe pinches.

Gambling casino at Monte Carlo is to be closed "for spring cleaning." The customers already have been cleaned, we presume.

Hot time promised in senate investigation of private banking firms. Wonder if it'll be hot enough to thaw out any of the frozen assets?

Japanese penetrating south of the Great Wall. Most too late in the year to explain they are just going south for the climate.

Efforts being made in several states to eliminate suits for breach of promise. Never mind. Love will find a way.

The initials R. F. C. used to mean Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Now they mean Rising Flood of Conservators.

M. E. Tracy Says:

IN spite of all that has been done to provide work, stabilize the banking situation, and liberate credit, we are not paying our debts. Instead, we are trying to ease or postpone them in one way or another, which only tends to reduce income, decrease buying power, and lower wages.

It all goes back to the unreasonably high price of the dollar as measured by work or commodity values. The average American has to do about twice as much or sell twice as much to get an ounce of gold as he did four years ago.

The result is that an incalculable number of citizens and corporations find it impossible to pay the interest on what they owe, much less anything on account.

The substitution of public for private loans, the lowering of interest rates, and the establishment of moratoria will not and can not solve the problem. Wages and prices must be brought back if the American people are going to pay anything like what they owe.

Facing a similar situation, other governments arbitrarily have cheapened money—England by going off the gold standard, France by stabilizing the franc at 4 cents, Germany by starting the printing press, and so on.

OUR government has clung to the idea that the same thing could be accomplished with far less confusion by depending on private enterprise to force wages and prices up.

In pursuance of this idea it has authorized enormous credits for the benefit of private enterprise, letting the budget go unbalanced, increasing the public debt, and creating a situation where higher taxes are inevitable.

Meanwhile, the cheaper money of other countries enables them to produce goods at less cost and undersell us in most markets.

We can destroy this competition at home by boosting tariffs and keeping foreign goods out, but we can not destroy it abroad. Other countries slowly are taking our markets away from us, and they will continue to do this as long as the dollar remains so high in comparison to the pound, the franc, the lira, the mark, and the kronen.

Inflation still is the most practical remedy and the easiest way to bring it about is by changing the gold content of the dollar, which can be done simply by authorizing the government to pay a greater number of dollars for an ounce of gold than is called for by the prevailing standard.

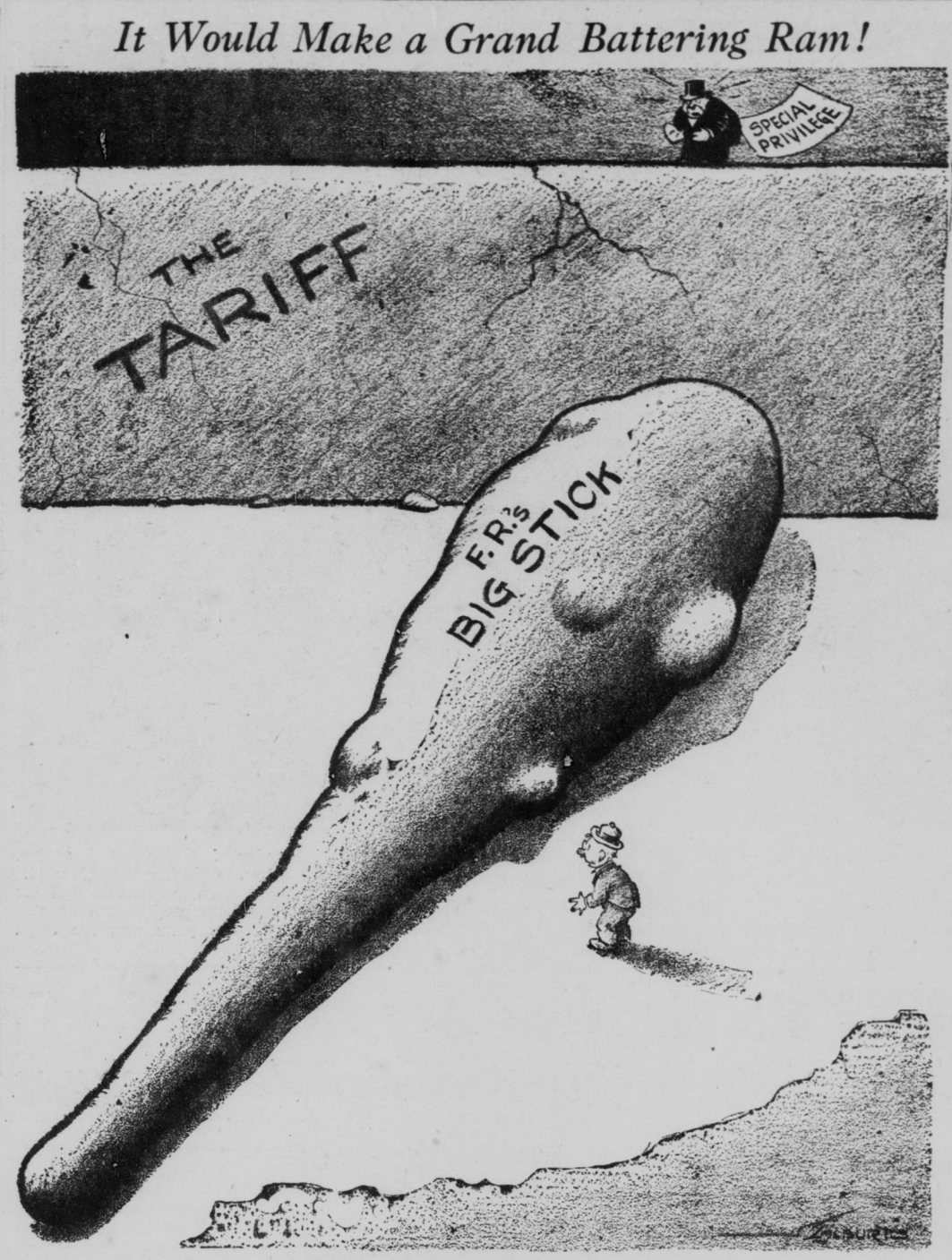
ALL right, you say, but what about those certificates, bonds, mortgages, and notes which promise payment in gold of a given weight and fineness?

Well, we just hand over the gold, and then tell people that they can't keep it, but must sell it back to the government at the prescribed price.

That protects everybody against loss, against hoarding and against a money jam which slowly is robbing the American people of their power to pay or regain their foreign trade.

Existing conditions are rooted in the fact that gold is out of line with the value of work and other commodities, and that people can not get it except by exchanging a double portion of labor or goods.

That is not only unfair, but dangerous, because of its effect on business and debt. It is not just for the government to permit such a burden to be imposed on tradesman or toler when it can be lightened and distributed more equitably by a legitimate exercise of governmental power.



: : 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 Reader.

I just have read, for the third time, the article that appeared in the pink edition of The Times on Monday and headed "Husband Intervenes, Wins Freedom for Love Rival," and the more I think of it, the greater I think the husband is.

This man was supposed to be a great friend of the husband, and then behind his back tries to steal his wife. I haven't any use for this type of two-faced friend, and an example should have been made of him.

I know the husband, the wife and the man in the case.

The husband is a hard worker and has provided a home and comforts for his wife that any woman should be proud of.

The man in the case has nothing to offer her compared to what her husband can do for her.

The couple have been married eleven years and were, I think, very happy until this man showed up. When the husband has the man arrested, she sides with the man. There should be some sort of law to protect a man's home under conditions like these, for happy homes and couples are the backbone and prosperity of the nation.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would publish this letter in your paper, invite opinion on what other people would have done in this case, as this is something that would interest the entire nation and serve as a warning to other men of this type.

There is a great field for educational work in this respect. In my opinion there is too much modernism and not enough religion in the modern marriage idea.

This letter is written to you by a woman who would give several years

Ride Is Painful

By a Reader.

Why, oh why, did they take all these back-breaking, impossible street cars off all the other lines in this city, and wish them on us who have to ride the Washington street car line? Surely, the patrons of this line are entitled to just as much comfort after a hard day's work as the people who ride other cars, are we not?

I am a faithful reader of The Times, and hope you can help us. I have heard many complaints on this.

of her life to have a husband and comforts that this wife gave up, for what?

Dr. R. E. D.

As one of your constant readers, I would like to express my view of the present employment situation, also the much-discussed thirty-hour week.

To begin with, I think Roosevelt's ideas, which he seems to think will cure our present troubles, will turn out just as did those of his predecessors—one grand flop. How much buying power will his 350,000 \$1 a day men have, and how many men can the government employ in its public works campaign?

These huge public works campaigns can not go on forever, if for no other reason than lack of money. These ideas scratch only the surface of our troubles, so why not try some idea which will give results, not to a few, but to every one?

My idea is to eliminate the woman from industry. One reason for this is that there never was or never will be enough work for both men and women in normal times. Then why eliminate the women? Because it is against all the rules

of both God and nature for them to be working.

A universal thirty-hour week may make enough work for everybody, but what have you gained when both husband and wife have to work to earn what the husband could earn by himself in normal times?

There is no use arguing. We simply have too many workers for the number of jobs we have on hand. Therefore, the sooner we take some steps to reduce the numbers of our workers the sooner we will be on our way to true prosperity, not riding on a false idea which is likely to fall down and go boom.

So They Say

I like the Cubs to win the National League championship, and I'll take the Pirates for second place and the Cardinals for the show money.—John J. McGraw, baseball magnate.

A considerable percentage of youth in urban America are at this moment potential racketeers.—Professor Harold Rugg of Columbia university.

The modernization of Turkish women was effected peacefully, except of course for private family quarrels.—President Mustafa Kemal of Turkey.

No public officer worth his salt wants to be free from criticism.—Henry L. Stimson, retiring secretary of state.

What we really need is peace for the soul.—Professor Adolph A. Berle, Columbia university.

Alarm Seldom Justified Over Birthmarks

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN

Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine.

NOT infrequently children, when born, have on their skins stains or marks which seem to the parents distinctly unsightly and from which they are anxious to secure prompt relief.

Such developmental defects include strawberry marks, which are slightly raised, irregular in shape and have a bright red surface; or else flat patches known as port wine stains, in which the depth of color depends on the amount of blood vessels included.

Sometimes the growths represent collections of larger blood vessels which may be pressed upon, causing the blood to disappear from the vessels and the color to disappear simultaneously.

In the first place, there is no reason to be alarmed relative to a birthmark of this character. Usually these birthmarks are found in the younger child immediately after birth and, for a time, seem to grow

even more rapidly than the child itself.

In many instances they gradually disappear, leaving no trace of their former presence.

Not infrequently these marks appear as the result of defects of birth. Unless such marks are growing rapidly or happen to be present in an awkward place, such as on the eyelid or the lip around the external ear, they probably are best left alone.

Physicians have developed a considerable number of methods for taking care of such marks. They may be frozen with carbon dioxide snow, causing enough inflammation and irritation to bring about healing with obliteration of the blood vessels.

: : A Woman's Viewpoint : :

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

I DO not believe that it is good for men or nations to think of power for themselves in superlative terms. So I never can agree with a certain famous newspaper man who says, "It is the business of our government to make this nation the most powerful in the air."

Men and countries have been drunk too many times upon the thought of power. It is more heady and more potent for evil than any physical intoxicant. And its hangover always has been the same—downfall and destruction.

Surely the last brief chapter in our national history, penned by fate since 1929, demands unbridled ambition. We are willing indeed to leave it unread and unheeded.

The end of the great financiers, not only of our country, but of the world, can be traced to this one supreme folly—the belief that their power should be limitless, that they should be the richest among their countrymen, and that they should have for themselves the wealth that

rightfully belonged to a hundred million people.

And in their fall they have carried many a less ambitious but more worthy man with them.

THE government of the United States owes several duties to its people. The ambition to be the most powerful nation in armaments,

Q—What is the estimated wealth of Indiana?
 A—Unofficial estimates of the national industrial conference board for 1930 place the wealth of Indiana at \$9,045,000,000.

Q—How old is Ted Lewis and where may he be addressed?
 A—He is about 39 years old and his address is 255 West Eighty-eighth street, New York, N. Y.

either on land or sea, is, I believe, not one of them.

It owes first a duty to make America a safe and pleasant abiding place for common men to rear their families. It owes several duties to its children. To provide them with good if plain food, with comfortable homes and school houses, and to give them a chance to work when they reach maturity.

It owes to its old a safe and peaceful period of age. It owes to its workingmen security for the end of life. It owes to every citizen the opportunity of living in a land that is at peace with its neighbors because it does the honorable thing by men.

Battleships, walls of armaments, and flocks of soaring argosies never will bring peace or plenty to any nation. The first requisite always is contented men and women and happy, well-fed children.

When we possess these, America will be the most powerful nation upon the earth—for in their true power consists.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW is a nice old gentleman who has been at sea a long time.

He lectured for almost two hours at the Metropolitan opera house this week, and I had an uneasy feeling that I was sitting in a dentist's office reading a copy of the Nation from last July.

Constantly one wanted to pluck him by the sleeve and say: "Man, why don't you brush up on current thought? Have you ever read the works of Mr. Shaw?"

Particularly in the beginning there was constant evidence that the speaker was muted and embarrassed by the fact that he was standing in the shadow of a great reputation. His Shawian idiosyncrasy blocked off the shyness of the living Shaw.

Shadow of Great Man

AS one of the many worshippers at the shrine of Shaw, the orator felt under obligation to live up to the established tradition. There must be shock impact. There must be the flash of wit.

But these are not things readily on tap. They slide away from any one who feels constrained, and just a touch of stagefright, Mr. Shaw was stiff and formal. He could not seem to relax. He pressed. He dropped his right shoulder and took his eye off the ball.

A New York audience hardly can be expected to go into gales of laughter over the resemblance of the word "Mormon" to "morn." The visiting Irish playwright is hardly the first public speaker hereabout to play upon the humorous possibilities of using some politer synonym for "guts."

Indeed, if my neighbor to the right had turned to me suddenly to exclaim, "My name's Bill. What's yours?" I would have been quite ready to accept the fact that I was a guest at the monthly luncheon of the Kokomo Kiwanis Club.

In other words, it seemed to me that George Bernard Shaw was stale, unprofitable, and dull. Almost I regretted the enterprise by which I obtained a ringside seat five minutes before the event through the good offices of my friend, Mr. Joey Keith.

I asked Mr. Keith whether it was likely to be an inspiring address, and he said, "I don't know, Heywood, but it's a tough ticket." I got it only because one of Mr. Keith's customary remembered at the last minute that Mr. Shaw conflicted with Passover. She chose, I think, the better part.

Laughter by Courtesy

FOR at least an hour I wished that I had not come. It was a rambling, badly organized and often ill-informed address. Something was seriously important in my own life slowly was crumbling to pieces before my gaze. A polite audience was giving the visitor that mild and forced laughter which is almost more damning than thunders of silence.

It shocked me to see the first wit of his age looking down at his scribbled notes and coming up with a joke about morons and Mormons.

But in the last fifteen minutes, a change came over Shaw. He drew the refreshment of a fervent round of applause. It was when he declared that the capitalist system had collapsed. That is hardly news. I've heard it said even before the coming of