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A PHILIPPINE CONFERENCE

THOUGH for the moment obscured by domestic problems and European diplomatic conversations, the Philippine question waits to be answered by the Roosevelt administration. The so-called independence law passed by the last congress is vicious legislation.

It is acceptable neither to public opinion in the islands nor in the United States. If the Filipinos are to have freedom, they want it and have right to it without the impossible strings attached to the new law.

The law, in its final mutilated form, was written by and for selfish interest lobbyists who had at heart the welfare of neither the Filipinos nor the Americans.

If the Filipinos were to accept alleged independence under the offered terms, they would have no freedom to determine whether the United States retained naval and military bases in the islands; their freedom of foreign relations would be restricted.

On the economic side their liberty would be restricted even more. After having made them dependent on the American market, he would limit their freedom of export.

To avoid the lasting disgrace to the United States in unloading its responsibility in such cruel fashion, and to avoid the economic ruin of a friendly people who have lived under our flag for thirty years, the responsible leaders of the two governments should co-operate.

President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines, whose statesmanship is valued as highly in Washington as in Manila, just has arrived in this country. We hope that President Roosevelt and Mr. Quezon can arrange a representative conference to find a better way out.

HAIL THE TWIN JONAH'S!

REAPPEARANCE of Andrew Mellon and Ogden Mills upon the public scene comes at a most opportune time and brings high encouragement to a distressed people.

Mills, incidentally, will speak here Friday and his "message" will be of especial interest.

Emerging for the first time from the snowbank of ballots with which only a few brief months ago their official policies were submerged, they will lead the opposition to the Roosevelt reflation program.

So completely and consistently wrong did these two prove themselves, as they guided us so swiftly cellarward, that we all shall take heart in the assumption that they will continue to run true to form and be wrong today, as ever.

Their shields should go through, untarnished, their records remain unbroken, their stalwart reputation for economic awkwardness and fiscal futility be undimmed; the very momentum of their past performance carry them to even greater heights of error and ineptitude.

Indeed the wave of reassurance that sweeps over us, as they add their potent bit to the cause of national rehabilitation.

Much has been written and said about the need for restored confidence as a factor in recovery.

Mellon and Mills are contributing more than they ever will realize to that happy end.

JUDGE THAYER

THE death of Judge Webster Thayer of Massachusetts removes from the bench a jurist who attained about as odd a variety of fame as any man could get.

In the course of a long career on the bench, Judge Thayer tried many cases; but his name will be remembered—for a long, long time, probably—because of just one case, the Sacco-Vanzetti trial.

Whatever the opinions about the justice or otherwise of the verdict rendered in that case, one must at least admit that its memory will be kept green for years to come. It is one of the celebrated cases in American legal history; it will have its place in the history books a century hence.

And as long as it is remembered, and read about, and examined by students, the name of Judge Webster Thayer also will be remembered.

Whatever the verdict which history ultimately hands down about him, he at least will not be forgotten.

LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON

HERE is abroad in the land these days a peculiar kind of excitement.

It is an excitement that arises from expectation more than from actual accomplishment. Many things have been done in Washington recently, but even more remains to be done.

Unemployment, low commodity prices, frozen bank assets—these things still are to be remedied, and the job of setting them right is going to be one of almost incalculable difficulty.

Nevertheless, a start has been made, and there is a hopeful expectancy in the air. Perhaps the most important thing that has happened in the last month is the fact that America once more is picking up its old faith in the future.

And it is precisely that fact which puts on the administration and on congress the heaviest responsibility any American government could be asked to face.

There is a faith that can move mountains, and it is a faith that operates in the lives of nations as well as individuals. During the disasters of the last few years we lost that faith.

Now we are regaining it; and the main job of the people at Washington is to see that, having regained it, we are henceforth able to keep it. We can not stand one more disillusionment.

The faith itself is as old as the nation.

It crossed the ocean in the holds of a

thousand immigrant ships; it struggled over the mountains, filled up the plains, felled forests and settled wildernesses; it made the very name, America, shine like a good beacon before the eyes of the people of the world.

Define it? It is that deep and unspoken confidence that in this land we are hitting upon a new way of ordering human society—a way which is to mean a better life for the ordinary man and woman, so that all people may have a chance for freedom, happiness and plenty.

That faith is our most valuable possession; if we ever really lose it so that we can not get it back, we shall have lost everything.

The undercurrent of excitement today signifies a rebirth of that faith. We are looking beyond the horizon again and seeing great things.

Once more we are willing to believe that America shall yet live up to the dreams that brought it to birth.

NEW FOREST LANDS

THE activities of the "forest army" recently enrolled for emergency reconstruction work have aroused a new interest in the general subject of reforestation and construction.

It is worth noting that a survey made by the United States forest service urges that public agencies should in the near future acquire 224,000,000 acres of additional forest land.

Whatever may be the comparative merits of public ownership in other fields, it is fairly clear that to put through an intelligent, large-scale forest conservation program the government must own a vast acreage of forest land.

In the very nature of things, the long-range and all-inclusive plan necessary for such a program can not be evolved when ownership of the land involved is split among a great number of individuals.

In one swift rebellion against its leadership, the membership of the house put the tax back where it belonged, on the companies whose monopoly profits have kept them in relatively comfortable condition throughout the hard times of the past three years.

The senate, which levied the tax originally upon producers of electricity, should welcome this reinforcement in its old fight to place taxes where they can be borne most easily and should lose no time in seconding the action of the house.

The men who transformed a production tax into a consumption tax in the secrecy of the conference room have been retired from public life by the voters. The internal revenue administration which forbade state utility commissions to assist in protecting house-holders from the tax has been changed.

If the senate acts promptly, the country soon will be rid of one of the most unjust sales taxes ever levied and one that reminded every citizen monthly of the political power of the electric industry.

Butter and egg futures make new high price marks on Chicago mercantile exchange. Everything's all right; soon we'll have the Big Butter and Egg Man back with us.

New York professor says the boy in the poem "who stood on the burning desk whence all but he had fled" was a moron, not a hero. The heroes were all the school kids who had to learn the poem by heart.

Congressman punched in the eye a neighbor whose radio annoyed him. Now all we need is a supreme court decision that such an action is entirely constitutional.

No, Doris, a sweatshop isn't a Turkish Bath.

France sends a new governor to its penal colony at Devil's Island with orders to reform it. Only giving the devil his due.

President Roosevelt did it fine, but even at that he isn't as good as the next-door baby at throwing out the first bawl.

GROPING FOR A BETTER DAY

WHILE many dogmatists have their cut-and-dried solutions of the current depression, it is likely that we shall have to do a vast amount of experimenting in the solution of the rather unique situation in which we find ourselves.

There will be much fumbling and groping, but in the end we may reach light and recovery. A new group of books contributes in one way or another to the search for a path to better days.

Many of the so-called liberal innovations have rested on little but a clever scheme of passing the buck.

Politicians have seen the advantage of leaving legislation to popular sentiment, whether officially or unofficially expressed. In the first place, it relieves them of being held accountable.

In the second, it distracts attention from what they are doing in a routine way.

The idea that people have either the time or intelligence to make expert decisions on every little matter that may come up before a town, a city, or a nation is a course ridiculous. It has been made to play a major part, however, in the drama of modern democracy.

He speaks for a greater attention to art and individuality in the future. Nobody well can question the nobility of Mr. Drinkwater's ideals, but one legitimately may question their practical adaptability to the elimination of economic maladjustment, starvation and misery.

They may be useful in solving the problems of leisure which lie beyond the achievement of recovery.

Dr. Elizabeth Faulkner Baker has made a study of the displacement of men as a result of mechanical improvement in commercial printing in the last generation in "Displacement of Men by Machines." While there have been enormous advances in the technology of printing, she does not find any alarming displacement of men.

This has been due in part to the fact that the machinery has not been of the type which throws a vast number of individuals out of work, and in part to the large increase in the demand for printed products. Nevertheless, there has been a very considerable revision of the amount of talk and balloting, but they have not made government proportionately better.

Critics of Technocracy will be unwise to base their dogmas too exclusively upon this book which deals with a very special and complicated type of industry. As Dr. Baker points out, one man with a new type of machine can not produce more than two or three men could have turned out with the older machinery.

In other industries there are automatic machines which enable one operator to do the work formerly carried out by more than a score of men.

Nearly four years ago Ralph Borsodi published a very striking criticism of modern capitalism and mass production, urging a return to the land and the development of

small, self-sufficient household units. In the days of the bull market and of the prosperity-around-the-corner talk, such a book seemed chimerical.

But after four years of depression, his doctrine possesses far greater attractiveness and practicality. Many would prefer the simple life to no life at all. Not a few communities have turned to Mr. Borsodi as a guide. Around Dayton, O., considerable groups are putting his plan into practical operation. For this reason the country may welcome the new edition of his stimulating book which may prove a bible to many thousands who despair of mass production and "the great industry" under the system of society. It is called "The Ugly Civilization."

The disappearance of wages and the failure of bank credit have forced many people in various parts of the United States to develop substitutes for conventional exchange media. Barter has been resumed on a large scale, and in most communities which have reverted to barter various schemes of scrip money have been worked out.

This movement has passed beyond the stage of bizarre experimentation and is enabling many thousands to get along passably well outside the pale of conventional capitalist finance. Wayne Weisshaar and Wayne W. Parrish have written a clear little introduction to the development of barter and scrip money in the United States since the depression in "Men Without Money." It is an amazing and truly significant movement which may produce more interesting ultimate developments than the late bank holiday.

THE ELECTRIC TAX

THE sense of outrage which has been accumulating for a year over the electric tax, designed for producers and shifted to consumers, has expressed itself in the house of representatives.

In one swift rebellion against its leadership, the membership of the house put the tax back where it belonged, on the companies whose monopoly profits have kept them in relatively comfortable condition throughout the hard times of the past three years.

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M.E. Tracy Says:

THE rise of dictatorship owes more to an old habit than a new order.

For one reason or another, people have lain down on the job of governing themselves. They want the privilege just as ardently as they ever did, but shy at the responsibility.

What they can get out of the government has come to be the all-important motive of those who take an active interest.

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The resident upon whom the boon was bestowed may have been pleased at first by his metropolitan airs, but he regretted, and did not entirely abandon the pleasant custom of going after his own letters.

The delusion that all things could be made right by law or system, especially if trotted out in the name of the masses, has gripped the whole civilized world.

Failure and fatigue produce dictatorship, just as inevitably as night follows day. Nothing is wrong with democracy except the way it has been abused.

IMMEDIATELY after the sacks flipped expertly into their boxes. Pleasant anticipations of happy messages to come—although some of them never do—lend a vicarious happiness to the friendly groups.

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