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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

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G. O. P. OBSTRUCTION

In announcing the old guard Republican effort to block the Roosevelt-controlled inflation program, Senator David A. Reed of Pennsylvania said his object was to give time for public sentiment to form. It has formed, all right. But not the way the Reeds and Mellons predicted.

Instead of supporting Senator Reed, the messages pouring in upon congress from the country since the Reed announcement have attacked obstruction and demanded quick action on the Roosevelt bill.

Perhaps the old guard is not really surprised. Despite its demonstrated ability during the Hoover administration and in the last election to misread the signs of the times, it must know that the national demand for controlled inflation is real and widespread.

We suspect that the G. O. P. leaders are not speaking for what they believe to be public opinion, but merely "talking for the record." They seem to be taking a long gamble on the chance that the Roosevelt program will fail; in which case they want the defeated Republican party to be in a position to say "we told you so."

The country in this time naturally has very little sympathy with partisan political maneuvers.

We are not in the habit of questioning the motives of those with whom we disagree. But if the Reeds want to persuade any one of their sincerity in this fight, they will rise above the absurd arguments they have used to date.

There is room for honest difference of opinion. Particularly in this situation there is a valuable function which the Republican opposition might fulfill. Intelligent criticism might result in writing into the bill further control factors.

The President does not want uncontrolled inflation, and therefore has proposed a measure filled with checks and limits. If the Republicans can suggest other safety devices they will be serving the country and will get all the credit due them.

Instead of such constructive opposition, or any intelligent attack on the measure for what it is, the Reeds content themselves with shouting about the dire fate of the old German mark. This is not an argument; it is a red herring.

The conditions in the two countries are not comparable. Germany had a gold shortage; we have the world's largest gold reserve. Germany had an unfavorable trade balance; ours is favorable.

Germany balanced her budget with printing press money; we are balancing ours with economies. Germany was a debtor nation; we are the world's creditor.

Even if the Republicans get around to legitimate criticisms of the Roosevelt program, they will not be able to defeat it unless they can provide something better in its place. The country is in the position where something must be done. The do-nothing deflation policy of Hoover, Mellon, Reed & Co. wrecked the nation.

Two alternatives are left. One is wild, shotgun inflation. The other is carefully controlled inflation—an honest dollar. The President has chosen the latter.

His measure may not be perfect, and it probably will not bring the millennium. But whatever its dangers and uncertainties, they are small compared to the risks of unlimited inflation or the suicide of more deflation.

THE GOLD STANDARD

FOR more than a year a dreadful specter has been held up before our eyes—the unspeakable danger that we might, if we were not careful, some day be forced off of the gold standard.

We shuddered when told that at one time, a year ago, we actually were within a few days of such a development; we gave devoted lip service to the plea that this dreadful calamity must at all costs be prevented.

Well, now it has happened—and every one seems to be happier. A new atmosphere of confidence has arisen. Commodity prices seem to be about ready to swing back upward.

The action which once was dreaded as a catastrophe now is being hailed as a master stroke. What brought about the change? Bitter experience, largely, which taught us that the price we were paying for our gold dollar was too high.

A good many things look quite different today than they looked a year ago. One of them is the gold standard.

NOW UNCLE SAM DOES IT

It is nearly two years since Gerard Swope told an industrial audience of a far-reaching plan he had devised by which industry might try to stabilize employment and production and remove the fear of destitution from the workers' horizon.

When he made that speech, Mr. Swope was introduced by Owen D. Young; and Mr. Young warned his hearers that unless business found a way to solve the problems arising from overproduction and unemployment, it could expect to see the federal government tackling the job.

Mr. Young's warning was praised widely and Mr. Swope's plan was commented on extensively; but nothing very definite in the way of results was obtained by either man.

And today Mr. Young's prophecy is coming true, while Mr. Swope's notion that unrestrained competition brings a highly developed society has been abundantly justified.

The parallels between Mr. Swope's plan and the program being devised by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins are striking.

Mr. Swope demanded stabilization of pro-

duction and of employment, co-ordination of production and consumption on a broad basis, establishment of a series of trade associations to make such steps possible, and a widespread system of unemployment and old-age insurance.

Miss Perkins calls for very much the same thing, except that her plan lays more emphasis on hours of labor and rates of pay and—so far, at least—pays little attention to the insurance feature. But her plan in the main is similar to Mr. Swope's.

The chief differences between the two arise from the fact that Mr. Swope's program was to be initiated voluntarily by industry, while Miss Perkins' is to be forced on industry by the government.

And to those industrialists who are objecting to Miss Perkins' plan, it need only be said that they let Mr. Swope's plan collect dust for a year and a half without making the slightest effort to give it a trial.

They were warned at the time that something of that kind was inevitable, but the warning went unheeded. They refused to take Mr. Swope as a leader; now they can take Miss Perkins—and like her.

BEER AND YOUR FIGURE

ONE of the minor issues of the day seems to be the question of whether the consumption of beer will add unwanted pounds to the figures of women who want to be slender.

Professor Lafayette B. Mendel of Yale predicts that it will.

A quart of beer, he points out, contains 545 calories—only 105 less than a quart of milk. Consequently, if you add a quart of beer to your regular daily diet, and don't cut down on anything else, you are pretty certain to take on weight, just as you would if you drank an extra quart of milk every day.

Of course, you can get around that by leaving off the menu a sufficient quantity of some other food to balance the diet. And if you are a feminine beer drinker, and you want to keep your figure, it looks as if that is about what you'll have to do.

OUR NEWEST DIRIGIBLE

THE airship Macon has gone aloft at last, and every one who watched her as she slid effortlessly along the sky must have felt a sharp pang of regret at the thought that these exciting and magnificent dirigibles are not, after all, quite as practical as we had supposed.

What the Macon's future is going to be only time can tell. She hardly was launched under auspicious circumstances. The Akron was destroyed in a gale just as the Macon was made ready; then the Macon herself had to wait in her hangar for more than a week until mild weather came.

The net result seemed to be just so much added proof that the big dirigible must be a fair-weather bird.

But she is a beautiful sight to watch, for all that—beautiful and thrilling. A lot of people will continue to hope, for more reasons than one, that this ship will be able to reassert the reliability of the giant airship.

PERSISTENCE WINS

Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior, has been for years the chief ferret of Chicago. He lay at the entrance of the local rat holes of corruption and could wait for decades till the rats came out to be devoured and destroyed.

He was among the first Chicagoans—perhaps altogether the first to declare a Carthaginian war of extermination upon Samuel Insull. He was—and is—a Republican.

He never was able to gather behind him more than the tiniest fraction of the Illinois Republican party. In 1932, he wanted Hiram Johnson for President. Then he wanted Gifford Pinchot. Only afterward did he want Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

In supporting Mr. Roosevelt, he supported his first big winner in his whole uncorrelated maverick political life. The reward was a cabinet appointment.

It is explained by the desire of Mr. Roosevelt to please Hiram Johnson. There is a much deeper reason, a psychological reason, Mr. Ickes simply captivated Mr. Roosevelt's fancy.

Mrs. Ickes' protracted quixotic assaults upon all the most towering strongholds of Chicago and Illinois iniquity qualified him, in Mr. Roosevelt's mind, as being a protagonist of some sort of new deal, of some sort of upsetting of the stodgy Philistines, of some sort of passing of a Jordan into some sort of promised land.

So Mr. Ickes, moral hero, and totally unsuccessful Republican politician, now is a Democratic cabinet officer and a collaborator of Mr. Roosevelt's in the search for whatever the new deal ultimately may turn out to be.

MATERNITY DEATHS

AS the time draws near for the annual observation of Mother's day, the Maternity Cent Association of New York points out that the best way to celebrate the day would be to crystallize public opinion on the vital need of improving maternity care.

Every year some 16,000 American women die in childbirth—a record that is disgracefully worse than the records of many other countries which some of us like to feel are not as far advanced as our own.

Experts assert that at least half of the 16,000 deaths could and should be prevented.

"There is a biting irony," says a statement from the association, "in the fact that in several countries where Mother's day is unknown, motherhood is twice as safe as in America."

There is, indeed, our Mother's day celebration ought to include a new drive to reduce the maternity death rate.

THE NEW D. A. R.

HOW the winds of America's new liberalism have swept away some old mental cobwebs is shown by what happened at the Washington convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Up to now the Daughters have been heavy joiners. Red baiters, heresy hunters, black-listers, star-spangled patrioters with or without axes to grind never bugled the charge without finding the Daughters eager to follow.

This time they determined to do their own fighting. They voted to back their president-general's policy of cutting loose from propaganda organizations. They declined to take

part in a mass meeting sponsored by Representative Ham Fish to oppose Russian recognition.

They listened to Amelia Earhart tell them they should not fight for armaments unless they are willing to bear arms themselves. They heard Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins tell them that "out of the welfare of the workers flows the welfare of the country."

Of course, the Daughters have not gone radical. But apparently they are willing to concede that their organization does not hold a monopoly of the national patriotism.

INFLATION ISN'T A CURE-ALL

WE Americans seem to be an incurably hopeful people. And there are times when our excessive optimism is apt to flip around between our ankles and trip us up.

For some reason the nation's departure from the gold standard has raised a new crop of hopes. To a certain extent these hopes are justified. We are getting bold and decisive action, at least; for better or for worse, we are on the move, and there is every indication that the rise in price of commodities and basic securities will have a deeply beneficial effect on the life of the country.

We simply shall nullify these gains if we take it for granted that the controlled inflation plan is going to solve all of our troubles.

Senator Thomas, commenting on the proposed issuance of United States notes to retire government bonds, remarked:

"If this amendment goes into the farm bill, it becomes the chief element. The rest of the bill will be forgotten. Inflation in itself will be farm relief and bank relief. In my judgment this amendment solves every problem we have, so far as a money policy can solve them."

This statement probably is true enough—provided that its final words always are remembered. The new scheme will solve our problems "so far as a money policy can solve them"; but it must not be forgotten that some of them can not be solved by a money problem, and that the reform and recovery program previously outlined by the administration still needs to be pushed ahead.

The problem of direct relief for unemployment is still with us, for example. The affairs of the railroads need straightening out. The measures designed to rectify the glaring faults in our banking system are just as much needed as ever.

The federal "blue sky" proposition is as vital as ever. The plan to float a huge bond issue for public works still needs to be pushed.

A start has been made, and there is plenty of reason to believe that it is going to do us a lot of good. So long as we don't get so optimistic that we assume there is nothing more to be done, we ought to make out splendidly.

Dispatch from Germany says an editor who cartooned Hitler unfavorably has been taken into "protective custody" by the Nazis. Who, we presume, will then give him a benevolent beating.

Heavy thinking, says Dr. Bruno Oettking of Columbia, is no cause of baldness. But the opposite is true when your wife notices that thin spot.

Bill aims to save the government \$4,000 a day by cutting down free copies of the Congressional Record now given members. Say, who made that crack, "Talk's cheap?"

J. P. Morgan passed the plate as senior warden at church service on Easter Sunday. Probably didn't find it necessary to ask for a second helping.

Hawaii is out of beer already, and the nearest brewery is 2,000 miles away. Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink!

Stocks certainly fell down far enough. It oughtn't to be a surprise to see them go "Boom!"

M. E. Tracy Says:

NOTHING has revealed the shrewdness of Russian leaders like the trial just finished at Moscow, in which six British subjects were charged with espionage, sabotage and spying.

The British government's extravagant protest falls flat, not only because of what was proved, but because of the mild punishment imposed on those found guilty.

The British government seems to have assumed that there was no ground for the accusation to begin with, and that, if there were, foreigners could not hope for a fair trial in Russia.

At all events, the British government opened proceedings by demanding the unconditional release of its six subjects, even going so far as to adopt a bill by which trade with Russia could be terminated.

Russian authorities paid no attention to this threat, but went calmly forward with preparations for the trial.

The British government issued a paper in which it was insinuated that the Russian police had used "pressure" to obtain testimony against the Englishmen who were about to be tried and that they would be railroaded regardless.

THIS argument went to pieces when one of the Englishmen pleaded guilty and confessed, and two others made damaging admissions, and all acknowledged that they had not been tortured or treated with undue violence.

It is possible that they were "framed," but one can not believe it to prove "frame-up."

England can persist in crying "frame-up," but she can not prove it resulted in grave injury to any Englishman, which is the most humiliating part of it.

It is well-nigh incredible that English engineers working for a great English electrical concern would wreck the machinery which it had sold and which they had been elected to install.

It is well-nigh incredible that they would associate themselves with anti-Soviet activities or buy and transmit secret information.

But what are we to think when one confesses and two make damaging admissions, with a dozen witnesses corroborating the charges?

To cap it all, what is one to think when Russia winds up the business, not by imposing the severest penalty, but giving the accused little more than a slap on the wrist?

Russia has had her way and proved her point, but without leaving much of a sting or much ground for England to prove the controversy.

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What Will the Verdict Be?



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 J. C. Fleming.

I see that Mr. McNutt is going right ahead putting deserving Democrats upon the state pay roll, and I am glad to see him do it. I am waiting to see what he does in the way of putting deserving Democrats on the pay roll at the Central State hospital. There are several places that should be filled with Democrats who are paying plenty of taxes to the state.

Another thing he should do, is to let but one in a family be on the state pay roll. I have heard it said that there are a number of married couples working there, while there are plenty of needy families with no one in the family working at all.

By C. E. W.

How to "Continue" the Depression:

Consolidate Railroads—Discharge 350,000 employees, thereby removing that much buying power, as well as curtail the buying power of remaining employees fearful of being discharged later.

Consolidate Insurance Companies—Let the government provide insurance at half cost by closing all insurance offices and buildings and discharging hundreds of thousands of employees.

Consolidate All Downtown Stores—Let one of the large chain stores serve all. In this manner most of the downtown districts can be closed completely. No expenses, such as rents, utilities, etc., to pay. Discharge hundreds of thousands of employees.

Consolidate Banks—Leave the money in the hands of one large bank so the directors can cause

Demands Cleanup

By A Traveling Salesman.

SOME weeks ago the police of your city made a drive on street walkers, but I notice they again are taking charge of certain parts of the downtown streets, especially most of Illinois between Washington and Ohio and the mezzanine floor of a downtown hotel.

I make regular business trips to Indianapolis and often have occasion to meet some of my women buyers. Since I always stop at the hotel in question, it is only natural that I should meet them there when taking them to dinner or a show in the line of business.

Again, last night two of my customers while waiting for me on the mezzanine floor of the hotel found themselves sitting next to "girls of the street," openly soliciting. You may imagine the embarrassment, not only to myself, but to these ladies.

Why can't the police, or the hotel, or both, do something to stop this outrage? It is shameful to think that a good hotel must swarm every night with this class of people.

panies whenever they desire to profit thereby.

Consolidate oil companies and stations. Discharge employees.

Consolidate everything.

Result—About 10 per cent of the people in the U. S. will be employed. The other 90 per cent will be dependent upon the government for charity. The merging of ten companies into one a few years ago cut off thousands of employees, including 3,000 salesmen, 3,000 autos, 3,000 hotel bills, etc.

Consolidate Out of the Depression: Guarantee bank deposits. Break up chain stores and large

manufacturers into smaller independent segments, creating employment for managers, purchasing agents, clerks, salesmen, as well as prevent chains from dictating prices.

Legislate in favor of shorter working days (and hours) with a full week's pay, creating more jobs.

Establish minimum wage law.

Set prices on not only farm and food products, but also on manufactured articles.

Regulate production, not only to establish higher prices, but to provide steady employment.

Prohibit receiver sales (on new articles) at less than 10 per cent above cost, protecting the merchant next door.

If necessary, conscript capital.

Place trucks and buses under same rulings as railroads.

It might be necessary to declare a moratorium on patents for a specified period. This suggestion is for the purpose of protecting our present manufacturers, who might be fearful of entering into manufacture of an article because of the possibility of an improved invention which might put him out of business.

Reforestation and other constructive forces recently put into operation will help the return of prosperity materially.

Result—More employment, higher wages, higher prices, more paid-in taxes, contentment.

Inflate currency.

So They Say

In two hours I saw more indications of drunkenness than at any time since the last day before prohibition—Dr. George F. Stafford, Illinois superintendent, Anti-Saloon League.

Limit Is Off on Prescribing of Liquor

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

This is the first of three articles by Dr. Fishbein on the new law which makes it possible for physicians to prescribe as much liquor as they think wise. He also discusses the value of alcohol in treating disease.

NOW that the Celler-Copeland medicinal liquor bill is effective, physicians soon will be free to prescribe for their patients whatever amount of alcoholic liquor is necessary.

Former arbitrary limits on quantity, on the alcoholic content of vinous liquors, and the number of prescriptions that might be issued, are replaced by the stipulation that "no more liquor shall be prescribed to any person than is necessary to supply his medicinal needs."

The judgment of the attending physician is to be supreme within the limits of sound professional practice, and subject only to certain regulations now being drawn under terms of the law by the attorney-general and the secretary of the treasury.

These regulations will set forth the maximum quantity of liquor that may be prescribed at any one time, as well as the normal frequency of prescribing.

That its main value is in emergency, and as a temporary remedy for stimulation, and occasionally to induce sleep.

Dr. Roger I. Lee has spoken of his chief use of the creation of a state of artificial euphoria, or feeling of well-being.

An elderly person, for example, is convalescing from a mild cold, or perhaps influenza. He is old and tired. Where the person in good health is unaware of his bodily functions, the old person who is recovering from a minor illness is conscious of many mild disturbances.

He is likely to be depressed and miserable in mind and body; he has no appetite and does not care about things.

True, such a person may be improved greatly by taking vitamins and iron, and a suitable diet, but a small dose of alcohol in some agreeable form gives him a different outlook on life.

His miseries concern him less. He is likely to be improved in appetite and to have in his body the will toward recovery, rather than the lackadaisical attitude mentioned.

Next: More about the use of alcohol in treating disease.

A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

THE suicide rate among men during the last three years is appalling. And probably no estimate ever can be made of the numbers who have died from worry.

Women are less eager to escape present troubles in death. Perhaps they are incapable of grasping the extent of disaster, but they seem armed with an indomitableness of spirit that supports them in all grave crises.

I think this is because women always have been concerned with life and death instead of dollars and cents. The traditions behind them are traditions of human rather than economic worth.

They have been busy with the fundamentals of living. They have given birth. They have closed the eyes of the dead.

Q—Who is the author of feature "Abe Martin" that is published in many newspapers?

A—Kin Hubbard of Indianapolis, originated it, and since his death, the feature has several authors.

Q—What causes petrification in trees?

A—It is the effect of water carrying in solution certain chemicals, especially silica. The water saturates the body of the tree and replaces the wood, atom for atom, with silica until the whole tree turns to stone.

It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, April 25.—Adolf Hitler just has had a birthday, and I was surprised to read that it was his 44th. He's still wearing 10-year-old sizes.

I'm 44 myself, and I don't want to split a birthday with Adolf. One of us is backward.

The cables say that the Germans heaped honors and gifts on the little corporal. He received a thoroughbred horse, a portrait in oils, a silver statue, and other presents celebrating his likeness.

The schools had a holiday, and the minister of education went beyond that in the distribution of favors. He announced that pupils who flunked their examinations would be promoted to higher classes, just the same, if they happened to be young Nazis who had fallen behind because of devotion to the national cause.

Sure Way to Pass

THIS suggests great possibilities for the future of smart German scholars. The scene is a final examination in Anatomy 32 A, and the first question on the list reads, "Please name the three principal bones of the human arm." The pupil looks at it aghast. He has not the slightest idea as to the answer.

In fact, he has no ideas at all, having spent the entire semester attending patriotic meetings and beer nights. But suddenly inspiration seizes him.

"The three principal bones," he writes in his little blue book, "are Hitler, Adolf Hitler, and Herr Hitler." And then, just to be on the safe side, he writes, "Hurrah for Hitler" across the cover and calls it a day, secure in the knowledge that he can't escape graduation summum laude.

In other words, from now on X equals Hitler. He is the shortest distance between two points, the square of the hypothesis of a right angle triangle, the future tense of all irregular German verbs, and the date of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock.

Culture Under Hitler

FOR the first time in the 550-year history of Heidelberg university the president of the institution, leading professors, the chief of police and the state's attorney attended a duel today, says a new dispatch. The student duel has been restored to favor by the national government, after it had been forbidden for eight years under the republic.

The duel was followed by a fest-kommers, or beer party, in the course of which speakers praised Chancellor Hitler for recognizing duels as an educational measure for inculcating bravery.

All of which suggests "joke from the next month's Punch"—Young American Girl (who is on a two-week trip to Berlin and has not had time to acquaint herself thoroughly with German customs to her hostess, a native and very much a Nazi): "Your poor brother seems to have met with a nasty accident."

Young German Girl (who is in a high state of indignation and bears the given name of Gretel): "Don't be silly, frau! (miss). Siegfried merely has been trying to make Phi Beta Kappa."

On the Lone Prairie

I HAVE read a good many letters and editorials in the press which have tried to move the American mind to be a little mournful over Herbert Hoover. And I have not been much moved. But I met a man the other day who did make me feel sorry for our ex-President.

He had visited Mr. Hoover in his home in California, and he told me, "After lunch we went to the library and we sat there talking for almost two hours. Several times I started to leave, saying, 'I know you must be busy,' and each time Mr. Hoover said: 'Sit down. There's no hurry. I'm not doing anything.'"

"And suddenly I realized that he was speaking literally. I knew it, and so did he. I began to wish that his secretary would come in to announce, 'London is calling.' Or for that matter, 'New York' or even 'San Francisco.'"

I thought, what a godsend it would be to this terribly tired man if a troop of Boy Scouts dropped around at the front door asking for autographs and the opportunity to pose on the lawn. But there weren't any Boy Scouts. No Gene Tunney. No Mary Pickford or Cherokee Indians.

There wasn't so much as a congressman within a hundred miles of the house.

And I realized why Mr. Hoover looked so tired. I found that mythical figure at last. Here was the forgotten man."

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