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JOBS AND LIVING WAGES

ONE after another the industrial codes are brought to Washington and slipped into place; and as the framework of a new society thus is being erected, piece by piece, we who stand on the sidelines only can pray that the thing is going to work smoothly when it is finished.

Back of all the negotiations, arguments, and maneuverings which are producing these codes there looms one great fact—

Our economic system can survive in recognizable form only if the whole population of the country is kept pretty steadily at work at a living wage.

It is recognition of this fact that has led an essentially conservative community to embark on an experiment which would have seemed to most people, that height of radical folly as recently as a year ago.

And it is only by keeping this fact constantly before our eyes that we shall be able to make a go of the program now being attempted.

All our fine talk about economics, cooperation, price levels, and all the rest comes down to that, in the end. People must have jobs, and the jobs must pay them enough so that they can buy the things that they produce. Unless we find some way accomplishing that, our eventual collapse seems certain.

Viewed in this light, the administration's program is clearly the very essence of conservation. Nothing less than what now is being tried could have been attempted. The old system must be modified at least as greatly as the "new deal" modifies it, if it is to survive at all.

A good many years ago Abraham Lincoln warned that the nation could not continue to exist half slave and half free. Both the compromisers and the die-hards tried to find a way of getting around that unpleasant truth, and the disaster of the Civil war was the result.

Today we are facing the fact that the nation can not continue to exist half prosperous and half destitute. There is one way out and only one: To provide jobs at decent wages, to keep purchasing power level with production.

If we let ourselves get frightened by the experiment we are making, or if we let rising prices fool us into the belief that times are going to correct themselves without our help, we shall be riding for a fall just as catastrophic as the one the nation took in 1861.

"FIND THE DRY STATE"

FIRST, Indiana, Iowa, West Virginia, Alabama and Arkansas. Now Tennessee. Every so-called dry state voting to date on repeal has gone wet. The country begins to wonder whether there is any dry state left in the nation.

Perhaps the repeal organizations are accurate in their forecast that all the forty or forty-one states voting in 1933 will ratify the repeal amendment.

Today the score is 20 to 0. Oregon following Tennessee with a repeal victory Friday.

And what are the drys going to do about it? A few have admitted defeat and turned their efforts to more productive fields. But most of them continue their old obstructionist tactics, seeking through political evasions and legal technicalities, to prevent action by states on the amendment and thus delay the inevitable.

If they succeed in postponing final ratification beyond Christmas—which now seems most improbable—they will perpetuate the increasing chaos of nonenforcement and will burden the country for another year with the \$200,000,000 of special taxes which would be lifted by repeal.

If the drys want to advance the cause of temperance, as we believe they do, there is plenty of work ahead without wasting time in futile and costly anti-repeal crusades.

In the first place, they can co-operate in drafting and enactment of adequate and intelligent state regulatory legislation for the liquor traffic. Second, they can concentrate on a much-needed educational campaign for temperance, which means moderation.

COLONY TEST WORTH WHILE

ONE of the most interesting of all the experiments the Roosevelt administration is going to make will be its venture in "subsistence farming" for industrial workers on the fringes of big cities.

A \$25,000,000 fund is available for this work, and the first colonies will be established soon. What the stunt will amount to is simply this:

Land will be obtained on the edge of a city and will be subdivided into small farms of one, two or three acres. A small home, perhaps to cost \$3,000, will be established on each plot. In the middle of the colony will be a store, a playground and social hall, and the like.

Occupants of these homes will be industrial workers from the city. Each family will have enough land to raise vegetables, chickens and a little fruit—and, possibly, to keep a cow.

And the idea is that these workers not only will get the benefits of fresh air, open country life, and so on; they will be far more independent of the uncertainties of industrial life than any workers can be under ordinary conditions.

If the factory that employs one of these men shuts down, for instance, the man doesn't starve. He stays at home, raises his own food, keeps his expenses down to a very low minimum—and has, on the whole, a pretty fair sort of time.

Furthermore, while he is working he has

his own source of supply just the same. The arrival of the shorter work week gives him ample time to cultivate his garden and look after his place.

He does not need to spend as much on his day-to-day expenses as he did formerly. His money goes farther. He is more secure in every way.

That, at any rate, is the theory; and it looks as if the \$25,000,000 that will go into this experiment will be money well spent.

To be sure, it may not work out as expected.

It is quite possible, for example, that it will narrow the market painfully for the regular farmer. It may lead the worker into debt and give him more worries than he already has. There are half a dozen ways in which it may prove impractical.

But the experiment is very much worth making. It may be that a big part of the solution to the modern worker's problem is to be found in some such thing as this, and it is tremendously encouraging to know that Uncle Sam is going to spend money to find out about it.

KIDNAPERS' QUALMS

THERE appears to be some doubt whether any money was paid for the release of 77-year-old August Luer, Alton (Ill.) banker, also whether the kidnapers really were after him or his brother or son. But what Mr. Luer says were the parting words of his captors when they let him go are significant: "We'd never have touched you, pop, if we'd known you were so weak and sick."

Not that we try to find any milk of human kindness in the remark. But it goes to show that some kidnapers are genuinely terrified of having their victims die on their hands, let alone intending to murder them.

Though there have been tragic exceptions, there is also much evidence to support the theory that few kidnapers would be such fools as to risk their necks with a murder when finally convinced there was no money to be gained.

The motive for most kidnaping is merely sordid. When it comes to facing dire risk, most kidnapers are doubtless as cowardly as the cringing gangsters who turn up in other forms of racketeering.

No one is asking for the opening of unsound banks. Unsafe institutions should be out. But a large number of the closed banks have had their reorganization plans approved by proper governmental authorities. In such cases either red tape, or unnecessary delay in detail work, is postponing eventual opening of the banks.

In commercial banks alone about two and a half billion dollars in deposits are frozen. Though the government is proud of having cut the figure in half from the peak of five billions, the balance remains far too large for the economic health of the country.

Not only are these frozen deposits held out of circulation, but almost as bad is the state of fear and uncertainty which spreads from the closed banks to infect entire communities.

Of course all this is well known to government officials. But most of them have been very busy with other problems. It is to be hoped that they can concentrate soon on the quick reopening of all sound banks.

THE SYSTEM IS WRONG

THEORETICALLY, we have four units of government in this country—the municipality, county, state, and nation. Actually, we have a much large number—school districts, water districts, drainage districts, navigation districts, incorporated villages, port authorities, and so on ad infinitum.

A recent survey of Dallas, Tex., showed that the people of one section were taxed by no less than sixty-seven agencies.

Such a system is clumsy, expensive, and inefficient. It stands for duplication of effort and evasion of the spirit of constitutional restraints. It leaves the average citizen helpless, draining his pocketbook and bewildering his mind.

He finds it difficult to enumerate the various subdivisions of government, much less understand how they work.

We excuse all this on the ground that life has become complicated, but many of the complications are artificial and arbitrary. Instead of trying to simplify and co-ordinate our system of government, we have subdivided it, split it up, and buried it beneath a mountain of laws and regulations, many of which conflict with one another.

Much of the authority exercised by cities better could be handed over to the states, and much of that exercised by the states better could be handed over to the federal government.

Why should every town have a different system of traffic rules and what profit is there in a hundred different building codes for communities of practically the same size in the same state?

When you get down to brass tacks, liberty is vastly more dependent on system than on the privilege of individuals and communities to do as they darned please.

Depression has awakened us to the presence of industrial anarchy, and we are attempting to bring system out of chaos through simplified rules and uniform methods. The same idea profitably could be applied to politics.

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If you want information about a city, the last place you go is the police department. If you want to know the value of real estate, the last place you go is the assessor's office.

Chain stores have found it possible to operate on a cash basis, but most branches of our government are six months or a year behind.

On the average, it takes about two years to get rid of a lawsuit. In one case, a murderer was executed ten years after his arrest, though he remained in custody all the time.

State rights and local rights have been abused, until they serve no purpose so distinctly as to obstruct the efficient functioning of justice.

You can trace most of the crime, financial troubles of municipalities, social disorder and unrest to the confusion which handicaps government services, the conflict of authority, and the buckpassing made possible because of it.

IN THE TENNESSEE BASIN

COMMISSIONER LILLENTHAL of the Tennessee Valley Authority demonstrated in his speech to the International Congress of Women at Chicago that he has embraced a broad and practical plan for development of the great Tennessee river basin that will be the model for other such projects.

He intends that the valley shall retain its own culture; that its development shall take place along entirely practical lines. And in his program, Mr. Lilleenthal stresses, as it should be stressed, the vital importance of the power development. Conservation and de-

velopment of power and soil resources dovetail into a single policy.

"We are at the very beginning of the power age," Mr. Lilleenthal said. "In my judgment we have not begun to tap the possibilities of the use of power as a means of increasing the incomes of our people and of lightening the burdens which fall so heavily upon many of them."

"This presupposes, however, that power can be sold for lower rates than thus far has been the case. Only in this way is it feasible that power may be used in an infinite variety of ways and with greatest freedom. We reasonably may anticipate that the President's plan for the Tennessee Valley greatly may hasten the day when low cost power will be a humane and a liberating force, bringing with it every manner of economic and social benefit to our people."

Indication that the Tennessee Valley Authority has begun to move toward its power objectives was given in the announcement by Chairman Morgan that two experts had been assigned to study the projected transmission line to connect Muscle Shoals and Cove Creek plants.

In Washington and in the valley the demand for construction of this line is becoming more widespread. Senator George W. Norris, author of the act, believes it should begin immediately.

Chairman Morgan's official recognition of these demands will hearten the valley. Construction of this transmission line not only would mean that government-generated power would be carried over government-built wires to Cove Creek to be used in construction of that dam, but also that cities and towns along its route would get the cheap power they have a right to demand.

TOO MANY CLOSED BANKS

CLOSED banks are not being opened quickly enough. As a result, much needed mass purchasing power is withheld. The Committee for the Nation and other organizations report that business revival is lagging, especially in communities where unfavorable banking conditions exist.

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Of course all this is well known to government officials. But most of them have been very busy with other problems. It is to be hoped that they can concentrate soon on the quick reopening of all sound banks.

Judging by those prohibition repeal victories in Alabama and Arkansas, the "Solid South" is no longer solid—but liquid.

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I was assigned to the administration building and was in position to see and hear many things that occurred.

I know that guards or screws, as they call them, stole, drank, and reported for duty interdicted. I am old and crippled men beaten unmercifully. I never was reprimanded at any time during my stay there, due to the fact that I obeyed every rule carefully.

If you should be interested in any further information, I shall be glad to give it to you by my affidavit.

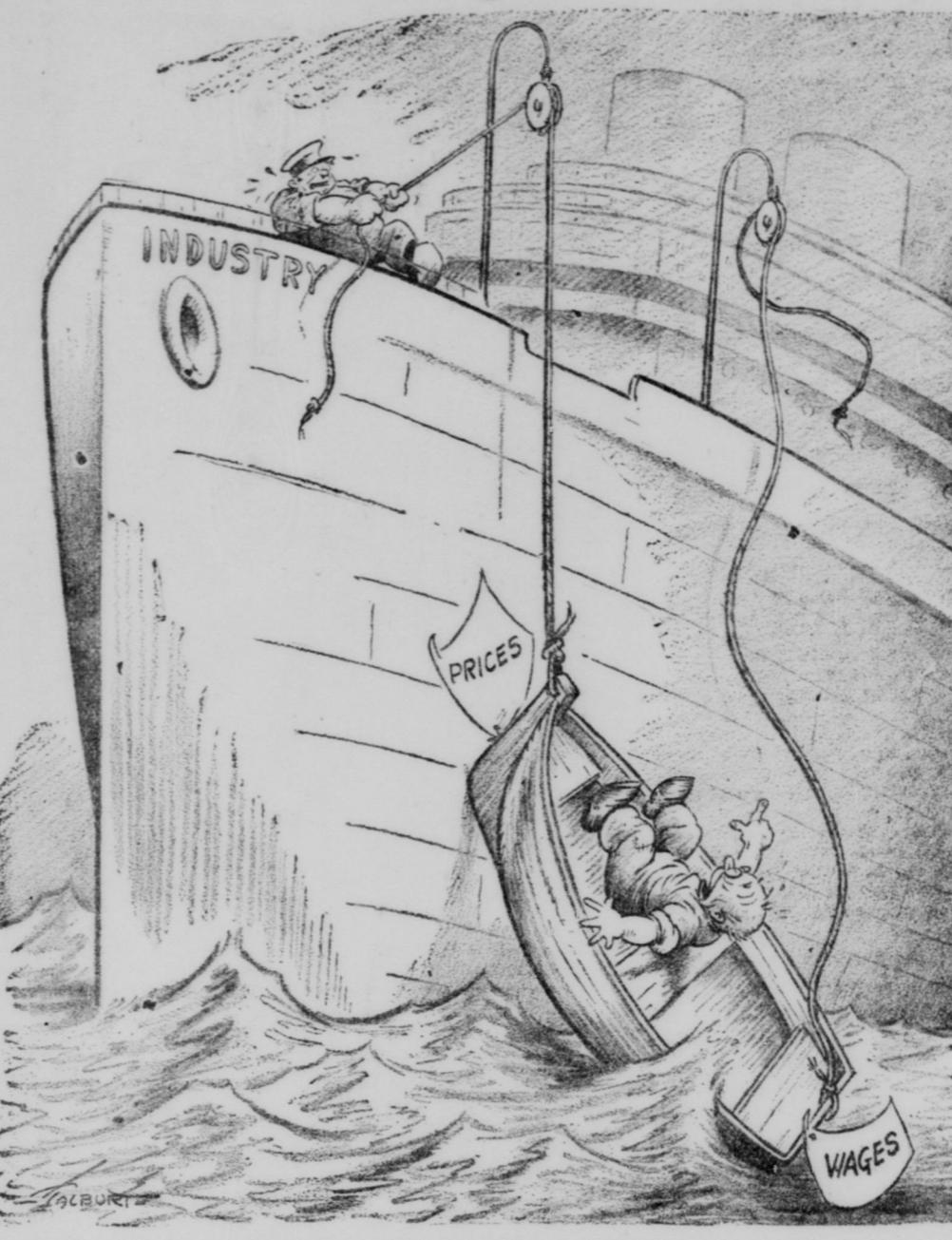
Permit me to say again that your excuse is timely and true.

BY V. S. McCACHEY, Chairman, U.S. Joint Immigration Committee.

Mr. W. H. Bremen, in his recent article in The Times, furnishes interesting information as to the present political conditions in the far east and offers certain suggestions as to the policy which the United States should follow in connection therewith.

He says that the Japanese gen-

Saving Us!



The Message Center

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire

Federal Police

By W. H. Bremen.

THE Times and the News both seem to favor the plan for a federal police force, as suggested by me to Senator Copeland.

I am urging that two regiments of the army be thrown into the field by a proclamation of martial law by the President.

The editorials tell how all other points have failed and, in a way, point out the advantage in having a real nation-wide force to clean up all kinds of crime.

But it is too weak a request. All must get behind it. The press must realize that it is a waste of time to urge, in a half-hearted way, for this federal police. So if they feel it is needed, as one is led to believe by reading the editorials, they must all center on a plea for it and make it stick.

I was assigned to the officers' mess and was in contact with the officers at all times of the day.

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The family secrets and he alone could be depended on to keep the faith.

True, his remedies occasionally are harsh, and his diagnosis largely guesswork, but his record of cures is surprising.

He was known especially for his ability to practice the art of scientific observation, using to the utmost his five senses.

The physician of today has available innumerable scientific devices for aiding, prolonging and extending these senses. However, unless brains are mixed carefully with the application of the devices, the result may be confusion rather than scientific diagnosis, and the cost far beyond that necessary for first-class medical practice.

In choosing a physician it is well to find the answers to certain questions which might be called an aptitude test for the family doctor.

First, is he a graduate of a recognized medical school that requires at

least four years of thorough training?

There was a time when there were more medical schools in the United States than in all the rest of the world. We had almost 200 medical schools in this country around 1900.

Today, there are fewer than eighty medical colleges in the United States and the vast majority of these are accredited as Class A by the council on medical education and hospitals of the American Medical Association.

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