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EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION
SPEAKS

THE President's blanket re-employment code has given Andrew J. Allen, secretary of the Associated Employers of Indianapolis, a bad case of jitters. In his latest "bulletin" to members he gives two paragraphs of lip service to the recovery plan and devotes eight pages to advising employers of reservations they should make before signing the agreement.

He is hysterical particularly over the right the administration has given to labor to organize and bargain collectively. Mr. Allen so far overreaches himself as to advise employers to insert the following in their agreement with the President:

"It is understood clearly that nothing in this code shall impair in any particular the constitutional rights of the employer to protect his business and property from the unscrupulous activities of others."

This is a plain inference that President Roosevelt has sanctioned a recovery plan which is unconstitutional and encourages lawlessness in direct violation of his solemn oath of office. If Mr. Allen did not intend to leave such an impression with employers, why did he feel it necessary to include such a sentence in his bulletin?

Of course, such an inference not only isarrant nonsense, but grossly disrespectful and insulting to the President of the United States. At still another point in the bulletin Mr. Allen suggests that employers tack on their signed agreements:

"Nothing in this code is to prevent the selection, retention and advancement of employees on the basis of their individual merit, without regard to their affiliation or non-affiliation with any labor organization."

In other words, nothing is to interfere with the employer in maintaining an open shop. The powerful steel industry is discovering that the federal government is not going to assist it in keeping its plants nonunion. Mr. Roosevelt has made it plain that he has no objection to the orderly organization of trades unions in any industry.

Mr. Allen believes that employees should be advanced on the basis of "individual merit." Who is to decide this question of merit? There is the kernel of the whole problem. Enlightened labor and capital say the final decision shall rest with an impartial outside arbitrator. A few backward employers think it still should rest wholly with management.

For many years the newspapers, and other employers, have been submitting labor problems to collective bargaining and arbitration. There have been few strikes and the newspapers as a whole have been profitable enterprises as a whole have been profitable enterprises.

The Employers' Association statement talks a great deal about the "constitutional" rights of management. It says nothing about the constitutional rights of labor. Nor does it mention the Indiana law, passed by the last legislature, guaranteeing these rights by forbidding labor injunctions and outlawing the yellow dog contract.

"There are no penalties for failure to sign this (the re-employment) agreement except those of a social character," writes Mr. Allen.

Members of the Employers' Association would do well to meditate at some length upon this casual remark. This "social penalty" may mean boycott and the forcing of recalcitrant, noncooperative employers out of business after Sept. 1. Surely such punishment is far more severe than a trial in court and a subsequent fine of a few thousand dollars.

Mr. Allen is evidently the type of individual who looks under the bed every night to make sure there is no bomb-bearing Bolshevik there. He is as much of an extremist in his way as Stalin is in his.

He does not realize that the Constitution is big enough and broad enough for the bloodless revolution which has been taking place in recent months.

If the country is to be preserved every one must get squarely behind the President. So it is in the worst stand up and drag out fight for decent existence in the world's history. Capital and labor must stand shoulder to shoulder in the front line trenches. This is no time for weaseling.

Among sensible people, Mr. Allen's statement will attract about as much attention as the piping of a peanut stand at the battle of the Marne.

SPEAK UP, MR. HOWARD

More than a fortnight ago The Indianapolis Times made public, for the first time, the unspeakable conditions existing at the Indiana State Farm—an institution for the imprisonment of minor transgressors.

This newspaper showed that inmates had been assaulted brutally with blackjack and club for petty, or imagined, infractions of prison rules.

It revealed that men were tortured there in medieval fashion by being chained to cell doors for hours without food or water.

It set forth that a man who had no license to practice medicine in the state of Indiana had been permitted to perform a surgical operation upon a helpless prisoner.

It showed that the property of the state had been handled loosely in printed affidavits directly charging that certain guards were diverting it to their own use.

It proved that the whole administration of the state farm was such that it was in direct violation of the letter and spirit of Indiana's Constitution.

These charges should be placed before the grand jury of Putnam county. Why has the prosecutor failed to act?

As soon as Governor McNutt learned of the

situation he went into action. He reappointed Ralph Howard, who had seventeen years of experience at the farm, as superintendent. Then the Governor quite properly left the details of reorganization up to him.

What has Superintendent Howard done since his appointment? Nothing, so far as the public has been informed.

It is high time for him to make an open statement of his plans for the farm, which is supported by taxpayers' money.

You have the floor, Mr. Howard.

THE AETNA CLOSING

A UNPLEASANT echo of the bank moratorium was heard in Indianapolis Tuesday, it was just an echo—nothing more. The Aetna Trust and Savings Company finally closed its doors after operating for months on a restricted basis.

Depositors who had their money in the institution prior to the bank holiday will not be able to get their money until the assets have been liquidated. But they could not draw it out while the bank was open so they are no worse off than they were before.

Those who made deposits after the moratorium will be paid in full. To be sure they will be put to the inconvenience of seeking new banking connections. That is all.

Of course the Nazi enthusiasts believe other gains will make up for these losses. Only time will tell that, but there is no need to blind themselves against the very real and material losses as well as the more intangible ones which are apparent.

Professor Albert Einstein, whose theories almost nobody understands but almost everybody agrees are grand and highly valuable, has been driven from his homeland. The other day he sat in the house of commons in England and heard a bill introduced extending opportunities for Jews living in other countries to become citizens of the British Empire.

Nobody knows what Germany is losing in the exodus of talented professional people who are being driven from the fatherland. There must be thousands, unwelcome because they are Jewish, but whose talents and excellent qualities will make them assets to some other land.

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CLEAN UP THE RIVERS

THE unspeakable pollution of the state's streams will not be permitted to continue unchallenged. The Indiana Sportsmen, Inc., an organization of men who love the simple, natural beauties of their state, is going into action. It has announced that it will bring pressure to bear on municipalities to make them stop pouring filth into the rivers which have made Indiana famous in song throughout the world.

That is excellent. They deserve the support of every right minded individual. But there are two other classes of polluters who are just as big offenders as the cities. The first of these is the home owner. He usually is careless about sanitary conditions because he does not know any better. He should be educated.

Far worse, however, is industry. Industry is not ignorant of the consequences of pollution. It simply does not care. During the past three decades the United States has had an amazing industrial development. Communities vied with each other to get factories, often giving them tax free property and paying their moving expenses to capture them.

It is not surprising that industry became arrogant. When any one dared point to the streams it was polluting or the foul smell it was emitting, it merely mentioned the size of its weekly pay roll as an excuse.

Those days now are gone forever. Cities have all they can do to pay their policemen, firemen and teachers without subsidizing factories. Industry is a very necessary thing, but it must learn to be a good neighbor.

If the community forbids the individual to raise hogs in the residential district it also should force factories to cease pouring nauseous messes into the streams. The waters of Indiana belong to all the people for fishing and swimming. They are not the private property of industry.

It is to be hoped that the Indiana sportsmen will not overlook industries and individuals in their campaign to clean up the rivers.

Noted doctor warns girl bathers against over-exposure. Many a beach policeman has done the same.

Ancient English law, a writer informs us, recognized no less than 178 capital crimes. Had there been, in those days, neighbors who operated noisy lawn mowers at 6:30 a.m., the number doubtless would have been 179.

M.E. Tracy Says:

THE first thirty-three years of the twentieth century have been marked by great discoveries, great achievements and great blunders. Men have reached both poles, flown around the world, perfected broadcasting, done a splendid job of road building and supplied themselves with a multitude of labor saving devices.

When it comes to happiness and satisfaction, however, the result of their efforts is less convincing. Quarrelsome either has prevented or offset the benefits of their work.

Historians of the future will find it necessary to write that this period of creative genius and idealistic dreams was interrupted by the greatest war on record, that for no logical reason, civilization laid aside its more wholesome enterprises to the public by devious bookkeeping methods. Yet all have to suffer in the public mind because of the conduct of their shady brethren.

It is unfortunate that more public utility controversies can not be settled as peacefully as this minor dispute. All utilities are not grasping and ready to extort unfair wages from the public by devious bookkeeping methods. Yet all have to suffer in the public mind because of the conduct of their shady brethren.

SWEAT SHOPS

"The pressing room where young girls work pressing men's coats and pants is so hot that the girls often faint six and seven times a day."

This sentence stands out challengingly in the plea of Sidney Hillman, president of Amalgamated Clothing Workers, that the business of making clothes be civilized through the code of fair competition for that industry.

Long ago, clothing manufacturers learned to beat state inspection by letting their work out at contract. Hundreds of small contractors move their shops from month to month, sometimes from one state and one city to others, to escape inspection. Many of them give out garments to workers to take home and make up in tenements where the danger of disease always is present.

Under such conditions the worker is without protection no matter what minimum wage is fixed by a government code and the public is without protection from health hazards. And the decent employer is without protection from the sweatshop competitor.

Perhaps the greatest opportunity of the recovery administration for public service lies in its power to correct conditions of this sort. It can end other outrageous abuses in industry.

RESULTS OF HITLERISM

SOME of the bitter fruits of the Hitler tree already are ripening.

Seventeen members of the board of the Hamburg-American Line have resigned, following a gloomy meeting in which were painted the evil results of the company's co-operation with the Nazi regime.

The famous German line's business has been constantly failing off. Dr. Max von Schinkel, chairman of the executive board, pointed out, due to the "disaffection of the

YOUTH must help itself." This was the ringing challenge pronounced by Miss Viola Ilma, editor of the magazine, Modern Youth, who spoke before the International Congress of Women at Chicago.

Nothing could have been more thrilling than the sight of so many girls declaring a determination to take a hand in the management of their world. They literally flung themselves to the winds—as the young must ever do.

If you are more than 30 and want to feel deflated, I want to give you a few excerpts from what some of them said:

"We want no more wars. Pacifism must be taken out of small groups and made dramatic."

"We demand that a course in war

outside world toward Germany." The older members of the board, unable to align themselves with the policy of the Nazis, refused to take further responsibility, and quit.

Von Schinkel, a veteran of German shipping, knows intimately these effects. Without any formal boycott, oceanic shipping, especially passenger service, is particularly responsive to sentiment. People going abroad for a holiday pick their ship and their line largely on sentiment.

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