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MONDAY, SEPT. 4, 1933.

LABOR DAY, 1933

ORGANIZED labor, celebrating Labor day, can point to the last six months as one of the most successful periods in its fifty years' struggle in behalf of the American masses.

Never in so short a time has its peacetime progress been so rapid or so spectacular. Under the Norris-La Guardia anti-injunction act and the new deal legislation, labor's right to bargain collectively has been carved into the tablets of our laws. A labor secretary, whose heart is sympathetic, now fights labor's battles. The recovery act has adopted labor's goals for shorter hours and higher wages and its administration has granted labor leaders equal voice on its boards.

Through NRA and its codes, the toil of children under 16 has been prohibited, the universal forty-hour week is by way of being adopted in industry; 2,000,000 jobs have been re-employed, compulsory company unions have been banned, the long untouchable industries of oil, automobile and steel are coming to recognize the rights of unions to speak for the workers.

A friendly national labor board has been created to settle strikes.

Labor itself has made great strides. It has settled a twenty-year dispute between the progressive Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Garment Workers. The United Mine Workers have gained 300,000 new members.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor claims to have added 350 new unions and 1,000,000 to the federation membership in the last two months.

Without strong and able led unions, the industrial codes will not long stand. It can not be forgotten that 11,000,000 people still remain jobless, that wealth largely is monopolized.

The nation struggling toward a better social system looks with hope toward a stronger and better organized labor movement.

DECISION TELLS THE STORY

THOSE who have been looking sidewise at the principal acts of the administration's recovery program, fearful lest they find a revolutionary hue in them, ought to sit down and read the text of the decision by which Daniel O'Donoghue, District of Columbia supreme court justice, upheld the Constitutionality of the agricultural adjustment act.

Compressed into a few paragraphs, here is a ruling under which our whole form of society and our entire economic machine could be put upon a brand new basis.

If that statement seems strong, you have only to read the following quotation from Justice O'Donoghue's decision:

"The welfare of the people and the very existence of the government itself are in peril. The day has passed when absolute vested rights in contract or property are to be regarded as sacrosanct or above the law."

"Neither the necessities of life nor commodities affected with a public interest can any longer be left to ruthless competition for selfish greed for their production or distribution."

That decision, as a matter of fact, may become a great milestone in the never-ending conflict between human rights and property rights.

Let it be upheld finally by the nation's highest tribunal and we shall have an entire new philosophy embedded in our legal structure.

Its implications are clear, upon a moment's reflection; nor does one have to ponder very long to discover that some very revolutionary things could be done under the doctrine therein set forth.

The statement that there are rights which transcend the rights of property and the rights of contract, followed as it is by the blunt declaration that the day of free competition in the production and distribution of "the necessities of life or commodities affected with a public interest," is about as far-reaching a dictum as the American courts have ever laid down.

In its influence upon subsequent legislation and upon the general direction of the stream of American life, this ruling will may be ranked as one of the most important in American legal history.

STUDY THE NRA

IT would be well if everybody operating under the NRA were to secure a copy of the national industrial recovery act and read it. For some queer things are being attempted in its name.

Numerous under-the-surface disputes have been going on in various businesses, many of them having to do with the question of price-fixing. Certain trade associations have seemed to be more interested in the question of raising prices than in any other question, with the result that in some instances intimidation and threats have been resorted to against those who did not agree with their contentions.

Of course, none of these conditions is contemplated under NRA. If prosecutions or penalties are necessary, there are punitive provisions in the recovery act, and it is not necessary to resort to other laws to do by indirect what can not be done by direction.

If price increases are necessary, they are intended to be sufficient simply to enable payment of decent wages, observance of code hours, and a fair profit, without any element of profiteering against customers.

Most of the questions of policing the NRA codes now arising undoubtedly grow out of ignorance of their exact provisions, although some undoubtedly are the result of a desire to turn NRA to the individual advantage of one firm or class of firms.

Gradually, as the new order is established,

these disputes will be wiped out. Clear and honest thinking will eliminate them. Meanwhile, it is highly essential that threats of boycott, of loss of the blue eagle and of other punitive measures be used very sparingly.

Less threatening and more education regarding codes, their provisions and their aims, is needed badly.

NO ADVENTURE FOR SAILOR

A LITTLE thirty-six-foot sailing sloop slipped into New York harbor the other day after more than a month at sea. It came from France, and its sole occupant was a young painter, one Marin-Marie Durand-Couppel.

When this venturesome youth was asked to tell of the thrills of his single-handed crossing of the Atlantic, he replied flatly that there hadn't been any.

"There were some difficult head winds and I was happy to arrive in the bay," he said. "What happened? A storm. Wind. Waves. I lost a job. But I can not excite you with words."

"When one has been to sea many times, one either has bad weather or good weather, and the excitement comes only when one has never seen either good weather or bad weather before."

Now in all the fine frenzy of words with which we landmen like to talk about "the sea," as if it were a mystic and forbidden realm on which romance eternally rides the horizon, this matter-of-fact little statement seems to come about as close to giving the real essence of things as any one could.

For a great deal of expensive language has been used to tell about the wonder and mystery of the sea, but very little of it has actually been used by sailors.

The "romance" of seafaring generally is something that sailors know very little about, and even when they know about it, they don't talk about it much.

This lad makes a trip which, to most of us stay-at-homes, seems like the very essence of pure adventure—and he dismisses it in a paragraph. What did he see? Wind and waves, sometimes turbulent, and a storm that destroyed his job. Nothing more; or, at any rate, nothing that he can talk about.

And that is the way it usually is with all the callings that we look on as glamorous.

The men who actually follow them can find in them nothing worth telling about afterward.

The fine writing comes from people who stay at home and get their thrills out of their own imaginations.

ROBINSON AND THE VETERANS

(From the Milwaukee Journal)

SENATOR ROBINSON of Indiana was applauded by his audience at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Milwaukee. He denounced the Roosevelt economy; he was against the employment of young men in the forests; he said it had all come out of the veterans' pockets.

And then he even raved about the members of the Morgan firm escaping income taxes in years when the country needed the money.

It all went over because the veterans had not before them the record of Robinson of Indiana in public life, except his record on certain bonus votes. Now it happens that Robinson of Indiana is associated in the senate with an emphatic declaration that "Birds of a feather flock together."

The "birds" with whom Senator Robinson has flocked in his senatorial career have been the Old Guard of the Republicans—Jim Watson of Indiana, Moses of New Hampshire, Reed of Pennsylvania, and the others who were in control during the Harding and Coolidge and much of the Hoover regime.

He has not been a leader, because there were until last November much more capable Old Guards in the senate. But he was a dependable follower.

Senator Robinson says he is for a further cash bonus. But Mr. Coolidge vetoed a bonus. Mr. Hoover vetoed a bonus. The financial dirty of the Old Guards, Andrew W. Mellon, fought a bonus. And Senator Robinson's faction in the senate was with them.

Senator Robinson says money has been saved by cutting veterans' allowances and then spent on forestry. This is far-fetched, but let it pass. The opposition to these allowances by the Old Guard is on record. The difference is that the Old Guard did not find any work for the young men growing up in the country.

Sensor Robinson is shocked that Morgan and his partners and others of their ilk paid no income taxes. So is the nation. But the laws under which they paid no taxes were passed when Mellon from outside and the Old Guard reactionaries within dominated the senate.

We hope Senator Robinson will correct us if we are wrong in not being able to discover in any record that he ever raised his voice against those laws; or against the Mellon domination of the nation's tax laws; or against the Old Guard regime.

There is a fundamental difference between the Roosevelt theory and the Robinson-Old Guard theory. All over the country men are going to work because President Roosevelt has said that to work is a human right.

Wages are raised and hours are shortened and unemployment is lessened, and the exploiters of labor have been given a blow from which they will be a long time recovering.

Of course they don't like it; of course they will strike back. To strike back they will try to pick up here a group on one issue, there another on a different issue.

The veterans who suffered are being taken care of as adjustment boards reach them. All the rest that Senator Robinson has to offer is a cash bonus.

Does any one think that the \$300 or \$400, which is all most veterans could get out of that, compares with what these veterans and every other worker have lost under the reactionary regime of which Mr. Robinson has been so faithful a lieutenant?

The Old Guard defeated the bonus; that is in the record. But not all were against the bonus. They will pay a bonus rather than accept the principle that every man who is willing to work has a right to work and at decent wages. Wages must come out of their own dividends.

What is the bonus to them? A one and two billion dollar sop added to the national debt, already large, paid by the taxpayers, but not—under their laws—by the Morgan partners.

It is a fight as old as the ages. The bene-

ficiaries of special privileges will pay bonuses here, there and everywhere out of the treasury to be paid back by every worker.

But they can not stomach the principle that every man has a right to work for his living at decent wages. They will pay bonuses as the price of power to write the tax laws under which the bonuses will be met.

Senator Robinson, subservient Old Guard, a bird of the feather of those who turned the country's economic processes over to the exploiter, will promise candy. But his ilk will not recognize the right to bread and butter.

LAWYERS ON PROBATION

LAWYERS will be interested in the proposal of Davis A. Simmons, vice-president of the American Bar Association, that a five-year probationary period be drawn up for all fledgling attorneys, so that the legal profession may weed out attorneys who show signs of being either incompetent or crooked.

As it is now, any youngster who has been to law school and passed the bar examinations can hang up his shingle. Mr. Simmons suggests that after five years such a youngster be examined by some sort of governing board, to prove not only that he has the makings of a competent lawyer, but also that he has not indulged in any unscrupulous practices.

It is obvious that here is the germ of an excellent idea. Unfortunately, however, those shady tactics which bring the legal profession into disrepute are not confined to young lawyers.

Unless certain veterans at the bar can be forced to conform to the higher standards of the profession, the evil will not be checked.

WHO SOCKED HUEY?

KINGDOMS may wax and wane, wars may come and go, statesmen may rise and fall; the question of the moment, as far as the general public is concerned, simply is, "Who socked Huey Long?"

Louisiana's Kingfish has been a unique character ever since he burst upon the scene, what startled vision of the nation; and he retains his unique qualities even in the process of absorbing a shellacking in a fashionable Long Island washroom.

That this was one of those epic battles you read about seems very clear. What is not so clear, unfortunately, is the identity of the gentleman who collaborated with the senator in the encounter.

Here is a man who seems to be hiding his bright light under a bushel. Why can not he step forth and make known his name for the benefit of his wistfully inquisitive fellow countrymen?

ETHICAL BREWERS

A CODE of ethics has been drawn up for brewers of the country; and it contains a few paragraphs that make interesting reading.

One provides that brewers will not directly or indirectly sell beer to unlicensed outlets or to people who are in any way evading local, state or national laws governing the retailing of beer.

Another provides that no officer or director of a brewery may have any connection, either as partner, officer or stockholder, in a place engaged in the retailing of beer.

Here are two exceedingly sensible provisions. If the brewers had adhered to them strictly in the days before 1920, there would have been less reason for the experiment with a national prohibition law.

Huey Long gets an offer of \$1,000 a week to appear in a sideshow. It'd be an awful comedown after all these years of burlesque.

That century plant down in the New York botanical garden finally has bloomed. That restores our faith. Maybe prohibition repeal will come, after all.

M. E. Tracy Says:

THE wheat agreement signed at London Aug. 25 is both complicated and vague. For one thing, it recognizes that the weather may have some effect on production and that other conditions may arise to spoil the best laid plans. Making allowance for such factors, it provides that exporting nations shall stabilize their output, that other nations shall not go into the wheat business, and that importing nations shall do their utmost to maintain a price of 63 cents a bushel.

Significantly enough, Russia has not committed herself, but promises to do so after a more thorough study of the situation.

Of all countries, Russia should be in the best position to control wheat, but past experience suggests that, in spite of all her supervising and disciplining, she is unable to tell whether the domestic crop will be too big or too small until it has been harvested.

PERSONALLY, I think that economic planning will prove futile in the agricultural field, unless weather control first is established. I do not see how production of a given acreage can be estimated with any degree of accuracy as long as drought and rain are permitted to function on a laissez-faire basis.

After that, something must be done to stabilize human nature, to level off the average farmer's energy and ambition.

Under existing conditions, how can any government be sure of what a specified number of wheat growers working a specified number of acres will produce? Even if all of them plow, cultivate, and reap at the same rate of speed, a shift of wind, a general fall of hail, or a long dry spell might change the result by 15 to 20 per cent.

Just how are government agents going to regulate this thing, after the contract has been signed? If half the American crop burns up, what are we going to do about it? If regulation results in putting a million or so wheat farmers out of work, what provision will be made for them to earn a living in some other field?

THEN there is the all-important question of consumption, which governments have agreed to "encourage." Are we to understand that if people suddenly contract an appetite for rye bread, governments are going to interfere and make them eat wheat bread? And what would happen to the rye growers if they did?

To a layman it looks as though the stabilization of any crop involved the stabilization of all crops. How can we be sure that people will consume so much wheat as long as they are at liberty to substitute other cereals or even reduce the cereal diet?

The average stomach will hold only so much. If it is filled with lettuce, spinach, or pork, there just isn't any room for wheat. If its owner prefers fruit to toast, or a slice of meat to a slice of bread, the grand scheme becomes ineffective.

Not only the weather, but people themselves, will have to be regulated strictly to give these international agreements force. We can't permit any such freedom of appetite, taste, or eccentricity as goes with the old rugged individualism.

Wings Over Henry



: : The Message Center : :

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

(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 a Reader

The Times made a gallant fight on ex-Coroner Vehling, bringing out the unlawful things he did, and was responsible for his arrest and conviction.

However, the writer was surprised to learn yesterday that, although this man was tried and convicted and sentence passed, he never went to jail and is free in this city at the present time. If this is the case, what influence kept him out of jail?

Ex-Coroner Vehling now is free, pending a verdict on his appeal.

By Mrs. E. M. C.

In regard to the letter in The Times, Aug. 31, by K. O. H.: When they say that a fireman's salary is better than \$10 a day, that is not true, and if the firemen did get \$10 a day, that would be something to talk about. But they don't. I don't see where they speak of fairness to any one but themselves. Are not the police and firemen taxpayers, too, and don't they have families to keep?

In regard to firemen, they work twenty-four hours a day and off twenty-four hours. But if it were by the day, would it not be twelve hours a day? Would you like to work twelve hours a day and receive the same pay they do and always have some one wanting your pay cut to help the taxes?

Did not the police and firemen get a 15 per cent cut and say nothing about it? Why should they have their vacation pay taken away? Are they not entitled to that? Also, you think the beds and kitchens should be taken out. What do you think the firemen should do, stand up all night, or twenty-four hours? I don't think people like you understand that the firemen take care of their own linens and bedding, at no expense to the city. I think you are thinking only of your side.

Aren't the police targets for the protection of our public and you? Don't the firemen risk their lives to protect your property for which you and all others pay taxes? That is their work and they all respond to it willingly.

As far as low taxes are concerned, that won't help the poor man much. Why not give us all a chance? I am also a taxpayer.

By Frank Watson

I have a check dated Aug. 29, 1933, which I am keeping as a souvenir—six hogs, 65 cents profit—in honor of the wonderful Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's immediate farm relief.

able to place themselves in relationship to others, and frequently have loss of memory.

Whereas in most previous instances of epidemics of this character one of the early symptoms has been dropping of the eyelids and double vision, this condition has not been prominent in the cases which have occurred in St. Louis.

In the examinations that have been made of the spinal fluid, signs of inflammation are apparent through an increase in the number of cells found in the spinal fluid.

Thus far in St. Louis about 10 per cent of the patients have died. Many already have recovered after two weeks, without apparent symptoms, but the time is too short to say what the eventual condition of these patients will be.

Examinations of the brains of those who have died indicate that the portion of the brain known as the cortex, used in thinking, is

moreover, they are confused, un-

W E never appreciate the doctor until we get sick. And the scientist, poor thing, seldom is praised, though the services he renders us are many and obvious.

A new and deadly epidemic recently has made its appearance in the United States. If allowed to sweep onward unchallenged, it might not make any difference whether the New Deal works or not. Most of us may be dead.

But that will not happen, because the government's public health service already is on the job and everywhere doctors and scientists are beginning a serious study of sleeping sickness. They will find its cause and cure. A woman scientist already has found the trail of the virus.

And so it is a true saying that the greatest battles are fought in laboratories.

Not So Fair

By a fireman's wife.

WITH regard to the belief of fairness, appearing in The Times of Aug. 31, you say a fireman's salary is better than \$10 a day. Well, I wonder where you have been all my life. My husband has been on the fire department for fourteen years, and if he ever made \$10 a day, I'm sure I

would know it. And if he did and got a 10 per cent cut, that would be swell. But he makes less than \$8 a day. And do you remember that they got a 15 per cent cut?

You say take the beds and kitchens out of the houses is only fair. Say, you don't know what fairness is. I'd certainly like to see you and tell you a few things about fairness.

Q—How did Benjamin Franklin demonstrate that lightning is electricity?

A—His famous kite was made of a piece of piece of silk about the size of a large pocket handkerchief, stretched over two crossed pieces of thin wood. A piece of iron wire projected about the frame for about a foot. The kite was held with a long piece of twine, tied near the ground, where a key was tied. From the key to his hand he used a silk cord, which is a good insulator, and he was careful to keep all of the silk cord under the roof of the cowshed, where he stood, so that it would not get wet. The kite floated and darted about for a time, but finally the wind took it up. He waited a long time for his spark, and was about to give up the experiment, when suddenly he noticed little fibers on the cord standing out like bristles. Then he touched the key

with his knuckle and got a good spark, thus proving what he set out to demonstrate.

Q—Is rubber produced commercially in the United States?

A—None has been produced commercially yet, but extensive experiments in producing rubber from golden rod have been carried on. The department of agriculture has planted several native species at the experimental station near Charleston, S. C., and will select and breed promising varieties. Specialists in the department believe that the rubber content of golden rod may be increased just as the sugar content of sugar beets was increased by breeding and selection. More than thirty species analyzed indicate that the leaves of some will yield as much as 7.91 per cent rubber.

Q—What fees do vessels entering United States ports have to pay?

A—A clearance fee of \$2.50 in addition to the tonnage fee.

Q—Name the Chinese minister to the United States.

A—Mr. Sao-Ke Alfred Sze.

Q—How old is Mary Pickford, the movie actress?

A—Forty.

Q—What is the proportion of pure silver in "sterling"?

A—Silver 92.5 per cent and copper 7.5 per cent.

Q—On what day did the Jewish Passover fall in 1910?

A—Sunday, April 24.

Sleeping Sickness Begins With Nausea

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

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

often more involved than those portions of the brain which control movement and action, this having been the case in previous epidemics.

The United States Public Health service has sent officials to St. Louis, and representatives have come from the health services of surrounding states.

Thus far the condition seems to be largely localized in St. Louis and its immediate vicinity, and there is no reason to believe that it will spread generally throughout the United States, but the possibility does exist.

In the cases thus far studied, it has been impossible to trace contact between the patients, except in one instance, when two members of one family were affected.

There is nothing any one can do personally to prevent the possibility of infection with this disorder, but it is useless to become alarmed, since the condition is not so serious as contagious as the common infectious disorders.

tiny insect was the enemy that brought down their proud pinions. And the greatest single achievement of Mussolini has been the reclamation of 93,000,000 acres of dead swamp land which has been drained and now is a rich productive agricultural area.

This is a conquest greater than any accomplished with guns. Yet can we say justly that the victory is Mussolini's alone? No. Because the actual doer of that deed was his dead countryman, Giovanni Battista Grassi, who endured the gibes of the ignorant when he set off on his quest for the germ-carrying mosquito.

His victory may have saved the white race from extermination. Is it not fitting, therefore, that Grassi, as well as Mussolini, be honored with monuments, that he have a place in the history and the hearts of men?

YET no common history book records their names. Mothers, who owe such a debt of gratitude to Loeffler and Behring, intrepid fighters against diphtheria, do not know their records or how bitter was their warfare.

Yet political and cultural progress can not be swift in any country where diseases and plagues are left to do their worst. Ancient Rome fell before the little mosquito. That

Science

BY DAVID DIETZ

THE name of Dr. Edwin B. Frost will live forever in the annals of astronomy. But the details of his career should be known also to America at large. For it is a heroic tale full of inspiration and stimulus for all those who labor under handicaps.

For Dr. Frost, who recently retired as director of the famous Yerkes observatory, carried on the last ten years of his work despite the handicap of blindness.

Dr. Frost has been succeeded by Dr. Otto Struve, great-grandson of the famous Friedrich George Wilhelm Struve, a member of the fourth generation of astronomers in his family and the fifth member of it to become the director of an observatory.

Blindness set in upon Dr. Frost gradually, his sight beginning to fail about 1920. He had then just completed a fifteen-year study of the stars in the constellation of Orion, measuring their velocities and classifying them as to color, size, temperature and so on.

Whether the strain of those fifteen years of work contributed to his blindness or not is something the medical profession was unable to determine. Perhaps he would have become blind no matter what his work had been.

I SAW Dr. Frost a number of times at scientific meetings after his sight began to fade. No one, of course, can say what struggle must have gone on in Dr. Frost's mind.

But it was apparent to all who met him that he had won the struggle. He was in good spirits, taking an active part in scientific discussions and conversations.

After his sight was completely gone, he continued as director of Yerkes' observatory. He could no longer carry on observations himself, but he could aid others with the advice and counsel of his many years of work.

A few years ago I heard him give a lecture. It was illustrated with stereoscopic slides, some of which he had made before his blindness and some of which had been made after his blindness.

At first it seemed almost uncanny to hear this blind man describing and explaining to an audience pictures which he himself had never seen.