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FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1933.

JONES TO THE BANKERS

STRENUOUS days bring strenuous language. One of the most pleasing aspects of the new deal is the unswathed treatment of public questions as compared with the weasel words of corrupt and contented times.

Roosevelt, Johnson and Richberg—what a contrast to the muffled and meaningless phrases of a Coolidge or a Harding era!

And now Jesse H. Jones, head of the R. F. C., talks turkey to the bankers. A few of his shots, picked at random, are, to say the least, refreshing and clear as set over against the record of usual platitudes which have characterized the verbiage of previous ABC conventions.

Said Jones to the bankers: "The blue eagle should be on the vault door as well as on the bank window."

"Hoarders of available credit are little better than hoarders of currency."

"Calling loans and forcing liquidation, as some highly liquid banks have done, and are still doing, breaks men's hearts, destroys values, often the savings of a lifetime, and creates unemployment. Certainly there is no reason why this policy should not be reversed by the tightest of the tight."

"One of the worst sins of banking in recent years was the draining of deposits out of our country banks by investing in securities, foreign and otherwise. Not necessarily bonds of foreign countries, but securities foreign to the locality and foreign to good banking principles. Shall we repeat this, or shall we look more to the local or home unit?"

"Some of you are afraid we will have inflation, and some of you are afraid we will not have inflation. After all, it is fear, and I ask, is it not time that we uncross our fingers and follow the President's lead?"

"A man with plenty of chips can play a better game of poker than one who is playing 'scared' or 'short' money. This applies as well to bankers."

"The man who boasts nowadays of his own good fortune and tries to belittle or poke the finger of scorn at his competitor, or his brother who is less fortunate, is a menace to society. "Every other business is required to perform under the NRA—why not banks—all banks? Not merely by raising the salaries of a few underpaid clerks, but in providing credit and performing the normal functions of a bank. "It is easy to say 'no,' and if that is the program and we want the government to do our banking, what is to become of our high-priced bank talent? The office boy can say 'no.'"

"Be smart for once." Said the news story descriptive of the acceptance of the speech: "The bankers listened in silence."

TOURING WITHOUT ROAD MAP

THE man who wants to get a good idea of the way the whole administration recovery program is going to work out can't do much else than come back about two years from now.

The one thing that is clear today is that all signs fall in a time like the present. We're trying something so completely new that the man who wants to do a little prognosticating has nothing to go on.

Everything is adrift, and about the only prediction that seems safe is that when all the various blocks have been put together again, the picture will look like nothing we ever saw before.

It is for this reason that all the learned attempts to analyze and dissect the recovery program are so contradictory. No two critics of the program get the same result.

Does the arch-conservative complain—as one did, recently—that it is getting almost impossible to tell the news from Moscow from the news from Washington these days?

On another page you can find the arch-radical protesting that the whole business is just a great Fascist coup designed to enthrone privileged wealth forever.

Does the studious economist prove conclusively, with graphs and columns of figures, that the kind of economy represented in the industrial and agricultural control plans can not possibly work?

You can find books by equally studious economists (written before March 4 last) proving that only through a planned economy similar to the one now being attempted can a mechanized modern society survive.

The doctors, in other words, disagree about as thoroughly as can be imagined; and the more thoughtful and learned they are, the more they seem to differ with one another. And what it all comes down to is the fact that we are starting out on a road so new that we must make up our maps as we go along.

That, in turn, brings our democratic society up against its supreme test. Have we enough intelligence, enough aptitude for the science of politics, enough training in the business of self-government, to carry this experiment through successfully?

If you doubt it, you would better start looking for a cyclone cellar. But if you believe that we have—and there are good reasons for so believing—you can face the future with confidence.

WHEN WINTER COMES

MORE than 2,000,000 wage-earners have gone back to their jobs, workers' incomes have increased by \$3,500,000,000 a year, retail sales are up, smokestacks are beginning to

smoke, the blue eagle's scream carries a note of victory. But the other day Irving Kessler, 27, fainted from hunger on the streets of New York City.

Such incidents should remind relief agencies, cities, states and nation that millions of Americans face cold weather with empty larders and empty pockets.

Federal Relief Administrator Harry L. Hopkins says that some 4,000,000 families, or 18,000,000 individuals, are on relief. If America fails to see the last of these unfortunate families through the depression's fifth winter, it will fall in its elementary duty.

The job belongs to the public agencies. Private charity has about broken down, providing only 7 per cent of the total. Of the 93 per cent carried by public funds, a recent study of relief budgets of twenty-eight large cities revealed that the federal government paid 72.7 per cent; local governments, 20.8 per cent; the states, 6.5 per cent.

The states seem to be slacking. Already the government has granted \$150,000,000 of its \$500,000,000 fund to states, and four states contribute nothing to match federal dollars.

The government can, and should, speed its public works program. Every job it creates takes a worker's family from the relief roll. But the government can not carry the nation's entire relief burden.

Attempts will be made this week to rally Community Chests to the winter's needs in a meeting of the national citizens' committee for the 1933 mobilization for human needs.

"The cry of suffering from all over the land rings loud in Washington, and it rings just as loud in state capitals," says Hopkins. "It must not fall on deaf ears anywhere."

ONE LESS NUISANCE

A SAN DIEGO youth was sentenced to a year in jail the other day for confessing to a murder which he had not committed.

San Diego had had a murder which drew a lot of public attention, as murders sometimes do. This youth, desiring a taste of notoriety, went to the police and confessed. In a short time the police proved that he didn't know what he was talking about; but instead of slapping his wrist and turning him loose, they charged him with obstructing justice, and now he will have a whole year in which to meditate on his folly.

Here is a step which profitably might be followed in all such cases. Every unsolved murder brings "confessions" from notoriety-seekers, and they are a tremendous nuisance to the authorities.

It is a safe bet that the nuisance would be abated considerably if a good stiff jail sentence were the price of each bogus confession.

BUTLER ON ARISTOCRACY

DR. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER, president of Columbia university, at Southampton, L. I., Sunday demanded the end of direct primaries and declared:

"A true democracy must produce its own aristocracy and be governed by it."

How could a democracy be a democracy if it let an aristocracy govern it? This sounds like the copy book maxims of the political scientists of Dr. Butler's younger days.

It might be said that the American democracy now has an aristocrat governing it in the person of Franklin D. Roosevelt. But the power of Roosevelt came from the democratic masses, along with his mandate.

A revolution of votes, rising up out of the factories and grass roots, selected and empowered Franklin D. Roosevelt, just as in another day it lifted and empowered a plebeian Lincoln.

It is far more healthy for a democracy to keep on thrusting up new democratic material into the seats of the governors than to create and consolidate a set of aristocratic rulers.

In the last analysis, democracy should in its multiplicity govern itself all possible.

The sense of the masses may be despised. But even the most ignorant of the masses, like a baby, know when they have the colic or are hungry and can cry out for relief.

Political scientists who advocate aristocratic government in democracy forget that democracy is more than a means of ruling the people and regulating their affairs.

It is a school in self-respect and self-development, a continual opportunity and incentive toward development upward for the individual, however humble.

Place upon the head of humanity a capstone of aristocracy and that capstone tends to bear down upon the spirit of the less privileged and less intelligent. Democracy is the sun which nourishes the growth of the human spirit.

Aristocratic government, like royal government, is a screen which subdues that light and tends to discourage the greatest personal confidence and self-esteem, without which there can not be the greatest possibilities of growth of mind or spirit.

More democracy and not less or qualified democracy is the hope of the people on this earth.

Chicago man died of a heart attack as he was parking his auto. Probably the shock of finding a parking space within four blocks of his destination.

Los Angeles man suffers a neurotic complaint that causes violent throbbing and convulsive pain whenever the radio plays. If they don't soft-pedal the crooners, that's likely to become an epidemic.

It'll take a lot of sand for some women to wear those new Paris costumes with the "hour-glass" shape.

Frenchman says we soon will have planes that will carry one around the world and back to the starting point without a stop. Be a good thing in which to hold the next economic conference.

New regulation in Delaware provides that truck drivers must sleep eight hours for every eight hours they drive. Just so it's not the same eight hours.

DELAYED PRICE FIXING

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR HAROLD L. ICKES has demonstrated commendable caution in delaying oil price fixing until he sees how oil production is reflected in prices.

We believe that under extreme necessity the President and Secretary Ickes can utilize their legal authority over prices and not injure consumers of gasoline and other petroleum products. But it is obvious that price fixing is a drastic remedy.

In isolated cases in the past, production control has not had a beneficial effect upon prices. It may be that, with national control, prices will take care of themselves, as General Johnson believes.

We hope this first government move under the oil code will have the expected results. If it does not, then the President and Mr. Ickes should not hesitate to invoke the unusual powers conferred upon them, but always with the aim in view of protecting consumers.

IS THIS THE DAWN?

ONE of the brightest signs of the times is the compilation of figures by the National Industrial Conference showing that employment in the United States increased by more than 10 per cent in July over June, and that this was the largest monthly percentage gain recorded in fourteen years.

Furthermore, July was the fourth successive month in which an employment gain had been recorded; and on top of that it was shown that the people who had jobs were, on the average, working longer hours in July than had been the case in June.

The tide is rising—not as rapidly as we might like, perhaps, but very steadily. Whatever may be the cause, and whoever may deserve the credit, we at last seem to be emerging from the depression. Could we possibly get better news than this?

LOST ILLUSION

THOSE of us who have to stay at home, and never see the romantic South Seas except in our dreams, realize that those fabled islands under the sun pretty well have lost the peculiar charm which goes with places that have not been touched by the white man's civilization.

But it was a little bit jarring, just the same, to read that residents of Tahiti have organized the world's first contract bridge yachting cruise.

A yacht has been chartered at Papeete, and with a lot of contract fans aboard it will cruise about among the cannibal islands, the palm-fringed atolls, and the other bits of exotic scenery which litter the south Pacific. And as it cruises all hands will devote themselves religiously to bridge.

If the South Seas are devoting themselves to those two ultra-modern callings, yachting and contract bridge, then indeed the old days of romance are gone forever.

Ex-Kaiser backs the NRA in a statement urging German-Americans to get behind the movement. Gosh! And up until then we hadn't had a doubt that the NRA was the berries!

Probably the forest army by this time has learned to tell the dogwood by its bark, and the pine by its fir.

The proper costume for a party at a speaker's ought to be full dress.

Years ago in the pre-Hoover era, we had only a small department of commerce. Now we have a \$17,500,000 department, and no commerce.

Geologists say the earth is shrinking and that mountains all over the world are dropping. Good chance to try inflation.

M. E. Tracy Says:

MEN have enough to fight against without fighting each other, if they only realized it. Death and disease, even of the oldest variety, remain unconquered, while a multitude of new forms appears on every horizon.

No sooner do we get one plague well in hand than another develops to take its place. In some instances, our own folly is responsible. In most instances, we are taken completely by surprise.

Six months ago no one looked for an epidemic of sleeping sickness in St. Louis, and now that it has come no one knows the cause.

We are confident that science will identify the germ and carrier some day, after which it can tackle the problem of remedies.

Meanwhile, our greatest bacteriologists are laboring in the dark. They had no notion that such affliction was about to break out in the midwest or anywhere else.

On general principles, this latest variety of sleeping sickness, which has no connection with the well-known African disease of the same name, is supposed to be due to some kind of germ, spread by some kind of carrier.

But where did the carrier get the germ to begin with, and why did it pick out St. Louis?

FURTHERMORE, there has been the germ been hiding all these years, or was it recently brought into being as a by-product of civilized life?

We did not know there was a germ world within less than a century ago, and maybe there was not, in such varied and vicious form. Maybe some of the methods and processes by which we have tried to tame, control, or exterminate other forms of life are responsible for the increase of germs.

At any rate we are discovering them or their deadly work at an alarming rate, and we only can wonder how the old folks ever survived if all the germs were present in their day.

Dr. Burr Ferguson of Birmingham, Ala., thinks it was the little white corpuscle that saved the race by eating any sort of germ, without regard to race, creed, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Dr. Ferguson also thinks we would make quite as much progress by assisting our white corpuscles as by bothering to isolate every different kind of germ and then preparing a specific.

THE problem is so complicated for the average layman. Whether it is better to fight the bugs direct, or to encourage other and more friendly bugs to eat them is a question for science to decide.

All we can be sure of is the folly of fighting each other with such an endless battle on our hands.

We don't need war, murder, or kidnapping to make the struggle for existence interesting, or furnish an adequate outlet for our surplus energy.

The task of keeping human beings fairly well and reasonably happy is sufficient to provide plenty of work and plenty of honor for all of us.

Speaking of Optimism—



:: The Message Center ::

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

Only Promises

(Times readers are invited to express their views in this column. Make your letters short, so all can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

By H. L. Seegar

THE tax trouble comes from the fact that people presume that the operation of government is limited by the amount of tax income it receives from its citizens. No greater folly is imaginable. Governments and governmental units are above the limitations of private individuals in maintaining the standards of public functions necessary to the general welfare.

Evidences of credit for the delivery of goods and the rendering of services to the public are all that is necessary to keep public functions operating. These evidences of credit need not bear interest or be sold for money as bonds are.

They may be accepted the same as money at the tax collecting window at full face value, for taxes. This would make these certificates serve the public to take the place of the controlled credit money of banks, so that no public function would suffer. Our politicians are the spokesmen of those who control our system of production and distribution.

When the people discover how they can become the masters of the system instead of victims, the politician will change his allegiance.

Tax reduction ballyhoo solves nothing. It only intensifies unemployment, and lowers the volume of public service and its quality.

The professional tax reducers are employees of individuals and groups who seek to profit privately at public expense by reducing the type and volume of public service the public requires.

Common sense would create income sufficient to meet public and private needs, rather than destroy them by disastrous deflation and curtailment.

By Unemployed Professional Musician. My dear supervisor of music, your rambling, incoherent article regarding the statue of the professional musician amuses me very much. It is so ridiculous that it demands an answer.

Article 1. The ability of public or high school music students never was questioned. Of course we grant what it takes to be a highly experienced supervisor and a fine critic, you have it.

To quote you: "In the public schools we are not attempting to

right to compete with the professional band? For your enlightenment the federal government does not allow the army and navy bands to compete with civilian bands. Ninety bars of your ramble are tacit, as they merit no comment. Now for a little embellishment. The professional musician furnishes the music which you claim science and invention is giving us. You also question my ability, so I will do likewise. I'll venture to say the peak of your experience as a professional musician was to play pack horn with a tent show band.

Now to take the code. Musical supervisor, you should teach grates for the love of your art and see if you and your family, if you have one, can live on the diet you so generously prescribe for the professional musician.

If you care to debate the matter in question, we will be more than pleased to meet you at your convenience at our headquarters, 143 East Ohio street.

Girls without higher education lack the bearing necessary for an actress.—Fritz Scheff, singer.

The elemental passions of greed and fear explain racketeering. For the terrorism of hoodlums must be substituted the terrorism of the law.—Senator Louis Murphy of Iowa.

Attempts to kill the Jew never have succeeded, because the source and reason of his wife—his spirit—can not be exterminated.—Dr. Jacob Sanderling, chief rabbi of Hamburg.

Japan, too, is doing her share in the great cause of peace.—Viscount Kikujiro Ishii.

I still favor life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.—Ogden Mills, former secretary of the treasury.

The President is a very smart politician.—Senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana.

Our age is changing so fast we don't know how we are, where we are, or where we are going.—Rt. Rev. John Newton McCormick, bishop of Western Michigan.

There are no great men and women on the stage.—Harrison Grey Fiske, theatrical producer.

ADOPT the pace of nature: her secret is patience.—Emerson.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.—Ecclesiastes, 7:8.

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It Seems to Me

BY HEYWOOD BROWN

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—Herr Hitler is a cut-rate Nero. He is trying to get by with circeuses and leaving out the bread.

All the available figures seem to show that the economic position of Germany has grown worse under the Nazi regime, and yet it must be admitted that the little man with the loud voice is more powerful just now than ever before.

It is a strange thing to observe the manner in which a nation can sustain itself on slogans. Even wrong-headed and vicious slogans at times will do the trick. Certainly no scientist of any standing conceivably would support the preposterous theories about the desirability of race purity advanced by Germany's brass chancellor.

We have a right to be scornful about the nonsense that is being peddled. But with our scorn for the Prussian poppycock should go a resolve to be equally impatient with the same point of view when it is advanced here in the United States.

Notes Here at Home

CERTAINLY we have not been free from the influence of childish nursery tales about the Nordic. Even the most casual student of history must know that various people in different portions of the panorama have attained leadership and will again.

There is no foundation whatsoever for the familiar assertion that "This is a white man's world." There is less than nothing to support the notion that it always will be.

But it seems to me that the strangest thing of all is the enthusiasm displayed for Nordic supremacy by individuals who are no more Nordic than I am myself. And at that, I am plagued with racialist remains of New England ancestry.

I think that by dint of hard work and bitter effort I have managed to divorce myself from the greater part of my Puritan heritage. And yet circumstances have arisen during which I said to myself, "Of course, I'm having a swell time, but I suppose it's pretty sinful just the same."

Twenty years ago I had not worked myself clear of these ancient and alien influences. At such times as I hear the sound of the waters beating against Plymouth Rock, I suddenly would sour on the party, ask for my hat and coat, and whatever else I needed, and go home.

The German Strain

AND, worst of all, I didn't get by with more than just a trace of morose old Massachusetts. Some little time before I was born, a dash of German was added to my inheritance. I'm not sure that German ancestry is not just a little worse than that which we have in England. It is better perhaps to abstain from cakes and ale than to have your beer and also keep into it.

I think the legends which ascribe a purple patch to the personality of Adolf Hitler so far astray. From all that I hear, the man is a thoroughgoing fanatic of unimpeachable private life.

The tragedy is that he believes heartily, sincerely, and completely in the monstrous doctrines which he expounds. This seems to me the more likely theory. No poser or semi-faker could be one-half so stupid or so cruel.

Most of the deplorable deeds in the history of mankind have been committed by men and women so sure of the righteousness of their cause that they had not the slightest hesitation in going ahead, no matter what the consequences. Earnestness never has been a virtue, unless it happened to be coupled with some saving grace of intelligence.

A Joke Could Help

ALTHOUGH it is generally held that a sense of humor is a handicap to the leader who wants to get things done, I could wish that Herr Hitler was not so furiously insulated against any understanding of fun. A fierce and swinging gust of laughter might do much to clear out fumes from the oppressive atmosphere which hangs over the Germany of today.

But the small hope of freeing Germany through shafts of satire, even if a genius arose to tackle the job, Herr Hitler never will see a joke. If he could see so much as one, his tongue would cleave to the roof of his mouth and the day of perspiration would be over.

I do not see how anybody can deny that Hitler is among the world's significant figures. Yet I am doubtful if that makes him under any nicety of definition a great man. This is not the first time that a fool has found himself in the seat of the mighty.

And yet one authentic service he has performed. Adolf Hitler has taken the theory of Nordic supremacy and reduced it to a palpable absurdity.

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The Golfer

BY AUSTIN JAMES

He'll get up early Sunday morn' At half past five or six, And take them from behind the door His barnyard shiny sticks.

He'll stop for Alvin, Chet, and Tom And head