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SEVEN MONTHS

THE New Deal is seven months old today. Much has been done to piece together the shattered fragments of our social, industrial and financial orders. Whether the rivets will hold and the structure will stand, is yet to be seen. But tremendous and effective action has been taken by the Roosevelt administration.

Let's look at the record:

The NRA has set America on the road toward a planned economy. It has coded thirty industries, reduced hours, increased minimum wages and outlawed many unfair practices.

Partly as a result of this revolutionary law, 2,800,000 men have been put back to work, buying power at the rate of \$3,720,000 a year is being restored, and 100,000 children under 16 have been freed from wage labor.

A serious effort is being made to prevent profiteering. Whatever ensues, it is safe to say the United States never again will return to the jungleways of ruthless competition.

The agricultural adjustment act and other influences are responsible for an increase of \$121,000,000 in the farmers' gross income. Mortgage relief slowly is being extended to home owners of farm and city.

The public works administration has allotted \$1,653,591,410 out of its \$3,300,000,000 work relief fund. That only \$70,000,000 has been disbursed is due largely to the failure of localities to take advantage of the government's aid.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has loaned more than \$2,000,000,000 and is setting about to buy preferred stock of banks and reopen as many closed banks as possible.

It is preparing to loan upward of \$1,000,000,000 to NRA industries, refinancing irrigation districts and insurance companies and otherwise expand public credit. If private capital remains timidly cloistered it is not because the government has lacked in leadership.

The emergency relief administration has undertaken to beat the enemy hunger. Out of its \$500,000,000 war chest it has granted \$176,000,000 to the states. It is purchasing \$75,000,000 worth of food surplus to distribute to the poor, organizing transient relief, adult education work for idle teachers.

Through the Civilian Conservation Corps, the \$25,000,000 subsistence farm fund, Muscle Shoals, the oil, timber, coal and other codes a real conservation movement has been set afoot.

Our current finances are improved. Aside from emergency debts the normal budget shows a deficit of only \$212,966,650, as against three times that a year ago. Customs, tax and postal receipts are climbing. Prohibition repeal and beer revenue will add to our revenues.

In our foreign relations, aside from the failure of the London conference, we have improved our standing. We are moving toward Russian recognition and greater league participation. Our face is turned toward the other Americas, and, in spite of the unstable dollar, our export trade is better.

A good deal has been done in seven months and the basis laid for much more to be done in the months to come.

NEARER THE LIGHT

THAT there is in America a certain amount of disillusionment about the NRA program can not be denied. The scheme hasn't brought the millennium overnight. It hasn't restored prosperity as fast as some of us dared to hope. It hasn't returned men to work at the rate we would like to see them returning.

Nevertheless, it is worth remembering that its accomplishments are very genuine and very much worth while. President Green of the A. F. of L. points out, for example, that there has been a 20 per cent reduction in unemployment since March. In August fully 815,000 wage earners returned to work; the indications are that the first part of September will show an even better percentage of improvement.

In other words, if we aren't out of the woods yet we are a whole lot nearer the edge than we were before. It's too bad that unemployment hasn't been reduced by more than one-fifth; on the other hand, it is exceedingly fine that even that much of a reduction has been made.

RUSSIA AND THE NEW ORDER

After nearly sixteen years of successful maintenance of power in the face of every difficulty at home and abroad, writers are less glib in predicting the imminent downfall of the new Russian state. They tend to remain satisfied with a serious study of what is going on or to content themselves with flank attacks upon details of Russian policy and living in contact with other states.

Dr. Florinsky has written a very interesting book on Soviet Russia, "World Revolution and the U. S. S. R.," which is devoted to the conflict between theory and practice in that country. On the one hand, we have the inflexible theory of the dogmatic Communists which takes little account of practical affairs and insists upon producing general world revolution. On the other hand, there stands the practical necessity of facing existing economic and political conditions, insuring survival, and living in contact with other states.

Dr. Florinsky traces the gradual triumph of expediency and practical considerations over orthodox theory. Marxian dogmas constantly have been adapted to changing conditions and the early drive for a world revolution has been largely abandoned in the effort to secure a "live and let live" policy in international relations. The book is written with a surprising moderation of tone and spirit when one re-

members that the author is decidedly of the anti-Bolshevik school.

If Dr. Florinsky is an anti-Bolshevik who gradually has come to see a good deal of excellence in the Russian experiment, Will Durant is a person formerly highly enthusiastic about Bolshevik Russia who has been shocked into marked hostility as a result of a visit to that country.

For all of Mr. Durant's radicalism, he is distinctly a sensitive soul and a libertarian. Such a person is very likely to be repelled by what now is going on in Russia with its effort to force millions into a new way of life. If one must assume that Russia, a quarter of a century hence, would be much as it is today, Dr. Durant's indictment would be overwhelming. It loses a good deal of its force when one recalls that the Russia of today is very much a Russian transition, utilizing methods which even Communist leaders regard as highly temporary and forced upon them by harsh reality.

It is admitted pretty generally by both friends and foes of Soviet Russia that the new regime finds its main support in the younger generation. The elders may be dubious or cajoled into line, but the wild enthusiasm for the new system resides mainly in the youth of the land. Therefore, we may welcome Herr Menhart's very clear, interesting and comprehensive study of every aspect of life among the Russian youth of today.

Anybody who thinks that it ever will be possible to go back to the old order in Russia should read this volume. Russian youth is, culturally, as far removed from the era of the czars as English youth is from the age of William the Conqueror.

The greatest strain that the Russian government has experienced since the foreign intervention in 1919 and 1920, has been the growing threat of war with Japan and the Far East. Such letting down as there has been at home in the resolute march toward the Communist ideal has been produced by the necessity of taking into account the possibility of an armed conflict with Japan. A large detachment of soldiers must be kept on the eastern front and transportation lines to that area repaired, improved and extended. This has taken time, energy, and money sadly needed for internal economic development.

Dr. Price gives a clear and concise summary of the diplomatic negotiations and treaties which form the background of Russo-Japanese disputes in the Far East today. If private capital remains timidly cloistered it is not because the government has lacked in leadership.

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One of the major reasons now brought forth in favor of the recognition of Russia by the United States is the fact that we need a strong ally to checkmate the aggressive Japanese policy in the Pacific and eastern Asia. Professor Patterson has edited a very interesting symposium treating the various aspects of American relations with the Far East.

The volume offers plenty of evidence to support the thesis that we are likely to become involved in serious conflicts with Japan unless there is a strong power in the Far East to help hold in leash the aggressive island empire.

No single act could do more in the way of safeguarding us against a possible bloody war in the Pacific than to recognize Russia and give her all reasonable support in maintaining her rights as against Japanese infringement.

BLOW AT CRIMINALS

WHENEVER you take up the problem of crime and its prevention, you are pretty likely to find yourself talking about the lawyers before you get through.

Attorney-General Cummings' announcement that the department of justice is preparing to open fire on lawyers suspected of underworld connection should not be surprising. That there are lawyers who work hand in glove with notorious crooks is perfectly obvious—as, likewise, is the fact that the crooks can't be curbed effectively until something is done to the lawyers.

As Dr. Bessie L. Pierce fully revealed in her "Public Opinion and the Teaching of History" and her "Citizens' Organizations and the Civic Training of Youth," we have a multiplicity of organizations lying in wait to grab off our schools as agencies of patriotic and class propaganda.

of economic and political nationalism the schools have greater reason than ever for maintaining some balance. We hardly can expect them to carry on any active propaganda against war, but they certainly should teach the facts and create a sensible perspective on world affairs.

There is much alarm expressed lest a tariff revival, increased armaments and the isolationist policies of governments will promote war, but dangerous as these may be, the teaching of narrow nationalism and super-patriotism in the schools of today is far more menacing to the peace of the world. Nothing begets bellicosity more surely than the notion that a particular nation is unique as to virtue and strength and that its neighbors are inferior and contemptible weaklings.

As Dr. Jonathan French Scott showed conclusively in his "Patriots in the Making," patriotic instruction in history and geography was bad enough before the World war. But it has become much worse since the great conflict. This fact Dr. Scott made very clear in his later volume, "The Menace of Nationalism in Education."

In France every effort is made to develop in the minds of the student an exalted opinion of his country. This is achieved in part by ignoring the history and geography of other countries and in part by extolling the past and present of France. In presenting such controversial issues as the Hundred Years war, the Napoleonic wars, the Franco-Prussian war and the World war, France is portrayed as being invariably on the side of right and justice. She has always been attacked and invaded and has inevitably defeated and repelled her assailants.

In Germany an equally ardent patriotism is instilled, though not accompanied by the invincible provincialism of the French instruction. The growth of Prussia and the unification of Germany is an epic in itself. In regard to the Franco-Prussian and the World wars, the German instruction is frankly patriotic, and it is only an accident that it happens to accord a little better with the truth than the French version.

Now that Hitler has assumed control, German education is becoming more intolerably patriotic than French. The old Teutonic sagas are being revived. Race myths are instilled. Anti-Semitism is taught and practiced. Hatred of the enemies who made and enforced the Treaty of Versailles is consciously inculcated. Everything is perfectly set up to create millions of arrogant little goose-steppers.

In English schools nationalism and patriotism are advanced mainly through a subtle and all-pervasive inculcation of the supremacy of British culture. There is little effort to create hostility toward England's neighbors.

Consequently, with the exception of the World war, England's former enemies get fairer treatment in the school books than the enemies of France and Germany receive in the French and German texts. At the same time, nowhere else is there such sublime self-assurance as to cultural supremacy and a mission to dominate the world.

Our own school textbooks have achieved in recent years a unique degree of fairness in dealing with our history and our relations with our neighbors. Indeed, the American Legion felt it necessary to get out a special American history textbook in order properly to instill patriotic principles. Yet we need to be eternally vigilant.

As Dr. Bessie L. Pierce fully revealed in her "Public Opinion and the Teaching of History" and her "Citizens' Organizations and the Civic Training of Youth," we have a multiplicity of organizations lying in wait to grab off our schools as agencies of patriotic and class propaganda.

Winners had to pay at a recent bridge party. Taking a cue from the World war.

M. E. Tracy Says:

HERE is a limit to local taxation because, if driven to it, people can move. That is what the Stock Exchange threatened, and it succeeded. The New York City administration and its counselor, Mr. Untermyer, will look for other ways to feed the kitty, but they can not erase the red mark of a stupid edict.

The reiterated warning that municipalities must economize is not academic. It comes from a pressure that taxpayers can not endure.

The success of our various recovery plans is not sufficient to relieve the necessity for retrenchment by towns, cities and states. Some of these plans involve higher federal taxes, which means an excessive burden if local taxes are not reduced. Even if this were not so, local taxes should be reduced to liberate capital for buying power and private enterprise.

The redistribution of income as between the cost of government and the cost of living should be recognized as an essential factor of recovery. At present, about one-third of the nation's income goes for taxes. Five years ago the proportion was about one-sixth.

There are lots of lawyers like that. Every one who has had anything to do with the criminal courts knows it perfectly well. So far the various bar associations of the country seem to have been either unwilling or unable to do anything very effective about putting such lawyers out of practice.

As an emergency measure, action by the federal government would be a very good thing. Uncle Sam has taken on a lot of unfamiliar jobs this year; if he wants to tackle the racketeers of the legal profession, now, we can do nothing but wish him lots of luck.

But in the long run the job is up to the legal profession itself. A much finer sense of the necessity of living up to the profession's ethical standards, a finer sense of the lawyer's responsibility to society as well as to the client who happens to be paying him a fee.

Like the Walker administration before it, the O'Brien administration has made no serious effort to curtail expenses. It has been vastly more concerned with maintaining a political machine than with lightening the taxpayers' load. When threatened with default, it asked the legislature for permission to make special levies on water, taxicab fares, stock transfers and the insurance power, which the legislature reluctantly gave.

The big idea was to keep political henchmen on the city's pay roll at all costs, to safeguard Tammany for the coming campaign.

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WHEN President Roosevelt took office, he promised to cut operating expenses of the federal government 25 per cent. He realized that such drastic reduction was necessary to make adequate funds available for his national recovery program.

Even greater cut was desirable on the part of local governments. Some of them have made it, but others have not. Others have proceeded on the theory that the federal government would pull them through, regardless. New York City has been the most vivid example of this philosophy.

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LOOKING back over the past, those in authority appear to have assumed that the people of New York could be relied upon to react with their usual dumbness. They made no allowance for the law of relativity, for the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

Lacking an organization through which to express themselves the water consumers and taxicab riders took the dose until such time as they could go to the polls. Not so the Stock Exchange. It was blessed with a management and a system of discipline which enabled it to act quickly and forcefully.

It merely organized its membership into a new body, with seats at \$1,000 per, leased a building across the Hudson, and prepared to start business in New Jersey. That not only spoiled New York City's tax scheme, but threatened the state with an enormous loss of business and revenue. A series of hastily called conferences appears to have ironed out the difficulty, with the city backing down and the Stock Exchange staying at home, but the misfortune remains to be judged next November.

COMMENDABLE WEAKNESS

Now that the world has gone on a rampage

members that the author is decidedly of the anti-Bolshevik school.

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