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THE GREAT GARBAGE BATTLE

SOME people are getting a laugh out of the city's campaign against garbage hijackers. The idea that a man can be arrested for stealing anything so worthless is rather amusing.

Yet garbage is not worthless to the city and hence it has genuine value to the taxpayer. Indianapolis has spent a large sum of money to construct a processing plant which extracts valuable by-products from the things the ordinary citizen wastes. Grease for soap manufacturing and feed for live-stock are made from garbage and sold by the municipality.

If the garbage plant can not get enough raw material it becomes just that much more costly to the taxpayer.

Have as much fun as you like over the sanitary board's insistence on getting all the available garbage in the city, but while you are chuckling remember that the board is trying to save you money.

The sanitary commissioners are showing commendable zeal in attempting to plug this small leak in the city's revenues. If the same spirit were shown by every other city department the taxpayer could hope for some relief next year.

That city budget must be reduced. The city's income must be increased.

CONTROL

After studying the liquor control report turned in by his personally selected commission of expert investigators, John D. Rockefeller Jr. announces his conviction that two primary considerations should guide liquor control legislation—abolition of lawlessness and promotion of temperance—and that the one certain way to stamp out bootlegging and other evils of illicit traffic is to eliminate the profits therein.

Mr. Rockefeller might have put the matter in fewer words by stating that control of lawlessness depends upon control of the profits from selling liquor, control of intemperance being beyond the reach of law.

Upon the voting of repeal, more than half of the forty-eight states will still have statutory or constitutional prohibition. Some of these states will, undoubtedly, attempt to control through more or less "dry" legislation. At any rate, it will require a long time for discovery and adoption of anything like a general plan of control. Meanwhile, harvest time for the bootlegger—unless the federal government controls the profits of the legitimate traffic, and profits always depend upon the prices of the goods dealt in.

In the case of liquor, there is involved in control of prices and profits control of the quality of the goods. With good liquors at a reasonable price, none save the foolish, mentally and morally defective, will risk death, blindness, paralysis and general degeneracy on cheap rotgut; and, at heart, the common attitude of society toward such consumers would be merely to wish them well on their road to some sort of mundane hell. Reform of reckless, hard drinkers is at low ebb, save in dubious reforming instances when we jail them.

The field for the illicit traffic, with all that we've endured under alleged prohibition, is highly promising. That traffic, as any other, is to be controlled by eliminating its potentiality for profits. The ordinary temperance promotion is right but hopeless as to control of liquor lawlessness. We've had, in the past thirteen years, enough of alcoholic deaths, poisonings, blindness, fatal auto "accidents" and organized crime to vaccinate temperance considerations into a people ten times our size.

Aim at the profits! And, right here, as usual, enters the difficult matter of taxation. Tax too high and numerous and happy are those in the illicit traffic, a policy somewhat resembling that, in possible final effects, of pegging the pork market by prematurely butchering our pregnant sows.

ONLY SEVEN WEEKS LEFT

THE first concern now of friends of temperance and advocates of repeal is to avoid chaos after Dec. 5.

Florida's overwhelming rejection of the eighteenth amendment brings to thirty-three the unbroken phalanx of states whose voters have decided for reform. Six more states voting Nov. 7 are certain to bring the total past the necessary minimum of thirty-six, and the total of ratifying conventions already scheduled will bring final annulment on Dec. 5.

The tremendous wave has moved much faster than any one believed possible. Prohibition's strongest opponents thought six months ago they would have at least two years to prepare for the problems of repeal—chiefly control and taxation.

Ten of the nineteen states where liquor sale will be permitted as soon as repeal is completed already have acted, by setting up state control and, either tax or license systems. In other states where state prohibition is being forced out by popular sentiment, leaders are planning control systems to prevent disastrous and anarchic hiatus.

But in the nine so-called "wet" states which have not yet acted, something must be done within the next seven weeks. These states are Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin. Preprohibition local licensing regulations will be effective in many of the communities involved, but the vicious old-time system of free-flowing liquor and huge profits flourished under them. That system should not return, even in a few states. The cost is too great. There should be adequate control.

The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment has asked the Governors of these states to call special legislative sessions at once to meet this critical situation. This is not too much, or too expensive, to ask.

The legislators have the failures of the old

wide-open system and of the eighteenth amendment to guide them. They have the successful examples of many of the European nations and Canadian provinces to guide them, as well as the examples of the ten forward-looking states which have adopted various control systems, each deemed suited to that state's needs.

RAZE THE SLUMS

SECRETARY HAROLD ICKES plans to organize a federal slum abatement corporation, with power to condemn land, raise crime-breeding slum tenements and erect homes for rent or sale at reasonable rates.

Nothing, economists agree, will help more quickly to pull America out of depression than a nation-wide rehousing movement. At least 9,000,000 "homes" are unfit for human habitation, many million more should be modernized and fitted to 1934 needs. For months the federal government has stood ready to aid cities.

Long-term loans at 4 per cent have gone begging. Only sixteen projects, costing in all some \$40,000,000, have been accepted by the housing board. The public works administration was ready to loan \$200,000,000 or more.

But owners of available land have been clinging to 1929 values and refusing to take losses on speculative prices. Two cities have been held back by debt or inhibited by state laws from undertaking rehousing work themselves. Only Ohio, of all the states, allows cities to build and own tenements. While other states hold back in liberalizing their laws the government has been deluged with doubtful private housing schemes, some amounting to little more than confidence games.

When private and state initiative fail in a national crisis, the federal government must act.

NEW DEAL RELIEF

A 15-year-old boy has been supporting his widowed mother and sister by working after school for a dairy. He is going to lose his job because NRA codes forbid employment of children under 16. But what will he and his mother and sister do for food and shelter?

The children's bureau of the department of labor heard of this case and hundreds of others like soon after the NRA began its child labor crusade and realized something must be done. It appealed to Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins and orders went out at once to all state relief bodies directing them to find out from public schools what children with work permits are being deprived of a chance to earn.

Where investigation shows that such children are the sole support of dependents an attempt will be made to find work for an adult in the family, or, failing this, relief will be given. The government is not going to wait until these families have gone through the suffering of destitution and have finally been forced to appeal for help. It is going to help now.

This is one of the brilliant stars in the crown of the new deal relief administration. There are many others—for to the full extent of the means at hand it is trying to end the hideous conditions that have disgraced the United States for the last few years. It is trying to end slow starvation on insufficient relief, and also degradation of spirit.

Americans may feel just pride in this new policy of their government.

INDUSTRY, THE SAVIOR

IT commonly is said these days that we are in the midst of a bloodless revolution in the United States.

The statement either is pleasing or terrifying, depending on your mental attitude and, perhaps, on the number of high-powered securities you have in your safety deposit box. But it is not quite accurate.

That there has been a revolution in the realm of ideas is too obvious to need comment. Both the boom-time psychology of the Coolidge era and the what's-the-use attitude of more recent years are gone for good. But whether we are to have an actual revolution in political and economic life—a full transfer of power from one class to another—still is a matter for the future to determine.

We haven't had it yet. Whether we are to have it depends largely on how well the owners of the means of production, transportation, and distribution are willing to play ball under the new rules that have been devised.

Willis Thornton pointed out recently in a dispatch from Washington that there are two courses open to the NRA set-up.

It can go ahead to a more or less complete socialization of industry, under full control of Uncle Sam; or it can become a referee in the competitive struggle, standing by to enforce the rules of fair play and to see that every contestant gets all the breaks that are coming to him.

That the capitalist would prefer the second alternative goes without saying. Whether the second alternative is what he gets depends almost entirely on him. If he plays ball, well and good; if not, he is likely to wake up some morning and find that this bloodless revolution which people are talking about already has taken place.

What does all this mean, in actual practice? Simply this: Industry must adapt itself to the new rules as they are drawn up in Washington. The industrialist who shuts down a plant rather than deal with strikers, who chisels at his NRA code, sabotages the new deal and tries to continue in industrial relations the attitude of a steel baron of 1919 simply is persuading people that the evils of capitalism can't be abolished without abolition of capitalism as well.

Given the present temper of the American people generally, it is certain that failure of the NRA will be followed by measures immeasurably more stringent. And success or failure of the NRA depends, in the last analysis, on the intelligence and good will of the rulers of industry.

POLITICS OR BUSINESS

DR. ARTHUR E. MORGAN, chairman of the government body which has the vast Muscle Shoals development in charge, plans to have everybody who works on the project—even down to pick-and-shovel laborers—choose through civil service tests.

Political pressure from congressmen who want jobs for their constituents has become

so great that he has been forced to this step, he says, and he adds significantly:

"If the government goes into business, it has got to go into it in a business-like way."

Right there Dr. Morgan has put his finger on one of the most important elements in the whole case. Much of the fear of "the government in business" arises from the justifiable belief that big government jobs are apt to become happy hunting grounds for the patronage boys.

If Uncle Sam is going into business on a large scale—as, apparently, he is—it is highly important that politics be divorced from the passing out of jobs.

SIMPLE, BUT EFFECTIVE

THE foreman of a grand jury in a mid-western city recently startled the law enforcement officials of his town by initiating his own investigation into the activities of racketeers and gangsters. Among the things he sought to find out was why the police were not reader to move against criminals for possession of firearms.

"The police chief," he pointed out, "must know fifty racketeers and criminals who go about the city carrying guns, or accompanied by bodyguards who carry guns. Why can't these men be arrested and prosecuted for carrying concealed weapons?"

Why, indeed? That's a question a vast number of citizens would like to have answered. The laws of practically every state provide penalties for carrying concealed weapons.

It is a trifling hard for the ordinary citizen to understand why an alert administration could not use this law to put a very material crimp in the activities of an underworld which habitually goes armed.

A CHARMING GENERAL

HOW can one possibly hesitate about clasping to one's bosom, metaphorically speaking, that splendid fellow, General Johnson, general of NRA? In order to promote his "Buy Now" campaign, the general kindly offers some gospel to merchants, which same this paper is strongly tempted to accept as divinely inspired.

"In order to increase sales," advises the general, "two courses of action are absolutely essential. First, give the public attractive, fairly priced merchandise. Secondly, aggressively promote your products to the public. The modern method is advertising."

Good bargains aggressively advertised! Solomon himself couldn't have thought up a better plan for bringing down two birds with one stone.

FOILING THE GANGSTERS

ONE of the by-products of the blue eagle's activities apparently is going to be a ruling whereby machine guns no longer will be sold to gangsters.

The code for arms manufacturers includes a paragraph under which the manufacturers agree not to sell machine guns to any one except government agencies and such private corporations as maintain regularly organized police departments of their own.

Here is a rule we have needed for a long time. Our complacency in permitting thugs of high and low degree to possess machine guns has been little short of idiotic. Any scheme whereby possession of such weapons is restricted to those who have a right to possess them is bound to meet popular approval.

China has adopted the use of the period in its writing. And Japan has not yet come to a full stop.

A Londoner died two minutes after the time he had predicted for his death. Death may be late, but it never disappoints.

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These economic rulers now have such absolute control over the economic life of the people as to threaten the very foundation of this republic.

Under this system of production for private profit, these rulers have created conditions that are intolerable. They have drawn billions in profit, rent and interest, and they have slashed our wages and the prices of our farm products to nothing short of peonage. They have used the marvels of the machine age not to lift the burden of toil from our shoulders, but to speed up beyond human endurance and to throw jobless millions upon the streets.

They have taken the products of our labor and not paid us enough to buy back the goods we have produced, causing overproduction and underconsumption. They have wasted our natural technical and human resources and led us into more tragic periods of industrial chaos. They have mortgaged our farms and sold them from under us.

They have lived in mansions and evicted us from shacks, led us to trust in their banks and stolen our savings. They have invaded our

work to the people, to supply the needs of the country and not to support a parasite class. He states that Socialism is our worst enemy. Whose enemy? Greed, of course.

Socialism teaches no man shall have luxuries until all men are clad and fed decently.

Our roads, schools, bridges, police and fire protection, the Panama canal, parks, public health services and hospitals, streets, etc., are socialized. Too bad that speculators can not build pyramids of holding companies on these. Does this kind of Americanism oppose this kind of Socialism? If so, his patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel.

When did Socialists ever oppose democratic government? Never, of course. The Socialists meetings always are open to the public. They are glad to give information.

He alleges that Socialism is anti-American. Why then, has Catholic Milwaukee re-elected a Socialist mayor for the last seventeen years?

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