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MONDAY, NOV. 27, 1933.

CHRISTMAS IS NEAR

CHRISTMAS is much closer than most people realize. Ordinarily one does not think much about preparations for the world's greatest holiday until after Thanksgiving, but this year the calendar is playing tricks. Thanksgiving is later than it has been in a decade.

Today is the time to begin getting ready for Christmas. Indianapolis stores have been ready with their holiday gift stocks for more than a week. The postoffice already has sent out warnings that the Christmas shopping season must begin immediately if mails are to reach distant points in time.

This Christmas should be the happiest since the depression began. Every one feels that the turning point in the economic situation has been reached. The NRA has increased employment and raised minimum wages. Marion county is putting men to work at real jobs. Stockings will be hung on Christmas eve in homes which have not known the holiday spirit in a long time.

Best of all, however, is the spirit of fellowship and good-will which adversity has spread through the nation. Folks have learned that they must help one another.

Those who have are willing to share with those who have not. Even though there is more money in circulation this year there are still hundreds of children in Indianapolis who must be helped through the winter. Tomorrow The Times begins its annual "Clothe-a-child" campaign. Even during the worst of the depression the city responded generously to this appeal.

So, as you begin your Christmas shopping this week, remember there are still little bodies which will be cold unless you help.

GOLD EXTREMISTS

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT's monetary policy appears radical to some. But actually it constitutes a conservative force. It acts as a buffer against probable printing-press inflation by congress if the moderate Roosevelt gold-trading policy fails to work.

Those who are viewing with greatest alarm and those who are most active in trying to break down the President's policy, apparently fail to sense the real situation. They fail to see that extreme currency inflation probably can not be prevented by any other process than a policy between now and the convening of congress which will so improve conditions as to take the wind out of the sails of the printing-press advocates.

Critics of the President talk as though he were operating in protected academic groves far from the hard realities of the nation's worse depression and the mass discontent caused by suffering. They talk in awed tones of the gold standard as though it had produced lasting prosperity.

If the bankers and orthodox economists are right, how does it happen that their precious gold system helped to drag us down to depression and helped to keep us there during almost four years? It was not the Roosevelt monetary policy that brought us low. It was not the Roosevelt monetary policy that broke the banks, threw millions of unemployed workers on the streets, bankrupted agriculture, and destroyed American confidence and hope. All that happened under the system to which they now wish us to return as a thing of perfection.

President Roosevelt is trying to avoid two extremes. One, the extreme of gold slavery which doubled the value of the March, 1933, dollar in terms of 1926 purchasing power, which prevented debtors from paying their debts and which depressed prices to disastrous levels. The other extreme is uncontrolled inflation of the printing-press type. While the critics are calling the President names for his restrained efforts to reflate the dollar to a real sound money level, they ignore the fact that continued deflation would almost inevitably swing the country to support of the printing-press panacea.

The President should be getting the support rather than the opposition of those who fear extreme inflation.

KNOXVILLE WINS

KNOXVILLE stood today as the first large city to take advantage of the concrete benefits of the Roosevelt administration's new deal in power in the Tennessee river valley.

Proving its desire to co-operate with the President and the Tennessee valley authority he helped to create, Knoxville has approved by a two-to-one vote a large bond issue, the proceeds of which will be used to construct a municipal power distribution system. Its domestic consumers, its commercial and industrial consumers, will buy TVA power generated at Muscle Shoals at rates far below those charged by private interests.

Application of the new deal's power yardstick to Knoxville eventually should benefit consumers if other cities where rates are too high.

NO CRIMINAL DRIVE

THE federal and state governments now are co-operating in preparation for a concerted drive on the criminal elements of the country. This is highly commendable. Any form of anti-social activity which costs around \$15,000,000 a year is too expensive a luxury for the American people in these times. Yet we need to bear in mind the cogent observation of Mr. Wickersham that society's crimes against the criminal class have in the past far overshadowed the degradations of the criminals on society. If we plan to move against the criminals, we should at least see

to it that we are not ourselves guilty of criminal tactics.

Most relevant here is the notorious third degree, the prevalence of which was proved amply by the Wickersham report and by the notable book of Mr. Ernest Jerome Hopkins on "Our Lawless Police." If they feel that they are backed by a semi-military movement, our police likely are to become even more irresponsible in the brutalities they employ against criminals. They will be more likely than ever to invoke what they call "the war theory of repressing crime."

Therefore, the American Civil Liberties Union has rendered a particularly timely service in its definitive recommendation as to ways and means of abating the third degree nuisance. The union thus defines the third degree:

"Any form of physical or mental suffering in extracting confessions from prisoners. Whether this is accompanied by physical assaults, starvation, constantly being kept awake by protracted questioning is unimportant. All these methods violate constitutional guarantees against self-incrimination, as well as other laws."

The core of the union's recommendations constitutes five specific measures which can be put into immediate effect in any community without waiting for specific state legislation on the subject. These measures are the following:

1. Doctor's reports should be made at police stations on the physical condition of each prisoner on arrest.

2. Detention of prisoners in large cities should be outside the control of the police department.

3. Exact reports should be filed as to the time of arrest, of arrival at the station house and of all other steps in handling a prisoner.

4. Arrests should be made only after sworn police statements charging specific offenses, thus forcing the gathering of evidence before arrest.

5. An official stenographer should be present at all examinations of prisoners.

In addition, the American Civil Liberties Union advocates new state laws where the desirable protection is not provided already. State legislation should demand the arraignment of a prisoner before a magistrate just as soon as arrested. While such a law may be evaded easily, it provides the basis for the later prosecution of lawless officials.

The union does not, however, recommend a law to make confessions inadmissible as evidence. Confessions often are desirable socially when obtained by the police without coercion.

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R. Stanley Dollar, his son and successor, sits before the senate investigating committee. He is surrounded by lawyers, experts and assistants. The story Senator Hugo Black draws from his is not romantic. Yes, he had bought from the United States shipping board for \$550,000 each seven vessels that the board's secretary estimated were worth \$750,000. He charged his own concern a commission of \$192,500, with 6 per cent interest on deferred payments. To spread the "risk" of a round-the-world steamer service he formed a syndicate of favored Pacific coast capitalists. The "risk" netted them \$3,000,000, plus big slices of A stock, although they had not put up a penny. The company collects a big dose from the government in mail subsidies.

Recognizing that public opinion is the indispensable background of all successful campaigns against the third degree, the union recommends alertness upon the part of decent citizens in every local community to ascertain the existence of the third degree and to combat its continuance.

Neither the American Civil Liberties Union nor any sensible citizen will wish to do anything to obstruct the success of the police in repressing the crime menace. But it has been proved over and over again that the third degree is not necessary to the successful handling of criminals.

The large American cities which already have abolished the third degree stand in the forefront in their record as to the abatement of crime. Likewise, Canada and European countries, which have a far better record than the United States in repressing crime, do not employ the third degree. Finally, the third degree rarely is applied to the more serious offenders in the United States. It usually is reserved for the small fry, many of whom are more likely to be charity cases than real criminal types.

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the world a great economic boost. Not even China and Hong Kong would be aided greatly by remonetization or by the increased price of silver.

A country's purchasing power is not measured by the world value of its medium of exchange. Actually, China imports much more silver than she exports. She is the largest silver purchasing nation in the world and pays for this silver through her exports. Any marked rise in the price of silver would operate to China's disadvantage as a large importer of silver and would thus counteract other advantages which might inhere in an advance in silver prices.

No great benefits would come from increasing the volume of money in the United States as the result of remonetizing silver. There is more gold in this country today available for monetary use than there was in 1929. Likewise, there seems to be no great need for more silver dollars. At the beginning of September, 1933, there were some \$40,000,000 coined silver dollars in this country, but only 28,000,000 were in circulation outside the treasury, and most of these 28,000,000 were calmly resting in the tills of the banks. What we need is not more money, but a rapid circulation of such money as we have. The problem is not so much the volume as the velocity of money.

Those who would gain by the remonetization of silver or by any other policy designed to increase the price of silver would be the silver-producing countries, particularly Mexico, the United States and Canada, which turn out some 65 per cent of the mined silver of the world.

American capital controls some 66 per cent of the mined output of silver in the world and some 73 per cent of the refinery product of silver. Yet, in the United States, silver production is not relatively a matter of great importance. Even in the very prosperous year, 1929, the silver we produced was worth much less than our peanut crop or our salmon catch.

Only the gold pirates and those who have been scared by them want to deny to the silver interests just treatment by the present administration. But it will get us nowhere to base the cause of silver upon pretensions and promises which border upon the preposterous.

FATHER AND SON

WHAT has happened to the House of Dollar illustrates the change that has come over the spirit of American industry.

The founder of this great Pacific shipping concern was the late Robert Dollar, hero of Peter Kyne's "Cappy Ricks." This Dollar went to work as camp cook's helper at the age of 11, learned to "fitter" on birch bark with a nail, pioneered in timber, launched a tiny steamer to trade with China and died a multimillionaire master of fifty ships. He never asked or gave quarter to government.

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