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THE AIR MAIL CONTRACTS

If the new air mail contracts go to the low bidders two of the three major companies—reorganized—will get back most of their old lines.

The government will save money because most of the rates are much lower.

But before the public rejoices over that fact it will wish to be assured that the service does not suffer, especially in safety. The government must see to that. Inspection should be more rigid than ever.

There also is the matter of pilots' pay. They never have received compensation commensurate with their training and fidelity to duty. Since the tragic experience of army aviators without adequate training for this particular work there is more general appreciation of the regular mail pilots.

It is to be hoped that no further shifts in contracts will be necessary until next winter, when congress can enact permanent legislation on the basis of recommendations of the President's proposed nonpolitical commission. The unwillingness of forcing a second set of temporary contracts under the pending legislation has been pointed out repeatedly. Now that the administration is going ahead with the Farley contracts, they need not be duplicated by new temporary congressional bidding terms.

Apparently the administration has come around to this decision.

GOOD WORK

THE report on the first full year's activities of the civilian conservation corps makes interesting reading. Upward of 600,000 young men have been given jobs, substantial reductions in fire losses on the public domain have been made, some millions of young trees have been set out, and other work of direct monetary value to the nation accomplished.

All this has cost us just \$255,000,000—fully two-thirds of which, it is estimated, flowed directly into the channels of industry, commerce and agriculture.

This makes a fine record of achievement; and it leads one to wonder anew if this C. C. C. couldn't profitably be made a permanent institution. To be sure, \$255,000,000 a year is a good deal of money for a regular item on the national budget.

But there is every reason to believe that it is money well spent—from every angle.

REPEAL LYNCH LAW

THE issue of law against barbarism is placed squarely before congress in two printed volumes of testimony taken at committee hearings on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

The revolting disclosures in this testimony should convince the most ardent states' righter that federal action is needed if this country ever is to repeal lynch law. They also reveal that mob law is confined to no particular section, nor are its victims confined to one race or sex.

Obviously Mr. Roosevelt must exert his influence in the senate if the Roosevelt reform is to be accomplished.

The President and Mr. Farley both have been embarrassed in the present air mail controversy because it was the Democratic national chairman who, as postmaster-general, canceled the contracts. Whatever the other pros and cons of that controversy, it is certain that less criticism of a political nature would have resulted if the postmaster-general had been solely that, and not also head of the party in the nation and in New York.

much was said about the failure of the army fliers.

They had to start in, cold, on a new and rather bewildering job, their machines quite naturally lacked the equipment the mail planes had, and the weather that greeted them was the worst in years.

When all that has been said, however, it remains pretty clear that the army air corps did less well than the nation had a right to expect. Needless to say, this was not due to any failure of nerve on the part of the fliers themselves—they added new records of heroism to the history of the air corps.

It seems rather to have been due to some defect in training and equipment of the corps as a whole.

Now we don't maintain an army air corps as a spectacular and inspiring sideshow. It is an integral part of our national defense; if it isn't as strong as it should be, our national defense is weak at a vital point.

A dispatch from Europe the other day pointed out that it is the existence of the Russian air force which has probably prevented war between Russia and Japan.

The Russian air force is about the strongest on earth, right now; approximately 700 fighting planes are understood to be concentrated in the Far East, within striking distance of Japan, and it is said that their presence has been the principal deterrent against a Japanese offensive in that territory.

That gives you an idea of the importance of the air corps.

The efficiency of our air force has been called in question by the air mail episode. It is encouraging to know that a committee is preparing to investigate the matter thoroughly, so that the next congress can take whatever action may be needed.

MODELS OF SERVICE

DR. R. A. MILLIKAN, famous scientist, took occasion in a speech at Little Rock, Ark., the other day to pay tribute to the men who operate the nation's filling stations—and said publicly something that a great many motorists have already said privately.

Filling station employees, says the great physicist, "have improved the manners and the courtesy and the consideration of the American public more than all the colleges in the country."

It is doubtful if there is a motorist in the land who would not indorse that statement. Few men anywhere show such unvarying politeness, helpfulness and efficient good nature as does the man who handles the gasoline pump. It's time he got a bow or two.

LOBBYING OFFICIALS

HEALTHFUL reforms in politics are hard to win.

President Roosevelt spoke courageously about taking party politicians out of the lobbying trade in Washington. Several Democratic national committeemen resigned their party jobs to avoid the appearance of exerting back-door influence at government departments. Several bills were introduced in congress to divorce, as far as may be, the Democratic party's politics from the operations of the national labor board.

Yet, this week when Senator Borah tried to call up his bill that would prohibit senator-lawyers from being used by persons or corporations pushing claims before the government, it was only the vote of Vice-President Garner that broke the tie and permitted the measure to be laid before the senate. Even then filibustering senators delayed final action. In that vote, seventeen Democratic senators voted to take up the Borah bill, twenty-one voted against it, and twenty-two did not vote at all.

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Capital Capers

BY GEORGE ABELL

WHITE-MUSTACHED, cultured Ahmed Muhtar, ambassador of Turkey and dean of Washington diplomats, departed day before yesterday for home to become a member of the Turkish parliament.

Scores of friends were at the station to see him off. The train platform was jammed with ambassadors, ministers, charge d'affaires and lesser diplomatic luminaries.

In the pale sunshine, Ambassador Muhtar, dressed in green, wearing pearl-gray spats, a silk handkerchief peeping from his coat pocket, looked, as always, distinguished—but sad.

"Ne m'oubliez pas!" (Don't forget me!) he kept repeating in French.

To one man who said to him: "No ambassador can ever replace you," tactful Muhtar quickly rejoined:

"My successor is a splendid gentleman!"

Hats were raised aloft, arms were waved, as the train drew out, Muhtar standing on the steps of the Pullman. The last thing one saw was his pearl-gray spats.

MEET THE DIPLOMATS

THE state department's action in announcing its strong disapproval of the enrollment of United States aviators for war service in Colombia is perfectly understandable.

A good way of getting embroiled in the troubles of neighboring nations is to permit your citizens to take a prominent part in the fighting which those troubles cause.

The United States government, of course, never can be held responsible if individual Americans hire out to fight for warring factions in Latin-America; nevertheless, the fact that they do so helps to color Latin-America's notion of interference by the "Colossus of the North."

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ON THE WAY UP

ONE of the brightest spots in the business picture right now is being contributed by the department stores. During March there was a record-breaking 44 per cent gain in the nation's department store sales, and there are excellent reasons for believing that this reflects a substantial rise in the general level of prosperity.

The gain is coming hand in hand with a rise in national income. Figures compiled by the American Federation of Labor show that the workers' total income has risen 41 per cent in the past year—from \$1,784,000,000 in March, 1933, to \$2,520,000,000 in March, 1934.

These figures indicate pretty conclusively that the nation is rapidly gaining health. People have more money to spend, and they are spending it. The industrial pump is getting primed at last; the pickup ought to go forward now rapidly.

AIR FORCE PROBE

PERMANENT solution of the air mail tangle will apparently be left for the next congress. Considering the complexity of the situation—the charges arising from the old regime and the accidents common to the new one—this is just as well, for the whole affair needs more study and discussion than the present congress can give it.

But there is another angle to the thing which ought not to be postponed too long. That is the little matter of finding out just what, if anything, is wrong with our army air service.

Now that the first heat of passion engendered by cancellation of the mail contracts has cooled a little, it is easy to see that too

Liberal Viewpoint

BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

A BITTER fight on the Wagner labor disputes bill is being waged by the leading American industrialists and their organizations.

The shock troops of reaction are headed up by the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce. The chamber of commerce, for example, has denounced the bill as an effort "to promote the organization of labor, to put an end to the open shop, to set up a series of prohibitions against employers, and to grant to federal agents broad inquisitorial powers to go into the affairs of every person who employs any other person, even in domestic service."

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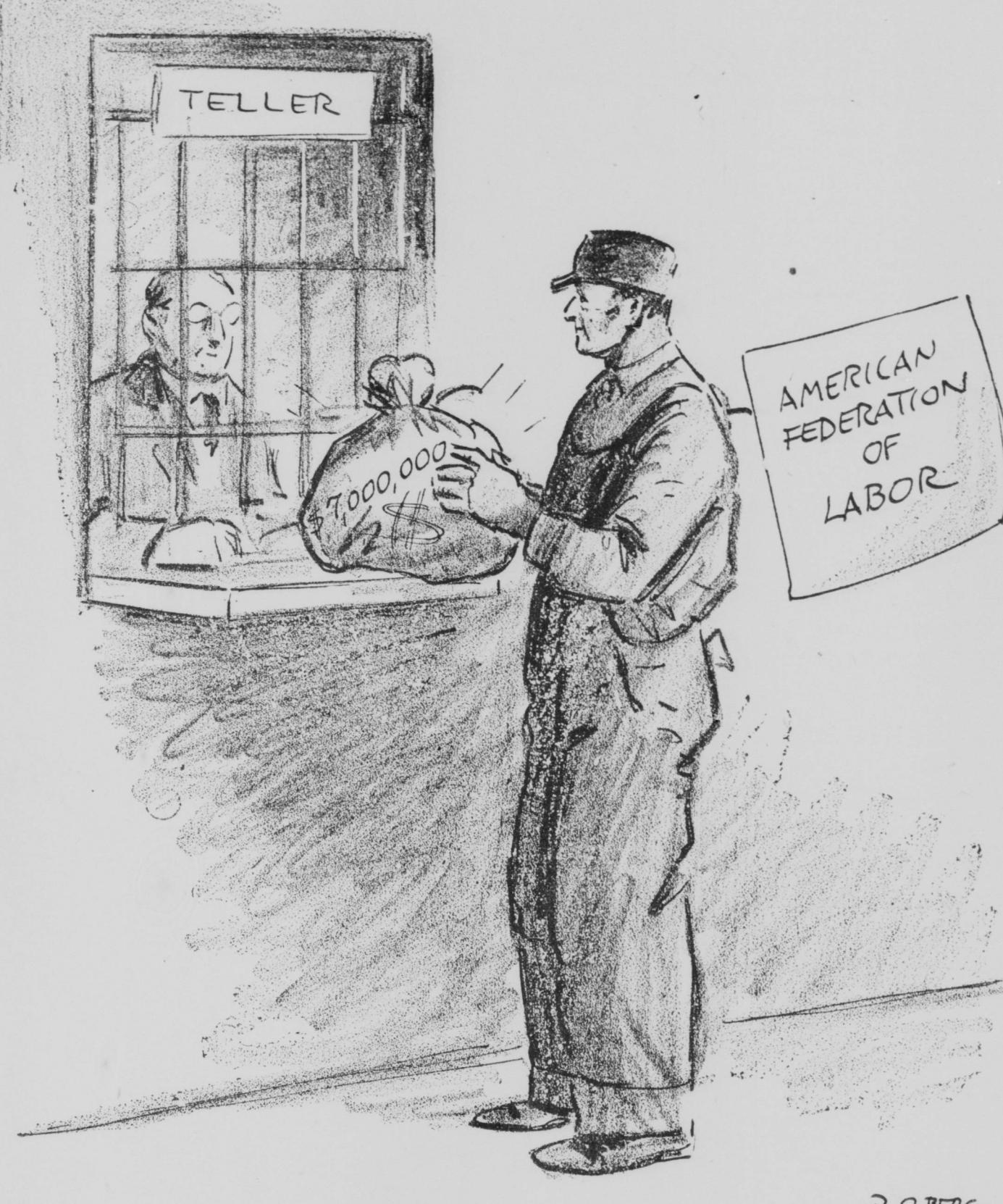
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ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST DEPOSITORS



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.)

"A CITIZEN," HE'S TELLING YOU

By E. S. Wortman

In answer to "A Citizen" writing in your Message Center on "Return to same living and solve all your problems":

I wonder if this fellow is really a citizen or a backwoodsman who just came in on a visit and thinks radios, automobiles and washing machines are luxuries. Don't you suppose electric lights were rather hard on him for awhile?

He probably jumps in his trusty old coat and goes down to the creek to watch his wife do her washing. When he wants music, he listens to the wind singing through the trees and underbrush.

This citizen must be one of two kinds—one who has never tried to just live or one who has everything in the world himself but wants to tell the average class all the things they can be satisfied without.

THE COST OF ALPHABET

MADE TARGET

By C. R. Edwards

Mr. Thummel seems to think that he represents the majority of the public, to hear him rant. Why go back to Rome and Nero's fiddle to find something to blame on Roosevelt? Just let these words filter through that nimble brain. Mr. Thummel, and other Economy League adherents:

"A Bill to Preserve the Credit of the United States and to Balance the U. S. Budget?" What does that imply? That the 465 millions of dollars that the federal government was paying the war veterans and postoffice employees which were stolen from them by the so-called "Economy Act" mentioned above, was putting the credit of the U. S. treasury in jeopardy.

How could that be the case when a few months later the alphabet factory started to put out a few hundred millions here and a few billions there?

Surely the budget must of been made of rubber to have taken care of fifteen billions, when by the government's own figures only 260 millions was the amount finally taken from the veterans and postoffice employees.

And, Dear Mr. Thummel, please don't quote the American Legion speech of President Roosevelt at Chicago, for that only goes one point farther to prove what degree of appreciation he holds the American soldier who offered his life on the battlefields to keep the home fires burning for the "brain trust," the Economy League and quite some few of the ex-national commanders of the American Legion, who have sold out their comrades as recorded as in the Congressional Record.

In his veto message he made his sentiments plain when he said in substance, "It isn't the money outlay, but the principle involved."

That put him on record as being on a par with the Economy League.

Wouldn't it be just for the disabled veteran and his dependents to share the benefits dispensed by the federal government as well as the farmers who are paid so much an acre to let their little pigs, and to curtail the production of swine?

Women, according to one dispatch, "fought, scratched, and pulled hair, attempting to reach the entrance. Friends and neighbors of the dead baby's family were shoved to the rear."

She forgot one. The German ambassador, Hans Luther, was nowhere to be seen.

THE DIPLOMATS

WERE PRESENT IN MASS

TO SAY GOOD-BYE

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