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People Will Find
Their Own Way

FRIDAY, AUG. 10, 1934.

NO ROOSEVELT RETREAT

THE President's notable address at Green Bay, Wis., was not his first statement that there is to be no retreat from the New Deal.

It was especially significant, however. It went further than earlier statements and was made on the eve of the national congressional campaign.

Moreover, the President acted on his New Deal pledge by helping Senator La Follette, the most effective leader of the New Deal forces in congress before, as well as since, the President took office. A reactionary Democratic Wisconsin machine, with the reported approval of National Chairman Farley, has been trying to defeat La Follette for re-election.

If actions speak louder than words, the President's support of Senator La Follette is a further commitment to a progressive political and economic program.

As for the President's method at Green Bay in answering critics of the administration policy, it seemed to us most effective. He told of two typical letters begging him to say something to restore national confidence. He replied by asking, "What would you like to have me say?" One could not answer. The other said honestly that he wanted the President to cease all government supervision of business. That is precisely what most critics of the New Deal want, even though not all of them are frank enough to admit it to themselves or others. What would such a retreat mean? Certainly not confidence and prosperity, but chaos. It would mean, as the President was careful to specify:

"That a utility could henceforth charge any rate, reasonable or otherwise; that the railroads could go back to rebates and other secret agreements; that the processors of food-stuffs could disregard all rules of health and of good faith; that the unregulated wildcat banking of a century ago could be restored; that fraudulent securities and watered stock could be palmed off on the public; that stock manipulation which caused panics and enriched insiders could go unchecked. In fact, if we were to listen to him, the old law of the tooth and the claw would reign once more."

Then the President made a declaration which is much more important than what Mr. Roosevelt thinks about this issue or is going to do about it. He pointed to a fact which the conservative critics never seem to take into their calculation:

"The people of the United States will not restore that ancient order."

THE MAGIC METAL

WE can not begrudge the silver advocates their joy over nationalization of the white metal. As usual, they think the government has not gone far enough, but, also as usual, they say this newest monetary move will speed us along toward better times.

At each inflationary whirl, they have said the same. And each time we have waited not too patiently for our problems to disappear and prosperity to return.

Senator Elmer Thomas says this latest move is "the beginning of a new world monetary system." Uninspired by the money dogma, we confess we are more doubtful than Senator Thomas. We hope he is right, for we agree it would be a fine thing to hasten an international monetary agreement. Indeed, a world compact seems to us to offer the surest road to stability.

It may be that the action of our government in taking silver off the market and giving it a fixed value in terms of American dollars will tend to stabilize the price of silver elsewhere, and thereby give to the nations that have no gold a metal of more or less stable value. And it may pave the way to a world agreement. But that prospect is very hazy.

At least, and maybe at most, the nationalization of domestic silver, by taking it out of the hands of the speculators, should help our government to carry out the purposes of the silver purchase act in an orderly manner. But failure to nationalize imports may create new difficulties—nobody knows.

Thus far there is nothing to indicate that the administration intends to try, by political alchemy, to transmute silver into money of greater value than the forces of world economics will permit.

HOPE TURNS WEST

WETHER that glittering vision of a million and a quarter Americans migrating from impoverished farm lands in the east and middle west and settling on reclaimed land in the Grand Coulee region ever comes true or not, it at least revives the age-old American habit of looking to the west.

The picture is a little confusing, at first glance. It involves more of an effort to assert human control over natural forces than has ever been made in this country before.

Pulling enough people to populate a fair-sized state off to wornout lands where they have struggled to establish themselves, turning a desert a thousand miles away into fertile farm land and then transplanting these people to it en masse—here is a spectacle and ambitious program indeed.

It is so ambitious, indeed, that it may prove impractical. But it does furnish an emotional fit of a kind that is badly needed in these days.

The optimism and drive of the American spirit owed much to the existence of the open west. The west always was the American's ace in the hole; the chance to drop everything, head toward the setting sun and start things over in a new land was the one card

he could always use when everything else went bad.

But the west filled up. Its rich natural resources were all tapped, its homesteads were all pre-empted, and its horizon lost its allure. One reason why the recent depression was more upsetting than any of its predecessors was the fact that this western escape was no longer open.

Now, out of a clear sky, comes a revival of the western promise—new land, new homes, and a new start. It is like a rebirth of pioneer days; and it has an emotional importance that does not depend on the workability of the particular scheme involved.

It reminds us that our task of utilizing this great continent we inhabit only has begun. The job of building America is not ended, after all; it simply has passed through its first phase.

There is still much work to be done, there is still an abundance of opportunity, there is still a challenge to an energetic and restless race of people—in the west, in the east, everywhere.

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Here is, indeed, tragedy.

Mooney's lawyers are asking California's new Governor Merriam for a pardon, and are appealing for their writ directly to the United States supreme court. If California courts have no remedies the Governor or the federal courts should have.

A GAY DEBUNKER

COLONEL JOHN PHILIP HILL, pioneer in the movement to end prohibition by ridicule, is bidding for a seat in the United States senate. The Maryland cavalier has pinned to return to public life since he fell victim of the political circumstance that the Democrats were the free state's wet party the year of prohibition's doom.

It was John Philip who declared his Baltimore city residence to be a "farm," claiming thereby the legal right to make hard cider.

In his back yard, before the eyes of an invited multitude, he plucked apples that he had tied by strings to shade trees and crushed them in a cider press.

Then, to prove that prohibition had not repealed the law of fermentation, he announced publicly each day the reading on the cider gauge that measured the rise of alcoholic content. When fermentation had ceased, John Philip again invited the multitude to come and partake.

A gay debunker is John Philip. While he probably will not repeal the law of averages, which foretell election of a Democratic senator in Maryland this year, he is certain to make the campaign entertaining.

ALL OUT OF STEP BUT WIRT

WHAT Dr. Wirt called "communism," Henry L. Harriman, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, now describes as "the most fundamental and far-reaching movement under way today." Which goes to prove that there is a difference between blind and enlightened conservatism.

Both were speaking of the subsistence homesteads sponsored by the Roosevelt administration. Both had in mind particularly the original project at Reedsville, W. Va., where 200 families of stranded coal miners are being aided by the government to get comfortable homes and earn a living.

Both men want to preserve the present economic system. Dr. Wirt would do it, apparently, by letting potential enemies of the system starve. Mr. Harriman would do it by converting potential enemies into friends. The phrases, slogans and promises have been almost unique for cogency and allurement. They have admirably described what needs to be done.

BUT this very facility carries with it responsibility which can not be taken lightly. The administration is in danger of piling up altogether too many inspiring commitments to the American people which it can not or never will fulfill.

For example, we have been told that the money changers would be driven from the temple; that the New Deal was to usher in a capitalistic system devoted to the interest of the consumers rather than the producers; that unemployment would be cut and wages raised;

that we would have a planned economy designed to share the bounties of our resources and productive efficiency with the mass of the people; and that the right of collective bargaining would be absolutely guaranteed in order to help the era of consumers' capitalism.

Moreover, just before congress disbanded Mr. Roosevelt made perhaps the most expansive of all his promises, namely, that he and his party would guarantee to every normal American a home, a job, and the advantages of social insurance.

Not a major promise of the administration has been carried out with real success. The closest approximation has been in the case of the planned economy, but both the NRA and the AAA are committed to the economy of scarcity which Mr. Roosevelt once repudiated.

About the only planning which the American industrialists seem likely to accept in connection with the NRA is that which will enable them more effectively to exploit the consumers.

THE MOON'S MUSIC

OUT on the wastes of the Atlantic, challenging the westerly trade winds and the Sargasso sea, bobs the ten-foot sailboat of young Alfred Lastinger, seaman, heading from Florida for Spain.

It is staking his life on the sporting venture of retracing the route of Columbus, who left Spain about this time of year. He is heading northwest as this season's Caribbean hurricanes threaten to send him down into one of the world's deepest ocean pits.

Another daring fellow, Will Beebe, is preparing at Bermuda to drop a half-mile down in that same sea, in a great steel ball, three inches

thick, will enable him to see, and his partner to photograph, the unknowable denizens of the lower depths.

It is a fine thing for us stay-at-homes that these adventurers continue to gamble their lives in new frontiers, be it for sport or science. Most of us have to be content with merely clinging to life.

The adventurers' tribe is the most poignant of this earth's races. James Branch Cabell once wrote an allegory on the universal quest of mankind for what he called "The Music From Behind the Moon"—the meaning of this existence of ours.

The lone travelers to the strange places of the earth seem to have a deeper urge than most of us to explore themselves as well as the terrestrial globe. May they find the moon's music, peace, and a clew to some of the riddle of life.

Good luck to you, Alfred and Will!

A LESSON FOR AMERICA

PARISIAN motorists drive fast, when they head out for the open country. On the way they pass through the suburb of Cachan—and, like motorists everywhere, they are a little forgetful about slowing down. In the last six months the little town has had twenty-eight motor traffic fatalities.

So the other day the people of Cachan decided things had gone far enough. They turned out en masse and blocked the whole highway, shouting: "We do not want any more of our children killed. We do not pay taxes to provide a pasture for automobiles."

Eventually the authorities got the road open, of course. But they did assign a police squad to see that traffic through Cachan proceeds at a safe pace.

And it seems to us that the people of Cachan had a good idea. They refused to accept the traffic toll placidly, as an inescapable misfortune; instead they got up on their hind legs and did something about it—and, as a result, they got some of the protection they needed. It could be done elsewhere.

Another group of convicts fled Indiana state prison after making dummies and putting them in their beds. But why did they go to all the trouble when plenty of guards were available for that purpose.

Wonder how Alfalfa Bill Murray plans to pass away the time after he leaves office, with no militia to call out.

Liberal Viewpoint

BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT expressed splendid sentiments and commendable economies in his speech at the Coulee dam in Washington. There is no more promising way of enabling the mass of Americans to benefit by modern scientific discoveries and inventions than to make it possible for them to use electric light and power at prices which are fair and just and all concerned. President Roosevelt's statement on this subject left little to be desired as a summary of the conditions which should exist.

"We are going to see, I believe, with our own eyes, electricity and power made so cheap that they will become a standard article of use, not only for agriculture and manufacturing, but also for every home within reach of an electric light line.

The experiences of those sections of the world that have cheap power proves very conclusively that the cheaper the power the more of it is used—the more of it is used in home and small businesses."

All this is very commendable, but it is an extremely sizable commitment which ought not to be taken too lightly. Its implications should be considered carefully by the President. If he has no intention of making any serious effort to carry out such an alluring premise, it would be better to leave it unsaid. If he does hope to bring about its realization, it will be well for him to recognize that a much more desperate battle lies ahead than the one he had to fight to bring about even limited regulation of the New York Stock Exchange.

THAT such a prospect as Mr. Roosevelt holds out in no sense but merely day dreaming is amply proved by the example of Canada. There is no state-owned and controlled Ontario hydro electric authority that does supply electric current to the market at rates which make its use practicable in every avenue which thus far has been opened up to electricity by invention. Power is generated for the people and

In this country it is a bird of a different color. In any effort to provide electric current for the mass of Americans at a just and decent figure, Mr. Roosevelt will run headlong into the same coterie of financial moguls who have blocked him all along the way.

This power pronouncement illustrates a very grave danger which faces the Roosevelt administration in the not distant future. The President and his advisers are to be praised highly for their vision and for their inventiveness in putting into words the tasks which must be fulfilled if we are to have any return of economic prosperity. Power is generated for the people and

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