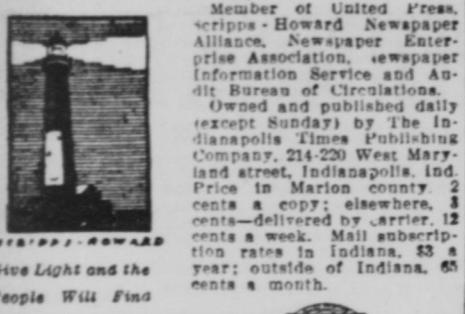


## The Indianapolis Times

(A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER)

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MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1934.

## THE MORRO CASTLE

THE sea still is master. All the wisdom and ingenuity of the human mind went into the building of the Morro Castle. Yet the sea struck with casual cruelty and within an hour or two licked out the lives of more than a hundred people.

Eight miles away on the Jersey shore civilization, with its electric lights, its wireless, its airplanes and all its complex devices, watched helplessly while flames and a smashing nor'easter ate their fill.

Old seamen have charged in the past that modern crews have come to depend too much on the radio, too little on skill and courage. There is no evidence that this theory is true in the Morro Castle holocaust.

Acting Captain Warms and his subordinates stood by the vessel until she was beached with her hot deck plates buckling under their feet.

While the real cause of the disaster remains to be determined by official investigation one lesson may be learned from it.

The method of launching lifeboats on modern vessels is clumsy and dangerous. The system has not changed since the days of Sir Francis Drake and Magellan.

Boats perched on the highest deck to be swung sixty feet to the sea by awkward davits and rope tackle again and again have proved frail devices for rescue. In sailing ship days vessels did not have the high freeboard they have today and lifeboats needed to be dropped only a few feet.

In the Vestrus disaster the ship listed so rapidly that the boats nested along one side could not be launched at all. In the Morro Castle holocaust a wall of flame blocked the passengers from the boat deck and blazing embers burned the hempen falls of the lifeboats.

Four of the Morro Castle boats never got away and the others cleared the burning ship with great hazard and difficulty. No matter how well trained a crew is, the launching of lifeboats from a lofty deck always is accompanied by confusion and delay. Tackles jam, ropes break and boats capsize.

It would seem that the inventive genius of man could devise some better method than this for life saving at sea. Meanwhile the human race still should approach its ancient enemy—the ocean—with humility. That "old dawlin sea" is not yet conquered.

## THE COMING BOOM

FROM far across the waters comes a voice of calm assurance. Speaking with perspective, it tells America to keep its shirt on.

Major L. L. B. Angas is a financial expert, and a London financial expert, at that—which in itself gives him class. Furthermore, he is looked up to with what amounts to deference, set only in the financial citadel that is London, but also in Wall Street. The reason for this is that he frequently has called the turn.

His "Coming Collapse in Rubber," "Coming Rise in Gold Shares," "Coming (English) Boom," are examples of predictions that have not been fulfilled.

"Rebuilding," he says, "applies this year not only to houses, skyscrapers, bridges and factories, but to broken homes, scattered families, hunger-wounded bodies and the shattered hopes and dreams of America."

The human wreckage wrought by the depression is a challenge.

The people's health is hard hit by five years of hard times. A study by the Milbank fund reveals 48 per cent more illness among families of the unemployed than among others.

The charity wards, clinics, nursing services must have extra help.

Children are suffering unusual burdens as the result of broken homes. It is estimated that one-fifth of all pre-school children, whether on relief or not, are undernourished; and one-third are physically or mentally handicapped. Care for these orphaned, handicapped, malnourished little folks is tragically inadequate.

Young people forced into sudden idleness need more provision for recreation, training and self-help. It is said that two-thirds of all arrests now involve persons between 15 and 24.

"This is our opportunity as private citizens and as members of our local communities," says Chairman Baker, "to register our belief in America's future and the willingness to assume our share in rebuilding its citizenry."

Through it, banks can be made to bulge with unloaned funds, until an expansion of credit is forced and an industrial revival started; or, conversely, credit can be contracted by the same authority.

What Major Angas describes as the "flash point" never has been reached since the depression started, despite the employment in a large way of this method in the last months of the Hoover administration. Private bankers, eager for liquidity in that time of stress, sat on the money as it came in and on the credit as it was created.

Major Angas shows how President Roosevelt, through his vast authorization to spend for government account, has a force that Mr. Hoover never possessed to make successful the program Mr. Hoover tried to create the "flash." So, the Major says, despite the rises and falls that have been occurring in the general business graph, we are inevitably headed not merely for a revival of business activity, but for an actual boom, and a dangerous boom if the brakes of contraction are not applied in time.

That, as the major sees it, is the "constant underlying theme." Strikes and other troubles are merely the wavelets on the surface of a great groundswell. Those who are "viewing with alarm" are those of little faith. Behind the clouds the sun is shining hotly, and about to break through. Such are the conclusions of the Britisher as he looks at us through his inverted telescope.

He may be wrong, and then again he may be right. At least he is interesting and refreshing. And, anyway, as "The New Yorker" says, "The Great American Boom" is running neck and neck as a best seller with "While Rome Burns."

We suggest that you read what the Major has to say.

## SCHOOL AND SAFETY

SEVENTY THOUSAND children returned to Indianapolis public and parochial schools today.

Among those thousands are hundreds who are starting school for the first time and who never have had the experience of battling traffic and who do not realize the dangers that lurk outside their homes and yards.

Therefore the responsibility of protecting the lives of these hundreds and also the other thousands rests directly with the motorists of Indianapolis.

Faced with this problem, it behoves motorists to drive more carefully and assure these children that their schools days will not be marred by tragedy.

## MORE THAN BREAD

THE National Citizens' Committee of the 1934 Mobilization for Human Needs, as announced today by Chairman Newton D. Baker, is more than just another organization with a long name. It is America's social conscience astir to answer the mute call of millions of needy and suffering.

That the government is spending billions for hunger relief should not lull the well-fed into complacency. Relief doles average only \$24 a month for each family, hardly enough to keep body and soul together. The other needs, such as medical care and recreation, must be provided by other than official agencies. This is why every city this fall and winter will stage a Community Chest drive, why the nation's welfare workers will meet in Washington this month to mass their forces and unify their efforts.

Mr. Baker announces that the 1934 slogan will be: "Rebuild."

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## ARBITRATE THE STRIKE!

WITH men being killed, an entire industry tied up, and threats of more violence on all sides, arbitration is the only road to a peaceful settlement of the nation-wide textile strike.

Foreseeing such a catastrophe as now has befallen this industry, the national labor relations board made belated mediation efforts on the eve of the strike, but the employers refused to sit at a conference table. After the strike began, President Roosevelt foresaw the necessity of arbitration by naming the special fact-finding board and giving it arbitral powers.

Now the union, after initial wild talk, has proposed that the President's board arbitrate and has agreed to abide by its findings. The employers, through Mr. Sloan's statement last night, seem to be trying to block arbitration, though he is to discuss the matter with the board today.

One of the arbitration conditions laid down by Mr. Gorman, chairman of the strike committee, seems definitely out of place. He proposes that, pending the arbitration findings, all mills in the industry remain closed with strikers guarding the mills against damage. We fail to see how the workers, the industry, or the public could profit by any such prolongation of textile idleness.

If both parties to the dispute promise in advance to abide by the board's settlement, the mills will have to reopen at the time of the settlement regardless of whether either side is entirely satisfied with the details of the decision.

As an evidence of good faith and in the larger public interest, both sides should accept binding arbitration and resume operation of the mills at once.

Liberal Viewpoint  
BY DR. HARRY ELMER BARNES

THAT the American business man is the victim of ignorance, rather than a servant of the devil, is the sensible contention of Mr. John L. Spivak in an article in the "American Mercury" entitled "Business Men Are Bewildered."

Our business men would like to see prosperity returned for all. But most of them are woefully incapable of visualizing what is necessary to bring about this result. They are prevented by their apparent immediate self-interest from recognizing their actual self-interest when viewed in broad perspective.

They know that their own immediate profits are increased by curtailing costs, including wage payments. Hence, they find it difficult to accept the fact that they can sell goods only when wages are high enough to insure vigorous purchasing power.

Their conduct is not so much the product of overt devilishness as of confusion and near-sightedness. Mr. Spivak puts the matter fairly and clearly when he says that:

"The average business man is well-meaning, earnest, eager to do what he can for his business, his community and his country."

"The American business man sometimes knows his immediate business, but of the world at large he is generally abysmally ignorant."

He has seldom troubled himself to understand the economic system under which he operates, and now that the very ground upon which he built up his business is crumbling under him, he is utterly bewildered," writes Mr. Spivak.

"Men whose fingers touch every artery of their business, who know every inch of their factories, have only vague ideas of what is occurring in other factories, even in their own field. On questions affecting their industry in relation to other industries they are at an utter loss."

"The business man, nurtured on cut-throat competition in the struggle for immediate profits, does not realize that the price of wheat in the Argentine affects the price of shoes in Nebraska."

The confusion in which American business men flounder is exemplified by representative answers which they gave to Mr. Spivak as to the causes of the depression:

"The country's in this mess because there's not enough money in circulation."

"It's because of watered stock. These brokers would sell ten cents worth of stock for \$50. Then all the money concentrates in the hands of a few men. That's what started the depression."

"It started because manufacturers built more and more factories during the boom days."

A CONSIDERABLE section of American business is hostile to the New Deal because the President seems to be spending a lot of money or to be helping the cause of labor unionism. To the business man, this means merely higher taxes and higher wages. He simply can't see that all this is necessary in order to boost purchasing power, avoid violence and promote the restoration of prosperity.

When business men are with the administration, it is more because of fatalistic poker despair than on account of intelligent insight into what Mr. Roosevelt is going to do. Here are two representative statements given to Mr. Spivak by business men friendly to the administration:

"I don't know what Mr. Roosevelt's trying to do. The best I can do is to be fatalistic about it and hope that he knows. The whole country, inspired by patriotism and an earnest desire to get out of this terrible situation, is following his leadership blindly. With no one knowing what it is all about, the best we can do is hope that the man we placed at the helm knows what he is doing."

"I don't know, I really don't know. I guess the only thing we can do is to give these college professors running the country a chance. Let's cheer for them. Maybe they'll get us out of it."

All of which goes to confirm the old adage that Hell is paved with good intentions.

## The Coming Boom

BY THOMAS L. STOKES

ROOSEVELT administration officials interested in the "Coming American Boom" articles now appearing in The Indianapolis Times believe that any implications of a speculative era of quick profits should not be taken too seriously.

As regards fundamental economic recovery, the administration welcomes optimism, for it is bending every effort to promote a stable recovery that will reach to all—not to just a few who might reap paper profits from speculation. But—

"Speculation won't put people back to work."

It is the one high official put it.

A determined stand against any speculative orgy was the major reaction of a number of treasury officials and economic experts who were interviewed and who gave their views privately. Added to this is President Roosevelt's reiterated denunciation of speculation and his statement that prices must not rise too far and that recovery must be gradual and may take one, two or three years.

Officials objected to the apparent underlying emphasis of Major Angas on speculative aspects. The Roosevelt program, they pointed out, aims, not at speculation, but at a gradual restoration of all the people, through the various agencies—NRA, AAA, PWA and the like—to a state of permanent prosperity. It works through long-time investments in homes and security to achieve this.

The English economic forecaster, they said, is wrong in regarding the Roosevelt monetary policy as the core of the administration program. It is a part, and an important part, but equally important are the various phases which have to do with human welfare and reform.

"This is our opportunity as private citizens and as members of our local communities," says Chairman Baker, "to register our belief in America's future and the willingness to assume our share in rebuilding its citizenry."



## 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 o'l can have a chance. Limit them to 250 words or less.)

## FEARS REVOLT AGAINST

BY ROBERT E. CROOKSTON.

I wonder what the big shots have in mind? I wonder what the taxpayer wants? There what the

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