

Suggests Solution  
For Foreign Debt  
Problem.

BY JOHN T. FLYNN

NEW YORK, March 21.—Senator Vandenberg has suggested to the Treasury a possible solution for the foreign debt problem, though the Senator does not insist on it.

It is an interesting example of the way in which this debt problem rises continually and will continue to rise until it is settled.

As is well known, our former European allies owe us something more than 11 billion dollars plus interest. All of these countries, with the exception of Finland, have deliberately repudiated these debts. At least they have done so in effect, announcing that they would not make payments as payment dates have arrived.

Senator Vandenberg now proposes that the United States government call on these debtors to deliver to the Federal government their bonds in small denominations, which the government could sell to its citizens and thus realize the amount of the debt.

For instance England owes us \$4,000,000,000 plus interest. For this debt we have nothing now save the agreement fixed in certain treaty arrangements. But if England were to deliver to the United States \$4,000,000,000 in bonds, say of \$100 each, our government could then sell those bonds to its own citizens or others and thus collect what is due it or at least some part. The agreements with the debtor nations provide for something like this.

But the plan involves several considerations. These foreign governments refuse to pay the United States. They have said, over and over again, that they do not pay because they can not pay. If this is true, and I believe it is true, would American citizens buy the bonds if the government had them? Would you buy a bond of a foreign government now after the government had announced that it was incapable of paying such bonds?

It is conceivable that American speculators might buy such bonds from the Federal government for very low prices. Thus, if the United States accepted \$4,000,000,000 in bonds from England and sold them, let us say at 50, which is probably more than they could get for them, the government would get \$2,000,000,000 instead of \$4,000,000,000. This would be equivalent to cutting the debt in half.

THE government would get half its debt, but the debtor government would still owe all of it to private persons. This involves immediately the question—are we willing to cut the debt in half? And if we are, why should we not do so directly, rather than through this scheme?

The Treasury makes this objection and Senator Vandenberg seems to acquiesce. But he makes the further proposal that it is better to let the debts stand in default than to settle for the smaller sum—let them stand as a warning against further lending, particularly for war purposes. There is much to be said for that view. But there is another view.

A defaulted debt is always a source of irritation between nations as between men. Would it not be better to get this question settled and removed from our international relations. In other words, ought we not decide realistically just how much we think we can collect and then settle for that, however small, and try to resume friendly relations with Europe with this poisonous issue issue eliminated?

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**RUBBER DEMAND DROPS**

Decrease of 24.2 Per Cent Shown During February.

*Times Special*

CHICAGO, March 21.—Rubber consumption in the United States during February amounted to 36,746 long tons, compared with a record high of 48,506 in January, a decrease of 24.2 per cent, according to an announcement made today by the Rubber Manufacturers Association.

**On Commission Row**

(Reprinted from Late Times Yesterday)

(Quotations below subject to change are average wholesale prices being offered to buyers by local commissioners.)

**FRUIT** (continued) Florida, pint. 16c; 36-pint crates, 15c; bananas, 2c. C. G. Howes, Eatmore, 15c. Bushels, 2c. Westmoreland, 14c. 100-lb. bag, 85c. California, Avocado, 20c-24c. Grapes: Extra Fancy, Emperors, (34-36) avocados, 20c; Persian seedless, 45c. Bananas, 2c; Persian seedless, (doz.), 45c. Apples, Delicious, fancy, 2c; 15 lbs., 75c. 15 lbs., \$1.30; Rome, Beauty, \$1.35; Lemons, Sunburst, 35c. Grapes, Texas seedless, (34-36) avocados, 2c; 15 lbs., 75c. Tangerines: Florida 120s, 14c. 168s.

**VEGETABLES**—Artichokes, California (doz.), 55c; Beans, green round stringless (hamper), \$2.75; Beets: Texas (3 lbs.), 15c; 10-lb. bag, 25c; 50-lb. bag, 85c. Sprouts, California (10-lb. bag), 85c. New York, 10-lb. bag, 85c. Turnips, 10-lb. bag, 75c. Carrots, California (6 doz. crate), 15c; Texas (30 lbs. doz. crate), 15c. Celery, Florida washed and trimmed (100-lb. bag), 85c. Cucumbers, California (doz.), 45c; Florida (southern bushel), 85c. Egg plant, Florida (doz.), \$1.50. Kale, Virginia market, 15c. Lettuce, iceberg (best 6s. 8s.), 85c; home grown leaf (15c. bushel), 85c; lettuce, California (doz.), 85c. Peppers, mangos, (doz.), 75c. Potatoes, Michigan Round White, 15c; 50-lb. bag, 75c. 100-lb. bag, 85c. Mint, hothouse (doz.), 75c. Mustard, Texas half crate, \$1.50. Onions—Indiana yellow (50-lb. bag), 90c. Sweet Potatoes, Indiana (jersey), 15c. Turnips, New Mexico (bushel), 75c. Turnips, new bulk Texas (bushel), 15c. Tomatoes, repacked (10-lb. box), 85c.

Debt is always at the bottom of any financial collapse. It was the large debt structure supporting the 1929 stock market which threw it into panic. At that time brokers' loans were 10 per cent of the stock value.

This debt element of risk is largely absent from our present market for brokers' loans, which are less than one billion dollars, are only about 2 per cent of the value of all stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

# Abreast of The Times on Finance

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SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1936

## TIN MONOPOLY IS CHARGED IN U.S. COMPLAINT

Trade Commission Cites 15 Firms for Alleged Price-Fixing.

*By United Press*

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The Federal Trade Commission today charged 15 companies engaged in manufacture of tin plate with entering into an alleged illegal agreement whereby small manufacturers of tin cans were unable to obtain a grade of tin known as "stock plate."

The companies, the commission charged, refused to quote prices on "stock plate," and thereby "arbitrarily and unduly enhanced the prices which jobbers and manufacturers must pay for a higher grade of plate sold by the same respondent companies."

The complaint also alleged that the companies' alleged practices "tend to lessen and suppress competition in the sale of tin plate, and to create a monopoly in the manufacture of tin containers on the part of American Can Co. and the Continental Can Co., which together consume approximately 65 per cent of the production of tin plate."

**Three Grades Produced**

The complaint pointed out that the tin plate companies produce three grades: Production plate, stock plate, and "waste-waste." The commission charged that in October 1934, the respondents "entered into the alleged combination to eliminate competition in the sale of stock plate" by agreeing not to quote prices on such grade of tin plate nor to offer the same for sale to jobbers and to small can manufacturers, who, because of lack of financial capital, were unable to carry "production plate" in stock.

"The result of these alleged acts," the complaint charged, "tends to increase the prices of tin plate above the prices which prevailed in the past and which would prevail under normal and open competition among the respondents, and tends to force jobbers of tin plate out of business."

The complaint charged that the alleged practices "tend to create a monopoly in American Can and Continental Can by depriving the competitors, who in the past could purchase 'stock plate' through jobbers, by 'production plate' at prices substantially higher than they were formerly required to pay and which are in fact higher than prices paid for the same product by American Can Co. and Continental Can Co."

**Companies Are Listed**

The commission directed the companies to show cause before April 17 why a "cease and desist" order should not be issued against them.

The companies named in the complaint were:

American Sheet and Tin Plate Co., Pittsburgh; Bethlehem Steel Co., Bethlehem, Pa.; Canton Tin Plate Corp., Canton, O.; Columbia Steel Co., San Francisco; John Follansbee, George T. Ladd and Isaac M. Scott trustees in bankruptcy for Follansbee Bros. Co., Pittsburgh; Granite City Steel Co., Granite City, Ill.; Inland Steel Co., Chicago; Jones and Laughlin Steel Corp., Pittsburgh; McKeever Tin Plate Co., McKeesport, Pa.; Republic Steel Corp., Youngstown, O.; The N. G. Taylor Co., Cumberland, Md.; Washington Tin Plate Co., Washington, Pa.; Weirton Steel Co., Weirton, W. Va.; Wheeling Steel Corp., Wheeling, W. Va.; and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., Youngstown, O.

## 1936 TRUCK OUTPUT IS EXPECTED HIGHER

Predicts 15 Per Cent Gain Over Previous Year.

*Times Special*

NEW YORK, March 21.—The total volume of truck and commercial car sales is expected to show an appreciable gain during the current year over 1935. Joseph D. Burke, director of truck sales, Dodge division of Chrysler Corp., predicted today.

Complications of truck and commercial car registrations for 1935 revealed that 510,683 trucks and commercial cars were sold. Regarding the probable total for 1936, it is expected a 15 per cent increase in sales of commercial vehicles will be seen.

Predicted as sources of important volume of truck business during the next several months are the general contracting, plumbing and other lines which directly or indirectly are identified with the constructions of houses and building.

## Busigraphs

### BROKERS' LOANS (NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE)

FIRST OF FEBRUARY

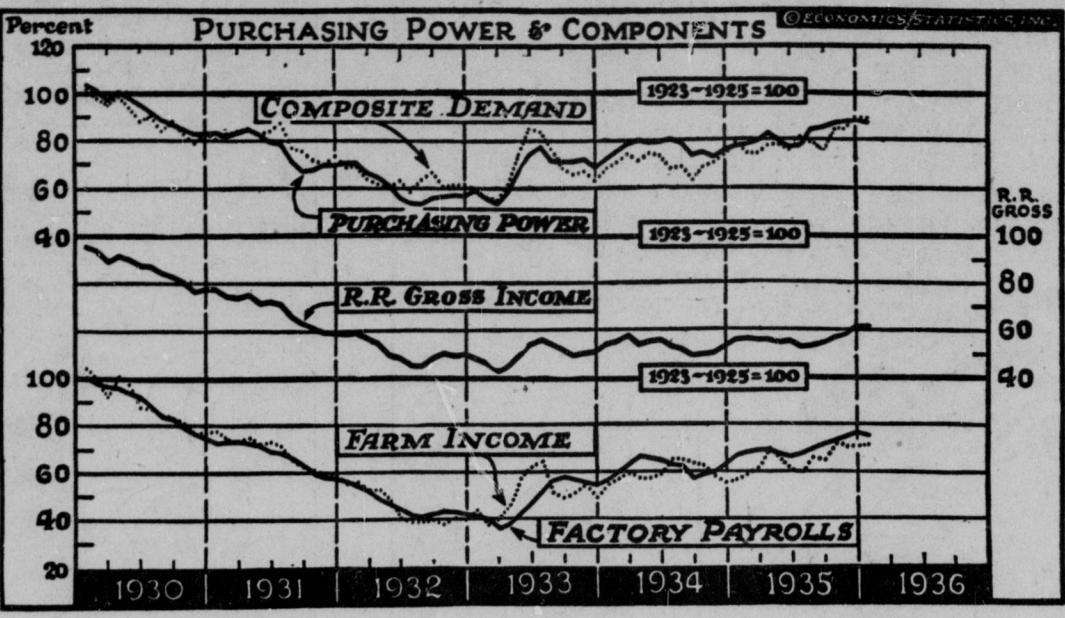
BILLION DOLLARS

1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936

THE PARKER-CARLSON DISTRIBUTORS INCORPORATED INVESTORS

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The Economics Statistic's index of purchasing power declined to 87.3 per cent of the 1923-24 average in January from 90.9 per cent in December. Excluding benefit payments made to farmers, the drop was slightly less, the index dropping to 87.3 per cent in January from 88.3 per cent in December. The principal factor causing this decline was the drop in factory pay rolls. Benefit payments to farmers were also reduced sharply, amounting to only \$1,000,000 last January, compared with \$47,000,000 in December and \$70,000,000 in January, 1935.

## New York Stock Exchange Prices

(By Thomson & McKinnon)

(Reprinted From Late Times Yesterday)

High Low Close Prev.

Oil Mills 114 114 114 114

Barndaji 31 31 31 31

Contin. Oil 17 17 17 17

Cont. of Del. 35 34 34 35

Mo. Cont. Pet. 20 21 21 21

Ohio Oil 16 16 16 16

Phillips Pet. 46 45 45 46

Pure Oil 24 24 24 24

Royal Dutch 54 54 54 54

Shell Oil 17 18 18 18

Standard Oil 27 26 26 26

Stocks 18 18 18 18

Texaco Corp. 35 35 35 35

Tidewater Oil 36 36 36 36

Un. Oil & Gas 26 26 26 26

Stocks 18 18 18 18

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