

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM AND SUN-TELEGRAM

Published Every Evening Except Sunday, by
Palladium Printing Co.

Palladium Building, North Ninth and Sailor Streets.
Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Indiana, as Sec-
ond Class Mail Matter.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use
for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or
not otherwise credited in this paper and also the local
news published herein. All rights of republication of spe-
cial dispatches herein are also reserved.

Labor Efficiency

Attention has been called by many leaders to a slump in production. It has been asserted generally and usually without a citation of figures that production has fallen off to such a marked degree that our industrial welfare is not only hampered but also jeopardized. Few specific instances, however, have been cited.

The Kansas City Times mentions a few that may be typical. A summary of its findings shows:

Although there were 140,000 more employees of the railroads in December, 1918, than in December, 1917, the amount of freight handled fell off. The head of a large corporation offered figures to show that the product of his mills had decreased 40 per cent for each employee. A mill owned by Kansas City interests produced only 45,000 feet of lumber daily compared with 70,000 five years ago.

The Chicago News adduces these examples:

A factory producing overalls had been obliged to reduce the number of working hours weekly from forty-eight to forty-four and was unable to fill orders. Production had fallen off because each of 700 employees worked four hours less each week, a total of 2,800 working hours thus having been lost every six days. A company in the east that makes suits has had a similar experience because its tailors now work only five days a week. Steel companies report a large loss in tonnage production per man in the last five years.

If these instances can be accepted at their face value, and other causes are not responsible for the decrease in production, it can readily be seen that there is little hope for a reduction of prices soon. If production falls off and consumption remains normal or increases, prices naturally will retain their present level or go still higher.

Shorter hours with increased pay that result in a reduced production will help neither the public nor the worker. An increased production to lower prices is absolutely necessary. Thoughtful leaders of the labor movement have accepted this principle.

Railways Operated at Loss by English Government

That England has not profited financially in the operation of railroads from the opening of the war to the end of 1918 is apparent when one considers an actual net loss of about \$119,000,000. These figures corroborate returns from other countries where government ownership of railroads have proved a costly experiment.

The loss, it must be remembered, will fall on the taxpayers. Or in other words, if government ownership proves a failure, the people must pay for it directly and indirectly. The men employed by the railroads do not escape paying their share of the loss, but must carry it along with the machinist, carpenter and business man.

A New York bank gives the following summary of government operation of railroads in England:

"During what may be termed the war period of government railway control in the United Kingdom, lasting from August 5, 1914, to December 31, 1918, the average net annual operating revenue of the roads exceeded that of 1913, in spite of a slight deficit in the first part of the period, ending with December, 1919. The amount of the railways' net income in 1913 had been granted them as a yearly guarantee by the government at the outset of the war. These figures, which are shown in a recent statement presented to the British parliament, do not, however, in-

clude extra wear and tear arising from additional traffic carried, which is estimated at \$200,000,000 and for which the government still remains liable to the companies. As a result of this liability, it is estimated that during the period considered, the government, although making an apparent profit of \$81,000,000 from running the railways, actually sustained a net loss of some \$119,000,000.

"The year 1918 marked the end of a balance of revenue, a large deficit being unavoidable in the 1919 operation of the railways. This year's revenue is estimated at \$725,000,000, the decrease from last year being due to a large falling off in government traffic. Expenditures are estimated at the unprecedented figure of \$881,000,000, because of increased cost of labor and materials. The resulting deficit is \$156,000,000. In addition to meeting this deficit, the public treasury must pay the railways their annual guaranteed revenue. As a result the charge on the public for government operation of the railways during the current year will be about \$370,000,000."

Advocates of government ownership of the roads seemingly overlook the facts that deficits in the operation can only be met by either increasing the rates or taxing the people. Past experience has proved that government ownership is a failure. We have no assurance that this will not be the fate of federal ownership in the United States.

Honoring General Pershing

Congressional action to confer the title of general on John J. Pershing, commander of the expeditionary forces in Europe, will meet with approval all over the country. His task from the day he was selected to lead the American forces until the armistice was signed was a heavy one.

He was sent to France to help win the war, and nothing that transpired swerved him from that one purpose. He has been bitterly criticized for many of his actions, but no great leader has escaped this fate. General Grant was accused of slaughtering men by the thousands, but history now says that was the best conservation of human lives in the long run. And so also with Pershing.

His position in France was not an enviable one. Besides being forced, owing to our long policy of unpreparedness, to train our forces, equip them, organize and lead them, he was forced to convince Foch that his men really were ready to fight in the crucial hour of the war. It took confidence of the highest kind in the stamina of American manhood and its fighting ability to appear before Foch and predict with assurance that our soldiers were the match of the seasoned veterans of Germany.

It was a bold decision of Pershing, but he knew his men, and their response to the confidence of their commander is one of the bright chapters of the war.

America has never been hasty in awarding high honors to its fighters on land and sea. Decorations must be won by brave exploits. Advancement to high position has never been given without cause. For that reason the titles of general and admiral have a high meaning in the American army and navy.

Other nations have honored their military and naval leaders by signal distinctions. America will not be bestowing an idle honor if the rank of general is accorded to Pershing.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS

HOPE FOR MERCY

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approves the making of wine and other beverages in the home for personal consumption. Grandma's elder-blossom cordial may not be branded as a wicked criminal after all.

New York World.

Congress is emphatically opposed to daylight saving. But if it would save any kind of time by getting forward with the nation's business the American people would be immensely relieved.

Why Price Fixing Doesn't Work

From the Kansas City Star.

A TTORNEY GENERAL PALMER announces he is finding many cases of profiteering in food. More grease to his elbow. At a time like this, when the adjustment is going on from a law to a high price level, there are unusual opportunities for a greedy dealer to practice extortion. The customer is prepared for high prices and the temptation is always present to overcharge.

This condition, however, is temporary. In the long run competition will take care of extortionate profits. But in the meantime fair price committees through publicity, and action by the government, may help protect the consumer.

The question naturally occurs why the government cannot resort to price fixing as a settled policy to the advantage of the people.

The chief reason is that such an arrangement would interfere with what common experience has shown to be after all the fairest and most effective system to regulate prices—the needs of the public as expressed in the law of supply and demand.

Where there is an open market, as in the case of most things the public uses, the price is the device by which the supply is adjusted to the demand.

For instance, if the price of wheat is artificially fixed above its normal market price, then the wheat area will be increased and the corn area diminished until the rising price of corn makes it as profitable to raise corn as wheat.

The effect is to increase temporarily the supply of

the one commodity at the expense of the supply of the other commodity which may be just as necessary. To get more bread we sacrifice meat which depends on corn. We have substituted the judgment of a few men for the judgment of all the people, which in the long run is what conditions demand.

When the prices of both wheat and corn are fixed by the market demand, then in the long run the relative supply of the two grains will adjust itself to the needs of the public, measured by the price the public is willing to pay.

Suppose in the course of business the prices of shoes become abnormally high, due to a relative scarcity. Under the ordinary workings of the law of supply and demand, capital will be attracted into the industry until the increased production brings down prices to a normal level. For if a man can get a larger profit making shoes than making hats, he will turn his resources to the shoe business rather than to the manufacture of hats.

But if a price commission should intervene and say, "Prices of shoes must come down," there would be no incentive to expand the shoe business. So the condition to be desired—the increase in the number of shoes made—would not come. There would continue to be a shortage of shoes and the fundamental trouble would continue.

The attempt to fix prices on a large scale by government action would seriously interfere with the operation of the law of supply and demand. It would result in one-sided production and would do more harm than good.

The effect is to increase temporarily the supply of

the one commodity at the expense of the supply of the other commodity which may be just as necessary. To get more bread we sacrifice meat which depends on corn. We have substituted the judgment of a few men for the judgment of all the people, which in the long run is what conditions demand.

When the prices of both wheat and corn are fixed by the market demand, then in the long run the relative supply of the two grains will adjust itself to the needs of the public, measured by the price the public is willing to pay.

Suppose in the course of business the prices of shoes become abnormally high, due to a relative scarcity. Under the ordinary workings of the law of supply and demand, capital will be attracted into the industry until the increased production brings down prices to a normal level. For if a man can get a larger profit making shoes than making hats, he will turn his resources to the shoe business rather than to the manufacture of hats.

But if a price commission should intervene and say, "Prices of shoes must come down," there would be no incentive to expand the shoe business. So the condition to be desired—the increase in the number of shoes made—would not come. There would continue to be a shortage of shoes and the fundamental trouble would continue.

The attempt to fix prices on a large scale by government action would seriously interfere with the operation of the law of supply and demand. It would result in one-sided production and would do more harm than good.

The effect is to increase temporarily the supply of

the one commodity at the expense of the supply of the other commodity which may be just as necessary. To get more bread we sacrifice meat which depends on corn. We have substituted the judgment of a few men for the judgment of all the people, which in the long run is what conditions demand.

When the prices of both wheat and corn are fixed by the market demand, then in the long run the relative supply of the two grains will adjust itself to the needs of the public, measured by the price the public is willing to pay.

Suppose in the course of business the prices of shoes become abnormally high, due to a relative scarcity. Under the ordinary workings of the law of supply and demand, capital will be attracted into the industry until the increased production brings down prices to a normal level. For if a man can get a larger profit making shoes than making hats, he will turn his resources to the shoe business rather than to the manufacture of hats.

But if a price commission should intervene and say, "Prices of shoes must come down," there would be no incentive to expand the shoe business. So the condition to be desired—the increase in the number of shoes made—would not come. There would continue to be a shortage of shoes and the fundamental trouble would continue.

The attempt to fix prices on a large scale by government action would seriously interfere with the operation of the law of supply and demand. It would result in one-sided production and would do more harm than good.

The effect is to increase temporarily the supply of

Condensed Classics of Famous Authors

DICKENS

No biographical sketch about Charles Dickens that neglects his interest in acting would be complete. He never saw a play that he did not envy one of the players. Indeed, he almost became an actor instead of a novelist. Before he began reporting, he applied for a position at Covent Garden, and only an illness, a very fortunate illness, prevented his following this ambition.

His love for the theatres gave this passion full play. He played Boabdil, the brigand, so successfully in Ben Jonson's "Every Man in His Humour" that Leigh Hunt thought him superior to professional actors. The drama pleased so many that it was repeated, under Dickens' direction, in the largest theaters in London, Manchester, Liverpool and other large cities.

In appearance Dickens impressed his friends as being under rather than over the average height and weight. His eyes were the first of his features to attract attention. They were bright and piercing, like the eyes of birds in their living animation. They gave to his face a quality of steel.

Most Englishmen of his time seemed being correct to being themselves. They strove to look like everyone else. Dickens had, in him, the marks of a like incredible sunsets." He liked, too, "large hats of an unusual color." If he exaggerated his is." He wore dressing-gowns in violation of the usual proprieties and dislikes, it was because he felt them so strongly.

LITTLE DORRIT

BY CHARLES DICKENS

Condensation by Charles E. L. Wingate

"Affery, what girl was that in my mother's room just now?"

"Oh, she?" Little Dorrit? She's nothing; she's a whim of—her."

And thus Mrs. Flintwinch, wife of the crafty, crab-like walking footman of the household, introduced to Arthur Clennam the name of the poor Little seamstress of the paralytic Mrs. Clennam.

He had noted her pale, transparent face, quick in expression though not beautiful in feature, excepting for its soft hazel eyes. A delicately bent bird, a tiny form, a shabby dress—it must needs have been very shabby to look at all so, being so neat—were Little Dorrit as she sat at work.

A strange presentment came into Arthur's mind, in some way, this gentle maiden was connected with his history.

For twenty years young Clennam had lived in China with his father, only to return now, puzzled over a mysterious watch which that father, in the very last moments of his life, had given to his son, murmuring faintly, "Your Mother." Naturally, Arthur had assumed that it was intended for Mrs. Clennam, whom he and the world supposed to be his mother.

Inside the watch-case was an old silk paper with the initials D. N. F. worked into it in beads. It was a message—but the young man could not fathom it and the old woman would not enlighten him. Was Little Dorrit, to whom the story Mrs. Clennam paid such strange, unusual kindness, connected with the mystery?

They grew to see more of each other—the girl and the young man—and Arthur learned that the generous little Amy Dorrit was supporting not only her old father, who had been condemned to a debtor's prison, but also pretty, frivolous sister, Fanny, and her wild, lazy brother, Tip. Under the then existing English laws they were allowed to live with their father in that dreary prison.

Little wonder that Clennam often spoke kindly to her and that he helped the family. But love had not yet come to him—though it had to Little Dorrit. He heard the thrill in her voice, he saw the quickened bosom, and yet the remotest suspicion of her passion the old lady vehemently tells her own story.

She had learned, after Mr. Clennam's marriage to her (a marriage commanded by his overbearing uncle) that her husband had loved and gone through a sort of ceremony with a beautiful young singer whom Frederick Dorrit, a kind-hearted musician (the uncle of Little Dorrit), was befriending and giving an education. She had obtained the first clue from those initials in her husband's watch, which she found years ago, signifying "Do Not Forget." She accused both her husband and the woman who put the initials there.

"I said to her," declared Mrs. Clennam, "you have a child; I have none. You love that child. Give him to me and swear never again to see his father. Then I will support you and not expose your shame. And I will reclaim him for her."

Thus it had been that Arthur came into the Clennam home.

At this point in her narrative Rigaud, contemptuously interrupted.

"Come straight to the stolen money," he commanded.

"Wretch!" she responded. "Know then that I suppressed a part of the will of my husband's uncle"—the part for which that uncle had revealed the maternity of Arthur and had left, as a reparation, compensation, a legacy to Arthur's mother and to the niece of the man who had befriended her—but I found that niece of Frederick Dorrit and what I did for her was better for her than the money."

Instantly Rigaud, seeking to blackmail the old lady, declared he had deposited with the niece, Little Amy Dorrit, then at the prison with Arthur, a packet containing the suppressed section of the will with instructions to open it at a certain hour unless reclaimed by him. What would Mrs. Clennam say to reclaim it?

To the astonishment of all the paralytic old woman rises to her feet and rushes from the house to the prison; seeks Little Dorrit; calls for the packet, and then bids Amy read it, at the same time begging her to forgive the past.

"I forgive you freely," cries the generous girl.

"God bless you!" was the fervent and broken response.

And then came the good news that Arthur's firm had re-established itself and that he would be able now to leave the debtor's prison.

So they were married—but not before Little Dorrit had handed to Arthur a folded bit of legal paper asking him not to open it but to burn it in her presence.

"Is it a charm?" he asked, smiling. "And does the charm want any words to be said?" he added, as he held the paper over the flames.

"You can say 'I love you!'" answered Little Dorrit.

So he said it and the paper burned away.

With it died the secret of Arthur's birth, never to be known to him; and with it also, Little Dorrit had voluntarily destroyed the evidence of her own legacy.

And they were married with the sun shining in on them through the painted figure of Our Savior on the window.

Then they went quietly down into the roaring streets, inseparable and blessed; and as they passed along in the sunshine and shade, the noisy and the eager, and the arrogant and the chafed, and made their usual uproar.

Copyright 1919, by the Post Publishing Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, its Colonies and Dependencies, under the copyright act, by the Post Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

U. S. rights reserved.

(Published by special arrangement with the McClure Newspaper Syndicate. All rights reserved.)