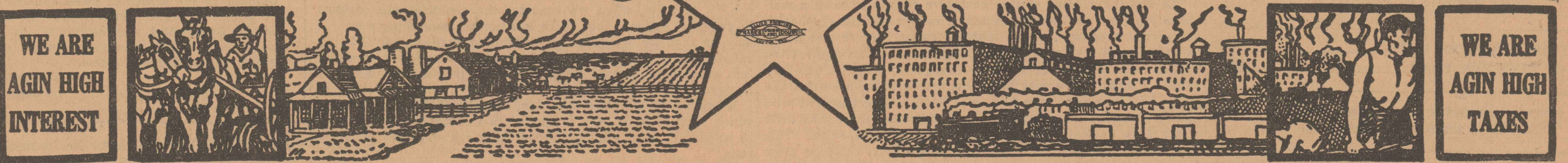


The Ferguson Forum



WE ARE
AGIN HIGH
INTEREST

WE ARE
AGIN HIGH
TAXES

VOL. XVII.

AUSTIN, TEXAS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1934

No. 29

Radio Address of Wm. Lemke on the Frazier-Lemke Bill

The Refinance Bill has the official endorsement of the National Farmers Union and has the official endorsement of three state farm bureau organizations and of two state grange organizations and of many bureau and grange locals throughout the nation. It has the approval of ninety-five percent of the farmers of this nation; it has the approval of every intelligent banker, business and professional woman and man. Twenty-two state legislatures have asked Congress to pass this bill. In addition, it has the approval of the lower house of the State legislature of New York, the President's home state, as well as that of Delaware. Yet, Congress, through the trickery and treachery of the majority leadership in the House, was not permitted to vote on this bill and carry out the mandate given it by these states.

I am convinced that if this nation is to grow and prosper, our whole system of government must once more be made responsive to the will of the people. Washington is too close to the international bankers—it is too far away from the 130 million men, women and children of this nation. The whole atmosphere is wrong. It is hoary with age, seniority rights, party regularities, and corroded with time—it is too bureaucratic. We are fast approaching a feudal system with the bureaucrats, the lords and the barons here in Washington, and the feudal vassals in the cities and towns, and with the farms and the laboring people as the feudal serfs.

The reactionary Republican leadership is suffering with sleeping sickness and in their delirium believe that we are going back to the Hoover regime—this is just plain craziness. The Bourbon Democratic leadership is drunk with power and afflicted with an unknown disease and in their wild hallucination they think they can defeat the will of the American people with a gag rule, a rule admirably calculated for bossism, corruption and corruption. These leaders seem incapable of comprehending and understanding the trend of the times; they do not understand the meaning of the election returns in the states of Mississippi, Louisiana and Maine, and last of all, California, where the Democratic party had to have a blood transfusion to give it life—had to take a Socialist—Upton Sinclair—and nominate him for Governor. They cannot see that everywhere real America is looking for victory and give to California the best and greatest governor it ever had.

We know there is no difference between Reactionary Republican and a Bourbon Democrat. They are not only breeds of the same cat but they are the same cat. They both represent the dying shadows of a past civilization. They both take their orders from Wall Street. Therefore, as a nonpartisan, I am more concerned with the election of progressives, regardless of party affiliations. I do not care whether they are progressive Republicans, progressive Democrats, or progressive Socialists, or progressive anything else. I am for the election of men and women who are one hundred percent for all of the people and one hundred percent against Wall Street and the International Bankers.

I appeal to you members of the Farmers Union and of other farm organizations—to you men and women who live upon the farms—to you veterans—to you laboring people—to the liberty-loving people everywhere—that you vote for no member of Congress who has not supported the Frazier-Lemke Refinance Bill—the bill giving the farmers the cost of production for their products—or for the payment of the soldiers in cash. I appeal to you to vote for no candidate for Congress, either for the House or for the Senate who will not openly, publicly, privately and

(Continued on page 3)

ONE SENATOR PATS ANOTHER ON THE BEEZER

AUSTIN, Oct. 22.—Senator J. T. Holbrook today punched Senator Joe Moore on the spot which the more rowdy element of the populace is wont to call "the beezer."

What is more, he selected the middle of the big green carpet in the senate chamber as the place for doing it.

If anybody delivered such a half-hearted punch in the boxing arena, where the customers had paid good money for admission, the air would have been filled with cries of "throw 'em out."

Happening as it did in the allegedly dignified air of the senate the event caused quite a stir.

Sort of Fly-Swat Even so the happening by no stretch of the definitions in Webster's could be called a "fight."

There was only one blow, a sort of circular, windmill-like swing of about the same energy as a person swatting a fly.

As in the case of a poorly-tossed harpoon, the blow only angered and stung, and caused Senator Moore to launch out in a long speech.

Capitol correspondents, who have seen about 15 "fights" on the floor of the legislature during the last two years, yawned and settled back with a "Ho hum."

Here's what caused the trouble. Holbrook introduced a bill appropriating \$3600 for two extra clerks in the state treasury's office to handle extra work like relief bonds. Moore charged that Holbrook reported the bill out of the finance committee without a meeting having been held, and solely on his own Holbrook's vote.

"If the senator makes that statement he is a liar," said Holbrook. Moore galloped from his side of the senate chamber to Holbrook's side. The sergeant-at-arms got there first and got between. Holbrook patted Moore on the nose.

Then the fight was over and the speech making on.

"The senator from Galveston bulldozes, sneaks around and runs around," Moore bawn.

"I'll have to remind the senator from Hunt to engage in more parliamentary language," said Lieutenant-Governor Edgar Witt.

Moore went on and on.

"I regret it, but when my veracity has been challenged and I have been charged with dishonor, you must realize what are my feelings," Holbrook said.—Ex.

CONSCRIPTION OF WEALTH WILL BE ASKED OF CONGRESS IN THE NEXT WAR

NORMAN, Okla., Oct. 24.—Josh Lee stood in the mud of France 16 years ago and made a vow to work for conscription of wealth and industry as well as men in the next war. It was a vow to the memory of his dead "buddy."

Lee never forgot the pledge, and now that he is about to take a seat in congress, he believes he is getting closer to the goal. Any fine ideals of Lee had about war were dispelled in the 10 months he spent in France.

"The war cost us \$27,000,000,000 and all but 5 per cent of it went to war profiteers, munitions makers and manufacturers. We got raincoats that wouldn't shed water and shoes with paper soles, while some profiteer made an extra profit because of inferior materials used."

Lee, some 42 years old, never has let up in his fight for universal conscription in the next war. Until recently a professor of public speaking at the University of Oklahoma, he has utilized every chance to further his plea. Now that he is ready to go to Washington he has promised of congressional aid.

"I hope we can accomplish some-

More About The Amendments

By Jim, the Editor

The more people inquire about the constitutional amendments to be voted on in the November election the more they become confused. The more they try to find out the less they learn, and already the thinking voter is becoming suspicious of why these eight amendments should be submitted to the people all at one time. Governor Allred is on the air with his eleven hundred dollar an hour radio activity, and with his smooth and plausible power of speech is entertaining many people but convincing few. He denies that the amendment S.J.R. No. 16 would destroy the Three Thousand Dollar homestead amendment and he admits that if it would have that effect that he would be against it. Now let us see what this amendment proposes. It says that it is an amendment to the constitution of the State of Texas providing that taxes of real property shall be equal and uniform. Now let us apply this provision. Suppose there are two farms of one hundred sixty acres each and one is a homestead occupied by the owner and the other is not a homestead and owned by an unmarried man. Under the present law the Three Thousand Dollar exemption is allowed under a constitutional amendment already passed and no exemption is allowed to the fellow out on the land that is not a homestead. While the homestead exemption is justified in the interest of the public good, yet a lawyer or other informed person would contend that the taxation on both tracts is either equal or uniform. To make it equal and uniform it is necessary for the people to vote this amendment again in order to remove the inequalities that now exist, and by the passage of S.J.R. No. 16 as Governor Allred wants to do, this resolution being passed last would take precedent over the homestead exemption of Three Thousand Dollars and it would be repealed by the adoption of the new amendment.

Again, Governor Allred says that the passage of this amendment would yield thousands of dollars in new taxes and says that in Kentucky the passage of such an amendment has increased tax receipts over 1000%. Good God, spare the people of Texas from such an ordeal of having their taxes increased 1000%. But that is really the purpose of this amendment and that is to raise more taxes and take more money from the people and let the tax rate go higher than a cat's back. In my opinion this is the reason why Mr. Allred and his friends are opposing S.J.R. No. 13 which limits the taxes to be collected in any two years to \$22.50 per capita for the entire population of the state. In other words one part of this amendment crowd wants to raise more taxes and the other wants to prohibit them from spending it, and, therefore, the thing for the people to do is to swat both of them and vote against them. The people ought to consider well before they levy any taxes, but when they are necessary for the support of the government there should be no constitutional restrictions to prevent the legislature from providing for the necessary functions of government.

Again I want to call attention to the fact that all of these amendments are clothed in such confused language that nobody can understand them. I have heard these constitutional amendments discussed among lawyers and the discussion always wound up in an argument that nobody can understand and certainly under such conditions the people ought not to take any chances by voting for a single one of these amendments.

To show the further inconsistency of these proposed amendments, we can look at S.J.R. No. 2 which abolishes the fee system of all district officers and county officers in counties having a population of twenty thousand or more. When we read this the question arises why should they make a restriction of twenty thousand. If the fee system is a bad thing it ought to be abolished in all counties under twenty thousand the same as in all counties over twenty thousand. This is just another example of the fool ideas embraced in these amendments.

A lot of people are up in arms against the amendment S.J.R. No. 21 which provides that the legislature can create new counties and change the boundaries of existing counties. This is a move on the part of the big cities to attach the little counties as a tail to the kite of the big cities and destroy local self-government by the people as much as possible. For instance, under this proposition Rockwall County, the smallest county in the State, would be promptly voted as a part of Dallas County by the larger influence in the Legislature, and the little counties all over the State would soon be wiped off the map and the towns in these counties would likewise soon vanish and the business of the country would be further attracted to the financial centers.

Another monstrosity in these amendments is S.J.R. No. 41 which permits any home ruled city to alter, amend or repeal its charter every twelve months. Does anybody know what a home ruled city is to start with, and if you do why do you want to have an election to repeal or change or amend the charter every twelve months? If the home rule idea is a good thing, then it ought to be fixed so that it cannot be abolished every time a lot of sore heads got up in the morning with a bad taste in their mouth and want to call a new election.

Without a doubt these proposed amendments contain more foolishness to the square inch than and proposition that was ever submitted to the people. Don't forget, Mr. Voter, to run your pencil through the paragraph with "FOR" and leave unmarked the paragraph beginning with "AGAINST." Remember if you undertake to mark out everything your vote won't count. In this way you will be sure to vote again 'em all and save the people a lot of trouble, worry and expense in trying to put the darn fool things in motion.

thing in congress," Lee said, "I intend to be the noisiest freshman there in defense of my plan. We've been working for it ever since the war and we haven't gotten to first base. Now it may be different."

Lee may be noisy, but he also will be entertaining and compelling. A polished, forceful and sincere speaker, he has swung the American Legion posts of many states to his side, and enlisted the aid of educators and civic organizations.

This fall Lee made an unscheduled appearance at the Missouri Legion convention in Kansas City. When he ended his brief talk, Legionnaires and their wives, weeping and cheering, leaped to their feet and paid him a five-minute ovation.

Lee will attend the national Legion convention next week in Miami to work for passage of a resolution calling for adoption of universal conscription. More than half the state departments of the Legion are pledged to its passage, he said.—Ex.

A Cowpuncher ordered a steak at a restaurant. The waiter brought it in, rare—very rare. The puncher looked at it and demanded that it be returned to the kitchen and cooked.

"Tis cooked," snapped the waiter.

"Cooked—hell," returned the puncher. "I've seen cows hurt worse than that and get well."

Our Money Famines Why We Have Them, How to Prevent Them

Much has been written on the subject but most of the writers avoid placing the blame where it justly belongs.

Writers seldom mention or condemn the cunning cupidity and greed of the mighty powers of high finance. Those who do speak words of condemnation, like those few brave souls in Congress who are fighting for the people and against the lustful, over-stuffed money powers, are called "Communists," "Reds," or even worse.

Economists and statisticians report about 75 per cent of the wealth in the United States is vested in the hands of the "money powers" totalling less than two per cent of the population. Approximately 85 per cent of the people own less than five per cent of the wealth. Mellon claimed that 90 per cent of the income tax is paid by one fourth of one per cent of the population. But he failed to mention the truth; that the consumer, through these mighty money gluttons, pay it all, plus gigantic profits, in the purchase price of everything he eats, wears, and uses.

In our press columns we read many articles calling our attention to various supposed causes of our so-called depression. One says it is prohibition; another too much machinery; and still another says it's overproduction; yet there are millions without food and suffering from hunger and cold. The writers seldom touch the border of the paramount issue, the basic cause of this seething misery and consequent crime. Facts are suppressed and publicity created to hide the truth.

The writers apparently are either sold out body and soul to the atrocious money powers or have been lulled into a coma by their alluring calls of "Lo, here," or "Lo, there is our nation's perplexing problem" all of which is for the purpose of drawing the public mind and attention away from the "Greedy Leeches of Finance" that are undermining our homes; the very foundation of our government for which our fathers sacrificed their lives.

The relentless lash of the "money lenders," "the tyrannical leeches," like a mighty sweeping tempest, is

bringing wreck and ruin to every community, city, and hamlet. Lifetime savings are taken from the aged; farmers are bankrupt; industries close; banks fail, merchants crash; families are made homeless; children go hungry, and parents resort to crime.

Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, in discussing the evils of slavery, said: "But I see a growing money power that is far more dangerous to our Republic than slavery."

He visioned that which has come to pass; he saw the handwriting on the wall and interpreted it. He knew, as do all who have studied the history of nations, that no people has ever or can long endure under the money power rule.

In his inaugural address Lincoln said:

"This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it."

The immortal Lincoln was speaking for the emancipation of human beings. Was he a "Red"?

Judging from the actions of many of our legislators, we are forced to feel that they do not believe the first great truth in this statement though uttered from the lips of "Honest Abe." Apparently they would rather have the people believe that this country with its

(Continued on page 3)

We Are Making Little Or no Headway Against Unemployment—Tracy

STUDY ALL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

We are continuing to receive letters, circulars, etc., "crying out loud" about a proposed amendment to our state constitution to provide that the state legislature can not appropriate for state use more than \$11.50 per annum per capita, and giving reasons why we must spend more money in the future to pay debts already contracted and provide for anticipated expenditures, including payment of our Ten Million Dollar "relief" bonds, and five million dollars for the big show at Dallas in 1936, called the "Centennial" exhibit, celebrating our 100th anniversary, and other matters yet, perhaps, unthought of.

If conditions were different, there might be some merit in this cry to defeat the amendment, but with government expenditures mounting to unheard of peaks, and taxes taking all our income, which will continue until the fourth generation hence before the interest will be paid on our colossal debt; with millions of delinquent taxes on the rolls of every county in Texas not paid, because they can not pay them, lacking resources to meet these obligations.

We are at a loss to calculate where we are going to in these tax matters. In all the protests against this amendment we note the majority of the protestors are moneyspenders, and live and are fed and clothed out of tax revenues.

The tax payers, the fellow who has to work hard and do without many of the comforts of life in order to keep up this enormous expenditure, we have heard no protest from him nor her, and we would like to hear from him or her. Every voter and taxpayer is a party to this question, and each individual should study the problem carefully and vote his or her sentiments with an intelligent understanding of the problem.

In this amendment we see but one injury which such amendment might be regrettable, and that this is the reduced revenue of our public school funds. Every other feature of this amendment is good. However, in considering all these amendments we find some meritorious features, but these are small items compared with the evil there appears to be in them, and until a new constitution is written to fit present conditions, we are of the opinion ALL these amendments should be DEFEATED.—Live Oak County Record.

PEANUTS MADE BASIC COMMODITY SUBJECT REDUCTION CONTRACT

Peanuts have been made a basic commodity and soon the growers will have an opportunity to sign a reduction contract such as has been obtained in cotton, wheat, and corn-hogs in this county.

Tentative plans show that acreage will be based on the average of '33 and '34 acreage while the production will be based on 1934. Each producer should be careful to keep a record of his production this year and be prepared to give '33 and '34 acreage if one wishes to enter the reduction program. As has been true with all other programs the data called for will apply to the farm and not the man.

In other words, you may not have grown peanuts in '33 and '34 but if the land that you are working in 1935 grew peanuts in '33 and '34 you will be eligible to sign a reduction contract. On the other hand if you are a regular peanut grower but move on to a farm in '35 that has not been producing peanuts, you will not be eligible to enter a reduction contract.—Weatherford Democrat.

As reflected by the amount of money spent for relief, we are making little or no headway against unemployment. You can quote all the figures you like, but that one condition tells the real story. It tells exactly what we are up against and why the budget can't be balanced. It tells how an acute affliction threaten to become chronic, and why a change in our general course seems to be mandatory.

Up to this moment we have gone blithely along on the assumption that things would soon grow better and that our chief problem was to see that no one went cold or hungry. It was taken for granted that through certain rearrangements industry would presently reabsorb the unemployed, and that the worst we had to reckon with was provision for temporary work.

That is the same kind of illusionism that led us to imagine that destruction of shipping by German submarines guaranteed us control of maritime trade.

American industry was inflated by the war. Millions of people were moved from farms or small towns to supply the labor need of new or greatly expanded enterprises.

We are privileged to get up an enormous head of industrial steam, simply and solely because so many Europeans had been withdrawn from peaceful pursuits or exterminated.

The credit we granted European people so that they could buy our goods went largely for the rehabilitation of their own producing establishments, and we gradually lost the trade which strife had thrown our way.

The supposition that industry could reabsorb the unemployed was absolutely unsound, save through a drastic reduction of hours, or, to describe it truthfully, a share-the-work plan. That meant either a decrease of income or an increase in the cost of goods.

The alternative was some great new field of endeavor which would make room for millions of workers without destroying or handicapping already established enterprise, such a field as the auto opened up 35 years ago or the electric industry a quarter of a century before.

Barring some great innovation, with which science failed to bless us, we had but one place to look—the land.

We could have rolled forest conservation, a national park system, flood control, protection of the water supply, development of hydro-electric power, waterway improvements and game propagation into one huge program of reclamation and rehabilitation.

We could have proceeded on the idea of buying up or taking over at least one-sixth of the land in this country, so located as to furnish adequate and convenient parks, to save forests, protect rivers and promote out-of-doors recreation. We could have homesteaded vast numbers of people on that land with the promise of more or less permanent employment and we could have built up a vast revenue by leasing sites for camps or summer cabins to city dwellers at low cost.

Furthermore, we could have encouraged the gradual decentralization of industry and have guaranteed future generations of children an easy contact with nature. We could have established great parks, game preserves and recreation grounds within 50 miles of every large city in the country. We could have made it possible for the average family to spend some of its time with trees, flowers and wild life.

It would be a gigantic venture in recreation, of course, but isn't it true of many important enterprises? You can't keep business going on existence needs, as our economic set-up plainly proves you have got to depend on what people want and enjoy for work. — In Houston Press.

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JAS. E. FERGUSON, Manager and Editor

THE FORUM IS NOT JUST ANOTHER NEWSPAPER—
IT IS DIFFERENT

The Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, said just before his assassination: "I see in the near future, a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned, an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudice of the people, until the wealth is aggregated in a few hands, and the republic is destroyed."

PRODUCTION BY LABOR

(By FRANK A. GARBUTT)

"The greatest source of wealth is production. Wealth may be acquired by trade enhancement of values, gift, robbery or by chance, but its original source is production.
"Man originally produced little and possessed little. As his brain developed he devised ways of producing more and he possessed more.

"The need for physical exertion decreased and the fruits of production went to the man with brains to produce, who was soon forced to combine with others for mutual protection so he could retain possession of what he produced.
"What was the good of producing if he could not possess? Therefore, the will to produce went hand with the power to possess. Eventually a big price was paid in tribute and taxes for the power to possess.

"The increase of production by physical exertion is limited. The increase of production by mental exertion is unlimited. Therefore, brain has received greater rewards than muscle and is now hard put to retain possession of the fruits of its labors.
"What price must brains pay to muscle for the power to retain all it wants? For the present, it must pay all that muscle needs; eventually all that muscle wants."

THE TOWNSEND OLDAGE REVOLVING PENSION PLAN

By HARRY L. BRAS

Editor, Daily Chronicle, Centralia, Wash.

THE STUDY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS is both interesting and instructive. Civilization had its beginnings in a desire to elevate the human race from a barbaric to a higher social state. It is an inherent quality of human beings to alleviate the sufferings of their own race, to care for the mentally deficient, the lame, the halt and the blind. As civilization advanced into broader fields of human activities, the social status of the people became more and more involved. Civilization has not as yet made an earnest endeavor to solve the problems of social inequality. In the early settlement of this country social problems were not as complex as they are today but there has grown up in the past few years a social condition of inequality, made so largely by a failure on the part of the people to make proper economic adjustments to correct the evils that have become intolerable to the working classes. Wealth has gradually drifted away from those that are justly entitled to it into the hands of the few.

THE TOWNSEND PLAN OF OLD AGE REVOLVING PENSIONS proposes an attempt to make these adjustments. The fear of poverty and the poor house, of destitution and of a pauper's grave in their declining years have caused people of all ages to spend much of their lives in an endeavor to accumulate money against the time when they will need it. Instead of life being a pleasure to them it has become a dread. Instead of the body and mind being permitted to function normally, the body becomes crippled and bent, the mind becomes cramped and the spiritual values, the noble impulse and manifestations are lost. That is not what the Great Creator intended as the destiny of the human race. It is said that money is the root of all evil. That depends on what uses are made of it. The Townsend plan restores peace and happiness to the human race.

A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE CRIMES against society is caused from a lack of money. While it is not our intention to touch on the economic values of the Townsend plan, yet both the humanitarian and the economic values are so closely connected that it is quite impossible to entirely separate them in this discussion. The most valuable feature of the revolving pensions plan is that it is not tainted with charity. While the result of its operations is to abolish poverty its main effort is to give an adequate reward to all classes of people over the age of 60 years for approximately 40 years of continuous and loyal service in behalf of their country. They are the ones that have made this country what it is today. From the struggles of the farmers who tilled the soil, of the miners who dug deep into the earth to supply the metals of commerce, of the wage earners in our factories who prepare the food and the clothing and the shelter for humanity, come the wealth of the nation. It is to them that credit must be given for the material wealth of the nation and its importance among the nations of the earth. It is to them that the rewards must be given in the name of justice.

IF CIVILIZATION MEANS ANYTHING its efforts must be toward ameliorating the sufferings of the people. It should aim to banish fear from the hearts of humanity; it means that provision must be made so that aged people may not end their days in the poor house or in miserable surroundings. It is a travesty on our vaunted Christian civilization that no humanitarian effort has ever been made to prevent aged people from suffering the humiliation due to poverty. In this land of plenty there should be no such thing as hunger and want. When the flesh begins to fail, when the mind refuses to function, when the blood begins to chill and the body, tired of the eternal strife, wants to go to its final resting place, the aged people should be "sustained and soothed by an unflinching trust, and approach their graves like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

THE HIRED HAND'S COLUMN

By I. B. ALFORD

THE VALLEY BEAUTIFUL (An Allegory)

The last installment of this narrative concluded with a melancholy picture of the once beautiful valley. Instead of "health and plenty cheering . . . the laboring swain," there was heard on every hand a constant murmuring and criticism against the alleged factors responsible for the changes so manifest on every hand. Though there was much expressed indignation on the part of many people who had once been prosperous, and who had lived under more favorable environments, there was little effort made to check the impending, but inevitable, crisis. This was due to the fact, first, that the people who suffered most from existing conditions were not organized in any sense among themselves. In addition, they were without competent leadership. If some individual was courageous enough to undertake to urge his associates to consider with favor the need of some plan of organization for their mutual protection he was soon given to understand that he must cease his efforts of agitation—or lose his job. If this threat was not sufficient to induce silence, other means were found to control him. An adept police force whose continuation in office depended on the good will of the powers in control could be depended upon to discover the necessary evidence required to imprison or deport any undesirable person who rendered himself obnoxious by harsh criticisms of the methods in vogue among the promoters of big business. This had the effect of discouraging organization among the people. They were thus in part controlled through the spirit of fear evidently considering it less hazardous to "endure the ills that were rather than" invite more serious disaster by courting certain discharge by their employers. Every avenue to check the tendency of organized big business in bearing down on common humanity seemed hermetically closed. The people were enslaved. Their once cheerful and prosperous homes had given place to tenement shacks and ill-smelling alleys they became easily the victims of periodic contagions which frequently swept the city. As a means of public safety it was necessary from time to time to enforce certain rigid laws pertaining to health and the general sanitary conditions. Not understanding these measures many of the people suffered for unwittingly violating these laws. Thus the impression prevailed that not only the iron handed soul-less corporations in control of all industries were their enemies, but that the administrators of the law were likewise unfriendly to them. Whether they were justified in this impression or not is immaterial in this discussion. They believed that the law had become their enemy. This common belief was the straw that broke the camel's back of their respect for the law. As their partisanship thus waned their minds became fertile soil for the ever-willing sower of the seeds of anarchy. The public safety demanded that many of them be kept under the constant vigilance of the iron handed police powers.

The only effective check against an uprising or open hostilities on the part of this growing army of law-evaders was the commonly known conservative element who were able by good management and many self denials to sustain themselves and their families on the meagre wages which they received in the various lines of occupation in which they were employed. These held, as it were, a kind of balance of power between the relatively few ultra rich and the army of extremely poor. But, from time to time, the captains of industry by installations of modern labor saving machinery managed to reduce in gradual manner the number of this very essential bulwark of protection. As these were let out they naturally gravitated to that increasing army of discontents. There was no where else for them to go. They had no choice in the matter of selecting their associates.

Thus lawlessness tended to increase. This necessitated a material increase in the police force. The records of the criminal courts indicated that the cost to the city of attempted enforcement of the law was very heavy, and increasing annually. This made it necessary to increase the amount of taxes in order to enforce the law. On account of increased burdens growing out of increased taxation, the number of tax sales of delinquent property annually mounted higher. The property sold under these forced sales was taken over by the few who were able to pay for them—and lost to those who were not able to hold out against the constantly rising tide of tax burdens. In the end—but why continue the narrative? Already the strained conditions were like an inflated air bubble.

THE EUROPEAN CRISIS

(Editorial in The Houston Press)

All over the world today men and women are asking the same question: Will the assassination of the Yugoslav king and the French foreign minister lead to war as another Yugoslav assassination in 1914 led to the World War?

Probably not now. But there is danger of war later. The tragic events of yesterday will further inflame the suspicions and increase the enmities which are sweeping Europe toward military conflict.

At Sarajevo, a member of a Yugoslav secret political society killed the Austrian archduke in the name of nationalism. Yesterday the assassin—apparently also a member of a Yugoslav secret political society, a Croat—killed a Serbian king-dictator, also in the name of nationalism.

Now, as in 1914, the European nations are preparing for war with vast armaments and diplomatic realignments. Indeed, the purpose of King Alexander's visit to France was to participate in secret negotiations which the French government hoped would modify Yugoslav-Italian hostility and perfect the French-British-Italian-Little Entente-Russian alliance against Germany. Last week Mussolini announced the imminent conclusion of a French-Italian accord, but he also issued a sharp warning to Yugoslavia, France's ally.

The chief factor for immediate peace now is not so much the League of Nations and the treaties, but the military weakness of Germany. Hitler has not succeeded in his project of secret armaments to the point where he can fight the French bloc of nations. If the two sides were as evenly armed now as they were in 1914, the danger of immediate war would be much greater.

The danger now is that the misdeeds of the Alexander dictatorship will rise up to haunt Yugoslavia, and that the Croats and other minority nationalities within the kingdom will destroy the precarious unity achieved by Serb domination. Such strife in Yugoslavia might light similar fires of revolt throughout the Balkans, especially in Rumania. The balance in Europe is feared to be too unstable to withstand such a shock.

While in the long run Hitler holds the key to European peace, the immediate responsibility rests rather with Italy and Great Britain. If Mussolini is tempted by Yugoslavia's internal weakness, to settle old disputes and grab more territory, almost any kind of an explosion might result.

Great Britain's responsibility is in keeping Mussolini quiet. Left alone under the pressure of Italian extremists, Mussolini might succumb to the madness of aggression. But if the London government today rises above the indecision which paralyzed it in the summer of 1914 and takes a strong, clear position for peace, there is a good chance of keeping Italy in the new French-British-Italian accord.

Meanwhile, however confused other aspects of this potentially dangerous situation may be, one thing should be clear to every American from President Roosevelt down to the humblest citizen: This is a European crisis which can be settled only by Europeans—and there is and will be no excuse for American interference of any kind.

THE TOWNSEND OLD AGE REVOLVING PLAN

(By I. B. ALFORD)

It has often been said that "there is nothing new under the sun." And yet, when we consider the centuries old customs in vogue, it appears that there is, after all, something new. It may be that we are observing impending shadows of "coming events," in conformity to that suggestion to be found in a certain ancient manuscript which declares a purpose to "make all things new."

When we contemplate this plan, also the EPIC plan, both of which seem to have been incubated in California, we are wont to wonder if, after all, "any good thing can come out of Nazareth."

Following is the "Townsend Plan in Brief" taken from a copyrighted bulletin by Dr. Townsend himself. As stated in previous issue, Forum is "combing the nation for utterances of our best writers and speakers on our common ills and suggested remedies." It will certainly be agreed that in dealing with the problem of old age, its relief, and a plan for same, Dr. Townsend has scored a bull's eye in the selection of his subject, whatever may be said of his suggested remedy.

In connection with the situation and or impels the confession that our erstwhile economic system has broken down completely, not a doubt of this fact. And this is not strange. Any system which permits a few people to accumulate, legally or otherwise, a surplus of life's necessities far in excess of their ability to consume them, and at the same time allows a large majority of the people to be crushed under the burden of what and despair, has ever been dashed on the rocks and destroyed. Read your history of Greece, Rome, France in fact, all past efforts at government, and observe that this statement is true. AND OURS IS NO EXCEPTION. IF THERE IS NOT SOME PLAN PUT IMMEDIATELY IN OPERATION TO BALANCE THIS HUMAN BUDGET, WE — THE PRESENT GENERATION—MUST PAY THE INEVITABLE PENALTY.

The Townsend plan proposes to remove 8,000,000 people from the ranks of the present business activities on a sustaining life retirement plan. This will permit the immediate employment from the ranks of those now in enforced idleness of this number of younger men and women now in the breadlines.

This will open up an avenue of employment for many young people who, having arrived at their maturity since the present depression came, have not been able to contact with modern industries by being employed. Many of these young men and women will make good if they are permitted a chance. But this is only one side of the Townsend plan. It proposes to make it possible for those who are retired under this plan to pass their last days in peaceful seclusion, in comfort, with not a shadow of dread or fear in life's declining years. As result of this plan in operation, "they shall build their own houses and inhabit them." "They shall plant their own vineyards and eat the fruit thereof." Such a plan is good to think about whether it materializes or not.

"THE TOWNSEND PLAN IN BRIEF"

"Have the National Government enact legislation to the effect that all citizen of the United States, man or woman—over 60 years—may retire on a pension of \$200 per month on the following conditions:

1. That they engage in no further labor, business or profession for gain.
2. That their past life is free from habitual criminality.
3. That they take oath to, and actually do, spend, within the confines of the United States, the entire amount of their pension within thirty days after receiving same.

"Have the National Government create the revolving fund by levying a general sales tax; have the rate just high enough to produce the amount necessary to keep the Old Age Revolving Pensions Fund adequate to pay the monthly pensions.

"Have the act so drawn that such a tax can be used only for the Old Age Revolving Pensions Fund."

In addition to Dr. Townsend's discussion the present issue of Forum presents articles from a number of shining lights of the nation in comment on this unique plan. Among these will be found an article by Mrs. Roosevelt in which she gives brief review of the Townsend plan.

TAX LIMITATION

(By SAM H. CANTRELL)

Equality is equity. But what might be equality in some instances might be wholly inequitable in other respects. Such is true in the plan of having no individual pay more than \$11.25 each year in taxes.

Let the matter be examined in the light of facts and see if an understanding of the situation cannot be reached. At the end of 1932, the tax collected was 207 million dollars. This sum of money comes to the state from three sources: Property taxes, 71 per cent; gasoline tax, 14 per cent; highway license fees, 6 per cent; gross receipts tax, 5 per cent; cigarette tax, 1 per cent; other taxes, 3 per cent. The local tax burden is \$121,000,000, which is an average of \$21 for each inhabitant of the state. This burden is 82 per cent of the ad valorem taxes collected. If \$11.25 per capita is set someone must pay up for the difference.

In 1930, there were 557,686 home owners in Texas. And it may be safely assumed there were 550,000 home owners in Texas in 1932. Home owners paid 147 million dollars of the tax load in 1932. Corporate, company and miscellaneous property paid 12 million dollars, which would practically all have to be assumed by home owners, under a limit of \$11.25 per capita. Home owners would have to assume this extra burden in spite of the fact of mortgages on their properties, and the indebtedness of 709 million dollars, or \$122.36 per individual as in respect to state indebtedness.

It is evident that some one must pay the extra cost whenever a shift is made in taxes. The question is, will the shift be made to sources most able to bear it, or will it be made to a source which is now more than 75 million dollars delinquent in tax payments. To shift this extra load to the shoulders of home owners would only produce more delinquency in its ranks, would increase the percentage of foreclosure on home properties, and in the end defeat all effort to solve the problem of ad valorem adjustment.

A limitation on the amount of taxes paid is an entirely different matter to an abolishment of ad valorem. Limitation of per capita taxes means a shift to the shoulders of the small tax payer. It burdens the small home owner and releases sources more able to pay taxes. To abolish ad valorem means to shift the burden from property to other sources more able to pay. A limitation of taxes is not a step toward the abolition of ad valorem. In fact it is a step away from such an end with the purpose of adding a further burden to ad valorem.

Evidently there must be a change perfected in the taxing system that will be workable and effective. The amendment to be voted on in November is a step toward a better system. But when property and intangibles are classified, to assess certain rates for each to bear, the income from such sources should be taken into consideration.

Let some of the facts in respect to classifying property be noted. In 1932, the value given for money on deposit in banks for taxable purposes was \$9,713,688, while actual deposits were \$658,273,000. The value of bank credit given for taxable purposes was \$42,421,820, while loans and discounts were \$86,250,000. The value of bonds and stocks for taxable purposes was \$1,118,015, while there was \$7,522,468 in general refunding bonds alone. In the case of capital stock there was rendered for taxable purposes the value \$542,180, in shares and capital stock, while there were charters granted for capital stock alone the value of \$38,503,000 in 1932. It is evident from the above facts that there is something wrong in our taxing system. The home owner is made to bear the load because he cannot secrete the value of tangible property, while individuals and corporations which hold intangible properties are able to elude the tax assessor.

If our government is to be maintained it will be necessary to build the machinery necessary to collect adequate taxes from

"The ruling classes always possess the means of information and the processes by which it is distributed. The newspaper of modern times belongs to the upper man. The under man has no voice; or if, having a voice, he cries out, his cry is lost like a shout in the desert. Capital, in the places of power, seizes upon the organs of public utterance, and howls the humble down the wind. Lying and misrepresentations are the natural weapons of those who maintain an existing vice and gather the usufruct of crime."
—"History of the World"
by John Clark Ridpath.

sources able to bear the load. No intangible source should be permitted to escape its just share of taxation. In fact at the present owners of intangibles are the ones getting most of the income. Our economic machine is so constructed that those people can reap the benefits of its working, and have been enabled to mass large lumps of wealth which have ceased to be productive and have in fact congested the operation of the machine. A proper taxing system must take into recognition the element of income in all its ramifications.

But a shift by limiting per capita taxes would not in the least prevent this massing of wealth. It would only produce a greater massing since the big taxpayer would be released while the load on the small taxpayer would have to be increased.

The functioning of our government must go on, our schools must be maintained at all costs if we keep democracy as our motto of progress, and to obtain the necessary financing for the above purposes, the small taxpayer would have to make up for the big taxpayers, thus taking away from his family needed food and clothes, and the assumption of a possibility of losing his home under mortgage foreclosure.

When our state becomes a land of tenants, and without home-owning, then progress will cease among our people. In many counties there is from 50 to 60 per cent of tenancy, yet that per cent of tenancy would be a different tenancy if all our people became tenants in fact. The social status of the tenant now is invariably that of the land owner, but when all our people become tenants the state would be a land of commercialized tenancy.

However if the drift toward placing the burden of carrying the tax load on property owners is continued, eventually our lands will be owned by outside capital, will be farmed wholly by machinery and human value will tend to fade from the picture. Let us vote against the tax per capita limit and for the amendment that classifies property.

THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL

(By SAM H. CANTRELL)

The Texas Centennial should not be permitted to lack for adequate financing. When an event stands to bring millions to our state, to set up employment for thousands, to introduce our great natural resources to an out-state people, and to cause citizens to revere the memory of the founders with a setting that blazons as reminiscences become more vivid, the matter of adequate monies should be met.

What can be accomplished by diverting the gasoline tax. From the Red River to Dallas, where the central exposition will be held, the average distance from all points is about 200 miles. Ten million people will hit the trail to Dallas, and to consider five people to each automobile, there will be two million cars. Two hundred miles means 10 gallons of gasoline to each car, and one pint of oil. Two million cars would burn 20 million gallons of gas, and two million pints of oil. At 15 cents per gallon for gasoline, there would be an income of \$3,000,000, and for oil there would be an income of \$200,000, at 10 cents per pint. Just one cent set aside on gasoline would bring in \$80,000.

Such a computation is for one way Dallas, and a two way Dallas would bring in \$60,000 alone.

However, the official trail would lead to San Antonio, Houston, etc. By this route at least 600 miles would be added to the 200 to Dallas. Suppose 3,000,000 people took the official trail then another \$30,000 would be added to the \$30,000 to Dallas, or something in the neighborhood of \$80,000 at one cent diversion. If the four cent gasoline tax is diverted on out of state gasoline consumption alone it would amount to \$320,000. And to add oil to this amount would make at least \$350,000, this at not extra cost to the oil trade which would get a tremendous profit.

Again suppose a tax of two per cent is assessed on insurance premiums, then for 1931, it would amount to \$1,403,751 for life insurance alone. Such a calculation does not include premiums paid by fire and other form of insurance companies.

A sales tax on luxuries would bring in quite a bit of revenue since people would purchase much of these materials while attending the exposition.

A big celebration would call for more food to be sold, a greater activity to be staged by amusement places, hence taxes on amusements should not be objectionable. A chain store tax is feasible since in many cities of the state the chains have dominant control and the added revenue to them would be enormous. Yet in principle the independent should not be excused from paying a tax, since benefits would come to it in the same proportion as to the chains.

Whatever tax may be assessed, it must be remembered that it will bring in far more revenue than any rough calculation would show. The gasoline tax would come from the citizens of the state who attend the exposition, and who otherwise would not have had occasion to spend their money in some such manner. It can be safely estimated that the diversion of the extra tax derived from the spending of our home people will be three times the amount spent by out-state people for gasoline.

Is it just to our home people to pay such a tax. Our home people will find a chance to sell their butter and eggs, fruits and vegetables, wheat and other farm products, so the money they spend in an extra trip will come back to them many fold.

When a chance comes for circulating money it should not be overlooked. The old method of drying up the issue of money has already brought about disaster. As long as our legislators are not willing to grant that more money may be introduced just so long we will have a depression hanging about our necks.

The Centennial can be financed adequately if our people become Texas conscious. This exposition is not to be merely an affair of the moment, but it will point out the way for the building of a future Texas.

The economic future must not be lost in the effort to provide for a saving in hard-boiled economy. It is the man that spends who produces progress. That individual who hoards never renders society a true service.

When the hand points forward with a knowledge of the past, progress is the order of the day, but when the hand ceases to point and drops, opportunity drops from the realm of true development. It must never be lost sight of that progress means onward and onward. There can be no stopping, no shunting the duty to go on and on.

The young lieutenant had been 30 seconds late on parade and was incurring the wrath of the C. O. later in the orderly room.

"I'm exceedingly sorry, sir," he apologized, "but I woke so late there was only 10 minutes to dress."
"Ten minutes," barked the colonel. "Why, boy, I can dress comfortably in 10 minutes."
"Yes, sir," said the lieutenant, "but I wash, sir."

The ideas that benefit a man are seldom welcomed by him on first presentation.
—Elbert Hubbard.

We take an enormously long stride forward and one that will be bitterly attacked by conservatives, when we advocate to clamp down on profit-making and seek to to skeletonize it, and eliminate it in war. That is precisely what I advocate, and that is what must be done. It is the first requirement of social justice.—Bernard M. Baruch.

A humorist helps us to see clearly one remark: "The difference between the last depression and any other is: In the former ones, nobody had anything; in this one, everybody had nothing."

THE TOWNSEND PLAN INDORSED

(By ROBERT QUILLEN)

(Probably the most widely read syndicate writer in the United States)

"A group in California is sponsoring an idea that is worth passing on for others to think about. It is based on the assumption—or accepted fact—that America in this machine age can no longer provide jobs for all of her people. If that is, in truth, the situation we face, the obvious solution of the problems to get rid of part of the people."

"What part? Here again the answer is simple. Dispose of those who are slowing up—those who have done their share of work. How can they be disposed of as competitors for jobs? By enabling them to retire with an adequate pension."

"That, you will say, is the usual joker. Old age pensions mean more taxes. But you expect to pay for what you get in this hard world. If you would be secure in your old age, you must lay by money while you are young. If you depend on some form of retirement insurance, that also costs you money."

"The taxes required to provide the pension fund would be the equivalent of installments on an insurance policy. "The tax suggested is a national tax on commodities in common use. You would not object to that kind of tax, for it would be much like putting money in the bank. With every purchase made you would lay away a little money to provide your old age pension."

"Then at 60 or 50 or an age experience proved best, you would quit work and give your job to a younger man—or woman. Thereafter you would take your ease and enjoy spending your pension."

"The only questions that remain is the size of your monthly check. How about \$200? Does that seem generous? Well, what difference does it make if you have provided for it? It could be either more or less, depending on the percentage of the sales tax."

"In any case it should prove a good living. And all of it would be put into circulation each month, for there would be no need to save if you were sure of a life income. "Think it over. There may be weak spots in it, but certainly it would make jobs plentiful, close poor houses and other similar institutions that add to the tax burden, and make carefree spenders of the anxious millions who now stint and save for old age."

RELIEF, WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

It was not so many years ago that the announced intention of Community Chest organizations to campaign extensively for contributions stimulated something of a cheery, reassuring feeling that the obligation of fortunate folks to care for those unfortunate would insure against a winter of suffering and want. The obligation was a community one. No ugly connotation of charity colored this sharing of blessings around Thanksgiving-time and Christmas. The Community Chest was the essence of good neighboring, the Red Cross the epitome of mercy.

But today this reassurance and good cheer is giving way to apprehension and almost to alarm. Community Chests are again appealing for funds. More will be necessary this year, they declare, than ever before—and who, indeed, can doubt it? But their plea comes at a time when the State has spent \$10,500,000 for outright relief, is beginning to spend \$6,000,000 more, and is contemplating the expenditure of \$3,500,000 more. It comes at a time when relief expenditures by the Federal Government have increased the national debt \$13,500,000,000 in eighteen months! And it comes at a time when Donald Richberg declares that abandonment of relief rolls for even such an ultimately necessary purpose as balancing the budget would produce a revolution "possibly within thirty days!" What can we feel but fury in the effort of private charity to challenge these waves of human misery, when the bulwarks of government billions are helpless against the tide?

The history of Government experiments under the New Deal has encompassed a series of grim paradoxes. Last May reemployment reached its highest peak since the depression began, more than 5,000,000 of the 13,000,000 unemployed having been returned to work; but during the same month Federal relief expenditures climbed to a new high record, also. Only a few days ago a Government spokesman reviewed the blessings of the New Deal and claimed recovery was at hand, while a news story in an adjoining column recounted the growing relief rolls and declared that the administration is to be faced with the task this winter of feeding 23,000,000 people. Business has made considerable gains from the nadir of depression, yet breadlines have grown also. The wheels of industry are whirring with renewed vigor, yet through the cacophony of industrial activity the dirge of human suffering is pounding in a rising crescendo. Every step upward toward recovery seemingly has been paralleled by a plunge deeper into the depths of depression.

ANALYSIS THE TOWNSEND PLAN

Insurance statistics show that only 8% of all people born, upon reaching the age of 60, have achieved financial success to such a degree that they may live comfortably thereafter without depending upon further earnings. Eighty-five percent of the remaining 90% are still employed or are endeavoring in some manner to earn all or part of their livelihood and the remainder are dependent upon public or private charity for their keep. Those of the 85% who are still earning are capable of producing only enough to partially pay for their living. A very small percentage actually earn enough for their total needs and but very few earn any surplus for their declining years.

Records Free From Habitual Crime This clause is designed to have a strong effect in restraining the young and impatient from taking the short cut of criminal activity to obtain money. They will hesitate to jeopardize their future welfare for the sake of getting money now by criminal activities.

Retirement on a Monthly Pension of \$200. The spending of \$200 per month is for a constructive purpose. First, to place an adequate amount of buying power in the hands of these citizens which will permit them to satisfy their wants that have been so restricted for the past four years. Second, to create such a demand for new goods of all descriptions that all manufacturing plants in the country will be called upon to start their wheels of production at full speed and provide jobs for all workers.

This money made suddenly available to the channels of trade will immediately start a tremendous flood of buying, since the country has been on short commodity rations for the past four years, and since all sections of the country will be affected alike (the old are everywhere) and the poorest sections will at once become important buying centers.

How Will This Money Be Spent? It will go into the regular channels of trade for food, clothing, homes, rent, furniture, automobiles—all manner and description of things dear to the human heart. It will go for travel, the pleasure of riding hobbies, theatre tickets, professional and servants employment and the thousand and one things which modern man demands.

Old AGE PENSION REVIEWED By ELEANOR ROOSEVELT Old age pensions have been brought very much to the fore again in the congressional campaigns on the West coast this year and there is no question but that some type of this form of relief will be a part of the social program proposed to the next congress.

Several of our states now have old age pension systems but none of them is considered perfect or in form that will endure without change. The New York state system with which I am most familiar provides an age limit of 70 years. A great many consider this too high, while others question whether just such an age limit alone is the proper basis for aid. Undeniably, many people of 60 are more incapacitated for work than others of 70 and beyond.

No discussion of old age pensions can progress very far without a consideration of ways and means, and here sharp divisions of opinion come in, accompanied by voluminous statistics and vast arrays of figures which, in the minds of the advocates of the particular plans, are entirely correct.

Among the ways of financing old age pensions are plans under which the cost would be borne by employers alone, by which employers and employees would contribute, by which government and industry would share the expense and still another which the government would bear the entire cost.

tax will bring this condition about and permit none to escape paying his share.

Pensioners to Retire Without Further Gain From Labor or Profession

This is an important feature of the plan since the idea is to create jobs for the young and able, eliminating competition for such jobs and positions on the part of elderly people.

Consumption of the products of farm and factory is the vital problem now facing our nation. The success of this plan is based entirely on the creation of jobs of production and by retiring all those pensioned, with adequate spending power, that they may consume for all their need in comforts, necessities and pleasure.

The desire to honestly earn is uppermost in the minds of American people. The records of our law enforcement department show that crime is largely the result of lack of opportunity to provide necessities of life through the sale of labor. Provide these opportunities for our younger generations and the crime problem will be greatly lessened.

Saving For Old Age We have been taught in the past that saving was essential in planning for security in old age. But recent experience has taught us that no one has yet been able to devise a sure method of saving. Statistical records show that a very high percent of all people reaching the age of sixty-five have, in spite of their best efforts, been unable to save enough to guard them from the humiliation of accepting charity in some form, either from relatives or from the state.

Sales Tax to Be Used Exclusively For the Pensions It is the intent of the plan to apply the sales tax solely to the one purpose of maintaining the pensions roll until such time as the public becomes fully assured of the beneficent and fair system of taxation involved in a universal retail tax.

No Change in Form of Government This plan of Old Age Revolving Pensions interferes in no way with our present form of government, profit system of business or change of specie in our economic set-up. It is a simple American plan dedicated to the cause of prosperity and the abolition of poverty.

The Meaning of Security to Humanity Here lies the true value in the Townsend Plan. Humanity will be forever relieved from the fear of destitution and want. The seeming need for sharp practices and greedy accumulation will disappear. Benevolence and kindly consideration for others will displace suspicion and avarice, brotherly love and tolerance will blossom into full flower and the genial sun of human happiness will dissipate the dark clouds of distrust and gloom and despair.

A man who believed he knew all about parrots undertook to teach what he thought to be a young mute bird to say "Hello!" in one lesson. Going up to the cage he repeated that word in a clear voice for several minutes, the parrot paying not the slightest attention. At the final "Hello" the bird opened one eye, gazed at the man, and snapped out, "Line's busy"

Teacher—Johnny, what's the difference between a battle and a massacre? Johnny—At battle is where a whole lot of whites kill a few Indians, and a massacre is where a whole lot of Indians kill a few whites.

Our Money

(Continued from page 1)

institutions belongs to the "glutinous rulers of finance," the "money lenders," who have the laws so fixed as to bind their victims helplessly while they viciously apply the lash and take from them their life savings and everything they produce.

The greatest, most tyrannical, cruel devastating swindle that has ever been perpetrated on a peace-loving, unsuspecting, unprotected people is today, under the iron heel sweeping of fixed laws, taking its sweeping toll of millions right here in our own good America; while the inhabitants tremble and wail with fear. The disaster wrought by this conspiracy is unparalleled in the annals of human history.

In some states, we are told, 25 per cent of the homes and private industries have already been sold under court order to pay interest and taxes; thus making thousands of owners homeless or tenants who must now sacrifice their lives and the lives of their posterity to satisfy the greed of the avaricious money lenders that now dominate government and make our democracy a scourge.

How long are we, the people of the United States of America, willing to bow to these vicious wolves? Shall we go on groping in the dark, trusting the ruthless powers that have their forces entrenched against us, to save us? Or will we awaken to our rights and inherited privilege to use our vote to secure legislators in Congress who are for the people who inhabit this country and against the heartless financial racketeers to whom we are now slaves held in bondage by the fetters of interest and taxes.

Demand of your Senators and Representatives that Congress fearlessly legislate to make a complete change in our financial system by placing the government in possession and control of all banks; give direct credit to everybody; make a felon of the money lender, the Wall Street racketeer and all market manipulators, money the blood of the nation, is made to circulate and not to hoard or lend for profit.

Surely the people, men and women of America, will break the shackles that the mighty vampires of high finance have fastened upon us. We will elect legislators to Congress who will not sell out or be dominated by these cunning, crafty swindlers; but who instead will, with the courage of "Give me liberty or give me death" legislate to sever the control of the nation's money from the insidious leeches and enact laws in harmony with the immutable laws of God that will save our country from the wrath of Communism or a dictator—either of which is as tragic and destructive to the common good as the other.

The divine law of compensation can not be evaded. The ultimate for the wicked, voracious lovers of money is inevitable. "God is not mocked for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7)

"Ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you." "Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire." (James 5:1,3)

Dedicated to those who THINK.—E. W. Arnold in The Liberty Bell.

SEES NO EVOLUTION NOW

We do not see humans evolving from crawfish, monkeys nor from any other source in these days, and if this were ever so, why is not the process going on now? When did this evolution end?

Of course, we see improvement in cattle, horses and fowls, which may seem something like evolution, but this is wrought by study and experiment.

As for me, I prefer to believe that God created man as the Bible tells us He did. I would not like to believe that my being was evolved from a crawfish or an ape. Life is a mystery. The conception and growth of the child, and finally his safe entrance into the world, will always seem a miracle to me.—Mrs. C. N. Murray, 2103 San Antonio Street, Austin, in Dallas News.

AMENDMENTS OPPOSITION HEADED BY JOHN H. KIRBY

A committee of Texas citizens to disseminate public information concerning the eight proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution to be voted on November 6th will be headed by John Henry Kirby, according to announcement made here today. Mr. Kirby accepted the appointment as Chairman of the Citizens Committee on Constitutional Amendments after conferring with educational leaders, representatives of organized labor, taxpayers and other citizens interested in the progress and welfare of Texas.

In accepting the appointment Mr. Kirby said, "There is little merit and lots of danger in these eight proposals to change the Constitution of our State and our canvas of public sentiment reveals a strong tendency throughout Texas to 'Scratch them all.'"

"The friends of public education are solidly organized against Senate Joint Resolution No. 13 which would limit the amount of State taxes that could be levied, collected and expended to \$22.50 per capita for educational purposes and to operate the State Government. Senate Joint Resolution No. 16, which would confer almost unlimited taxing powers upon the Legislature and which would destroy the meaning of the part of the Texas Constitution which provides that 'Taxation shall be equal and uniform,' seems to be exceedingly unpopular in all sections of Texas where we have tested out sentiment.

Too Much Power "Probably the most opposition to any of these proposals has been centered on the one which would centralize political power in the County Commissioner's Courts and further increase the tax spending authority of these agencies while providing no check or veto on the powers thus granted. Another proposal has been broadly interpreted by its sponsors as a measure to abolish the evils of the fee system but it seems to have been hurriedly thought out and if adopted it may increase rather than curb the abuses of the fee system. It is known as Senate Joint Resolution No. 2.

"Probably the most meritorious of all these amendments, although it is of least widespread interest, is House Resolution No. 30, designed to permit the taxing of lands of the University of Texas for county and school district purposes. Other amendments to be voted on November 6th are: House Joint Resolution No. 41 to permit home rule cities to alter, amend or repeal their charters every twelve months; House Joint Resolution No. 42 to permit officials in home rule cities to hold office four years instead of the present two year term, and Senate Joint Resolution No. 21, authorizing the legislature, by a two-thirds vote, to create new counties and change the boundaries of existing ones."

Mr. Kirby's appointment was announced by Judge W. C. Baker, of Kerrville, Chairman of the Texas Tax Relief Committee, which called public attention to the proposed amendments several months ago and suggested the formation of an independent committee of citizens to enlighten the electorate as to the provisions of the amendments.—Sound Taxation.

A PROPHECY IN 1896

"The dangerous tendencies and extravagant pretensions of the courts which I have pointed out ought not to be minimized, but ought to be resisted. Their resistance ought not to take place as advised by Jefferson, by meeting the invaders foot to foot, but ought to take place under the wise and moderate guidance of the legal profession, but the danger is that the people do not always so act. In popular governments, evils are often born with stolid patience until a culminating point is reached, when the people burst into sudden frenzy and redress their grievances by violent and extreme measures and even tear down the fabric of government itself. There is danger, real danger, that the people will see at one sweeping glance, that all the powers of their government, Federal and State, lie at the feet of a judicial oligarchy; that these powers are being steadily exercised in behalf of the wealthy and powerful classes, and to the prejudice of the scattered and segregated people; that the power thus seized includes the power of amending the Constitution; the power of superintending the action, not merely of Congress, but also of the State legislatures; the power of degrading the power of two houses of Congress, in making those investigations which they deem necessary to wise legislation, to the powers which an English Court has ascribed to British Colonial Legislature; holding that a venal legislature, temporarily vested with power, may corruptly bargain away those essential attributes of sovereignty and for all time; that corporate franchises

are sanctified and placed forever beyond recall by the people; that great trusts and combinations may place their yokes upon the necks of the people of the United States, who must groan forever under the weight, without remedy and without hope; that trial by jury and the ordinary criminal justice of the States, which ought to be kept near the people, are to be set aside, and Federal Court injunctions substituted therefore; that those injunctions extend to preventing laboring men quitting their employment, although they are liable to be discharged by their employers at any time, thus creating and perpetuating a state of slavery. There is danger that the people will see these things all at once; see their eroded judges doing their thinking on the side of the rich and powerful see them look with solemn cynicism upon the suffering of the masses, nor heed the earthquake when it begins to rock beneath their feet; see them present a spectacle not unlike that of Nero adding while Rome burned. There is danger that the people will see all this at one sudden glance and that the furies will then break loose and that all hell will ride on their wings!"

COTTON PICKERS ARE HIRED BY THE MILE

QUANAH.—A Hardeeman county farmer has supplied a new wrinkle on the matter of cotton picking. He hires pickers at the rate of 10 cents per mile.

His unusual offer was scoffed at by many but he had takers and his production, sparse because of the drought last summer, is moving from the field to the gin by pickers who trudge a mile for a dime regardless of the amount of cotton they sack.

The father of this idea is a tenant farmer and one year here is enough for him. After he gets his cotton crop picked he's moving back to East Texas.—Bowie Booster.

JOHN STEVENS MCGROARTY ON THE TOWNSEND PLAN

We had been listening to speeches, reading articles in newspapers and magazines, poring over the works of the economists, hearkening to the loiterers in public parks, and all to no avail. What is the matter with the world and what to do about it remained a mystery to us. Then, we heard a voice in the Synagogue, but whether it came from the back seats where the sinners congregate or the high seats which the saints occupy, we were unable to tell. It was probably from somewhere in between that the voice came. It was the voice of a doctor of medicine, although it was not of medicine that he spoke. Dr. F. E. Townsend speaking from under a rafted down near the sea. And this is what he was saying:

"To help cure the economic ills that afflict our own country let us adopt a system that will retire men from work at the age of 60 years, giving to each person so retired a pension of \$200 a month, but on one condition only—that each person so pensioned must spend the money as soon as he gets it. . . . Trade and commerce would boom and no depression could occur as long as several billions of dollars of money reached the channels of trade through the pensions each month. The old folks, no longer paralyzed with the fear of the poorhouse and dread of having to receive charity, would enrich the world with artistry and their acquired wisdom. Insane asylums would no longer be filled to overflowing, the prisons would lose half their inmates, and the happiness of the world would be increased immeasurably."

Now, do you know, this seemed like a ray of light and wisdom to us as we listened. There seemed to be so much more sense in it than what Spengler, Ortega and all those so-called smart fellows have been saying.

The white-collar man, the artisan and other classes of men, are not wanted after they are even forty-years of age. They are ditched by employers just when they are most capable and useful. And it is a great pity that they have no chance.

Would not the suggestion made by Dr. Townsend be a way out? We, ourselves, have not the knowledge to answer. But, it is something for all who sit in the Synagogue to think about.—L. A. Sunday Times Magazine of November 19, 1933.

Goodwill for a business is built by good goods, service and truthful advertising.—E. R. Waite.

People who sit and wait for their ship to come in may find it turns out to be a receivership. —Atlantic Log.

PRODUCTION

The greatest source of wealth is production. Wealth may be acquired by trade, enhancement of values, gift, robbery or by chance, but its original source is production. Man originally produced little and possessed little. As his brain developed he devised ways of producing more and he possessed more. The need for physical exertion decreased and the fruits of production went to the man with the brains to produce, who was soon forced to combine with others for mutual protection so he could retain possession of what he produced.

What was the good of producing if he could not possess. Therefore, the will to produce went hand in hand with the power to possess. Eventually a high price was paid in tribute and taxes for the power to possess. The increase of production by physical exertion is limited. The increase of production by mental exertion is unlimited. Therefore brain has received greater rewards than muscle and is now hard put to retain possession of the fruits of its labors.

What price must brains pay to muscle for the power to retain all it wants? For the present it must pay all that muscle wants; eventually all that muscle needs.—F. A. Garbert.

Radio Address

(Continued from page 1) in writing during this campaign, champion the Frazier-Lemke Refinance Bill—the Cost of Production Bill—the payment of the soldiers in cash—and unemployment insurance. Vote for no candidate who will not openly, publicly, privately and in writing, decare himself unalterably opposed to gag rule. If any candidate is afraid to take a stand on these issues, he is unfit to represent you in the American Congress. Stand by and protect your friends and this nation will once more be made responsive to our will.

There are no bad times for good ideas.—Uncle Jim.

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AUSTIN — THE DRISKILL European Plan IS THE HOTEL AT AUSTIN

CALIFORNIA IN APPREHENSION SINCLAIR'S PLAN

By PAUL C. EDWARDS
 SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 20.—Thousands of unemployed of the nation flocking to California—Millions of dollars of capital fleeing from the state—Hundreds of lifelong democrats deserting their party and joining the republican ranks—Hundreds of republicans reversing the process and joining the democratic procession—This is the picture, actual and conjectural, in California's gubernatorial campaign, the most amazing in the history of the state; and all because a wisplish, mild-mannered, blue-eyed writing man in Pasadena published a pamphlet entitled, "I, Governor of California," and made its title begin to look prophetic by getting himself nominated for governor on the democratic ticket.

The little man who threw this great state into such an uproar is Upton Sinclair, for 30 years a militant socialist, author of "The Jungle," and a whole library of later books tearing holes in the established order.

State Has Jitters

Whether he will be elected, whether the tide of unemployed will engulf the state, and whether capital and industry, including the Croesus-like cinema industry of Hollywood, will leave California flat remains to be seen.

The zero hour is Nov. 6, date of the general election. Until that day has come and gone, Californians are doomed to endure such a case of jitters as they never have experienced before.

Business is thoroughly frightened and party lines have broken down. Voters are dividing into two main groups—those who believe Sinclair is a Messiah who will lead all the unemployed out of the bondage of the depression, and those who believe he will plunge the state into a Sovietized commune.

The latter are concentrating their support behind Frank F. Merriam, acting governor since the death of the late Gov. James Rolph, Jr.

Merriam's former affiliations were with the conservative wing of the republican party. Into his campaign army are coming demo-

FIRST CENTENNIAL ADVERTISEMENT



Mrs. Helen R. Carroll, official State of Texas hostess at the Chicago Century of Progress, is shown inspecting what Katy Lines officials say is the first display advertisement to appear concerning the Texas Centennial. The sign has occupied a prominent space in the Katy's exhibit in the Travel and Transport building at the Chicago fair from the day the Centennial Commission announced the site for the big 1936 all Texas celebration.

crats and progressive republicans who in normal times, would condemn him as an impossible reactionary.

Further to complicate this strange situation, a third candidate is in the field in the person of Raymond L. Haight, a young Los Angeles attorney new to politics of the state. He won his place on the ballot by forming a party of his own known as the commonwealth party, in which he had no opposition.

Haight is attacking both the Sinclair and Merriam camps, making a bid for the votes of the progressive democrats who cannot stomach the strong Sinclair medicine, and for the progressive republicans who believe Merriam will be the tool of big business.

CENTENNIAL SHRINES

Houston, Texas.—Now that the Texas Centennial will be held in the State fair grounds in Dallas to perpetuate the glories of Texas history and independence, it is hoped that all of Texas will cooperate in moulding together the one strong link to keep alive the immortal deeds of our illustrious forefathers who won Texas independence by their loyalty and fighting courage for their posterity.

The several sacred shrines of Texas battlegrounds situated in a number of places in the great Lone Star State should be given attention by the citizens of this State in a way to glorify and immortalize our heroes. Remember the

Alamo, remember Goliad and remember San Jacinto—and let us not forget other hallowed shrines situated in various places in this State where battles were fought by the beloved patriots of early Texas history. Houston could make one of the interesting shrines of the world at San Jacinto battleground, where multiplied thousands would visit.

The Texas Centennial should not be made into a "commercial show," but every turn should be to perpetuate the glorious history of Texas in as unselfish and patriotic manner as the Texas pioneers fought and died for eternal Texas freedom, liberty and independence from the tyranny of old Mexico. Let us forget! Let us forget! —Jesse J. Gorman in Houston Post

A Judge in Kansas had failed to be re-elected. He became cashier in a local bank. A man presented a check to be cashed.

"I don't know you," he said to the man.

The man produced a business card and a lot of letters addressed to himself.

"Not sufficient proof of identity," said the cashier.

"Why, judge," protested the man, "I've known you to hang a man on less evidence than this."

"That may be," replied the ex-judge, "but when I'm paying out money, I have to be careful."

"Was the boss annoyed when you told him I was leaving next week?"

"Yes; he thought it was this week."

WHY NOT CALL ON GOD BAAL MAY BE SLEEPING OR PERHAPS VISITING

Nam homo proponit, sed Deus disponit.

So runs a truism as old as the wisdom of the human race. "Man proposes, but God disposes." It can be found in Homer's Iliad. Demosthenes used it as did Plautus. Seneca, the Pagan, said it as did Marcellinus. You will find it in Fenelon and Montaigne and Dante and Schiller. Even Cervantes, master of laughter, uses it in his "Don." It is the high note in Thomas a Kempis's "Imitation of Christ."

How pitifully small and weak and helpless we are without God's will! Man forever proposing and God forever disposing. Langland in his "Vision of Piers Ploughman" puts it this way:

Homo proponit et Deus disponit. And governeth alle goode virtues.

It is time there was told again in words of fire for all mankind to hear the ancient story of the tower of Babel. Read the age-old legend in the eleventh chapter of the Book of Genesis.

The people had the fruits of the earth and were of one speech. But they were not content—they said, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto Heaven—"

They wanted to reach heaven by worldly power and it is the story of our civilization today. There have been those in high office who thought that might meant right. They brought on the war. And today there are men in high office who think that reason is higher than the human equation by which God keeps man mortal; finite instead of infinite.

Yes—man, the great reasoner, brushes aside the thing of the spirit, the ineffable, still small voice and in his wordly egotism proclaims himself dictator by intellect alone. How unconsciously fitting was the action of the French revolutionists in placing a naked courtesan on the altar at Notre Dame and hailing her as the Goddess of Reason! How equally fitting is the action of the Russian Soviet in declaring the non-existence of God, by a Red ukase! The spires of the great French cathedral still stand sanctified, and in the heart of the Russian muskier there still sings the song of his soul even as under the lash of the czars.

All of us have been guilty. All

of us in the softening, enervating years of a false prosperity, based on mad gambling excesses in the stock market, thought that we were self-sufficient; thought that poverty had been swept from the earth and nevermore were the people upon it to hunger. There was to be, O my friends, a chicken in every pot and unto each and everyone was vouchsafed a two-car garage. Then came the flood! And after it, the mad emotional revolt.

And, following in its wake, the rule of reason.

Man was to be regimented. His life was to be ordered for him. He was to be told how and where and when he should work; what his pay should be, what clothes he was to wear and what he was to eat. Existence was to be stabilized, standardized, NRA'd and AAA'd.

A blue-print of an economic and industrial and agricultural heaven was stretched over the face of the earth.

The thunders had flashed around a modern Mount Sinai and a beardless Moses, in the form of Tugwell, had come back to the people carrying tablets of stone. And upon those sacred stones were written the new Commandments, the modern Thou-Shalt-Nots that would bring us all to the promised land.

A new milk and honey for contented robots!

The wisdom of the ages was to be tossed into the hellbox to make way for new experiments.

Joseph of old stored the grain when the harvest was great and saved the people from starvation. But Joseph was old-fashioned. The Brain Trust decreed that every third pig should be killed and every third row of cotton should be overturned and the fruits of the earth to be destroyed.

But, Lo, the sun beat down upon the earth and there was no rain. And the crops were destroyed and the cattle were famished.

And more millions poured from the government coffers to help the stricken farmers who were but a little while before being paid handsome bounties for destroying the very crops they were now being financed to save.

The law of supply and demand works in spite of the ukase of the intellectual monopoly.

We cannot harness the winds nor stem the tides—nor change the course of the stars. Nor can we change human nature by legislative enactments.

Citations are endless, but why go on? The Brain Trust is no worse than any of the rest of us. We

have been content in the days of our prosperity as well as in our poverty to depend upon the rule of reason.

It is a national habit of mind not that of any group of individuals.

Dependence upon human reason has also made possible the growth of the racketeer and the reign of the gangster, the Dillingers and the Barrows who are cheered in our movies.

Let us, then, unashamed, ask God's guidance in ALL our troubles.

Let there be a moratorium declared on his rule of reason alone. Let us seek succor from our troubles by turning to Him as man has turned throughout the ages.

It may cleanse our national soul.—The National Republic.

WHY \$200 PER MONTH

Probably one of the best reasons that could be given for demanding this rate of pay is contained in Albert Wiggam's recent newspaper article appearing under the caption, "Explore Your Mind." In this column he answers questions propounded by his readers. A reader asks him this question: "Is it true that we become more materialistic as our material wealth increases and our standards of living rise?" His answer is: "I do not think so. Nothing in my belief adds so much to the spiritual life of a people as wealth. A poor people economically is a poor, sodden people mentally. Give them wealth and they write books, dramas, philosophy, build churches and temples, erect schools and colleges, promote science and develop all the things of the mind and spirit."

But a more essential and potent reason for demanding a liberal retirement credit for elderly people lies in the necessity for providing them with the means whereby they might protect themselves, if need be, against extortioners and profiteers. The get-rich-quick artists are ever on the alert to relieve those who are known to have money from the burden of it and it can be expected that artificial scarcity of certain essential articles will be created by these artists as the most ready means of compelling the public to pay exorbitant prices.

One salutary lesson, however, would be sufficient to teach these human cormorants the folly of such procedure. The old folks would assess themselves in every community where such tactics were tried for enough to enable them

to buy and stock their own store from which they would sell at cost, if need be, until such time as the profiteers came to their sense and agreed to be good.

Given the ability to protect themselves it is inconceivable that the old folks would not use it when need arose. Knowing that the elders possessed such power it would be a foolhardy business man indeed who would endeavor to take advantage of them.

Another important reason for the \$200 per month lies in the fact that it is quite impossible in this age to live well and enjoy modern conveniences on less than that amount. That should be considered as a minimum standard of existence for any individual in the land who has served his generation for forty years or so. And if prices rise to a general level much in excess of those of the present day, we shall have to raise the retirement pay to a higher figure. We do not believe, however, that prices will have a tendency to rise extraordinarily for the reason that the greatly increased volume of business will enable the retailers to make greatly increased profit without increasing their rate of charge. Competition will still prevail and the merchant who endeavors to gouge the public will immediately find himself facing a complete loss of customers who will throw their custom to the less greedy competitor of such merchant.

The general level of buying power for all the people is the thing of immediate concern for us, as it always will be. To keep this buying power on a level with our producing power is imperative if we are to avoid the sorry spectacle of a people continually creating faster than they can consume, piling up wealth in manufactured goods that they cannot use because there is not money enough in circulation to buy those goods, with the attendant evils of unemployment and want foisted upon a great mass of our citizenship.

This balance between production and consumption cannot come through destroying crops, live stock and manufactured goods, but must come through raising the purchasing power of the people through increase in the circulating cash and credit of the people.—F. E. Townsend, M. D.

The old Indian was riding along the road on his pony, while his squaw followed on foot, heavily burdened with luggage.

"Say, Redskin, why isn't your wife riding?" asked a passing motorist.

"Ugh," answered the Indian; "she got no pony."

WRIGHT PATMAN'S WEEKLY LETTER

Cottonseed Grading

The large crushing mills and a few so-called specialists and experts in the Department of Agriculture seem determined to require that all cottonseed be sold on grades arrived at by a complicated and impractical formula.

Cottonseed grading has been tried and has proven a failure. An investigation disclosed that a number of samples were taken from the same bale of seed sent to different chemists and their analyses varied in value on a ton of seed from two dollars to fourteen dollars. Further, it costs about two and one-half dollars to grade a sample of seed. Therefore, the individual farm seller will not get the benefit of the grading, but the purchaser of the seed will guess at the grade and very likely the guess will not be in the farmers' interest. And when a sufficient quantity of seed has been gathered by the purchaser, it will be graded and sold accordingly. I expect to do what I can to prevent any such regulations being put into effect, as it is against the farmers' interest.

The National Debt Exaggerated

It is true that the Federal Government owes twenty-five billion dollars. Very little of this money, however, has been spent in a way that does not provide for its repayment. For instance, billions of dollars of it have been loaned to railway, insurance, building and loan companies, banks, and other lines of business and industry, as well as to home and farm owners. It will all be paid back with interest.

Much of this money has been furnished for public works constructions. Seventy per cent of it will be paid back with interest.

Very little of the money that has been expended since Mr. Roosevelt became President will not be paid back in full with interest. It is not generally published that the Government has in its general fund today more than two and one-half billion dollars in addition to the two billion dollars gold stabilization fund.

A diner who had ordered a Swiss cheese sandwich on rye bread suddenly decided to change his order and asked the waiter if it would be possible to have an American cheese sandwich instead.

The waiter nodded graciously opened wide his mouth, and shouted to the cook. "Naturalize that Swiss."

A WORD WITH YOU

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