

Americans Must Awake to World Conditions



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THE fact that we Americans have not awakened to the complete meaning of our new place in world affairs and of the reactions here of international economic forces is made evident on every hand. Only very recently, for instance, farmer organizations petitioned the President and the Interstate Commerce Commission to readjust railroad rates to pre-war basis and they have brought pressure to bear on Congress to pass an emergency tariff. The farmers have also sought the President's aid for a general decrease in Federal Reserve Bank discount rates based on farm commodities and a large increase in Federal Reserve notes. A bill has been introduced in the house of representatives proposing to limit the interest chargeable by the Federal Reserve banks. Organized labor is seeking to maintain war-inflated wages and special privileges, seemingly unconscious of the fact that the international political and economic forces which made those wages and privileges possible have been replaced by equally irresistible forces of deflation.

While we have made many important readjustments since the peak of inflation in May of last year, we have not accomplished the most important of all — mental readjustment to the stubborn and inescapable facts in the case. Rail rates are unquestionably too high in instances, not only for the welfare of business generally but also for the best interests of the railroads themselves. There they should be reduced. But the farmers and business men who are clamoring for a general readjustment of these rates to a pre-war basis should realize that they are demanding drastic action on the part of the Interstate Commerce Commission which would mean financial disaster to the railroads and eventually to the commerce of the country.

It should be evident to all that to reduce rates without first reducing railroad operating costs would be calamitous. Operating costs, however, cannot be greatly lowered so long as 63 per cent of railroad revenue is absorbed in wages, as contrasted with only 43 per cent in 1917. So, in the final analysis the farmers' quarrel is not with the railroad managements but with organized railroad labor, which is opposing a reduction in the largest item of operating cost and thereby penalizing the farmer and all other producing interests in the country.

At the level established by the increased wage award of 1920 railroad wages represented an increase of 130 per cent over 1915, while the cost of living, as estimated by the National Industrial Conference Board, was only 90 per cent above the cost of living figure for 1915. The annual return on railroad investment for the last eleven years proves that the railroads did not prosper during the war and after-war periods. On the contrary, their return steadily declined, while the earnings of railroad employees were mounting by no less than two billion dollars in three years. This increase in payroll was to compensate for the increase in the cost of living. But the railroad investor was not only compensated in the same depreciated dollar that the workman found to be worth only fifty cents in purchasing power, but the investor received fewer dollars. Railroad dividends declined from an aggregate of three hundred and twenty million dollars in 1917 to

two hundred and seventy-eight million dollars in 1920. During that period railroad wages, however, increased from one billion seven hundred and thirty-nine million dollars to three billion six hundred million dollars. The throwing up of tariff barriers for which the farmers plead will, in the end, not only fail to accomplish its purpose — the bettering of the farmers' condition — but will do the very opposite. And the crux of this misconception lies in the failure of the advocates of the Emergency Tariff Bill to realize that this country has been transformed from a debtor to the leading creditor nation of the world.

Actual relief of the present condition can come only through the creation of new markets and outlets for the products of the farmer and not by artificially increasing the prices of goods entering into domestic consumption. This result can be accomplished best by opening up our foreign markets to take over our surplus supplies. The future prosperity of the country depends largely upon our activities in foreign fields of commerce, and a policy so archaic and provincial as to shut off our commercial intercourse with the world cannot remedy the unfavorable conditions against which we are now fighting.

and more thrift, not more inflation, are demanded in this country today. We must not take a backward step. We must go on with the necessary readjustments until they have been completed. We cannot have stabilized conditions otherwise. Our farmers must remember that, while they have borne the brunt of deflated prices so far — and the average price paid to the producers of the principal crops in this country on April 1 was 88 per cent lower than a year ago — the forthcoming crop will be raised cheaper than the last by about 25 per cent. The supply of farm labor in April was 95 per cent normal as compared with 72 per cent in April, 1920, and 84 per cent in April, 1919, and wages are from 25 to 35 per cent less than last year.

In the end the farmer will profit most by not seeking to increase the price of his products by artificial means and economically unsound devices, but by exerting his powers to effect a readjustment of commodity prices and production costs to a fair, stabilized basis. His trouble today is chiefly miscalculation, and the solution of the problem in balanced readjustment. The farmer has most to gain finally by producing as much primary wealth as his land will yield. Prosperity is essentially based on production.

English Boxers Not Good Trainers

By DAVID L. BLUMENFELD
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—"What is the matter with English boxers?" a man asked me the other day. "Everything," I told him. In the first place the British boy will not take the trouble to keep himself in shape. He may have a beautiful left hand with a nice little dig in it, his footwork may be a treat to watch, his blocking and countering all that they ought to be, but he is not tough. Unlike you American boys, he cannot "chop and come again" with a man who is packing real punches in his mitts.

The average British boy starts his career as a six-rounder in preliminary contests at the London ring. In the Blackfriars road, where he meets with all sorts and sizes, he learns to box, true enough, but he does not learn to fight.

The British fan is much too prone to shout. "Turn it up," whenever a boxer takes a count as a rest, the result being that a boy thinks he is hurt when he is really shaken, and early gets a distaste for hard hitting.

Another thing! Too many British boxers train on beer. They have been brought up on it, and they are not going to give it up for any "blooming prizefight."

Over in England a man will get stung up with a promoter and go through his training in a lachrymose sort of way. A little ball punching here, some skipping when he feels like it, shadow boxing enough to give him speed, and a few workouts when he can get the sparring partners. As soon as his fight is over he spends his money. In three weeks or a month he is back again, and so you see him, hanging around the ring, spending a man for a few pounds, while waiting for another contest. Of course, he is not doing himself any good. He is no harder than an India rubber ball.

As far as our champions are concerned, things are a bit different. They would like more battles than they get, but as we don't allow no-decision contests, nobody who considers himself anything of a champ will risk his title unless the financial inducement is very high.

So you see our champs get soft, too. We have plenty of good boys, but most of them have an American training. Wilde, of course, is a freak, but Tommy Noffs, Ted (Kid) Lewis, and Freddy Welsh go to prove that the material is there right enough, even if the flesh is weak and soft.

Give England no-decision contests, let our boys learn the first rudiments of in-fighting, and we may be able to do something. At present, I wouldn't put a cent on any of our champs were they to come over here, save those who have had a U. S. flat education. "An American boxer can find a man's solar plexus in the dark," Ted Lewis once told me. "There are few British boys who can reach it in the full glare of the ring arena lamps."

SUNDAY AT THE CHURCHES.
Church of Christ, south part of town, corner Roberts and Cobb Sts.—Services Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. Song service, reading of the Scriptures and breaking of bread. "Fellowship" was the subject chosen for the memory verses. "They then that received his word were baptized; and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls, and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayers." Acts 2:41-42. Song service at 7 o'clock in the evening. A welcome extended to all.

PUBLIC SALE.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will, on Monday, August 15th, 1921, at 2:30 p. m. o'clock, at the old J. Green residence, on the Pacific Highway, about 4 miles south of Roseburg, Oregon, sell at public sale to the highest cash bidder, one Willys-Knight five passenger touring automobile, with equipment, motor No. 3709, serial No. 12312, I. H. CASTLE.

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CHURCH NOTICE.
International Bible Students association, Moose hall, corner Jackson and Washington streets. Regular subject for study next Sunday, "God's Great Plan of the Ages." The public cordially invited.

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