Pension Lists Put Staggering Load on Austria

By Wade Werner

VIENNA (AP) — Never has hard-pressed little Austria been able to exclaim in the prosperous American manner:

"One automobile for every five inhabitants!"

Even in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis, however, she still is able to say:

"One pension for every five inhabitants old enough to vote."

How numerous pensions are in this republic of 6,500,000 inhabitants is best shown by figures. The Austrian government has on its payroll 108,215 active employes. On its pension list, however, it has 115,944 persons drawing government money monthly.

This is a pension list more than 7000 names longer than the payroll. The fact that pensions equal 78 per cent of active salary makes the effect virtually a double payroll.

The Austrian railways, government owned but with a budget of their own, have 71,500 employes. They pay 65,500 pensions.

The municipality of Vienna has 25,000 persons on its payroll. It pays pensions to 17,000 others.

Only three years have passed since the old age pension law for industrial workers went into effect, so there are only 77,300 persons drawing pensions of this class.

Pensions paid by private firms and corporations are estimated at 300,000.

Municipalities outside of Vienna add about 55,000 to the public-private pension list.

In other words, more than 625,000 Austrians are drawing pensions.

The government's share of this financial burden is acutely increased just now by unemployment insurance paid to 430,000 jobless.

Traces Back To Empire Splitup

There are many reasons for the unusual growth of pension lists in Austria. One of the most important is, that when the Austro-Hungarian empire was dismembered after the war, thousands of civil service, railway and school employes living in what are now parts of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Jugoslava and Italy, clung to their Austrian citizenship and came to Vienna.

Rather than treat these faithful employes brutally, the authorities here found places for many of them and later pensioned older workers to make room for the younger generation.

Thousands of this class of pensioners, not being superannuated, found new jobs to supplement their incomes. A few even manage to hold two jobs in addition to drawing the pension.

This naturally makes for denunciations of the "doppelverdiener" (double-earner) by those who would create opportunity for the unemployed.

Sport Slants

By Alan J. Gould
(Associated Press Sports Editor)

This goes back a few years but you will let that part of it go if you happen to be interested in what Steve Hamas did to Tommy Loughran in the ring at Madison Square Garden.

The scene was Philadelphia. Tommy, the big shot, was getting ready to go on for a main bout. Steve was an unknown youngster, billed for a preliminary.

They met by accident outside a hotel, both aiming to take a limbering up walk. Steve recognized Tommy and spoke. The veteran invited the youngster to go along. They walked and talked for an hour. That is, Tommy did the talking. Steve the listening.

Tommy told Steve the importance of the left jab, how to maneuver, the things to watch for most in the ring, how to keep off a rushing or too eager opponent.

A few nights ago they helped Tommy out of the ring after he had failed utterly to stop the rushes of Steve.

"I wish it had been anybody but you," Steve said to Tommy afterward, in the dressing room. "You were always my idol."

GABBY IN WRONG JOB

Here's winter news from the Old Sarge:

"Speaking of Forty-Niners, Cardinal Gabby Street (and he shoots under 49 plenty) holed out two approach shots at Schifferdecker while playing with Dodger Joe Becker on one of last week's coldest days.

"The first was a 60-yard approach on No. 1. When Gabby addressed his ball 60 yards from No. 2 green a few minutes later, he remarked: 'Just to show that other shot was no fluke, watch this.' That approach trickled into the cup, too. And to think he's wasting time winning baseball championships."

GRIMES IN FOLD

The reason no squawk has been heard about salary matters from old Burleigh Grimes, who outgamed the Athletics in two bristling world's series duels last October, is quite simple, after all.

Grimes signed a two-year contract with the Cardinals before the 1931 season and all the Chicago Cubs have to do is take it over. Presumably they are satisfied, since they took over the obligation willingly and even tossed in Bud Teachout in the exchange of Hack Wilson.

Grimes, writes Jim Crusinberry in the Chicago Daily News, has put his baseball money into a place where he farms like a country gentleman and raises or trains fancy riding horses. He makes a nice profit at this business, too. When he was in Ohio, the pitcher told Crusinberry, he once bought a horse for $200 and sold the animal for $2500 after training it for a year.

GRIEF FOR CARD FOES

One of the reasons why the Cardinals may think as well of Ray Starr as they do of the more celebrated Dizzy Dean is the record of Starr's achievements in International league company in 1931, just revealed by the official averages.

The Rochester right-hander led his league in twirling effectiveness, at 2.83 runs per nine-inning game, besides showing the top record of 20 victories and 7 defeats. He pitched 18 complete games, but was a trifle wild, issuing 102 passes in 216 innings.

This Game of Golf

By O. B. Keeler

The case, dealing with golf, is reported as Everett V. Goodwin et al., No. 403, supreme court of North Carolina, Dec. 2, 1931; an appeal from the superior court of Guilford county, from a judgment for the plaintiff.

In reading the report, I was struck forcibly by the fact that when a golf case gets into the courts it seems to develop more angles, and more unexpected angles, than when argued on the course—which is a lot of angles.

Boiled down by a layman, it was something like this:

The plaintiff (Mr. Everett) and a companion, a Mr. Elkins, were playing a round as a twosome on one of those dollar-a-day semi-public courses, just in front of a threesome including the defendant, Mr. Goodwin.

The twosome had just got off the fifth tee, Mr. Everett's drive being very poor—"not any farther than from here to the door," was his statement in court—and he had gone to the ball and was preparing to hit it again, when he saw that Mr. Goodwin, of the following threesome, was preparing to strike off.

MR. GOODWIN DRIVES

He "hollered," it appeared, and told Mr. Goodwin not to "drive this way." But Mr. Goodwin did drive, the ball luckily going over Mr. Everett's head. After which (plaintiff testifies) defendant and his companions were "driving balls in and about him and his companion from the fifth hole up to the fourteenth."

Made it a sort of habit, it seems. I can guess the twosome was slow, and was holding up the threesome, which was becoming fussed.

On the fourteenth tee, it was testified, the defendant and his comrades drove before the twosome had got more than 50 feet down the course. At the sixteenth tee the casualty occurred—Mr. Everett was edging over to the rough, he stated, to try to keep out of the threesome's line of fire. But Mr. Goodwin's drive struck him on the kneecap, knocked his legs from under him, and fractured the patella.

WHOSE FAULT?

Among the points at issue may be cited:

Was the plaintiff injured? If so, was the negligence of the defendant wanton and wilful? Was the plaintiff also injured by the negligence of the golf club, as alleged? It was shown that certain rules governing play were made for the safety of customers.

Did the plaintiff by his own negligence contribute to his own injury? Was the twosome "merged" with the threesome (as seems to have been alleged by somebody) before the casualty, which thus would have been a purely accidental affliction between members of the same match? What duty does one golfer owe another in playing the game?

Mr. Everett says he called out to Mr. Goodwin as the latter was "drawing back to hit it":

"You are liable to hit me."

He did. The lower court jury found for the plaintiff and awarded him damages in the sum of $500, against Mr. Goodwin and the golf club jointly.

The higher court held there was no error.

I wish the opinion had gone into some details as to what "duty" one golf player owes another in playing the game.

Light Cavalry

Hussars, light cavalry troops, were originally raised by Mathias Corvinus in 1458 to fight against the Turks. The name is probably from the Magyar word husz, meaning 20, the troops having been raised by selecting every twentieth man in the community. Hussars became a part of the British cavalry in 1805.

Old Writers Got Bounties

At the close of the Seventeenth and the beginning of the Eighteenth century, writers, even of the rank of Addison, could scarcely live by a mere sale of their writings. But a vast system of bounties and premiums made up for this—the patronage of the wealthy and the aid of the state made the rewards of literary merit great.

As Wets Massed in Washington for Legislative Drive

Planning the drive for anti-prohibition legislation in congress this year, wet senators and representatives are shown on the steps of the capitol in Washington where they were joined by members of the Crusaders an organization working for prohibition repeal. Left to right, front row, are: Senator Jesse H. Metcalf, Rhode Island; Senator John J. Blaine, Wisconsin; Senator Hiram Bingham, Connecticut, who introduced a 3 per cent beer bill; Fred G. Clark, commander-in-chief of the Crusaders; Senator Marcus Coolidge, Massachusetts; Senator Millard E. Tydings, Maryland.

In Washington

By Herbert Plummer

WASHINGTON — Lanky Joe Byrns of Tennessee, who at present is holding the purse strings of the nation, is doing a rather neat job of economizing these days.

When he took over the chairmanship of the house appropriations committee in this congress, he set himself to the task of cutting expenses. Rigid economy in everything was his watchword.

The first major appropriation bill he sent to the house for approval was that for agriculture. More than ten and a half million dollars less than the budget had recommended was lopped off.

Buchanan of Texas took it to the floor from the committee.

One would have thought ten and a half million dollars had been added to the bill by the way it was received. Republicans and Democrats alike seemed to vie with each other to see who could praise the committee the most.

It turned out to be a love feast of the first water.

Praise Is Lavish

Compliments flew so fast that Buchanan appeared a bit embarrassed. He finally begged them to be a little less lavish in their praise and say it with votes.

The idea that has long persisted that congressmen merely want to represent their own section has been refuted by the committee, was the tribute of one.

To which Buchanan gallantly replied:

"Oh yes, that is a fossil remain of a past age. At the close of the World war that went out, and we are now all one country."

Even the sometimes "hardboiled" Knutson (Republican of Minnesota, joined in the refrain. And when Knutson has a kind word for Democrats and Democratic politics it means something.

"I want to say for the Record," said Knutson, "that I appeared before Mr. Buchanan several times, and, although we belong to different political parties, I found him just as sympathetic with our problems in Minnesota as with any other part of the union."

Politics Pushed Aside

That is the secret of what success the appropriations committee has thus far met with. Byrns from the beginning has insisted that every one who wants to be heard will be given the opportunity.

"There's no place for politics in my committee," he is fond of saying. "I want to run it in a folksy way."

Byrns' idea of economy is not confined to reducing expenses in a vague sort of way. He scrutinizes everything closely. There is, for example, a matter of $10,000 he denied members of congress for a gymnasium in the new house office building.

Britten of Illinois, a former amateur boxer of note, and some of the others objected.

"We've got a gymnasium in the old building," said Byrns. "I've never seen it, but they tell me it's there. One's enough."

And that was all there was to it.

Meeting of Extremes

Extremes meet, and there is no better example than the haughtiness of humility.—Emerson.

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