

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published every evening and Sunday... EDITOR AND PUBLISHER... MANAGING EDITOR... NEWS SERVICE... MEMBER...

A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY.

PROBLEMS OF THE NEW YEAR.

PREDICTIONS as to what the new year will bring in the way of prosperity are out of order. Predicting in an economic situation which is subject to world-wide variables is much too perilous a task.

It seems reasonable, however, to say that 1933 may easily be a much better year than 1932. Willy nilly, we have had to travel through the deep valley of deflation. Nearly everything has been deflated except the world's public and private debts.

There is reason to believe that the deflation of debts will take place by much the same gradual willy nilly process. In many ways and by many devices there are signs that creditors, rather than debtors, are in process of making adjustments.

The easing of the domestic and international debt situation is almost sure to be followed by a lively revival in trade. It may be true that production capacity is far in excess of consumer capacity on any present division of money or hours work, but it is equally true that present consumer needs are far in excess of present output.

In a period of readjustment alone there can be work for millions in meeting the needs of those who are underpaid, underfed, and improperly housed in the present deflated scale of living.

Assuming a return to something resembling normal prosperity there will remain the problem of placing those whom machine development has made a "human surplus." Possibly the gravest danger of the reconstruction period is that in the first blush of seeming prosperity, this problem of social readjustment will be forgotten.

Will we emerge from the depression to climb a still greater peak and then crash into a slough even deeper than this one? That is the question many thoughtful people are asking. Will we profit by any of the lessons of the past?

Our belief is that this country will be wise enough to avoid the headstrong blunders which lead to revolution and chaos, that industry will be intelligent enough to adjust itself on the principle of providing opportunity for work. Our tradition is one of just such adjustment.

The year 1933 may call on the individual to revise his ideas of private rights. We may have to revert to a strong nationalism before we can lead the way to a new and humane internationalism.

It is not likely to be a great year in which to get rich but it should be a year of notable progress toward those things which really count—less money-madness, better average living standards, more liberal leisure, more security for all who work.

EEENEY, MEENEY, MEINEY, MOW!

SALES tax, income tax, property tax! The Oregon legislature which meets Tuesday in special session is confronted by one of the most difficult problems any legislative body ever confronted. In spite of curtailments in state expenses which have reduced the state budget from 16 millions to nearly half, there is still a deficit of nearly four millions and the threat of increasing deficits unless more revenues are found. There is a grave problem of unemployment relief which the state cannot meet without additional taxation and expense.

Why try to balance the budget at all, inquires an indignant citizen? Aren't we getting along now with an unbalanced budget? Is everybody's budget unbalanced? Seemingly so. But the situation cannot be dismissed so lightly as that. So far, by the juggling of revenues the state has been able to meet all its current obligations in cash. It has not yet been compelled to pay its employees and its creditors with interest bearing warrants. But limit has nearly been reached. If that limit is reached, what then?

Well, if that time comes the great state of Oregon will be "out on credit." It will begin paying its employees in interest bearing promises to pay and after these have passed a certain point they will not be accepted unless at a sharp discount. Conceivably many vital state activities would come to a stop. In the end there would be a huge added load of additional interest bearing debt. Unpleasant as the task may be:

THE STATE BUDGET MUST BE BALANCED! It is NOT economy or good business to do otherwise!

Sales tax, income tax, or property tax? Property is bearing all it can stand. Further property tax is out of the question. We believe an income tax preferable to any other kind of tax. On the big incomes, rates (5 per cent) are still too low, but if you taxed big incomes 25 per cent you would still be unable to cover the deficits because big incomes have been deflated too. Our real trouble is that too many people with small but regular incomes are escaping taxation entirely whereas the farmer or the business man with visible property cannot escape.

But the income tax was overwhelmed in November. Even so is it not worth another try, at least as to the higher rate on large incomes? It may be necessary to add in a sales tax to cover the situation we have allowed to develop. There is no reason why all who are in regular employment should not contribute something to the state, especially if it is to be asked to do anything for unemployment.

The legislature faces a tough task, one requiring both brains and courage, but we believe the people of Oregon will ratify any program which is fair. To drift into further debt is folly of the worst sort.

WAITING UP FOR A NEW YEAR.

RATHER silly business waiting up for the New Year... and to think, this time last year we were all waiting up for 1932... oh well, throw another log on the fire... by the way, we'll have to be getting some more wood next week... wonder what they're doing in New York about now... ouch, that's enough, turn off the radio... wonder if those birds are happy because it's a new year or just because they lived through... guess that Christmas tree will have to come down tomorrow... kids will start talking about the Bunny Rabbit... well, some folks still have faith

In Congress... ho hum, wonder what time it is... let's see, fourteen years ago we were whooping it up because we thought the war was over... Hank Pillsbury tried to get that dame from Buffalo to go seal hunting with him in Alaska... funny thing is she did marry him and was last seen selling patent spark plugs in Nebraska... wonder how Hank and the depression are making out... turn off that radio!... funny to look back over what the Big Shots said at New Years five or six years back... wonder what Roger Babson is saying tonight...

... well, it ought to be a better year at that... how many weeks to fishing season?... John Milliron says he knows a lake that was stocked ten years ago and hasn't been fished three times since... ought to be a great year at that... Roosevelt and a new deal... democrats and technocrats... abolish the profit system... was it abolished in 1929 or wasn't it?... eggs 9 ergs a dozen... wonder how many joules Henry Ford is worth... wonder what kind of jobs the technocrats will find for Ajax McGurk, Dick Smith, Bill Jewett...

... Tom Russell, chief technocrat... whoops!... well, the democrats elected Fred Flisk and put him to work... wonder how many ergs is a football coach worth?... wonder what's good for the flu?... what will technocracy do with a guy who spends all his ergs on a horse race?... ho hum, why do you have to wait for New Years till Midnight?... Santy Claus is more fun than the New Year's myth, at that... turn off that radio...

... what's that guy blating about "a million dollar bay-bee"... what would you do with a million dollars?... better get the old car fixed up... wonder if we can get a new suit before the sales tax takes effect... what's that?... oh yeah, Happy New Year, of course! Well, it's good old 1933 at last! What's that song the radio is playing? "Turn Out the Lights and Go to Sleep?" Three cheers for 1933! It starts with a happy thought!

YES, WE MAKE DISTINCTIONS.

THE distinguished lady visitor desired a "news notice"—not a great big one but just enough to inform an anxious public that "the noted psychic and evangelist" was in town. Rally round brethren and sisters. It "costs nothing" for this sort of spiritual guidance. Coats it?

Did the distinguished lady visitor have any permanent residence in Eugene? She did not. Did she have any authentic local board of trustees or sponsors vouching for her appearance? She did not. Did she have anything in the way of spiritual guidance and comfort to offer that could not be obtained in one of the well established permanent churches? What a question.

The lady said there would be advertising. Well, that's always "okay". All kinds of stores and shows and business advertisements. That doesn't make them churches or entitled to free space as churches. What an odd idea! The ridiculous provincial idea would have to be related to the journalistic brethren in Portland and San Francisco and other big towns. The big-timers would enjoy a good laugh.

That also was okay "by us". In fact, the lady was told that she might also laugh with the brethren in Seattle or Timbuctoo if she liked. The idea is this. One of the peculiar by-products of the depression is a horde of pseudo-soul-savers, tramp religionists, who, in our opinion, are in the racket for "the take." It is Register-Guard policy to refuse church courtesies to these enterprises.

We agree heartily with the sentiments expressed recently by the Rev. Bergstrom. The churches which establish themselves permanently in a town and try to do a genuine church work are entitled to some protection. They preach the Gospels; they do works of charity and mercy; they struggle valiantly against odds to make ends meet.

So far as we can prevent it we will not aid enterprises which merely carry a mask of religion. There is no crueler racket than that which imposes for profit on those who are so weary and worried and care-worn that they turn to anyone who offers great promise of solace. Protestant, Catholic or Jewish we will give all the help we can to churches which propose a permanent community work, but our columns are closed to those who impose on faith.

SANE VIEW OF WAR DEBTS.

IN all of the current hullabaloo over the foreign debts, one of the sanest comments seems to be that made by Senator Borah. Senator Borah, who has advocated a world conference on debts, disarmament, reparations and world economic problems generally, insists that the war debts are only one source of the world's troubles; and he declares:

"It is unfair to ask American taxpayers to contribute their part for the removal of these causes and leave behind causes which will make their contributions wholly ineffective." This is good, sound sense. If this nation has to make a heavy financial sacrifice to contribute to world recovery, it can do it; but it ought not to be the only nation called upon to take such action.

One steamship line receives \$37,820 from Uncle Sam for carrying 133 pounds of mail and another gets \$363,022 for carrying 133 pounds, says a congressman. That ought to be cheering news to the mailman whose back's still aching from the Christmas rush.

The suggestion has been made that the crossed-handit who is being hunted for a bank robbery in Oklahoma may have intended only to rob the filling station across the street.

It does seem that the age that produces a stabilizer to take the roll out of ocean liners should be able to take the squirt out of a grapefruit. Now is the time to plan next summer's garden and to contemplate those joyous hours you'll spend there—if you get around to it.

Judging from the fate of most New Year's resolutions, it might be a thrifty move to use a loose-leaf notebook when turning over that new leat.

Cheer up if those Christmas neckties weren't all you expected them to be. Maybe you can smoke 'em.

Why does a fat girl always receive six or seven five-pound boxes of chocolates for Christmas? Despite all the R. F. C. can do, failures continue among the sock and tomato can banks.

The Man With the Hoe



WHAT SOME THINKERS THINK

—Compiled by CLAY E. PALMER—Pastor of First Congregational Church

WILLIAM HALE: "Who would say that either one of the great political parties had pronounced anything worth remembering? And who would try to point to one man, one speech, one idea, and be able to say—without party and without bias—'There is leadership.'"

Charles Thompson, political reporter: "Courage disappeared from American public life in 1919, and has been absent now thirteen years."

George Lansbury, leader of the labor opposition in British House of Commons: "A nation can be ruined not merely by bloody revolution, but by economic and moral decay. That is the greatest enemy today. When I see it I could weep tears of blood."

Living Age Magazine, Oct. 1932: "It is indisputable that private armament firms, even though reputable and incorrupt, depend for their prosperity upon international fears and suspicions. They thrive on the armament competition, which is ruining world economy, and they must have occasional wars."

Julian Huxley, British scientist, writing on new experiments in psychological research, says, in conclusion: "But nobody can say yet what the future will bring. But we can say now that, if these conclusions are confirmed, they will unlock a new domain of knowledge."

Princess Alexandra Kropotkin: "In 1900 eleven million women were quietly employed. Approximately a quarter of them were married. All right in many cases, of course, but in far too many a menace because women are working merely because they insist upon spending more money than their husbands can earn."

Roger LaBonne, French writer: "The real causes of war are those which are not discussed." From Le Mois Magazine, Paris, on Chinese philosophy: "Confucius' doctrine is based on two fundamental principles: that one must strive to attain perfection and love one's neighbor."

D. S. Cairns, Scotch philosopher: "The ultimate question is whether or not it is God's truth that you and I ought to be just, pure, sincere and brave."

Marguerite Yourgenar, French writer: "In all international movements, in the propagation of Christianity as well as that of anarchy, in banking as in revolution, we find the Jewish race destined to remain forerunners of the world."

Rudolph Steiner, German thinker: "Excess of intellectualism has dried up the spirit. Restore to the spirit its former importance. Proclaim the ever one of the ferments, but also one unity of science, art and religion and work for its realization."

Upton Sinclair, author: "Nowadays we hear a great deal about mental troubles caused by sex repression. It is the mood of the moment. We do not hear anything about the complexes which may be caused by sex indulgence. But my observation has been that those who permit themselves to follow every sexual impulse are quite as miserable as those who repress every impulse."

Walter Lippman, one of our greatest political writers: "There is no doubt whatever that our whole economic system, which in good times produces such extremes of riches and poverty, and in bad times such misery and anxiety, needs to be reorganized. An economic system of a complexity and sensitiveness like ours cannot work successfully as long as short-sighted profiteering and predatory plainness are allowed so large a role in directing it."

Dr. E. F. Tittle, who this year gave the Yale preaching lectures: "How, today, do you come to the conclusion that there is no God? You do so by telling yourself that you must not read your own ideals into the world beyond you. You must not allow yourself to suppose that your own regard for truth, your own delight in beauty, your own concern for righteousness, has anything to say to you concerning the nature of the world beyond you. You come to the conclusion that there is no God by refusing to believe that your own highest values have any cosmic significance."

PREDICTS COUNTY MANAGER

CHESWELL, Ore.—(To the Editor) I have read County Commissioner Crowe's letter in a recent issue of your paper, in which he takes you to task for insinuating in various ways that our county officials are crooks and boneheads.

I have been a consistent reader of your paper, and have never seen any such statement. On the contrary, the above is on the other foot. You have been entirely too mild in your treatment of some of our county officials. They have squandered the people's money in excessive salaries to county employees, have entered into contracts with the highway commission without any mandate from the people, to all of which to my knowledge you have made no protest.

You worked hard for the re-election of the old county court. You have put on the soft pedal, when a good big stick would have brought better results. You are strong now, for a managerial form of county government, but that implies no criticism on the present officials, merely on the system. And I think I see it coming. Why have a clerk, assessor, treasurer, etc., at \$2400 a year, when under the manager plan a clerk in charge of each office and responsible to the manager should give us as good or better service than at present, and at less cost to the taxpayers.

CHAS. A. WALKER, R. No. 1, Creswell, Ore.

Lower Fern Ridge

LOWER FERN RIDGE, Dec. 31.—(Special)—The Thursday club was entertained by Mrs. Clara Morrow on December 29. This was the Christmas meeting and the annual exchange of gifts was held. Those present were Mrs. W. C. Rice, Mrs. B. Klemmer, Mrs. Deyoe, Mrs. F. Goodman, Mrs. Stapleton, Mrs. Web-

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IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

TECHNOCRACY EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Now that some of our professors have found a new topic for us to ponder over, and coined a new word for us to check down in our vocabularies, we may look forward for the return of prosperity from a new angle and await results. As for myself I hardly know now whether I am a democrat, aristocrat, or a technocrat. It seems they have been working on this science for about 10 years, or started it about the time the G. O. P.'s began to reign.

If I understand the system they are going to do away with money, the root of all evil, and that there is only a few that understand the policy; however, if we compare the statistics of the unemployed as given out recently by the president of the A. F. of L. I would guess the technocrats are quite numerous, and at the rate we are going in another four years will be able to elect a president of the U. S.

As I see it, a great many of the workings of the new topic is in vogue now, but the great trouble is, it is causing so much suffering and hardships it is almost unbearable; so if they can eliminate the suffering and hardships we are well on the way to technocracy.

Well anyway I am not very well versed on the new science as yet, but glad to know our professors and teachers are taking an active part; it only the more establishes the facts in our minds that the law of evolution that governs all things—even though it works slow—in due time will right all wrongs, whether we believe it or like it or not; for right is right in the eyes of the eternal law.

Nature necessitates a new deal for humanity; but as for it being just around the corner, it is in my estimation—the biggest corner we have to overcome, that is, selfishness; of which we are all endowed with if we acknowledge the truth.

There is another thing I notice in the editorial section of the paper occasionally: either the editor or Alex

Adkins. The news of the death of Mrs. Mulkey's mother on Christmas day at Port Townsend has just been received here.

RIVER ROAD NEWS RIVER ROAD, Dec. 31.—(Special)—Mr. and Mrs. Vern Grand and son of Portland arrived Thursday for the funeral of Mrs. Grand's father, C. L. Olsen.

Mr. and Mrs. V. C. Hills and daughter of Colton, who have been spending the Christmas holidays at the C. Juhl home, returned to their home Sunday. They were accompanied on the trip by Miss Martha Juhl, who will go on to Portland for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Ballor and Jeas Ballor, who spent the Christmas holidays with relatives in California, have returned to their home. Miss Flossie Radabaugh and Miss Jeannette Kietzing of Portland spent the holidays at the Radabaugh and Kietzing home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Lombard and Mrs. Knapp are spending the holidays with their daughter and son in California. Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ralwater and family are visiting with relatives at Albany and Stayton. The River Road Women's club will meet next Wednesday, January 4, at the home of Mrs. George Scott for a covered dish luncheon. Mrs. Mary Hill and Mrs. Sem will be assistant hostesses.

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS

1933

WITH THE DAWN of a New Year we are all looking forward to a more prosperous era... a period of contentment and happiness for all.

BUSINESS prosperity depends upon the prosperity of individuals... both working hand in hand for mutual benefits.

CONFIDENCE in the future has built America... let us continue to maintain that confidence and work towards the new prosperity that is sure to come.

WESTERN BOX COMPANY Eugene Oregon

1933 Look Forward to the New Year with Courage and Confidence... That it will bring you unbounded health and happiness is our cordial and sincere wish. United States National Bank Eugene, Oregon