

Broad Economic Progress— The Way It Can Be Achieved

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MUCH current discussion of economic problems is focused too intently on the depression to shed real light on our fundamental difficulties. Today's troubles obscure our view of what happened yesterday and what is likely to happen tomorrow. Actually our economic structure was being undermined by grave maladjustments long before the depression; in our "prosperity" years, millions of American families were poor.

Farmers and people in the small towns scarcely need to be told this. In 1929 and before, agriculture was not prosperous. Farmers had to pay high prices for the things they bought, but got little for what they sold. They were in a depression even then—caught between what looked like irresistible forces and an immovable body.

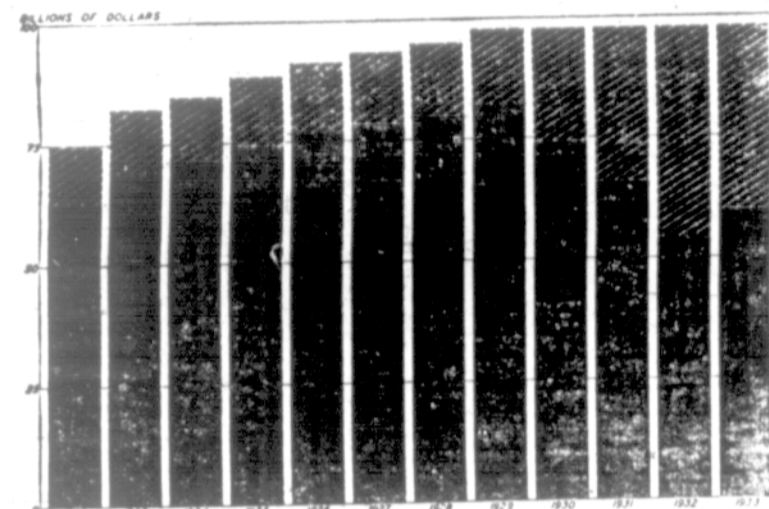
There are about 54 million farmers and people living in the small towns. In addition, professional

more money. That would just raise prices. And we cannot accomplish much by "sharing wealth or income." Such a program would entail taking income from skilled workers, many farmers, small shopkeepers, government clerks, etc. It would not merely "soak the rich."

Purchasing power can be increased only as we learn how to produce goods and services more efficiently and pass the benefits of that efficiency on to the masses. If we devise a way to make two articles where we formerly made one, and we pass on this gain to the people, purchasing power is actually created—the extra article can be sold.

Higher Wages and the Farmer
Organized labor for many years has tried to obtain the benefits of increased efficiency by pressure for higher wages. This gave certain groups of workers more purchasing power, but the effect on farmers has not been favorable. It has forced

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY AND ACTUAL PRODUCTION, 1922-33



This chart illustrates the extent to which we have failed to utilize our full productive capacity. The black area represents what we produced; the shaded area, the additional amount that could have been turned out. Over most of this period, our plant, as a whole could have produced about 20 per cent more than it did, but after 1929 this percentage of non-utilization became much larger.

men, domestic workers, small shopkeepers and others living in the cities were similarly affected, inasmuch as they could not utilize or produce as much as they were able to. These with their dependents total about 20 million. While their standards of living perhaps were not actually lowered, most of them realized little gain from the great advance in productive efficiency made in that period.

The diminution in purchasing power of these groups, or its failure to rise, in turn, reacted on others. Business men sold less goods, and workers everywhere found it harder to get jobs. The forces that were retarding the farmer's prosperity were by no means helping the man in the city.

Progress—But Not Enough

It is true that our economic system has brought us living standards higher than those existing anywhere else in the world. Between 1900 and 1930, as an example, per capita income, in terms of what it would buy, increased about 33 per cent, at the same time, working hours were reduced about 13 per cent. But the fact of idle plant capacity indicated that we could have produced more goods and thus raised living standards.

Studies we have made at the Brookings Institution, aided by a grant from the Falk Foundation, of Pittsburgh, throw significant light on this. We made a detailed survey of productive capacity in manufacturing, mining, farming and all the other major divisions of industry, resulting in the finding that our productive plant could have turned out about 20 per cent more than it did.

If nobody had wanted to buy anything, the idle plant would have been easily explained. But, millions of families were not getting nearly enough to satisfy their wants.

Nearly 6 million farm and city families received incomes of less than \$1,000; 16 millions received less than \$2,000; and 19 millions, or 71 per cent of the total, less than \$2,500. More than 54 per cent of farm families got less than \$1,000. Of course, in considering farm income the lower living costs of rural areas should be kept in mind. But, no matter where they lived, families trying to pay for food, clothing, medical service, education, etc., on \$1,000 were not prosperous.

The extent of unfulfilled wants may be judged by the fact that nearly all family income in the \$2,000 class or lower is spent for ordinary consumption goods—food, shelter, clothes, education, etc. Fifteen million families got less than this figure.

Purchasing Power Must Expand

Our productive efficiency is increasing year by year in normal times. That is, we are learning how to make things more cheaply. But if the people are to buy the added products thus made possible, their purchasing power must grow with production.

Expanding purchasing power cannot be created simply by printing

Kent Peoples' Activities Retold

Anita Dunlap spent Wednesday evening at the home of her sister, Mrs. Paul Wilson, near Antelope. Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson visited at the Vern Baker home in Grass Valley Sunday.

Mrs. J. C. Wilson and grandson George Sacre and Mrs. Betty Kelly were business visitors in Grass Valley Saturday afternoon.

Clarence Lindeman, candidate for sheriff, of Rufus was in Kent Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wilson and daughter Nellie and Mrs. Clarice Sacre and son George spent Sunday at the J. L. Fritts home.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson and son Norman of Fossil visited at the Alfred Lyons home the latter part of last week. They returned to Fossil Sunday to get their house hold goods and will make their home for the present at the Jay McKay home.

Robert and Clarice Mitchell and Mrs. John Decker transacted business in The Dalles Wednesday.

Kent Grange No. 688 will hold its next regular meeting Saturday evening, April 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Mobley of Yakima, Wash., spent the week end at the home of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dunlap.

Miss Lillian Schassen of The Dalles spent the week end at the home of her sister, Mrs. J. L. Davis.

Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Carey and family of Wasco were overnight guests at the J. C. Wilson home Sunday.

Alfred Lyons left Tuesday evening for Johnson City, Tenn., where he had been called due to the serious illness of his father.

An evangelistic meeting will begin at the Kent Christian church Sunday morning April 26, at 11.00 o'clock with Rev. G. E. Williams of Newport officiating. The meeting will continue for two weeks.

The Townsend club will hold its regular meeting Saturday evening May 2, after which a social time will be held.

Soil Conservation Program Is Progressing

Temporary Committeemen Report Good Attendance At Educational Meetings

With community meetings under way in nearly all parts of the state, farmers are finding that the new soil conservation farm act is not as complicated as it appeared at first, according to reports from men of the Oregon State college extension service, who are helping the temporary county committeemen hold the educational meetings.

New Set-up Less Complicated

Those who had experience with the crop control programs under the old AAA set-up, say there is less preliminary work by the individual grower needed than was the case in applying for a contract under the wheat or corn-hog plan. The new program appears complicated when first considered because so much is included to meet every conceivable farm operation or regional condition, but when any one individual grower studies the plan as applied to his own farm, it is frequently found to be much simpler than was thought possible, say those who are working with the program.

Temporary committeemen are reporting exceptionally good attendance at the educational meetings, even though this is the busiest time of the year for the farmers. There is keen interest in learning the details of the program and how it will apply to one's own farm, particularly since the program is applicable to a much larger percentage of the farms in Oregon than was the case with the former set-up.

In view of the lateness of the season, the county agents and temporary committeemen have gone ahead with the community meetings, even though all of the ques-

tions have not been answered by the national administration. It is believed that all of the local meetings will be completed with elections out of the way by May 1, so that from then on the permanent county organization will be able to carry on the program. One thing found out by those attending the meetings is that it will pay any farmer to fill out a work sheet, whether or not he later is able to qualify under the act for assistance in adopting the soil conserving crops or practices. The work sheets are the starting point in qualifying for such assistance and are not particularly diffi-

cult to fill out. Even though one fills one out, he is under no obligation whatever to go ahead with any qualifying practices if he believes it is not to his best interest. In order to speed up the placing of the detailed information available in the hands of the growers, the extension service is cooperating with the county and community committeemen in holding the educational meetings, even though it has not been specifically assigned this task.

"The only two that can live as cheap as one are a flea and a dog."

ply of old potatoes on hand and want to serve them in a new way, try dressing them up into what is called a Baked Potato Surprise. Bake large potatoes in a very hot oven (450-500 deg) until tender. Slice off the top, scoop out the inside. Add seasoning, hot milk enough to produce a fluffy consistency, and 2 tbs butter with the same amount of minced cooked ham or crisp bacon, for each potato. Whip until very fluffy, re-fill shells, sprinkle with paprika and brown lightly.

Left over mashed potatoes may be utilized in making cookies or muffins:

- Potato Drop Cookies**
One and a half cups hot mashed potatoes
One and a fourth cups sugar
Three fourths cup butter
One and three fourths cups flour
Four tbs baking powder
One tsp each salt and cinnamon
One half tsp cloves
One fourth tsp nutmeg
One half cup raisins
Mix in order given and drop by spoonfuls on a slightly greased tin. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 15 or 20 minutes.

- Potato Muffins**
1 cup cold mashed potatoes
1 1/2 cups flour
3-4 cup milk
1/2 tsp salt
4 tsp baking powder
2 eggs
2 tbsp-melted butter
Sift together flour, salt and baking powder. Add milk to potatoes, and stir until well mixed. Combine the two ingredients, then add well beaten eggs. If potato is very dry add more milk. Add melted butter last. Put into greased muffin tins and bake in moderate oven (375 degrees) 30 minutes.

HI-WAYS TO HEALTH

by ADA R. MAYNE

OREGON DAIRY COUNCIL

The potato has been called the one vegetable that can be successfully utilized in every course, from soup to nuts. In fact, it has become pretty much of a habit in most families. The making of soups, salads, meat dishes, doughnuts, cakes and breads are but a few of its possibilities.

Food scientists rate potatoes high for their nutritive value and since they are one of the cheapest and most filling of the starchy foods, their popularity is well deserved. Potatoes combine excellently with the dairy products and are very nearly a perfect food when combined with milk. For milk contains those important ele-

ments not found in the potato. But ter and cheese greatly improve the flavor and add food value as well, as potatoes contain but little fat.

These days we find new potatoes on the market a refreshing and tasty addition to the diet. We scrape them sparingly or boil them and merely pull off the skins for fear of wasting even a little bit of their deliciousness. Cut a little parsley into some melted butter and pour over them just before serving. Or serve them buttered or creamed with fresh peas. New potatoes are welcome in any form and now is the time to serve them often.

However, if you still have a sup-



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