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EDITORIALS

ADMIRAL AND PRESS AGENTS

The celebration of Navy Day appears to have consisted largely in a flurry of resounding speeches by Rear Admirals and Commanders, active and retired, aided by and outdone in candor by the Navy League, their unofficial press agents.

The gravamen of their argument in all cases was that America is wholly inferior to Great Britain in naval strength and scarcely a match for Japan, that President Hoover is "abysmally ignorant" of naval affairs and that peace can be maintained in the world only if the United States proceeds to build the world's greatest navy.

There are important arguments for the big-navy point of view, and few sensible persons object to the maintenance of a navy roughly equivalent to those of other naval powers. But if we were to give the Admirals and the Navy League a blank check for the navy they endorse, we should soon be a bankrupt nation.

The real issue between the President and the Navy League is very simple. Shall we accept the program of naval experts and the jingoistic Navy League for our defense, or shall we retain control of that policy in the hands of the civilian element of our Government? On this issue there is interesting evidence.

England for many years left its naval program to naval men and accepted the theory that with the world's most powerful navy Britain was unassailable. The result was that England's navy paid so little in national dividends that a chastened England surrendered her claim to naval supremacy in 1922 at the Washington Conference.

Japan, the other major foreign naval power, still is largely in the control of her military class. The present crisis in Manchuria dates from the day when that military clique took Japan's foreign policy into its own hands. And it will be months, perhaps years, before Baron Shidehara and other level-headed Japanese statesmen can regain for Japan the confidence of world powers. Meantime Japan has the world against her, thanks to her own big navy crowd.

America should not make this mistake. Too many nations have elevated armies and navies to the pinnacle as instruments of their national policies, and sooner or later they have lost out. We value and trust our naval high command, but they are the technical servants of the nation, and not its executive authority.

Discretion as to what we can should remain with civil officers, particularly the president, his cabinet, and the proper congressional committees. Mr. Hoover may be "abysmally ignorant," as the Navy League says, of the technical jargon of military science, but he can be trusted, and is trusted, by the American people to choose a sane middle path between the extreme views of wild-eyed pacifists on the one side and jingoistic Admirals and their press agents on the other.

Capone should be compelled to break rocks with a machine gun loaded with dough bullets.

Some football players and most chronic knockers can kick equally well with either foot.

Fruit trees and violets are blooming, but just the same don't lend out your coal shovel.

England now has a composition National Government, and so far as there's any difference between the parties, so have we.

We used to get excited about who caused the war, and now nations are blaming each other for starting the depression.

USELESS COSTS

The executives of eleven national organizations dealing with public finance, meeting in Washington recommended, the abolishment of the present "archaic" limits for school districts, townships and counties in the interests of government costs reduction.

"Archaic" is right. This is the age of great highways, of automobiles, telephones, radio and airplanes. Properly speaking, few strictly rural communities continue in existence even in backward and undeveloped states, and all such communities are destined to disappear.

A statement issued by the United States Chamber of Commerce says: "As an effective means the group of finance executives urges the public consideration of the overlappings and duplications now existing in local government," stressing the absurdity of adhering to methods of local government which were designed to meet the needs and requirements of a remote and less progressive day. Also, said the statement, "Similarly it appears equally absurd and costly to permit artificial city and county boundaries to cut into numerous jurisdictions in a single homogeneous area."

The useless and preventable cost and waste in government is indefinitely tremendous, beyond all reason. Antiquated methods, outworn geographical limits, inequitable division of certain service now handled by both state and local governments, inefficiency in administration—these must be corrected if the taxpayer's dollar is to be guarded and its purchasing power increased.

The meeting of executives pointed also to the injury of public debts, stating that "every public debt is a first mortgage on future taxes. Debts should not be contracted except for capital improvements of a non-recurring character."

To reduce public expenditure has become an imperative necessity. All possible means and methods tending to the accomplishment of this purpose are of solemn importance at this time, to accelerate the coming of a new and stable era of industrial and commercial prosperity, surrounded and balanced social estate.

GO TO WORK

One of the things that keeps this depression hanging on so long is the failure of men and women out of employment to go to work. "But I can't find any work," they say. That isn't exactly true. They don't say exactly what they mean. They mean that they can't find the sort of work they want, the work they have been doing heretofore.

As a matter of fact nearly every body could be busy right now at something. The man who has always been employed in a cigar store doesn't look at any other sort of a place for job. The woman who has always been a saleswoman in a drygoods store never thinks of going after a job in a drugstore or hardware store. Men and women who have always been employed by others never imagine they can go out and start a business of their own.

We know a man who is a fine gardener. He is out of employment. Does he think about developing his garden and selling vegetables? Of course not. He raises the finest tomatoes we ever saw or ate. He gave us some. He is still raising them and giving large measures of them to friends. He never thinks of selling any. He has space for a garden three times the size of the one he has. He could establish a regular business in fresh vegetables. But he sits around and wonders when he'll get another job.

We know a woman who is an artist in darning and mending. All her friends know of her skill. After she has repaired a tear or rip, you can't see where it was. There ought to be plenty of work for her and there undoubtedly is. But she is not trying to find it. She is looking for an office job.

So it goes. The unemployed are looking for their old employment. Some of these old employments are really gone for good. They will never be regained. The thing to do is to look for whatever sort of job you can fill whether it is like the old one or not. The new job may be much better than the old one. Think things over and strike out anew. If all of us did this, maybe the hard times would disappear. Hard times are never so hard but that they get the harder by our yielding to them.

Everything is relative. Utopia used to be a place where no one had to work, now a place where everyone had a job would be Utopia.

Of Chicago's public enemies, listed two years ago, all but a few are dead or in clink. But the beer and liquor rackets are reported to be thriving as usual.



They Tell Me

By Al Piche

The Oregon newspapers mention that Mr. E. L. Cross, educational director of the Commission mentioned if the sportsmen of Oregon do not take out licenses, so as to make up the shortage that exists, they may have to close down a few hatcheries the coming year.

If the Commission would make a trip over the state twice a year and find out the true conditions as they exist, then they would not have to ask the sportsmen to come to their

aid, by the purchase of licenses. The shortage would not exist, if we had the fishing and hunting that is supposed to be in the State. Many have not bought a license this year just on that account, for no matter how hard times may be, and money may be scarce, the sportsmen will find a way in which he or she will get together the money for a license.

Some pay it for the pleasure while others pay it for the meat, to can and preserve for the winter months. Mention is also made that it would be disastrous if they had to close some hatcheries for lack of funds.

Perhaps it would be a good thing, for a trial for a few years, as it would cut down expenses, and on the other hand nature has not come to a point where it has caused or will cause a depression on life. If fish were not molested, and allowed to spawn naturally in our streams, nature would provide more fish than man can, or has done in the past.

A trial would solve the problem and ease up many a mind.

"The depression has caused a lot of persons to realize for the first time that it is necessary to work for a living."

Mrs. J. H. Sanford and children visited with her relatives and friends in the Applegate country Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Sanford recently moved to Central Point from Prospect, where Mr. Sanford was employed by the Copco.

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