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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor



EDITORIALS

MEN AGAINST DROUGHT

Drought reports describe half the area of the United States as a "dry and thirsty land." They tell of cattle being shot to save them from suffering. They picture the once fertile fields as plains of dust. They record the shriveling of crops. They estimate 1,600,000 destitute as a result of rainless weeks. Agricultural sections are witnessing an appalling chapter in the history of mankind's struggle with adversity.

But the testimony is not complete without credit to men's heroic endeavors to meet the crisis. These include the sinking of wells to find subterranean streams, the assignment of tank cars to rush water to districts where animals are suffering of Government aid to 400,000 drought-stricken families, and of Government cooperation in water projects. Outlets of mountain lakes have been lowered to continue supplies for irrigation. Nearly 1,000,000 cattle have been bought for market, half the number being processed and canned for distribution to needy families.

The widely organized campaigns against drought, as against other abnormalities of weather, are significant. They spring from men's need to conduct themselves as their brothers' keepers. They grow out of the recognition that men can do much for themselves when they bear one another's burdens, pool their resources of intelligence and activity, and plant their individual hopes in the common good.

These efforts, carried on in an increasing spirit of fellowship and with ever more hopeful determination, also indicate that men are getting away from the superstition that storms, earthquakes and drought are "acts of God." They are seeing those things for what they are—demands on their energy on their ability to cooperate, and on their faith that God will approve and aid all right attempts to disprove the claims of mankind's common enemies.

THE SHIFTING OF THE HEMISPHERES

In a recent address, James S. Carson, Chairman of the Council on Inter-American Relations, said: "The West is to play a new role on the world stage. The great war caused a shifting of the hemispheres. The New will supplant the Old in a leadership which will usher in different concept in international relations and commercial exchanges. The actual war did not end with the signing of the Armistice, but we believe its termination is dimly visible today. Inter-Americanism will finally point the way to stop the ruthless economic struggle which has been designated 'The War After the War.' If this be true, the long labor pains caused by the birth of this new epoch will not have been suffered in vain."

It seems an axiom that intense nationalism, as pursued by many of the great European powers today, is productive of nothing save chaos—and there is good reason to believe that the peoples of the world will at last turn for relief to an enlightened nationalism such as concerns Mr. Carson. The rigors of military war are not greater than those of economic war.

Friendliness and cooperation between nations is vital to world stability, world progress, world welfare.

THINGS ONE REMEMBERS

By R. M. Hofer
I recently had occasion to drive through the state of Idaho—a state of sweeping sagebrush plains, fertile farmlands, high mountains and beautiful rivers and lakes. It makes one feel good to just look across its great open spaces.

In Boise, I ran into a gentleman

from the Idaho Power Company. I learned that this company, in that settled state, furnishes the highest type electric service from Halfway, Oregon, on the west, to Blackfoot, Idaho, on the east—a distance of 425 miles. It has built 2,000 miles of rural farm lines which serve 11,000 farmers. Altogether it has only 35,000 customers scattered over its entire system—about the number of customers in a neighboring western city of 149,000 population.

This company has shown its customers where it is economical to use electricity and by hard work has built the average customer load to about three times the national average. Many an Idaho farm has more modern electric appliances and is using them to better advantage than their city neighbors.

The contrast between this type of electrical development and the limited service of tax-exempt municipal plants is striking. The municipal plant takes the cream of the business in concentrated city or town area, while this private plant takes the skim milk of the scattered farms along with such town "cream" as it can get, and furnishes the farmers outside the "cream" areas with just as good service as the "cream" resident. On top of it all the Idaho Power Company pays approximately 20 cents out of every dollar it earns, in the form of taxes.

This is a fine example of private enterprise giving a high type of public service under fair and intelligent public regulation.

PUBLIC SERVANT NOW MASTERS

John W. Davis, the distinguished lawyer who was Democratic candidate for President in 1924, recently gave an excellent example of the plight of the taxpayer when it comes to fighting the growth of bureaucracy. There are, at the latest estimate, some 644,000 federal employes, whose salaries are paid through taxation. Yet, Mr. Davis pointed out, no person in the country has ever had an opportunity to vote for more than five of these. The only national officials whose names reach a ballot are the president, the vice-president, two senators and one representative and this is, so far as practical considerations are concerned, could be reduced to four, inasmuch as the vice-president's name is coupled with the president's and he wins or loses in company with his chief.

The hundreds of thousands of civil servants who came to the positions they hold without the expressed wish of the electorate, do much to determine our destinies. They are instrumental in making laws in prohibiting rights, in raising taxes. The same thing is true, to a somewhat lesser degree, in other units of government beside the federal. The nation is today staggering under a vastly expensive army of bureaucrats which it never asked for.

It is of course impossible to vote for every government worker. But our elected officials owe the public a serious responsibility—the responsibility of seeing that bureaucracy is kept to an absolute minimum. They owe it to those who send them to office to keep government efficient and economical—hold strictly to the business of governing, and not to venture into fields that are properly the province of the private citizen.

That ideal of public service, followed by elective officers of all kinds, would go far toward solving the tax problem—a problem that is engaging every far-sighted and thinking mind today.

THE GROUND FLOOR

Most observers believe that recovery will come slowly and that there is little fear that any severe set-backs to the progress already made will occur.

If that is true, there is one investment the far-sighted citizen can make that will bring him "dividends"—a modern home. It will give his family something that cannot be adequately measured in dollars and cents—a higher standard of living. And, through the act of building it, he will stimulate recovery. No dollar we spend does more to provide employment and to stimulate industry than the construction dollar.

Prices are rising, and strong forces, backed by government itself are attempting to accelerate their rate of climb. Build now, repair now—and "get in on the ground floor!"

BAKER—Cooperating with County Agent Phil Fortner in a search for a suitable cash crop for Baker county, several farmers planted peas during June and July to get data on the maturity of the crop. The purpose of these trials is to determine whether Baker county can grow late green peas for the eastern markets.

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The American

Economic Highlights

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

As was anticipated, the appearance of summer brought definite declines in business activity. Early in July steel ingot production dropped from 62 to 40 and automobiles slid from \$2 to 39. During ensuing weeks automobile production recovered somewhat, while steel stayed down.

There is nothing extraordinary in this. But the question is being asked, Where are we going in business? In other words, Have we dropped to a "permanently lower level" or will activity rebound shortly to the levels of May and June?

In answering that question, various business observers are a long way from agreement. The Annalist, for example, which is a conservative authority, and is inimical to many important Administration measures, tend to the belief that only part of the loss will be recovered, and that the future of business is clouded with doubt. Other agencies of information are more encouraging, although a highly cautious note is evident in most pronouncements and forecasts. Experts are uncertain, and as a result they are avoiding, as much as possible, definite guesses as to coming events in the business world.

This much, however, seems definite: Progress of recovery generally has been disappointingly slow. The new federal bureaus, including the NRA, have not been able to accomplish as much as was hoped. The picture is inevitably confused by government spending, no one knows how much of the rise in business achieved since two years ago, is due to artificial stimulation of this sort and how much to genuine recovery. It is an obvious fact that if the government puts out billions for one kind or another of relief—and all the special activities from the building of dams to the CCC camps fall under that relief heading—sales of all types of products are bound to rise. It is not equally obvious what will happen when the government is forced to slow down or stop this kind of spending, as no one knows to what extent private enterprise will be able to take up the load.

Conservative business is again faced with renewed demands for inflation, and for the issuance of fiat money. The Economists' National Committee on Monetary Policy forecasts that with the convening of the next Congress, the President will attempt to further devalue the dollar and issue more currency against our gold reserve. Results would be problematical—one person's view is about as good as another's in this regard—but it would undoubtedly cause much uncertainty during the devaluing process.

In brief, business is suffering from the summer drop plus labor troubles, and there is doubt as to whether it will be able to recover at a normal speed. One good sign is that the strike seem closer to settlement—but the labor problem, important as it is, is but one of many issues industry must face. We are entering a crucial period and events of the next half-dozen months will show where we, as an industrial nation, are going.

The much opposed, much defended, Reciprocal tariff Bill, which gives the President the unchecked power to make agreements with foreign nations whereby we will lower the tariffs on their goods by as much as 50 per cent, passed the last Congress. On July 23 the machinery it created went into motion for the first time, when negotiations for a reciprocal treaty with Cuba were started.

No pieces of legislation of the last two years is more far-reaching than the tariff bill, or more potentially important. The Administration plan to use it in a vast effort to rehabilitate world trade, break the international commercial deadlock that is

now tying up the ports of the world and make the tariff an instrument in restoring prosperity.

The problems the Administration faces in doing this are of the greatest and most involved kind. For example, debts and currencies, most debated of subjects, contributed to the trade collapse—they are inextricably involved in trade revival. Perhaps more important still, is the growth of nationalistic feeling which has stirred up much ill will between most of the great powers. At any rate, this and other countries will move very slowly in negotiating trade treaties. Early agreements will cover but a few commodities. More sweeping agreements, relating to all types of products, will come later.

Whatever the result, it is a vital and interesting experiment. If the United States succeeds in bringing back world trade, all powers will owe it a debt.

To stimulate recovery and employment, the Administration is planning great hopes on its new housing bill, which will go into operation shortly. Under it, a part of mortgage loans are guaranteed and interest rates lowered—it is thus supposed to benefit both lender and borrower. Its proponents believe it will liberate \$1,500,000,000 of private capital and provide employment for millions.

State Fair Lists Received by Agent

A supply of Premium Lists for the Oregon State Fair has just been received at the office of R. G. Fowler, County Agent, Medford from Max Gelhar, Director of the State Department of Agriculture. These Premium Lists are available to Jackson County farmers desiring them. This year the Premium List is issued in the form of a ninety-two page booklet as well as in separate leaflets for those interested only in a part of the exhibits. Any of these may be had for the asking at the County Agents Office.

All State Fair premiums are pay-



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able in cash during Fair week, immediately after judging is finished. Those sending in exhibits may find a check waiting them when they attend the Fair, perhaps sufficient to cover the day's expenses.

Dairy Products to be Shown at Fair

This year the State Fair has constructed a dairy products refrigerator with double plate glass front, 25 feet in length, in one of the best locations in the Agricultural Building.

This is the first time the State Fair has had a suitable place to display dairy products. The refrigerator is properly ventilated, the dis-

play space is constructed along modern lines and is large enough to hold exhibits from every operator in Oregon. The premiums offered are substantial and it is hoped that dairy products may have the largest and best exhibit ever appearing at an Oregon State Fair.

Instead of simply butter exhibits, the State Fair makes the butter exhibit really a contest in keeping quality. All entries are made August 3rd and are judged exactly thirty days later. In other words, the Fair does not care exactly how good the butter is when it is received, but how good it will be a month later. Butter shipped out of the state usually takes thirty days to market. That is the reason for the contest in keeping the butter.

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