

The American

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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor



EDITORIALS

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER PERMITTED

A few months ago a great passenger liner burned at sea, with a loss of life totaling about 150. Recently a crack Canadian passenger train tore onto a siding and telescoped a "holiday special". A score of people died.

Each of these tragic incidents was headlined in newspapers throughout the civilized world. Millions of people were literally horror-stricken. Public and private bodies immediately started inquiries in an effort to fix the blame and punish those who were guilty. The whole force of public opinion, backed by the authority of the law determined that everything be done to make certain that there would be no more similar accidents.

Yet those killings horrible as they were, were infinitesimal compared with a form of accident which the public accepts with complete indifference—the automobile killings. Last year, incompetent, reckless or careless drivers and pedestrians accounted for a killing every 15 minutes, and an injury every 31 seconds. The year showed a record killing in the United States of 36,000 and an injury total of 1,000,000. What would the public have done if the railroads and steamships had killed 36,000 persons in one year?

Practically every accident, whether it results in killings or only in scratched fenders, is the result of the human element. Ninety per cent of automobile drivers are safe, careful and competent. Ten per cent are reckless, careless or incompetent. And that the per cent menaces the lives, health and property of us all. If one steamship accident or a bad railroad accident, killing comparatively few people, causes revolutionary legislation to protect the public what should be the safety program resulting from 36,000 automobile killings in one year?

STATESMEN OR POLITICIANS??

It is not an exaggeration to say that the average business man looks to a session of Congress with dread and uncertainty. That has been especially true during the past few years, inasmuch as economic stress has led to an oversupply of proposed "remedies" for all our financial and social ills—remedies which, for the most part, would have been worse than the disease.

Nothing could do more to encourage business, and the average citizen, than a conservative, responsible attitude on the part of the present Congress. Conservatism does not necessarily mean "stand-pat-ism" but it does mean a decent regard for our Constitution as contrasted with the "isms" that are attacking it. It means that in the effort to bring about needed reforms, honest businesses will not be sacrificed to the Gods of Socialism, Communism or Dictatorship. It means that charges of bad faith and crookedness should not be hurled at American business in general by public officials seeking temporary popularity at public expense.

It is the common belief that responsible Congressmen of both parties are frankly worried about radicalism within their own ranks. It is to be hoped that the sound and sober thinking servants of the people will be able to curb the irresponsibilities—and help restore that priceless element—confidence—to the people.

DON'T KILL THE LEAD DOG

The Saturday Evening Post recently published a symbolic cartoon which illustrates with remarkable aptness political abuse of industry.

The cartoon shows a dog-team and driver, against a background of Northern snows. The team has been drawing a tremendous load of bundles, labeled High Costs, Unbalanced Budget, Government Spending and Government Competition in Bus-

ness. Apparently the dogs are weary and are unable to go farther without a rest. The driver, who typifies Political Radicalism, is not willing to pause. Instead he is beating to death with a club labeled Taxes, the lead dog named American Industry. The second, Expansion, has collapsed in the snow, tongue hanging out, eyes closed. The fourth dog, Capital Goods, is exhausted, as is the last dog, Employment, which looks as if it were about to give up the ghost.

Severe as this caricature is, it is eminently justified. If American business is to continue to pull its heavy load, it must have confidence. It must be given a chance. It must expand and develop. It must employ men. Instead, however, all units of government seem trying to outdo each other in wielding the tax club. Excessive taxes close factories, confiscate homes and farms, prevent construction, destroy employment and investment, and drive capital into hiding.

It is foolhardy to beat and berate industry when it is weary and overworked—when it should be given stimulation and confidence. It is the height of folly to kill the lead dog with a club of confiscatory taxation and onerous legislation when the wolf pack of depression and unemployment are at our heels.

WHY NOT COMPULSORY BACON EATING?

Again we are faced with proposals for more compulsory experimental laws. For example, in Oregon the legislature will be asked to pass a law to the effect that beginning with 1936 it will be made compulsory to add 3 per cent of alcohol made in Oregon from farm waste, such as cull potatoes, to each gallon of gasoline, and furthermore that the percentage of alcohol shall be increased to 5 per cent, then 10 per cent and then 15 per cent each succeeding year. The legislature will be further asked to make such alcohol-producing plants free from taxes for five years, and free from one-half of all taxes for a second five-year period, if they operate at 50 per cent capacity.

Why should a man driving a motor car be forced to use alcohol if he does not want it, on the theory that it will use a farm crop? If alcohol for fuel is as good as it is claimed, and is cheaper why is it not sold to the public as any other commodity? If it is as good as claimed, why is it necessary to force the public to buy it? The mere fact that it cannot compete in the open market, should be pretty good evidence that it will not justify the claims made for it by its sponsors.

This is not an argument against using waste farm crops, it is not an argument against using alcohol for fuel, but it is an argument against forcing a man to buy a product that he may not want, and that may not be as good for his use as other fuels.

Why not pass a law to make every person blend two slices of bacon with his breakfast every morning, to use up waste hog production?

Economic Highlights

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

Ask a dozen economists this question: "How great a debt can the federal credit stand?" The chances are that you will get a dozen different and opposed answers.

Not so many years ago financial authorities fearfully forecast that the national debt would soon reach the \$10,000,000,000 mark, said that this would mean the beginning of a collapse in the nation's credit. Today the debt has passed \$30,000,000,000 and some authorities believe that it will reach \$50,000,000,000 before many more years have passed. Yet little fear is now expressed as to solvency of our government. Treasury officials say that \$50,000,000,000 would not be an excessive debt for so rich a country.

The President's budget message was predicated upon the theory that it will be possible to achieve a smaller deficit in the 1936 fiscal year than in the 1935. Federal book-keeping today is done under a sort of dual system. One set of books takes care of the regular budget. Another involves emergency expenditures which, in the view of the Administration, are much like war expenses and so cannot be carried on the books as normal spending. This system has led to considerable confusion of the public which has been told, on the one hand, that the government is cutting costs, while on the other hand, it sees the deficit and taxes constantly rising.

Estimated receipts for the 1936 fiscal year regular budget total \$2,422,000,000—an advance of \$289,

COMMERCIAL TRAGEDY

There was a man in our town
And he was wondrous wise,
But one great fault this merchant had,
He wouldn't advertise.

The piles of goods were heaped
Way up
Within his nice new store,
He had ambition, enterprise
And credit—even more.

His plate-glass windows all decked
Out,
Smart clerks and all the rest
Were right on hand to serve the
crowd
With courtesy and zest.

His bank account was large in size,
His capital very solid—
But on the day of opening up
His sales were worse than stolid.

So one by one, the story goes,
The genial clerks were fired,
For business was not big enough
To make the owner tired.

His bank account grew smaller,
His stock remained the same,
And folks forgot about him;
For they never saw his name.

Rents piled high, with business dull,
And this man so very wise,
Hired himself out to a neighbor
Who knows how to advertise.
—DORIS ZORILLA, in the Rutland (Vt.) Herald.

000,000 over 1935. Estimated expenses are \$3,362,000,000, a rise of \$554,000,000. T his leaves an encouraging surplus, so far as regular income and spending is concerned of \$120,000,000.

The next step, however, concerns the emergency budget. The Administration plans to spend some \$4,582,000,000 for extraordinary purposes, as opposed to an income of \$570,000,000 which will come from various AAA activities. This leaves a deficit of \$4,012,000,000.

As a result, total expenditures for "regular" and "extraordinary" budgets will be \$7,884,000,000, a drop of \$124,000,000 from 1935. Total receipts from all sources will be \$3,992,000,000, a rise of \$280,000,000 from the preceding fiscal year. The total net deficit will thus be \$3,892,000,000 (\$404,000,000 less than the 1935 deficit) which must be added to the soaring national debt, bring it close to the \$35,000,000,000 mark.

There is the budget situation in a nut shell. Great as the deficit is, the President and many financial experts say it is "well within the nation's resources." It remains a fact, however, that the national debt must eventually be paid—and that in the meantime hundreds of millions a year must be spent for interest. All of this money has to be raised by taxation, and the greater the debt, the greater the burden of industry—and the less money it has for other purposes. Nineteen-thirty-six interest expenditures, for example, will come to the neat sum of \$875,000,000, a jump of \$40,000,000 over the 1935 fiscal term.

To get away from the economic

aspects of the budget, one of its most interesting phases is the proposed expenditure of \$900,000,000 for national defense. If Congress authorizes this expenditure, as it probably will, 1936 will witness the greatest "peace-time war expenses" in the nation's history. The President announced these figures without comment—it is obvious, however that they are principally made necessary by Japan's abrogation of the naval treaty. Two years from now, when the treaty expires, Japan will start to build naval craft on a grand scale, and the United States must keep up with her. At the present time, our naval strength is well below our treaty limit. This tonnage deficit will be made up for the most part, within the next two years.

Business is quiet since the holiday spurt and reports are neither encouraging nor discouraging. There have been a few small advances in various lines, while no industry has fallen back. STEEL output recently registered a gain, with the outlook for increased demand. TRADE has been improving, and a late week showed a 16 per cent advance in bank debits outside of New York City. ELECTRIC POWER shows a slight gain and tends steadily upward. BUSINESS ACTIVITY as a whole is getting better.

Big industries, in company with government, are anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's decision on the gold forfeiture cases, which will be handed down early in February. If the court decides that holders of gold bonds and gold certificates must be paid on the basis of the old 100-cent dollar, as specified in the bonus held by individuals who loaned their money to the government and many industries, instead of the present 59.4 dollar, the nation's public and private debts will show a paper rise of more than \$60,000,000,000.

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SUMMONS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON IN AND FOR JACKSON COUNTY.

JACKSON COUNTY BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, an Oregon building and loan corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
MINERVA HOLLINS HUTCHINS and E. P. HUTCHINS, her husband; D. L. REED, also known as L. D. REED, and RUTH REED, husband and wife; D. E. MILLARD and SYLVIA MILLARD, husband and wife; also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in or to the real estate described in the Complaint on file herein, Defendants.

TO D. L. REED, also known as L. D. REED, and RUTH REED, husband and wife; also all other persons or parties unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in or to the real estate described herein,

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON, you and each of you are hereby notified to appear and answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff on file herein against you, or otherwise plead thereto, within four (4) weeks from the date of the first publication of this Summons. You are hereby notified that if you fail to appear and answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff as required herein, or otherwise plead thereto, Plaintiff will take a Decree against you for the relief demanded in said Complaint, which is succinctly stated as follows, to-wit: For a judgment against the Defendants D. L. Reed,

also known as L. D. Reed, and Ruth Reed, husband and wife, for the sum of \$435.71, plus interest at the rate of 10% per annum from the 12th day of August, 1932, plus \$75.00 attorney's fees, plus \$2.50 for insurance premium, plus \$5.00 for continuation of abstract of title, plus all Plaintiff's costs and disbursements hereinafter to be taxed, plus interest on said judgment at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of the decree herein, and that said Decree and Judgment be held a first and prior lien upon the following described property, situated and being in the County of Jackson, State of Oregon, to-wit:

Lot seven (7) Block three (3) of the Sunnyside Addition to the City of Medford, Jackson County, Oregon, as the same is designated and described on the official plat thereof, now of record.

And for a further decree foreclosing Plaintiff's mortgage against the real property hereinabove described.

This Summons is published in The American, Central Point, Oregon, by order of the Honorable H. D. Norton, Judge of the above entitled Court, duly made on the 9th day of January, 1935.

The date of the first publication of this Summons is the 10th day of January, 1935.

GLENN O. TAYLOR,
O. H. BENGTON,
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
126 East Main Street,
Medford, Oregon.

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