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SILENCE THE CALAMITY HOWLERS

DURING post-war depression, President Wilson remarked the trouble was largely psychological. For this statement he was unmercifully ridiculed and condemned by his political opponents, yet the observation was both timely and sound.

All depressions are more or less psychological, and the present depression is no exception. Conditions are not good, but they are rendered much worse by the state of the public mind.

As a result many Democratic newspapers are filling their editorial columns every day with calamity howls, talks about this depression being worse than any in the country's history, and some even maintaining that if President Hoover could be impeached business would begin to pick up immediately.

WE ARE not advocating a strich policy, or a Pollyanna attitude of childish optimism, not sustained by the facts—no progress can be made toward bettering conditions by closing our eyes to meet what those conditions are.

But genuine progress toward bettering conditions CAN be made by silencing the calamity howlers, by adopting the best possible attitude toward those conditions, rather than the worst possible attitude.

For, to repeat, all depressions are greatly influenced by the attitude of the public mind toward them,—a sane and courageous attitude means the minimum harm; an hysterical, cowardly attitude means panic—and the maximum harm.

THE situation as we see it is a serious one, and affects this community just as it does every other. If the partisan press is to continue this perpetual squawking, about how frightful conditions are, and how much worse they are likely to become, what should be more than a temporary setback, may become a permanent one—may, in fact result in a major calamity.

The future, in other words, depends not upon what economic conditions actually are, but upon what attitude the American people as a whole take toward them.

The time has come for the Democratic press to think a little less of what may put President Hoover in a hole, and a little more of what will pull the country out of it. In short, we need real patriotism,—a patriotism of peace; which is often just as much needed and an obligation of true loyalty, as a patriotism of war.

DON'T RISK A TRAGIC CHRISTMAS

WE ARE indebted to the National Board of Fire Underwriters for the following timely editorial:

"A modern philosopher, in reviewing the Christmas holiday fire situation, said: 'Fire hazards seem always to be the 'stow-aways' of the Christmas surprise pack. They remain unwelcome guests until some chance sets the frenzy of fire into motion and destruction ensues.'

"Every year when Christmas comes around unsuspected fire dangers threaten to become a greater menace to the public than any other time during the year. Everyone is therefore urged to be vigilant in guarding against these dangers.

"The following fire prevention rules will serve as a guide during the holiday season:

"In setting up the Christmas tree keep it away from stoves, gas heaters or electric heating apparatus and make sure it is securely fastened not only to a substantial base but near the top.

"Trees should be taken down before they become so dry they are a fire menace. If set in water they will remain green and be less combustible.

"Do not use decorations on the tree that burn readily, or hang them on lighting fixtures or electric wires.

"Do not illuminate the tree with candles. If electric lights are used and the fuse blows out it means trouble and a qualified electrician should be called. He should also attend to any special wiring.

"Discourage the custom of displaying a lighted candle in the window. Draperies may catch fire. Sentiment is worth while but not at the expense of life and property.

"Experience in previous years indicates that there is danger in amateur motion picture machines. Cheap, flimsily constructed machines are an extreme hazard, especially if nitro-cellulose film is used. Insist upon the best built machine; one that has been tested and approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories, and use only acetate film, known as 'safety' film, which burns slowly.

"Extinguish all hearth fires and electric lights when leaving the premises.

"Promptly dispose of all wrappings when packages have been opened. When burning paper and rubbish care should be observed to prevent the scattering of lighted pieces which might endanger property."

Still, there must be one dull boy in every class to provide jobs in later years for the brilliant ones.

The lady flyer who lost by being blown many miles against the wind was found, as was expected, on the front page.

This world-wide depression may be part of war's reaction, but a reaction is an opposite effect and war is hell.

The Maryland penitentiary will teach journalism, that perhaps being the one trade unknown to its inmates.

Then, too, a celebrity who wishes to escape notice might put up a little sign reading: "Stocks for sale."

No reverence for sacred things in this country? Try getting the floor in any ordinary crowd and saying: "Darn Lindbergh!"

Now the campus idol who carried the pigskin will surrender the co-eds to the one who carries the frogskin.

Now all the corn growers need is some way to can their product so it will make hooch when you get it home.

Fifteen Years Ago This Week

(From the files of The Mail Tribune)

Monday
The "Misses" Ruth Lawrence, Vera Olmstead, Ruth Nye, Lucile Messner, George Gates and Delph Phipps are home from the university for the Christmas holidays.

Tuesday
San Francisco children forbidden to view statues in the nude.

Wednesday
Seely V. Hall takes the agency for the "Automobile sensation of the year"—the Chevrolet.

Thursday
European combatants refuse to agree on Christmas truce along the battlefronts.

Friday
Drama league to present amateur play, "Hyaloth Halvey."

Saturday
Tame bears at Crater lake to be new feature coming summer.

Sunday
The city observes Christmas. The barber shops close at 11 a. m. Snow is forecast.

fatal and that recovery is to be expected next year. Of course, it is easy to make hopeful predictions. But in this case there are certain fundamental aspects of the situation that seem to justify Dr. Ayres' cheerfulness.

A little more than a year ago when the boom was at its height, people had bought literally billions of dollars' worth of stocks at prices that were far from justified by earnings. As soon as the feverish speculation ceased there were bound to be heavy losses. Those losses have been taken and are in the past, not the future. Through this heavy liquidation brokers' loans on stocks have been reduced from 8 billion dollars to 2 billion.

An enormous amount of credit that was tied up in unproductive speculation is now available for legitimate business. Commodity prices have tumbled to bedrock. Business is now rebuilding on a substantial basis, without the fear that the bottom may drop out of prices at any time.

Stress has been laid on the depression abroad as hindering recovery at home. Undoubtedly this is true. But Europe still was flat on its back in 1923 when recovery from the crash of 1921 was in full swing in the United States.

Dr. Ayres has evidently substantial reasons for his prediction of the patient's recovery.—Kansas City Star.

EINSTEIN

(Omaha World-Herald)

To the editor of the World-Herald: Will Prof. Einstein's talks in this country be in German?

WORRIED. They probably will, but don't let that worry you. The chances are you wouldn't know what he was talking about if you could understand him.

Of course there will be thousands of Americans who will learn the German language within the next few days in order to be able to consult with the professor when he arrives, but this, it seems to me, is needless labor.

We don't mind confessing that we are at odds with Einstein on one or two points. Those will have to be ironed out before there is an ultimate understanding. For instance, we don't at all like his having spent but a half hour at his daughter's wedding.

Press Comment

THE PATIENT WILL RECOVER

That expert business diagnostician, Col. Leonard Ayres of the Cleveland Trust company, after a thorough examination of the patient's pulse and blood pressure, announces that the malady is not



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Judge Louis Duffee, 74, of Griffin, Ga., prefers a male to autos and other means of conveyance.
Historic Raleigh tavern, at Williamsburg, Va., has been restored by Rockefeller interests.
Turtle farming and canning is the major industry on Eleuthera island of the Bahamas.
The Duke Endowment contributed \$53,167 to the support of Methodist churches in the south during 1929.
Williamina. — Williamina theater will install sound equipment.
The port of Mobile, Ala., has handled more than 150,000 bales of cotton since August 1.
A new course in game management and conservation is planned at North Carolina State college.
The total of all water commerce handled by the port of New Orleans in 1929 was 11,681,870 tons.
A fire-proof wharf section, 3,000 feet long and representing an expenditure of \$1,200,000 is under construction in New Orleans.
Nabalem. — Nabatorium a n d grade school buildings dedicated.

THE LAST-MINUTE GIFT
A bright Christmas box of delicious confections is the happy thought for the holidays! For gifts, or for your own home, our wonderful fresh candies are the appreciated thing. There are special one, two, three and five-pound Christmas boxes, and of course our regular wide assortment.
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