

THE FRONTIER

D. H. Cronin, Editor and Proprietor

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Economic Highlights

Recently a birthday of great national importance occurred. It marked the first anniversary of the NRA—the most extraordinary bureau ever created by the Federal government.

Birthday "greetings" were of two kinds. On the one hand, NRA executives praised the bureau to the skies, said that it had started us well on the road to recovery, would take us all the way before long. On the other hand, various critics said that the NRA represented the downfall of democracy, that it meant we were in for either fascism or communism, that it had abrogated every major provision of the Constitution.

Neither of these viewpoints is indicative of the stand the American people will take when they finally express an opinion. They know the NRA has done fine things—such as eliminating sweat shops and child labor, and giving labor a better break so far as wages, hours and working conditions are concerned. They know it has likewise done things which are not so good—such as setting itself up as a czar over routine business matters, about which situation they are confused.

Most commentators are of the opinion that the main trouble with the NRA is that it grew too fast and tried to cover too much territory. In the beginning, it was principally an arbiter of working conditions—it laid down minimum wage and maximum hours-of-work rulings. Then it began to branch out into very different fields. It made rulings concerning such routine business matters as size and time of credits. It fixed prices—at the expense of the consuming public, according to the various Darrow reports. It became the executive head of every major industry, and officers and owners of companies and corporations found themselves hog-tied at every turn. They couldn't make a move without authorization from Washington.

The powers-that-be in Washington, as a matter of fact, have recognized this. The NRA is giving up price-fixing. It is about to reduce the number of codes in effect by 70 or 80 per cent. It is becoming much less arbitrary in its actions. In brief, it looks as if the NRA in the future will be mainly concerned with wages and hours and working conditions, as was its initial purpose.

Most of these changes, which are being received with great applause by the bulk of industries, may be credited to Mr. Roosevelt. The President is the commander-in-chief who makes the final decisions. The belief is widely held now that General Johnson may be supplanted before long—he is able energetic, aggressive and honest, but he has made too many enemies. He gets things done—but there are always a great many wounded feelings when he is finished. His weakness is lack of tact, plus amazing sensitiveness. Criticism, no matter how friendly and well disposed, invariably angers him.

It is impossible to enter into a discussion of business conditions these days without bringing in the ominous word "strike." The labor problem is uppermost in the mind of every executive—even though his business has not been directly affected, threats of a general strike keep him awake nights.

It is an interesting fact that we hear more of strikes now than at any time since the great post-war walk-outs—yet the number of men involved in strikes, and the total of working hours lost, are about the same as in the past five or six years. In other words, so far as the statistics show, the strike problem is no more severe now than it was last year or the year before, or in booming 1928.

However, the statistics don't tell all. In the past, strikes have occurred because of disagreement over wages and hours. Present strikes are very different—the strikers, as a matter of form, make demands for shorter hours and higher pay, but those matters are the least of it. The real reason behind the strikes is the drive for closed shop industry—the unions are out to make American business 100 per cent closed shop, and they

mean business. It is both amusing and important that in at least one case employers finally agreed to meet the wage and hour demands of striking workmen—and were turned down, because they wouldn't consent to the closed shop plan.

As for industrial production, there is little to report. There have been some slight advances and some slight recessions, and they about balance each other. There may be a downward swing soon, due to summer seasonal influences. Government spending still confuses the picture, inasmuch as it is impossible to tell how much of recovery is due to more normal times, and how much to abnormal stimulation from distribution of public money from Washington.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

By Frank P. Litschert

Dispatches from Philadelphia announcing that the directors of the Federation of Churches of that city have given approval to the campaign of the League of Decency for cleaner motion pictures recalls the fact that there is now a nation-wide movement on the part of churches of all denominations, clubs and civic organizations, for a higher order of motion picture entertainment. Patrons of the movies who belong to the organizations embraced in the movement are to pledge themselves to remain away from all moving picture shows which are considered as unwholesome or degrading.

It would seem that the critics of unclean pictures, if they are in earnest, as no doubt they are, have at least struck on an effective means to bring about higher grade movie entertainment. The motion picture industry is a business, not a public institution, and its directors will respond quicker to box office results than to any other one factor. While we all feel that there is something un-American about the word boycott, there is little doubt that motion picture fans have a right to protest against unclean or degrading entertainment and to remain away and urge their families and friends to stay away from productions which do not meet with their moral approval.

Such a movement, if it is carried on in earnest, will undoubtedly aid the efforts of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors under the leadership of Will Hays, to bring about a real uplift in the movies. The Hays organization has put forth strenuous efforts and has done a great deal of good. Unfortunately, however it has to deal with motion picture producers who think of the box office above all else and with temperamental artists and directors who believe that their "artistic" creative spirit and direction ought not to be interfered with. For these reasons at times recommendations of the Hays organization for the elimination of certain scenes in pictures are overruled by an appeal to a committee of producers themselves, a little pressure on the part of the public will go a long way toward remedying this situation.

While some of the producers may resent or disagree with reform efforts of this kind, it is to be remembered that they are much to be preferred to a federal censorship at Washington which might easily come instead. Nobody who knows anything about bureaucracy at Washington would relish the idea of having the fitness of motion picture entertainment passed on by a band of federal appointees at the nations capitol.

We must, of course, give the movies their due. While there is a great deal of criticism just now, and some of it may be justified, it is to be remembered that as a vehicle of entertainment the motion picture is far above the average stage production and even the average modern novel in decency and moral attributes. Any comparison a fair minded citizen may make will abundantly approve of this fact. It is claimed that the reason that some movie plays are of questionable moral value is that they are taken from modern plays and novels which are not paragons of virtue. But it is to be remembered that there are still many good books and plays which are usable for motion picture purposes. "Little Women" is not the only one.

Now there is another thought worth considering. If the public is to remain away from bad pictures as a sensible way of remedying the situation, it also has a duty to patronize good, wholesome motion picture entertainment. That is only fair, and the suggestion is made in view of the charge often made that some of the bitterest critics of the movies are folks who never attend. Certainly it is not enough to discourage the bad. We ought to encourage the good.

OUR NATION'S BIRTHDAY, JULY 4, 1776

Our second president, John Adams, poured out his very soul in support of the Declaration of Independence before the document was signed. We quote herewith: "But whatever may be our fate, be assured that this Declaration will

stand. It may cost treasure, and it may cost blood, but it will stand, and it will richly compensate for both. Thru the thick gloom of the present, I see the brightness of the future, as the sun in heaven. We shall make this a glorious, an immortal day. When we are in our graves, our children will honor it. They will celebrate it with thanksgiving, with festivity, with bonfires and illuminations. On its annual return, they will shed tears, copious gushing tears, not of subjection and slavery, not of agony and distress, but of exultation, of gratitude and joy. Sir, before God, I believe the hour is come. My judgment approves this measure, and my whole heart is in it. All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope, in this life, I am now ready here to stake upon it. And I leave off as I began, that, live or die, survive or perish, I am for the Declaration. It is my living sentiment, and by the blessing of God it shall be my dying sentiment. "Independence now, and Independence forever!"

There is not a real American who does not thrill at the story of how colonial leaders affixed their signatures to the Declaration of Independence—the document which gave birth to our mighty nation. Let us stimulate a greater spirit of patriotism, and thereby deal telling blows to those in America who seek to undermine our constitution.

COST OF PUBLIC DEBT

D. W. Ellsworth, of the Annalist, recently wrote that he anticipated an "upward spiral" in public debts. In other words, government is about to borrow more millions, with the tax-paying public as the security behind the bonds.

It is about to borrow more millions on which every property-owner, investor and worker will have to pay interest, either directly or indirectly.

It is about to borrow more millions which we and our children will have to pay off in the future. In this connection, it is worth observing that money borrowed at four per cent costs double in 25 years—that is every million of 25-year four per cent government bonds will absorb two million dollars of taxpayers money at maturity.

A constantly increasing number of economists, publicists and observers are forecasting that we are bound for a great national headache—when the tax bills that all forms of government are busy running up now have to be paid. We haven't begun to pay yet—but even under present tax conditions it is almost impossible to bring capital into industry. Jobs that would be provided if business were allowed to grow are lost.

We cannot have real recovery if we stifle industry and initiative thru taxation. We cannot put our millions of unemployed back to work if the tax

bill makes business profitless. We cannot have progress if homes and farms by the thousands are lost because their owners cannot meet the taxes on them.

Recovery from depression depends as much on economical, efficient and reasonable government as on any other single factor.

WHO OWES US A LIVING?

"Walt Disney, re-creator of the famous Three Little Pigs, has a new story out—that of the Grasshopper and the hard working Ants," says the Hollywood Tribune of Portland, Ore. "Its moral deals with out present problems so completely that it is worthy of serious consideration now."

"The story is about a Grasshopper who plays and sings all day, 'Oh, The World Owes Me a Living.' He wastes his food and time and is continually bothering the hard-working Ants, who are laying away food for the coming winter."

"Finally winter comes. There is no food for our happy Grasshopper. Snow falls and our Grasshopper friend turns blue with cold. He staggers to the door of the warm and happy Ants, who drag him in and thaw him out. As the Grasshopper returns to normal he is informed that all who eat the Ant's food must work. Dejected, he is about to leave when he is informed he may fiddle for his share. Happy again, he ends the story by singing, 'Oh, I Owe the World a Living.'"

"Have we been like the Grasshopper, happy in the thought that the United States owes us a living? . . . Can the government spend millions and even billions of borrowed money without our having to pay it back?"

We, like the Grasshopper in the fable, can live as parasites—for a time. But a day of reckoning comes, precisely as the cold weather follows the warm. The public treasury is not a bottomless pit, irrespective of the views of politicians who would have us believe it is. And some chill morning we will awaken to find that the national theme-song has changed to "We Owe the World a Living."

THE CIRCUS

Often those who carry-on to extremes have to be carried off.

It was reported a frog accidentally splashed into the Elkhorn river Sunday and drowned in what old timers said might be water.

News is scarce this week. Several prospective murders didn't work out worth a hang, an elopement fizzled at the business end of a shot gun and a natural death had to be postponed because of hard times.

Of all the bugs that worry the administration at Washington, grasshoppers, chinch bugs, cut worms and

others, it is safe to say the gold bugs cut the greatest figure.

Crooks splitting the swag should call the portions their divvy-dends.

Chickens and a garden do not mix, but the owner of the chickens and the neighbors do.

My daddie is a wonder, He lifts his debts with ease, He makes his money slick By coating the coin in grease.

A hobo: one out of work. Tramp: one who walks from place to place. Bum: a traveling beggar. Gay-cat: a fresh young man pestering old timers at a hobo camp.

Willie: Papa, where did you get mama? Papa: In the neck, I guess.

Stranger: Sure hot here in Holt county. Native: Hot here, O. K., but you'll find it a yell of a lot hotter in the hereafter.

Now is the time for all good men to come to the lemon-ade of their country, especially Californians.

Roy Sauer: There are three things I cannot do; I cannot make an impromptu speech, I cannot climb a ladder leaning forward, and I cannot kiss a girl leaning backward.

Roy Cochran, state engineer, while here recently on an inspection trip, told this one:

A farm boy leading a calf tried desperately to induce the calf to leap a small pool of water on a road, without success. A man in an automobile came along and asked the trouble. Told, he said he would aid the boy as well as the calf, so he drove behind the calf where he sounded a horn. The calf leaped to its limit, went over the pool and into a roadside ditch, tangled in rope and vegetation and drowned.

In talking the matter over with the downcast lad, the traveler asked: "So you don't hold anything against me for the loss of your calf, do you, my lad?"

"No," the boy replied, "but I do think that was a pretty big toot for such a small calf."

This one was attributed to Judge J. J. Harrington by a friend: A man near Page read and heard of the wonderful horse races at O'Neill a few years ago. "I have a bull that can beat anything in horse flesh they

ever had at O'Neill," he told a man from the county seat. Astonished and deeply interested, the O'Neillite and others called to see the bovine race wender.

"He is not here," the farmer's wife told the party.

"Where is he?" she was asked.

"He went to Kansas City this forenoon, he is to go to Chicago this afternoon, and he is to come home this evening."

"How in the world is he doing his traveling?" the wife was asked.

"On the back of his bull," she told the visitors.

Son: Daddie, have you a favorite motto? Lawyer: "Yes, it is 'deny everything and admit nothing.'"

Scientists say there is not a square mile of earth that does not contain some material from every other square mile of the globe. Dust storms caused the statement. It must be then that there is not a square mile of the earth where it ought to be.

Surgeon: I believe I'll make the greatest cut right across here, like this.

Im-patient: That's fine, doctor; that's where I carry my wallet.

All it takes to make success Is a steady pull up-hill, Attention to the irksome tasks By one who means "I will."

S. DOWNEY ANNOUNCES

that the O'Neill Photo Co., and the Royal Theater will put on a Holt county Photo Contest for Babies, Children, and Groups of Children.

The following prizes will be given for the most natural photograph: First prize \$10.00 Second Prize 5.00 Third Prize 2.50 Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth prizes an 8x10 tinted and framed enlargement.

Photo Contest Tickets will be given at the O'Neill Photo Co. and at the Royal Theatre.

Now is the time to have photos taken you have been wanting. Your Children are growing up every day. The prices are low, as little as \$2.00 for a dozen in folders and one 8x10 enlargement framed for one additional dollar.

You and your friends will enjoy seeing the photos at the Royal Theatre at the close of the contest. Every night there is a good show at the Royal at the lowest possible prices. 5-4

Charter No. 5770 Reserve District No. 10

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF

The O'Neill National Bank

of O'Neill, in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business on June 30, 1934.

ASSETS

Table with 2 columns: Asset Name and Amount. Includes Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, United States Government securities owned, Securities guaranteed by United States Government, Other bonds, stocks and securities owned, Banking house, Furniture and fixtures, Real estate owned other than banking house, Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank, Cash in vault and balances with other banks, Outside checks and other cash items, Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer, Other assets.

LIABILITIES

Table with 2 columns: Liability Name and Amount. Includes Demand deposits, except U. S. Government deposits, public funds and deposits of other banks, Time deposits, except postal savings, public funds and deposits of other banks, Public funds of states, counties, school districts, or other subdivisions or municipalities, Deposits of other banks, including certified and cashiers' checks outstanding, Total of above four items, (a) Secured by pledge of loans and-or investments, (b) Not secured by pledge of loans and-or investments, (c) Total Deposits, Circulating notes outstanding, Capital account—Common stock, 500 shares, par \$100.00 per share, Surplus, Undivided profits—net.

MEMORANDUM: Loans and Investments Pledged to Secure Liabilities United States Government securities \$ 86,000.00 Other bonds, stocks, and securities 10,000.00 Total Pledged (excluding rediscounts) \$ 96,000.00 Pledged: Against circulating notes outstanding \$ 50,000.00 Against public funds of States, counties, school districts, or other subdivisions or municipalities 46,000.00 Total Pledged \$ 96,000.00

State of Nebraska, County of Holt, ss: I, S. J. Weekes, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. S. J. WEEKES, President. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3rd day of July, 1934. [Seal] MARJORIE DICKSON, Notary Public. My commission expires June 5, 1935. Correct—Attest: Emma Dickinson Weekes, E. F. Quinlan, F. N. Cronin, Directors. (This bank carries no indebtedness of officers or stockholders.)

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We have it here—this improved Standard Red Crown Superfuel which Standard Oil Refining Engineers have let out another notch to give extra, live, usable power. Drive in 19.9¢ and try it . . . 19.9¢ gal.

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Reliance: If you want low price combined with quality and high mileage try Reliance . . . 18.4¢ gal.

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FRANCIS DEMPSEY Standard Oil Servisman at Fifth & Douglas St. says: "It sure helps when we know that our customers couldn't possibly find higher quality gasoline than the Standard Red Crown Superfuel we sell."

3 FINE MOTOR OILS

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STANDARD OIL SERVICE

At these Standard Oil Dealers and Stations

STANDARD OIL SERVICE STATION

Fifth and Douglas Street

Alva Marcellus

J. M. Seybold