SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

Washington.—The good old days of 1929 are not coming back—are not en route—are not even desired by the New Deal. This has been said by President Roosevelt many times, but its present importance lies in some figures recently submitted to a group of economists by Dr. Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings institution.

Dr. Moulton made some very interesting comparisons with 1929 employment and production figures. Some construed the chief thought to be that the country has not arrived yet at a situation where enough of everything for everybody can be produced by people working only forty hours a week.

But more significant, in the view of some of the New Dealers who have been studying his attitude, is that the doctor made a liberal estimate about the number of men who could be employed—in addition to those working at present—in what are classed as the durable goods industries—primarily industries which produce machinery and other things which are not used up, but generally add to the country's productive capacity. As for example, a new blast furnace, a new newspaper press, new canning or textile machinery—in fact, machinery of any sort.

Dr. Moulton estimated that more than eight million more men would be employed in the durable goods industry if 1929 conditions were to be equalled. This does not mean that precisely that number less are employed now in the durable goods industries than were in 1929. Allowances are made for increase in population and other factors.

But the chief point here made by the New Deal economists is this huge number of persons employed in the durable goods industries was one of the really vital things wrong with the then situation—one of the important factors which resulted in the collapse—one of the contributing causes to the situation which the New Deal is seeking to correct.

Logic Is Simple

President Roosevelt does not believe such a large proportion of the country's labor should be used in the durable goods industries as was so employed in 1929. His logic is simple though not very widely understood.

His point is that too much of the earnings of the big corporations in the good years preceding the crash was plowed back into the business. Too many units in the various industries, he points out in conversations, decided that business was good, they could sell more goods than they could make—so they built an additional plant.

The result was, that instead of these earnings being distributed, whether to labor, to stockholders, or, by reduced prices, into creating a larger purchasing power which would absorb more goods, they were frozen into plants for the products of which the day came when there was no market.

Immediately the situation spread, lack of confidence was inspired, people began to save and hoard money, and the factories stood, as he likes to say, "stark and idle."

So the New Deal economists would dread the day when Dr. Moulton's estimate of how many more men could be employed in the durable goods industries might be realized in actual employment. They would figure another 1929 crash would follow very speedily.

Popularity Declines

Probably the decline of President Roosevelt's popularity is much more real—certainly it is much more obvious—on Capitol Hill than it is out in the country. Senators and representatives in private conversations admit that they believe the President has lost only a fraction of his following in the country.

Proof of that pudding will not be evident until there are some significant primaries, in which some anti-New Deal Democrat puts up a real battle.

But on Capitol Hill there are a surprising number of Democrats who seem anxious that the President's foot should slip a little. It is one of the reasons why the fight against enlargement of the Supreme court has become so important—and so bitter.

Most of the insurgents do not explain why they are insurging—they claim that in each particular case, be it the court, or the reorganization, or federal economy, or the PWA, or what not, much to their regret they have been forced to oppose the President.

It is perfectly true that they, in most instances at least, are really opposed to the President on these issues. But there is an underlying motive which has not come out in the open.

This is a burning desire that, when the Democratic national convention meets three years hence, it will be dominated by what they like to call "Regular Democrats," and it will positively not nominate a New Dealer to succeed Mr. Roosevelt.

Third Term Up Again

They are assuming—and it seems to many observers to be a violent assumption—that the President will not seek a third term. Strangely enough their very course of action, if sufficiently successful, may force the President to take another nomination. It may turn out, if what he will regard as the reactionaries in the Democratic party are apparently in control and purpose to name some man he will not believe will carry out his policies, that Mr. Roosevelt will conceive it his patriotic duty to run for a third term.

This possibility, however, does not seem to enter at all into the logic of the insurging Democrats. They are frankly hostile to the nomination of any of the men who they feel sure would win Roosevelt's approval. It is not so much Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, or any other of the half dozen New Dealers who have frequently been mentioned for the White House in the recent past.

Being politicians themselves, the senators and representatives who hope to regain control of their party at the next convention and put a man more satisfactory to them in the White House, realize that anything may happen in the three long years to come to trip any particular candidate. So it is not individuals they are planning to beat—it is really, in essence, the New Deal itself.

It is not so much that they want to make any move that Mr. Roosevelt would regard as a backward step. But they just do not yearn to go any further forward. They think they have gone plenty far already in revamping the country's economic structure. They want a "breathing spell."

The same logic spells plenty of trouble for Mr. Roosevelt next session unless there should be some convincing demonstration that the country is behind the President, not the insurgents.

Labor Bill Hits Snag

The whole trouble about the maximum hours and minimum wages bill, so far as getting it through congress is concerned, lies in that differential between wages in the North and wages in the South.

In one way or another the government has always avoided making any move which would interfere with the generally accepted idea that the wage scale in the South should not be so high as it is in the North.

The South has drawn many industries from the North as a result of this differential, plus certain other advantages, such as smaller cost for heating plants due to warmer climate, etc. It has been justified by the slightly lower cost of living in the South for the workers. For instance, many southern mills, located in small communities, are worked by people who live on tiny farms, which, through the labor of their wives and children—their own when unemployed—provide them with vegetables, chickens and sometimes even a little pork.

The movement of the textile industry to the South is a good illustration.

But naturally the employers of the North, and the labor union leaders, and those who agree with President Roosevelt and John L. Lewis about building up buying power among the classes of labor now unable to buy luxuries, dissent violently.

It so happens that Chairman William P. Connery, of the house labor committee, comes from Massachusetts, which has been hard hit for many years by this idea of a wage differential in favor of the South. Naturally he is vigorously against making any exceptions which would discriminate against New England in the new wages and hours bill he has introduced at the President's request.

But just as naturally southern senators and representatives are not anxious to see anything done by the federal government that would have the effect of removing this differential, which for some years now has been building up southern industry.

Question of Politics

At the same time the southern senators and representatives are politicians, and the workers have more votes than the employers—or even the chambers of commerce. And it might be assumed that the local storekeepers would be in sympathy with the workers. So it is just possible there may be more votes in eliminating the differential than in keeping it—even for the southerners.

That is just speculation, of course, for there is no indication yet that it is working in that direction. The indications are that the southern legislators regard the differential as an advantage, and will fight to keep it.

All of which points to labor troubles in the South sooner or later, for John L. Lewis is very set on the idea of building up buying power, and not purely from an altruistic standpoint at all. The C. I. O. has two objections to groups of underpaid labor. One is that they are probably competing with labor the wages and hours of which the union is trying to improve. The other is that it wants more people buying automobiles, electric refrigerators, radios, etc., which are produced by comparatively well paid labor. The more buying the more jobs, the more jobs the more union dues.

© Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

Yucatan

Wood-Burning Engine in Yucatan.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

THE peninsula of Yucatan projects northward between the Caribbean sea and the Gulf of Mexico like the thumb of a giant hand. Located in its northern half are the states of Yucatan and Campeche and the territory of Quintana Roo, in the Republic of Mexico.

It is almost as flat as the proverbial pancake, though, as one travels from north to south, a few low ranges, little more than foothills, are encountered, few exceeding 500 feet above the sea. The country is a limestone plain of recent geologic formation, covered with a dense, rather low forest which increases in height from north to south as the soil grows deeper.

Yucatan has no surface water, no rivers or streams, and relatively few lakes, but everywhere are to be found large natural wells called cenotes, which made life possible in ancient times. In the formation of these, the surface coralline limestone, honeycombed by the action of water, has broken through, exposing the subterranean water level.

The cenotes and modern wells vary in depth directly with the increasing elevation of the land as one withdraws from salt water, from only a few feet at the coast to about 100 feet in the interior. The level of the subterranean water table, however, always remains the same.

There are only two seasons, the dry and the rainy. The former begins in December and lasts officially until May 3, Santa Cruz day, when the faithful believe the rains should commence, though actually it may have been raining since the middle of April, or Nature, in a contrary mood, may have held off until the middle of June.

The thermometer does not fall below 39 degrees Fahrenheit, and does not rise above 107 degrees. But these two extremes do not tell the true story, since the average maximum is in the eighties and the average minimum in the sixties.

The nights, even after the hottest days, which are in April and May before the rains break, are cool, because of the trade winds which sweep across the peninsula from east to west practically throughout the year, bringing the freshness of the Caribbean sea to cool the sunparched land.

Almost Completely Isolated.

Although Yucatan is a peninsula joined by a broad base to the continental land mass to the south, it is, practically speaking, an island. For every person who manages to fight his way into the peninsula through trackless jungles, across vast swamps and over stony ranges of low hills which together form an all but impassable land barrier, hundreds reach Yucatan by air or water.

This circumstance profoundly affected the civilization which flourished there in ancient as well as in modern times.

Because of its almost complete isolation, the peninsula was selected by the Carnegie Institution of Washington more than two decades ago, as a center for the intensive study of American aboriginal civilizations. Foreign influence having been reduced to a minimum, Yucatan is an excellent "laboratory case" for such a study.

This subtropical paradise is not difficult of access from the United States. Merida, the capital, is only nine hours by air from Miami and less than six and a half from Mexico City. There are regular steamship sailings from New York and from New Orleans to Progreso, port of Yucatan. There is every facility for convenient touring about the peninsula, even the modern Maya-land lodge in the venerable ruins of Chichen Itza.

Merida, with about 110,000 people, must be one of the cleanest cities of its size in the world. All the streets are paved. Ninety per cent of the houses are rough masonry coated with lime plaster. Flat concrete roofs rest either on wooden beams or, in the modern houses, on steel beams.

The houses are painted in every color imaginable, pastel shades of cream, pink, green, blue, and yellow prevailing.

Patios Are Delightful.

As in all Spanish cities, the dwellings present to the streets either entirely blank walls or heavily barred windows, but, once within the great front doors, even the humblest have their enchanting patios. In the more pretentious homes broad-arched cloisters with tiled floors surround the patios on all four sides, and in more modest ones on one or two sides.

The patio itself usually is a riot of brilliantly colored tropical flowers, many of which distill rare perfumes.

Today, with its well-lighted, clean streets, its many parks, its movies, electric signs, autobusses and milling newsboys, bootblacks with their little portable boxes, and sweetmeat venders, Merida is a city of the Twentieth century.

But with Maya Indians in their picturesque native costumes rubbing shoulders with Mexicans in the more familiar habiliments of the modern world, even with American visitors in plus fours strolling beneath the medieval dignity of the cathedral towers, a thousand years of human history unfold before the eye.

The story of man's earliest occupation of Europe has been recovered from the caves of France and Spain, so in Yucatan the archeologist naturally turns to the caves, of which there are many, for evidence concerning man's antiquity in this region.

It would seem that the dwellers in the caves were the same people as the builders of the great cities of stone, since excavations disclose that both appear to have used the same utensils, the same kinds of dishes, bowls and water jars, the same kinds of corn grinders, arrow- and lance-heads, fiber cleaners, pottery burnishers, and the same kinds of jade ornaments, earplugs, noseplugs, beads, and pendants.

However, about the builders of the cities of cut stone, the ancient Maya, the archeologist knows more than a little, and with the Maya the clouds of obscurity surrounding the ancient history of Yucatan begin to dissipate.

Sometime during the early years of the Christian era there developed in what is now the northern part of the Republic of Guatemala—more exactly, in the department of Peten, Guatemala, south of Yucatan—a civilization which archeologists have called the Mayan.

This civilization, which was destined to become the most brilliant cultural expression of ancient America, was based upon agriculture, chiefly the raising of corn.

Mayan Civilization.

Because the early Maya were primarily farmers, they became interested in the phenomena of time, the passing of the seasons, the several stages of the farmer's year—when the forest should be felled, when the dried wood and leaves should be burned, when the corn should be planted, and when harvested. All these were of vital concern, so their priests at a very early date, probably by the beginning of the first millennium before Christ, turned their attention to the measurement of time and to the study of astronomy.

Although the Maya in their knowledge of the apparent movements of the heavenly bodies—the sun, moon, Venus, and probably other planets as well—far excelled both the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians, their greatest intellectual achievement was the invention of a chronology, exact to the day within a period of 374,400 years, which is as accurate as our own Gregorian calendar. For the first time in human history, their mathematical system to keep account of this chronology made use of a positional system of writing numbers involving the conception of the abstract mathematical quantity of zero, one of the outstanding achievements of all time.

While our own numerical system is decimal, increasing by tens from right to left of the decimal point, the ancient Maya system was vigesimal, increasing by twenties from bottom to top. But all the essential elements of our modern arithmetic, including numeration by position and use of a symbol to represent zero, had been devised by the ancient Maya 2,000 years ago, and at least five centuries before the Hindus had developed the fundamentals of Arabic notation in India.

By their exceedingly accurate system of chronology as well as by their knowledge of the apparent movements of the heavenly bodies, the Maya priests were able to predict eclipses and the heliacal rising and setting of Venus. Moreover, what was of even greater importance to the Maya farmer, they had determined the length of the tropical year with as high a degree of accuracy as Pope Gregory XIII did a good thousand years later.

what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

The Good Old Days.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—Taking pen in hand to write Uncle Sam's check for that next installment, I look longingly backward to what I'm sure was the golden age of our generation.

It was the decade that began soon after the turn of the century and ended with 1914.

Kings lolled securely on comfy thrones and dictatorships in strong nations were undreamed of.

Without shaking the foundations of the financial temple, Teddy Roosevelt was filing the alligator teeth of predatory wealth.

Irvin S. Cobb

People laughed at the mad suggestion that there could ever be another great war—let alone a world war.

With suffrage in prospect, women were going to purify politics.

Taxes were a means unto an end and not the end of our means.

Standards of living climbed faster than did the costs of living.

Automobiles were things to ride in at moderate speed, not engines to destroy human life with.

Millions actually believed that, if prohibition by law ever became effective, drunkenness would end and crime decrease.

Yes, I'm sure those were indeed the happy days—the era when the Twentieth Century limited started running and W. J. Bryan stopped.

• • •

Synthetic Imitations.

WE STOPPED at a wayside station advertising pure orange juice; there's one every few rods. Next to autograph hunters, oranges are the commonest product of California.

The drink was the right color. But there didn't seem to be any orange in it. The best you could say for it was that probably its mother had been badly frightened by an orange.

I made inquiry, and an expert told me some roadside venders—not many, but some—were peddling an essence compounded of chemical flavoring and artificial extracts because it kept better than the genuine article.

I thought America had reached tops in the gentle arts of substitution and adulteration when we began making pumpkin pies out of squash and maple syrup out of corn stalks and buckwheat flour out of a low grade of sawdust—anyhow, it tastes like that—and imported English sole out of the lowly flounder and scallops out of skate fins. But when, in a land where a strong man couldn't tote a dollar's worth of oranges on his back, there are parties selling synthetic imitations—well, just let the east equal that magnificent stroke of merchandising enterprise!

• • •

Poor Little Rich Men.

LET us take time off to pity the poor little rich man who owns a large but lonesome sea-going yacht.

During the depression, the species grew rare—there were money lords then who hardly had one yacht to rub against another—but, with better days, a fresh crop lines the coasts.

No matter how rich, the owner feels he must use his floating palace. He may be content with a saucer of processed bran and two dyspepsia tablets, but no yacht crew yet ever could keep soul and body together on anything less than double sirloins. So he goes cruising—and gosh, how he does dread it!

For every yachtsman who really gets joy out of being afloat, there usually is another to whom the great heart of the nation should go out in sympathy. You almost expect to find him putting ads in the paper for guests who can stand the strain; everything provided except the white duck pants.

• • •

Problems on Wheels.

AMERICA'S newest problem goes on wheels. One prophet says by 1938 there'll be a million trailers and three million people aboard them. Roger Babson raises the ante—within twenty years, half the population living in trailers and all the roads clogged.

So soon the trailer-face is recognizable. It is worn by Mommer, riding along behind, while Popper smiles pleasantly as he drives the car in solitary peace—getting away from it all. Have you noticed how many trailer widows there are already?

But as yet nobody reckons with the chief issue: think of the increasing mortality figures when the incurable speed bug discovers that not only may he continue to mow down victims with head-on assaults, but will garner in many who escaped his frontal attack by sideswipes of the hitched-on monster that is swinging and lunging at his rear like a drunken elephant on a rampage!

To catch 'em going and coming—that should be a motor maniac's dream of earthly joy.

IRVIN S. COBB.
WNU Service.

Ask Me Another ?

A Quiz With Answers Offering Information on Various Subjects

1. Where was the first session of the United States Supreme court held, and how many justices were present?
2. Are the authorized version and the King James Bible the same?
3. What animal is the fastest runner?
4. How big is the standard parachute?
5. When was the federal income tax first imposed?
6. What state has furnished more Presidents than any other?
7. How many counties in the state of Delaware?
8. How many kinds of time in use in the world?
9. Who wrote, on the eve of battle, "If I survive, I shall soon be with those I love: if I fail, I shall soon be with those I have loved"?
10. How many snapshots do amateur photographers in the United States take a year?

Answers

1. The first session of the United States Supreme court was held in the Royal Exchange in New York, February 1, 1790, with three of the six justices present.
2. They are. The King James Bible became known as the authorized version, probably because it bore the line "appointed to be read in churches" on the title page.
3. The cheetah in short distance runs. It can run down a deer or antelope for a short distance.
4. The standard airplane parachute has a spread of 24 feet when open.
5. In the year 1916.
6. Virginia.
7. There are but three counties in the state of Delaware.
8. Sixty-three kinds of standard time are used in the world.
9. This sentiment was contained in a letter written home by Sir Charles Napier, a distinguished British general.
10. Amateur photographers in the United States take 500 million snapshots a year to use up 3 million pounds of film and 14 million pounds of printing paper annually, according to the Literary Digest.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Prize-winning Recipes of the South

CHERRY PUDDING

Mrs. T. B. Neely, Fort Worth, Texas

Cream ⅓ cup Jewel *Special-Blend* Shortening with ⅔ cup sugar. Add 1 egg, ⅔ cup milk, ½ tsp. vanilla, ¼ tsp. lemon extract, ¼ tsp. salt, 1½ cups flour, 2 tsps. baking powder. Beat for 2 minutes. Pour into greased shallow pan; sprinkle with ⅔ cup drained cherries. Bake 25 minutes in a moderate oven. Cut in squares and serve warm with this *Cherry Sauce:* Blend ⅔ cup sugar, 2 tbsps. flour and ⅛ tsp. salt. Add 1 cup water, 2 tbsps. Jewel *Special-Blend* Shortening, 2 tbsps. lemon juice and ⅔ cup cherries and juice. Cook slowly, stirring constantly, until sauce thickens. Adv.

Smiles

Classified

"Did you ever get your diamond back from that peach you were stuck on?"

"No; she's the cling-stone variety, y'know." — Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Round-Up

"Would you give ten cents to help the Old Ladies Home?"

"What! Are they out again?"

FIXED

"Is your office boy steady?"

"Steady; he's almost motionless."—Montreal Herald.

Darn Wrap

Mr. Jones found some holes in his stockings and asked his wife:

"Why haven't you mended these?"

"Did you buy that coat you promised me?"

"No-o," he replied.

"Well, then, if you don't give a wrap I don't give a darn."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Foreign Words and Phrases

Laissez qui je vous responde (F.) Allow (permit) (suffer) me to answer you.

Une nuit sans sommeil. (F.) A sleepless night.

Uberrima fides. (L.) Superabounding faith.

Furor arma ministrat. (L.) Fury provides arms.

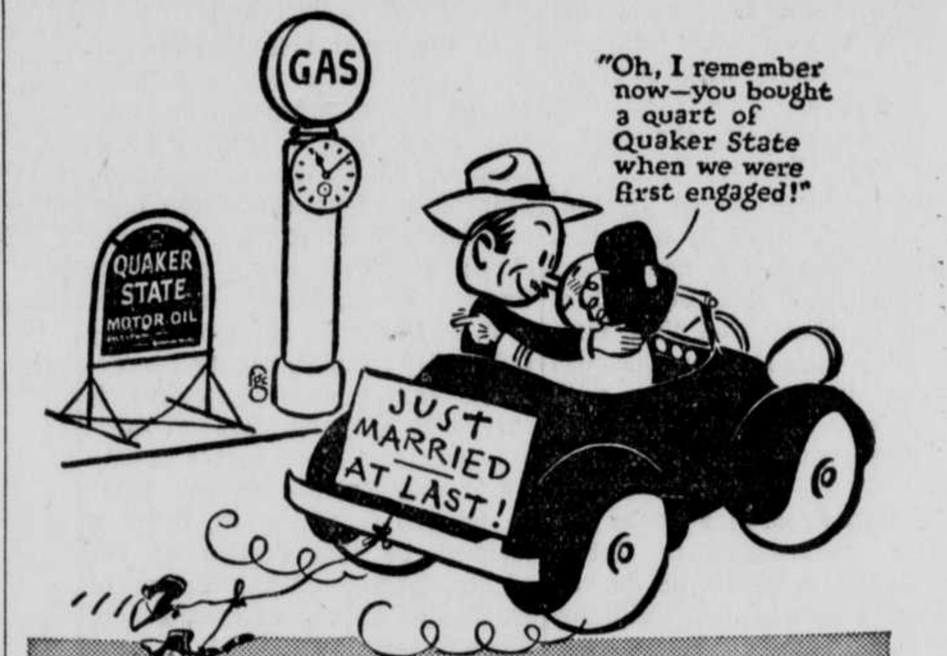
Dehors. (F.) Outside.

Ubi jus incertum, ibi jus nullum. (L.) Where the law is uncertain, there is no law.

Hablen cartas, y callen barbas. (Sp.) Let writing speak, and beards (that is, mouths) be silent.

Tout le monde est sage apres coup. (F.) After-wit is every man's wit.

Sans les injustices des hommes. (F.) But for (were it not for) the injustice of men.



GO FARTHER BEFORE YOU NEED A QUART

Always adding oil? Then make the "First Quart" test. It's easy. Just drain and refill with Quaker State. Note the mileage. You'll find you go farther before you have to add the first quart. That's because there is *"an extra quart of lubrication in every gallon."* The retail price is 35¢ per quart. Quaker State Oil Refining Corp., Oil City, Pa.