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ARE WE POVERTY-STRICKEN?

Those who trudge devotedly behind the self-selected candidate of the proletariat accept his statement that the poor are getting poorer year by year and the rich richer. Also that wealth is gradually being concentrated in a few hands, and that the toiler gets less and less of his share of production every day.

We wonder what gauge these prophets of dolor measure by to achieve the results they announce? Will we take the matter of employment and wages for a test? It is true that jobs are not as plentiful now as in 1918, 19 or 20. But they are more plentiful than in 1913 or 1914. In April, 1921, the figure was 91 in the general index of employment in manufacturing industries calculated by the Department of Labor. In April, 1924, the index figure was 91, (the monthly average of 1923 equals 100). This is the reflection of the decline that began in July, 1923, and which now is checked. Figures on building trades and other outdoor employment are not available, but the known fact is that these industries are using all available men.

If wages are to be a test, the fact is that labor is getting twice as much or more than twice as much as it did in prewar years, and generally hours of work have been shortened. The eight-hour day, now the common rule, was prevalent in but a few industries in 1914.

The charge is made that cost of living has doubled and trebled. This is not true. Living prices have doubled. The index price calculated by Dun's for all commodities at wholesale in 1910 was 91.415; in 1923 it was 188.711. What has happened to wages in that same time? In New York state in 1904 the average annual pay of the worker was \$500; in 1919, the last year for which figures are available, it was \$1,187. If commodity prices doubled, so did wages. Even in Wisconsin, where La Follette hails from, the average annual wage has advanced from \$478 in 1904 to \$1,100 in 1919. Nebraska has no such reports as are available in New York or Wisconsin, but it is known that wages here keep pace with those in other states.

In 1905 a few over 6,000,000 savings depositors had \$2,500,000,000 in their credit in the banks; in 1922 the number of depositors had risen to nearly 13,500,000, and their deposits had increased to \$7,500,000,000. Why do not the followers of "Fighting Bob" refer to this as an example of doubling and trebling?

From 1911 to 1922 the number of life insurance policy holders increased from 6,621,000 to nearly 15,000,000, and the total aggregate of insurance held by them rose from less than \$13,000,000,000 to \$33,500,000,000.

Home owning is on the increase. In 1900 there were fewer than 1,500,000 members of the building and loan associations in the United States; in 1922 there were nearly 7,000,000. A five-fold increase noted here does not indicate the poverty complained of by the proponents of La Folletteism.

What happened to the farmer is the subject of another chapter. It is true that agriculture suffered in comparison more than any other. Yet the farmer's dollar was worth but 86 cents in 1900, and it was worth 89 cents in 1922. Between 1909 and 1918 the farmer's dollar ranged from 100 to 142 cents. Farm property in the United States in 1900 was valued at \$20,000,000,000. In 1910 the value had risen to \$41,000,000,000, and in 1920 the value of farm property is set down at \$78,000,000,000. All crops in 1905 were valued at \$6,250,000,000; in 1919, almost \$24,000,000,000, and in 1922 at \$14,250,000,000. Some doubling in wealth may be noted here as well as elsewhere. Just now the swing of farm values is decidedly upward.

In many other ways the continued prosperity of the American people as a whole, and all classes of them in detail, may be shown. We plan to present some other illustrations of this truth as the days go along. What we want to do is to get our readers to become familiar with certain important facts that are often overlooked in the dust kicked up by partisan arguments. We also hope to get some of Mr. La Follette's supporters to see the doughnut as often as they do the hole.

NO WAY TO TREAT A WAILER.

All nature seems to have joined the conspiracy to undo the efforts of the calamity howler. From the Dallas Federal Reserve bank comes the word that the rediscount rate is cut from 4 1/2 to 4 per cent. From Washington the news from the Federal Farm Loan board is that loans to co-operative farmers' organizations will be made at 5 instead of 5 1/2 per cent. W. J. Bailey, governor of the Federal Reserve bank at Kansas City, says frozen loans in Kansas and Missouri are thawing out. E. G. Quamme, president of the Federal Land bank of St. Paul, says:

"Northwest farmers will be able to liquidate their debts, the banks will get back on an even keel, and the northwest will enter a new era of prosperity."

All this is happening in the region that was going to vote bolshewik because everybody was poor

and getting poorer every day. What show has a real calamity howler to make good against nature?

"MR. SHERIFF, AIR OUT THE ROOM."

Judge Maltbie of Hartford, Conn., recently took occasion to express a few personal opinions about citizenship and the duties of citizens. These opinions deserve to be widely quoted. They also deserve the thoughtful consideration of citizens everywhere.

Two Hartford bootleggers were arrested, and on their persons were found lists containing the names of some 30 citizens. Among the 30 were bankers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, manufacturers and others, all prominent and in the most respectable social and business standing.

Judge Maltbie subpoenaed these 30 respectable citizens. According to the printed reports no convicted criminal ever received a worse scolding from the bench. They were charged with being the direct instigators of crime, and Judge Maltbie deplored the fact that he was compelled to sentence the bootleggers instead of the 30 patrons. Pointing to the bootleggers in the dock, Judge Maltbie said:

"These men here have pleaded guilty to breaking the laws of their country, not in an accidental way, not in any outburst of passion, but coldly and consciously to get your money. Not only have they broken the laws of their country, but the laws that they represent, as every man of you knows, drag after it every manner of violence up to murder and piracy, and worst of all, bribery and corruption. The trail of these crimes leads right up to the doors of you men who have come here and told that you have played your part in it. It is your money that causes it. And you who are supposed to represent property, respectability and social position—what are you, after all, but participants in crime, instigators of crime? American citizens, some of you with creditable military records, digging at the very vitals of your country! Take a recess, Mr. Sheriff, and air out the room!"

The crime of bootlegging would disappear if men and women respected the law and joined in seeking the punishment of those who violate it. And those who make bootlegging possible and profitable are not less guilty, morally at least, than the vendors of the illicit stuff.

BURNING THE MORTGAGE.

About 20 years ago, when Theodore Roosevelt was pushing the Panama Canal project, one of the reasons urged for issuing bonds rather than levying a tax to pay for it was that the United States was so nearly out of debt that unless some new basis was devised, the national bank system might have to be revised. Government bonds were scarce and getting scarcer. Just now the citizens look at the huge sum of \$21,000,000,000 bonded indebtedness, and wonders if ever it will disappear.

Reports from Washington show that under the republican policy it is vanishing almost as fast as the democratic waste piled it up. The plan now is that in 1954, a period of only thirty years, the last of the bonds will have been retired. This without regard to whether the debt owed us by European nations is paid by then or not. In fact, the plan for payment of the British debt extends much longer than 30 years. It is likely the French debt will be settled on a basis somewhat similar.

During the fiscal year 1924, just closed, the public debt was reduced by \$1,098,894,375. On July 1, 1924, it stood at \$21,250,812,989, or more than \$5,000,000,000 less than the peak in 1919. The provisions of the law existing when the Harding administration came into power looked to extinguishing the debt in about 70 years. Under the Mellon handling of the Treasury all this has been changed. During the possibility of another year of such other national calamity, the debt will disappear within less than half that time. In three years since the budget law was passed the debt has been pounded down by \$2,722,000,000, with an annual saving in interest of more than \$120,000,000.

For this achievement the American people have to thank Andrew Mellon, secretary of the treasury. Mellon brought to his department what is described as the greatest financial genius since Alexander Hamilton. It was Mellon who proposed a scientific revenue bill, to have it picked to pieces by partisan critics, whose aim was more to discredit the administration than to reduce taxation. Those critics could not hamper the operation of the budget, however, or the other transactions that have so notably favored the nation.

Unless crass stupidity intervenes, the great mortgage burning at the Treasury may be celebrated in July, 1954, when we will not only have paid off our war debt, but may have a current asset of something like five or six billions, the unpaid residue of the \$11,000,000,000 owed us by European nations.

Retirement of Major General Grote Hutcheson has something more than local interest for Omaha. General Hutcheson was stationed here for several years as aide to General John J. Copping, when the latter was commander of the Department of the Missouri. He was then lieutenant in cavalry, and was made captain just before the war with Spain began.

Now that Burton Kendall Wheeler has publicly bolded Davis, his democracy may not grade so high, but he will stand better with "Big Bill" Dunne, "Mucky" McDonald and a few other leaders at Butte, Mont.

Brother Charlie says he is not trying to dictate the democratic candidate for governor. No, indeed. But some folks think he is trying to arrange so that Brother-in-Law Tom will get the place.

That Detroit branding case would have gone big if it had been pulled a week or two sooner. Seems to have been another case of delayed ignition.

A Turkish court has held that poker is not a game of chance. Not the way some folks play it.

Wonder if "Hank" Dunn files all the letters he receives.

Homespun Verse

—By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis

IN AUTUMN THERE'LL BE TIME TO FISH AND REST.

Let us spend our years resourceful in an effort to attain something worthy though it need not wholly be material gain.
While our youthful summers linger we vivacity should test—
For away down there in autumn there'll be time to fish and rest.
When we are no longer sprightly, when our weariness appears,
When forgotten ease and idleness bring retrospective tears—
There'll be time to fish and travel where our fancies wish to go.
If we didn't play too often in the blooming Long Ago,
Life's gay springtime is for service such as we may care to give;
Life's bright summer grows the harvest, if as harvest hands we live—
Spring and summer both are granted that we may put forth our best—
For away down there in autumn there'll be time to fish and rest.

The Bullish Corn Market



Letters From Our Readers

All letters must be signed, but name will be withheld upon request. Communications of 200 words and less will be given preference.

Compliments of Charles Graff.
Bancroft, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Ever since the primaries last spring I have remained a still democrat, in fact, have been very still for an old farmer in these turbulent times, when so many are facing bankruptcy.

While Governor Bryan and his official family on the state pay roll have continued building political fences after the state primary, I went home to look after farm fences that needed overhauling, minding my own business and make an honest living. This, however, does not seem to meet with approval by the state house gang, who have ever since the primary kept up a continual whine because I did not take the time to congratulate the big chief on a nomination that he would cast aside as soon as something bigger turned up, leaving the democrats without a candidate for governor, which he has now done. Perhaps we should not judge him too harshly, as he even now shows a willingness to help us get the right fellow by even naming a few. For this no doubt the democrats in Nebraska should feel grateful and without question will have a tendency to go a long way to create harmony in democratic ranks.

Not being a candidate for this appointment, I feel that I should be privileged in voicing my sentiments at this time because my name has also been mentioned in connection with said appointment.
Whatever part I may play in politics, I shall do in a way to retain my independence and self-respect. For me to congratulate Brother Charles on his nomination last spring and now to have suited them any better. For me to stoop to hypocrisy in order to now help him out with his entire official family shows that they have brass to turn. In order for him to be entitled to this little courtesy it will be necessary for him when dealing with me, "even in politics," to play the game on the square and not otherwise.
I am sorry that some seem to find fault with my action or otherwise since the primary last spring, but rest assured when Brother Charles finally decides what he is actually going to run for and all the party tickets and platforms, I will try and find a little time to help him up the campaign. Until then I will try to busy myself here at home. CHARLES GRAFF.

Boost for Broady.

Wahoo, Neb.—An open letter to the Nebraska democratic state central committee.—Last week I gave out an interview to The Omaha Bee, one of their reporters having called me up, as to candidates for filling the vacancy of governor on the democratic state ticket due to the fact that the present nominee, Charles W. Bryan, has been nominated for vice president and whose resignation as a state candidate was expected.
In that interview, I suggested Jefferson H. Broady of Lincoln as a candidate, whom I thought would be a good entry, and I believe, as members of the state central committee, we should all give this matter very careful consideration and not make

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of July, 1924.
W. H. GUIVEY
Notary Public

Letters From Our Readers

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any promises until an opportunity has been had for studying all the candidates in the field.
Now, as to Mr. Broady, I personally feel that he would be a very logical candidate and that his qualifications and fitness are such that should the committee see fit to nominate him that he could carry the election and that he would make a governor that the state would be proud of. His educational qualifications are very high and his experience justifies him as a governor possibility. He has been an attorney, as I have been informed, for the Farmers' Union and other farm organizations. In fact, I think he is the general attorney for the Farmers' Union. He was on the committee that recodified the statutes and is known as a reliable, conscientious and substantial lawyer, definitely interested in all our state's activities.

He was private secretary to Governor Bryan for a few months during the first part of the Bryan administration, and is well informed on state political matters. At the present time he is district judge in Lancaster county by appointment and is a candidate to succeed himself.
I wish to place Mr. Broady's name before the state central committee in this open letter for their careful consideration. I must say that I have not spoken a word to Mr. Broady in this matter. O. W. BIERER, Member of the Democratic State Central Committee, Counties of Saunders and Butler.

Gas Tax and Highways.

Wausa, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Now that the chance of Governor Bryan's reelection as governor of Nebraska is eliminated, the hope of getting a gasoline tax in Nebraska has brightened considerably. Thirty-six states of the union have a gasoline tax ranging from 1 to 4 cents a gallon. As Nebraska has no gasoline tax and stands a slim chance of getting one as long as Mr. Bryan is governor, as one of the pledges in his long list of proffered pledges broadcast in his last campaign stated, "I will veto any gasoline tax law that may be passed." And so the legislature evidently did not think it wise to waste time passing a law the governor had pledged himself in advance to veto.
The gasoline producers, who, in the

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget That sunrise never failed us yet
Celia Thaxter

Recollections called up during a stroll through the corridors of the old state house at Lincoln:
Governor Thayer barricaded in executive office, guarded by detail of Nebraska National Guardsmen, to keep the duly elected governor, James E. Boyd, from taking charge. Thermometer 20 below zero. Boyd has friend who turns off steam and freezes out Thayer and his advisors.

Governor Boyd holding fort in railway commissioner's office in meantime, appoints General Victor Viquial adjutant general. Viquial bluffs captain of militia company into recognizing him as commander, and militia withdraws. Thayer finally gives up, but later challenges Boyd's citizenship, and supreme court says Boyd not a citizen. United States supreme court says he is, and Thayer again deposed and Boyd finishes his term.

At about same time state militia mobilizing to protect northern boundary against invasion by hostile Sioux Indians. Elder as speaker refuses to open returns and canvass them. Muklejohn, republican lieutenant governor, bulldozes Elder.

First anti-republican legislature in history of state about to assemble. Looks like John Powers had been elected governor as Farmers Alliance candidate. Alliance legislature meets and elects Marsh Elder speaker. House and senate meets in joint session to open and canvass returns. Contest being on, Elder as speaker refuses to open returns and canvass them. Muklejohn, republican lieutenant governor, bulldozes Elder.

Over in supreme court Chief Justice Amasa Cobb signing peremptory writ of mandamus compelling Elder to open and canvass returns, which show Boyd's election as governor. Deputy United States Marshal Hastings and Sheriff McClay refused admission to house to serve writ. Riot at the door. Bloodshed avoided. Speaker served. Returns canvassed. Boyd declared elected governor, with all other state officers republican.

Newberry freight bill passed in senate after desperate fight. Vetted by Boyd. Great indignation expressed by chief organ of democratic party.

State Senator Taylor, elected as Alliance member, "abducted" and run out of state. Senate in deadlock for 86 hours. Deadlock finally broken and Newberry bill shoved through senate.

And all these things happened within the short space of three months. There used to be some really stirring times in Nebraska politics.

We have sidetracked the noiseless typewriter assigned to us at the beginning of our labors, and now hammer away at one that produces the maximum of noise. We grew weary of having the Big Chief intimate that we were inclined to slirk. Now everybody in the immediate vicinity is aware of when we are typing.

Our idea of inconsequential literature is the large accumulation of "Congressional Records" which the Colonel insists shall be retained in our somewhat crowded compartment.

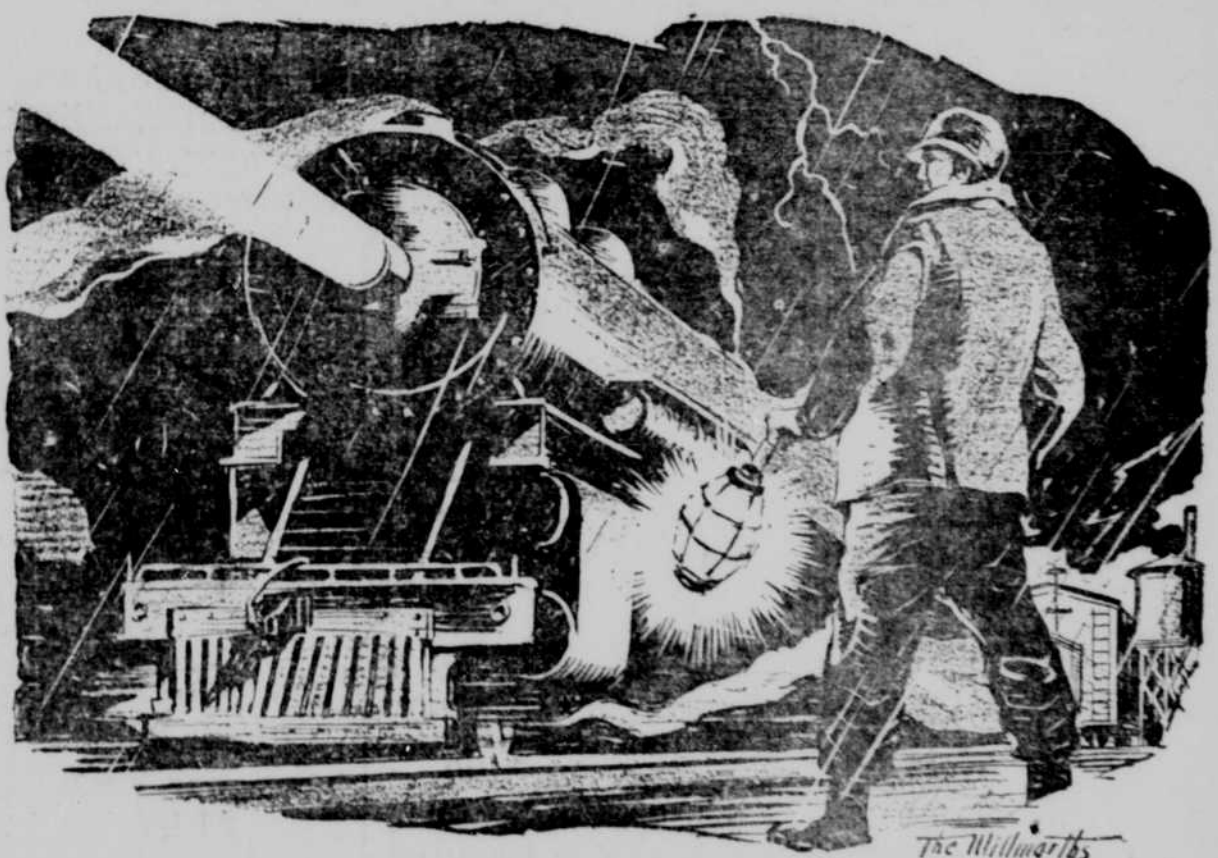
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Both are types of character—true Americans, like the pioneers who blazed the first trails. All praise to them.

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