

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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EDITORIAL

NEWS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND

The other day a news item appeared from the Island of Newfoundland. It was short and almost lost in the welter of other news. But there is a message in it for Americans.

There is nothing particularly new in this—it is simply an addition to the long list of governmental failures in the province of private business.

There is an obvious danger that the United States will drift, into similar errors. At the moment, the utilities are the principal objects of attack, and the "victory" gained with the Muscle Shoals development in spurring proponents of government ownership to renewed efforts.

THE TEST OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week is over. In every community in the land six days of intensive effort were given to educating the public in the fundamentals of curbing one of the greatest of all menaces to life, property and industrial opportunity.

The real test of the week, however, has just begun. The public listened—but will it remember? In past years the memory of most of us was notoriously and tragically short.

Perhaps this week will have different results. Three years of depression have taught us the dangers of waste, of waste, of whatever kind. And waste due to fire is the most complete, and the most unnecessary possible.

The things we learned during the difficult to remember. It takes little time and little money to put them into

execution in most cases. There is no excuse for forgetting them. They mean money in our pockets, and safer, happier living.

THE COOPERATION OF TOMORROW

In a recent issue, the Dairymen's League News commented on future farm cooperators—the children of the parents who belong to the Dairymen's League, all of whom are learning some of the simple, yet fundamental, rules of cooperation.

It would be excellent idea if all farmers and others interested in cooperation made an attempt to develop an understanding of it in the minds and hearts of the producers of tomorrow.

This is an especially interesting supposition in the light of present agricultural conditions. It is said that much of the difficulty experienced by the Department of Agriculture in raising the farm income is due to the fact that too many farmers are still disorganized, and it is a long and arduous task to bring them together on a common footing.

Stronger cooperatives, better supported—that is the ideal now. And along with it, there should be plans for assuring the fullest flowering of the cooperative scheme through preparing farm children to take their place in organized agriculture.

SOVIET RECOGNITION (From The Daily Worker)

The diplomatic negotiations looking towards recognition of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics by the United States is an acknowledgement of the achievements of the Soviet Union, of its stability and its policies of peace.

American imperialism, one of the bitterest enemies of the victorious proletarian revolution in the Soviet Union, one of the chief instigators of war against the Soviet Union, is forced to take steps to extend diplomatic recognition.

Why does the Roosevelt regime at this time open diplomatic conversations?

The downward sweep of capitalist economy in the United States, the collapse of the N. R. A. as a promised solution to the capitalist crisis, is making Wall Street scour the world for markets.

At the same time, in the rapid preparation for imperialist war, the Roosevelt regime while arming itself for war, spouts phrases and engineers maneuvers to give the appearance of peaceful intent.

The Roosevelt regime, through the Wall Street bankers supports the Hitler dictatorship in its anti-Soviet war thrusts. While antagonistic to Japan, the United States seeks to provoke a war of Japan against the Soviet Union to weaken both, and then to hammer out the united front of all the imperialists against their main and implacable enemy—the victorious proletarian revolution symbolized by the U. S. S. R.

While recognition would open the way for trade relations, which together with loans would provide a market for some of the overproduced commodities in the United States, it by no means offers a solution for the corroding capitalist crisis.

The chief conflict in the present-day world is between the system of advancing Socialism and of decaying world capitalism. The foremost representative

of crisis-ridden capitalism, the United States, is now forced to step aside from its traditional policy of non-recognition and undertake diplomatic negotiations with the workers' fatherland.

All workers while greeting this achievement of the Soviet Union should realize that now, more than ever, they must be prepared to resist the trend toward Fascism and war developed by the imperialist nations, particularly the United States.

A BIG MAN SPEAKS

With so many influences and agencies working to extend the socialist program in the United States, it is heartening to those who believe in the superiority of private initiative and enterprise, to read the following courageous expressions from a recent address of former governor Alfred E. Smith at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago.

"As I went through the fair I thought to myself that there is still another great lesson for the people of this country to learn—Aside from the assistance of Divine Providence, what has made this century of progress?"

"If you will study this fair, you will be obliged to come to the conclusion that this century of progress was brought about by individual; by the strength, the power, the courage, the brains and the ability of the men and women of the Republic of North America.

"Ninety per cent of the exhibits here mark advances in our civilization due entirely to individuals, private individuals, working without inspiration, compulsion, control or even suggestion from the government itself. In fact, it is noteworthy that the government has done very little to contribute to this century of progress, while on the other hand, much has been prevented, much has been thwarted, much has been hindered, by the heavy, cold, clammy hand of bureaucracy.

"Now let us not be too cynical about the motives that have actuated the men who have wrought these buildings which house miracles of science and invention. Pride of achievement, ambition to excel, love of work and art have had more to do with it than the mere desire to make money or to exploit others.

"And a century from now another exposition will arrive here, to mark another century of triumphant progress of free men, under the American Constitution."

THE RAILROADS' FINANCIAL HOUSE

In a recent address Philip A. Benson, President, National Association of Mutual Savings Banks, commented on the ancient supposition that one trouble with the railroad industry is that it is vastly over capitalized.

According to him, the rails, if anything, are under capitalized. Their funded debt amounts to only 40 per cent of their present reproduction cost.

Enemies of the railroads can't blame their plight on top-heavy financing. Their economic house is in order. Nor can it be blamed on inefficiency and waste—no business in the world has made such spatan efforts to lower costs in recent years.

March Events

By REV. ALBERT KUHN In Cuba the revolutionary government set up by the army and the students and their Allies is still existing though its collapse is expected from week to week.

still and large parts of the population are at the verge of starvation. And yet Cuba is one of the most fertile countries in the world. Less than twenty years ago she was figuring among the wealthiest.

The first excitement caused by Germany's withdrawal from the Disarmament Conference and from membership in the League of Nations seems to have somewhat subsided.

The average rate obtained by the six southern subsidiaries of this company for each kilowatt-hour of domestic power sold in 1932 was 5.46 cents.

The so-called Power Trust is a great deal less important to the people of America than the tax trust. The latter is a definite threat to prosperity and progress—and all the political chatter in the world can't eliminate that fact.

HOW ABOUT THE TAX TRUST

Recently a letter signed by the President of the Puget Sound Light and Power Company appeared as an advertisement in newspapers of that area. It dealt with that mythical ogre, the Power Trust, and said in part: "Now this 'Power Trust' propaganda is largely political racketeering.

The letter might likewise have said that taxes are a very important factor in the making of electric rates. Power and light companies pay an extremely large percentage of their earnings to government—national state and local.

Here is an interesting fact, appearing in a bulletin of the American Cotton Cooperative Association: During the past half-dozen years cooperative gins have handled, on the average, more than twice as the average for all gins.

YES — COOPERATION PAYS

In France the Government is grappling with the budget. The people demand on the one hand that the government should not plunge into further debts and should reduce the taxes; on the other hand it demands an undiminished army and navy, more government help for all kinds of organizations and the maintenance of good salaries for all its hundreds of thousands of employees.

Recent elections in England indicate that the present government is growing increasingly unpopular. And yet conditions in England have improved and the government does all—on all a good job.

FIRE APPARATUS MEETS THE TEST

The test of any public works project, whether it is to be paid for by a community alone or through federal aid, is this: Will it provide something essential and permanently valuable that benefits all citizens alike and is an influence for prosperity and progress?

On that basis, and it's hard to argue that it isn't a sound one, first class fire apparatus is one of the best of public works. It is a protection to all lives, and all property.

Because fire engines are painted red, and all of them look alike to the lay eye, should not obscure the fact that thousands of departments, in large cities and small towns and rural areas alike, have disintegrated seriously the past few years.

Five governors of states of the Middle West have proposed to President Roosevelt a petition that the government should fix the price payable to the farmer on the main agricultural products raised in their states at a figure which would insure at least cost of production and that in turn the farmers should be obligated to obey the requests of the government as to the amount of grain that each farmer could raise.