

EDITORIALS

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, March 30th, 1935

managements want to wave the white flag and surrender their economic position, that is their business.

DIVIDE PRIZES EQUALLY IN LYNCHING ART EXHIBIT.

New York, March 28.—Judges of the pieces in the recent art exhibit on lynching decided finally to divide the \$75 in prize money donated by Mrs. Amy Spingarn into five equal parts, with \$15 going to Reginald Marsh, Harry Sternburg, Julius Bloch, Paul Cadmus and William Mosby. Arrangements are being made to send the exhibit, called "An Art Commentary on Lynching," on a tour which it is hoped will include several southern cities.

N. A. A. C. P. TO FILE TEST SUIT FOR ARKANSAS GARMENT WORKERS

Little Rock, Ark., March 28.—A test case will be filed here in a few days by attorneys acting for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to recover back wages due colored and white workers of the Maid-Well Garment company at Forrest City, Arkansas.

The women were paid less than code wages for several weeks and then "laid off" indefinitely. It is to recover the full amount due them for the weeks they worked under the code that suit is being brought. Lawyers retained by the N. A. A. C. P. are Scipio A. Jones veteran barrister who handled the Arkansas riot cases for the N. A. A. C. P. fifteen years ago; J. K. Booker and J. A. Hibbler.

Affidavits from the workers were secured during the past two weeks by John P. Davis, secretary of the Joint Committee on National Recovery, who came to Arkansas as the agent of the N. A. A. C. P. Mr. Davis appeared March 12 before the NRA regional board in Dallas, Tex. and after presenting his data on the Maid-Well Garment case, the board ordered the Blue Eagle taken away from the factory and criminal prosecution begun against the owner. More than \$5,000 is involved in the back pay action.

FRENCH MAGAZINE CARRIES ARTICLE ON NEAL LYNCHING.

New York, March 28.—A three page article on the lynching of Claude Neal last October in Marianna, Florida, is carried in the February 20th issue of Les Cahiers des Droits de l'Homme, a magazine published in Paris, France. The author, Miss Magdeleine Paz secured details from the N. A. A. C. P. and quotes a deal of the material in the N. A. A. C. P. pamphlet, "The Lynching of Claude Neal."

The N. A. A. C. P. reports that it has received papers and magazines with accounts of the Neal lynching from several European and South American journals.

PHILADELPHIA METHODISTS BACK ANTI-LYNCH BILL.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 28.—A resolution passed recently by the Social Service Commission of the Philadelphia annual conference of the M. E. church endorsed the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill in the following language: "We endorse the Costigan-Wagner bill because lynching has become a menace to the nation, has besmirched the good name of America before the eyes of the world, and because it undermined the rudimentary foundations of organized society."

The Rev. Walter J. Leppert was active in securing the endorsement.

A CHALLENGE TO NEGROES.

"In the United States as a whole during the five-year period, 1926-1930, more than eight times as many Negroes as white males were slain per unit of population and almost seven times as many Negro as white women.

"In 1920 the standardized rate for white males was 7.4 per 100,000 and in 1930 it was 7.7. The rate for white females also changed very little. Among Negroes males, however, the rate rose from 43.5 in 1920 to 58.9 in 1930, the highest point, 67, being reached in 1926. Among Negro women the rate rose from 10.3 to 14.6 during the same years."

Such is the report on homicides in the United States made recently by Dr. Louis I. Dublin, chief statistician for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in the March issue of the "Survey Graphic." The homicide rate for the country is 9.2 per 100,000. More than six times as many Negroes as whites are murdered. Most of the murderers of the Negroes are Negroes.

This disgraceful record is a challenge to our group. When we are killing so many more of our people than are killed by lynching mobs each year, it is high time we did something about it.

There are a few things that we can do immediately to stop this senseless taking of lives. We can insist that the sale of dangerous weapons be restricted; that Negroes accused of murdering Negroes be promptly arrested, tried and convicted and sentenced to as long terms as they would get for killing white people. Unless we do this we are tacitly admitting that in our opinion the life of a Negro is not as valuable as that of a white person.

There is a big job, too, for our ministers, our educators and our editors. Fortunately, an increasingly large number are becoming aware of it, and working to halt this needless sacrifice on the altar of passion and ignorance.

AFTER FIVE YEARS OF DEPRESSION.

The thirty-sixth annual statement issued by a representative, small life insurance company provides some interesting facts as to the security, safety

and solidity to the life insurance industry.

This company has a reserve fund, required by law, of \$15,695,000 to protect its outstanding policies. It is obligated to pay, through monthly or annual installments, the sum of \$771,326 in death and disability claims.

It has collected advance interest and premiums to the amount of \$144,000, which it has not yet earned, and taxes, bills payable, claims in process of completion and miscellaneous expenses will take an additional \$1,272,000.

This makes a total liability of \$17,883,000.

Against this liability, the company has unencumbered real estate valued at \$3,884,000. It holds mortgage loans of \$4,666,000, secured by first liens on real estate appraised at more than \$11,000,000. It has interest due on these loans to the extent of \$217,000. It has, in net premiums in process of collection, and in loans on policies, \$4,439,000. It owns high grade bonds and stocks worth \$4,852,000 upon which interest now due totals \$66,000. It has cash on hand to the extent of \$334,000, and miscellaneous assets worth \$142,000.

As a result, the company's secured assets total \$18,573,000—\$690,000 more than its liabilities to policyholders and creditors.

It should be emphasized that this company is no different from hundreds of others which are equally sound and liquid. After five years of depression, life insurance can point to a record which any industry could be proud of.

"THOU SHALT NOT KILL."

Last year the American people established one unenviable record. More people were killed and injured in automobile accidents than ever before.

The Travelers Insurance Company has analyzed the record in a graphic, illustrated booklet entitled "Thou Shalt Not Kill." It shows that the fatality total was around 36,000—and the injury total near the million mark. It is a fact that automobile registrations increased last year, as compared with 1933—but they increased but 6 per cent, as did gasoline consumption, while the death record soared 16 per cent.

The main reason for that ghastly record is excessive speed. Speed is not only responsible for the bulk of accidents—it also tends to make the consequences of each accident more serious. A heavy foot on the accelerator is the best friend that the Dark Angel has.

Last year, automobiles struck 337,000 pedestrians—and 16,000 died. There were 381,000 accidents in which two cars collided—resulting in the death of 8,500 people. Four thousand were killed as the result of cars striking fixed objects—and 1,100 perished in accidents involving cars and trains—a type of accident which is almost invariably the fault of the motorists.

Drivers who speed in improper places, who drive on the wrong side of the road, who usurp the right-of-way, who pass on hills and curves, who fail to give proper signals and who are otherwise, reckless, menace the life, health and property of every American citizen. Are we to continue to permit such drivers to make shambles of the public streets and highways?

IS SELF PROTECTION A CRIME?

Commenting editorially on the political charge that the utilities have actively opposed government ownership of their properties, the Pomeroy, Ohio, Tribune says:

"It is indeed difficult for the average man who thinks with an open mind and who is not so prejudiced that he cannot give a subject fair and intelligent thought, to get excited over such charges. As a matter of fact just why should not a company or firm, whether engaged in public utilities or grocery selling, be permitted to do everything possible so long as he neither circumvents nor breaks laws, to keep from losing his business.

"Is not a man entitled to the fruits of his labor? Is he to be shorn of his business without a chance to protect himself simply because it happens to be a utilities business? Such action is comparable only to the unfair procedure taken by the government when prohibition was voted in the land, when millions of dollars of property were scrapped by such action without restitution being made to those who had their money invested in legal enterprises. Regardless of one's thoughts or sympathies, such things are not right nor equitable, nor can any amount of argument make them so.

"If and when the laws now in effect are properly enforced and honest officials see that competent engineers properly fix valuations for utilities and set rates accordingly there never will be any reason for governmental interference or ownership of utilities. And if such actions are taken, the people will receive lower rates than they will get under governmental operation with the grafting methods used in most political deals extended to the field of public utilities.

CONFIDENCE—THE MISSING ELEMENT.

Twelve months ago the American people entered a New Expectation. They entered it with the profound hope that it would witness industrial recovery, that it would prove the success or failure of the governmental experiments that were inaugurated in 1934 that the great problems of unemployment, declining purchasing power, distressed agriculture, and uncertainty on the part of property owners, investors and industrial leaders would be, to at least some extent, solved. They hoped the year might be the turning point of the long period of depression—that it would show where we are going.

The greatest experimental twelve months in the history of our nation has ended and another New Year looms. During the past there has been progress in some directions—there has been retrogression in others. Some businesses have been stimulated, some have sunk deeper into lethargy. Whether there has been any increase in regular employment is questionable. During the current winter close to 21,000,000 are being sustained by organized public relief. Reports from fact-gathering organizations show that those industries which sell perishable goods to the consumer—shoes, packaged foods, clothing, fuel and so on—are doing better than at any time since the depression. But the reports likewise show that our basic industries—those which employ the bulk of labor in normal times represents the greatest amount of invested capital, such as steel, railroads, electric utilities—are either static or are sinking back toward the abyssal levels of 1932. In some instances, of which the electric utility

is a case in point, industries are doing a greater volume of business—but, due to higher taxes and legislated increases in operating costs, are earning less profit, which results in growing hardships on millions of investors who depend on earnings from savings for living expenses.

The most difficult aspect of the recovery problem is this: There can be no recovery without CONFIDENCE, and as yet uncertainty, not confidence, remains uppermost in the minds of millions. People who have money that would ordinarily be invested in industrial undertakings, who would create jobs, buy supplies, build homes and stores and factories and develop farms, are frankly afraid. They are afraid that their capital will be taxed out of existence, or regulated out of existence, or condemned by legislative fiat, or destroyed by governmental competition with industries in which they might place it.

This element of fear extends down from the largest industries and affects the whole industrial structure. The railroads and utilities, for example, face, on the one hand, the very definite problem of reduced business, rising taxes and diminishing earnings, while on the other hand they are threatened with the potentiality of government ownership. Under such conditions, who can be expected to invest money freely and without fear, to develop industries and bring back payrolls to normal levels?

The security of banks, insurance companies and similar institutions is absolutely dependent upon the security of basic American industries, in which their depositors' and policyholders' money is invested. Anything which strikes at the welfare of basic industries strikes immediately at their welfare—and therefore at the welfare of every person who has a dollar in the bank or is the owner of an insurance policy.

To blame these conditions on a man, a party, or a group would be unjust. National distress naturally breeds experiment—heed of alleviation is so great that it seems as if anything were worth trying. But a great responsibility falls upon those given high public office in such times—namely the responsibility of protesting our constitutional rights and privileges. There can be no greater duty, and no more necessary public task. If mistakes are made, they will be forgiven—but they should be corrected, not continued.

There are signs that this is being done now—signs pointing to a rapprochement between political and industrial leaders. If these groups honestly seek to cooperate to iron out misunderstanding and differences, our nation will make real progress toward recovery—we will regain the priceless ingredient of good times, CONFIDENCE. Let it once be known that investments will be encouraged and protected by government, that the honest business has nothing to fear from political influences, that savings will be held inviolate by those trusted with the management of our national affairs, that private property rights will be held sacred, and the road to prosperity will stretch clearly ahead.

There should be no despair on the part of the people. Our land is still fertile. Our industries are still great. Our intellectual abilities have been increased by the ordeal of depression. Only that intangible element—CONFIDENCE, based on the knowledge that our constitutional deals will be maintained, not destroyed—is needed now.

OF INTEREST TO NEWSPAPERS IN IOWA, NEBRASKA, SOUTH DAKOTA AND WYOMING.

Washington, D. C.—Commenting that "money is plentiful and reasonably easy to get," Leonard N. Burch, President of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Omaha, today stated that all signs indicate a continuation of existing low interest rates for farmers of Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

He directed attention to the favorable reception given recent issues of intermediate credit bank bonds as an indicator of a continued desirable rediscount rate by the bank, making possible low interest credit for farmer-borrowers.

Declaring that this "stable, dependable source of credit has been a vital factor in livestock and crop production in the Eighth district of the Farm Credit Administration," he pointed to the lending of more than \$32,000,000 during 1934 to local livestock loan companies, production credit associations and agricultural credit corporations.

"More than 30,000 farmers and stockmen are tapping this cheap money market created by the Federal intermediate credit banks," said Mr. Burch, who came to Washington to attend a conference of Federal intermediate credit bank presidents. "And while the bank has been operating nearly 12 years, the impression still prevails in many quarters that it is lending government money. The funds loaned come from the public money markets on which our bonds are sold."

Establishment of production credit associations throughout the four states, he added, not only widened the scope of the intermediate credit bank, which discounts the paper of the production credit associations, but also gave the farmer a permanent source of short-term credit on the same basis enjoyed by other lines of industry.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—In less than a year the Midwest farmer has proved his ability as a businessman capable of operating his own credit factory. E. R. Heaton, President of the Production Credit Corporation of Omaha, declared at a conference of Production Credit Corporation presidents here recently.

For proof, he revealed that the 42 production credit associations in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming showed net earnings of \$52,794 for their first nine months of operation. "It is a tribute to the business ability of our farmers that each association closed the year with earnings on its books," said Mr. Heaton.

"Supplying short-term credit at 5 per cent interest, the associations have bridged a gap in the farmer's financial needs. In the first nine months of operations the 42 associations loaned approximately \$7,500,000 to farmers and stockmen in the four states, including about \$900,000 in loans taken over by assignment from agricultural credit corporations.

"As a result of their successful operation thus far, production credit associations are ready to serve the farmer's seasonal needs in a still more effective way during the 1935 growing season," added the corporation president. "We ask the farmers to do just one thing. That is to apply immediately for whatever seed requirements or other credit he will need for production purposes.

Then he can be sure he won't be waiting for the money when he should be using it.

"Cash loans funds have been set up in each association to give the farmer immediate, adequate credit through his local association. By this pro-

cedure loans will be closed in a considerably shorter time than during last year."

THINGS ONE REMEMBERS

Recently I talked to a district manager of one of the largest brokerage houses in the country. He commented on the fear and uncertainty that political investigations of industries engender in the public mind. As an example, he brought up the most recently announced investigation—that of the telephone system.

He said that shortly after the announcement, which brought a sharp drop in telephone stock, an old couple whom he knew, came into his office. The man did odd gardening jobs while his wife tended a small milk goat herd. During a lifetime, they had saved \$3,000 which was invested in American Telephone & Telegraph stock. They wanted to know what to do. They feared for their savings and their dividends.

What could the manager tell them? Little or nothing. For when politics takes the helm, business stability flies out of the window.

Savings can be legislated, regulated, investigated and taxed out of existence.

Who can tell the old couple what to do?

MOBILE N. A. A. C. P. SEEKS TO INCREASE NUMBER OF VOTERS IN COUNTY.

Mobile, Ala., March 28.—At an open forum mass meeting conducted by the Mobile branch of the N. A. A. C. P., at Metropolitan A. M. E. church on last Sunday, plans were made to increase the number of qualified Negro voters in Mobile county. Suggestions were offered by a number of persons of the large and enthusiastic audience as to what may be done to encourage colored people to register and qualify as voters. Plans are now being carefully devised to "round up" the exservice men who by virtue of service in the United States Army or Navy, are exempted from payment of poll tax; it is also planned to interest and educate young men and women reaching maturity as to the responsibility of citizenship, and encourage them to register; those who are above twenty-one and no over thirty years of age will be assisted in paying back poll tax through a fund which it is hoped may be created by giving a series of entertainments. A school of civil government will be conducted, and the colored newspapers and ministers of the community have been requested to help arouse citizenship interest in the non-voter through their editorial columns and church services respectively.

The N. A. A. C. P., is asking the full cooperation of all citizens in every way possible to make the effort a success. Several prominent white citizens have lauded the plan and have commended it as a progressive step in civic efforts.

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE ASKS U. S. ANTI-LYNCHING LAW.

Boston, Mass., March 28.—The state Senate of Massachusetts has adopted resolutions calling upon Congress to enact legislation for the prevention of lynching and the punishment of the crime. At first the senate defeated the resolutions on a voice vote of 13 to 15, but when Senator Thomas M. Burke demanded a roll-call, they were adopted by a vote of 19 to 16. The switch in the vote is attributed to fear on the part of opponents of the resolutions that voters might be aroused against them.

A COMMUNIST CANARD.

According to J. Moissaye Olgin, editor of "Freiheit" New York Communist Yiddish daily, writing to "Pravda," the Moscow Communist daily, on party progress in America, Harlem is "inhabited by a backward, ignorant mass of 250,000 Negroes who live in hunger, poverty and disease." "Thousands of these Negroes now say Father Divine is our God, but James Ford is our political leader. Organization is being carried on in the churches."

If this were written in a sensational capitalist newspaper, it would occasion no surprise, but for some reason we had expected something better from the Communists. The capitalist press says that Harlem is the intellectual capital of the Negro world, while the capitalist census figures show that the literacy rate for Negroes in New York City is higher than for the white population.

Most Americans, black or white, are poor, but it is doubtful if many, black or white, in New York are living in hunger, and surely a study of the mortality and morbidity rates for Negroes will not reveal that they are "living in disease." There is sickness and death in our midst, but the vast majority of Negroes are well in mind and body.

Negroes are not so ignorant that they will not resent this Communist description of their life and activities in the largest colored community in the world. They will wonder how Communists expect to win the favor of colored people when they circulate such obvious canards. And just how much truth is there in the report of Mr. Olgin that Negro churches are being used by the Communists for organizational purposes?

LINCOLN STOOD FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

A short time ago the nation observed Lincoln's Birthday. It would be a fine thing for the country if American citizens gave a little time to pondering the ideals and principles for which the martyred President stood.

Lincoln was the embodiment of true democracy. No man was ever more passionately devoted to liberty, to freedom, to destroying human bondage of whatever kind. His was a loyalty to country that went beyond party, beyond partisan politics—and that would willingly make any sacrifice in order that the nation might endure, progress and prosper. No task was too great, no duty too exacting, if it would help to preserve and maintain those enduring principles laid down by the founders of the country in the United States Constitution.

During four years of unparalleled national crisis, Lincoln was the rock that could not be swayed by mob sentiment, by fear, by the lust for power, by the desire for personal gain. No man ever possessed a greater hatred for war—yet Lincoln went into the civil war deliberately, knowing that tragic as the waste of men and resources would be, it was essential to the preservation of the Union. Between 1860 and 1864 America stood at the crossroads—and Lincoln drove relentlessly forward on the course that meant the continuance of liberty, democracy, and Constitutional principles.

The issues that surrounded Lincoln have passed, but the characteristics of the man remain, and will not be forgotten. In times like these when so called emergency measures threaten the very foundations of our Constitutional government, it is well to remember Lincoln and his work.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails Checks and Tax of Every Individual.

According to all signs, the Presidential campaign of 1936 is likely to make that of 1932—which was considered exceptionally bitter—look like a tea party. Issues are forming, forces are appearing, that are entirely unprecedented in American politics.

It seems inevitable that there will be a third party in the field—and it seems equally inevitable that that party will be of the extreme left. It may be led by Huey Long, backed by Father Coughlin, and use as its appeal, the "Every Man a King" thesis. It may be led by a Townsend Plan advocate, promising prosperity for all through governmental largesse to the aged. It may be led by someone who stands for something we haven't yet heard of.

Few think that the third party candidate would win—the Electoral College system of counting votes for the Presidency makes that practically impossible, as Roosevelt first discovered, and as La Follette the elder did after him. The third party's importance lies in what effect it will have on the vote obtained by the regular Republican and Democratic party candidates—and therein is an opportunity for endless conjecture.

Backers of the President pooh-pooh the third party, say he is certain to win a sweeping victory in '36 whether the movement materializes or not. Opponents of the President hold that the third party would draw millions of votes that would otherwise go to Roosevelt, would thus indirectly cause the election of a conservative Republican, who would have the support of most business men, together with the party's established following.

It was that aspect of the question which General Johnson spoke on in his amazing speech of a fortnight ago. Whatever you think of the General's views, you have to admit he has courage, he isn't afraid to speak his mind. In his speech, he made a bitter attack on Long and Coughlin and all they stood for. Then he turned and lashed the conservatives who might encourage them in order to draw support away from Roosevelt and split the liberal-radical camp. General Johnson said that such political opportunism pushes the American democracy steadily toward "a liekiog or a dictator." It is an interesting fact that following the speech, the General's views were heartily endorsed in many substantial quarters—including newspapers, public men and industrialists.

A question of the hour, is How does Mr. Roosevelt's strength compare to what it was a year ago? The answer, made by boiling down the opinion of a legion of observers, is that he is slipping—but that he still has the confidence of the bulk of the voters. That, of course, doesn't answer the question of how far he may slip—or have regained or added strength—by next year. That, in turn, is going to depend on the state of recovery.

At the present time, the recovery program has failed in various important particulars—and, in addition, it has become confused with the reform program. Unemployment soars. More people are on relief than ever. Industry is sitting still, and many leaders seem pessimistic. A belief is prevalent that the President's program has lost direction—that it is whirling around in circles, is going nowhere.

It is that fact which supports the hopes of third party radicals—they feel that the people, if they see the failure of a more moderate program, will go for one that is really left wing. And the conservatives, strangely enough, base their hopes on exactly the same thing—they believe that a Roosevelt collapse would send voters scurrying back to the right wing of economic thought.

What is right. Guess as much as you like—but don't bet on it.

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the German refusal to continue to keep within the arms stipulations of the Versailles treaty. It has been feared that she would do this ever since Hitler went in—and every nation hoped against hope that it would never happen. Under the Treaty, Germany's army is limited to 100,000 men, and she is not allowed to have much in the way of aircraft, artillery, tanks. Now she will quadruple her army, greatly extend compulsory military training of citizens, and will build up her defensive and offen-

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