

EDITORIALS

The Omaha Guide

Published every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant St., Omaha, Neb.

Phone-Webster 1750

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927 at the Post Office at Omaha, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Terms of Subscription \$2.00 per year.

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, April 13, 1935

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

Practical Projects for Relief Expenditures

The suggestion that a share of federal relief expenditures be allocated to railroad grade-crossing elimination is meeting with much support. News papers, business commentators, regulatory officials and others have endorsed the plan for a variety of reasons.

Reason number one lies in the fact that federal relief expenditures are to be made on the basis of obtaining the largest possible amount of employment, both direct and indirect, for each dollar spent. Grade crossing elimination, like road building, would provide a tremendous number of jobs, both at the scene of operations and in industries supplying steel, cement, paint and other necessary supplies.

Reason number two lies in the fact that money spent for grade crossing elimination would not only provide relief to thousands of unemployed, but would give the tax payer, who is footing the bill, something in return. At the present time, but a relatively small percentage of the grade crossings of the country are protected. Most of them lack warning bells and adequate signals. The result is that thousands of lives are lost each year in accidents at crossings—lives which would be saved once they were eliminated.

Reason number three lies in the fact that grade crossing elimination is a necessary public obligation. The states and railroad industry, which have hereofore borne the costs of this work, are unable to pay the bill for more. Expenditure of federal public relief funds for elimination of crossings is a sound program in the public interest.

It is to be hoped that, when the relief appropriations bill is finally completed and passed, those charged with selecting projects on which money is to be spent will put down grade-crossing elimination as a major item on the list.

Obstruction

Southern Democrats in Congress, playing what they thought was smart politics, last year blocked a vote on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill by delaying consideration until late in the session and threatening a filibuster. Fortunately this session that measure is before the Senate, with the unanimous favor of the Judiciary Committee, in plenty of time. Any similar trickery this year will be revealed for what it is—obstruction of the most irresponsible variety.

This mild measure to hold counties responsible financially for mob murder has widespread popular support both in the North and South. Organizations representing 42,000,000 Americans have urged its passage. A giant petition containing the names of 9 governors, 27 mayors, 60 clergymen and more than 200 national organizations, asks the President to support it. The administration is not unfriendly.

Only the false sentiment of local pride and a misconception of state rights have prevented passage of a Federal anti-lynching law for years.

Threat of this measure's passage last year seemed to check lynch horrors. While the bill was pending between January 30th and June 8th not one lynching occurred. When it appeared certain the bill would be pigeon holed, lynchings began and continued at the rate of one a week. Senators Costigan, Van Nuys and Wagner think that at least a half score of mob murderers were prevented by the sobering effect of the bills threat. Last year there were 16 lynchings, compared with 28 in 1933.

Obstructionist tactics by southern senators killed the Dyer anti-lynching bill 12 years ago after it had passed the House overwhelmingly. If this sane and humane measure is lynched again in the same way, the people will know who did it and why.

Shall We Cure or Kill?

By E. Hofer.

For several years, the politicians of the country have been working overtime in denouncing the evils of the electric utility industry. Brandishing the sword of eloquence, they stood bravely between the public and the alleged economic monster which sought to devour them.

All of this amounted to a prelude to an attempt to destroy the "monster" and it has come to fruition in the so-called Public Utility Act of 1935, which is now under consideration in Congress. If the act passes, practically every utility holding company in the nation will be forced out of business by 1940.

It might not be a bad idea if the public were

given a chance to learn what holding companies are for, why they were created and what they really are, as distinct from what the anti-power politicians say they are, that they have been an important factor in practically every great industry, and that they were developed long before an electric company existed.

It can be proven that the holding company was the greatest single factor in bringing gas and electric service in this country to its present state of efficiency, which is the highest in the world. Before the holding company, each utility could serve only its little district. Outside of the large cities of the country, where demand was sufficient to justify the building of large, first class plants, service was necessarily uncertain. Rates were high. Breakdowns were frequent. Management and engineering personnel was far from being of the best type.

The holding company provided a means whereby every town, small or large, could enjoy the most efficient and least expensive service. It joined the small plants into larger interconnected systems and practically did away with failures in service. It made available to operating companies the highest calibre of management, engineering, legal and other counsel. It was able to obtain the money for improving facilities and extending operations. In return it received fees, based on work done, from the operating company.

It is an interesting commentary that the holding company has been heartily endorsed by David Lillenthal, head of the TVA, which is itself a holding company, owned and operated by individual holding companies but added that without the services of good holding companies, electric and gas service could never have reached present peaks of efficiency.

The proponents of the present bill do not pretend to eliminate holding company evils or abuses through sound, well considered regulation, which would protect the interest of utility investors, the public and the government alike. Instead, they lump the wheat with the chaff, and propose to destroy the holding company entirely and to destroy with it hundreds of millions of dollars which the American people have invested in our large electric systems. They are working, consciously or otherwise, on the supposition that the way to cure disease is to kill the patient.

Public spirited utility executives, no less than government officials, offer their sincere support to legislative proposals which would remedy abuses and enable properly managed holding companies to destroy the companies, when that works to the detriment of all who use light and power, who have invested money in private utilities, or who have an interest in forwarding sound policies in both government and private business.

Hard Work Think Hard.

It is now feared that there will be another wheat shortage, due to the dust drought storms which have caused damage in the mid-west comparable to that done by last year's drought.

Farmers producing other products likewise face new and difficult problems, which have been caused largely by the failure of the government's farm relief program to produce the results that were anticipated by the overly optimistic.

All of this emphasizes the fact that the American farmer, if he is to work his way out of depression, is going to have to work hard and think hard. He cannot depend on outside agency for his economic salvation. The whims of nature, and the ancient laws of supply and demand cannot be controlled by faith.

The farmer's best weapon lies in the agricultural cooperative—cooperatives which are owned and controlled by their members, and which enlist the abilities and energies of thousands of producers in order to work toward a common goal. One farmer, faced with disorganized distributing machinery, profitless prices, and chaotic markets, is powerless. Ten thousand farmers, joined together in one organization, can fight a winning battle.

The old saying that self help is the only worthwhile kind of help, was never truer than in the case of modern agriculture.

Taxes Rob the Bread Basket

"It will do no harm to have us reminded that when Congress passes laws requiring the expenditure of money, the people will have to pay it. When a deficit exists, it must be met. Temporary borrowings by the Treasury may take care of it for the present, but finally the taxpayers will come to a day of reckoning."

"Raising tax rates does not seem popular. Imposing a new levy on small income is anathema to those who vote large appropriations. But people with small incomes will pay directly in all they buy or use, even if they pay no direct tax tax. They are the ones who suffer most from government extravagance."

"The present high rate of taxes, especially state and local assessments, is one of the main reasons small concerns are closing up and their business is going to chain stores and other large corporations. The overhead of taxes is so large that a small business is at a serious disadvantage."

That was written three years ago—and its author was the late President Calvin Coolidge. Since that time, the tax problem has become critical—taxes levied by all units has soared to an undreamed-of peak. The people will eventually have to pay the bill—every penny of it.

The Interracial Review To Father Coughlin.

The last issue of the Interracial Review carries an open letter to Father Coughlin, asking him to "appeal to his huge radio audience, advocating the passage of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill, which is now awaiting the action of Congress."

"We recognize that you have awakened and stimulated the interests and zeal of millions in America, very many of whom had been apathetic and indifferent to the problems confronting the structure of society."

"We refer to this particular phase of your remarkable accomplishment, because to a very great extent the injustices confronting the Negro in America are due to the apathy and indifference of millions of our citizens whose attitude would be just and fair if they were interested in this grave national problem."

"The establishment of an era of social justice to which you have dedicated your splendid talents can hardly be reposed upon a sound foundation so long as one-tenth of our population is denied the fundamental rights specifically guaranteed by our constitution and decreed by Almighty God as the heritage of all mankind."

"The crime of lynching is a violation and an outrage against the entire colored race, our common humanity and civilization. It is indeed a matter of national shame that mob murder has even today the sanction of many communities and counties in America."

"The Costigan-Wagner Bill is regarded by the best students of the subject as the most effective remedy thus far proposed to stamp out this terrible outrage."

"The Bill is pending now and this is the time for those who approve of its enactment to lend their support."

"We conclude by stating that perhaps no other single influence could do more to arouse the interest of millions of Americans with which it is possible to secure the passage of this excellent law."

The editors of The Catholic Worker heartily second this appeal to Father Coughlin and beg of him to point out to his listeners the Catholic principles in regard to interracial justice.

Negro Speakers

The Catholic Interracial Council, the officers of which are the Hon. James J. Hoey, Elmo M. Anderson, Dorothy Day, George K. Hunton and Nicholas A. Donnelly, publishes monthly the Interracial Review from the office of which, schools and colleges can receive material and information on all interracial questions. The Council also sends out speakers, Negro and white, to Newman Clubs, communion breakfasts, Holy Names meetings, K. of C. meetings and to all other organizations which request their services.

Read the Review

We urge all our readers to help the interracial cause by subscribing to the review, the office of which is at 11 west 42nd Street, New York City. The price of the magazine is ten cents a copy and a sample will be sent on request.

Students.

A group of Catholic college graduates are assisting the review, editing a youth section in which Catholic students all over the country are invited to write.

Remember, Negroes from one tenth of the population of America and only two per cent of them are Catholic. There is a great work to be done here, in combatting the Communist influence which is making itself felt in Negro communities.

The Catholic Worker.

Court Orders White Firm to Close

Forrest City, Ark., The Maidwell Garment Co. will close indefinitely today. The decision was reached this afternoon in Little Rock when Ed Ash, the proprietor was denied a restraining order in federal court against the enforcement of an order of the NRA, calling for the surrender of the Blue Eagle unless approximately \$5,000 alleged due to former Negro employees was paid by Dallas.

The order was issued in Texas, last week. It gave until today for surrender of the emblem or payment of the claims of former Negro employees for back wages.

Information is that agents of a northern Negro organization have been busy in Forrest City for the past several months, ferreting out complaints of former local employees that the garment company had discriminated against them in retaining all white help after the code for the cotton garments industry became effective. They were represented by

Scipio Jones, Negro attorney of Little Rock, and two white associate attorneys in the hearing at Dallas.

When the code authorities declined to make a differential between white and colored employees and the business of the factory dwindled, Mr. Ash let the Negro help go and retained such part of the white help as he could give employment to.

No immediate opening of the factory seems probably at this time.

Vultures of Peace.

"Let us have peace," the general said.

As he looked around at the fields of his dead.

"My men have been shot to bits by war,

We've got to have peace... and grow some more."

"Let us have peace," the bankers cried,

"And put up a statute for those who died;

We've made the profit that war could yield,

And Peace is now our lucrative field."

"Let us have peace," the communist roared.

"Its due to the system that blood has poured,

The workers will govern the world, and thus

Only those will be shot who differ with us."

"Let us have peace," the statesman urged.

"This terrible slaughter has surely purged

The world of further desire for strife;

Kill was—if it won't my political life."

"Let us have peace." The nations met

To have their armament quotas set;

"We must have three if you have two;

We'll starve our people to out-arm you."

"Let us have peace. A mother moans

Over his blackened and battered bones,

Over the baby she raised... for what?

To sacrifice in the grisly pot

Of war? Then wrench a ghastly grin

At gulfed words of men of sin:

Let us have peace. The letters squirm.

Fangs of a snake in the mouth of a worm.

And peace, it will never come to pass

By swinging a censer of poison gas

Before an altar where greed and graft

Are the cloven hoofs of the golden calf.

Arnott J. White.

Rum

Rum is hell's masterpiece. High chief officials. Those who are responsible for it in our fair state, resent the dominant group. Many of whom are leaders in social, religious circles, and were educated in Christian schools. What will they say when their unfortunate black and white neighbors fall under its mighty yoke is a question yet to be answered.

—Twin City Press

Defend Ethiopia!

Ever new and increased war moves of the capitalist powers pop with the frequency of a Roman candle. Hardly was Mussolini through calling for the mobilization of new hundreds of thousands of soldiers for Europe service than the news breaks in Ethiopia of a new Fascist war drive.

Mussolini is set in his determination to enslave the last remaining independent Negro country in Africa, Ethiopia. And while all eyes were turned to central Europe, Mussolini massed 75,000 armed men and over 200 bombing planes in Eritrea and Italian Somaliland on the northern and southern borders of Ethiopia.

But the Ethiopian people, who in 1896 kept their independence by an epic and heroic defeat of the would-be imperialist invaders are today again massing their forces for resistance to Italian Fascism.

The latest reports say that King Haile Selassie is moving troops for defense to the Ethiopian borders.

Every worker, every friend of the colonial masses and the people of Ethiopia, every enemy of Fascism, will rally to the support of the defensive actions of the Ethiopian government.

Everything for the defeat of Italian fascism and for the victory of the Ethiopian people, which will be the victory also of the Italian masses.

Down with the war plans of Mussolini. Defend Ethiopia.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Harvests That Affect The Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks, and Tax Bills of Every Individual National and International Problems Inseparable From Local Welfare.

During the first year of the Roosevelt Administration, the spectre of inflation presented a constant topic for conversation and comment. Then it dropped out of the headlines, and little was heard of it save the serious economic reviews. Now inflation has returned to the public eye, and promises to be a major political and economic issue.

There are two kinds of inflation. The most obvious is currency inflation, and it is never never resorted to except when a government is in the direst financial straits. It consists of turning the printing presses loose to produce paper money, irrespective of gold backing or any other security. The result of this kind of inflation is to drastically lower the value of money—the prime modern example is post-war Germany. The German government, bankrupt because of war costs, turned out currency in unlimited quantities—and the mark, which had been then worth about 50 cents in foreign exchange, depreciated to the point where millions of marks were required to purchase a loaf of bread. The sufferings of the German people particularly those with investments, savings accounts and insurance policies were almost indescribable.

More subtle is credit inflation. This consists of constantly expanding the amount of business credit available, and makes it possible for industry, government and individuals to spend more than they earn for a long period time. The eventual consequence, of course, is a financial explosion. In this country, the post war years witnessed a tremendous amount of credit inflation—and its culmination was the crash of 1929, which heralded depression.

Now a number of economists are forecasting that the United States is well on the road to another credit inflation. The group, believing this is led by famed commentators, Willard Kiplinger, who has published a book on the subject, and his camp is filled with other well-known experts. They think that credit inflation will bring the United States prosperity during the next year or two, which will be followed by a veritable boom, similar to that of 1928. After that—another crash.

Some businesses want inflation. Retail trade, for instance, would benefit, inasmuch as there would be much more money in circulation to spend for perishable goods. Businesses and individuals with fixed or regulated income are bitterly opposed to inflation.

A short time ago the Analyst said that the recent general decline in wholesale prices casts doubt on the theory that inflation is inevitable—observed that the present movement in stocks is of the "bear" variety, and there had never been inflation during the present generation without a "bull" movement. One of the inevitable results of any kind of inflation, of course, is to force commodity and stock prices upward.

Thus, there are two schools of thought on the subject—but the first school consisting of those who forecast inflation next year or the year after, is by far the largest. It is a notable fact that many businessmen likewise belong to this school, and are now taking steps to prepare for inflation as best they can.

Conservatives who think the "Share-the-Wealth movement" is merely a temporary example of economic and social insanity which will soon pass away, are apt to be sadly mistaken.

Father of the movement is Huey Long, who has dramatized an issue which is almost as old as time itself. His theory is that the trouble with the country is that a small group of people have too much money, and that they are gradually starving out the rest of us.

In opposition to Senator Long, economists of all schools bring forward graphs, statistics, charts, which dispute his figures and prove him to be entirely wrong. However, not one American in a thousand ever sees the work of the economists—and the "share-the-wealth" advocates are masters at reaching the multitude. In addition, they have this great advantage—some 10,000,000 people are unemployed, and 20 odd million are on relief. Many of these people are desperate, worried, disgusted with matters as they now exist. They are likely to turn anyone who can promise them a better day.

This is not to say that "Share-

the-Wealth" is going to take the country by storm, and effect a revolution in our social and economic order. But it seems certain that it is going to be a powerful political and financial force for some time to come. If the third party movement actually comes to fruition, there will really be fireworks in 1936—and "Share-the-Wealth" is nearly sure to be the third party slogan.

—OO—
Various European countries are now looking to the United States to give a hand in bringing order out of the chaos created by Germany's declaration of rearm.

These countries believe that we will cooperate because of the fact that we, in company with all the powers involved in the World War, signed the Versailles treaty.

One of The Church's Worse Enemy

By Rev. J. W. Nelson, D. D. State Representative.

Of the many enemies the church must fight ignorance, superstition, —whiskey is the greatest. James Johnson said "The slave trade has been to Africa a great evil, but of the rum trade are far worse. I would rather my countrymen were in slavery and kept away from drink, than that drink should be let loose upon them." America's greatest menace today is the rum traffic. More homes have been wrecked, more lives destroyed, moral decency dethroned by the use of alcoholic beverage than any other one evil. It's a moral issue not legislative. The people must be educated away from it by constant teaching. This is the church's big job. Lynching and the curse of drink go hand in hand; neither will ever be stopped by legislative enactment, but by Christian teaching.

—Twin City Press.

A. S. Wells Should be Congratulated

Attorney Wells, Dallas, Texas, a race attorney, who entered the race for state legislature in the Lone Star State, Texas. The press gives him sixth place in the race, but we wish to list him as first place, because he represented a constituency that number about one-tenth of the voting strength.

He should be commended for his courageous attitude, after white hoodlums—Ku Klux had distributed foul propaganda of race riots and lynching. Race voters backed him 100 per cent. There were 55 white candidates, hence having stood sixth in this number, with only race voters numbering only about one-tenth, was a second victory.

Sunday afternoon we visited Dr. Nelson's quarterly conference, where Rev. Shaw is holding the fort. They had a great conference. Dr. Quinn has on a thousand dollar rally for Easter Sunday.

—Twin City Press.

Better Race Relations

Education, the proper type and the Christian Religion constitute the chief requisites for better race relation. Committee meetings, legislative enactments will not accomplish the task. As long as men, groups, and races think differently and are widely divided in their educational preparations, particularly that type that produces an inferior stamp, will they remain apart. As long as a race is ignorant and another one is educated, we may expect trouble and confusion unless one continues to be servant of the more fortunate one. Arkansas can best ameliorate these stubborn conditions by providing the proper facilities for educating all its citizens alike.

—Twin City Press.

Prejudice

Prejudice is the oldest child of ignorance. The church's worse enemy is whiskey. These enemies. The battle between the two B's, the Bible and the Bottle. Which? These three the greatest of man's enemies, prejudice, ignorance and whiskey, should be destroyed.

—Twin City Press.

AFRICAN NATIVE SLAIN BY BRITISH MAGISTRATE— WHITEWASHES CRIME

Pretoria, S. Africa.—By mail to CNA—The local magistrate white-washed the brutal police murder of Nioedemus Mahaba, Native workers who was suspected of having stolen a coat. The magistrate declared the killing justifiable.

Three Natives, who attempted to prevent the murder, were sentenced to one month's hard labor. They are Alfred Fulela, Koo Ketsi and Amos Mokwena.