

... EDITORIALS ...

The Omaha Guide

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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, May 25th, 1935

If it is Only a Dollar, It Will Help Another Boy Get A Home

Dear Friend: WHAT can you do to help a boy who is alone and unwanted?

HAVE you ever walked along a city street and seen a little fellow standing alone and neglected? His clothes are threadbare and ragged; the toes and heels of his little feet are exposed through the holes and worn places of his shoes—his hair is unkempt—his little face is pinched and wan.

WHEN you see this boy who is alone and unwanted, does your heart ache for him? Way down deep in your heart isn't there a yearning to hold him close and protect him from hunger and neglect? Wouldn't you like to take him home, feed him, bathe him, tuck him in bed and bending close to his little ear say, "I'll be your mother or dad. From now on you will not be alone and unwanted."

YOUR happiness would be complete. Of course, you cannot do this with every little unwanted boy you see, but you can have this same happiness by making a place for one of these unwanted little fellows. The cost of the keep for a boy in our Home is 50 cents a day, or \$180.00 a year. For how many days will you be a mother of father to one of these poor, homeless and neglected boys? Last year we were forced, through lack of funds, to refuse 346 boys admittance to our Home.

WE are calling on you and pleading for the cause of the homeless boy. Will you in your great kindness and charity help us to help him? Will you help us nurse this neglected boy, who is alone and unwanted, into a fine, useful man able to care for himself? Will you help me to keep open the doors of my Home so that I can say to the next boy, regardless of his race, creed, or color, "Come in. Thanks to the kindness of friends I give you a home and prepare you for your place in the world."

IT is for the homeless, neglected boy that we come to you—for the boy who stands alone and unwanted. Please.

Yours most sincerely, Signed: Rev. F. J. Flanagan.

The Suicide Brigade

By E. Hofer

There seem to be a good many people in this country who don't care much for living but would be the first to be aghast if you accused them of it. For no reason at all, they are constantly and cheerfully risking their necks, and yours.

This group of citizens; who total hundreds of thousands, constitutes our reckless, ignorant and irresponsible motorists. Consciously or unconsciously possessed of the idea that their abilities are not second to those of the daredevils of the race tracks, they make a practice of driving faster than the law allows, even though they are going nowhere in particular and have all the time in the world to get there. They weave in and out of traffic; if they waited until the roadway was clear for passing, they lose a precious second or so. They drive on the wrong side of the road. They have a contempt for traffic lights and signals, which were obviously created for less gifted mortals. They laugh at the rumored perils of hills and curves, and take extreme pleasure in passing on them. When their brakes go bad and their steering and lighting systems falter, they put off repairs until some distant tomorrow; they'll certainly be able to get by until then without a mishap. And so it goes, down the entire list of acts of commission and omission that cause our toll of 36,000 automobile deaths per year.

The rest of us wouldn't have any kick coming if the suicide brigade risked their own lives only; that, after all, would be their prerogative. But they menace us as well; menace everyone and everything which uses the streets and highways. The innocent suffer along with the guilty; and unless these drivers are curbed, each of us runs an excellent chance of being eventually numbered among the victims of the suicide brigade.

SILVER SOARS

By E. Hofer

The outlook for "silver prosperity" constantly improves.

During the past few weeks silver quotations throughout the world have soared. This is principally due to the belief that the United States

Government is determined to establish the price for new silver at \$1.29 an ounce.

Coupled with the rise in price, according to the Wall Street Journal, there has been almost complete dearth of supply, as holders of the white metal cling to their stocks in the belief that still higher prices are in prospect.

A good example of the trend is afforded by Japan, where the Japanese domestic silver dealers' association recently raised its price to 71.764 yen per kilogram; the highest price established by that group since 1919. By contrast, the price was but 47.597 yen per year kilogram a year ago.

Thus, it looks as if our long depressed silver mines are at last on the verge of brighter times.

"The person does not live who can predict accurately today what Congress will do."—Babson's

"Congress Should Be Told!"

By E. Hofer

"Congress should be told," says the Manufacturers Record, "that the present confusion of government has created the belief that the only certain results ahead are larger relief rolls and unbearable debt.

"That the only way to recovery is to abandon the fantastic cure alls that have failed and promptly set about encouraging industry and capital.

"That industry, if unhampered by restrictive laws, will employ the idle.

"That investors are scared by the attacks of Government upon creative enterprises and will not venture into new fields.

"That 'reform' MUST wait upon recovery."

A bill is now pending in Congress that perfectly illustrates the depression producing kind of legislation the Record speaks of. This bill, officially known as the Public Utility Act of 1935 constitutes one of the most unjustified, unsound and indefensible attacks upon a basic industry ever proposed. Its sponsors seek support for it on the grounds that it would remedy the alleged abuses that have resulted from the holding company form of public utility operation and management. Anyone who troubles to read the bill, however, will find that it does not provide for constructive regulation that would do away with what is bad in our present utility structure and maintain what is good; instead, it provides for unqualified destruction of practically all holding companies in order to prevent the abuses of the few.

This bill, coupled with other attacks on the utilities, has produced one result even before it has come up for debate; it has forced the values of utility securities down to abysmal levels. It has thus depreciated the savings of several million people who invested part of their earnings in utilities in the natural belief that utility securities, due to public regulation of the companies they represented, were safe, sound and conservative. It has made it virtually impossible for many utilities to obtain new capital that may be needed for expansion and improvement that would create jobs, purchasing power and opportunity. The bill has thus, directly or indirectly, "done its part" to keep the unemployed rolls at their record peak.

Other major industries will be sadly mistaken if they believe the bill will have no effect on them and their investors. Any intelligent observer of current trends knows that there is no end to the greed and the rapacity of politicians; if they manage to get control of one industry, they will at once begin looking around for new worlds to conquer.

If they manage to destroy the utility holding company, is it logical to believe that they will not turn their attention to steel, chemical, food, drug, communication, automobile, newspaper and all other types of holding company that now exists? If they succeed in placing the operating utilities of the nation under the domination of a federal commission—which is still another provision of the Public Utility Act—is it reasonable to believe that other essential industries will not be accorded similar treatment?

Bills such as this frighten investors in all industries, who realize that once the trend is started, it is simply a matter of time until it touches the business in which they have placed their money. It dries up the sources of capital; which are the sources of the jobs the nation sorely needs. Under the guise of reform, it strikes at the very roots of recovery.

Defeat of the pending Public Utility Act would be a boon to all industry; precisely as it passage, in its present form, would be a blow to all industry.

After A Decade of Struggle

By E. Hofer

On April 16, a piece of important news to American industry came from Washington. The Senate, without a single dissenting vote, had passed the Eastman bus and truck regulation bill. In the words of Mr. Eastman, this means that his bill which carries the endorsement of the Administration and of a legion of industrialists, has taken its biggest hurdle.

It is difficult to see how anyone could oppose the bill on sound grounds. It does not penalize buses and trucks; it simply places them on an equitable basis with the rails. Under the terms of the bill, the Interstate Commerce Commission has control of motor bus and truck rates, service, accounts and maximum hours of service for employees. It can likewise prescribe regulations designed to make bus and truck operation safer, and has the power to supervise all phases of the business of

motor vehicle transportation brokers.

It is highly significant that responsible bus and truck operators have often voiced approval of such legislation as this. Even as the railroads want it passed to protect them from impossible, inequitable competition, stable bus and truck systems realize that the bill is essential to protect them from wild-cattling within their industry. About the only opponents of the bill are fly-by-night bus and truck concerns, which are unwilling or unable to provide adequate and safe service, to stabilize rates and schedules, and to assure employees of reasonable wages and good working conditions.

The bill goes to the House next; and that body will perform a great public service if it passes it immediately.

Common Sense and the Scottsboro Case

By E. Hofer

With the filing last week of another complaint against the nine Scottsboro boys by Victoria Price, the dreary rigamarole starts all over again.

It is to be regretted that this case is still with us. It should have been disposed of years ago with the acquittal of the nine boys, who are unquestionably innocent.

But, on the one hand, Alabama has sought in this case to re-fight the Civil War and, on the other hand, the Communists have tried to use it as a lever for revolution. Neither side has won; only the boys have lost.

All except the professional agitators who view such cases as meal tickets would like to be rid of it. Alabama and white supremacy are certainly gaining no grounds by its prolongation.

The effort of Attorney Samuel Leibowitz to get Governor Graves of Alabama to grant an outright pardon is therefore to be applauded. By one stroke of the pen Governor Graves can end this nonsensical routine of appeal, trial and appeal. He ought to have the courage and good common sense to do it.

Is It Not A Fact:

—That the Negro does not in a number of instances, cooperate successfully because of his individualistic tendencies?

—That no man or group was every inspired to do anything constructive while following foolishness all the time?

—That the Negro race, just now, stands in dire need of numerous men of a highly truthful nature to lead properly the people?

—That the constantly indebted churches are a disgrace to the church folk?

—That the vast majority of church folk fail to practice as much as one-eleventh of what their Good Book says that they should?

—That it seems doubtful whether we can long maintain our self respect under our present social order?

How About the Tax Bill?

By E. Hofer

One of the major political sports of the time is to attack the rates charged for domestic electric service. The politicians constantly observe that existing rate structures impose a tremendous burden on the American people, and help keep them relegated to a sad state of economic darkness.

It would be interesting to see a citizen who is kept in want and poverty because of the cost of electricity, which amounts, on the average, to a little more than ten cents a day per family. That average citizen pays more for tobacco than he does for beer. He pays more for soft drinks, to say nothing of more potent beverages. He pays more for movie shows and magazines.

Last year the country's residential bill came to \$677,000,000. The nation's tax bill totaled \$9,500,000,000; over fourteen times the electric bill. Which of those bills is the more important; and which is given the most attention by public officials?

A four per cent reduction in taxes would mean more to American pocketbooks than 50 per cent reduction in the cost of domestic power. There's a fact that the people would do well to bring to their attention of their elected representatives. The same officials who are shouting about power bills of three or four dollars a month per family, are burdening those families with new taxes amount to many times as much; and we're letting them get away with it.

The Fire Season is Never Closed

By E. Hofer

Every season brings its own fire hazards. In winter, heating equipment is apt to be the worst offender. And while the hazards of spring and summer are less than those of the colder months, they should be conscientiously guarded against.

Grass fires cause much unnecessary waste each year. Property owners possessing unused fields have a habit of putting off until tomorrow the sytche-work that should be done today; and conflagration is often the result. It will be remembered that the great Berkeley, California, fire of a few years ago began in a field of uncut, dry grass.

Most communities have ordinances designed to force property owners to keep grass cut. Unfortunately, these ordinances are often unenforced or half-heartedly enforced—and when that is the case, the town itself becomes as great an offender against the public safety as the careless property owner. Every community should have adequate laws to cover this hazard and enforce them.

Still another important dry weather hazard has to do with forest land. Each year millions of acres of timber are destroyed, because of the carelessness or ignorance of campers and others. Every person

when in wooded country should remember that living timber will burn, and once it is dry enough, can literally explode at the touch of flames.

No season of the year is free from the fire menace. Carelessness in regard to fire is always hazardous. Keep your wits about you and your eyes open for the common dangers that pave the way for conflagrations.

The Flight of the Clipper

By E. Hofer

April 16, 1935, is a date that will go down permanently in the annals of aviation and transportation history. It marks the first successful as well as practical transoceanic flight from a commercial standpoint.

Captain Edwin C. Musick and five companion officers piloted the huge two y-ton Pan-American Clipper plane on a course as straight as that of a homing pigeon, from San Francisco to Honolulu, a distance of about twenty-five hundred miles, in the record time of a little more than seventeen hours.

In the past, ocean flights have been considered by a large majority of the public as spectacular stunts, indulged in only by daredevils who figured the publicity was worth the risk. The only thing spectacular about the flight of the Clipper is the unspectacular way in which it was accomplished.

The flight was carried out on schedule almost to the minute. And after nearly a day in the air, the crew stepped from the plane clean shaven, dressed in blue uniforms without a wrinkle, and looking far fresher than many of those on hand to greet them. In the words of Captain Musick, "It was a regular routine job."

According to press reports, the Pan-American Air Lines plans to inaugurate an air route to the Far East within the next few months. After witnessing such proof not only of the possibility, but of the feasibility of such an air route, one's mind is completely staggered with pictures of speed, comfort and safety with which it will soon be possible to travel to all parts of the world. Residents of San Francisco will week-end in Honolulu. And the trip to Shanghai, China, which now takes three weeks by boat, will take only forty five or fifty hours by air.

A Fair Break For All

By E. Hofer

Throughout the country, groups of consumers are rising in protest against high prices, notably those charged for milk, meat and other agricultural products.

In many cases, these protests are doubtless justified; but there is danger that a misunderstanding of actual conditions may cause people to become inimical toward the farmer's desire to obtain a fair selling price for his goods. That desire is the underlying principle in the work of all our great agricultural cooperatives.

High prices charged at retail don't necessarily mean that the actual producer gets even profitable prices. Giving the farmer fair prices doesn't mean that the consumer is going to be stung. In the case of most commodities, the final selling price is many times the price paid at the farm. The rest of the cost represents profits and charges occurring along the distribution line.

Many authorities believe that distributors and other middlemen get too much of the selling cost of products; while the farmer gets too little. The purpose of the cooperatives is to equalize this: to see that everyone gets a fair deal and that none make an excessive profit. Once that is achieved, farmers will make money, and the consumer will get stable, quality products for a fair and reasonable price. This is in the interest of the entire nation, which in normal times, is largely dependent on farm purchasing power for the money that keeps factories going, provides jobs in our cities, and maintains pay rolls.

A Stabilizing Influence

By E. Hofer

Life insurance is regarded by the average person solely as an individual contract between him and his insurance company, whereby the company agrees to make certain sums available at a specified time in consideration of fixed premiums. However, the five years of depression through which the country has passed should have concentrated public attention upon the life insurance as one of the greatest economic stabilizers in the nation.

Black headlines chronicle, from time to time, the enormous amounts being paid out by the government for the relief of the unemployed. But the fact that more than thirteen billions of dollars were paid by life insurance companies to policyholders and beneficiaries in the United States between 1929 and 1934, goes practically unnoticed. These payments, averaging about \$2,700,000,000 a year, were equal to about one-tenth of all wages paid in the nation, and were several times greater than the total of all government relief expenditures for the period.

In the lush years there were those who were inclined to look lightly upon the conservative investment policy of insurance companies. But this conservative policy was responsible for the almost unbelievably excellent performance of the insurance business throughout the depression. Once more, as in numerous preceding national depressions, the life insurance companies have demonstrated that they are worthy custodians of the people's money.

In the face of the nationwide suffering that accompanies unemployment, the message of Life Insurance Week comes this year with peculiar force: "The sooner you plan your future, the better your future will be."

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual, National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

One of the principal questions of the time is, "Who does industry thank of the New Deal?" You can find businessmen who are opposed to the New Deal, and you can find one who are for it, but a genuine consensus of opinion has been conspicuously absent.

During the last few weeks at least a partial answer to the potent question has been afforded. Two distinct sources have provided important, if conflicting evidence, on the attitude of large and muddled industrialists toward the extraordinary acts of the Roosevelt reign.

One source is the United States Chamber of Commerce which, in the past, has pursued a vague, fence-straddling course in discussing positional matters. The Chamber is not, as some believe made up of the largest industrialists of the country; few heads of America's vast national and international corporations belong to it or attend its meetings. Its membership consists principally of middle sized industrialists. The other day it convened for its annual meeting; and its members went on record as being aggressively and bitterly opposed to the New Deal in practically every major particular.

Heads of the Chamber sought to temper the Chamber's resolutions, asked for a policy of moderation, but they were snowed under with the wrath of the delegates. Out of a literal uproar, the most exciting in the Chamber's history, came resolutions placing the body on record as being opposed, without the slightest qualification, to the Administration's Social Security Bill, the Public Utility Act, most of the principal provisions of the Banking Act, extension of NRA save temporarily and in a highly modified form, the proposed AAA amendments which would give the Secretary of Agriculture sweeping powers over processors and producers, and all pending labor legislation. Only New Deal measures to gain approval were such relatively unimportant ones as reciprocal trade pacts, direct subsidies for shipping and retirement of submarginal lands from production.

It is a significant fact that two years President Roosevelt addressed the Chamber personally, a year ago sent it a conciliatory message. This year he "cut it dead." Thus, the break between the Administration and the type of industrialists who make up the Chamber, seems complete.

Second source of evidence on business' attitude toward the New Deal came from an industrial organization of a rather different nature than the Chamber; the Department of Commerce's Business Advisory and Planning Council. This group is much smaller in membership than the Chamber, is much bigger in the light of the corporations it represents. It consists of only Class A industrialists, such as American Telephone's president Gifford, General Electric's President Swope, U. S. Steel's President Taylor, Chase National Bank's President Aldrich. Its members meet often and informally with the President, represent about all the contact with American industry he has.

From the Council, through the White House, came a report giving almost unqualified endorsement to the New Deal, which the President produced as an antidote to the Chamber of Commerce's attacks. However, even this, from the Administration standpoint, is not so cheering as it might be inasmuch as was immediately claimed, by a Senator, that the White House had issued only flattering parts of the report, had squelched all the criticism the original contained.

Unheard from; as it has no central organization through which to speak; is little business which, in the aggregate, is the biggest business of all. The corner grocery store doesn't look like much when stacked up against U. S. Steel; but ten thousand corner grocery stores do.

Attitude of little business toward the New Deal is strictly a matter of opinion. This much can be said, from a digest of wealth of comment; it does not think so much of the Administration as it used to, is coming to believe that some of the measures to which it gave its unanimous support two years ago are not so good. The way little business finally swings may determine whether the Administration rises or falls; and may

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