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Barriers to Prosperity.

Nebraska is the banner agricultural state this year. Its wheat, corn, hay and other crops are abundant. People out there don't think about that; they consider that good crops are the natural and almost inevitable result of industry and skill and that if Nebraska's harvest is promising it is no more so than that of farm areas beyond our borders, probably not so good as in some favored localities.

One of the products of which Nebraska has a surplus is hay. In many dairy states to the east pastures are burnt up by heat and drought and meadows have failed. There is a shortage of hay there and cows and calves are being slaughtered as the easiest way out of the difficulty. There will result also a shortage of milk unless the situation is met. In Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and even Massachusetts dairy farmers face catastrophe. Eastern Iowa also is suffering.

It is an old saying that one part of this great nation was built to save the other. And so it might seem, with a bountiful hay crop in Nebraska, that the surplus here would find a ready market there. Yet much of last year's hay crop has spoiled on the farms, and unless certain conditions are altered, much will go to waste again this year. A member of the Omaha hay exchange tells of a farmer with 2,000 acres of fine prairie grass, who intends to burn it off instead of cutting it. He has figured that the cost of cutting and getting it to market would amount to \$1.04 a ton more than he would receive. Between the farmers to the east, who need hay, and the Nebraska farmers, who have hay in abundance, stands a freight rate so high as to make relief impossible. It is less unprofitable for some farmers to destroy their hay than to market it, and it is less unprofitable for other farmers to kill their stock than to pay the present rates on feed.

This is only one crop out of many which Nebraska stands ready to share with the nation. Yet the distribution of every one is hampered by high transportation charges. Nebraska cannot consume all that it raises. It must ship vast quantities to other regions, and instead of assisting this movement the railroads are hampering it. The Interstate Commerce commission is soon to consider the plea of the Nebraska State Railway commission for lower rates on farm products. This plea must be made a demand. Every ounce of pressure must be brought to bear to obtain relief, not only for the sake of Nebraska, but for that of the whole America.

Portrait of a Consumer.

For him crops are raised, goods are manufactured, stores established, railroads built, mines dug, novels and plays written and inventions and discoveries made. Without him wages and profits would cease, industry would close down and both capital and labor would silence their dissension and disappear.

Viewed from one side he is king, but from the other he appears a slave. It is he who pays all the taxes, all the interest on loans and stocks and all the dividends on bonds. He pays the rent on yonder great store, supplies the means with which the plate glass and marble fittings are obtained and even foots the bill for the ink with which the bookkeeper addresses his bill.

Jones may pay the freight, but the coin in which he pays is from the well-worn purse of Mr. Ultimate Consumer. Smythe may pay taxes of a million dollars a year, but before doing so he obtains the funds from the same source. A circus comes to town and gives a free parade—the city charges a heavy license fee—and the bill for both of these is duly honored by the pleasant-mannered, open-hearted and necessary Consumer.

One would guess that he must be immensely rich, but as a matter of fact he is not. Sometimes he may have an income of only a few dollars a week. Yet the mere spending of this makes jobs for thousands and profits for many. That matter of income, however, complicates the picture. It becomes apparent that the entire Consumer family is leading a double life. With the exception of only a few, every one appears during a part of the time to be disguised as a Producer.

It is impossible to think of a class known as consumers and distinct from another class known as producers. There is no dividing line. Consumers and producers are all one—but it is not until this fact is generally recognized that a beginning can be made at consolidating their efforts under an intelligent plan.

Cards Down, Face Up.

A very graceful acknowledgment of a real victory for American diplomacy—or the lack of it, as some may insist—marked the close of the imperial conference just ended at London. The assembled premiers explain that the insistence of a preliminary conversation prior to the Washington conference, grew out of their misapprehension of some part of President Harding's invitation. It was not their intention to take any action that might bind the conference; the idea was to clear away some misunderstanding with regard to the Pacific problems, and to plan, if possible, a broader and more substantial convention to take the place of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, one in which the United States would be a contracting party. Delegates attending such a preliminary conference would have been volunteers. All this, however, will be set aside and will have no effect on the gathering that probably will be held in November.

Thus delicately do the leaders of the British empire pay a tribute to our "shirt sleeve" way of doing things. President Harding announced himself in favor of a free and frank conference, where all should meet for the purpose of considering the business in hand, hampered by no preliminary arrangements or secret agreements of any kind. It was the unsuspected arrangement between France and England on the one side and Japan on the other that helped to wreck President Wilson's plan at Paris. Part of the work at Washington will be to undo the results of that secret treaty.

Questions affecting the world's peace may be openly discussed, even if such proceedings do entail the sacrifice of secret ambitions or private aspirations. The time is here to lay the cards on the table, face up, in hope that a peaceful understanding for the good of all may be reached.

Conditions in Mexico are said to be improving. No doubt they have tried the fad of the moment and been restored to complete well-being and prosperity by tickling themselves in the ribs.

The Russians may not have understood that under the prevalent theory of government, whatever party is in power is responsible for drought, grasshoppers and crop failure.

Secretary Mellon's Suggestion

Businesslike Proposals to Get Money Enough for the Government

From the Boston Transcript. The report that the self-styled "leaders" of the house of representatives are displeased at the recommendations of the secretary of the treasury relative to tax revision will not surprise those who take the precaution to recall that Secretary Mellon is not a politician. He is a great constructive economist, endeavoring to assist the legislative branch in raising the revenue necessary to run the government by ways and means that the people will clearly understand and recognize as honest and intelligent. The fundamental difference between Secretary Mellon and some of his critics in the republican house lies in the fact that he is opposed to deceiving the taxpayers or insulting their intelligence by trying to deceive them. He proposes to base his tax on the theory that in the raising of taxes an expert knowledge of the theory and practice of taxation is a better guide than the whims and fancies of pork-barrel politicians.

Secretary Mellon proposes a federal license of \$10 on automobiles, believing that their owners will cheerfully make this contribution to help pay the costs of the war. He proposes to stamp tax on checks, because it has been tried in the past and found to be a good revenue producer, easily and cheaply collected. Moreover, the people who pay it constitute an intelligent public, alive to the fact that in spite of new economies in public expenditure, and in spite of retrenchments all along the line, the tax bill of the nation for many years to come must be heavy. We suggest that the same sort of tax should not be levied on papers exchanged in all sorts of local transactions.

Instead of taxing the children for their ice cream, and men, women and children for their "soft" drinks, Mr. Mellon proposes to increase the tax on tobacco, and here again his proposal will commend wide approval outside of congress. The increase of the present 10 per cent income tax on corporations to 15 per cent, and the repeal of the excess profit tax; elimination of the \$2,000 exemption corporation tax, and the elimination of the income surtax above 40 per cent, with an increase on these rates of income from \$6,000 to \$5,000, are among other recommendations that have excited the ire of certain republican politicians who come up for re-election next year.

If Secretary Mellon can command the unflinching support of his chief, it will not take long to develop in the senate and in the country at large an intelligent sympathy with, and an understanding of his program that will prove to the house politicians how false and unfounded are their personal anxieties and selfish suspicions. It is not surprising that the present recommendations take a cynical view of Secretary Mellon's faith in the common sense and common patriotism of his countrymen, because a large number of mediocrities in congress today owe their election to the fact that they were able to misrepresent themselves as men of real ability, disinterestedly desirous of an opportunity for national service. They hope to be re-elected next year by repeating to the same deception. This ambition Secretary Mellon may not have taken into account in the scientific study that preceded his recommendations for revising taxes. Let us hope that the administration will share his faith in the people's willingness to meet the costs of the war and to maintain the government even at the expense of replacing a few mediocrities in the lower house of congress today.

Smash Cost of Government

The cost of pretty nearly everything in this country is coming down faster and farther than the cost of government, but the cost of government should come down faster and farther than pretty nearly anything else. This is true of local and state governments which had no direct war burdens of magnitude as well as of national government with its prodigious war debt charges.

The cost of government should come down with a rush, because of the numbers of employees which went on all public pay rolls but are no longer needed there and should not be kept there beyond the next pay day; because the wages of day laborers have come down sharply; because of the reduction of the number of employees in armies by the municipal, county, state and national governments; because of the heavy drop in prices in materials and supplies, including food, clothing, and all commodities consumed in stupendous quantities by government agencies all over the country.

Any government manager, national, state or local, anywhere in the country and under whatever circumstances, who cannot and does not get down his government operating expenses, and get them down heavily, without being driven to it by budget commissions, investigating committees and legislative appropriating bodies, needs the skylight treatment without explanation or mercy.

Smash the cost of government!—New York Herald.

Generators in Service 26 Years.

It is almost 26 years since the famous 5,000-horsepower electric generators were installed at Niagara Falls. Engineers and laymen who think back can remember the country-wide controversy over this first large installation at the falls. Many were the dire predictions made regarding this apparatus because it differed so radically from machines then in use. Electrical engineers, many of whom stood in the first ranks of the technical men of that period, found fault with the design.

Yet this apparatus has withstood years of criticism and of intense activity. This machinery has generated literally millions of horsepower since it was installed in 1895. At that time the 5,000-horsepower generators were the most powerful in the world. As they were so vast, according to the reckoning of that day, engineers concluded that they would not be efficient. Now generators are made with capacities as high as 120,000-horsepower, a giant size having been installed recently in the Colfax power station of the Duquesne Light company of Pittsburgh.

It is interesting to note that B. G. Lamme, who designed the generators for installation at Niagara Falls, also was instrumental in the Colfax apparatus.—Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company Bulletin.

Simplified Finance.

Briefly, an important element in reconstruction should be the making of America more generally investment-minded. This demands able and popular publicity effort. The average man must first be interested and then informed. At that point fully upon the possibilities of the investment market. And his education must be accompanied by a homelier terminology than that in vogue among financiers, which terminology is well devised to puzzle the public and even to leave its own followers very often uncertain.—New York Commercial.

Will Be on the Right Side.

Men who thought they would make no money on this year's crop are going to find that the big yield plus lower harvesting costs will bring them out on the right side of the ledger.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

Quite So!

Mustapha Kemal Pasha is at the moment fleeing toward Smyrna, but if he were more of a fencer he would have no difficulty in making his way to a wire-haired terrier.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Succeeding in Life.

Persons who make a specialty of giving advice on how to succeed in life generally prescribe liberal doses of optimism.—Thrift Magazine.

How to Keep Well

By DR. W. A. EVANS

Questions concerning hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, submitted to Dr. Evans by readers of The Bee, will be answered promptly, subject to proper limitation, where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed with the question. Address letters in care of Dr. W. A. Evans, 1717 N. 10th St., Omaha, Neb. Copyright, 1921, by Dr. W. A. Evans.

WHEN DOCTORS DISAGREE.

When Surgeon General Cummings called on the American Red Cross to help succor the south because of the failure of numerous business concerns in Omaha, those who have the authority to call such inquiries should carefully deliberate the matter before taking the step. Although it may involve the country in much expense and add to our overburdened taxes and our overcrowded court dockets, yet if after due deliberation it is deemed best, the grand jury should be called.

In calling a grand jury at this time, and for the reasons generally given, it might be well to bear in mind some essential things: 1. The purpose generally of calling grand juries in this state and elsewhere where prosecutions by information by the county attorney are ordinarily adopted. 2. The nature of the matters and things which the grand jury is to investigate.

3. That when convened they should cover the whole field of probable crime, and not a part of it, and that when the grand jury is in session all preliminaries in prosecution must come before it. 4. How long will the grand jury be in session if it thoroughly investigates the numerous business institutions in addition to all other matters of crime which then must come before it.

5. That the purpose of a grand jury is to investigate probable crime and to return indictments charging specific crimes. 6. What will be the result if a wholesale batch of indictments are returned when they reach the petit juries? 7. What will be the capacity of the average grand jury which is chosen by lot to understand the complex conditions and ramifications which will be found in records and other evidence in institutions which fall through manipulations of experts?

8. Is not the usual method by prosecuting officers adequate? 9. Has there been in the past in Douglas county, or in the United States courts or attorney general's office any evidence of unwillingness on the part of county attorneys, district attorneys and attorneys general to do their duty? Furthermore, this is not a case where such officers would hesitate to do their duty because of fear or favor.

10. It cannot be claimed that a grand jury is essential because of its ability by process of subpoena to force witnesses to tell the facts although the prosecuting officer has not the right of subpoena, yet any acquainted officer is always possessed of the means to get the facts.

Goldberger gives figures which show that the number of cases in Mississippi in 1914 was 11,000, in 1915 times were hard and the number rose to 16,000. In 1916 they were again hard and the number dropped to 8,000. Times have been very hard in the south since the fall of 1920 and if the Goldberger theory be true there must be a great increase in cases.

So the fight now is between the public health service, backing the Goldberger theory, and the Thompson-McFadden commission and the state health department. The latter is a deficiency disease, of the same type as scurvy and beriberi, and that contagion has nothing to do with it.

He contends that it developed in this country about 20 years ago because of the poverty of the poorer people in the south and that it increases there whenever times are hard and decreases whenever times are good. This is because in hard times the poorer people do not get enough fresh meat, milk and butter, whereas in good times they get more of these foods.

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The Bee's Letter Box

About a Grand Jury.

Omaha, Aug. 6.—To the Editor of The Bee: In considering the question of calling a grand jury to investigate criminal responsibility in the failure of numerous business concerns in Omaha, those who have the authority to call such inquiries should carefully deliberate the matter before taking the step. Although it may involve the country in much expense and add to our overburdened taxes and our overcrowded court dockets, yet if after due deliberation it is deemed best, the grand jury should be called.

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