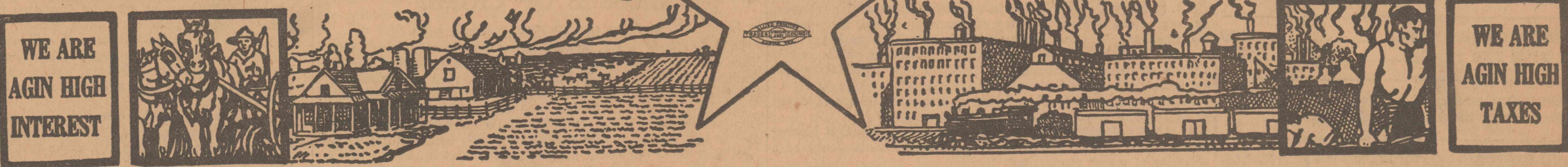


The Ferguson Forum



Vol. XVIII

AUSTIN, TEXAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1935

No. 11

It Is Now or Never If This Civilization Is To Be Saved

(W. H. (Coin) Harvey in Liberty Bell)

A study and mastering of the Science of Government and Civilization is the noblest and most important of all subjects.

The first step to be taken to get the result desired is to perfect a Money System with a medium of exchange for services and property. Without it a civilization is impossible.

To make this plain so every one will understand it, suppose all the money in the United States were destroyed tonight, and we entered life tomorrow with no money existing. There would be no money to buy, not even a newspaper. No money to pay the thousands of men operating the railroads, or the tens of thousands in the workshops and factories; or the printing and publishing of newspapers and magazines; or to pay doctors or other professional men in the Arts and Sciences, or to buy your groceries, or, pay the employes in offices and stores. There would be a total collapse and paralysis of all business and industries, with bread riots in 24 hours, with the people taking what they needed accompanied with mob violence.

This makes it plain and understandable by all, the necessity for money, a medium of exchange.

It may be termed the blood of civilization that should flow through the arteries and veins of the body politic to give it health; and to perform its sole function, as blood flows through the human body to give it health—hence it may be aptly called the blood of civilization.

There should be no law or practice permitted that will monopolize or divert this blood of civilization, money, from its all important function. It has a sacred function of its own and to interrupt or disturb it is to work an injury in the perfecting of a civilization.

The money subject is regarded by nearly every one as an abstruse subject, how to understand it, and they let it alone.

A young man once came to me and so stated. When I explained it as above given, he then said: "I now understand it and it is easy to understand and is not at all abstruse" he then mastered all the details connected with it.

Thus one can understand the indispensable necessity for money, a medium of exchange and that it should be protected in performing its function in the making of a perfect civilization.

How Money Should Be Made And Protected To Accomplish The Purpose For Which Money Is Made.

What here follows is within the power of Congress to do:

Government Banks
It becomes the duty of the government to make money, and, equally the duty of the government to see that it gets into circulation in a normal quantity in all parts of the United States that it may serve the purpose for which money is made.

To do this it becomes necessary there should be government banks, in sufficient number distributed over the country, to see to the money getting into circulation among the people in all subdivisions of the government.

It is estimated that it will take about 3,000 banks, one or more in each county, to do this. No other banks to be permitted.

It is as important to get the money in circulation as it is to make it, that it may answer the purpose for which money is made.

The method of putting money in circulation will be by building public improvements and for services rendered the government, thus making it pay for public improvements and services promoting the common good; with the Usury system abolished.

It will be asked, "How can these banks pay expense of their operation without loaning money at interest?"

The answer is: The cost of these (Continued on page 3)

'CORN' WALLACE SURRENDERS TO GEN. DROUGHT

Henry "Seed-Corn" Wallace shivered in his boots as dreadful dust storms—evil omens of devastating drought—swept through the great western plains. Distraught and fearful, Mr. Wallace surrendered the great principle of "food-destruction" upon which he rode from obscurity to world notoriety. Orders stamped with the great seal of Mighty Henry the Second went forward to the wheat growers of the nation that restrictions on acreage were null and void. "Plant all you please," quoth Henry the Second. "We shall pay you none the less for growing what you agreed not to grow—when we agreed to pay you for not growing it." Thus ended the reign of "Corn" Wallace. Sadly enough Henry is less generous with federal tax money to the millions of corn growers. Was there not some report that the Wallace family had "Hi-Bred" Seed Corn guaranteed to produce more corn on less acres? The corn-destruction orders are not to be countermanded. Corn growers must carry out their contracts if they expect payments from Henry the Second. How else shall the market for "Hi-Bred" seed corn be upheld? What is one thing—corn another.

One thing is certain. The great and glorious era of pig-killing and plowing-under approaches its final end. Henry Wallace, supreme destroyer of food, has succumbed to the jitters. If drought and dust-storms held no other virtue—let us remember that they made this lasting contribution to deflating Mr. "Corn" Wallace.—Union Farmer.

LEMKE LOOKS AT CONGRESS

By WILLIAM LEMKE
In The Leader

Bonus Bill Passed

After a close and determined fight, the lower house of congress has passed the Patman bill to pay the veterans in cash, and not by issuing tax-exempt, interest-bearing bonds, for the coupon clippers and international bankers who were responsible for our entry into the war. I believe this is the fifth time that the lower house of congress passed the Patman bill; twice they passed it over the president's veto. It is high time that those in power, who have blocked veterans, but the people of this nation, want this obligation paid now.

This time, the fight was between the Patman bill and the Vinson bill. The majority of representatives in congress felt that Congressman Patman had been double-crossed, that he had carried the brunt of the fight for years, and when victory was in sight, the big bankers stepped in and attempted to steal the show. The bankers felt that if the soldiers were to be paid, they should be let in on the deal, and permitted to clip another billion or two of tax-exempt coupons out of the people from the soldiers' compensation. They insisted upon another two billion dollar bond issue. These are the same racketeers who bet fifteen billion dollars on the wrong horse in Europe before we entered the war, and were directly responsible for our entering the war. These were the same profiteers who, while the veterans were giving their lives, their limbs and their health in the blood and mud filled trenches on foreign battlefields, wrapped the flag of glory around them, and grabbed everything in sight.

The holding up of this appropriation for seed and feed for the drought-stricken farmers cannot be excused by those responsible. However the bill has been approved, and the Farm Credit administration advises us that the printing is being done by the regional offices, and that the funds will be available in a week or ten days to the farmers.

In the meantime, may I suggest that the farmers co-operate in

Whom Shall We Tax?

By JIM, The Editor

Notwithstanding, the Ferguson administration reduced appropriations some fifteen million dollars, yet, a deficiency from the Sterling administration left a deficiency of some fifteen million dollars. By the end of the fiscal year of the Ferguson administration on August 31, 1935 the deficiency will be further reduced by some two or three million dollars, leaving this administration with a final deficiency of twelve million dollars.

If the present administration would hold appropriations down to the level of the Ferguson administration the state could pay its expenses and wipe out the deficiency of twelve million dollars in the next biennium. On the other hand, if appropriations are put back to the former level of the Sterling administration the state will go more than thirty million dollars in debt and state warrants will go at a disastrous discount. While I think Governor Allred sincerely wants to bring about economy in his administration yet great insistent demands will be made upon him by those who think the Government is an apple tree from which tax fruit can be gathered any old time. All of us irrespective of who we were for Governor want to show our willingness to join hands with the Governor and help him down appropriations if he desires us to do so. The Government both State and National is nearly in collapse on account of the extravagant taxes which must be reduced or both the Government and the people will end in a revolution.

In this connection let me emphasize the fact that whom we will tax and whom we will not tax is one of the serious questions now under consideration by the Legislature. In order that justice may be done we should instead of worrying about sharing the wealth concern ourselves about sharing the burden of taxation. If the standard be set up that taxes should be levied principally on those who are able to pay then sooner or later all business and property must surrender to a policy of tax high-jacking which means, of course, the end of Government. And yet the Legislature is confronted with the problem of whom we shall tax and in this connection the counter problem of whom we should not tax is equally important. The tax upon farm and city homestead has been in a great measure reduced, but whether real estate is a homestead or not the limit of taxes to which it can go has been reached and just simply cannot be considered the subject for further tax increase. As the present administration is committed apparently irrevocably against the sales tax and real estate has reached the limit of taxes, the limit of whom we shall tax is reduced to a few. As the amount of appropriations to be paid by taxes will be in all probability doubled, the situation grows more complex when we search for a solution. If excessive appropriations are to be insisted upon then the source of taxes will be reduced to a baker's dozen. As the result of the situation, already we hear that the railroad taxes must be increased. Some say that the public utilities light and power and telephone companies should be increased. Others say that sulphur should be considerably increased and then a lot of people think it popular for crude oil and gasoline to be further levied with substantial taxes for the support of the Government; and then other people say that gross receipts tax on all corporations would be largely increased; and then there are those that insist that the insurance companies, both fire and life, should be required to pay a higher tax rate. And while other items are mentioned for tax increases, these concerns are the main target for the tax spenders who seem blind to the necessity of governmental economy.

If these concerns are to be burdened with tax increases, then care should be taken that such increases should be fairly and equally distributed. It would be an outrage for anybody to escape payment of their just proportion of taxes and others made to pay the difference. Before taxes are raised upon any of these concerns, the Legislature ought to determine not only a budget of appropriations but a budget of tax levy to prevent inequality and unfairness in the taxes yet necessary to meet appropriations. While much stress has been laid upon delinquent taxes from which some think large collections can be made, yet the ability of the people to pay current taxes let alone delinquent taxes will absorb the large part of their funds and I do not think that much hope of help from this direction can be realized. In any event the same cannot be taken into consideration by the automatic tax board in fixing the levy.

Let me further call attention to the fact, that the constitutional limit for general revenue, school, and Confederate pensions is practically absorbed now by the present deficiency and the levy for current needs for the next biennium will exceed the constitutional limit. I hope the Legislature will bear this well in mind when talking to those who are demanding increased appropriations. In any event, when we decide whom to tax let us be careful that it will be a fair ax.

THE RANCHMANS TAX PROBLEMS

(Address Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention)

(By JUDGE CHAS. E. COOMBS, Stamford)

Taxation is a problem from whatever angle or viewpoint it may be considered. From the standpoint of the statesman it is considered for revenue necessary to maintain and support the government, equitably distributed. From the standpoint of the taxpayer, it is a tribute to Caesar—the support of the Government in which he lives. From the standpoint of the politician, it is punitive in its nature. Those three are functioning most of the time,

every way possible. I understand there is a seed committee in practically every county in the drought stricken area, and the farmers should at once make their needs known, and as soon the applications are printed and available to their county seats, should promptly fill them out, so that they will get the seed for early seeding. Time can be saved by inquiring and working through your local setup, rather than by writing letters here to Washington, because in the long run, the loan must be made through the local setup. If the local authorities refuse or decline, then is time enough to write to your congressman. I am giving this information in order to expedite the getting of the funds for seed and into the hands of the farmer, where it is needed.—The Leader.

but, perhaps, the taxpayer gives the least consideration of all to the subject. Our fathers had but little to consider as to the subject of taxation. All they knew was land and livestock, and upon that fell the burden of taxation in the early history of this State and they have borne this burden, until, at the present time the burden upon property—land, livestock and physical visible property—has reached the point where it cannot be longer carried. In the beginning, perhaps, nearly every citizen owned some property, but now, with our complex civilization, we have about seventy per cent of the people of Texas who own no property at all; thirty per cent of the people in this State own the physical property against which an ad valorem tax is assessed. When we consider that the physical property represents less than one-third of the property of this State and that it carries seventy-five per cent of the burden of taxation, we begin to see what John Marshall meant when he said, "The power to tax is the power to destroy." Some relief must be secured. If we go to the farmer, we will find that his tax burden on a bushel of wheat is often twenty-six cents, and he would sell it for twenty-eight cents, on the market, and we have illustration after illustration of that sort. The ranchman is now paying about forty-five per cent, and from that up to fifty per cent of his gross income, annually, in taxes, and that is bound to increase, because more and more exemptions are provided—a homestead up to three thousand dollars, and now, it is proposed to exempt it from all taxes, except for schools. (Continued on page 3)

Recent European Conference Seeks A World Recovery

(By PETER MOLENEAUX In The Texas Weekly)

OFF-HAND OBSERVATIONS BY CLARIDGE

(In Fletcher's Farming)

"Capitalism" in its meaning, is 60 per cent of the wealth of the nation, owned by one per cent of the people. In its results are riotous living by the few, and, well, look about you and see for yourself, what it has brought upon the mass of humanity. And yet it is defended by big business and its paid panders, on the ground that it encourages initiative, and for its benevolent handouts to the 99 per cent it has robbed.

And here the socialists come back with the claim that the government could better dispense the dole of charity and that there would be less occasion for the latter. As to the hand-out, what else is the government doing right now? As to initiative, the main trend of it is to grab everything in sight regardless, and hold on to it like a lean tick to a nigger's shin. And as to the benevolence of big business, the multimillionaires noted for letting a little of their ill-gotten gains slip through their fingers, they may be counted on the fingers of one hand.

And, I wonder if the government could make a worse mess than the way they go about it. For instance, the younger Rockefeller spent five million dollars rebuilding and rehabilitating the palace and grounds of the Tuileries near Paris, the habitat of French royalty; and which, along with its disgraceful history, should have been consigned to oblivion centuries ago, but for its warning to future civilization.

This benevolent bump on the face of nature, in other words spent five million dollars in foreign material, and in the employment of foreign labor, while thousands of homeless, hungry people in his own home city were left destitute. And, as the Rockefeller is the best of benevolent big business, is not much to say for the rest of the one per cent. The one per cent and their dupes are not only starving agriculture; they are starving industry, and piling up a lot of future trouble for themselves.

Well, Abe Lincoln was born in a log cabin and he got the colored folks acquitted—Doc Townsend was also born in a backwoods stucco and he's trying to get us all out on bail. It looks like we'll beat the rap. Even schoolkids can't get mad at that. That means a new National Holiday, even in Louisiana!

Doc Townsend is holding night school in Washington. We hope some of those Congressmen don't play hooky. We wanta see their report cards. The Literary Digest implies that the enactment of old age insurance will depend upon the strategy of the administration. That may be 1935 champagne, but wot a 1936 headache! Prosperity used to be just around the corner. We stuck our hand out but somebody knocked it off. Now prosperity is just around the alley and it's a blind alley. Just the same old phonograph with a new needle. They had us plow under crops and slaughter cattle and hogs. That's the A. A. A. We hope we don't get the order now for everybody to tear up one shirt apiece. Most of us would have to borrow a sweater. That would probably be the National Union for Tearing

Shirts. In other alphabet the NUTS.

Will Rogers said something about giving the country back to the Indians. That would be a Sour Plebiscite, Bill, and besides, de don't think the Indians would take it back. Not this semester.

B. C. Forbes says he hopes the taxpayers will wake up and put "these would-be Santa Clauses in their places." Are you selling us, B. C.? The alarm clock has gone off and most of us want to know why we're paying taxes for a chicken dinner and getting canned elderly cow—and we don't mean milk! Farmous than we need.

In case we got a bum conenction B. C., what we mean to say is that we're paying for a full course (Continued on page 3)

I return from Europe more convinced than ever that among the chief obstacles to world recovery, including our own, are the commercial and monetary policies of the United States. It was my good fortune during my short stay abroad to talk with many of the leading economists and authorities on finance and international affairs in the world. I found almost universal agreement among them that the reestablishment of a stable international monetary standard is absolutely essential to the restoration of normal economic conditions in all countries. But I also found a practically general belief that unless the creditor nation, the United States and Great Britain, adopt commercial policies which will make possible the settlement of international obligations in goods and services, the maintenance of a stable international monetary standard will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible.

Early in March I participated, as one of the American delegates, in the Carnegie Endowment Conference on Economic and Monetary Problems, held at Chatham House in London. About sixty of the best informed men in the world from eight countries sat down around the table at that conference and freely and frankly discussed the whole situation. The sessions were executive and only the recommendations agreed upon were made public. Consequently there was the freest kind of expression of opinion. For three days these men threshed out the world's problems with the object of arriving at practical measures, immediately applicable, and the remarkable fact was not merely that they did arrive at such measures and make practicable recommendations, but that throughout the discussions there was substantially general agreement as to the real nature of the problems and as to the measures essential to their solution.

Later in the month I was the guest to the International Chamber of Commerce at its Council meeting at London. At that meeting outstanding business leaders from all over the world reviewed the subjects to be passed on at the Paris convention of the international chamber in June. And here again there was general unanimity as to the nature of the problems and the measures essential to their solution. It was agreed that the reestablishment of a stable international monetary standard and the lowering of trade barriers provide the only way out of the present condition of international economic chaos.

In both instances the very unanimity of opinion raised in the meetings the question as to why minds of the participants in these nations do not adopt the policies and apply the measures essential to world recovery. And in both instances the conclusion was reached that the answer is to be found in the condition of public opinion. At the Carnegie Endowment conference, the French economist, Jacques Rueff, declared that what the world needs most today is agitators in all countries who will arouse the people to a recognition of the real character of their troubles and of the true remedies for them. And at the meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce's council, Sir Norman Angell, Nobel prize winner, said that the awakening of the mass of the people in all countries is the big task confronting the world today. He said that the world is rich in experts who have discovered the truth about the world's problems, but what it needs now is explainers who will bring the truth of the experts to the masses. And in no country is this needed more, he said, than right here in the United States.

In this connection, the Carnegie (Continued on page 3)

THE FERGUSON FORUM

Published Every Thursday by THE FERGUSON FORUM

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE PER YEAR \$1.00 IN CLUBS OF FIVE PER YEAR \$4.00

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Austin, Texas, under the Act of March, 1879.

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES, 306 EWELL NALLE BLDG., AUSTIN, TEXAS Phone 9546 P. O. Box 1158

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION

JAS. E. FERGUSON, Manager and Editor

THE FORUM IS NOT JUST ANOTHER NEWSPAPER— IT IS DIFFERENT

History records that 2 per cent of the population owned all the great wealth of Babylon when that ancient city went down into ruins and destruction.

SELLING THE CENTENNIAL

THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL SPECIAL, according to "Train News" of the Texas Press Association, date April 10, 1935, announces its "Official Schedule" of an itinerary beginning at Houston April 25 and ending at Dallas May 4.

"At least one large public meeting will be staged in each city visited, where the people of that city will be invited to meet with the Texans, and to hear the story of the Centennial and of the greater Texas of today, through the corps of able speakers which has been drafted for service by Col. W. E. Talbot, program chairman."

\$100,000 SALARIES CONTINUE

(Editorial in Brewery Worker)

Depression or no depression big business executives are determined to continue to do well by themselves. A list of salaries made public by the Securities Commission shows one reason at least why redistribution of wealth has not as yet started from the post.

If we take into consideration all salaries above \$25,000 now being paid, we can see why wages must continue to be too low to create the demand for goods our factories are equipped to turn out.

KEEP AMERICAN SCHOOLS OPEN

Senator Cutting's amendment setting aside \$40,000,000 of President Roosevelt's huge relief fund to keep schools open in communities which have exhausted their resources should be approved unanimously by both houses of Congress.

THE MACHINE AGE

In the midst of a depression of unprecedented severity, and confronted with problems the answer to which must be found—standing as it were at a crossroads in our economic life—some say a crossroads in our national life—caught in a maze of conflicting doubts and uncertainties as to which of two ways to pursue, a Voice is heard saying, "Machine Age Speaking."

"With muscles of iron and fingers of steel I come to perform the drudgery of the world for you. To relieve the Man with the Hoe of the bent back and to permit him to stand erect that he may view with wonder and acclaim all the grandeur that may be his."

IF YOU DON'T WANT WAR PREPARE FOR PEACE

There are war-clouds over Europe, over Russia, China, and Japan. Even before the wounds of the World War have closed, the cry has risen once more for war! war! war!

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN "WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES AND FOUND WANTING"

(Arranged by "Bible Student") "THE TIME OF THE END"

"In the last days perilous times shall come—men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemous—lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of Godliness."

Poverty must be wiped out. No nation can call itself either Christian or civilized that permits babes, little children and the aged to suffer for food, clothes and shelter.—Labor's Voice.

CAUSES OF CRIME

(Editorial in Kerrville Mountain Sun)

In their efforts to find an explanation for the increasing prevalence of crime, many thoughtful persons have concluded that the tendency to burden the public with a growing multiplicity of laws may account for much of the lawlessness which now prevails.

"WHERE MEN DECAY"

(By H. M. Harrison in Mineola Monitor)

In the midst of all the selfishness and self-seeking that is threatening our civilization, comes the will of the late Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes who gave half his fortune "to the United States of America".

CONSOLATION

Whenever you're feeling a bit downhearted these days, read this letter from an Oklahoman to his banker and feel better:

"It is impossible for me to make a further payment on my note. My present financial condition is due to the effects of federal laws, state laws, county laws, corporation laws, by-laws, mother-in-laws and outlaws that have been foisted upon an unsuspecting public."

"These laws compel me to pay a merchant's tax, capital stock tax, income tax, real estate tax property tax, auto tax, gas tax, water tax, light tax, cigar tax, street tax, school tax, syntax and carpet tax."

"The government has so governed my business that I do not know who owns it. I am suspected, expected, inspected, disrespected, examined, re-examined, until all I know is that I am supplicated for money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race, and because I refuse to fall and go out and beg, borrow or steal money to give away, I am cursed and discussed, boycotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, held down and robbed until I am nearly ruined; so the only reason why I am clinging to life is to see what the h— is coming next."

SIXTY MILLION SEED LOAN PASSED

(E. H. Everson, President National Farmers Union)

The Senate has finally passed the much debated four billion, eight hundred eighty million works relief bill. So, now, there will be a wild scramble from all parts of the country on the part of the different states and communities in an effort to secure as large a hunk of this political pie as is possible.

ON THE WAY

(Editorial in Brewery Worker)

How propaganda is made was beautifully illustrated last week. Most newspapers ran glaring headlines to the effect that conditions were getting better because the number of those on relief had diminished throughout the nation.

There are several ways by which the number on relief can be reduced. One way is to find jobs for them. The other is to drop them from the rolls unceremoniously, jobs or no jobs.

The following news item, which is probably a sample of what happened everywhere else where the number of those receiving aid was reduced, is highly illuminating.

"St. Joseph, Mo.—Police reserves guarded the Community Hall today against a threatened invasion by unemployed."

"More than 500 members of the Labor Relief Association marched on the hall last night, broke several windows and doors and occupied the building."

"Last night's disturbance followed a mass meeting in protest against curtailment of Federal relief. Approximately 16,000 persons were dropped from relief rolls here today."

That's not evidence of recovery, propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding.

If another war came, said Barney Baruch, testifying before the Senate Munitions Committee, "our standard of living would sink."

Sink to where, Mr. Baruch? The depression took most of us for as deep a downward slide as any war ever could. According to the definition of General Sherman, we are in a war now.

The Republican Party has appropriately chosen the sand swept prairies of Kansas for a meeting to liberalize the Party. The slogan for 1936 will be "Here's dust in your eye."

Consternation and panic reigned at a meeting of the stockholders of United States Steel, when a lone woman stockholder, Mrs. Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, rose and demanded to know why good money that she ought to stockholders in dividends, was thrown away in maintaining an expensive spy system and a company union.

Whoever heard of such talk at a stockholders meeting before? They came together to listen to Myron C. Taylor, chairman, tell them how glorious everything was and not to debate labor problems. They told Mrs. O'Connor so. But she refused to be placated.

After asking a series of questions that made Mr. Taylor's face turn very red, Mrs. O'Connor made a motion that the company recognize national labor unions. The meeting almost broke up there and then.

Those mid-west dust storms are making a lot of farmers see the AAA in a clearer light. Puzzle that one.

Heywood Brown denies that he called scab reporters on The Newark Ledger a bunch of trained seals.

What happened, he testified in court, was that he went to the zoo and saw trained seals—and called them scab by mistake.

"Hog capitalism" is the new term given to those interests which are defying every attempt at social adjustment to give the "forgotten man" a place at the dinner table. They are people who never think but just take.

Hoover's latest emergence from seclusion with another blast hasn't made the Republicans any happier. They shudder to think at what may happen to the Republican Party if by some freak of fate he were again nominated as its standard bearer.

While mentioning Herbert Hoover, it may not be amiss to point out that the building lots on lower Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, from which the bonus marchers and their families were forcibly evicted by regular army troops, in 1928 with a loss to the former of two lives, are still vacant.

It will be recalled that the then President Hoover justified his use of troops to kick the veterans off the grounds on the excuse that the land was needed for construction to make work for the unemployed.

Photographs taken recently show the space still covered with debris with two or three men employed clearing it off. It will never be used for building plots as present plans propose to turn the land into a public park.

V. BERNHARD IN "HECKLING THE WORLD"

(From the Houston Labor Journal)

Mr. World! I am going to try to penetrate your numbskull with a brand new thought, and it is this: "It is morally wrong and economically suicidal to pass a debt from one generation to another."

Admitting almost complete ignorance in the sordid matters of debts and interests, I must take the words of others in these premises, and I have before me an article by George B. Watters, a Houston Press staff writer, who undoubtedly knows as much about it as the next one, and I think his figures are approximately correct.

The debts of this nation, according to the writer, amount to approximately 250 billions of dollars. That is several times the amount of the nation's annual income. The interest alone on this debt is about \$15,000,000,000. The payment due on principals, together with the interest, is about equal to the nation's income in these depressionary days.

Now, Mr. World! If you think it is at all possible to bring economic prosperity to your people by maintaining and increasing this enormous load of debt, you are a whole lot dumber than I think you are, and my opinion of you is not very flattering as it is.

Many ways to decrease or get rid of debt have been proposed, but as long as a debt is considered a sacred obligation, just so long will debts increase and the Shylocks will sit on top of the world exacting their pounds of flesh, which, of course, can not be done effectively without killing the debtors, financially and economically.

Even increased purchasing power, such as might be supplied under the Townsend pension plan, will in the long run prove ineffectual if the prevailing uses and principles of credit and debt, are to be continued, for there is no whatever to catch up with a perpetual interest-bearing debt.

A ray of hope in common sense a-borning is seen in the trend towards the prevention of the passing of wealth from one generation to another.

Higher and higher inheritance taxes are proposed and exacted, as well as higher income taxes.

Question: If it is wrong to pass wealth—in individual hands—from one generation to another, why is it not also wrong to transmit debts that way?

That's a feaser—ain't it? Well, I know the answer from the defenders of the present order. It is this: "If debts are repudiated, it will no longer be possible to obtain credit."

My retort is very callous. It is this: "What of it? To hell with credit!"

But a gradual process must be used in getting rid of debts, just as such tactics must be used in all serious diseases.

The idea is to cure our economic life, not to kill it, and if all debts were repudiated at one stroke, it would undoubtedly mean killing and not curing.

To lay down the rule, however, that debts must not be passed from one generation to another, is perfectly safe. And to make this principle a starting point for a new credit order will give the world something definite and sensible to work with.

Germany and Russia have both repudiated debts contracted by a former generation, and they have my entire sympathy.

A classification of debts and credits should be made, and each class should be treated differently. Credit undoubtedly has, in some aspects, its beneficial uses.

There is, for instance, short term commercial credit, which need not be affected at all, and which gives the venturesome speculator a wide margin to work his profit motive. A commercial debt should never be repudiated except through the lawful channels already provided, namely, the bankruptcy courts.

Promoting schemes can be liquidated in the same way by so-called "re-financing," while billions of dollars of old debts which have already borne sufficient returns or have become in fact unpayable should be written off the books.

The poorest and most hopeless way to try to get rid of the debts is that one favored by Mr. Waters—the boosting of commodity prices. He himself proves this by his own argument. He says:

"We see some in apparent flush prosperity, while others are in abject poverty. The reason for this is that for every dollar owed, there is a creditor who has a dollar owing to him. The one who is in poverty struggles to get a dollar to give the

creditor. This accounts for the two extreme conditions, one 'in the money', the other 'out of the money'."

Under the price boosting scheme, the one who owes no debts must nevertheless help to pay the debts of others. The wage earners largely compose this class. Higher prices decrease the purchasing power of their wages, and so, naturally and automatically, will make the poor still poorer.

The only ones who would benefit would be the human parasites who do not toil nor spin but draw interest on debts and investments.

Shake your bonthead, Mr. World. Find a way to get rid of the debt incubus, by fair means or foul.

JEHOVAH'S VENGEANCE AGAINST HYPOCRISY IN CHRISTENDOM

By JUDGE RUTHERFORD

It is written in the Scriptures that Jehovah says concerning his enemies: "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time." The word vengeance is generally understood to mean passionate ill will and unrestrained punishment inflicted by one upon another. This is not the meaning of the word as used in the Scriptures. The Scriptural meaning of vengeance is the punishment of the willful wrong doer, which punishment is inflicted in righteousness, and for the good of all who do right. Recompense, as used in the foregoing text, means the repayment in kind, that is to say, just retribution, or retributive justice.

Jehovah is mighty, just and holy, and never makes a mistake. He is never moved by passion. With him justice and love act in exact harmony. That means that he punishes his enemies unselfishly and for the general good. Jehovah's chief enemy is Satan the Devil. For many centuries he has defamed Jehovah's great name. Satan has drawn under his wicked influence many angels and almost all men. Many men are therefore unwittingly made the enemies of God. It is those who have willingly become God's enemies by joining with the devil, who will receive the greatest amount of punishment or recompense. Retributive justice will be visited on them.

The purpose of God's vengeance expressed against his enemies is to vindicate his word and his name so that all creation may know and understand that he is the source of life and that no creature can receive the blessings of life and happiness except at the hand of Jehovah God. His act of vengeance against his enemies, therefore, is prompted by love. A hypocrite is one who claims to be what he is not. The religious leaders among the Jews claimed to represent God, but, in fact, they represented the Devil. Jehovah hates hypocrisy because that is a subtle means of the Devil to turn men away from righteousness. Jesus, speaking to the clergy, of the Jews, said at Matthew 23:28: "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

The prevailing condition amongst the religionists of the Jews finds an exact parallel in "Christendom" at the present time, even as God foretold would be. Today religious leaders claim to represent God, but by their words and their actions deny God and his kingdom. Jehovah foreknew that the religious leaders would become hypocrites in the latter days, and hence he caused to be written, at 1 Timothy 4:1, 2, these words: "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy."

Modern "organized Christianity," scolded, is entirely allied with the world. The church organizations support the political misrule of the world and ignore God's kingdom as the only remedy for suffering humanity. It is expressly stated at James 4:4 that these are the enemies of God. Because of the hypocrisy and unfaithfulness of "organized Christianity" God declares that he will visit "Christendom" and destroy that organization which is symbolized by the city.

Jehovah at various times has used faithful men and women to deliver his messages to others on earth. He used Noah, Moses, Daniel and others for that very purpose. The great climax of the ages has now come, and God's expressed judgment is that he will now mete out his vengeance upon those who have defamed his name. Jehovah never acts against his enemies in secret, but gives full notice of what is coming to pass. Therefore, he sends forth his witnesses in the earth today to serve notice upon the ruling factors of his purpose to execute his judgment of vengeance or vindication upon the wicked and ungodly. No one can be a true follower of Christ Jesus unless he faithfully obeys God's commandments. The commission of the Christian is his au-

thority to act. That commission is set forth in Isaiah 61:1, 2, and contains these words: "The spirit of Jehovah is upon me because he has anointed (or commissioned) me to preach the good news and to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God."

It is God's vengeance that shall shortly be inflicted on the organizations of the world, and it is Jehovah God that sends the message of warning to the people. If Jehovah's witnesses should fail or refuse to deliver the message, they would be unfaithful to God and would suffer destruction.

Jehovah has made it plainly to appear that the great day of his vengeance, which will be expressed in the battle of Armageddon, is rapidly approaching. It is an act of loving kindness on his part to advise the people of what is coming. If some one had knowledge of a great tidal wave that is about to engulf the city the people of that city would be glad to receive warning, that they might escape. Jehovah's witnesses are now commanded to thus inform the people that Jehovah will shortly destroy "Christendom," and that those who will heed this message may seek a place of safety.

How may safety be reached? There is no place of safety for the hypocritical and wicked, because Jehovah plainly says, in Jeremiah twenty-five: "They shall find no way of escape." There is a place of safety, however, for those people of good will who have an honest desire to know and to do right. To these people Jehovah at Zephaniah, chapter two, says "Before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you, seek the Lord, all ye seek of the earth, seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in that day of Jehovah's anger." God's promise is that he will guide the meek in the time of crisis. To be meek a man must be teachable, that is to say, willing to hear, to learn and to obey Jehovah's instructions.

In these last days God has caused his Word to be made plain, not by mans interpretation, but by bringing to pass the facts that explain God's prophecies. This explanation is set forth in books that are brought to your doors by Jehovah's witnesses that you may be enabled to learn and to understand the truth concerning these times.

Be it known that, though Jehovah's witnesses will appear as messengers of approaching violence in the earth, they will in no way be instrumental in taking any part in such violence. They are merely to be witnesses for God in bringing to the people's attention evidences of God's purpose. No real Christian on earth can or will resort to violence, not even in times of war, against the power that rules the people. They are forbidden by the Scriptures to do so. Vengeance belongs to God. See Hebrews 10:30.

All true Christians now seeing the beginning of God's righteous government will delight to announce to the people its approaching blessings—"Good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people"—but in no sense will they take part in any violence which is destined to be much in action during the impending changes. God does not need physical help of any nature from any person or persons, "organized Christianity" to the contrary, notwithstanding. The Christian's whole duty is to "bear witness to the truth."

MYSTERIOUS MALADY THREATENS LIVE OAKS

A new tree disease, deadly and mysterious in its ravages, is running rampant among the live oaks of Texas, threatening extinction of the entire species. Tree experts shake their heads. A toll of more than 10,000 live oaks already has been taken by the disease in the state. The gathering speed with which it is spreading together with suddenness of attack and the mystery of its cause, and source, indicate that it may have a career as destructive to natural beauty as was the sweep of the chestnut blight, which, a few years ago, killed every chestnut tree east of the Mississippi.

The disease first was noticed by City Forester Morrison of Fort Worth four years ago; but then nothing was thought of widespread danger. Ben L. Hogan of Austin found, in the spring of 1934, that in five different localities in and about Austin, live oaks were dying rapidly. He notified Dr. J. J. Taubenhause, chief of the division of plant pathology and physiology at A. and M. college experiment station, and it was found that the disease was the same as the one in Fort Worth. But as yet experts are still in the dark regarding its nature and methods of control.

"It is the oddest disease yet seen in trees," reports Mr. Hogan. "It harms no other tree but the live oaks, which are affected much as human beings are affected by heart failure. The whole tree weakens at

once. No wood is decayed. The cause is not in the sap circulation, because the roots and branches die at the same time. The first sign of the disease is seen in the top leaves of the tree showing poor color. Then, seeming completely wanting in resistance, the tree withers and dries."

Doctor Taubenhause took a culture of bark of a diseased tree and found fungi. Perhaps there is some host plant carrying the parasite. It seems that the disease might be spread by the wind; but, curious to note, the direction of spread seems to be not with the wind.

This year the disease is worse than ever and little more is known about it. More than 1000 large live oaks have died of this disease in Austin and vicinity. Some blame the drought, but trees in well watered places have shown no immunity. In this strange malady, many died before the drought.

The magnificent Hamilton oak, with circumference of 17 feet, diameter five feet either way from the trunk, is now a victim of this new killer. The first of 1934 it was reported safe and sound by Mr. Hogan. Three months later it was dead. One-half of that number have died this year.

The majestic Treaty Oak, long a historical landmark in Austin, likewise is dead. The pride trees of the South will suffer the fate of the Eastern chestnuts unless steps are taken. Research and action now will save the lordly live oaks from becoming pitiful hulking skeletons standing as monuments to unappreciation.—Exchange.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE T.O.D.L.

To All Fair-Minded People—Greetings:

Whereas, the railroad interests of America are engaged in a very unjust and illegal campaign of opposition to truck transportation, getting enacted into laws many unfair and pernicious statutes whereby commerce is being seriously impeded; industry in general is sustaining heavy losses and thousands of our industrious and respectable citizens are compelled to live in a state of enforced idleness while their families are in dire and destitute circumstances, all because of the outrageous racketeering of the railroad interests; and since the great highway system of our state has been constructed and is being maintained by our people for the benefit of all and not for the selfish furtherance of any special interests; and,

Whereas, nearly all thinking people agree that the evolution of public transportation has developed the automotive today, as our most efficient, economical and satisfactory means of commercial interchange of commodities, being collectively a major and very vital industrial factor in our social and business life with no comparable agent to fill the need if the truck operator is suppressed;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that a very extreme emergency exists and it is imperative, that truck owners and operators (both independent and permit carriers) organize into a strong union for self-defense to wage a faithful and vigorous fight for our rights as working men and, by informing the public and our lawmakers, get removed from the statute books of our state the tyrannical 7000-pound load law or better still to secure the enactment of an equitable graduated weight schedule according to the actual reasonable carrying capacity of the equipment.

Further, we propose to establish as many branch offices as are necessary to aid truck operators in many ways, particularly to get justice in the courts, and to mould public opinion statewide, to encourage people to vote for candidates for office who are known to be in sympathy with the masses in preference to the privileged interests.

Every truck owned by our members will carry a very distinct emblem of membership in the T.O.D.L. and we propose within twelve months the absolute outlawing in the courts and legislature all railroad laws aimed against truck transportation.

We will soon be prepared to file injunctions, damage suits and criminal actions against officers who violate the laws by undue search and seizure of the property or persons of our members. Total cost to members will be 11c a day per truck.

The Truck Operators Defense League is not a profit-sharing organization, but the money collected will be used for legitimate expenses to establish the purposes and principles above mentioned and for any other objects to benefit the truck-operating public as may arise from time to time.

Respectfully submitted,
TRUCK OPERATORS DEFENSE LEAGUE.



Old Age Pensions

The Social Bill was considered many days in the House of Representatives. There are now approximately 7,500,000 men and women over 65 in the United States. The number and percentage have been increasing each decade. By 1970, it is estimated that there will be 15,000,000 people over 65. Approximately 1,000,000 people over 65 are now dependent upon the public for support. The great majority of them are on relief. Experience in this country and in other lands has demonstrated that the best way to provide for old people, who are dependent, is through what is commonly called Old Age Pensions. If the bill, endorsed by the President, becomes a law, the Legislature in each State will be required to match the money dollar for dollar, which the Federal Government expends to help the old people. This bill also provides security for children, for maternal and child welfare, vocational rehabilitation and public health services, all for the purpose of carrying out the President's Message of June 8, 1934, in which he said:

"Among our objectives, I place the security of the men, women, and children of the Nation first. This security for the individual and for the family concerns itself primarily with three factors. People want decent homes to live in; they want to locate them where they can engage in productive work; and they want some safeguard against misfortunes which cannot be wholly eliminated in this man-made world of ours."

No one knows the exact form the bill will be in when finally passed, but we do know the direction that the President and the Congress are intending to go.

Tenant Farmers

In the near future, much is expected to be done in the direction of helping every person, who is anxious to acquire a home on a farm for the purpose of earning a living for himself and family, to acquire a place with the aid of the Government, including a very low rate of interest and long terms. The tenant problem is

alarmingly. No Nation can be at its best with such a large percentage of the people who produce the Nation's wealth unable to own their own homes. The present Public Works law carries a large appropriation that will be used to help tenants. The Bankhead-Jones Bills, S. 1800 and H. R. 7018, provide for the creation of a Farm Tenant Homes Corporation. This proposal is a long step in the right direction. It is expected to pass Congress and become a law in the near future. One thing is certain, this Government is determined to help every deserving person become a home owner and to reduce interest charges.

HOW TO SECURE CAPABLE LEGISLATORS AND ALSO REDUCE EXPENSES

(By GEO. B. TERRELL, Alto, Texas)

To The Forum: "Cussing" the Legislature is a favorite pastime with many people, and some seem to enjoy it. It seems that "cussing" is justifiable some time, but the Legislature should be commended when its acts are commendable. I did my cussing while a member and not from the outside.

When all is said that may be said about the short comings of the Legislature, it must be admitted that the members are elected by the people and if those elected do not represent the people, it is the fault of the electorate.

I am not going to discuss legislation in general, and shall mention only a few subjects of legislation. I would like to see the Legislature collect enough delinquent taxes, and other taxes from sources not now contributing their just share of taxes, to get the state out of debt, and operate the government on a cash basis, without increasing taxes on the farms and homes, that are now overburdened with taxes.

The Legislature should submit prohibition repeal as it is instructed to do by the Democratic platform. I do not favor writing details of legislation in the Constitution, but the people and the platform oppose the return of the open saloon, and there can be no harm in writing into the amendment a sentence forbidding the return of the open saloon, as demanded by the platform and the prohibitionists.

This ought to be done to show good faith. Stubbornness on the

part of either House may defeat repeal, as it defeated the solution to investigate the source of income received by legislators, when it was proposed by the Senate to investigate the source of campaign funds of the candidates for Governor and other State officers. This is a strong reason for having only one House.

I would like to see the Legislature submit an amendment to the voters, providing for a Legislature composed of one House with one hundred members. The Senate and House now have one hundred and eighty-one members and the one house body would reduce the cost of the lawmaking body nearly one-half, and the results of lawmaking would probably be improved by abolishing the Senate, which is said to be the citadel of corporate interests. It is generally charged that a majority of the Senators are on the payroll of special interests. If this is true, they are not desirable lawmakers for the people, and one House would be better than two.

The best way to secure honest and capable legislators is for the citizens who are interested in good government to draft the law makers by petition.

Any good citizen will serve the people when he is petitioned by enough good citizens to insure his election, but he will not voluntarily run against every "Tom Dick and Harry" who may announce for the office. We will never get the best men to represent us as long as we elect school boys and attorneys with retainer fees from special interests in their pockets.

We have had in the past some of the most capable men in the State to serve in the Legislature, and we should strive to secure that type of men in the future.

I mention a few of them, omitting the capable men in the present Legislature, as present company is always excepted: Thomas J. Brown, Thos. S. Smith, M. Crane, Pat M. Neff, Tom Connally, Norman G. Kittrell, Dudley G. Wooten, Geo. T. Jester, O. S. Lattimore, R. E. Prince, J. S. Sherrill, Geo. C. Pendleton, Seth P. Mills, Jas. N. Browning, Jas. H. Robertson, A. T. McKinney, John H. Kirby, A. W. Terrell, Jas. I. Perkins, Trav. Dashiell, T. W. Davidson, Cone Johnson, Jno. T. Browne, Lynch Davidson, J. B. Dibrell, C. M. Cureton, Wm. Pierson, Cecil Smith, John N. Garner, J. P. Buchanan, Sam Rayburn, R. E. Thomason. The list could be lengthened with other

prominent names, but these are sufficient to show the type of men who used to serve in the Legislature, and it was my privilege to serve with most of them.

The personnel of the Legislature has not been improved by doubling the salary and doubling the length of the regular session. An honest capable legislator is worth any salary he may receive, but young men just out of college with no general knowledge of the State Government and its institutions, and attorneys with retainer fees from special interests in their pockets, lack a dollar and a half of being worth a dam.

GEO. B. TERRELL.

WISDOM RARE HERE, THERE

By MAX LOWENTHAL In Townsend Weekly

"Next to writing things worth while, the best service that can be rendered to readers is quoting worthwhile things that others have written, which is the thing attempted here."—Arthur Brisbane.

"The security of the men, women and children of the nation remains our first and continuing task, and in a very real sense every major legislative enactment of this Congress should be a component part of it."—The President.

"The Federal government must quit and shall quit this business of giving relief, this giving of cash, of market baskets. Continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual and moral disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fibre."—The President.

"Overproduction: Making ten leaves for ten hungry men; throwing away nine leaves because only one of the men has a dime."

"The measure of a man is the amount of gratitude he demands for a small favor."

"We may not achieve our ideals, but like the star—they serve to guide us on our way."

"The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well."—Hugh Walpole.

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