

THE BARRINGTON REVIEW

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TELEPHONE, BARRINGTON NO. 1

TOO MUCH WHEAT AND COTTON

The United States has on hand a surplus of 100 million bushels of wheat, and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has been negotiating with Canada, as well as collaborating with Secretary Hull concerning, "what's to be done about it." The Canadian trade treaty stands in the way of our agricultural plan to subsidize a wheat export program to get rid of the country's towering surplus of wheat. Canada is already carrying out a dumping program in which it guarantees its farmers 80 cents a bushel on the 1938 crop. Secretary Wallace is seeking cooperation with Canada in this matter, in order, he says, to preserve the interests of both countries.

The department of agriculture has a terrific problem on hand, and it is moving heaven and earth to sustain the program for an ever-normal granary.

Cotton is also involved in our national difficulties since the market price has dropped below 8.25 cents a pound set in the farm act, which makes cotton loans by the government mandatory. Presumably wheat and cotton loans will be about 50 per cent of parity.

The government already has about 7 million bales of cotton on its hands.

CHANGE OF UNDERWEAR REASONABLE

Bruce Barton, well known author and advertising man, who was recently elected to congress, said a short time ago: "Prosperous railroads are such good customers of American business, and creators of jobs, that we cannot afford to let the carriers remain in the poorhouse where they are now. I am not yet familiar with the specific governmental policies that are harming them most, but I know they are being harmed by government, because government has been monkeying with them longer and more deeply than it has with any other business."

"Certainly when an industry which provides the best rail freight service in the world at the lowest average rates in the world, finds nearly 100 per cent of its constituent companies and 28.1 per cent of its total mileage in the hands of receivers or trustees, it is time to 'Stop, Look, and Listen.'"

"Sound governmental regulation of railroads must, of course, continue. . . . It must make the rules, but at least the players are entitled to their board and an occasional change of socks and underwear."

The remarkable part of the railroad situation isn't that the lines are facing the severest crisis in their history, but that they have managed to survive at all during the past eighteen years—most less progress and develop as they have done. Government has "monkeyed" with them in every phase of operation, has taken over the role of management, and has placed almost every conceivable barrier in the way of fair earnings. The fruits of years of such a policy are apparent today, with railroad revenues decreasing, costs rising, and the players, to use Mr. Barton's illustration, in need of a square meal.

Business will rejoice if the railroads are given the rate increase they have requested of the ICC, because there can't be any sound and widespread prosperity in this country so long as our largest single industry is kept in an economic breadline.

WHY HUNT ALIBIS?

A stranger in our country, reading current political attacks on American industry, could not be blamed for coming to the conclusion that the executive management of our industries has been not only a dismal failure, but a menace to the nation.

Management of private enterprise in the United States, from hot dog stands to railroads and utilities, has been largely taken over by politicians, who without a blush profess to know more about such industries than do the men who have put their money and their lives into the building up of productive properties.

A great argument has been going on nationally about why the investment market is drying up. Is the question so complex as many claim? Do your own analyzing.

For example, you elected John Jones to congress. The chances are ten to one that you know John Jones isn't a particularly good business man in his home community, even though he was a good enough politician to get your vote. Would you employ Congressman Jones to invest your personal savings? Would you hire him, because of his outstanding business record, to manage your business? Chances are ten to one you would not. And yet, thousands of John Joneses in high political offices, are today, in effect, usurping practically every phase of operation and management of American industry, even though they have had no experience with the industries they presume to manage, and do not assume any financial or tax responsibility.

Is it possible that such "political management" of industry has anything to do with the reticence of Mr. Joe Citizen to invest his money?

Possibly the American investor has become fearful of political tinkering with business. Possibly this simple reasoning has something to do with "the general feeling" of fear which blocks investments for expansion of industry under a trend which takes management away from those who put up the money and hold the sack.

WHAT'S GOING ON



(Courtesy The United States News)

A re-examination of the direct primary system of nominating candidates for office is under way. President Roosevelt brought it about by arranging republicans who vote in democratic primaries. While it is perfectly legal for a member of one party to participate to the primary of another where possible, the president contended on August 23 that such action was "politically immoral."

He based the contention on the ground that the will of the majority of party voters in a state could be frustrated by that means. The historic objective of the direct primary is to assure that the candidate nominated is the real choice of the party members. The system was inaugurated 70 years ago in Crawford County, Pa., to get away from nominating conventions dominated by political bosses.

Reformers took up the plan. Its spread at first was slow. But after Wisconsin and Oregon established state-wide primaries by law in 1904, a majority of states quickly followed suit.

The convention system of nomination is now used exclusively in only three states—Connecticut, New Mexico and Rhode Island. A few of the remaining states give party committees an option of using the primary or the convention method, but generally speaking the primary method is used even in those states.

Discussing the present situation, the president recalled that the issue of conventions-vs.-primaries was foremost when he was elected to the New York legislature more than 25 years ago. The measure which was enacted sought to restrict participation in the primaries of a party to the bona fide members of that party. If this was not done, Mr. Roosevelt said, a candidate not representative of the party might be nominated.

Under the "closed primary" a voter is subjected to some sort of test as to his party allegiance before being allowed to cast a ballot. This system prevails in 40 states, including Georgia and Maryland, where there have been reports that republicans would support the renomination of anti-new deal senators.

The tests vary. Frequently a mere statement of party affiliation at the time of registration suffices. In a number of states a voter must swear to party loyalty. In others, mostly in the south, party membership is left to the determination of party committees.

The case is different in the five states having "open primaries"—Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Washington and Wisconsin. A voter can vote as he pleases and in secrecy. Advocates of this system acclaim it as an improvement over the "closed primary."

The comparative size of votes cast in Minnesota in June resulted in assertions that democrats and republicans had entered the Farmer-Labor primary. Mr. Roosevelt said the recent totals in Idaho showed republicans had voted in the democratic primary. It was not a question of which party gained or lost, he added, but one of principle.

Some democrats expressed the opinion that he was laying ground-work for an attempt to bring about federal regulation of primaries for nomination to national office. The support being given advocates of liberal old age pensions in the primary campaign, particularly in the south and west, is causing concern within the administration. The inclination among the responsible officials until recently was not to press the question. Apparently sensing what was coming, President Roosevelt asked the social security board several months ago to prepare recommendations for amending the present provision for federal pensions. The reported intention was to let the matter rest there. But now a different course is being taken. An offensive against advocates of "short-cuts to Utopia or fantastic financial schemes" is the order of the day.

Why the change? Beginning in Alabama and Florida, advocates of federal or state property to the aged found profit in terms of votes. Pension talk along with strains of a hill-billy band helped W. Lee O'Daniel win the gubernatorial nomination in Texas. The democratic candidate supported by the Townsend pension organization won the senatorial nomination in Idaho. After conferences with advisers, President Roosevelt decided to strike out. At the start he spoke in generalities against "short-cuts." On August 26, however, he got down to cases.

Little had been said about how the proposed pensions would be financed. A plan popular in California was an exception, however, and provided an opportunity. It sounded fine to talk about "liberty dolls every Thursday" for people over 65 years of age. Mr. Roosevelt said, but the idea was "fantastic" when it came to paying the cost. The taxes would fall more heavily on the poor than on the rich, in his opinion. Furthermore, there was doubt of the quality of the plan because states lack the constitutional power to coin money.

Payments under this plan would not be in dollars but in scrip, negotiable only in the state. Financing would be by a requirement that a two-cent state stamp—purchaseable only with "real money"—be attached to the scrip certificate for each dollar of its value every week for a year.

The theory is that \$1.04 in taxes thus would be paid each year for each dollar of scrip issued, in effect redeeming the scrip and providing for administration expenses of the plan.

The social security board called the plan unworkable before the president spoke up. The board said it would necessitate the issuance of scrip with a face value of \$1,560,000,000 each year, nearly four times the state and local tax collections in 1936, and threaten the financial integrity of California.

A collapse of California finances, the board added, "would jeopardize the continuance of old-age assistance payments now being made to 117,000 aged Californians, toward which the federal govern-

ment contributes about \$20,000,000 per annum."

The plan is reported to have upwards of 100,000 supporters in California. Voters will decide whether to accept or to reject it in November. Referenda on pension proposals also will be held in several other states.

Meanwhile, white house advisers are framing recommendations aimed, at least, to satisfy pension sentiment in the next congress. How far these recommendations will go is a subject of conjecture.

Arabs First to Respect the Value of Gibraltar

Even in the days when military science was in its infancy the rock of Gibraltar, rising sheer 1,400 feet, appealed to the imagination of the ancients, who called it, together with its companion, Cebrat, on the African coast, the Pillars of Hercules. In all other respects they left the solitary giant alone to his meditations until a writer in the Los Angeles Times.

The Arabs were the first to recognize the rock's strategic value. As Moors they crossed the strait in 711, christening it Gebel-el-Tarik, or the mountain of Tarik, their leader's name. They constructed a castle and eventually conquered the whole peninsula.

Nine hundred years later the last Moor was expelled from Spain and he left it where the original one had landed, in the bay of Gibraltar. On the decline of the Spanish empire the rock passed into British hands.

Napoleon tried to take it when he was building his empire but failed. Thus was created the phrase, "as strong as the rock of Gibraltar."

Spice of Health During the Middle ages it was as drugs rather than flavoring medium, that spices were used, and as such were commercially of great value. They were also prized because of their aroma which counteracted the evil smells prevalent, for disease was commonly supposed to be the outcome of bad odors. Spices are a safeguard against disease, for now we know that they have a definite antiseptic value, says London Tit-Bits Magazine. Oil of cloves, for instance, acts as an antiseptic even in a weak solution as 2 parts in 1,000, cinnamon bark oil in a solution of 4 parts in 1,000, though carthage acid cases to have any antiseptic value when 5.8 parts are mixed in 1,000 of water.

Miss Beulah Beckley, of the school faculty is living at the home of Mrs. Herbert H. Homuth, 333 W. Main street. Mrs. Clarence Stewart of Chemung was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Droeber, 129 Coolidge avenue, several days last week. Mr. and Mrs. Linne Guenther of Washington, D. C., spent several days this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Philip A. Connelly, 517 S. Cook street. Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Murphy, 515 Division street, left Sunday for several days at Peoria.

Most Common Cage Bird The canary is the most common of the cage birds. It is found wild on the Canary islands, from which it takes its name, and on a number of other islands in that part of the world.

Personals

Mrs. L. E. Newton and daughter of Maywood were week-end guests of Miss Jennie Lines, 130 W. Lake street.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Eichmann of Elgin called Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hawley, 210 W. Station street.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Olmsted and family, 321 Coolidge avenue, attended the Hunt family reunion at Park Ridge Sunday.

Mrs. Ward Olmsted, 321 Coolidge avenue, accompanied Bayard Olmsted and Vernal Jeppen to Iowa State college at Ames and George Landwer to Drake college, Des Moines, leaving Barrington Wednesday.

John Frye, 332 E. Washington street, will leave Sunday for a week of fishing at Park Rapids, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Schauble and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Carr spent several days last week at Minocqua, Wis.

Gerhard Kretzmann of Kendallville, Ind., was a guest several days this week at the home of Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Kretzmann, 428 W. Main street. Mr. Kretzmann, who is a brother of Rev. Kretzmann, was enroute to Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

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Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schmidt, 119 Walter avenue, visited relatives in Quincy and Hannibal, Mo., over the Labor Day week-end.

Mrs. Carrie Kreeger, supervis-

ing deputy, and Neighbor Valinaa, Schaefer and Deutscher from Leavenworth camp, and Neighbor Black of Ravenswood camp, visited the Royal Neighbor meeting here Tuesday night.

Mrs. George McLaughlin and son Robert, 518 Summit street, spent Saturday at Racine, Wis. with relatives.

The Kappa Delta class of the Salem church met Tuesday at the home of Miss Mae Brandt, 417 N. Hough street. The assisting hostess was Mrs. James Brandt.

Mrs. John Schwemm, 111 E. Liberty street, entertained at a dessert and contract bridge party Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Uecker and children of LaGrange were Saturday evening dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Blechete, 444 Grove avenue.

Otter Once Held Sacred Because He Killed Frogs

The otter has a scheme of his own to fill his hours with happiness. He doesn't care to walk on the ice. Instead, he throws himself on it and slides. He loves to slide down steep hills into the water. The banks are often thirty or forty feet long, and very slippery. And none of the neighbors throws ashes on them.

The otter has a big place in history, asserts Lee Eubanks in our Dumb Animals. Ancient Persians held him sacred because he killed frogs, which overran Persia. The man who killed an otter had to go out and kill 10,000 frogs. If he refused, his punishment was severe. Indeed, the otter goes back to pre-biblical days. In old Sanskrit he was called an udra. Mid-European countries called him uder, odder, and finally otter.

The rare sea otter is born in the ocean; born at sea in a bed of kelp. An otter can swim a quarter of a mile under the ice. He blows out air in a bubble directed against the ice. When the air strikes the ice its freshness is restored, and Mr. Otter draws it into his lungs again. Though the otter is a good swimmer, he acquires the art. His parents must coax and coach him.

Sugar Strengthens Mortar

Sugar or cane molasses increases the tensile strength of bricks about 80 per cent when mixed with a lime-sand mortar.

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

Heavy Cardboard SIGNS!

WARNING

No Hunting Nor Trespassing on These Premises Under Penalty

Exact Size of Sign—11x14 inches

BETTER SIGNS AT LOW PRICES

Barrington Review

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