

THEY WHO DANCE MUST PAY FIDDLER

People Cannot Take More Out of
a Community Than They
Put In.

COLLAPSE IS INEVITABLE

own Will Not Survive Long If Its
Commercial Structure Is Torn
Down Faster Than It Can
Be Built Up.

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He who dances must pay the fiddler.
That is an old saying which is full of
truth. The primary idea in this say-
ing, of course, is that one cannot have
pleasure without paying for it in
some way, but this is not the only
use in which it may be construed.
It means that we cannot pursue any
policy indefinitely without pay-
ing for it in the end.

No man can overtax his physical
strength indefinitely without risk-
ing ultimate disaster. Dissipation
and overwork may be continued for a
time without any noticeable results,
but if continued for a sufficiently long
time the inevitable comes to pass. The
laws of nature cannot be violated with
impunity. If one takes out of life more
than he puts in, if he tears down his
physical strength faster than he builds
up, he must eventually pay the fid-
dler.

What is true of the laws of nature
is equally true of economic laws. The
collapse of a community may for a time
be delayed, but down the commercial structure of
a town faster than they build it up
about meeting disaster, but it cannot
be continued indefinitely. In the end
it must pay the fiddler.

Exhaust Resources of Community.

The person who makes his living in
the community, receiving the money of
the community for his labor or the
products of his labor, and then spends
his income outside of his community
helping to exhaust the resources of
the community just as the man who
exhausts his energy through dissipa-
tion or overexertion faster than he
builds it up is exhausting his physical
resources. One man may do this, of
course, without noticeably affecting the
economic strength of the community,
but when a dozen men or women do
it the effect becomes noticeable and
when a hundred do it the resources of
the community become exhausted to
the point where collapse is inevitable.
Those who are responsible for this sit-
uation may think that they have profited
individually by their actions, but
they have not realized that in the end
they must pay the fiddler.

There are some persons who seem to
be able to get through life without
effort. There are some who pro-
pound the theory that the world owes
a living and they proceed to col-
lect it. They take what they can get
and give nothing in return. Such per-
sons, however, are not very numerous,
and of us must pay for everything
we get. Some may have to pay
more than their share and these are
bearing the burden of those who get
more than they pay for. The fact re-
mains that, as a general rule, one can-
not have much worth while without
paying for it.

The merchants of any community
are the backbone of that community,
and as its prosperity and progress
depend on them. Individually there may
be some of them who do not exert
themselves to boost their community,
but collectively they are the men upon
whom the living of every person in
the community depends. The success
of an individual merchant
is of particular concern to
the people of a community, but the
success or failure of the merchants as
a whole is a matter of the very great-
est importance.

Wide Market for Farmers.
The merchants of a town, in the first
place, provide a market for a large
part of the products of the farmers
of the territory surrounding the town.
They buy the produce of the farmers
in large quantities, in accordance with
the needs of the town, and some of them buy in
small quantities for shipment to for-
eign markets. If the merchants could
not do this there would be no market
for the small quantities except
at very low prices. If the farmers could
not sell their products at a reasonable profit from
the merchants, there would be no mon-
ey to spend and there could
be no money to pay for your products
for your labor. It is there-
fore of the greatest importance to
every member of the community, whether
merchant or farmer, that the
country surrounding the town,
and the merchants be enabled to pro-
vide a market for at least a part of
the farmer's products.

A dollar sent away from a town
to order goods helps to diminish
the income of the local merchants who
sell the goods to the farmer's prod-
ucts. It does any of the many other
things which the merchants of every
town do for their community.

It is in a community cannot be
based on a one-sided basis. A man
cannot get out of his community a
living for himself and family and
then get in return. He may do
some work and get away with
the end he must pay the

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to be parsimonious than



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- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
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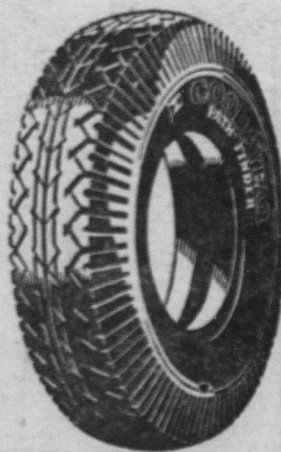
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