

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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EDITORIAL

BALANCING THE BUDGET

The discussion about a balanced budget continues and there are signs that the people are beginning to appreciate the necessity of governmental action to keep the nation's books in more appropriate balance.

The administration's attitude is that increased national income should be the goal, with assurances that once this touches the \$80,000,000,000 mark, present taxes will take care of all expenses and begin debt retirement.

The argument of those who are more immediately resolved for something like retrenchment is that reductions can be made now in the spending policies of the government, without much harm to the nation's well-being, and with much profit to its financial strength.

We are not disposed to debate the two positions. We point out, however, that a budget can be balanced by a per centage reduction of expenditures that will reduce all public spending. It may be achieved by lopping off entirely some forms of spending and continuing other undertakings. It would be possible to balance the books by increased taxation while continuing the present expenditures.

We are willing to admit, as sensible men must that eventually the budget of the nation must be balanced. When this becomes imperative or at what point we cross the danger line in public financing is unknown to us.

We call attention to the probability that in any entrenchment program the money being expended to farmers, in benefits and various payments, will be reduced. That is something which we do not think is wise or just, because agriculture is the sick industry of the nation and so long as the tariff protects other industries the farmers are entitled to an offset, which thus far, has been only partially achieved.

UNITED FREE-BOOTERS WINNING

The action of Germany last week in dismembering the remnants of Czechoslovakia, illustrates the situation in Europe, where Germany might stand ready, at the nod of the dictator, to step across national boundaries and make a shambles of independence.

Peace in Europe, under such circumstances, depends upon the whim of Hitler or Mussolini. Their acts are not reflected in the attitude of their peoples because the policies that they advance are not necessarily dependent upon approval of their peoples.

The necessity for strong armaments on the part of Great Britain and France is apparent. No wonder the British people, in the face of such a threat, cheerfully assume staggering burdens in order to be able to fight, if they must, to maintain their freedom.

Even as this is written no one knows where the next crisis may occur and what it may develop into. Germany, Italy and Japan are on the march and the only limit to their greed is imposed by the strength that may oppose it. The three nations work together and by coordination put pressure upon other nations that can be offset only by joint action.

So long as the democratic nations of the world permit this alliance of free-booters to work their will upon separated nations they will continue to take what they need. In self-defense, if for no other reason, freedom-loving peoples will have to join in meeting the common enemy of their ancient heritage.

HITLER MOVES ON

A few weeks ago the story passed around that Hitler had been rebuffed in the East, and he was turning his thoughts to the West and that Poland, Rumania and the other smaller countries had gotten together to bar the road to Bagdad.

It was even said that Germany was considering returning the Sudetenland to Czechoslovakia!

Last week in a sudden crisis, Hitler put through the dismemberment of what was left of the Czechoslovakian republic, divided the nation into three segments. It may be safely assumed that, at convenient times, Germany will take charge of the smaller states thus created.

The world remembers something like an obligation upon the part of the Munich powers to guarantee the territorial integrity of the Czechoslovakian nation, as then established. Apparently, the "guarantee" was not provided; Great Britain, France and Italy looked the other way when Hitler advanced again toward his goal of mastery through all Central Europe.

"MORE THAN ONE WAY"

(From Lancaster New Era)

The Pennsylvania Farmer divulges the ingenious stratagem of an unnamed Pennsylvania farmer who apparently cares less about the paternalism of Washington than he does about making an honest living. Reports that magazine:

"A dairyman with twenty-six cows could not sell his milk at the established price and was forbidden to sell it for less, so he decided to resort to an artifice.

"He formally leased his cows to the consumers and acts as their agent in maintaining them and milking them. For his feed and labor the consumers, who deliver their own milk, pay him six cents a quart at his farm."

All of which is more than enough to weigh down both official Washington and the Pennsylvania Milk Control Board with the sadness of how lacking is human appreciation.

LOWER FOOD COST

Department of Welfare officials are seeking ways and means to reduce the cost of the State's huge market basket needed to feed the inmates of the various institutions.

With an annual consumption of more than 30,000,000 pounds of the principal commodities, the Welfare Department's food budget totals approximately \$3,000,000.

Nearly half the consumption is purchased from large and small vendors in every section of the Commonwealth to supply the needs of the 30,000 persons comprising the population of the 29 hospitals and penal and correctional institutions. The remainder is raised or produced on institutional farms.

Housewives can hardly visualize using 4,284,224 pounds of meats; 42,853 pounds of butter; 6,623,800 quarts of milk; 7,404,504 eggs; 1,918,977 pounds of sugar; 475,379 pounds of coffee and 94,745 pounds of tea and cocoa a year. This, Secretary of Welfare E. Arthur Sweeney said, represents one of the largest consolidated market baskets in the nation.

Nearly every food used in the Welfare institutions is produced or raised in Pennsylvania. Every effort is made to use Pennsylvania products.

Specifications for meat are rigid. All the purchased beef is prepared only in plants meeting the requirements of the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, and the same bureau of the State Department of Agriculture. All shipments must be stamped and graded in accordance with their standards.

Nearly all the milk used is produced by the institution herds, among the highest grade cattle in the United States.

Although nearly all the institutions have farms, one-third of the 17,270,983 pounds of vegetables are purchased in the open market.

SPRING IS COME!

Slowly, but surely, the calendar has shed its leaves and today is Spring! It comes with its promises and its colors and its faiths in the future. May it help to lift us up and cheer us in these times of economic stress, showing as it does a faith that bows down to no adversity or discouragement. Always there is a springtime to come and cheer us.

Robins and redwing blackbirds and a few bluebirds—there's a bird for you!—are back. They twitter in the hedges and sing around the doorways. No discouragement can still their song nor flatten their faith. They sing and fly in the exuberance of the primal season and build their nests against the arrival of a new brood.

And there are other signs. Straw hats are appearing in windows and milady's spring styles attract the eye. Lawn rollers are out and the boys are playin' marbles. The crack of the baseball against the bat will soon be heard on the sandlots and on the regular diamonds. Even the whistling of the March wind cannot but raise our hopes. Another day like yesterday and the trout fisherman is going to be in the seventh heaven of delight as he counts off the days until April 15.

Budding greenery and firmer turf will soon be here. Spring ushers in the summer, the season of growing things and longer hours outdoors and vacations.

The weather man may jeer us for a day or so and send us something that seems far away from spring, but he can't keep it up. He is losing his battle now and, boy, are we glad!

LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

One of the disadvantages of that small business men have faced has been the lack of "intermediate" credit or loans that run from five to ten years.

It is true that many businesses in smaller cities have loans that have not been fully paid within the time limit but they are usually on a year to year basis, with much uncertainty as when the demand will be made for the payment of the debt.

Large business concerns have been able to manage the flotation of bonds that assure them of adequate credit facilities but the cost of such issues prevent its use by smaller concerns. As we understand it, any issue of less than \$1,000,000 is hardly profitable.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to establish a system of regional intermediate credit banks to take care of the needs of independent small business men. A setup, patterned after the Home Loan Bank System, is proposed and regional banks would be established.

PENSIONS FOR CONGRESSMEN?

A Congressman gets \$10,000 a year, 20 cents a mile for traveling expenses, free postage, a half dozen clerks, other services that amount to actual remuneration and nobody halts him when he wants to make an address or write a magazine or newspaper article for profit.

So the proposal to retire congressmen on a pension—the money to be paid by the taxpayers—seems a bit out of place.

Many an American getting \$10,000 a year or even considerably less has prepared for his future by annuities and endowment insurance paid for out of his own pocket. And no matter how glorious may be the service of a congressman he still shouldn't look to the public to provide for him in his old age if he hasn't been thrifty enough to do it himself.

A GOOD IDEA

The suggestion that the United States manufacture war supplies, including warships, for Latin-American countries will naturally cause considerable discussion.

It might be noted, in passing, however, that this is much better than allowing these countries to come under the influence of other nations that are willing and ready to supply them. It is much better than adopting the German idea of taking over such countries as happen not to be strong enough to resist aggression.

While there may be disadvantages connected with the proposal we do not see where what we do is the concern of any other nation. It is possible that the business, thus secured, might make the United States better able to take care of its own needs.

A BOW TO THE CHEMIST

It is time that the people of this country gave the chemists a bow.

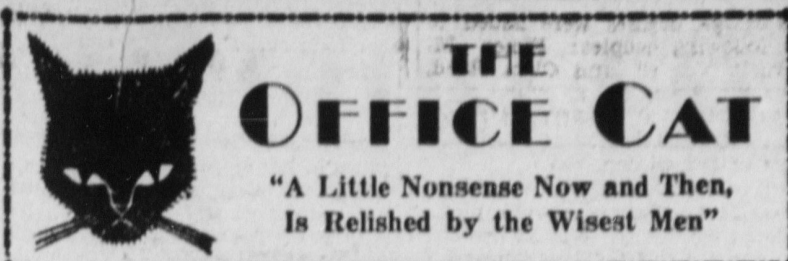
In the last twenty years they have created many industrial compounds and American chemical products represent one-half of the world's output.

Nitrates, necessary in war and peace, are extracted from the air, dyes and drugs are made from the most unusual sources and there will soon be on the market a chemical competitor to silk that may have world-wide effect.

"COME AND GET IT"

The return of Puerto Rico to Spain is said to be one of the objectives of the Franco Nationalist government, according to a newspaper dispatch from San Juan, which reports that islanders, returning from Spain, have revealed the plan.

Well, if this is true, all that the United States can say to Gen. Franco is, "Come and get it!"



"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, Is Relished by the Wisest Men"

LAMENT OF OLD SITTING BULL

(Contributed)

Wife he die, I so sad. My ol' hoss done gone bad. Buy ol' Ford, no good too—Ride and push—no can do. White man Banker no can trust. Take in money, bank go bust. Republican, stock market hog Run it country to the dogs. Democrat, he big money man, Big money man like Republican. No more money man, So what, by dam—I vote for Townsend Plan.

Another Civil War

It seems that a gentleman from New York traveling through the cotton-raising district of the South, stopped at a small filling station to buy some gas.

While his car was being serviced he alighted to talk to the farmers who were loitering around the station. Wanting some amusement he said to them, "Gentlemen, I can tell you what is wrong with the South. You farmers don't use your heads.

"Now, take cotton picking for instance. You pay about a dollar a day for someone to pick your cotton. Now if you would use your heads you could save that expense.

"You could send down to South America and for a very low cost you could procure about two hundred monkeys; you could train them in two weeks time to pick every boll of cotton in the county; within a few months you would have enough monkeys to pick all the cotton in the State. Your upkeep would be very small, and you could save a lot of money that way.

"Now, you see, you just don't use your heads. That is the reason the South is so far behind the rest of the country."

One of the old rebels looked up and drawled, "Well, sah, we had thought of that, but you know, if we did that you damn Yankees would be down here and set them monkeys free inside of a year."

Too Precious

A minister was called out late one night to visit a man who was very ill. After he had done what he could for the man, who was at death's door, he asked the relatives why he had been summoned.

"I don't think I know you," said the minister, "haven't you a minister of your own?"

"Yes," was the reply, "but we couldn't risk him with typhoid fever."

One Had All The Luck

Two darkeys who had not seen each other in five years discovered each had been married during this time.

"What kinda woman did you-all get, Mose?" asked Rastus.

"She's an angel, Rastus, dat's what she is."

"Boy, you sho' is lucky. Mine's still livin'," Rastus muttered sorrowfully.

Please Don't Lisp

Buddy—"Say, is that a dray horse you have there?"

Ruddy—"No, it's a brown horse, and stop your baby talk."

The Dog Will Do It

Lisping Lou—"Could you do something about my baby. He's teething."

Doctor—"All babies do that."

Lisping Lou—"Yeth, but he's teething that bull dog nex't door."

The Way We Talk

A reader who is trying to kid us writes: "Are you Dutch? Maybe you've heard some of these expressions that come from down my way. Here they are:

I have a notion to get sick.

Do you mind when he was away from home?

Watch out the dog.

What yet do you want?

It wonders me where he went.

What does it give for dinner?

He has it so in his back.

I have a sassy tooth.

You're always in such a splutter.

I guess I'll go to town once.

You follow the road straight ahead until you come up against.

She doesn't like him much; he's such a one for smutzing.

Traveling Salesman Joke

A traveling salesman came to Centre county and canvassed town after town seeking orders in vain. He didn't even make expenses on the trip. At last he returned to Bellefonte with his sample cases and meager sheaf of orders, in a very irritable frame of mind.

Disgusted he sat down in his hotel room and started to write a letter to his firm. His wife, who had accompanied him on the trip, entered the room.

"Get out," he shouted at her.

"I'm mad, I'm busy," was the reply. "I'm writing a letter to Hitler."

"You writing to Hitler? What for?"

"He wants more territory, doesn't he? Well, I'm offering him Centre Hall, Millheim, and the whole Penns Valley section."

Bet He Could

A man of six feet, eight inches applied for a job as a life guard.

"Can you swim?" asked the official.

"No, but I can wade to beat hell," was the reply.

That's all, folks. All men may not be homeless, but some are home less than others. —SCAT.

Louisa's Letter

In today's mail there is a letter from a woman who is in the midst of a very unhappy situation. As a widow with two children, she married a widower with four and after that had another child. Her husband promised her that he would see that her children got to school, but when the time came he failed to keep his promise. What clothes she has and the expenses for the birth of her baby were paid for by her first husband's insurance money. She is not given any spending money and hasn't even a home to look forward to, as the place is already deeded to the husband's son. She lives under a terrible strain, unhappy and fearful of the future. She wants to know if it would be better for her to get out and try to make her living now or wait until she is forced to do so.

ANSWER: Under the circumstances I cannot see where you are under any obligations to your second husband at all. He has treated you and your children miserably and I can see no future for any of you if you stay with him unless a great change is made.

If you know that you will eventually have to make your living there is no point in waiting until you are too old to get a job, but get out while you are still young enough to work.

As for giving them what you have you will certainly be foolish to leave one cent behind you when you go. That insurance money should have been used to take care of and educated your first husband's children, and if you have any of it left, hold on to it with a death grip.

Your second husband had no right to marry you if he could not support you and your children and you will be much better off back in your own home or with your parents.

Another letter today is from a sixteen year old girl who wants to know whether to get married or to finish school first.

Finish school, by all means. A girl of sixteen does not know whether she has found the right man or not and even if she has she is still too young to take on the responsibilities of marriage. She should be learning all the things she will find useful later on. The more she knows the more capable wife she will be able to become and if she has learned how to make a living she will not be terrified if something happens to her husband and she is thrown on her own resources.

LOUISA.

Bring Your Own Food

The "Flecker's" restaurant, a famous Prague tavern, is probably the only restaurant in the world that does not serve food, according to the World Travel Bureau at Rockefeller Center. Patrons of this restaurant come only for its black beer which has a tradition of excellence dating back to 1489 when the tavern was founded. Patrons bring their own sandwiches, carefully wrapped in a newspaper, which they read as they sip their beer and eat their sandwiches.

Query and Answer Column

P. W.—Why do we say that the sun "sets," when the proper word to use is "sits"? Can you explain?

Ans.—"Set," in the sense of going down seems to be applied to heavenly bodies only, and is recognized as correct by all reputable authorities. Originally "set" was used in this connection because of popular confusion with the word "sit." Grammatically "set" is wrong, but it is good usage, not reason, which gives a word its ultimate position in the language.

W. S.—Does the sun move through space in an orbit the same as the earth does? If it does, why doesn't it eventually get away from the earth altogether?

Ans.—The sun is moving through space at the rate of about 13 miles a second, but whether it has a definite orbit is not known. The sun can't get away from the earth because the earth and the rest of the solar system is traveling with the sun in its flight through infinite space.

G. A.—What is the shortest poem known in the English language?

Ans.—It is not known for sure. But one of the shortest, if not the shortest, is a poem entitled "The Origin of Microbes." The poem contains three words, and is as follows: "Adam had 'em."

C. R.—I would like to know what Soviet and Bolshevist mean as applied to Russia?

Ans.—"Soviet" is a word meaning "a council of workmen, soldiers and peasants' deputies." "Bolshevist" is another Russian word meaning "majority."

O. T.—Can any State in the United States withdraw from the Union if it so desires?

Ans.—For a State to withdraw from the Union would not be constitutional, for there is nothing in that document to prohibit a State from withdrawing. However, the Civil War established the fact that no State can secede from the Union except by successful armed rebellion.

V. G.—I am told that the President of the United States cannot be arrested if he commits a crime. Is that true?

Ans.—It is true—even if he commits a murder. He would first have to be impeached as President. Then as a private citizen he could be arrested and tried for murder or any other felony.

A. S. T.—How old is the superstition about a four-leaf clover bringing good luck?

Ans.—As early as 1620 Sir John Melton wrote: "If a man walking to the fields, find any four-leaved grass, he shall in a small while after find some good thing."

T. R. M.—What are the opening and closing dates of the two world's fairs this year?

Ans.—The New York World's Fair will open on April 30 and close on December 8, 1939. The Golden Gate International Exposition at San Francisco opened on February 18 and will close on December 2, 1939.

E. G. L.—What did Mark Twain say about New England weather?

Ans.—The following lines are from a speech he made on that subject at a dinner given by the New England Society: "There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration—and regret. The weather is always doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on people to see how they will go. But it gets through more business in Spring than in any other season. In the Spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of twenty-four hours."

D. E. T.—Are Negro babies white when they are born?

Ans.—Negro babies at birth are bluish white instead of pinkish white as is the case with white babies. The pigment in the skin is the same as that of freckles and does not develop until the baby is exposed to light.

D. S. R.—What is the oldest frame house still standing in the United States?

Ans.—It is the Fairbanks House at Dedham, Massachusetts, which was built in 1636.

W. M. S.—If anyone loses all his money gambling at Monte Carlo will the casino pay his railroad fare home?

Ans.—Bankrupt visitors are guaranteed their passage home by the casino management.

J. H. M.—What is an Iconoscope?

Ans.—The Iconoscope is the electric eye of the television camera, corresponding to the microphone in sound broadcasting. It is a vacuum tube with a light-sensitive plate behind the camera lens. This mosaic plate consists of about 200,000 microscopic photo-electric cells. The camera lens focuses a given scene upon it, and an electric gun beam scans the scene as a searchlight would, moving from left to right and top to bottom, covering the 4 to 5-inch plate in about one-thirtieth of a second. The weak television thus created is subsequently amplified and broadcast on a radio carrier wave.

H. W. W.—What is the origin of the United States Navy?

Ans.—On November 1, 1775, a letter from George Washington was read in the Continental Congress. In it he deplored the lack of naval strength. Next day an appropriation of \$100,000 for the construction and equipping of a naval force was authorized. A committee was appointed to administer naval affairs. Later that same month the tiny Alfred and Columbus were commissioned—the first ships in the Colonial Navy. The total number of vessels which served the Continental Congress was forty-two.

O. B. C.—What is a froghopper?

Ans.—A froghopper is an insect of the family Cercopidae. Some of these, including the froghopper, are called spittle insects because they secrete a mass of froth in which they live. They suck plant juices and are not uncommon. They are brownish-yellow in color.

T. J. R.—How large is the statue of Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia that was executed by James Earle Fraser?

Ans.—The figure is three times life size and is of Seravezza marble from Tuscany, weighing thirty tons. It is twelve feet in height and rests on a pedestal of rose aurea marble from Portugal, weighing sixty-two tons. Statue, pedestal, and plinth together weigh 120 tons and rise to a height of eighteen feet.

HOUSEHOLD SCRAPBOOK

Butter the top of the pudding dish for about an inch around the edge and add a small piece of butter to the pudding itself, and you will not be troubled with having your pudding boil over in the oven.

Care of Rubber

A little glycerine rubbed over the children's rubbers before putting them away will keep the rubber from drying out, and they will also wear much longer.

DO YOU KNOW

- 1. How old is Harry L. Hopkins?
2. What is the National Lawyers Guild?
3. When was the naval air school at Pensacola, Fla., founded?
4. What is the International Settlement at Shanghai?
5. How many German-born residents are in New York?
6. How many soldiers were killed in the civil war in Spain?
7. How does the power output of the TVA compare with the Grand Coulee dam and Boulder dam?
8. Who was Johann Gutenberg?
9. How many income tax returns are filed with the Federal Government in a year?
10. When did the British occupy Hong Kong?

The Answers

- 1. 49.
2. An organization of 3,599 lawyers of "liberal" philosophy.
3. 1914.
4. Formed in 1863 by the merger of British and American concessions. It includes much of modern Shanghai and about 1,000,000 residents. It is governed by an elective municipal council.
5. 227,000 by the 1930 census.
6. Estimated 700,000.
7. When completed, TVA estimated power output will be about 1,500,000 kilowatts; Grand Coulee, 1,975,000; Boulder dam, 1,320,000.
8. German who, about 1439, printed from movable type.
9. Officials estimated that 7,500,000 individuals and companies will make returns; about 3,600,000 will be non-taxable.
10. 1841.