

The Centre Democrat

BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

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EDITORIAL

DOLLAR WHEAT IN '39

Dollar wheat for the American farmer in 1939 is the gratifying prospect which wreathes their faces in broad grins as they watch the fields of golden grain rapidly heading into maturity. Reports from the vast wheat belt indicate equal jubilation in the business centers. Dollar wheat means, they said, that once more the farmer can go to town, where he will not only pay taxes and interest but "buy more of the products of industry."

Assurance of dollar wheat to the American farmer is the direct result of the farm program inaugurated under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, passed by a Democratic Congress in the Roosevelt Administration. It is a very far cry from the general average of 30 cents a bushel in 1932, final crop year of the Hoover administration. The wheat program for 1939—first full year since the present law was enacted, has enabled the wheat grower to adjust his acreage to what is estimated as necessary for (1) domestic consumption, (2) export and (3) a safe reserve. Loans and crop insurance have enabled him to store his surplus until he has need for it. Acreage allotments help him to avoid price-depressing surpluses, as do also loans and export subsidies. Soil conservation payments and parity payments increase his income.

On May 21 Secretary Wallace announced that the rates for wheat loans on the 1939 crop to farmers who keep within their wheat acreage allotments under the 1939 program will be increased over 1938 on an average of 6 to 7 cents a bushel, depending upon classification and grade.

BOOM YEARS

The years from 1921 up to the last of 1929, are often referred to as the boom years. During most of that time business was active, and the number of unemployed was relatively small. Speculation was going on to a very dangerous extent, resulting in a final crash, the effects of which have not yet disappeared. Would the country like to go the conditions of 1921-29 back again, and how can the evils that grew in those times be prevented?

Like most anything else, that period had good and bad features. At least business felt confidence, and people were willing to spend and invest money. People had the courage to buy homes and many of them were built. Is it possible to produce such a state of prosperity without tempting the people to indulge in dangerous speculation? It is the unfortunate trait of our people that they often act as if they can't stand prosperity. If they get a little good luck, if the sun shines brightly, they assume that these conditions will continue indefinitely. They step high, they gamble on an uncertain future, as if it was sure and dependable.

Probably the country would accept the 1921-29 prosperity again if it had a chance, but it should look out very carefully that the dangers of that period which brought on a terrible crash shall be avoided. When the speculative colts get to kicking up too high, Father should have them lassoed and led into the barn and put to rest in their quiet stalls. Also people should not spend so confidently far beyond their means, since such spending means lean days for the future.

DEFEAT OF COAL BILL

The Independent miners have won their fight against the James coal bill in the Legislature. The Independents claimed that the bill of regulation, presented by the James administration, would eliminate about every coal owner and coal miner, except a few big companies. The surprising thing about the coal bill is, not its defeat, but that the James administration would try to set up a regulation of the coal industry, one of the major businesses of the state. The regulation of private business is one of the charges being leveled at the Roosevelt administration by every Republican politician in the land; was leveled by Governor James, as a candidate. Just how the present Republican administration could bring itself to start regulatory legislation of a business that cannot be regulated, except by the law of supply and demand, is beyond us. Those who defeated this bill, however, did the James administration ridiculous from coast to coast and lakes to Gulf.

MEN FROM THE BENCH

William S. Knudsen, president of General Motors, thinks more young men should go to work with their hands. He thinks too many of them want jobs sitting at desks. He finds a large percentage of our productive enterprises are headed by men who have come up from the worker's bench. He thinks there is nothing humble about a mechanic's job.

This extremely able executive seems to have the right idea. It is a wonderful advantage in selling anything to know how it is made. If you have that knowledge you may be able to see how it can be made better or cheaper, a form of knowledge that many men sit at a desk never get. If the man at the bench is to rise, he should not be satisfied to do his work just the same as it was done last year or in a previous generation.

IN THE INTEREST OF U. S.

The foreign policy of the United States should be designed, quite frankly, to serve the interest of the United States and for no other purpose.

The neutrality laws of the United States, be it also said, should be devised for the sole purpose of protecting the interests of the people of this country.

So far, most Americans will quite readily assent. It is when one attempts to outline the "interests" of the United States that difficulty occurs.

The sale of arms to fighting nations, for example, has always been defended by the United States on the ground that the interests of this nation required that nations, like our own, without government munitions plants and dependent upon private plants for munitions, should do nothing that might lead to international embargoes on arms.

In a flurry of caution, a few years ago, Congress decided that it would tend to keep this country out of war by prohibiting the sale of arms and munitions to nations at war. The idea worked to handicap the Spanish government in defending itself against Franco, Germany and Italy. If enforced, it would have worked to assist the Japanese in snuffing out China.

There is, and there always will be, considerable differences of opinion as to what is for the best interests of the United States. Those who maintain divergent views should not, of necessity, suspect the patriotism of citizens who disagree with them.

In view of a general war in Europe it would seem to be the best thing for the United States to keep out of the fighting. At the same time, developments might lead to the conclusion that victory for a given side would mean subsequent attacks upon this country. In this event, as Secretary Stimson urges, the nation should get in as soon as possible and fight while allies are carrying a part of the burden.

Now, do not get the idea that the editor is advocating sending soldiers to Europe in any war. We hope that the day will never come when young Americans will be slaughtered on a foreign battlefield. Just the same, despite our hope, the day might come and it is just as well to know that such a possibility exists.

NEW SYPHILIS LAW

The most important aspect of the new State law which will require a blood test for syphilis before a marriage license can be issued is that it will mean safer, healthier marriages in Pennsylvania.

Fundamentally it is an educational law and does not attempt to reduce the number of marriages or place obstacles before prospective marital partners.

"This law, which goes into effect May 17, 1940, explains Dr. John J. Shaw, "will not work any hardship. Blood-test laws in some states say that if either applicant for license has a positive blood test, no license can be issued.

"The Pennsylvania law leaves final decision to the examining physician. If the infection is in a non-contagious stage, the license will not be held up. Persons found to be infectious can still obtain a license at some later date, after proper treatment has been received.

"The educational value lies in the fact that when syphilis is detected, proper treatment can be taken. The infected person will be spared future serious complications of the disease, and will not become a marriage liability."

HOW GERMANS HELPED FRANCO

When the Spanish revolution broke out in Spain and the charges were made that Italian and German troops were aiding General Franco the denials that came from Rome and Berlin looked sincere.

Now that the battle is over, with General Franco triumphant and Germany and Italy satisfied that he is in their orbit, the truth comes out frankly as soldiers of Italy and Germany go home. They are received and welcomed officially by their governments.

In Germany, the story goes, it is now admitted that Hitler himself made arrangements for German aviators to go into the service of Gen. Franco, that the first aviators sailed disguised as tourists and that, in the early days of the struggle, the German planes transported 15,000 Moors, with guns and ammunition from Morocco into Spain.

If Germans, living in Brazil, tomorrow start a revolution, you may not be surprised if German "tourists" are on hand to help the battle. The German government will deny that its soldiers are involved but the denial will be no more truthful than the denials at the beginning of the Spanish revolution.

THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE

Among all the other exciting incidents connected with the recent tragedy of the Navy submarine Squalus is the story of an electrician's mate who slammed the watertight door against twenty-six of his companions in order that thirty-two others might live.

Perhaps he did not fully realize until after the courage and intelligence required to do his duty instantly. Recollections of that act may haunt him in his sleep all his days, but the soundness of his behavior will not be questioned now or ever, cruel as was the part Fate assigned him to play.

Obviously had he not closed the compartment rapidly filling with water against its occupants, the loss of life would have been many more than twenty-six. Perhaps none would have been saved. Furthermore he was acting on orders. For that reason alone none dare criticize him because all will applaud his clear head and his stout soul.

But it is so dreadful an experience that few persons would choose to invite it. The most soul-racking test comes to persons who must decide to sacrifice one life in order to save another.

Health Letter

The cost of radium is going down. In 1929 radium cost about \$3,500 per grain. It takes 7,000 grains to make a pound. Today, radium is much cheaper—only \$1,316 a grain. Yet last year there were 596 grains of radium imported into the United States from other countries.

While some small amount of radium is used as an activating agent in the preparation of luminous points and is used by metallurgists to inspect flaws in metal castings, at least nine-tenths of the radium mined each year finds a use in medicine. Most of the radium used therapeutically is concentrated on the treatment of cancer.

The amount of radium imported indicates the extent of the use of the metal in medicine. The reduction in price has made radium available to many more hospitals. This means that many smaller institutions will be able to purchase radium for treatment and also that larger hospitals may purchase more radium in order to treat more patients.

Radium is a metal which maintains a temperature of from 2 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit above the surrounding atmosphere.

The amount of heat given off by any amount of radium in 45 minutes is enough to raise the temperature of an equal amount of water from freezing (32 degrees Fahrenheit) to boiling point (212 degrees Fahrenheit). The rays given off by radium have been particularly beneficial in the early treatment of certain forms of cancer. The reduction in price of this precious metal, due to the recent discovery of radium-bearing ore in Canada, is expected to help materially in the war against cancer. One can now buy one-seven-thousandths of a pound of radium for only \$1,316.

DO YOU KNOW

The number of persons hospitalized for mental diseases increased in this country more than 40 per cent from 1926 to 1936. The estimated cost of maintenance of these patients is \$230,865,000, with an additional cost of \$18,178,000 for patients under private care.

Health insurance, far from ut-

THE OFFICE CAT
A Little Nonsense Now and Then,
Is Relished by the Wisest Men

Wanted the Tappy Kind
Clerk—"You say you want a pound of ochre—red ochre like you use to paint bricks?"
Tommy—"Now, it's tappy ochre. Mom wants to make a pudding with it."

Question of Weight
It may be all right to warn your grocer about getting short weight for your money, but be sure you don't give him a long wait for his.

We Won't Need Any Tomorrow
Inquiring Lady—"How much does your cow give a day?"
Farmer Lad—"Bout eight quarts."
Lady—"And how much of that do you sell?"
Lad—"Bout twelve quarts, lady."

Church is Worth While
A negro parson held forth one Sunday with a fine sermon and he was sympathetically received by the entire congregation. He was about to close. "Bruders and sisters, 'Ah want to warn yo' against de hein-out crime of stealin' watermelons."

Wharfio' brudder, does yo' rise up and snap yo' fingers when Ah speak of watermelon stealin'?"
"Yo jes' reminds me parson, wheah Ah done lef' mah knife."

Don't Fool the Poor Rustic
Sweet Girl Visitor—"Nice weather, isn't it?"
Deaf Native—"How's that?"
Girl—"I say, lovely day."
Native—"That ain't what you said the fust time."

Short Inventory
George, whose only means of support was his rich father, was being married. Everything went well until the bridegroom had to repeat the words, "With all my worldly goods I thee endow."

We're Telling You
Several persons of our acquaintance have asked why we refer to marriage in the same sentence with war. There is no difference. A fellow meets a girl and decides that she is the woman he wants to "battle" through life with.

You talk it over and decide on an "engagement." At the marriage license bureau you "sign up." A minister "swears you in." There are only a few "skermishes" during the courtship. The real "fighting" starts after marriage.

In the house, as well as on the "battlefields," they use "hand-grenades," such as flatirons, pots, and rolling pins. The wife is usually a good "frier." She rifles your pockets every night, takes your large money, and "confines you to quarters."

She is your "commanding officer," and you are her "supply officer." In the game the fiercest fight is always to come. Wait until the "infantry" arrives. Instead of "shouldering arms" you shoulder the baby. On the battlefields, shells may screech and scream, but they have nothing on the kid. You get your "waking papers" every night. This is the only "hike" you take.

In war, you sign up for four years. There is no such clause as that in your wedding certificate. You can get exemption from war on account of marriage, but you can't get exempt from marriage on account of war.

Batter Up
It was in a small town on a hot and dusty day. The negro population were engaged in an important ball game.

The umpire was a big, ragged duplicate of the eight ball. The visiting team's clean-up man was at bat and the bases were loaded. Ball one, high. Ball two, low. Ball three, inside. Ball fo', low and wide—you is out.

"What makes you talk like dat, Mister Ump?" said the batter. "I gets a base fo' dat."
"Brother, your's right," replied the boss of the bases, "but de bases am loaded, and I ain't got no place to put you. You is out."

You'll Like Our Candid Advertisements
Some day you're going to lay aside the job of conducting the Office Cat column and open ourselves a nice little grocery store. We'll probably call it the "Snatch and Hurry Food Emporium," and while the stuff we'll handle won't be so hot, we'll probably get tired looking at it and want to sell it. You may not be able to eat any of it, but we'll appreciate your buying it.

We'll probably start out with the following page advertisement in all the Centre county newspapers:
Apple Sauce (Yellow Bonnet) worms extracted.....No. 2 can 18c
American Cheese, shelf worm, full of holes, mice like it.....lb. 23c
Oysters, slick and slimy, in 5-oz. cans.....10c
Milk from disintegrated cows, aged in udder, 10 per qt or 7 small cans 25c
Peas, big wrinkled and tuff.....2 No. 2 cans 25c
Candy Bars, partly unwrapped, fly-specked.....3 bars 10c
Macaroni, makes a rotten salad.....pound pkg. 10c
Toilet Tissue, softer than catalogues.....6 rolls 22c
Vinegar, made from worm-eaten, sour, crabby apples.....gal. 25c
Beans, big white northern, noiseless variety.....5 pounds 25c
Corn, Golden Bantam, very few worms in each can.....per can 10c
Bananas, mashed, over-ripe and half peeled.....pound 6c
Crackers, soggy and wet.....2 lb. pkg. 55c
Syrup, white or dark, soured and going to sugar.....gallon 15c
Brown Baked Beans, 18-oz. swelled and rusted can.....10c
Kraut, foot-packed, soured cabbage.....No. 2 1/2 cans 10c
Pink Salmon, improved, been dead a long time.....2 cans 25c
Sugar, dirty, damp and lumpy.....10-lb. bag 55c
Paper Napkins, all colors, been used only twice.....2 pkgs. 15c

Come in and look us over after we've opened up. Or ring us up if you want some of the stuff. If we don't answer, we're sitting down. Try again in a few minutes. We'll deliver if you catch us just right and we feel like it.

Right, Brother, Right
"What a pretty town you have here," said a rapturous tourist stopping overnight in Bellefonte last week. "How true it is that one-half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives."
"Yep," replied the old Bellefonter, "that's mostly true. But not in this town, mister, not in this town."

That's all, folks. They say that kissing shortens life. We know it does single life. —"SCAT."

Disagreeable Medicine
The flavor of disagreeable medicine will be much less noticeable if a piece of ice is held in the mouth for a short time before taking the medicine.

Cleaning Furniture
Use a cloth wrung out in slightly warm water, add a touch of vinegar, and wipe the wooden furniture carefully before using furniture polish. The wood will then be thoroughly clean and will take the polish better.

Tempting Appetizers
Hard-cooked eggs, the yolks removed and mixed with pickle relish, sardines and dressing, then replaced in the egg white cases, make tempting appetizers to serve with cocktails.

In the Garden
Morning glory, or any hard seeds, should be soaked before planting. Soak them for about twenty-four hours, and then plant with the large end of the seed down.

Query and Answer Column

PROBLEM: How would you punctuate the following sentence: "I saw good bonafide Bank of England currency being blown down the street." (Answer elsewhere in this department.)

W. F.—What is spontaneous combustion?
Ans.—Spontaneous combustion is something catching fire by itself without being set on fire by anything. For instance, oil rags piled too closely together may get hot because of a slow chemical reaction between the oxygen of the air and the oily rags. They may even get hot enough to take fire.

S. L.—What is the spinal cord, and what does it do?
Ans.—The spinal cord is a storage house for a bunch of nerves that serve as a sort of a substitute for the brain. It is so much faster. For instance, in a danger incident to—say your finger—you will jerk it away without waiting for the general manager of the brain to warn you. This will happen before you have time to think at all.

D. G.—Why are so many proposals for marriage made in the moonlight?
Ans.—This seems to be a subconscious memory. In cave-man times courting had to be done out of doors; the huts or caves were far too crowded; dark nights were unsafe because of wild beasts, and so for thousands of years most of the love-making had to be done on moonlight nights. Our subconscious mind still remembers this age-old association of amorous intentions with the moon.

E. N.—I am told that all animals originally lived in the ocean. If that is true, what was the first animal to live on dry land?
Ans.—Scientists are generally agreed that the scorpion was the first animal to live on land. In the Silurian period (about 560,000,000 years ago) there were a lot of sea-scorpions living in the oceans. One race of them finally learned to live ashore.

R. K.—Was Johann Mozart a Lutheran minister in Germany? In what period of time did he live? And what was his greatest musical achievement?
Ans.—Johann Mozart was not a minister. He was born in Germany, and his father was a director in the Lutheran archiepiscopal chapel. At a very early age he left Germany and located in Vienna to study and develop his musical talents. Outstanding among his works are: "The Miserere," "Seduction of the Serail," "The Twelfth Mass" and "The Requiem." He was born in 1756 and died in 1791.

G. O.—I am curious to know what is the oldest daily newspaper in the world which is still in existence?
Ans.—No doubt China lays claim to this. The Pekin (China) Daily Gazette was founded A. D. 1390, and has been issued daily since that time.

C. F.—Who is "Bes"? Or what does it mean?
Ans.—Bes is the name of an animal of the cat kind. In Egyptian mythology Bes is the god of varied attributes, particularly the god of pleasure.

H. P.—Why do most all dreams seem to be so absurd and disconnected?
Ans.—Many of the little nerve fibers in the brain which connect one brain cell with another get connected temporarily so that the messages between the cells cannot move about as freely and surely as they do when we are awake. Some of the messages stop altogether. Others continue to move in a rather uncertain and irregular way, and this is what causes dreams. The general confusion of the messages is what makes dreams so mixed up, absurd and disconnected.

S. T.—Do bees and flies have vocal cords by which they can hum or buzz?
Ans.—No; insects have no vocal cords. The hum or buzz of bees, flies, mosquitoes, etc., is due to the exceptionally rapid vibration of their wings.

W. J.—What do fishes live on?
Ans.—Many of the larger fish eat seaweeds or other smaller fish which they can catch; also marine animals of other kinds which they swallow bodily. The vast majority of fishes live on the microscopic plants and animals, millions of which are contained in every cubic inch of the surface water of the sea.

S. M.—I wish to ask you how yeast makes bread rise?
Ans.—The yeast used in making bread is the same little living plant that is used in making alcohol. Bread dough contains a little sugar derived from the starch of the flour, and the yeast converts this sugar into alcohol. At the same time it produces a lot of little bubbles of carbon dioxide gas. It is these bubbles which make the bread rise. Baking kills the yeast and also cooks out the small amount of alcohol which the yeast made.

R. D.—Why do so many people nowadays move around with a jumpy motion?
Ans.—We dunno. Probably it's a force of habit from dodging automobiles.

J. N.—Can you answer whether President Roosevelt is still crippled? Or has he fully recovered?
Ans.—President Roosevelt has not recovered from his infantile paralysis. Otherwise he is in splendid health.

E. H.—Who and what are the Maronites?
Ans.—The Maronites are a sect of Christians who constitute a class in Syria, so named from a monk called Maron. The sect dates from the 5th century and numbers about 200,000. The Maronites acknowledge the Pope of Rome as their head, but have the privilege of using the Syriac language in their services exactly the same as in Latin. Celibacy is not enforced on their priests.

R. V. A.—Please give some information about the transport ship Madawaska.
Ans.—The Madawaska was formerly the German vessel Konig Wilhelm II. She was one of the German vessels taken by the United States at the time of the World War and made eleven trips from the United States to Europe. After the World War the vessel was rechristened the Grant and is still in Army transport service.

T. C.—Which weighs more, a ton of feathers or a ton of lead?
Ans.—There is no difference in the weight of a ton of feathers and a ton of lead. Both are weighed by the avordupois system and while the weight is the same, the bulk will naturally differ greatly, the feathers occupying very much more space than the lead.

C. H. M.—What is meant by a black frost?
Ans.—A black frost is one in which plants freeze without the formation of white frost on the leaves.

S. A. J.—How many chinchillas are there in the United States? What is the fur worth?
Ans.—There are approximately 500 pairs of chinchillas on fur farms in the United States. A live chinchilla is worth at least \$2000, while a coat entirely made of this fur is valued at \$50,000.

M. T. B.—When was Gen. John J. Pershing made a brigadier general?
Ans.—Gen. John J. Pershing was appointed brigadier-general on September 20, 1906.

C. O. B.—Where is Stephen Decatur, the naval hero, buried?
Ans.—Stephen Decatur was first buried on the estate of Joel Barlow near Washington, D. C. In 1846 his body was removed to St. Peter's Churchyard, Philadelphia.

J. P. M.—Where were the first waterworks in the United States?
Ans.—The first pumping plant installed to provide water for municipal purposes was that at Bethlehem, Pa., about 1760. The first municipal water-supply system built in America was that of Boston in 1822.

F. S. H.—What President learned to write after he was married?
Ans.—Andrew Jackson was taught to write by his wife when he was 19 years of age.

J. D. H.—Was there ever an automobile called the Buggyaut?
Ans.—The Buggyaut was built by Charles Duryea of Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, in 1892-93 and made from seven to eight miles an hour. It is credited with being the second gasoline car made in America and is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, D. C.

E. K. H.—When did the old song, "After the Ball" first become popular?
Ans.—"After the Ball" was written in 1862 and became very popular during the Chicago World's Fair year in 1893. It was first sung by May Irwin and was later introduced in Hoyt's "Trip to Chinatown."

T. H. B.—What was the longest bare knuckle fight in ring history?
Ans.—The longest bare knuckle contest was the one between James Kelley and Jonathan Smith at Melbourne, Australia, November 5, 1855, which lasted six hours and fifteen minutes.

L. M. H.—Is it permissible for servants to respond by saying "yes" and "no"?
Ans.—Emily Post says that a servant always answers "Yes, madam," or "Very good, sir," never "Yes," "No," "All right," or "Sure."

Answer to problem: Put an exclamation point after "good" and make a "dash" after currency.

Quick Cleaning
If it is necessary that you clean your silver in a hurry, make a solution of one quart of boiling water, one teaspoon salt and one teaspoon baking soda. Pour this into a large aluminum kettle, and place the silver in it. Let stand for a few minutes and then rinse with clear boiling water. Clean the pan immediately. This method is a real time saver in an emergency.

Neuralgia

HEADACHES, FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, NEURITIS, MUSCULAR ACHES, RHEUMATIC PAINS and all kinds of nervous quickly relieved by the safe action of Luebert's Ka-No-More Capsules. "Takes Them and Aches No More" At drugstore, 10c and 50c a box. A 50c package mailed to any address from PAID (ONCE ONLY) for 10c to cover mailing expenses.

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