

The Centre Democrat

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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?"

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."

Church is Worth While
A negro parson held forth one Sunday with a fine sermon and he was sympathetically received by the entire congregation.

Don't Fool the Poor Rustic
Sweet Girl Visitor—"Nice weather, isn't it?"
Deaf Native—"How's that?"

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.

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

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.

Right, Brother, Right
"What a pretty town you have here," said a rapturous tourist stopping overnight in Bellefonte last week.

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.

When Hemming
When hemming a skirt, take a double stitch frequently to insure a more secure hem. Then if the hem catches and rips, it will not be a long rip.

Prevent Fading
To protect the colored clothes from running when in the wash tub, put a handful of salt into a good-sized bowl of cold water.

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.

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

HOUSEHOLD SCRAPBOOK
Use a cloth wrung out in slightly warm water, add a touch of vinegar, and wipe the wooden furniture carefully before using furniture polish.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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."

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 severe neuralgia respond to the safe action of Luebert's Ka-No-More Capsules. "Takes Them and Aches No More" At drugstore, 25c and 50c a box. A 50c package mailed to any address from PAID (ONCE ONLY) for 10c to cover mailing expenses. A. G. Luebert, P.D., Coatsville, Pa.