

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

EDITORIAL

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jealousy is said to be the offspring of Love. Yet, unless the parent makes haste to strangle the child, the child will not rest till it has poisoned the parent.

J. C. and A. W. HARE—Guesses At Truth

Up-Up-Go The Rates

It was no surprise when Dallas Water Co. announced an increase in its rates this week, but it was pretty much a shock to the thirty or forty local concerns who will have to ante in for approximately seventy-five per cent. of the total increase the company proposes.

Frankly, there can be little grounds for complaint from the 300-odd domestic consumers who will have \$1 a year added to their flat rate. The recent improvements are worth that, and a State engineer intimated a year ago that the improvements the people needed would cost each consumer \$1.

But that commercial users should be expected to sit quietly by while their rates shoot up as much as 500 per cent. is an almost libellous reflection upon the average business man's native intelligence.

We can concede that some commercial users may have been wasteful, that they were paying a rate too low and that the costs of distributing water in a scattered community are high, but we cannot discern any element of fairness in such an attempt to make a handful of consumers shoulder most of the cost of the company's improvement.

Such policies create too severe a penalty for being in business in Dallas. They provide welcome opening for such experiments in municipal ownership as have been launched in other sections of the country.

It is certain that the business places of Dallas cannot accept the rates which have been filed. Let it be understood, though, that the complaint is not with the local office. The men there did not propose the increase. Nothing can be gained by making their jobs more difficult.

This is a matter that can be settled only by lodging a vigorous protest with the Public Service Commission. Since the matter concerns the business men primarily, we suggest that the Dallas Business Men's Association meet promptly and assume leadership.

The President's Message

About everything that could be said has already been said about President Roosevelt's message to Congress last Friday night. The President has been heckled, praised, criticized, hailed and viewed with alarm not only in his home territory but abroad. Seldom is any speech studied and analyzed and interpreted as was Mr. Roosevelt's.

Let there be no doubt but that the speech accomplished a great deal to check the rising opposition to the Administration. Our prediction—which is not necessarily our way of voting—is that President Roosevelt will be re-elected, and we believe his message to Congress will mark the point where opposition reached its peak and where the swing back to his policies began again. Even here, where Democrats are as scarce as hens' teeth, there were favorable comments for Roosevelt last Saturday.

We believe it is a just criticism of that speech to say that it devoted too much time to an attack on critics of the Administration, and too little time to an explanation of the program which Roosevelt intends to carry out during the remainder of his term.

As to the squabble over the time set for the speech, we question whether the President gained much in insisting upon an evening hour which placed him in direct competition with the Pennsylvania Troubadours and the comedy team of Si and Hi. There are, you must remember, folks who prefer hill-billies to Congressional messages.

We would have chosen the noon hour, when all America stops to eat and dawdle from 12 to 1. Then he would have had no formidable competition on the air-waves and he would have been assured of an enormous radio audience, enjoying its daily recess from duty.

The Basketball Season Opens

High school basketball teams from this section will launch their 1926 season this week, making the usual appeals for community support in order.

Basketball has always been the more popular sport locally, probably because, unlike football, the teams pick their opponents from local high schools. As a result most of the contests are even and sporting.

This section has produced some mighty fine basketball players and a few more are reported to be ready for introduction this year. There are worse ways to spend some of these winter evenings than in watching your local high school team play.

Borah's Eyes On Pennsylvania

The news that supporters of Senator Borah as the Republican candidate in the Presidential election this year are launching an aggressive drive in behalf of their candidate in Pennsylvania recalls the strength shown by the Idaho Progressive in The Post's straw vote last year.

That poll, started early last summer, began with Republicans voting heavily for Hoover, but in the second week there was an unexplained swing to Borah. At the conclusion of the poll, Borah had a tremendous lead. The poll was, of course, purely local, but it was significant in that the people who voted were doing so spontaneously. It was a natural choice, made before the various G. O. P. factions had begun to advance their candidates' claims. Even Republican leaders were mystified by the strong local sentiment for Borah.

That the Senator's backers are relying upon support in Pennsylvania is evidenced by their decision to open headquarters in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg in their drive to sew up Pennsylvania's delegates to the Republican convention.

The Post's polls have had no purpose other than to gauge sentiment locally and reflect the opinions of only a thimble full of the country's vote but on other occasions they have predicted political outcomes with almost uncanny accuracy. If, after all the efforts in behalf of Landon, Knox, Hoover and Vandenburg, the Republicans select Borah we can safely assume that the voters here make up such a typical cross-section of the nation that their opinions can be taken as prophecies.

The Dairy Industry

Dairying is one of the most important agricultural industries in this section. In recent years, sales of dairy products have amounted to about 25 per cent of the cash income of all agriculture. And in 1934, the cash income from dairying was higher than the combined cash income from wheat and cotton. It was almost as high as the combined cash income from hogs, cattle and calves, a part of which is represented by dairy cattle.

It is an interesting fact that American dairy farmers have been among the most progressive of all farm groups in forming and supporting cooperative organizations. In the great eastern area, for example, dairy farmers are served by a pioneer co-op, the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association, Inc. In other areas, large and strong dairy co-operatives are helping to bring better times to the farmer. The pre-eminent place of dairying in the agricultural set-up is not entirely due, of course, to the success of dairy co-operatives—but those organizations have done and are doing a mighty important work in behalf of their members and the public at large.

The Dallas Post

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THE DALLAS POST PROGRAM

THE DALLAS POST will lend its support and offers the use of its columns to all projects which will help this community and the great rural suburban territory which it serves to attain the following major improvements:

- 1. Construction of more sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians in Kingston township and Dallas. 2. A free library located in the Dallas region. 3. Better and adequate street lighting in Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook and Dallas. 4. Sanitary sewage disposal system for Dallas. 5. Closer co-operation between Dallas borough and surrounding townships. 6. Consolidated high schools and better co-operation between those that now exist. 7. Adequate water supply for fire protection. 8. The formation of a Back Mountain Club made up of business men and home owners interested in the development of a community consciousness in Dallas, Trucksville, Shavertown and Fernbrook. 9. A modern concrete highway leading from Dallas and connecting with the Sullivan Trail at Tunkhannock.

THE BUSINESS WEEK

This survey of business conditions during the last seven days is compiled by The Post from business figures furnished by the United States Department of Commerce.

The sustained forward movement of trade during the last half of the year, followed by an extraordinary cleanup of most lines of merchandise during the holiday week, pointed to the necessity of manufacturers increasing their output, not only in general merchandise but of durable goods, according to Department of Commerce reports from 32 leading commercial and industrial cities.

The year ended with the volume of retail trade rising to the highest level in several years. Not only did the holiday trade run from 5 percent to 50 percent ahead of last year according to the reporting cities, but business for the month of December ranged 10 to 25 percent better and the year's gain varied among cities from 5 to 15 percent.

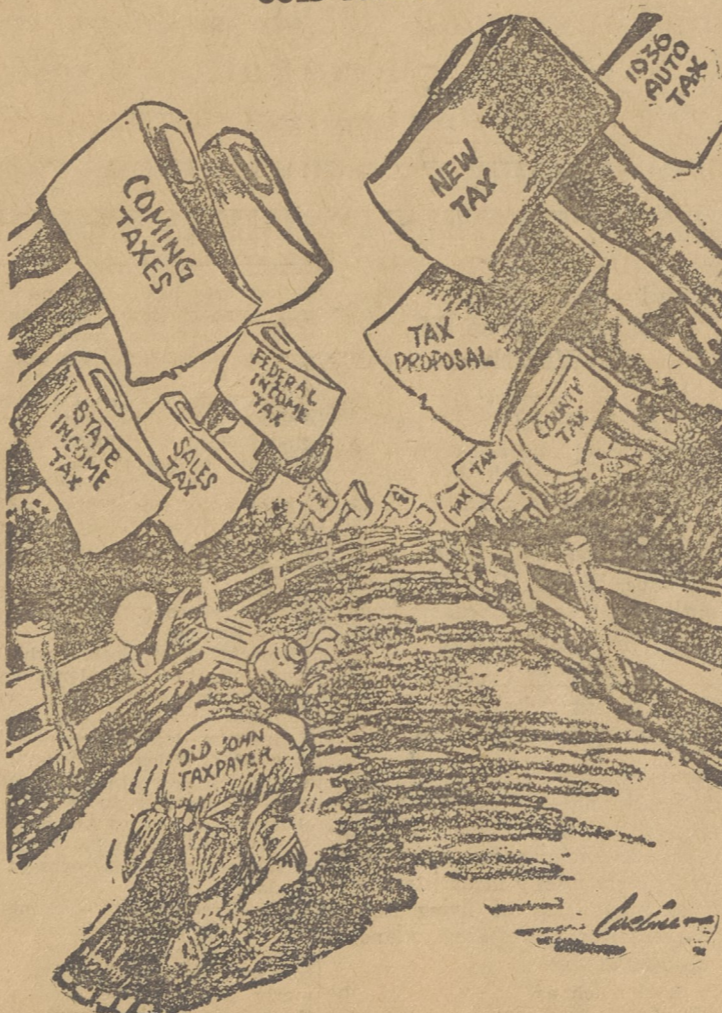
Although retail stocks were low for the seasonal clearance sales, trade for the last week of the year continued ahead of the comparable period of the year before. The depletion of stocks resulted in optimism in wholesale circles with record breaking numbers of buyers expected at the wholesale marts.

New Year statements of business and financial leaders were the most optimistic in several years and a continuance of favorable conditions was predicted. These statements were based on reports from various sources on the steady and rapid recovery of industry during the latter half of the year; an abundant grain crop, sustained rise in stocks, ample bank reserves and large gold imports, the latter representing largely investment of foreign capital in the country. The gold monetary stocks of the country rose to the unprecedented high of \$10,000,000,000, representing a gain of \$1,800,000,000 in the year.

Other significant reports were:

Payments of dividends to stockholders was the greatest since 1931, aggregating \$2,900,000,000 to 2,666 corporations paying quarterly dividends. The market value of 100 leading stocks gained \$5,453,096,000, or 41.3 percent. The stock market staged the longest sustained advance in 25 years. Class 1 railroads enjoyed the best year since 1931, a total of 31,450,000 revenue freight cars having been loaded. Life insurance gained \$2,500,000,000 to \$101,000,000,000, greatest increase since 1930. Power output for the year reached a new high of 92 1/2 billion kilowatt hours, a gain of 9 percent over 1934 and 2.7 percent of 1929. Shoe production reached an all-time high of 368,000,000 pairs, surpassing 1929 by 6,500,000 pairs and 1934 by 11,000,000 pairs.

"COLD TURKEY"



Washington Snapshots

An analysis this week showed that the industrialists who decided in New York recently to work for a "constructive farm program" knew something about the problems which vex the farmer.

Their pledge was contained in a resolution adopted unanimously by the Congress of American Industry, attended by nearly 1,500 manufacturers. More significant, though, was the make-up of the committee which presented the resolution.

Forty-seven men were on the committee. Of that number, more than one-third—16, to be exact—either were born on farms or worked on them. At least three more now own farms and know the size of the deficits in recent years.

The resolution recognized "the economic unity and interdependence of agriculture and industry." It continued:

"The one produces wealth on the land. The other produces it in the factory and mine. Each is vital to the other and to national progress and it is essential that work and investment in agriculture and in industry earn a comparable reward for the same effort and risk."

The industrialists emphasized a desire to "cooperate more closely with agriculture for the development of a greater degree of national prosperity." And to show that they meant business, they suggested that the National Association of Manufacturers name a committee to study various farm-aid proposals and to keep industry informed about progress. The committee will be named soon.

Sane analyses of the Townsend pension plan showing exactly why it couldn't be made to work are beginning to force its backers into the field of political strategy. Washington generally believes that the politics are just as amateurish as the economic fallacies on which the plan is based.

The first overt move of the Townsends was to say they would put a third party ticket into the field. Republicans and Democrats welcomed the idea, many of them saying they would like to run against candidates whose only plank was the Townsend plan.

When that attitude became known, Dr. F. E. Townsend made a change of front. He remarked the third party idea was a little premature. In other words, he threatened to set up a third party unless the old-line candidates embraced his idea. They won't. The good doctor will find out that even politicians think a little before promising.

Some statistics which worried the Townsends into their new endeavor included these:

The doctor and his economists agree it would take \$24,924,000,000 annually to pay \$200 a month to each person over 60. They promise to raise the money by a 2 per cent tax on transactions. They quote the federal reserve board as estimating that the total volume of transactions at the last count was only \$600,000,000,000 a year. Thus, a 2 per cent tax would produce only \$12,000,000,000, less than half the money necessary.

Yet apply that tax burden to a simple commodity. Assume the farmer got \$1 a bushel for his wheat. When that wheat reached the consumer in the form of flour, the taxes on transactions would add up to 11.2 cents on the original \$1 worth of wheat. If the tax were increased enough to raise the necessary \$24,000,000,000, the \$1 worth of wheat would be taxed 24.4 cents. That's taxing with a vengeance.

The plan couldn't be administered for nothing. It would be necessary, for instance, for each farm wife who trades eggs to her storekeeper, each farmer who sells a single pig, to have a license and pay a 2 per cent tax. It would take a dozen revenue agents in each town in the land to watch neighbors to see that they weren't bootlegging. The agents would have to be paid out of the 2 per cent tax, leaving even less for the pensioner.

Then there's the cost of living. Economists figure the plan would make a \$600 automobile sell for \$1,200 because of many transactions involved in the manufacture of that product. With the cost of living already headed skyward, not many folks want their monthly bills increased even 50 per cent.

A "Retire At Birth" plan has been advanced as a substitute for Dr. Townsend's. Under it, each new born babe would get a \$20,000 promissory note. Until he was 20 and could claim the money, his parents would get 3 percent interest, or \$50 a month. Thus, a couple could marry at 20, have \$40,000 capital and get \$200 a month from the government in addition by raising four children. Then nobody would have to work.

The Honorable James A. Farley, postmaster general and the Democratic party boss, said sarcastically the other day that "big business" will help build up a "huge fund" for use against the New Deal administration in elections next year.

Which led some Washington wisecrackers to remark that here was an opportunity for a new Harry L. Hopkins boondoggling project. The idea: Install a giant bell in the Capitol dome and keep a gang of men on three eight-hour shifts to ring it merrily every time "Genial Jim" turns down a campaign contribution from any source.

Needless to say, the bell-ringers would have no more work to do than a lot of Hopkins' other boondogglers.

President Roosevelt has announced he will not ask Congress to make any more lump sum appropriations for public works. That means, of course, that Congress will be allowed hereafter to specify what projects it wants built.

And it also means a revival of the old log-rolling, back-scratching, pork-barrel system in Congress. That is the one under which a Congressman from Tennessee votes for an Oregon project not because he thinks it sound but because the Oregon members will vote for his pet Tennessee project.

E MAIL BAG

In this department The Post presents letters from its readers on current problems—suggestions, criticisms, bouquets. The Post need not endorse any sentiment or criticisms expressed here, neither can it vouch for the accuracy of any statements made. It recognizes only that in this country people have, within reason, the right to express themselves.

Dear Editor: The transition of Soviet Russia from Socialism to Communism, recently hailed by Leader Stalin, should be of more than passing interest to Americans. The alarming spread of Socialism in high official circles in this country must be viewed as a real menace to our established form of government. And Lenin, first leader of the Soviets, described state socialism as one of the necessary rungs on the ladder to Communism. First steps are dangerous if taken in the wrong direction. K. R. W. Sweet Valley