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EUROPE'S RECOVERY

Some interesting figures are found in a recent report of the National Foreign Trade Council on the growth of the world's trade. The report sets out that Europe has increased its world trade more rapidly than any other quarter of the world during the past two years and has now made up all but ten per cent of the volume of export trade it carried in 1913, the year before the coming of the World War. The statement continues:

"Two years ago the council called attention on Armistice Day to the fact that in 1925 for the first time since the war international trade as measured in exports had surpassed its volume for 1913. The combined nations other than the United States then had made a small gain which complete figures show to have been about four per cent, and the United States had made a remarkable advance of more than 31 per cent.

"The figures for 82 nations now disclose an even more satisfactory picture for 1927. They show a real growth of 11 per cent in exports over 1913 for the rest of the world and a maintenance of the growth of the United States to a 38 per cent corresponding surplus.

"As was inevitable, the recovery of the European nations, now in full swing, has stimulated their exports at a more rapid rate than our own during the last two years. The 27 nations of Europe gained 10 per cent in exports during this interval and have practically attained again the momentum of their prewar growth. The United States gained about five per cent between 1925 and 1927. The significant fact is, however, that the world as a whole, with a real export growth of 6 per cent during the two years, definitely has embarked on a new growth in international trade at about half the rate of progress it has made before the war."

What then becomes of the old internationalist argument that unless we cancelled the European debts and reduced our tariff barriers, Europe would in time go into bankruptcy with the consequent collapse of the economic stability of the whole world? Evidently something has gone wrong with this argument just as something went wrong with the argument that if we didn't give up protection we would lose all of our foreign trade.

Europe is indeed now in full swing toward recovery. In a year or two more she will be entirely back to normal and the reconstruction period for most European nations will be over, just as it is already over for the United States.

The most noticeable gain in trade of the European countries has been that of Germany. But other nations are forging ahead too and each year from now on competition for the United States in the world markets will become keener. This makes it all the more necessary that the United States protect its own great home market and keep the production of its factories at high tide. The more production the less the cost, and the better able we are to compete with Europe in the foreign markets.

At the same time let us not forget that the bottom has fallen out of the argument that Europe could not recover unless Uncle Sam placed the burden of the European war debts on the backs of the American taxpayers. Europe is recovering, and it is somewhat significant that in spite of all the "bear stories" as to European poverty, most of the nations of the old continent are constantly increasing their armaments and spending more and more money for military and naval display. If they can afford to prepare for another one, they can afford to pay something on the debts they incurred in the last war.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The large sum of $55,000,000 is paid each year in this country for Christmas cards, according to a writer in the American Review. Some folks may think that people send too many of these cards, yet the expense per person is not large, and they perform a service.

Those distant friends of yours, who once meant so much to you, are you neglecting them? Once you declared that you would never forget them, and were going to write them so often and visit them too. And then time has come and cast a little blur of forgetfulness. But along comes some pretty little Christmas card, with a message of old time friendship, indicating that the former tie still lives. That card is worth a lot to you. Your friends could well afford to send it.

HOW WEALTH MAKES FRIENDS

It is often argued that the distribution of wealth is unfair, and that it is not right that a few people should be able to amass vast fortunes, while many suffer for the absolute necessities of life. Yet in spite of this feeling, a great many wealthy people have been able to command the affection of their fellow countrymen, and when they passed on they left a grateful memory behind.

This will be the case with Payne Whitney, noted capitalist and sportsman, whose estate will provide gifts of $60,000,000 to philanthropic and educational institutions, of which the New York hospital gets the biggest share. If Mr. Whitney's estate were divided up evenly among the American people, it would only give them about a cent and a half apiece. When so much of an estate goes into philanthropies, is accomplishes infinitely more than if it was distributed to the people by an equal division.

Andrew Carnegie was an instance of a man of vast wealth who won affection. His money poured out so generously to found libraries, has been a tremendous educational force. Millions of people have lived and worked more intelligently as the result of ideas obtained from the Carnegie libraries.

Henry Ford is an instance of a great capitalist who has always won approval. People have not felt jealous of his great gains, because they could see that he was conferring an immeasurable benefit on the public, by producing automobiles at a low cost, and by paying high wages in his factories.

Innumerable instances could be found of people of wealth who have thus endeared themselves to the people by their generosity. If any of the rich folks feel that they have not won the popular affection, the example set by all these generous folks shows how they can gain it.

VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC RULES

The efforts being made to regulate automobile traffic seem to accomplish a good deal when there are officers around watching for violations.

The stop and go lights used in so many cities now are fairly well obeyed, perhaps because automobile drivers have the feeling that some officer may be looking. If such lights were located in some spot where the drivers knew there was no policeman anywhere near, it is doubtful if they would be so much regarded.

The traffic signs and beacons erected at street intersections, which require drivers to go around them in making turns, are very frequently disregarded. If it seems a little bit farther to go around, a great many motorists ignore them.

Many cities have erected traffic beasons or signs along their principal streets, which require drivers coming from a cross street to "Stop and enter." In many cities it is remarked that drivers from these cross streets usually pay no attention to these signs.

Formerly speed limit signs were posted along many of the streets and roads, but these were so universally disregarded that municipal authorities may feel that it is hopeless to try thus to regulate speed.

There is general complaint from cities and towns that parking rules are commonly violated, and motorists disregard the time limits on parking and park their cars carelessly.

Automobile drivers are not co-operating as they should in the effort to reduce accidents. Many of them are a law unto themselves, save as they may show care when they think some officer may see them. Strict measures of law enforcement will help improve these conditions here in Maryland, but they will continue until sentiment becomes more general among automobile drivers that all rules and regulations should be carefully obeyed.

ARE OUR PEOPLE CONTENTED?

President Coolidge remarked in his Thanksgiving proclamation, that "contentment has followed the undisturbed pursuit of honest toil." The supporters of Mr. Coolidge will enthusiastically affirm this statement, but his opponents remark that there are still a lot of people who fail to get their fair share of good things, and are not contented and should not be.

A person may acquire millions in money and not be contented. And yet many who have fared poorly, have a philosophical disposition, and find pleasure in life.

The American people must do their utmost to right existing wrongs, and there are plenty of them. But as suggested by Mr. Coolidge's remark, contentment has a way of following honest toil. People who put their whole effort into their work are apt to find satisfaction as they go along.

Deer hunters reported thicker than deer in some localities, so that hunters who were determined not to come out of the woods without getting something have had their opportunity.

BREAKING FASHION'S POWER

The Daughters of the Confederacy in their convention as Houston, Texas, recently gave a fashion parade that represented the styles of 1860. The delegates dug out the ancient gowns of that period, and appeared in all the glory of tight fitting bodices, hoop skirts, and lace trimmed pantalettes, and went through with stately motions of Virginia reels and polkas.

To the young people of to-day, such an array of clothing looks supremely grotesque. And yet at the time it appeared beautiful, natural, the finest expression of elegance. Which shows what a tremendous power fashion has over people's judgments. It can make anything look attractive and suitable, even if it is in reality highly inappropriate.

The women of fashion 70 years ago were principally an ornamental factor. They sat around in their stuffy parlors and did artistic embroidery, and it did not make so much difference whether their clothing interfered with free motion and activity or not. If they wanted to faint away after the custom of those times, there was no particular reason why they should not do so.

One mystery of those old times was how the women used to get along who had a lot of work to do, with those encumbering and heavy garments. It must have added greatly to the burdens of their toil.

To-day, 70 years since the date covered by that pageant, the functions of women in the world have undergone almost more of a change than in 700 years previous. Whether or not women marry and do housework, they all live lives of great activity. They have demanded clothing that interferes little with physical activity. Which shows that the power of foolish fashions can be broken.

SHARING THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH

The United States is growing rapidly in wealth. The American people have more money than ever before, and they are spending it freely. There is opportunity everywhere for the people who can produce and distribute the things that the people want.

But the growth in this prosperity will not be equal by any means. While many cities and towns are growing rapidly, many are stationary or are falling behind. The question whether communities go ahead or not depends upon whether the people of those towns get a constantly increasing share of the total business of the country.

Any community that wants to obtain its share of the growth of the country's prosperity has to do two things. First, its productive forces, its factories and farms, must show enterprise and push in reaching out after new customers and holding old ones. Most of them fully realize the necessity of doing that, and are working with their utmost energy to keep their share of the country's increasing business. Also communities must always be looking out for chances to obtain new industries, and to encourage the existing ones to expand and develop into new fields.

The second thing that has to be done, is for the community to use its own distributing facilities, instead of depending on those located somewhere else. When a community spends any considerable part of its income on purchases from retail stores located somewhere else, it gives up a portion of its share of the growth of the country. The places which get this business obtain more than their share of the country's growth.

So if we expect to obtain here in Westminster our full share of the country's growth in wealth, we have to use our own home stores, and keep our money at home.

WIDER HORIZONS NEEDED

A public speaker recently remarked that the epidemic of influenza which broke loose in 1918 cost more lives than the World war. This is one of those statements which are hard to either prove or disprove. But anyway influenza swept away a terrible toll of lives. It is said to have originated in Asia.

This is an illustration how we are affected by things that happen at the ends of the world. The epidemic that starts in crowded China or India because of unhealthy conditions and ignorance, may spread to Westminster and break up our homes. The world lives selfishly, and people care too little what happens outside their own state or country. But considering how evils spread from the dark countries into our own, it is worth while asking what we can do to make a better world.

The politicians will all favor the business reorganization of the government, provided no office holders from their own states lose their jobs.

Pretty hard to induce anyone to chase the rainbows, in these times when the girls are wearing so much brighter colors.

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DISAPPOINTED LOSERS

A lady who was disappointed in a certain result of the recent election, says that she is never going to vote again. The women are not the only ones who act in that way when they are beaten. Many men always used to say that politics was so corrupt that they would never vote at all. Such people fail to see that by abstaining from voting, they defeat themselves.

If a person is beaten in an election, the thing for that person to do is to keep on voting, hoping that in time it will be possible to accomplish the results held in view. When people give up voting because they lose an election, they help keep in power the people of whom they disapprove.

Politics will never get better so long as people get discouraged by defeat and quit voting. Political bosses and machines take advantage of the failure of good people to vote. They know that by their various arts and influences, they are sure to command a solid block of supporters who will march up to the polls and vote year after year.

If a light vote is cast, this politically controlled element is likely to constitute a majority. But if public interest is thoroughly stirred, then the politically controlled element becomes a small minority, and can be beaten if the mass of the people feel it is wrong.

People's judgments are very fallible. As we look back at our past opinions, we often see where they were at fault. Sometimes the people whom we regarded as prejudiced, have had a practical view of the situation superior to our own. So whether we win or lose, let us all live and learn about politics. The only way to accomplish anything whatever toward realizing our ideals here in Maryland is to vote at every primary and election, and discuss politics with our neighbors and induce them to form the same voting habit.

The new Ford has a very simple and effective lubrication system

THE lubrication system for the engine of the new Ford is as simple in principle as water running down-hill.

A gear pump in the bottom of the oil pan raises the oil to the valve chamber reservoir. From here it flows on to the main crankshaft bearings and the front camshaft bearing. Overflow oil drops into the oil pan tray and runs into troughs through which the connecting rods pass.

As the ends of these rods strike the oil they scoop up a supply for the connecting rod bearing. At the same time they set up a fine spray that lubricates the pistons and other moving parts.

From the tray the oil runs into the bottom of the pan, and is again drawn up through a fine mesh screen and pumped to the valve chamber.

This system is so effective that the five-quart contents of the oil pan pass through the pump *twice* in every mile when you are traveling at only 30 miles an hour. Yet there is only one movable part — the oil pump.

As a matter of fact, the lubrication system for the new Ford is so simple in design and so carefully made that it requires practically no service attention.

There is just one thing for you to do, but it is a very important thing . . . *watch the oil!* Change the oil every 500 miles and be sure the indicator rod never registers below low (L).

If the oil level is allowed to fall below low, the supply becomes insufficient to oil all parts as they should be oiled.

To insure best performance it is also advisable to have the chassis of your car lubricated every 500 miles. This has been made easy in the new Ford through the use of the high pressure grease gun system.

Proper oiling and greasing mean so much to the life of your car that they should not be neglected or carelessly done.

See your Ford dealer regularly. He is especially well-fitted to lubricate the new Ford and he will do a good, thorough job at a fair price.

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