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"If in some crises the Government lives beyond its income for a year or so, it can usually borrow temporarily on reasonable terms. But if, like a spendthrift, it throws discretion to the winds, is willing to make no sacrifice at all in spending, extends its taxation to the limit of the people to pay, and continues to pile up deficits, it is on the road to bankruptcy."—F. D. Roosevelt.

A CENTURY OF FACTS

A study of the mortality record of business enterprises in the typical city of Poughkeepsie, New York, for a period of nearly one hundred years—1843 through 1936—reveals startling and significant facts.

Contrary to wide belief, the advent of "big business," has had no effect on the mortality rate of small enterprises. The spectre of bankruptcy loomed as large on the horizon of the small business man in the 19th century as it does in the 20th century, irrespective of the growth of large scale competition.

In the case of independent retail merchants versus chain stores, of which we hear so so much, the findings were even more opposed to common gossip (mostly political). In the period 1844 to 1875, chain stores had scarcely made their appearance, yet the length of life of the average retail concern was materially shorter than in the later period—1904 to 1933—during which there was substantial chain store competition. Quoting from the study as presented in Dun's Review: "The small independent store has lived longer in the 20th century, in spite of chain store competition, than it lived in the middle of the 19th century in the absence of such competition."

Clearly, the threat of large scale private enterprise to the competitive system has been greatly overemphasized. In a nation of 130,000,000 inhabitants it takes large scale, efficiently operated enterprises to maintain a decent national standard of living. And the demagogue who indiscriminately attacks the one is guilty of attacking the other.

LABOR AND THE LAW

The action of the House in approving a resolution to investigate the National Labor Relations Board deserves commendation — from worker as well as employer. For, rightly or wrongly, this Board, and the Act creating it, has probably done more to damage the interests of legitimate organized labor than any law ever put on the statute books.

The Labor Relations Act was, according to its sponsors, designed to end labor strife. In practice, it has fomented it, and been the direct cause of the bitter warfare between the CIO and AF of L. It was supposedly designd to put dealings between management and employes on a fair and equitable basis. Instead, it has deprived the employer of vital rights and placed almost unlimited authority over industrial policies in the hands of a politically appointed group. It was supposedly going to call a halt to labor racketeering. Instead, it has encouraged it, and gone a long way toward placing the workingman at the none too tender mercies of professional labor leaders.

That there are good things in the Act no one will deny. These things can and should be retained, and every protection should be given the worker against the occasional unscrupulous, sweat-shop-minded employer. But this doesn't mean that the lazy and incompetent worker is to be given a life lease on his job—that the workers' rights supersede the rights of everyone else—or that one union should be favored by the law at the expense of another. The welfare of the honest workingman can never be served by any law that is opposed to the public interest, and to decent an dfair industrial relations.

It is unfortunate that Congress has so long delayed needed revision of the Act. The proposed House investigation should lay the groundwork for making necessary and fair changes early next session.

THE FARMER GETS WHAT'S LEFT

The Agricultural Department has just made a study of farm prices and announces that in 1938 the farmers got lower prices for their products than in pre-war days, but that the consumer was paying more for the products. In other words, although more money was being spent for agricultural commodities, the farmer was getting less of it.

The department's Bureau of Agricultural Economics then goes on to give some fancy explanations of why this condition exists. One reason, says the bureau, is that distribution costs are higher. The bureau adds officially: "Of course many factors have influenced changes in prices of farm products since the pre-war years: monetary and other factors affecting the general price level, changes in population, industrial activity and consumer purchasing power in the U. S., changes in international trade and foreign demand conditions, and changes in both the domestic and foreign supplies of farm products."

But there is a more simple — and more probable — factor the bureau has apparently overlooked. That factor is right under the bureau's nose in the administration's policies of economic experimentation.

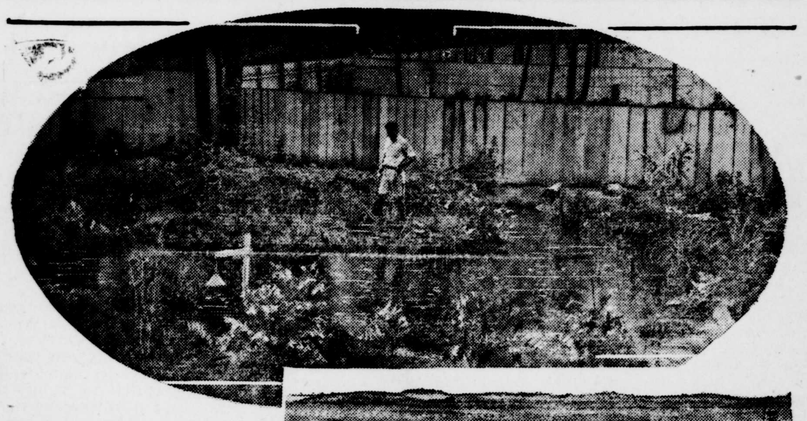
And in those policies several causes may be found, but two are easily seen and should be pointed out. One is the policy of forcing higher wages (and therefore higher costs) in the industries which must process and distribute farm products. The result is simple—it boosts the price the consumer pays for the product, but doesn't cut the farmer in for any larger share of the food dollar.

The other is the policy of forever adding new taxes on food products. These are mostly hidden, undercover taxes which do not show on the price tag the housewife sees in a store. They boost the costs of the commodity, but, like the other policy, add nothing to the farmer's share. Nor does it add anything to the profits of the processor, handler, shipper or grocer, or to the quantity or quality the consumer receives. The extra cash simply goes back to the government —for more economic experimentation.

It's a vicious cycle!

One reason why government competition is so hurtful is that when the government arrives at the end of the year with a deficit it merely asks Congress for a deficiency appropriation which the owners of competing private business help pay. When private business arrives at the end of the year in an insolvent condition it cannot call upon Congress for a deficiency appropriation. It must close its doors. — Herald, West Union, W. Va.

DYNAMITE HELPS BUILD BIG FROG RANCH AND CONSTRUCTS PONDS TO FIGHT MOSQUITOES



Top—Dynamite made this five-pond frog farm possible by blasting large ponds where it was impossible to use other methods. Bottom—Pond 10 feet deep, 60 feet long, made with dynamite. During dry periods, fish can still live here.

Entire pond blasted in 5 seconds, 3 going up, 2 going down.

DYNAMITE has been used to create synthetic "earthquakes" to locate oil deposits; to rough out massive figures for heroic sculptures on mountain sides; to stop floods and break up ice jams; to save navigation by removing wrecks; and in a great many other ways—in addition to its big job of getting out coal, rock and metals so that the country can go about its work of building roads, erecting skyscrapers and constructing automobiles.

Now come reports of new uses. This time they are of blasting ponds for a frog ranch and of building reservoirs for fish so they can survive long droughts and continue to eat larvae in mosquito control work.

Ponds ranging in length from forty to seventy-five feet, twenty feet in width and ten feet in depth recently have been blasted in one shot. A series of five of these large ponds was shot in Maryland where the construction of a frog ranch has been completed. This frog ranch intends to ship 100,000 frogs to market each year. It has to have ponds for them to breed, to feed, and to mature. If conditions are favorable and the bullfrog stock is good, each frog will spawn 20,000 eggs a year.

Naturally, the place selected for these frogs to live was in a marshy damp spot where conditions were to their liking. The locality, however, was filled with stumps, rotting logs, tangled roots and other debris which made it impossible to dig the ponds by hand and likewise made it impracticable to employ machinery.

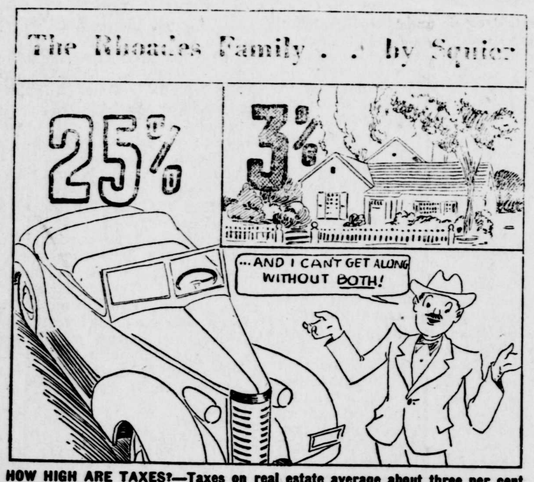
Dynamite was called in to aid and new blasting methods developed by experts were employed. It was found possible to "shoot" the ponds in the size required at a minimum of expense and labor.

The plan employed at the frog ranch is what is known as the cross section method of blasting. Here the expert digs a series of holes from four to six feet apart and loads each one with from one to five pounds of dynamite. Other rows of holes are dug at cross sections to the original line.

If the ground is wet, as was the case at the frog ranch, the whole series of holes are shot by what is known as the propagation method. In this, one dynamite cartridge is detonated. This explodes all the other cartridges. In digging ponds and ditches with dynamite the dirt, logs, debris and other material along the right of way are thrown high in the air and scattered across the landscape so that there are no spoil banks to seep back into the pond.

In the case of the mosquito control work located in lower Delaware, the dynamite expert put down one row of holes in what is known as the "post hole" method; loaded each of them with thirty or forty pounds of dynamite; connected all the holes in series; and fired them electrically in one shot. This method is adopted when the ground is dry. Here again the dirt was thrown clear of the proposed pond. The excavated place was quickly filled with water and a workable and suitable pond of the size required resulted.

The speed with which dynamite can be put down to blast ponds and ditches and the accuracy with which it works is always surprising. Explosives experts have developed the technique, however, to such a point that thousands of miles of ditches have been blasted or cleaned out for drainage purposes throughout the country.



HOW HIGH ARE TAXES?—Taxes on real estate average about three per cent of value the country over, but taxes on automobiles average about 25 per cent of value. The average worth of all automobiles in the United States is less than $200 per vehicle. The average motor tax bill is above $50 per vehicle.

ROAD BUILDERS VISIT WORLD'S FAIR "HIGHWAYS AND HORIZONS" EXHIBIT

American Road Builders' Association officials visit Traffic-Safety Information Center in General Motors' "Highways and Horizons" exhibit at New York World's Fair. Seated, left to right, are William M. Parrish, Chicago; Michigan State Highway Commissioner and ARBA President Murray D. Van Wagoner, Lansing; Paul B. Reinhold, Pittsburgh, and Herbert R. Anderson, Chicago. Mr. Reinhold scans "Road Builders' News", part of the center's bibliography. Standing are L. B. Yost, center manager; William C. Slee, Washington, D. C.; Robert B. Brooks, St. Louis; George F. Schlesinger, Washington; Chief Engineer Thomas H. Cutler, Kentucky Highway Department, Frankfort; William P. McDonald, Flushing, N. Y., and ARBA Engineer-Director Charles M. Upham, Washington.

Maryland Musings

A total of 531 boys and girls from 22 counties in the state attended the twenty-first annual 4-H Club Week at the University of Maryland from August 7 - 12. The number from each county ranged from 1 from Worchester county to 78 from Montgomery county. Allegany county had 4 boys and 30 girls.

Stocks of wheat in Maryland mills and elevators on July 1 were estimated by the Maryland Crop Reporting Service at 50,000 bushels. Present stocks are considerably below those of the past five years, excepting 1938.

The number of high-class animals being brought into Maryland by livestock breeders is being reflected in exhibits, and the State is becoming a recognized center for first-class breeding stock of some breeds.

If the 1939 fall pig crop in Maryland equals present expectations, the combined spring and fall pig crops this year will be about 10 per cent more than in 1938, 52 per cent above the 1928-37 average, and the largest on record.

There are four definite things anyone can do that will aid in control of Japanese beetles, according to Dr. George S. Langford, specialist in insect control for the University of Maryland Extension Service. None are perfect, he says, but all will help. They are trap, spray, treat lawns, and plant flowers and shrubs that the beetle does not feed upon.

Great precaution should be used in handling and storing any arsenical or nicotine sprays or dust. Both are poison.

The people of Maryland use annually 158,475,000 cubic feet of wood of various kinds and in many forms, at a cost of $34,201,460.

With the exception of two years, 1932 and 1933, the wheat crop in Maryland this year is expected to be the smallest since 1875, it is estimated by the Maryland Crop Reporting Service in its July 1 report. The crop this year is estimated at 7,334,000 bushels compared with a ten-year (1928-37) average of 8,419,000 bushels. Dry weather hastened maturing in some areas and reduced earlier expected yields.

Extension Service workers in Maryland made 24,641 farm home visits to 10,537 different farms or homes during the year of 1938.

Weather conditions recently have been very favorable for infection and spread of plant diseases, according to specialists of the University of Maryland. They advise spraying or dusting with a good fungicide at frequent intervals as long as the wet weather continues.

New York — The transplanted palms in the tropical garden of the Florida exhibit at the New York World's Fair have come into full flower and are attracting the attention of thousands of northern visitors.

It's The Law!

Uncle Sam has some very funny laws. All the laws cited are still valid and all who violate them are technically liable to imprisonment. Here are a few:

In Ohio all cats going out on the street at night must have a red light tied on their tails.

In Boston it is forbidden to play the violin and to have dogs more than a foot high.

In South Carolina it is forbidden to go to church with a revolver in your pocket.

In Virginia baths in rooms are banned. People must bathe only in the yards of their houses.

—The Commentator Magazine

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