BERLIN, WIS., IS PROSPERING; BUT WANTS 'BUNGLING' STOPPED

Coddling of Labor Unions Is Unpopular; Small Business Man Seen as Hope of America's Future.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

BERLIN, WIS.—Farmers today are pulling big figure bills out of their pockets to buy the wares of Berlin, Wisconsin, merchants. Never before has such big money been handled in ordinary trade here. During World War I people used $20 bills—but now they use $50 bills. The other day a farmer brought a check from a grain company for $500 into a Berlin bank and asked for ten $50 bills.

Berlin never knew greater prosperity. Its traditional fur business is not doing quite as well as usual because pelts are scarce, but it has a war plant which employs about 600 persons; its leather goods manufacturing is booming with war orders and the farmers who own some of the best dairy farms in Wisconsin are prosperous. Altogether this town of about 4,300 persons is thriving extremely well.

Berlin, however, is not prospering quite as exuberantly as Paxton (Ill.), because dairying is not as profitable today as raising corn. Cattle have to be fed; and virtually every kind of feed is scarce. "Bootleg" corn—corn being sold above OPA ceilings—is being bought in and around Berlin at $1.42 a bushel, even as high as $1.65, compared with a legal ceiling of $1.05. Oats are bringing as much as 96 cents a bushel.

With this background of prosperity the most prosperous people of Berlin are thoroughly dissatisfied with Washington. Many are convinced that President Roosevelt, or at least "Mrs. Roosevelt and the men who surround the President," are quite deliberately attempting to convert the United States into a socialistic state, and are going about it with diabolical cleverness. They have

Dairy farms in Berlin, Wis., vicinity are doing all right.

seen several unfortunate demonstrations of bureaucratic bungling in their own town, and they feel that Republican farmers of the North are being discriminated against in favor of Democratic farmers in the South.

Coddling of Labor Unions Is Unpopular

But above all, they feel that strong labor unions have been so "coddled" by the Roosevelt administration that they have acquired power out of proportion to their economic importance, and are responsible for many of the farmer's ills. Naturally, these generalizations are not universal, but they appear to be generally enough held to be representative.

There is little labor organization in the small industries of Berlin. In a vote taken among the employees of the Berlin-Chapman company, the local war factory, under the auspices of the National War Labor board, neither AFL nor CIO gained standing. People of Berlin still remember the granite quarry that closed years ago when employees struck to obtain higher wages for helpers. Workers were forced to accept lower wages in other quarries operated by the same company in nearby towns; and the Berlin quarry never reopened.

One of the most vocal anti-New Dealers in the town is William H. Patey, editor and publisher of the Berlin Journal, a weekly newspaper. He believes the New Dealers in Washington are today's backward lookers.

"Those reactionaries," he declares, "now say the people no longer have the mentality to run their own business—it must be done from Washington—give the farmers a dole, a subsidy, some form of charity. Those men will be supplanted by a brand of new progressives who have a real faith in the people of America—and the calamity howlers will be swept out like autumn leaves."

Mr. Patey uses the word bureaucracy a good deal. By that he means the overmultiplication of government bureaus by administrators determined to entrench themselves in public office and increase their political power. He sees evidence of this on all sides, but the demonstration given by the National Youth administration in Berlin has made one of the deepest impressions upon him.

Big Business Can't Smash Little Fellow

As for the place of small business after the war, Frank D. Chapman, owner and president of the Berlin-Chapman company, believes big business can never crush the small fellow.

"Matter of fact, a man with real business ability can make more money running a small business himself than he can as president of a great corporation," said Mr. Chapman. "Most of the smartest men I know in business are doing just that."

So is Mr. Chapman. Before the war he made machinery for canning factories, having many patented devices to his credit. Now he is turning out machinery for the production of synthetic rubber, high octane gasoline and chemicals used in warfare. In addition, he is making compressors, which until recently were among the most critically needed of the critical components of war production. But he entertains no warmth for the administration, although in 1932 and 1936 he ran on the Democratic ticket. The local Democrats, who put most of their candidates into office then, could not accept him as a thoroughgoing member of their party.

"The administration is making a sloppy job of the war," he asserted. "The first New Deal taught people to be bums, and now they're trying to teach them to go to work, but they learned the first lesson too well. Labor leaders came out here and told people to seize the factories. 'Maw' Perkins said she didn't see anything against sitting down. It'll take another generation of Americanism to get the workers back to working the way they did ten years ago.

"The New Deal has seen fit to place its war contracts where it got its votes. It still places them in centers of the United States which are short of housing facilities, labor and manufacturing facilities. They have closed up shops in Milwaukee, Utah, and one factory in Kansas City; but they are still operating in the East. In my plant, we are not working more than 50 per cent of maximum capacity, but we have a surplus of manpower and plenty of housing facilities.

"The best brains don't go into the big companies, or they get out of them when they do get in. Small business will survive, despite the growing power of the big boys, as long as it keeps the best brains."

As Berlin, Wisconsin, Views It . . .

Editor W. H. Patey and a lot of people in Berlin, don't like big business because it reminds them of bureaucracy, and, in addition, the dislike of so-called monopolies is an old Wisconsin tradition. Yet even in this area, Mr. Patey does not see the situation without shades of distinction.

"There's Henry Kaiser, and Henry Ford, and Wendell Willkie. They have an attitude of helpfulness—not selfishness. Take Henry Kaiser. He hasn't anything against unions as such. When they are well managed, he says they take half the load off him in getting out production. Willkie wants to fight labor racketeers, but he will fight for the men in the unions. But he's against the cheap racketeers who farm labor—make their living from cheating workers."

Washington Digest

FAO Draws Up Plans for 'Family of Nations' Buying

Food and Agriculture Organization Aims at Expanded Production, Increased Trade Within Countries Involved.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

When the President introduced his second bill of rights into his State of the Union message to congress and skillfully linked the past and future with it, he set up old arguments among the elite of Washington's cracker-barrel set.

When "Old Dr. New Deal" was set aside as the guardian of American welfare, some folks hereabouts insisted that he had plans for considerably extending his practice later—that his friend, Franklin D., was planning on a "World New Deal."

Like all smoke, it signalizes a fire somewhere.

There is no doubt that even though the realistic Mr. Churchill and the realistic Mr. Stalin didn't see eye to eye on everything as they looked at each other across the green table at Teheran, we have reason to believe that both are pretty well sold on what they each think can be done in the way of a little international "welfare work" which would raise the decibels which measure the hum of business in their respective countries.

The President presented to congress the various human "rights" he visualized, as you recall, and there will be more specific data concerning them which he will submit to the legislators later, either just to keep his hand in in case he contemplates, as the cracker-barrelers suggest, further personal activity later, or merely wants to keep Americans thinking about all these things, come the ides of November.

About Relief

No matter how you look at it (unless you are a 100 per cent "stew-in-their-own-juicer") you have a sort of vague feeling that we ought to do what we can to help out people who are starving or freezing no matter where they are. I say that advisably and for proof turn to the record.

One of the earliest memories of my childhood is tagging up Main Street on my mother's hand and seeing a dishpan in front of the "Silver Dollar" (not the original) filled with dollar bills. My mother dropped in a quarter and hurried past the sinister abode. Passersby tossed in their currency for the sufferers of some Chinese famine or Italian earthquake (perhaps Pompeii and Herculaneum, I don't recall).

America is always willing to go down deep in its pockets for "relief." But it doesn't seem to like it if government runs the show. Nobody on Main Street knew how much of the dishpan's contents reached the quaking Italians or what-have-you and how much never got past the "Silver Dollar's" back room, but nobody cared.

On the other hand, even when the money is triple-checked by the government and investigated by the opposition, if it is taken out of the general kitty, Americans don't like it. That's playing Santa Claus. When they can shell out individually, it's all right—which may be perfectly logical from a psychological viewpoint.

However this may be, your government is going right ahead and preparing a program for taking out the wrinkles and concealing the ribs of a starving world just the same—it is also doing something more, helping the starvers raise more of their own food.

They are trying to organize the job with the same business acumen that a business man would use on it. Believe it or not, the men who are figuring out free lunches and the production programs to make them unnecessary hereafter are doing it scientifically, and even if you don't like the word, on a "businesslike" basis.

Little has been said of this permanent food organization of the United Nations. You hear about UNRRA, which is supposed to take care of what might be called "strategic feeding"—that is, taking care of the peoples in countries the Allies reoccupy (hungry men and women are no help to anyone). The motive is less altruistic than military.

But you may not have heard of the work of the FAO—that's an entirely unofficial abbreviation of the Food and Agriculture organization which Gove Hambidge of the agriculture administration of the department of agriculture made up himself. He was appointed one of the secretaries of the commission appointed at the conference in Hot Springs last May.

Work 'Going Well'

Hambidge says the work of this FAO is going well. It has drawn up the plans for this job of permanent feeding. Not "free" feeding permanently, but a plan for "family buying"—family of nations buying. Naturally there is plenty of chance for differences of opinion but Hambidge puts it this way:

"Pa wants a certain kind of engine. Ma has her eye on the upholstery. Sis prefers a certain body color. Junior—he's thinking about the gadgets on the instrument panel. But the main thing is—they all want a car. They end up by getting one that isn't quite what anybody expected—but one that's durable, and a good buy, and gets them where they want to go.

"In other words, they compromise. Each one gives up his own pet ideas to get a car that will be serviceable for the whole family.

"And that's what will happen," says Hambidge, "with the Food and Agriculture organization. The Interim commission has been working out a constitution—a broad plan of operation, showing what the organization will do and how it will do it, and a general budget, so we'll know what the work will cost. Along about March, probably, they will have these plans ready to submit formally to the 40-odd governments. If there's quick approval — the organization should be set up and ready to go not too long after that."

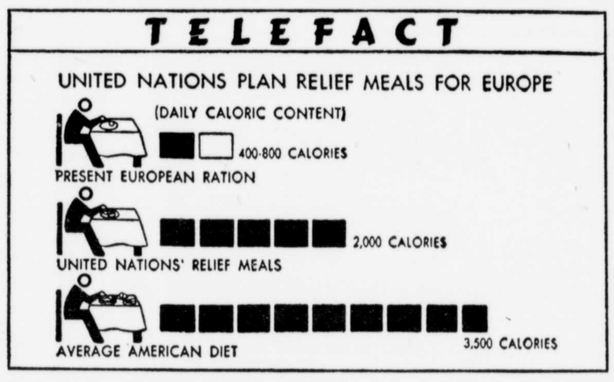
Two things FAO is aiming at: expanded production within the countries involved, and increased trade between the countries involved.

Some countries, for instance, just can't produce enough of the right kinds of foods to feed their people properly; others can produce certain foods—like wheat, for instance—only at very great cost.

The FAO, its members say, aims to get away from the old isolationist idea that prevailed almost everywhere before the war—with every country trying to meet all its own needs which ended up with a smashing big depression and a whopping big war. What the FAO can do to prevent such world catastrophes, according to Hambidge, remains to be seen.

That is what this very silent committee, or commission or whatever you want to call it, is doing—making an attempt at prophylaxis—an attempt to cure the disease instead of the symptoms.

TELEFACT



BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

Prewar model baby carriages, strollers, walkers, and pushcarts will reappear on the market in about six weeks, according to the WPB.

• • •

Net cash farm income for the three years 1941 through 1943 was over 2½ times such average net income for the five years preceding the outbreak of war.—The People's Lobby.

War Food administration has announced it will soon release about 440,000 cases of canned pork and beans to civilian consumers.

• • •

The Japanese explanation of the main points of their taxation law revision bills, when translated by U. S. government monitors, comprised a single-spaced document a little more than four feet long.

Pans for true angel fool and sponge cakes should not be greased. If they are greased the batter cannot cling to the sides of the pan as it bakes and thus the cake does not reach its full height. Greasing also causes the cake to fall out of the pan during cooling, making it flat and soggy.

Save on meat with cheaper cuts "Tenderize" ow-cost steaks with a spiked roller or hammer-like blade device that can be bought for little money. Pot roast and stew cheaper [illegible] for [illegible]

Use cereals and crumbs to exten meat.

To remove spots from polished tables, cover the spot with severa soft paper napkins, cut the same size as the spot. Apply a hot iron t the paper, regulating the heat so tha the paper does not scorch. Remove the napkins andl the iron and apply a cloth on which are several drops of mineral oil. Then rub briskly, allowing no time for the spot to become [illegible] Polish with a dry cloth, and [illegible] if necessary.

Cheese is on of the best accompaniments to salad because of its dietary value. It is rich in the elements salads lack and therefore when the two foods are served together they make an almost complete meal.

—V—

When Your Back Hurts—

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

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