

"Attendance is the Price of Membership"

UNEMPLOYMENT

By Samuel Rosinger

The greatest emergency the country faces at present is the unemployment situation. The number of wage-earners who are forced into idleness by the prevailing economic depression, runs into millions. Winter is coming, and the suffering from semi-starvation, to which these unfortunate victims of circumstances have been subjected, will be aggravated by the inclemencies of the weather. Hunger and cold are the most dreaded foes of man, and every means which organized society can devise for saving innocent human beings, especially women and children, from the tortures of these vampires, should be speedily employed.

Even the government, which heretofore has camouflaged conditions by optimistic pronouncements, has awakened to the gravity of the situation, and the President, the expert relief worker, is taking far reaching measures allowed for alleviating the suffering arising from unemployment. However, the federal government's effort is only a drop in the bucket, and in order that it be effective, it must be supplemented by whole hearted co-operation of the states and municipalities. Every community must do its own share in relieving its own problems. Unemployment in Beaumont might not be as acute as in other industrial centers, yet hundreds of bread-winners are in straits, and unless relief is in sight, their position will become desperate. County and city officials, bankers, industrialists and business men, ministers, social service agencies and civic clubs ought to take counsel together, and effect a strong organization for the purpose of reducing suffering in our community to a minimum.

No one who has the faintest spark of humanity in his breast can hide himself from his own flesh. Society must share the responsibility for the pitiful plight of the vast army of the unemployed, and it cannot escape its imperative duty to mitigate the desperate condition of those who lack the most elementary means of subsistence. The dire deprivations of millions in the richest country in the world, is a crime crying to heaven, and a scathing indictment of our civilization. Let every citizen lend an effort toward relieving this extremely grave situation, and help to avert the calamity which threatens countless human beings.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary Phone 932

Vol. X Beaumont, Texas, October 22, 1930 No. 41

Slants at the Meeting

Miss Dundee Sheeks, the daughter of one of our silent members, rendered a delightful violin solo.

The "Hired-Hands" were paid too much, irrespectively, in their first number, says a member. They sounded like a direful ditty on a dung-hill. The moribund gasps of a departing cow might have been more cheerful. Their second effort would come under the head of "improvement."

The transportation, or advertising, manager of an aviation company, Mr. McKee delivered an interesting talk on aerial activities. And while it smacked a bit of commercialism or propaganda we can well forgive him in as much as he spoke his lines "without mouthing" them. His statistics were digestible; his information enlightening; and his presentation pleasant.

Since we are now informed Columbus did not discover America; toad frogs can live 300 years in Oklahoma subterraneously; and the sun's light will fade in 15,000 million years it might be the better part of discretion to waive wrangling over the ethical complex of some of these supercharged sales talks and sniff a little of their bovine bacilli.

Anyway our advocacy of this will not be transcribed on marble, enclosed in a mahogany frame and seek space in Hotel Beaumont as Sam Rosinger and Tom Minyard have priority rights or hold over-riding royalties thereon.

—Check.

OFFICERS

SAM ROSINGER.....President
MILLARD W. McMASTER.....Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY.....Treasurer
IRWIN J. FERAY.....Secretary

DIRECTORS

SAM ROSINGER—Jewish Congregation.
BARNEY A. STEINHAGEN—Steinhagen Rice Mill. Co.
W. HARRY LONGE—Longe's Co.
CHESTER A. EASLEY—Seaport Coal Co.
P. PERKINS BUTLER—American National Bank
PRESTON B. DOTY—First National Bank
Millard W. McMaster—Petroleum Iron Works Co.
ED STEDMAN, JR.—Stedman Fruit Co.
CARL S. DICKENS—Magnolia Petroleum Co.
IRWIN J. FERAY—T. H. Mastin & Co.

ROTARY VISITORS

The following visitors were present at today's luncheon:

M. T. Ball, Port Arthur.
Edgar Goldberg, Houston.
J. L. Cummings, St. Joseph, Michigan.
B. F. Johnson, Fort Worth.
Ewell Strong, City.
A. F. Barnes, Houston.
Guy Plumly, City.
Capt. C. P. Chapman, U. S. Army, City.
Thos. H. McKee, Dallas.

—Rotarygrams—

PERSONAL INDUSTRY

Everybody knows the first principles in gardening—weeding, pruning, watering, cultivating, killing of natural enemies, encouraging natural advantages.

Life is equally simple; the rules are known to everyone. Industry, fairness, economy, bring certain good results; idleness, carelessness, discourtesy, unfairness, bring certain bad results.

Why, then, do so many people persist in the wrong plan?

In gardening, no one cultivates weeds.—Thomas Drier.

The driver of a Ford sedan, who was plainly out of his element in city traffic, attempted to turn around in the middle of a block, and was sideswiped and upset by a hook and ladder truck on its way to answer a call.

Striding over to the overturned vehicle, a traffic officer poked his head through the broken window and demanded: "What do you mean by blocking traffic like this? C'mon outta there; you're pinched!"

"You let him alone!" said a female voice from the back seat. "How did we know them drunken painters were going to run into us?"

Filene Defends Mass Production

Those critics who fear that mass production will unduly standardize human lives, miss the whole point of the modern economic order, says Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant-economist.

"Poverty is the only thing that can standardize people," he writes in the October Rotarian Magazine. "Where people must live on a few cents a day, they can have no choice as to how they shall live. With poverty abolished, as only mass production can abolish it, they may be as diverse as their opinions indicate."

Poverty will not be abolished in a year, nor by miracles, Mr. Filene asserts, but as the implications of the mass production are gradually worked out, what were once luxuries will be put within the reach of the poor.

"Mass production means mass distribution and this," says Mr. Filene, "cannot go on without mass buying . . . This involves financing of consumption. It was no accident that Ford, who first taught us the value of low prices, should also have taught us the necessity for high wages. As mass production advances, wages must go up and up."

"Thirty years ago the automobile was the emblem of plutocracy. Today, the automobile is the transportation system of the public generally. To manufacture for the masses necessitates not the organization of a giant merger, nor the covering of square miles of territory with cogs and belts. The first thing that mass production involves is the setting of a price which great masses of people can pay. When that is done, all the rest follows."

Mass production also inevitably means more leisure time, Mr. Filene believes.

"When people worked sixteen hours a day, they could not have spent very much even if they had the money, for they could not want very much in the eight hours left to them, excepting sleep and, perhaps, dissipation. With sixteen hours to themselves, however, they have learned to want much."

ACCOMPLISHMENT

There is little that the human mind can conceive that is not possible of accomplishment. The man who has done his best has done everything. The man who has done less than his best has done nothing. Never has there been a time in the history of the world when so much opportunity offers for the leading of a successful life as today.—Charles M. Schwab.