

Europe's Recovery

Europe is recovering from the depression without an NRA.

How can she do it?

"The reason," says André Maurois, French author and commentator on world affairs, in the Rotarian Magazine, "is that this task has been rendered more easy because of two factors. First of all, Europe did have her New Deal, before America. European financiers were very indignant last summer, when America had apparently decided on inflation, and it is true that, at that time, Europe was sick of inflation. Why? Because she herself had gone in for inflation on a grand scale a few years before.

"There is another reason why countries like France, or even apparently much less wealthy countries, like Spain, can stand the crisis better than the United States. In France, the backbone of the country consists of a large number of small farmers, living on their own land, and producing all the food they need, sometimes even the clothes they wear. In good years, the farmers exchange their surplus products with the outside world, and then buy a dress, a cart, or a bicycle. In bad years, this little agricultural group retires within itself. Granted that they can sell nothing, it is at least certain that they do not die of hunger.

"Still another factor," he continues, "which renders the life of European peasants more easy in times of crisis is that almost all of them have money saved. The American farmer had mortgaged his future. On the contrary, the French or Italian farmer has made a habit of always having something in reserve for the future. He does not like to have recourse to credit. He does so only when compelled by illness, but never—or very rarely—in order to buy land. When he buys land, he pays cash for it in bank notes extracted from his 'woolen stocking.' This is a more cautious method, but it is less dangerous to the national economy.

"Furthermore, the banking system of Europe is older, more conservative, more centralized, and is therefore better prepared to weather a financial storm."—From The Rotarian.

—R—

The center of population seems to be at the street intersection where the traffic officer has just asked if you don't know how to drive a car.

ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. IX Beaumont, Tex., January 31, 1934 No. 30

Slants at the Meeting

Boys and Girls I haven't enjoyed so much fun since I had the Old Maid's Knees or stop changing baby's dydie as I had listening to Ellen Lovell expound the Housewives Code.

Ripples of laughter ran up my leterals like children romping on the greensward and I was as full of merriment as a goose is of green grass.

Too, the ladies invited me under the blanket code, and did I make detours and get details. I am just as familiar with their premises as a soap box orator is with your constitution.

However, there are a few points I think ought to be rounded off like a postoffice pen that's mellowed with age.

First they have figured out the average housewife's daily work as 18 hours and she does five different chores at the same time, making a total of 90 hours daily or 630 hours per week. Thing I can't understand what she does with her spare time, unless it is for cultural purposes.

Next they want the time reduced to the NRA standard of 20 hours per week basis and which would entitle them to 31.5 men according to the CWA. Now I understand that the Hollywood women want more men but they want them under the M-G-M or the R-K-O.

Too, they think women having 10 children ought not to be put on the same standing as women having 15 children, that is, if the latter can stand. Besides they didn't fix the responsibility for the children.

Now as your scribe gets further along under the blanket code there may be features presenting themselves which will have to be looked into and perhaps in a later edition some light may be thrown on various aspects.

—Check

OFFICERS

KEITH HOTCHKISS	President
KELSEY LAMB	Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY	Treasurer
IRWIN J. FERAY	Secretary

DIRECTORS

KEITH HOTCHKISS—Pipkin & Brulin Co.
KELSEY LAMB—Lamb Printing & Stationery Co.
IRWIN J. FERAY—T. H. Mastin & Co.
P. P. BUTLER—American National Bank
B. A. STEINHAGEN—Steinhagen Rice Milling Co.
ED STEDMAN, JR.—The Stedman Co.
MILLARD McMASTER—Petroleum Iron Works Co.
TOM P. WALKER—Gulf States Utilities Co.
R. D. CHASTAIN—Imperial Shoe Store
C. A. EASLEY—Seaport Coal Co.

Timely Topics

By Samuel Rosinger

In these days of violent upheavals and sweeping changes, I hope that the march of time will bury the anticipated, undemocratic poll tax into the grave of oblivion, never to be resurrected as long as the Constitution remains our guiding star and is not altogether reduced to a scrap of paper. Whatever justification there may have been for the enactment of the poll tax in the days of reconstruction, at present it is a snare and a stumbling block, as it deprives a vast number of citizens of their franchise and gives scheming politicians coveted opportunities to control elections. In these lean times, it is a gross injustice to bring pressure on men and women to buy poll taxes when their beggarly earnings barely suffice to keep body and soul together. Also, this annual ballyhoo makes a circus of a civic function that ought to be elevated to the sanctity and solemnity of a religious rite. True democracy is rendered a distinct disservice by this noisy corraling of voters, and the exaction of a high fee even from those who can ill afford it, for the privilege of the ballot, which the Constitution bestows unconditionally on every qualified citizen. Abolish the obsolete and obnoxious poll tax and restore the universal franchise, which is the bedrock foundation of democracy.

If the above paragraph is a blasphemy, what follows hereinafter will be looked upon by the bloody shirt wavers as outright treason. This family feud between the twin cities of our country has been going on so long that it has grown stagnant, stale and stupid. The spectacle of two communities whose interests are inseparable, being hopelessly at loggerheads, is anything but edifying. I am convinced that with a generous measure of goodwill, all differences could be adjusted and difficulties ironed out. If the energy spent on fighting each other would be spent on mutual help and co-operation, both cities would flourish and prosper. Let the older heads on both sides meet at the council table, bury the hatchet and smoke the peace pipe in the realiza-

tion that the old adage is still undeniably true, "United we stand, divided we fall."

No pleading has been worked harder by defense attorneys in criminal cases than temporary insanity. This pleading has often enabled people to get away with murder, yet never, perhaps, as lightly as at the recent trial in the Island City. Still, the jury may have argued that the whole world must be suffering from temporary insanity, otherwise, the civilized nations would not have gone berserk and engaged in an orgy of killing for four years; nor would they again arm themselves to the hilt and threaten each other to enter upon another murderous fray on a vast scale; nor would we, the richest nation in the world, have to keep millions on the dole when we have more of everything than what we need. The trouble with our insanity, however, is that it has lasted so long that it has, probably, passed the temporary stage and entered into the chronic category. Be that as it may, I believe, Justice must have temporarily removed the bandage from her eyes to look over the jury that brought in such a verdict in her name.

—R—

Of Interest to Texans

A major development in Texas industry is the growth of the manufacture of women's clothes, largely wash dresses. Hardly making a showing in the 1920 census, that of 1930 showed thirty-eight Texas plants employing 2,097 workers and producing \$5,310,971 worth of clothing.

* * *

There are nearly a hundred concerns in Texas manufacturing some article or articles for use in the oil industry, production, pumping or other phases. Texas-made oil field machinery is in use in every oil field in the world.

* * *

It probably is not true now, for thanks to a real selling effort on the part of Texas manufacturers strongly aided by officers of Progressive Texans, Inc., county commissioners and other buyers of road machinery have been convinced that road machinery made in Texas to meet Texas climatic and other conditions is as good as the best. But in 1931 out of the \$5,000,000 worth of road machinery bought in Texas, Texas manufacturers sold only \$250,000—just 5 per cent of the total. Eighty per cent of the cost of such machines is for labor. If Texas counties and cities, the State Highway Commission and Texas road and paving contractors bought only half their annual needs from the several Texas manufacturers making such machinery, it would provide steady employment to at least 2,000 workers. The State Highway Commission is buying much if not most of its machinery now from Texas manufacturers, just as it is limiting its contracts on non-Federal aid highway construction to Texas contractors and specifying Texas sand, gravel, cement and structural steel in all of its own contracts.