

**BRISBANE
THIS WEEK**

**Protection Impossible
The Railroad Crossings
Things Are Better
When Russia Is Rich**



Europe seeks some network of "treaties" to prevent a war, or build armies and air fleets of each of those signing such treaties to protect the others in case of attack. Unfortunately, in the new war of the air, as in secret gangster war, no protection is possible. Where one criminal has an "automatic" or "sub-machine gun," agreements among law-abiding citizens cannot protect them. And while one nation can secretly build and suddenly launch airplanes with poison gas and explosive bombs, no city can consider itself safe.

France and England, after elaborate experiments, announce that there is no possible way of protecting a modern city against air attacks, even though the city knew in advance when to expect them.

The only safeguard is fear of retaliation.

Deeply grieved by the killing of many school children at a public crossing, the President plans extensive elimination of railroad grade crossings. Complete elimination of such crossings would involve spending hundreds of millions or billions. The work would be undertaken with careful concentration on the fact that railroading itself is bound to change or disappear so far as transportation of passengers is concerned.

Railroads in the future must carry passengers more than one hundred miles an hour, on light railroad equipment, able to climb steep grades as easily as automobiles do now. Elimination of grade crossings will take that into consideration and include elimination of existing sharp curves at crossings, that the work may not be done twice.

Dun & Bradstreet, well informed usually, say that a big business rise is coming. Their weekly survey informs you that before the end of this quarter business progress will have developed to a degree beyond the most sanguine estimates offered at the beginning of the year.

How rich will the Russians become, with their energetic development of national resources, all over Russia and far into Arctic regions?

And what will be the effect on Communism, bolshevism and the proletariat when Russia becomes, as she may do, the richest nation on earth, and those that rule her become the world's richest men, perhaps the first multiple billionaires in history?

Expeditions sent into the Arctic have discovered coal, nickel, zinc, tin, copper, gold and oil, all inside the Arctic circle.

A regular line of freight ships has been established through the northwest passage, gigantic icebreakers going ahead of the freighters. Already Russia produces three times as much gold as the United States. What will be the psychological effect on Communism when Russia produces more gold than any other nation on earth?

Gambling in silver, made inevitable by this country pushing up the price, goes on all over the world; poor old China is buying back at double prices silver sold too cheap, and Britain must wish she had been in less of a hurry to unload below 30 cents an ounce the hundreds of millions of ounces taken from India, when India, in a foolish moment, was put on the gold basis, only to fall off again.

An old true saying tells you: "There is some good in all evil," and this applies even to the deadly venom of the cobra, or "hooded snake of India."

A full discharge of the cobra's poison into the human body means death, while the scientific use of that poison supplies a superior substitute for morphine in diminishing pain.

If you love your British cousins, rejoice. Neville Chamberlain, chancellor of the exchequer, says British income taxes will be cut because British finances show a substantial surplus. That surplus appears in spite of the fact that Britain is adding more than \$52,000,000 to the cost of armaments.

Your satisfaction in this good news may be increased by your knowledge that the United States had the pleasure of financing the surplus and the additional armaments to the tune of \$5,000,000,000 in war debts not paid.

Senator Wheeler of Montana has introduced a bill ordering the national government to take over, own and operate the railroads of the nation beginning January 1, 1936. There is no doubt that railroad stock and bond holders would say, "Amen." If they could be sure of getting a fair price for their property, Railroad management, naturally, would grieve. To give up power is always unpleasant.

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Washington Digest
National Topics Interpreted
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Washington.—The true purpose of the investigation by the senate munitions committee appears to have come to light. It is seeking the honor of drafting legislation which will give it a historical standing as the group of men who first moved to remove the incentive of profit as provocative of war. In presenting its proposal to this end, however, the committee is regarded as having "started something" which it is unlikely can be finished by the group of individual senators making up that committee.

When the investigating resolution was adopted by the senate, its sponsors made much fuss about conditions in the munitions industry. There were many speeches made by Senator Nye (Rep., N. D.) concerning the wickedness of munitions manufacturers, and in the course of those speeches, which were made in a score of different communities, Senator Nye announced conclusions which apparently have not been supported by evidence adduced by the committee investigators. Further, the senator announced plans to disclose alleged corruption among the munitions manufacturers and stated definitely that the purpose of the inquiry was to provide the basis for laws which would control them.

Now, after seven months, we look back on the committee's record and find that it has played a game of hop-skip-and-jump from one subject to another and, I believe, the consensus is that little of real value either to the senate or as public information has been developed.

Since there was the minimum of publicity resulting from the inquiry into munitions plants, shipbuilding yards and the aircraft industry, the committee has taken another tack. Seizing upon President Roosevelt's phrase that profits must be taken out of war, Senator Nye and his colleagues turned their so-called "experts" loose on the track of those illusive profits. The result is a piece of proposed legislation that goes beyond anything ever offered before in the way of tax legislation. Of course, it is entirely likely that nothing at all will come of the Nye bill insofar as improvement of our taxation methods is concerned. But its radical and altogether unworkable character is looked upon as necessitating a frank examination of its provisions.

Because the committee started out to investigate the munitions industry and notwithstanding the fact that since it has wandered all over the surface of the earth with its inquiry there is a widespread belief that its tax bill will apply only to the munitions industry during war time. Such is not the case. It goes far beyond the munitions industry and, indeed, it affects every corporation and every individual with an income of \$1,000 or more.

Probably the Flynn-Nye tax proposal won't get anywhere at all. Certainly it will not be enacted in this session of congress. Nevertheless, when a senate committee seriously introduces a bill that would limit income of a corporation to 3 per cent of its peace-time capitalization—the government would take the rest by taxation—it is regarded by many as time to call a halt. It ought to be added here that obviously the country is faced with the highest taxes it has ever known in consequence of the tremendous spending that has been going on during the last two years and which is to be continued. Those taxes are due to come along within another year or two.

I referred above to the 3 per cent limit on incomes of corporations. This is brought about through a tax of 50 per cent on the first 6 per cent of earnings of every corporation. Above the 6 per cent earnings, it is proposed in the Flynn-Nye bill to take 100 per cent of the total.

Tucked away in one section of the bill is language that is ordinarily referred to as a "joker." It represents the first attempt by congress, rather by the sponsors of this legislation, to circumvent exemption of government securities from taxation. The federal, state, municipal, county and other governmental jurisdictions have the power to issue bonds and other securities free from taxation. This makes such securities attractive. For quite a while there has been agitation to do away with this tax exemption privilege. Nobody has found a way, however, to get legislative bodies to enact the necessary provisions into law. So, we have something like fifty billions of dollars in securities of this type outstanding. If this income were taxable, of course, it would represent a considerable increase in revenue to the federal government through income levies. Thus it is stated the Flynn-Nye proposal is attempting to reach that income without actually violating the contract which the issuing government made with the buyers of those securities.

The effort to tax income from these securities has been worked out in a fashion that is better illustrated than demonstrated. Assume that a corporation had invested a large portion of its surplus

or reserves in tax-exempt bonds. The bill proposes first to limit the amount of income which that corporation may receive and to tax half of the remainder. The result is that income from tax-exempt securities would be mingled with other forms of income and the government would dip its hand into the total and take whatever amount the law prescribed.

Another provision of the bill would result in government confiscation in wartime of every dollar of income that any official of any corporation, company or partnership received in excess of \$10,000 per year. It is to be remembered here that the above-mentioned \$10,000 would not be tax-exempt. Those drawing such salaries still would have to pay the government \$2,800 in taxes on the \$10,000 income. In other words, since nearly every one receiving salaries of this size serves in an official capacity with some commercial unit, the tax provision actually reaches nearly all of the individual income tax payers.

Certainly, the drastic rates affect all persons receiving any income of consequence because there is a sharp reduction in the personal exemption prescribed and the tax rates themselves are boosted higher than a kite. For instance, a married man with an income of \$3,000 a year would have to pay a minimum of \$300 to the government immediately war was declared.

The lethargy that continues among national Republican leaders is beginning to grow irksome upon minor wheel-horses and individual Republicans of lesser consequence in national affairs. Word is coming through to Washington from various sections of the country indicating considerable dissatisfaction with the management of Republican party affairs by the present regime, headed by Henry P. Fletcher, national chairman. There is likewise a growing volume of criticism of the work of Senator Hastings of Delaware, and Representative Bolton of Ohio, joint chairmen of the Republican-senatorial-congressional committee. Superficially, at least, it appears that the Republican pot is about to boil over.

I don't believe anybody can forecast at this time what the result is going to be. It should be said in favor of Mr. Fletcher and Co-Chairmen Hastings and Bolton that they are in a tough spot. They are criticized if they do and criticized if they don't. Yet the fact remains and I think it is recognized everywhere that none of these three has taken a positive position nor has he initiated any constructive effort in behalf of his party's political future.

From among Republicans who yet remain in congress, I have picked up much private discussion indicating fear on their part that the Republican party management is faced with an upheaval equivalent to the Roosevelt New Deal among the Democrats unless the party leaders awaken from their unperturbed sleep. The point made most frequently is that President Roosevelt actually has inaugurated his campaign for re-election, and the Republicans are doing absolutely nothing about it. It is well to recall that Postmaster General Farley is planning to retire—just when nobody knows—to devote his attention to his other job which is chairman of the Democratic national committee. This information can be construed in only one way now that Mr. Fletcher is getting ready to take his seat again at the helm of the campaign machine. Some of the smarter Republicans insist that this should be notice to the guiding lights of their own party to begin construction of political trenches.

Something may come of the Republican sectional meetings now being planned. It is just possible that out of these group discussions may be evolved some national program, or the makings of a national policy. It is likewise possible that from these group discussions some individual may arise who would be a worthwhile leader for the party against Mr. Roosevelt next year. To date, according to all of the information I can obtain, that leader is not in sight. Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan, who was re-elected to the senate last year in the midst of a Democratic landslide, has been suggested. On the other hand, wise politicians tell me that because Senator Vandenberg has been mentioned thus early, he is likely to be out of the running when the convention time comes because in politics it is the early bird who catches the worm.

But to forget the weaknesses of the Republicans in leadership does not cause one to forget the palpable failure made by those in charge at present. So far as the public record shows they have taken no advantage whatsoever of vulnerable spots in the New Deal armor. No administration has been or can be perfect. President Roosevelt does not claim that his New Deal is perfect. He has gone so far as to admit failures in certain of his countless experiments. It is possible that the Republican organization has made note of these failures but it can be stated as a fact that they have made very little use of them by way of political attack.

**Says
WILL
ROGERS**

BEVERLY HILLS.—Well all I know is just what I read in the papers, or what I see here and there. California has just been having some more big rains. Its the finest season there has been out here in years. Cattle are all hog fat, and a high price. Some parts are still aving it tough, but I think it kinder equals up in the long run. It seems like the Middle West has had a particular run of bad luck the last few years. They just went and plowed up so much of that country that should have been left to Buffalo Grass. But you cant blame em, for at that time things were high, and when you first plow if up it did turn out some fine prairie grass. And a funny thing, of all these seed companies, they just cant seem to get the native seed that originally come from that place. It takes years to get an old plowed-over field back from anything but weeds.

I just got a kind of a hunch that things are going to pick up all around. Everybody hollers about all this big new batch of money that is to be spent, but (in spite of what the Republicans and part of the Democrats say) he must know certain things by this time that will bring results. You cant possibly spend that much money without giving a lot of people work, and you cant give a lot of people work, without them spending it. They cant hold it, they cant bury it, they have to spend it. The man they spend it with, the storekeeper and butcher, he has to spend it. Its bound to have a beneficial effect all around, and the big ones that are hollering so, its bound to reach them, and fix them so they can pay higher income taxes.

I am like everybody else. I could sit down by the hour and tell of plans that has been tried in the last couple of years that havent worked, that have maby not only looked foolish, but were foolish, but dare it all that criticism wouldnt do any good. It would just add to the yell of the pack. It would be just another howl in the wilderness. I could sit down from now till morning and tell you what he should not have done, but if you give me five minutes continuous time, I couldnt tell you what he should have done, and neither can any of the rest of em. They can view with alarm by the hour, but they cant point with pride to something else for a minute. All they can say is "Let Business Alone."

Well that all sounds fine, and it lool s like a good thing to do, and it would be a good thing to do, but it was done. It was already done. Mr. Hoover certainly let it alone, right during this same depression. There was not one sign of a handicap put on it. There was no hollering about usurping the rights of the Constitution. The Constitution was a-going wide open, and business had the same leeway. Then what was the holler? All you have to do is remember back.

"Why dont the Government do something?" "Why dont they put out five billion dollars?" Dont you remember the first five billion that we were hollering for the Government to spend? This is not the first time this sum of money has been asked for. Its however the first time they ever got it.

But its no good going over old scores. The breaks have just been against us, the same as I said earlier the breaks have been against those poor ranchers that lived in the drouth and sand storm districts. We are in a hole and we are just running around in there looking for somebody to lay it on. Big business wasent entirely responsible for getting us in there, and they are not going to be entirely responsible for getting us out as lots seem to think. They can help naturally, for they are a tremendous influence.

I think this fellow Roosevelt saw that there was a lot of illis connected with the way businesses were run, and he started in with idealistic plans as to how they should be remedied, and he has found that any business wont work with you when its not paying. He has persuaded, he has coaxed, he has tried, but you cant make you or I invest our money if we are afraid, and he has kept em afraid. But maby the minute that this gigantic expenditure starts showing some results business will join in with him, and that will assure the whole plan's success.

We can talk all the politics we want, but business rises above politics in this Country. The South has gone Republican, and the North has gone Democratic. Why, both have done it because it looked like there was money in it. Let Roosevelt start showing some results with this new money, and it will have a lot of outsideough join it. There is not a Country in the World that can change our outlook as quick as we can. Just a dollar in our pocket makes a different man out of us. So lets dont thumb down on this thing till we see, and the minute any of that dough commences reaching us, we are going to think its a pretty good plan.

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Here Comes the Circus! Stupendous! Colossal!

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY
STEP right up, folks, and see the eighth wonder of the world! Mighty in magnitude! Matchless in merit! Majestic in magnificence! The mammoth marvel of the century! The colossus of all amusements! You've guessed it. Circus days are here again. Spring brings not only balmy breezes and refreshing showers, but the glamor and glitter of the Big Top, with its "train after train of wonders from many lands, hundreds upon hundreds of tons of equipment, acre after acre of rain-proof canvas, herds and more herds of elephants, camels, zebras and zebus, scores upon scores of funny clowns, company upon company of the most remarkable exponents of physical culture, avenue after avenue of cages, corrals and enclosures—a stupendous spectacle of fair-land gorgeousness!"

Everybody is familiar with the fanfare of the big show, and nearly everybody has seen a circus at some time in his life, but few are really acquainted with the extent of the circus industry.



Top, Estralla Nelson, Elephant Trainer, With One of Her Pachyderms. Center, Clyde Beatty Returns to Conquer Samson, Lion Who Laid Him Up for Sixteen Weeks. Below, the Circus Moves Into Town.

In America today or are fully aware of the job of producing one, a job that is far more "stupendous" and "colossal" than the show itself. Yet the American circus is more than a century and a half old.

The first circus fan on record in this country is none other than George Washington, who is something of a stupendous figure himself as history goes. The Father of His Country attended the first performance of a circus in the United States, in Philadelphia in 1792. It was a small show compared to the modern circus. It had no menagerie; the principal attraction advertised by its owner, one John Bill Ricketts, were "Seven Beautiful Women."

Ricketts' circus was born amid plenty of opposition. The circus in general is a hangover from the palmiest days of the Roman empire. It began cleanly enough, with chariot races (no doubt considerably more spirited than those which still remain as an important part of the circus), athletic contests, and gladiatorial combat, but Roman capacity for thrills was not well enough satisfied and eventually helpless Christians were thrown into the arena to do battle against hopeless odds with lions and warriors.

Mighty Barnum Appears. This preserved through the ages an unsavory name indeed for all circuses, and when John Bill Ricketts captured the imagination of the young republic with the first announcements of his show, righteous indignation flared widely forth from pulpit and press. Human nature then must have been something like it is now, however, for this opposition served only to whet the public interest, and there have always been circuses in America from that time. And every President since Washington has attended the circus.

Circus. Ringling Brothers opened in 1884 and eventually absorbed the older circus in 1907. There were other names which gradually grew to importance: John Robinson, oldest of them all; Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Al G. Barnes, Sparks and others. Just before the crash of 1929, John Ringling formed the American Circus corporation and bought them all. Within the next three years he retired all but Ringling brothers-Barnum and Bailey, Hagenbeck-Wallace and Al G. Barnes.

Ringling, however, was doomed. He borrowed heavily in order to gain a monopoly of the circus industry; when the depression came he could not meet the payments. His New York creditors, headed by S. W. Gumpertz, a Coney Island concessionaire, took over the American Circus corporation and Ringling was only a name under the Big Top.

Few spectators realize the magnitude of the activity in the winter quarters of a circus. Here are the rolling shops which must keep all the rolling equipment in shape. There must be a great harness shop, painting shops (for fresh, glittering paint must go on every square inch of equipment every year) and costume factories, as well as barns and stalls for the animals and stages and arenas for the rehearsing of 200 or more acts. The place is seething with activity.

Only three localities in the United States are used for winter quarters: Hagenbeck-Wallace and Cole Brothers winter in Peru, and Rochester, Ind., respectively, which are only a few miles apart. Ringling winters in Sarasota, Fla., and Barnes, on the Pacific coast, —where the show is best known. The Indiana location is considered best, because of proximity to centers of hay and food supply. Food bills for animals of any one of these circuses may run from \$50,000 a year up.

Looks Like "Circus War." With the coming of an independent circus for the first time in years, the American Circus corporation is apparently trying to get ahead of it in bookings. Both Hagenbeck-Wallace and Cole Brothers opened in Chicago on the same day for the same run, and concurrent bookings are in evidence elsewhere in the schedules. Showmen say it may be another of the old-time "circus wars."

Circuses open in the manufacturing centers first, usually about the middle of April. They wait till the farmers have cashed in on crops before swinging out into the less-populated areas; when they do, they follow the route of cash-crop harvest. Drouth and dust storms will, accordingly, cut down their schedules in the west central states. Dayton, Columbus, Detroit, Baltimore, Norfolk, Houston and Dallas are considered great circus towns,

for the Big Top is always jammed there, whether the people seem to have money or not. In an average season of 30 weeks with 170 stands, the average circus plays to 800,000 people who create a gross revenue estimated at well over \$1,000,000.

Large circuses carry from 600 to 1,000 people, about one-third of whom are performers. The travel job is enormous. Usually, the first railroad section leaves a town before the show is over. Meats for the giant cats are shipped from the stockyards towns a week in advance to keep the show supplied. Hay for animals and food for humans are bought by advance agents who enter a town about two weeks before the circus. The shows carry their own staffs of detectives, dentists, doctors, nurses and teachers for the children.

Tastes Change Little. Years have made little difference in the tastes of the public in its circus fare. Buffalo Bill Cody and his Wild West show were great drawing cards, while the old man lived, and there are still wild west acts in the circuses of today. Lillian Leitzel, whose beautiful form caused many a palpitation of the heart, as it dangled from a flying ring in mid-air, is dead now, but the Flying Nelsons, Conchita and others, have taken her place and still form a large part of the bill.

Our fathers and some of us can remember when little boys innocently took jobs watering the elephants in return for passes—and found themselves with a job more backbreaking and more endless than that of Sindbad carrying the Old Man of the Sea. It is doubtful if little boys do that so much any more, for the newer generation is hard to fool, but certainly some of it must still go on. At any rate, the menagerie is still one of the supreme thrills of the show. And most spectacular of all is the pretty lady or handsome hero who walks into the lion's cage and calms the savage beast by the fearless steel that gleams in the eye.

King of the menagerie today is Clyde Beatty, who makes his animal training doubly dangerous by putting three dozen or more lions and tigers, who are born with a natural hatred for each other, through their paces at the same time. A smiling, enthusiastic, vibrant little man of scarcely more than thirty, Beatty ran away from his home in Chillicothe, Ohio, 13 years ago to join the circus. He worked as a cage boy for a polar bear act, and one night when the trainer was called away by a sudden death in the family, Clyde worked the act. He was an instant success and has been snapping the whip and brandishing the chair, which is the trainer's most useful weapon, ever since.

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