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Tuesday, April 19, 1938.

Another Debt Problem

In addition to the problem of raising the money and paying off the national debt, there is the problem of determining the size of the debt. Apparently the figures can be manipulated to fit any claim and be made to support any contention. The national debt is not as high as many try to believe it is, and it is not as low as some think it is.

There are those who point out that the national debt is so many billions larger than it was a short time ago. They point out the debt of the first in a chain of stores and then point out the debt of a developed chain, forgetting to point out the increased income of the big chain over the individual unit.

On August 31, 1919, the per capita net debt in the United States was \$242.57. The total net debt was \$25,470,321,974, these figures representing the amount after deducting cash on hand and notes of allied nations. In comparison to those figures, others are offered as of the fifth of this month. On that date the per capita net debt was \$213.04, the total net obligations standing at \$27,713,148,354, or just about two billions more than they were in 1919.

No body shouted in the Congress that this nation was bankrupted in 1919, but there are those now who are claiming the country is busted. Probably what they are worried about is the blow directed against usury tactics employed by Wall Street banking syndicates for so many years in conducting the financial affairs of this country. In their efforts to restore the old system, they harp upon the national debt; they talk about restoring confidence when they actually want the financial lash restored to the private financiers with an extra coating of sugar in the form of higher interest rates on it.

The serious factor surrounding our national debt is not the size of the debt; it is our attitude toward that debt. We recognize the debt only as meat for argument in directing attacks against an economic program that is fair and just to the borrower as well as to the lender. But when it comes to paying taxes to retire the debt, we balk. Just as the individual ignores his own debts, we, as a nation, are trying to evade the national obligation.

Moral Breakdown

The adversity suffered from breakdowns in our economic system in years gone by has caused great concern, but in some way the order gained its equilibrium and the nation continued its march of progress. A more serious situation than that resulting from an economic relapse is now facing this State and nation in the form of a breakdown of morals. The attitude of the shiftless has threatened recovery under the helping hand of government agencies, and now right here in our own state a far more serious problem arises to thwart the efforts of educational leaders and darken the outlook for society in general.

The report that there are 25,000 cases of social diseases in State schools points to one of the greatest dangers ever faced by organized society in this State. The presence of so many cases of the disease marks the weakening of the social fibre to the extent that it is apparent that the moral reserve will within a few years be too weak to pull us out of the ruts.

If society will save itself it must recognize the startling facts such as those revealed by the State Board of Health officials recently and others that appear almost without interruption in the courts of this and other counties week after week. Once these facts are considered, some solution to the problem must be advanced.

The presence of thousands of social disease cases in the high schools of North Carolina is not to be charged altogether to the schools; in fact, the deplorable conditions are traceable to the homes and parents and to society where a pattern of fast-living has become accepted as the smart thing.

"The youth of today does not possess enough moral reserve to sleep at night," a minister

said recently. Another who has pleaded from the pulpit during the past half century for the moral and religious uplift of youth points out that after looking to young men and women for years to come forward and solve the perplexing problems of society, he has now almost abandoned hope. "Youth is just like a jumping jack, hopping here and there without stopping to think about the higher things in life," the minister continued.

Two Pieces of the Pattern

Hertford County Herald

Production control on the farms, assuring farmers reasonable prices for products and giving protection against grinding poverty brought on by cultivation of excessive acreage and production of unwanted surpluses, is one thing; but it is not unlikely that many supporters of the farm program in the South will see President Roosevelt's proposals for higher wages and better hours for wage-earners in this territory as quite another thing entirely. The one, however, is as necessary for enduring prosperity in the South as the other. This message and the determination of the president to carry the benefits of recovery to Southern wage-earners as well as to the farmers of the nation was voiced with Roosevelt's usual directness and boldness when he spoke at Gainesville, Ga., a few days ago at the dedication of Roosevelt Square in that city in his honor. He said:

"The purchasing power of the millions of Americans in this whole area is too low. Most men and women who work for wages in this whole area get wages which are far too low. On the present scale of wages and therefore on the present scale of buying power, the south can not and will not succeed in establishing successful new industries.

"Efficiency in operating industries goes hand in hand with good pay and the industries of the south can not compete with industries in other parts of the country, the north, the middle west and the far west unless the buying power of the south makes possible the highest kind of efficiency."

If we want progress, if we want higher standards of living, if we want better schools, health, hospitals, highways, and a stimulation of business and industry, the way to these is by increasing the buying power and the efficiency of the workers of the south. These things can be had only by increasing the buying power of the people, wage-earners as well as farmers. Greater buying power and greater efficiency will come only as wages are increased. Until we accept this fact, the farmer and the employer, we will be retarding the progress and prosperity that we seek. For better prices for the farmers' products and better pay for the wage-earner are each but a piece out of the pattern from which permanent progress for this section of the county must be cut.

Question of Confidence

Christian Science Monitor

If defeat of the reorganization bill restores American business confidence there will be few to mourn it. Such extravagant fears had been built up concerning the measure's grant of powers to the President that some elements of business may now breathe easier. Possibly nothing but a dramatic congressional revolt would have convinced many that the Capitol end of Pennsylvania Avenue is once more dominant. For those who fear Mr. Roosevelt as the fountainhead of reforms which interfere with their business this may be reassuring.

Many other Americans, less directly concerned with business, had been taught to look upon the reorganization bill as a dangerous concentration of power in the Executive. For then, too, the House of Representative's vote may inspire new confidence in democratic processes.

This newspaper from a closer examination of the reorganization bill than many opponents gave it has been convinced that fears of it were exaggerated. We felt that the probable gains for efficiency and the certain gain of Federal employees placed under the merit system warranted passage, particularly after the bill had been amended. And we have not felt that the country could be helped by a bitter political struggle at a time when united effort is needed to overcome the major threat to the nation today—depression.

We must express doubts now as to whether this rejection of presidential leadership will be the best way of restarting business. Congress may be both more confused and more extravagant than the President. There is every evidence that Congress is going to be even more ready than the White House to try to spend its way out of depression. And it may in the process give the Executive more power than any reorganization bill.

Under a parliamentary government this defeat would amount to a no-confidence vote, and there would be a new government. Under the American system there can be no new government until 1941. In the circumstances there is no room for petty political jockeying which will thwart any united leadership. If Congress is going to reject presidential leadership it should find some method for developing clear-cut leadership of its own. Or some better form of presidential and congressional co-operation should be worked out. There is imperative need for positive leadership.

Uncle Jim Sags



You can't grow a good corn crop on a place where the topsoil has been washed away.

Chevrolet Reports Large March Sales

Chevrolet dealers sold 62,639 new cars and trucks in March, according to an announcement by Chevrolet motor division officials at Detroit today. This was 57.2 per cent increase

over the sales total for February. A feature of the sales total piled up by Chevrolet dealers in March was that during the final ten-day period 27,606 new cars and trucks were sold, which constituted 78.8 per cent of the total for the first 20 days of the month, indicating a firmer market for new units as spring and sunshine arrived. The March used car sales of Chevrolet dealers totaled 130,788 according to the announcement, an increase of 11.9 per cent over the February total of 116,915. This was the 37th consecutive month that Chevrolet dealers sold in excess of 100,000 used cars, and gave them a grand total of used car sales during the last 37 months of 5,630,886.

PAINTING AND PAPER HANGING Best materials used, work reasonably priced. See M. D. Slade. 644 White Street, Williamston, N. C. m29-10t

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of April, 1938, at twelve (12) o'clock noon—at the Court-house door of Martin County at Williamston, North Carolina, the undersigned will offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash, subject to prior en-

cumbrances, the following described real estate, to-wit: That certain apartment building on Main street in the town of Williamston, N. C., adjoining the lands of Mrs. Chloe Taylor and others, containing one-fourth (1/4) of an acre, more or less, and being the same lot conveyed to Mary H. Ward by N. S. Peel by deed recorded in the Public Registry of Martin County in Book 000 at page 415 and the same lot described in the last will and testament of Mary H. Ward recorded in Will Book No. 6 at page 286 in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Martin County, and being the premises now occupied by J. H. Roebuck and others. This the 25th day of March, 1938. MRS. EMMA THOMPSON. By: E. R. Tyler, Atty. Roxobel, N. C. m29-4t

"MY BUSINESS IS GROWING TOBACCO"

I KNOW THAT CHOICE TOBACCO'S MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN A CIGARETTE. AND BEING IN THE BUSINESS OF GROWING TOBACCO, I'M PARTIAL TO THE CIGARETTE I KNOW BUYS UP THE CHOICE KINDS OF TOBACCO. THAT'S CAMEL. I SOLD THE BEST LOTS OF MY LAST CROP TO CAMEL. MOST OF THE GROWERS HERE DID, TOO.

WALTER DEVINE gets high prices at the market, smokes Camels.

"WHAT cigarette is made from costlier tobaccos?" Planters who grow tobacco—and get the check for it—give the answer. They know Camel buys up their extra-choice tobacco. "Most smokers who grow tobacco," they say, "favor Camels." Camels are different...made from finer, MORE EXPENSIVE TOBACCOS—Turkish and Domestic.

"WE SMOKE CAMELS BECAUSE WE KNOW TOBACCO"

TOBACCO PLANTERS SAY

TAXES MUST BE LISTED IN APRIL DO NOT DELAY!



Old Thrifty Says

"YOU SAVE ALL WAYS ...WITH A GENERAL ELECTRIC"

Three ways that make the new 1938 General Electric refrigerator the finest, thriftiest refrigerator ever built.

- (1) BIGGER VALUE
- (2) LESS CURRENT
- (3) LONGER LIFE

Today's General Electric refrigerators have twice the cooling capacity, four times faster freezing than the famous General Electric refrigerator made ten years ago; yet, the price today is \$100.00 lower.

General Electric refrigerators not only provide greater cooling capacity and faster freezing, but also actually cost far less to operate. In fact, today's General Electric operates for about one-third the cost of its 1927 predecessor.

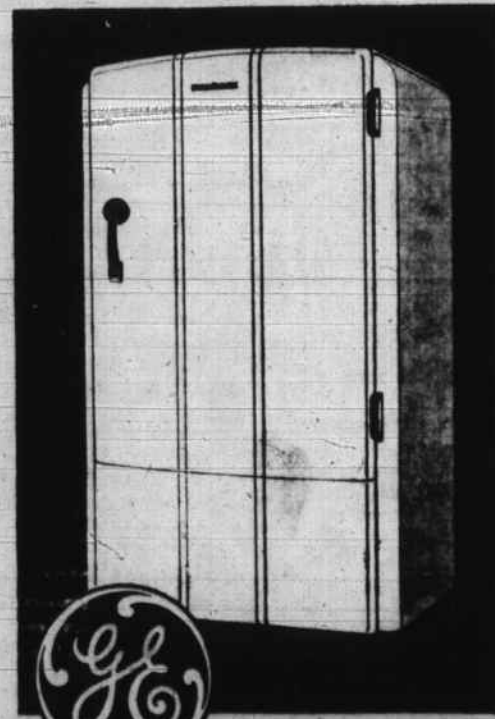
The long life of General Electric refrigerators has never been questioned. There are over a million General Electrics in use today that have been providing uninterrupted service for periods of 5 years or longer.

never before HAS SO LITTLE MONEY BOUGHT SO MUCH IN AN ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR

So little money buys so much General Electric refrigerator that practically every home can now afford this modern, thrifty refrigeration. America bought more General Electrics last year than ever before and this year's General Electric is even a better buy. Why wait? Be a bit thrifter and get your new General Electric now! You can buy on our easy payment plan.

It's Easy to Pay the General Electric Way

There are 12 beautiful 1938 models to select from. You'll find just the size and price to suit you. There is 5 years performance Protection on the sealed mechanism—a plan originated by General Electric.



Triple-Thrift REFRIGERATOR

10% Down IS ALL YOU NEED

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE GLAD YOU BOUGHT A GENERAL ELECTRIC



B. S. Courtney DEALER Williamston, N. C.