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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1947

GOOD MORNING
What is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves.—Goethe.

Upward Price Trend

No question is heard more frequently or in more places than, "Why are prices so high?" And no question has more diverse answers.

Perhaps one answer, by the Long Island Builders Institute, will help explain the general upward trend. The Institute claims that bricklayers lay only one-half to two-thirds as many bricks per day as they did in prewar years.

The Institute cites the case this way: A bricklayer working before the war at an \$8 a day wage put in place from 800 to 1,000 bricks daily. Now he receives \$18.03 a day and lays 400 to 500 bricks per day.

We are quoting an authoritative organization, and assume that its figures are accurately compiled. If they are, the difference between prewar production and wages and wages and production now, applied to other trades, would seem to account in some measure at least for higher prices.

Britain's Plight

Winston Churchill, past master of the resounding phrase, once said that he had not become the King's First Minister to preside at the dissolution of the British Empire. It is too early to say whether that unenviable task will fall to conscientious, uninspired Mr. Attlee—but it is clear that England is now in the midst of one of the bitterest crises of her long and turbulent history.

The roots of this crisis go deep. Before the war, England was hard put to maintain her dominant position in the world. The war placed an almost unendurable strain upon her resources and energies—and, of every great importance, practically exhausted her American financial credits. The people of the Dominions, as in India, have long been dissatisfied and restless. And in the more advanced Dominions, such as Canada and Australia, the influence of the United States has rivalled and in some ways exceeded that of the Crown.

You can find a dozen opposed reasons for the victory of the Labor Party over Mr. Churchill's Conservatives in the last British elections. The most reasonable is that a weary people wanted a change, and Labor promised that. It received heavy popular endorsement of the most sweeping program for socialization of industry ever seriously proposed in a democratic nation. And, at the same time, the people approved an "austerity" program, designed to regain and expand England's foreign markets and to rebuild her world economic prestige. This program was also urged in most of its essentials by the Conservatives.

First move of Mr. Attlee's government was nationalization of the coal mines—long one of the sorest trouble spots in the British domestic economy. During the war, coal production was kept up by what amounted to draft labor. Since nationalization, production has been inadequate, and the miners seem no happier than before. Labor spokesmen attribute the recent emergency, in which coal shortages resulted in a temporary shutdown of almost all industry, to some of the worst weather in English history. However, even if this factor is given maximum value, it is evident that Labor has not

found a solution to the coal problem. And many authorities think that similar ill effects may result when Labor socializes the electric industry, which is scheduled for the near future.

The American loan was, of course, a life-saver to England. It gave her dollar credits she had to have. Our reasons for making the loan were manifold—perhaps the most important being the hard fact that England is one of the very few friends we have abroad in a world torn between conflicting ideologies. But English economists are greatly concerned because much of the loan is being spent for living purposes which do nothing to solve the trade and export problem. This, too, has been the subject of much angry debate in Commons.

Some observers have forecast the collapse of the Labor Government. The best authorities do not agree. It is significant that Mr. Churchill, despite his strong criticisms, has not introduced a measure of censure against the government. It is felt that Labor will continue in power at least for the time being—that the British people will give it every chance to solve the problems. The British lion, which once proudly dominated half the world, fights for survival.

Car Inspection

Many American cities, exclusive of Wilmington, maintain thorough systems of vehicle inspection. One city in particular deserves notice because of the exceptional record it has made.

The city is Evanston, Illinois. Evanston started its inspection program in 1933. During fourteen years Evanston has won eleven safety awards in national competition, and in 1932, 1933 and 1935 took the grand prize among cities of all classifications for its safety record.

The \$26,000 the city has invested in plant and equipment obviously has been money well spent. It is not too much to think that many times this sum has been saved to motorists through avoidance of accidents by keeping their vehicles at par. How many lives may have been saved can only be guessed.

At stated intervals motor car owners are required to put their autos through a testing lane. The building is a quonset hut unit some two hundred feet long. As the motorist enters he is halted by an attendant who checks license plates, horn, mirror, windshield wipers and windshield, rear and side glass, turn signals, tail lights, stop lights, parking lights, at the next stop the driver has his headlights tested for candlepower, vertical aim, horizontal aim and defects of the lens.

Next is the wheel alignment check, where the car is driven over treadles which show either a "toe-in" or a "toe-out" of front or rear wheels. Then the car is lifted on a hydraulic hoist for inspection of the steering mechanism. Finally the brakes must show their stuff.

If the car gives a good account of itself in these twenty-five items, the driver is given a sticker, good until the next inspection time. If it fails to pass, the driver is given ten days in which to have the fault or faults corrected, and is forbidden to drive the vehicle beyond home and thence to the shop for repairs.

We could use a program like this to a good advantage.

Presidential Amendment

The Constitutional Amendment restricting the election of a President to two elected terms, which has been adopted by the Congress, is now in the hands of governors of the forty-eight states, to be submitted by them to their respective legislatures.

Thus the nation takes one more step in the highly desirable prevention of dynastic government, and the resumption of a tradition which existed from the time it was created by Washington until the third administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Naturally, its course will be slow. Legislatures ordinarily do not act quickly. They have seven years to act on this amendment. But long as this period of time may seem at first glance it is brief indeed in the life of the nation.

Thirty-six legislatures must ratify the amendment to make it effective. The single exception to the two-term presidency would be in the case of a vice president elevated to the top position and holding the office for not more than two years of his predecessor's unexpired term. In these circumstances, and if the voters so willed, a President might remain in the White House for ten years, but no longer.

Mass Movement Of Germans

By JOSEPH E. EVANS
In Wall Street Journal

BERLIN—M. Bidauld's proposal at Moscow to end the transfer of Germans from Eastern Europe into Germany and to permit mass emigrations of Germans from Germany to other countries, including France, is welcome insofar as it suggests a somewhat reasonable, not to say more Christian, approach to Germany than up to now has been apparent on the part of any of the four powers.

It is true that the motivations of M. Bidauld's proposal are admittedly to be found not so much in reason or Christianity as in basic fear of resurgent German might; a Germany with too many people in it, that is, a potential threat to France. It is a pity that the proposal had to be made in this way; that it could not have been made on the basis of human rights and dignity; that mass deportations of peoples could not have been denounced as strongly when undertaken by Allies as when undertaken by Nazis.

For there is little moral justification to be found for the theory and operation of the expulsion of four and one-half million Germans from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, an expulsion agreed to by the Big Three at Potsdam with the proviso that "any transfers that take place should be effected in an orderly and humane manner."

The words sound now, as they should have sounded to their framers then, like a monstrous joke. The very fact that four and one-half million people have already been moved in a year and one-half is sufficient indication of how it was done. You cannot uproot that many people in that length of time in an orderly and humane manner. For verification, one needs only to meet the box car trains at Anhalter Bahnhof in Berlin bringing the refugees from Pomerania, Silesia and East Prussia, or to drive through the deserted villages of the Sudeten mountains in Czechoslovakia.

The utter fatuousness, the stupidity approaching madness, of this part of the Potsdam declaration is implied in M. Bidauld's proposal. Why were those people to be removed in the first place? Because, in the case of Czechoslovakia, they represented a potentially dangerous minority which had in fact to a certain large degree—but by no means unanimously—demonstrated its danger by supporting Hitler; a minority which nonetheless had lived in the Sudetenland for long periods of generations in some cases, centuries in others. In the northeast, it was a question of removing Germans from territories temporarily placed under Polish administration pending final establishment of Germany's eastern frontiers—and for this removal, because the boundaries were not fixed, there was not the slightest excuse.

Aside from the moral stench of these mass deportations, anyone might have shown how fantastically uneconomic they were. What was to be expected from the dumping into a "fore-shortened" industrial and agricultural area of a vast, unskilled, uneducated, untrained, unemployable, and for years will be all but useless to a food-hungry world?

It seems really not too much to expect that the Big Three at Potsdam might have had enough basic perception to foresee this obviously inevitable result. It puts them back just about where they were at Potsdam, except that millions of people have suffered terrible hardship and the rich agricultural lands of the East, 24 per cent of pre-war Germany's total land, and 28 per cent of its arable land, are and for years will be all but useless to a food-hungry world.

M. Bidauld's proposal shows the tragic short-sightedness of the governments of Czechoslovakia and Poland (the Hungarian German-minority question is by no means comparably great) and the vicious inability or refusal to understand of the governments of America, Russia and Britain in still another way. The proposal means that Europeans and Germans are going to have to learn to get along, for only on that basis is it possible to think of Germans emigrating in large numbers to other countries, particularly one like France.

This being the case, it would seem that it might have been understood from the beginning; that, with regard to Czechoslovakia especially, the German minority might have been assimilated into that nation as M. Bidauld would now have German emigres assimilated into other nations. It is by no means absurd to imagine that the time may come when Czechoslovakia itself will agree to accept, for economic reasons, part of the very minority she was so passionately eager to evict. This would, of course, be the final crown to the edifice of that section of Potsdam, entitled "Orderly Transfers of German Populations."

Good as M. Bidauld's proposal thus was in suggesting a dawning light of reason on this sad piece of Allied policy, it nonetheless implies something which is not at all good; that the present temporary eastern boundaries of Germany are to become permanent, for if they were not, a large part of the refugees from the ceded provinces could be allowed to return there and mass emigrations elsewhere would not be necessary.

Mr. Byrnes at Stuttgart made it clear that the U. S. regards those boundaries as temporary (as Potsdam referred to them) and General Marshall will certainly support that point of view. But in allowing the German populations to be expelled from those regions, the U. S. made a grave error which will be difficult if at all possible to remedy. Mr. Molotov was quick to point out that our agreeing to these removals was de facto evidence of our agreement to make permanent the temporary boundaries as they now stand.

It is a point on which the U. S. should be prepared to exert all possible pressure. The permanent loss to Germany of the lands east of the Oder-Neisse would be economically catastrophic, ethnically intolerable and as politically dangerous as anything imaginable. Such a loss would mean that Germany would never be able to rise from its condition as the slum of Europe. These territories again it must be stated, 28 per cent of Germany's arable land—comprised 14 per cent of pre-war Germany's population, 13 per cent of her employment, 11 per cent of her national income.

More importantly, they gave employment to one-fifth of all workers in agriculture and forestry, produced 26 per cent of Germany's bread grains, including 32 per cent of her rye, grew 30 per cent of her barley and potatoes and accounted for more than 20 per cent of her cattle, swine and sheep population.

Politically such a loss could not fail to have disastrous consequences—from the point of view, that is, of ever educating the Germans along peaceful and democratic lines. The deportations of the German populations from these regions have created an ineradicably bad impression on Germans concerning the democratic ideals of their conquerors. Permanent separation of these territories would give any future nascent German militarism the best "peg" there could be on which to hang an appeal that no German could resist.

BEGINNING TO PINCH



The Book Of Knowledge

Department:—
WONDER QUESTION
HOW IS THE DATE OF
EASTER FIXED?

In early times, all countries did not keep Easter on the same date. The churches of Asia Minor celebrated it on the same day as the Jews kept their Passover, while the churches of the West, remembering that Jesus rose on a Sunday, kept Easter on the Sunday following the Passover day. Then the Council of Nicea passed a decree that everywhere the great feast should be observed on the same day, that day to be the Sunday following the Jewish Passover. Four rules were laid down for the fixing of the date.

It was decided that March 21 should be regarded as the spring equinox—the time in spring when day and night are equal; that the full moon on that date, or the next after that date, should be taken for the full moon of the Passover month; that the Sunday following full moon should be Easter Day; and that if the full moon happened on a Sunday, Easter should be the Sunday after. This plan has been observed ever since.

In carrying out the arrangements for the fixing of Easter, various difficulties have arisen during the centuries owing to the fact that the moons do not correspond exactly with the calendar. A series, or cycle, of 19 years has therefore been taken and numbered from 1 to 19, the numbers being known as Golden Numbers. Then to each of these years has also been given a number which is the age, reckoned in days, of the moon at the beginning of the year. The numbers in this second series are known as Epacts, and from the Golden Number and Epact the full moon for deciding the date of Easter in any year may be worked out.

It is curious that in arranging the date of Easter according to rule, the spring equinox is a calculated date and not the actual spring equinox; the moon referred to is not the actual moon shining in the sky, but a mathematically calculated moon; and full moon does not mean a complete circular moon, but a supposed full moon according to certain averaging over a course of years. All this is due to the imperfections of the calendar, which never corresponds exactly with the real movements of the sun and moon.

The earliest date on which Easter Sunday can fall is March 22, but that will not occur till the year 2285, and the latest possible date is April 25, which last fell in 1943.

The reason nineteen years are taken to form a cycle for reckoning the Golden Numbers is that, on a given day of the month, the

moon is approximately in the same position in the sky as it was nineteen years before, so that nineteen forms a complete series.

What Is The Nautical Almanac?
The Nautical Almanac is a book prepared especially for navigators and astronomers, with tables showing the daily positions of all the bodies of the solar system, the places of the fixed stars, predictions of astronomical events, and other similar information. Nautical almanacs are issued by the governments of Great Britain, the United States and other nations.

How Much Is A Billion?
The nations of the world differ as to how much a billion is. In the United States, Canada and France, a billion is one thousand millions—written 1,000,000,000. In Germany, this number is sometimes called a milliard, a term which is always applied to it in Germany. In England and Germany, a billion is one million millions—written 1,000,000,000,000. (Copyright, 1946, By The Grolier Society, Inc. based upon The Book of Knowledge) (Distributed by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

Religion Day By Day
BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS

"UP IN A MINUTE"
After meeting a Winter train, which arrived at 5:30 a. m., we repaired to an all-night restaurant for breakfast. "What time does the sun rise nowadays down here in Florida?" I asked the attendant.

"A little before six," he replied. At six o'clock we were leaving the restaurant in full darkness and I reminded the man that his appointed time had passed, with no sun in sight. "Oh, it'll be up in a minute," he replied, confidently and carelessly. There are people like that, whose sunrises will appear "in a minute." But the Lord of day is more leisurely in his motions. Sunrises are gradual. Daylight comes slowly. Changes in life and affairs—the surprises of the human soul—like wise never come "in a minute."

We would enter into the patience of God, and learn the gradualness of the growth of the Kingdom. Amen.

WHY WE SAY
"ORANGE BLOSSOMS ON WEDDING RINGS"



The Doctor Says— HUMAN BODS HAS PROTEIN NEEDS

By WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, M. D.

The body does not suffer from temporary failure to obtain sufficient protein food, but over longer periods of deprivation damage always occurs. Meat, eggs, cheese, milk, fish and certain vegetables are good sources of protein food.

Vitamins are necessary to protect the body against disease, but protein and mineral salts are equally important. Normal blood plasma contains a certain quantity of protein which will be reduced if there is insufficient supply or excessive destruction of protein in the body.

When the diet lacks protein, anemia develops. In building blood, meat plays an important part as it contains both iron and protein. Protein also mixes with gastric juice to form stimulating substance in bone marrow, which is lacking in pernicious anemia.

Extra protein food must be eaten during pregnancy as it is an essential building material. Early in pregnancy the mother starts to store protein in her tissues in the form of nitrogen, and she continues to store it until there is an excess. After her own needs and those of her baby are met, a certain amount is saved for breast milk.

In some forms of kidney trouble, protein passes through the blood into the urine. To correct the deficiency, these patients are given extra protein food and injections of blood plasma.

In liver disease, it has been customary to feed the patients extra sugar, but now it is known that extra protein is equally important. When the liver can obtain its quota of essential food materials, it is protected from damage by poisons which attack it.

Protein also is of value in helping peptic ulcers to heal. Patients with stomach and duodenal ulcers are urged to drink large quantities of milk and cream. Not only does this overcome the acidity of the gastric juice, but it also supplies building materials for healing the ulcer.

QUESTION: I have high blood pressure and I have been told that there is an operation for this condition. Would you advise me to have it?

ANSWER: Cutting the sympathetic nerves to the blood vessels may result in the reduction of high blood pressure. Careful selection of patients for the operation is necessary, and you should consult your physician.

Star Dust

And of the Pocketbook!
"Oh, Harry," cried the little woman, "I saw such an adorable hat in Stacey's window this morning. I simply fell in love with it!" "No, dear," corrected Harry, "not love. Love is a matter of the heart—yours is strictly a matter of the head!"

Who's Teaching Who?
Beneath a bumbling, apparently aimless adolescent manner, young Henry Simpson hides a shrewd brain. How shrewd, even his own father is now only beginning to surmise. The other day, Henry's father gave his offspring 50 cents, and by way of initiating him into the great world of finance, counseled: "Invest it carefully and wisely, son."

That evening Henry reported that he had invested the sum in a flyer in pigeon-raising in partnership with his friend, George. His father was disappointed and angry.

"But, father," protested the young financier, "George has guaranteed I'll double my investment in a few days."

"Fiddlisticks!" scoffed the elder Simpson. "The venture is absolutely worthless—you've lost your money!"

Henry's face assumed an expression of utter dejection and futility. His father was deeply touched.

"Here, Henry," the elder Simpson exclaimed reassuringly, "here is a dollar. Take it and see what you can do with it."

"Goosh!" exulted Henry, suddenly happy again. "George was right after all. He said I'd double my investment in a few days, and here I've done it in only twelve hours. What do you think of that, father?" His father answered him not.

Orange blossoms, today synonymous with wedding bells, are frequently used on wedding rings as a symbol of fruitfulness as orange trees are one of the most prolific of all fruit bearing trees.