



"HCL" . . . stalks again

Back before the great war the one alphabetical abbreviation we used to see oftenest in the papers was "HCL." That stood for "high cost of living." Everybody was complaining about rising prices of food, clothing, rents and other expenses. That vanished when the war sent wages skyrocketing, and there has been little or no talk about the high cost of living since, until lately.

Now, however, I hear housekeepers beginning to complain about their inability to meet expenses on their normal household budgets. That is true in city and country alike. We appear to be approaching another era of "HCL," but without any immediate prospect of being able to make up the deficit.

BEEF . . . will soar

Twenty-two years ago, in the summer of 1912, I followed a porterhouse steak from the local market back to the cattle ranch. I wanted to find out for one of the big magazines why we were paying 32 cents a pound for the same cut that a few years before had sold for fifteen cents. I found out. I went to the Chicago stockyards and talked with the packers and commission men. Then I went up into North Dakota to interview an old rancher who had systematically kept track of his costs and what he had got for each steer he had sold for thirty years. And I predicted then that he would never again buy porterhouse as cheap as 32 cents.

The trouble in 1912 was that the wheat farmers were fencing in the old free range and plowing the short grass under. Beef production was becoming a business requiring much more capital to make it pay.

I want to make another prediction. Beef prices are going sky-high again. Eighty cents a pound in the cities for porterhouse steaks wouldn't surprise me. Pork will go up likewise, also all other meats. This time the causes are, mainly, the death of millions of beef cattle because of the drought, the shortage of the corn crop because of drought and Government regulation, and the killing off of some million pigs as a part of the AAA program.

SILVER . . . restored

It was almost exactly three years ago, in the summer of 1931, that I predicted in this column that silver then selling at about 25 cents an ounce, would go to 50 cents or above in the course of time. I hope some of my readers acted on my suggestion that silver was a good thing to buy, for the government has now undertaken to buy all the silver offered at 50 cents an ounce.

My prediction of 1931 was based upon the realization that the price of silver was out of all proportion to the prices of everything else. For forty years the average price of silver was above sixty cents an ounce. I had no expectation in 1931 that our government would take the lead in restoring silver to its old monetary status, but rather believed that there would be some international agreement to do so.

Now silver is back where it was, until a little more than a hundred years ago, from the beginning of human commerce—a monetary metal second only to gold the world over. Indeed, silver was the principal standard of money value up to about the time of our Revolution. What makes it important to reconvert it is that it is the basis of the money of about half the world's population, which has been out of line with the rest of the world's money for the past seven years, interfering seriously with the world's trade.

WEATHER . . . ahead

Now the weather forecasters are warning us to look out for another very cold winter. Maybe they're right. I've heard a lot of long-range forecasting in my time most of which didn't come true. To tell what the weather will be three or six months ahead, it is about as safe to rely on the old-fashioned country predictions based on a goose's breast-bone as upon what any of the amateur predictors predict.

When I was a boy a man in our section predicted that the world would come to an end on a certain date—I don't remember what day he set, but Halley's comet, which was a very brilliant and thrilling sight in 1833, was going to hit us square in the middle. Everybody turned out to see the comet and some poor fools gave all their property away and began to cut and stitch their resurrection robes!

I don't think I shall pay much attention to these forecasters of another hard winter—though I guess I'll ask my wife to look over my woolen underwear.

HOOVER . . . new book

After keeping silent for seventeen months, Mr. Hoover is going to come out with a book in the fall. It ought to be interesting reading, if he puts everything into it that he must have been thinking about since March of last year.

A friend reports that Mr. Hoover

Win Highest Health Honors During Farm Week



CHICAGO . . . A country girl, but a city boy walked away with honors as the healthiest pair during Farm Week at the World's Fair, Miss Cista Millspaugh, 17, a 4-H Club member of Mt. Pleasant Ia. (above left), was the young lady, Mortimer Foxmann, 19, of Chicago, (above right), thanks athletics for the physical development which brought the honor to him.

The Week in Washington

Washington, D. C. — One of the things which the President is expected to call on Congress to straighten out next winter is the matter of control of banking and credits.

Ultimately, many folk here believe, the Government will become the sole primary source of credit. All the indications point that way. At present, however, there are three separate institutions dealing with the banks and each exercising some sort of control over credit. And these three are pulling in different directions.

There is the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank system. The first two are Governmental departments, the last ostensibly a private institution, but under close Government supervision and control.

The RFC, not only has lent a few million dollars to banks, but it is now, under a law passed at the last session of Congress, making loans to private industries. All of these loans are amply secured. Indeed, the RFC, which is, incidentally, one great Governmental agency which was established under the preceding administration, is the source to which almost all sound business enterprises of any size are turning for working capital. There is no doubt in the mind of anybody that these loans will ultimately all be paid back with interest.

RFC and the Banks

The RFC also has invested a great deal of Federal money in the preferred stock of many banks all over the country. The theory of this is not only that weak banks needed this strengthening but that, being a large stockholder, the Government would thus be entitled to a seat on the board of directors, and so keep watch that its depositors' money was lent for speculative purposes. The Administration believes, and rightly, that a large part of our financial difficulties have arisen from too easy credit for purely speculative purposes. But it was definitely the intent that this additional bank capital, provided by the RFC, should be used to enable the banks to make legitimate loans to business and industry, in other words, to loosen up bank credit.

That would have been all right if it had not been for the directly opposite view on credits taken by the Comptroller of the Currency's office. That branch of the Treasury is charged with the periodical examination of all national banks. In instance after instance, when banks which have sold preferred stock to the RFC have used the proceeds in loans of unquestionable soundness, bank examiners have called their directors together and "hauled them out" for making such loans.

At Cross-Purposes

Instructions from Washington to bank examiners are to compel every bank to call in every dollar of outstanding loans not secured by good collateral or made against financial statements which indicate many times the value of the loan. And in the case of debtors of long standing who have been unable to do much more than pay their interest on bank loans, the Comptroller's office is inclined to insist upon banks suing the delinquent borrowers and obtaining judgments so that if, at any time within twenty years, the poor fellow does get hold of anything, the bank can take it over.

In other words, while the Administration and the RFC are aiming for a reasonable inflation of credit, or at least toward loosening up, the

Comptroller's office is still working out a policy of deflation which, if pursued to its logical end, would mean pretty nearly general bankruptcy.

Out of this situation has arisen the idea, which is beginning to gain adherents here, that the Comptroller's office should be entirely detached from the Treasury and its functions delegated to some other body, perhaps the Federal Reserve Board. To do that would necessitate new banking legislation, enlarging the Federal Reserve's powers; but that is not impossible.

What some of the clearest financial thinkers believe should be done, though that does not mean that it will be done, is to consolidate the RFC and the Federal Reserve, put all banks under their jurisdiction and let the government do all of its banking functions through what would be, in effect, a great national central bank. That is the way in which nearly every other nation in the world operates. Government itself does not engage in banking, banking does not attempt to exercise governmental functions. Treasury and central bank cooperate, the bank's function being to keep its finger on the pulse of business and industry and to float governmental bond issues or provide financing for the government in other ways.

Something of the sort will certainly be discussed next winter when Congress again meets. How far it will get will depend upon many things including the Administration's hold in the next Congress. That is still in the future, but with little doubt here of a safe working majority on the Democratic side.

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A National Central Bank

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TRENCH SILO DESCRIBED IN NEW STATE BULLETIN

The trench silo has become one of the most popular and inexpensive types of silos to store the feed needed each winter in North Carolina.

During the past year hundreds of mimeographed plans for building trench silos have been distributed to interested farmers but the demand for these plans became so heavy that an extension bulletin, "Silage and the Trench Silo" has been written by John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist, and D. S. Weaver, agricultural engineer at State College, and issued as Extension Circular No. 201.

Corn and sorghum are the foremost crops advised for use as silage and should be cut when they contain maximum feed nutrients and at the same time sufficient moisture to cause the silage to pack well.

The amount of silage needed on any farm is determined by the number of animals to be fed. The acreage required to produce a given amount of silage depends largely upon the fertility of the soil. Information is contained in the bulletin on the amount of ensilage needed and the acreage to plant.

The trench silo is inexpensive to construct and has given thousands of cattle-keeping people of North Carolina excellent results during the past two years. It is recommended as a type that is well adapted to the medium of small-sized herds and among the advantages enumerated in the bulletin are its low cost of construction, low cost of filling equipment, ease of construction, and fire and wind proof. The most important factors to be considered in locating the trench silo are: drainage, soil and convenience. The location must permit good surface drainage.

Copies of the circular may be obtained free of charge on application to the Agricultural Editor at State College.

COOK FAMILY HOLD REUNION AT HOME OF CLARK TEASTER

One of the most interesting and enjoyable gatherings the writer has seen for some time was the family reunion of E. F. Cook, Jr. and children and grandchildren on August 28th, 1934, at the home of Clark Teaster on the highway leading from Heaton to Watauga. This meeting was presided over by the children for a homecoming and big family rally at this time. All the children and grandchildren, including Larkin H. Cook, the father of Mr. Cook, now 86 years old, and Mrs. R. A. McGuire, the step-mother, now 83 years old, G. W. McGuire and wife, Will Crawford, Lex's Shoemaker and Ernest Johnson were also present.

Early in the morning the cars began to spin, bringing in the children from different parts of the country with boxes and baskets full of good things to eat.

The boys were Everett Cook and wife and their two children, of Elizabethton, Tenn.; Willard Cook and wife and three children, of Detroit, Mich.; Norvel Cook and two children of Heaton, N. C.; and Arnel Cook, of Detroit, Mich. The girls were Carrie and her husband, Mr. Clark Teaster, and two children, Heaton; Yada and husband, Mr. George Crawford, and eight children, of Heaton; Flora and husband, Mr. J. D. Walsh and six children, Dark Ridge; Beatrice and her husband, Mr. Lum Wright, and three children, Heaton.

The morning was dull and cloudy, with mutterings of thunder in the west, yet the spirit of enthusiasm ran high. The boys tackled old times and the incidents of long ago, the children played on the lawn and seemed so happy, so free from care, so ignorant of the struggles of life just beyond their vision. The rain began to fall before noon. Dinner time was drawing near. Mr. Teaster prepared a rustic table across the front porch, and upon this table the children began to spread the many good things brought in for the feast.

From end to end, this table fairly groined with good things to eat, each family seemed to vie with each other as to which could spread the best and dearest dinner. And oh how we did eat and eat, and after we were full and could eat no more, much dinner remained and many baskets were taken up to be carried back home. But the best was yet behind. After our dinner had settled, three large water-melons, about the size of Grandma's church, was brought on the lawn. We again cut, sliced and ate.

After this, the children stood up on the porch and sang old songs, such songs as papa and mama once did sing in the good old years past and

some. These old songs seemed to intoxicate our soul, like new wine, and the memory of this meeting will vibrate upon the harp of memory as long as life shall last.

Brother Cook's children and grandchildren were all represented in this meeting. Let us hope, when the roll is called up yonder, all will be there.

G. W. MCGUIRE.

The Hammerless Gun

Actual invention of the hammerless gun improvement is a little obscure, says Pathfinder Magazine, but Daw, who controlled most of the gun patents in England at that time, introduced it into that country in 1832. It did not become popular or successful however until a man named Murcott patented a much improved liner firing mechanism in 1871.

AUTUMN REPAIRING

A good workman becomes a better workman when he has the proper tools for the job in hand. . . . For Fall and Winter repair work around the home use good tools and a good job will be assured.

Full Line of All Kinds of Tools at Lowest Prices.

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D. Grady Moretz

Announces His Candidacy for

Clerk of the Superior Court of Watauga County

SUBJECT TO THE ACTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15th.

Mr. Moretz, who is a life-long follower and worker in the Democratic ranks, submits his candidacy on the basis of his personal and educational qualifications for the important position, and promises that if elected his administration will be carried on in fair, efficient and conscientious service to all concerned.

With an eye single to official fidelity and public service, a young, forceful, able and fair-minded Democrat appeals for your support.

Be sure to attend the precinct meetings in your township on Friday afternoon, September 14th, and . . .

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR MORETZ

"THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE"

(POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT)