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leaves it out he is charged with being afraid to print the news. The best plan for the banker or the newspaperman to follow is to run his business the way he thinks it should be run and let the critics criticize."

It would be an interesting experiment if "self-starting" critics were given charge of the nation's banks and newspapers for a period. It's a safe bet that they'd rapidly learn a sad lesson—and an equally safe bet that the public which depends on banks to safeguard its money and newspapers to give it the news of the world, would take a terrific beating. Amateur banking and amateur journalism would be a far cry from the real professional articles.

Banking has given the American people and American business unparalleled service—it furnishes the financial lifeblood that built this nation in world record time. The American newspaper gives the people better, more complete and more accurate coverage of what is happening a mile away or ten thousand miles away than the press of any other country. The bankers and the editors will go on doing these vital jobs while "the critics criticize."

One-Armed Bandits

The person who put the name of one-armed bandits on slot machines was plenty smart. There could be no better name for the diabolical thief of school children's lunch money.

And these things have made their appearance again just when people were beginning to think that the legislature had them sure enough outlawed.

People of the state are beginning to wonder what kind of people composed the legislature when they were unable or did not want to outlaw slot machines. The legislators were supposed to outlaw slot machines and right on top of the law banning their operation they provided for licensing them.

If the law permits operation of slot machines—and we presume it does or they would not be operating—it is inconsistent in that it is unlawful to shoot dice or play poker.

Some try to justify operation of slot machines on the theory that the players should have sense enough to know that the machines will eventually win or they would not be there. But that is not the moral viewpoint. The law is supposed to protect the weak. The strong willed who can resist the urge to put in a nickle hoping to hit the jackpot need no protection.

Borrowed Comment

SKILLED MEN WANTED
(New York Post)

Frieda S. Miller, state industrial commissioner, reports a shortage of tool-makers, machinists and machine operators in industrial centers of Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo. Miss Miller says this has been apparent for several years, as men have left the field because of a lack of jobs to find other work, while training of apprentices has been sharply curtailed.

During the upturn in 1937, the Labor Department at Washington reported that business ran into a shortage of skilled personnel as soon as it picked up to about 80 per cent of normal activity. "The rate of business recovery," it noted, "is quite likely to be more rapid than existing training facilities." It found, in a study applicable to 6,600,000 job seekers, that almost a fourth (23.6 per cent.) had no industrial background; they had either no work experience or had been unemployed four years or more.

FAMOUS FROGS
(Hickory Daily Record)

From Morganton comes the most remarkable frog story since Mark Twain carried off world honors with his justly famous leaping wonder.

The Burke county amphibian is supposed to have been sealed in a brick wall at the State Hospital for the Insane since 1875. Workmen tearing down a sixty-year-old brick structure are said to have made the discovery, although the story might have sounded more plausible if credit to the hallucination of one of the patients at the institution.

To find a member of the genus Rana that had hibernated for three score years in the legendary recesses of the South Mountains, would also be understandable to persons throughout this area.

Anyway, the Morganton frog story stands, and who is there can look at the frog's teeth or the whiteness of his hair and deny it?

A NOVELIST FOR CONGRESS?
(New York World-Telegram)

Louis Bromfield, the novelist, says he's going to run for Congress in Ohio. Fine. The Congressional Record could stand an injection of belles-lettres. We commend to Mr. Bromfield for a campaign slogan the title of one of his books, "The Man Who Had Everything." That would be claiming just a little less than is customary among many members of the House.

England is reported to be planning to raise a large crop of cabbage. Cutting down on her purchase of American tobacco may be only a coincidence. — Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

Picture of wartime inflation—January: Necessities go up 100 per cent, July: Rents go up 50 per cent. March, two years later: Your pay goes up seven per cent.—Buffalo News.

Employment in State During Year Increased 10.2 Per Cent

Pay Rolls Gained 19.1 Per Cent—Checks Of Individual Workers 8.1

Raleigh, Jan. 18.—Employment in North Carolina trade and industry increased 10.2 per cent last year, as compared with 1938, the division of statistics of the state department of labor announced today.

In a report based on figures from 887 establishments, the division also stated pay rolls had increased 19.1 per cent, and that the weekly checks of individual workers had increased 8.1 per cent.

A large part of the increase in the pay roll figures was attributed to the operation of the federal wage-hour law, which became effective in October, 1938. The law required, for the first 12 months of its operation, payment of a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour, and a maximum work-week of 44 hours. On October 24, 1939, the minimum wage was increased to 30 cents and the

work week to 42 hours. All reporting establishments combined employed an average of 146,578 persons throughout last year, compared with 133,008 in 1938. Weekly pay rolls in 1939 averaged \$9,373,840, as against \$7,891,985 in 1938. Average weekly earnings of individuals increased from \$14.997 to \$16.14.

Sharpest increases were reported in the cotton manufacturing industry. Employment in the 520 reporting cotton mills jumped from 62,813 in 1938 to 71,755 last year; their average weekly pay roll advanced from \$840,831 to \$1,058,452; and wages of individuals increased from \$12.90 to \$14.58.

The only decrease in weekly wages was in wholesale merchandising establishments, where salaries mostly are too high to be affected by the minimum wage law. In that industry weekly individual wages in 1939 were \$19.66, compared with \$20.08 in 1938. However, the 123 establishments reporting showed that average weekly pay rolls increased from

\$12,722 to \$12,331, due to an increase from 2,343 to 2,425 in the number of persons employed. The increases in average individual wages in other classifications follow: All manufacturing, from \$14.69 to \$16.21; knit good manufacturing, from \$13.36 to \$15.30; manufacturing other than cotton and knit goods, from \$16.31 to \$16.58; establishments other than manufacturing and merchandising, from \$14.79 to \$14.83; retail establishments from \$13.23 to \$13.25.

Good Year Foreseen By Association Head

New York, Jan. 15.—The prediction of "a fairly good business year" was given to 1,000 representatives of retail stores throughout the United States tonight by Saul Cohn, president of the National Retail Dry Goods Association.

He opened the 29th annual convention of the organization by telling the delegates: "Using the 1923-1925 average as a normal base of 100, our sales during the latter part of 1939 were around 94 per cent against

87 per cent a year ago. Inventories are in good shape and a creditable job has been done in turnover. "We enter 1940 with a business volume at the highest level since May, 1930. We have a reasonable assurance that there is a satisfactory road ahead, barring unpredictable factors."

Quadruplets Born To Miner's Wife

Nauvoo, Ala., Jan. 15.—Quadruplets born last night in a coal miner's home were reported in good health today by the small-town doctor who delivered them.

Dr. H. J. Sankey said the quadruplets—three girls and a boy—were born to Mrs. Clyde Short at her rural home two miles from here. Sankey delivered the infants within an hour and 15 minutes with the help of Mrs. Short's mother and neighboring housewives. Each of the children weighed a few ounces over three pounds.

The girls have been named Faith, Hope and Charity, but no name has been selected for the boy.

Ads. get attention—and results.

Are We Civilized?

People of the United States as a whole are civilized but incidents which come to light by way of the newspapers every day set us to wondering just how much civilized we are.

Under the heading of "Useless Deaths," the Reidsville Review made the following comment:

"A father sues a daughter, a boy shoots his girl because she refused him a date, a mother slays a baby because it kept her home at night, and we call ourselves a civilized people! This is the beginning of a new year and what better way would there be than to think twice and count ten in order to preserve the decencies of living. Too many unwarranted suits, too many unmerciful deaths, all facts horrible and ridiculous. We are a sane people, as a whole, but when we hear and read of these cases of viciousness and crime, we begin to wonder if we are mentally competent, as a whole."

Bringing the subject closer home, it has been said that shocking things can always happen in Wilkes. No better people live than the citizenship of this good country and a very small per cent of its population are responsible for 95 per cent of its crime.

Inventions Make Jobs

In the midst of a period when for the first time in many years national prosperity seems to be on the way back, it is disconcerting to read that persons in high places are again publicly uttering an old and discredited piece of misinformation.

We refer to the hoary declaration that "inventions take away jobs."

Actually, this is a time when the statement that inventions take away jobs is most meaningless, coming as it does in the face of plans being made all over the country for commemoration next month of the 150th anniversary of the American patent system. During this celebration of "Modern Pioneers' Day" nearly one thousand inventors whose achievements in recent years have created new industries and hundreds of thousands of new jobs will be honored.

Sometimes there has been temporary displacement due to technological changes. But over the long run, invention has created infinitely more jobs than have been destroyed by these changes.

Here are a few facts that help to show the truth:

84 per cent of all machines invented in this country are "labor saving" rather than "labor saving." That is, they are designed to create entirely new products or services, or improve old products and services.

One out of every seven persons employed in American industry today works for one of 14 new industries that did not exist in 1870. These new industries owe their existence to invention.

Between 1900 and 1930, the period of most intensive machine development in this country's history, the number of jobs increased at the rate of 68 per cent while the population was increasing 62 per cent. The inventor was behind those extra jobs.

Today, with manufacturing industry employing more workers than it did in 1929, and with thoughtful Americans looking to invention to create still more jobs, attacks on the inventor come at an unfortunate time.

They seem to resemble all too closely the attitude of the stay-at-homes who moaned that progress was at an end at the same moment that covered wagons were moving westward and the whole new world of American life was being built by adventures with courage and faith in the future.

Banks And Newspapers

Newspapers and banks have at least one thing in common, in the opinion of the Ouachita Citizen of West Monroe, Louisiana. Both of them get plenty of criticism. "The most difficult task that we can think of at the moment is to run a bank as a newspaper to please everyone," says the citizen.

"If the banker is conservative he is charged with not being helpful to the community. If he lends the depositor's money too freely he is criticized when the borrower can't repay and the bank closes. The newspaper man who prints all the news regardless of who makes it, is criticized and called sensational. If he

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