

The Daily Tar Heel

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Saturday, January 23, 1932

Made Possible

By Depression

The economic state of the country that is termed "depression" causes a great deal of strain and hardship in all classes. But in the cataclysm of criticism that such a condition causes it should be remembered that some good can come out of depressions.

Under the system of private enterprise, that both in abstract and in practice is so dear to the American people, mistakes must occur in the apportionment of capital and labor. Men build factories to supply goods for which there is no real demand. Each of the different manufacturers enlarge plants to supply an estimated increase in demand. None of the group is able to know that each of the others is doing the same thing and that the small increase in demand will be supplied several times over. When a depression comes these mistaken enterprises have to be abandoned. For a while the workers are out of jobs. Then these temporarily idle factors shift into fields where their service is more useful to the public.

A depression can be compared to a heavily loaded flat car that is rounding a curve at high speed. As it careens some of the load slips off. This loss of weight is enough to allow the car to right itself. Thus in a depression loss is incurred but it is a means of keeping the economic system "on the track."
—H.H.

Our Ever-Increasing Population

While the people of the United States are worrying and fretting over financial conditions, foreign relations, prohibition, and similar problems, we are faced today with a situation that is far more vital and serious than any of the above. This danger is unobtrusive and is growing steadily worse by imperceptible degrees that fail to attract the attention and the measures necessary to remedy it. This threat is the manner in which our population is growing. It is not the numerical increase which is natural and to a degree desirable, but the fact that the inferior element is

reproducing itself at a rate several times as great as that of the superior types. The eventual seriousness of this condition is obvious, but it is extremely difficult to awaken and impress the people, with the danger, and more difficult still to introduce and effect the reforms that are so badly needed.

The farm hand, the laborer, and the bootblack are necessary and in most cases good and useful citizens, but a nation of such types would not be able to maintain or develop the civilization we have attained to. Not only is the ignorant and unskilled element on the increase, but with it the diseased, the criminal, and the mentally deficient as well. Statistics prove beyond dispute that the inferior and subnormal classes are growing more and more into the majority, while the educated and better equipped groups are forming a smaller and smaller division of the population.

In the past it was the prevailing usage to have rather large families and four, five, and six children were found in almost every home. Today the upper classes, conscious and afraid of the increasing bitterness of the struggle for survival, are limiting themselves to one or two children and in many cases none. The lower classes, however, have made no reduction in the number of their offspring and in many cases are unable to properly support their numerous children who are forced into poverty and crime. The doctor, the lawyer, the business man, and the teacher are producing one child to the newsboy, the hod carrier, and the farm hand's five. The inference is too clear—a steady degeneration and overwhelming of the cultured and capable classes until they are swamped and disappear.

There are few people, who acquainted with the facts, will attempt to deny the condition or the danger. But when attempts are made to save our civilization there is a tremendous barrier facing reformers. The mere mention of birth control invariably arouses a torrent of criticism and in some cases persecution. The interference with the will of God is one standby of the objector, but the prevention of the birth of children into poverty, ignorance, and vice is no more interfering with the will of God than is attempting to cure the sick. The lower classes are in many cases extremely anxious to acquaint themselves with methods of limiting the size of their families to one that they can support. But information on the subject is denied them, while the upper classes are familiar with and are practicing such checks on too numerous a progeny. The atmosphere of hypocrisy and false righteousness that surrounds this phase of life is a dangerous and false one, and must be dispersed.

At the rate of our population growth and the increasing efficiency of machinery we will be faced with a superfluous and idle mob incapable of finding work and which we will not be able to support. This element will go to unemployment, to poverty, and to crime. Other countries are facing similar conditions and are thickly over populated. The invariable answer is war. It is a choice between a population of the mediocre and inferior, war, disease, poverty, and crime on one hand and a sane, and scientifically regulated balance with peace, plenty, and progress on the other. The fate of mankind hangs on the choice.—J.F.A.

A medical report shows insanity is decreasing. This may be due to the fact that many persons who were considered crazy several years ago are now able to smile and say, "I told you so."
—Life.

Aims At Self-Sufficiency

Can a nation go ahead in the face of world-wide depression? That is the question being asked regarding the Soviet Union's expansive program for 1932. Many of us are of the opinion that an increase of thirty-six per cent in industrial production, the figure which the plan calls for, is an insurmountable task in which there is little hope of fulfillment. Results for 1931 show an increase of approximately twenty per cent as compared with the original goal of forty-five per cent. The Russians, however, are confident that by the end of this year their program will have proved successful.

This program is based on the assumption that a very considerable degree of self-sufficiency has been attained and that progress is possible with a minimum amount of foreign imports. By the end of this year, when such new big plants as the Nizhni Novgorod automobile works and the Magnitogorsk and Kuznetzk mills will have advanced much further toward full productive capacity than they are at present, it is expected that this self-sufficiency will correspondingly increase. These new industrial monuments are significant of Soviet progress and emulate in no small degree the tremendous strides Russia is making towards a well-balanced economy.

In spite of her improved position, however, there are many handicaps still to be overcome. Outstanding among her troubles is the difficulty in making foreign payments. The ruble is not accepted internationally so all her purchases must be paid for in gold or in some currency which is acceptable. This development has greatly decreased the importation of machine parts, tools, etc., equipment on which the success of her great industrialization is primarily dependent. Consequently the Soviet Government will itself have to undertake the manufacture of these necessary products and it cannot be denied that this will seriously retard the ultimate completion of the Five Year Plan.

Furthermore there was a noteworthy diminution in the more highly paid foreign specialists and engineers employed in Russia during the latter part of 1931. This was not because the country did not need their services but because foreign currency is so tightly rationed by the Soviet Government that only a comparatively small amount can be expended on foreign experts. It is impossible to expect these men to accept rubles in payment for their services when they have no means of exchanging them for dollars or other foreign currency. This has been another serious blow to Russian progress since it has been these specialists and engineers who have guided the intelligence of the Soviet movement.

Foreign commentators have sometimes disagreed as to whether the Soviet Union desires to conquer the markets of the world or to achieve a state of self-contained independence economically. Events have answered this question at least for the time being. This tendency toward self-sufficiency will be strengthened in 1932. Wherever possible the foreign machine will be replaced by a Soviet machine, made out of Russian materials. This will be a severe but perhaps a useful test of the real progress that has been made along qualitative as well as quantitative lines under the Five Year Plan.—H.W.P.

Maybe somebody could persuade those British scientists, after they have finally determined just what diseases Shakespeare had, to inoculate some modern authors with them.
—Boston Herald.

Useless Slaughter

Meditate seriously upon the hosts of men obliterated by the havoc of the last war. The number slain has been roughly estimated at 7,314,340 men. Priceless youth wasted . . . fields stained with the blood of savage revenge. War-death is not only barbaric but economically extravagant. Nations vie with one another in securing the most destructive and tortuous artifices. Machine-guns, bombs, poisonous gases are only a few of the disastrous inventions devised by a war-mad world. The expenditure for extinguishing the life of each soldier averages approximately \$25,292. Life is potent; life is valuable . . . not to be offered lightly upon the altar of death. Each man carries with him to the grave a train of songs unsung, tales untold, brave deeds unwrought. How immeasurable is the potentiality, how incomprehensible the capitalized value of human life.

The rising generation of young men and women are gaining insight into the atrocity of brutal warfare. War is considered as the outcome of greed, avarice, and a militaristic spirit, and a reaction has set in. The importance of order, harmony, and, above all, peace is stressed. Idealistic social thought can operate. It is possible for disagreements between nations to be settled through intelligent arbitration. To banish forever the primitive form of murder known as war requires cooperation and a beneficent, cosmopolitan attitude on the part of each nation. The time has come when thinking people will no longer tolerate the mad crimes perpetrated in the name of war.—L.P.

Young Man's Plight At Yale

The unfairness of life is all too evident. One man's bread another's poison, and the bread, too frequently, is consumed by the other man. The plight of Yale undergraduates instances this trait of fate. Recently, that undergraduate body has been threatened with a new type of blackmail. Fashionably dressed and attractive women, realizing, among other things, that Yale pocket-books are reasonably impregnable to depression, have visited the dormitories just before the curfew hour (women visitors are allowed until 6:00 p. m.), and being admitted by the student on the pretext of looking for a usually absent roommate, the purpose of the visit is soon explained. To prevent a possible urge toward screaming and the ensuing complications of such a scream occurring after 6:00 o'clock, it will be necessary for the student to pay some money. And, in utter resignation, he has paid—not once but time and again.

That Yale men are so incapable of coping with this problem is indeed surprising. Evidently it is a matter of time. Busily acquiring a veneer to ward off such annoyances so common in later life, they have been forced to meet the occasion with the veneer only half-dry. And this unfair exposure of Yale students to the more liberal of society comparable in the degree of helplessness to forcing the infant to buy its own milk should naturally evoke sympathy.

The absolute privacy of the Yale man in his suite should be his. An appeal to the administration should effect a remedy. A simple one, we think, is having the dormitories guarded by differential policemen, and locking the doors at 6:00 p. m. Then, the wet veneer would not blister and the fancy-free student, upon his graduation, could in tradition assume the impeccability of a Yale man.

And so it is. One man's bread, another's poison.—G.B.

SPEAKING the CAMPUS MIND

The Daily Tar Heel does not necessarily endorse letters published in Speaking the Campus Mind. Lack of space prohibits the publication of all letters submitted. Preference will be given letters which do not speak upon subjects already exhausted. Letters should be four hundred words or less, typewritten, and contain the name as well as the address of the writer. Names will be withheld upon request, except when the writer attacks a person. No libelous or scurrilous contributions can be printed.

Not According To Marx

The editorial entitled "New Czar For Old Czar" which appeared in the Daily Tar Heel of January 19 is on the whole very misleading. In several places it becomes rankly absurd, and throughout it shows complete bourgeois misconception and misinterpretation of fundamental Communist principles.

In the first place, the Soviet Union, which was set up after the Revolution of 1917 which had come from the inevitable decay of old Russia, and which was prophesied by Marx in 1852 (*The Eighteenth Brumaire Louis Bonaparte*), has never claimed to have been a Communist state. Following Communist lines the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union are building Socialism. In 1846 Karl Marx wrote as follows:

"Communism means to us not a state of things, that is to be established, not an ideal, into which reality is to be fitted. To us Communism is an actual movement, that is destroying the present state of things. The state of that movement is determined from day to day by the prevailing objective conditions at the given time and place."

Molotov, in his *The Success of the 5 Year Plan*, writes "we have not yet overcome the New Economic Policy with its peculiarities. As Marxists we cannot forget that whilst we have entered the period of Socialism, we have not yet completely broken with the things of yesterday."

The statement that the Soviet Union is capitalistic is absurd. May we ask is a state which bases production upon use and not upon profit capitalistic? Is a state capitalistic which officially demands total world disarmaments? Is a state capitalistic which gives to its people the maximum of its products without clipping off substantial profits? Is a state capitalistic in which the wealth is not concentrated in the hands of the few? Just because a nation utilizes capitalist mass production and capitalist technology and science does not mean that it, too, is capitalistic.

Call Stalin a dictator. Call him a capitalist. Call him anything. You cannot change his true status. As General Secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee he is the head of the Communist Party; the head which has been pushed up from the base of the party. Power in the Communist Party comes from the ranks. It does not trickle down and diffuse from the head. The Commun-

ist Party is the advanced guard of the proletariat, the revolutionary working class, the workers that are building Socialism. Stalin, as a Communist, follows the lines set down by Marx and Engels and later expanded by Lenin. The leadership of the party can come only by following the theory of Marxism-Leninism.

Can it be said that the Russian worker has no voice in the government when, excluding a very small number of non-proletarians, all, including non-Communists, are allowed to vote, and when ruthless self-criticism is allowed.

In part the hastening of world communism depends upon the building of Socialism in the Soviet Union, for the Soviet Union is the beacon light to the exploited masses of the world. The international will be fulfilled through the inevitable collapse of capitalism in all nations of the earth.

W. H. DAVIS, JR.,
S. P. ZIMNOCH.

Disarmament

Disarmament, one of the great questions before the world today, is something that should interest every citizen of the United States. The students should, more than any other group, be in favor of it. It has been asked, "Who will have to fight the next war?" We might well add, "Who will leave their homes, schools, friends, and loved ones to die, probably, in some foreign country? Who, after the war is over and millions of lives lost, will have to reconstruct a semblance of the past economic and industrial life from the fragments of the old, which will undoubtedly be destroyed? Who in later years will have to bear the burden of an enormous national debt which always follows like a stalking shadow in the wake of any great war? Who will have to hobble around on crutches, lie awake at night thinking of horrors which time cannot efface from our minds; grope about in the perpetual darkness of the blind, be confined to asylums because of shell crazed minds, or struggle through life with other physical handicaps? Who will have to mourn the death of close friends and relatives? Who in this world of aircraft and other inventions can be sure that he will have a home to which to return after a long, bitter struggle? Who will have to face these adverse conditions? Who but us, the students, who are just reaching or have already reached the age of citizenship?" A cry for disarmament should rise from the students in this country that rock the principle of competitive armament to its very foundations and bring it to earth with a crash. If this were done we should then have the needed space upon which to build up the much needed feeling of brotherhood among nations; and over it would be unfurled a banner having on it the fitting phrase, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

J. S. N., Jr.

For the last five months Chicago has been paying its school teachers in script. But Chicago's bootleggers continue to get cash.—San Diego Union.

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