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**INFLATION IS NEWS  
 BUT NOT NEW NEWS**

By G. O. STEELE  
 in "The Individualist"  
 Inflation is in the news but there's no news in inflation. Inflation is old stuff; it's been going on for quite a spell. The American dollar is just like the guy with a hangover who moaned he was jumpy as a bullfrog, his head was light as a cork, cut his suspenders and he'd go up in the air like a balloon. Somebody cut the suspenders of the dollar long ago, and they've never been repaired. True, the dollar didn't lose its pants, but a lot of people did, or at least their shirts—and they still are.

Delmonico's, probably the most famous restaurant New York ever had, opened for business 115 years ago. Their regular dinner for the opening day was 12 cents—and a good dinner it was too, from all accounts. Among individual items on the menu were, Sup Tea or Coffee 1c, Soup 2c, Fried Liver 3c, Corn Beef and Cabbage 4c, Beef Steak 4c, Pork Chops 4c, Roast Beef 5c, Veal Cutlet 5c, Fried Eggs 5c, Ham and Eggs 10c, Roast Chicken 10c, Pie 2c.

In those days a good wage was \$6 a week. If a person with such earnings ate the regular dinner at Delmonico's seven days a week, he would be paying 84 cents a week, or 14 per cent of his wages. Today a comparable meal in New York

would cost at least \$1.50, or \$10.50 a week. \$10.50 is 14 per cent of \$75.

Thus, in a little more than 110 years, wages have advanced from \$6 to \$75 a week. This is an inflation of the dollar which averages out to 100 per cent decade for 11 and a half successive decades. Projecting wages and inflation at the same rate over the next 11 decades, we come up with a weekly wage of around \$900. And the gourmet who wants seven good dinners a week will have to kick in with something like \$125 to get 'em.

There are two reasons why none of us need worry about what lies so far ahead. In the first place we'll all be dead in another 110 years and in the second place—and this makes the prospect of being dead very attractive indeed by comparison—if we weren't dead, we'd be on government relief along with everybody else. For ourselves we'd rather be dead.

**CITRUS ELECTION ORDERED**  
 AUBURNDALE, Fla. — The National Labor Relations Board has ordered an election held at the peak of the coming operation season in the W. P. McDonald Corp. at Auburndale. This company operates a large citrus processing house in that city employing 600 workers.

**AFL Sponsors  
 Drive To Raise  
 Funds For Europe**

A new nation-wide drive on the part of the American Federation of Labor to raise additional CARE funds among its eight-million membership calls renewed public attention to the continued need for the form of aid which individual Americans have extended to the war-ravaged people of Europe through CARE. Even under the increasing impact of Marshall Plan aid to rebuild war-damaged industries, the general shortage of foods of all kinds, especially of meat and fats, continues throughout Europe.

The need to supplement fat and meat rations, especially among working populations, is sharply illustrated by a number of letters received by the Free Trade Union Committee and the Labor League for Human Rights, of the American Federation of Labor.

"My wife was more than happy when she saw all the fat," wrote Franz Knesinek, an old trade unionist of Vienna. "I must confess most honestly, it was the best Christmas gift of any."

In a similar vein, George Helming of Munnoch told the Free Trade Union Committee in his letter that the CARE food package he received had contained "what to us working people is still the most unattainable thing, meat and fat."

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Along the Dunes of Albemarle a legend lingers . . . There Teach and his pirates hung a lantern around a nag's neck, then drove the nag and his dangling light into the darkness of the high dunes.

Twinkling out to sea, the lantern's light lured ships into the shallow waters of the Sound. Then waiting pirate bands went leisurely about their business of looting the grounded ships.

The danger of too little light is less spectacular in our own lives, but it is just as real. Surveys have shown that seven out of ten adults have defective sight—often traceable to eyestrain.

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