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Old Bogey Exploded

FOR generations the gold standard has been a bogey in the American mind. The average man in the street, knowing little of the principles of monetization and international exchange, has believed that it was sacred like the Bible and the constitution, and its abandonment would inevitably result in stagnation of business and ruination of the country.

Strange to say, the United States has been off the gold standard, in effect, for more than a week and no terrible calamity has occurred. Contrary to the expectations of many, business is improving instead of growing worse. In place of panic which many anticipated, there has been a revival of confidence. For the first time in three or four years, mortgage laden farmers, home owners and business men see some hope of paying their debts.

All that has occurred is that President Roosevelt has ordered the cessation of gold shipments to other countries, allowing the dollar in foreign markets to find its own level instead of attempting to bolster it up with guarantees of payment in gold. With every other major nation, except France, already off the gold standard, it has been difficult for the United States to compete in foreign markets and the gold standard was maintained only at a terrific loss. A few days after the United States abandoned the gold standard American manufacturers could sell their products abroad ten per cent cheaper and still receive the same amount of money back home.

Roger Babson, famous economist and statistician, views the president's gold embargo and his plan for controlled inflation as "the master stroke which should turn the tide from depression toward recovery. He points out three reasons for his optimism:

"First, this action reverses the vicious trend of deflation, replacing it with a trend of rising values.

"Second, it starts a buying movement which sets into motion an upward spiral of business instead of the disastrous downward spiral from which we have been suffering for the past three years.

"Third, by taking authority into its own hands, the administration effectually prevents the passage by congress of crazy piecemeal legislation which might result in disastrous inflation of the uncontrolled variety."

The inflation authority sought by the chief executive would pave the way to adjust the gold content of the dollar, within certain limitations, so that values could more nearly be stabilized on a fair basis. The dollar, after all, is only a unit of measurement for values. Herein it has failed, for it costs, in effect, two to three dollars to pay back now a dollar borrowed before the depression set in. Stabilization of values is far more important than maintenance of an inflexible gold ratio.

While the readjustment is in progress it will work hardships on some persons, especially those on fixed salaries such as school teachers and government employes, but in the long run it will redound to the benefit of all.

"The general effect," Mr. Babson says, "will be to relieve the burden of debt by decreasing the purchasing power of the dollar. This is far different from the repudiation of debts, toward which we were drifting with amazing speed before controlled inflation was adopted."

The Forestation Plan

THE Pathfinder, weekly news digest, expects great things to result from the Roosevelt forestation plan. Even if it served only to put thousands of idle young men to doing useful, honest toil, it would fulfill a good purpose; but the plan has greater possibilities, as this magazine points out.

"The money is not going to be poured down rat-holes. . . . In the course of time we will have a system of forests, planned and administered on a national scale—and this is something which could never have been brought about by ordinary methods in ordinary times."

Indeed, the forestation plan is the most constructive project launched by the government since the building of the Panama canal. It is a drastic and happy departure from the old congressional idea that the best way to provide public employment was by the construction of grandiose postoffices whose costliness was exceeded only by their lack of necessity.

Clippings

REAL FARM RELIEF

Electricity is a practical kind of "farm relief" that makes every dollar do the work of two or three on places where current has been introduced.

Tests reveal that the farmer and his family save three months yearly by turning four farm tasks over to electricity, according to the American Washing Machine Manufacturers' association. "Washing clothes by old methods requires more than 1-2 months of eight-hour days a year," it says. "Pumping and carrying water, turning the cream separator and filling and cleaning kerosene lamps each consumes 30 eight-hour days a year."

Passing to the electrical age on the farm does more than give the farmer convenient, cheap power for his tasks. It brings the home a higher standard of living by giving the family an abundance of clean clothes at all times, makes good appearance a matter of easy accomplishment.

"Eighty-five per cent of the farms still lack electrical power. Of course many of these enjoy the benefits of such advantages as gas engine-operated washers. To operate the farms the power of 16,000,000,000 horses is used. Animals furnish 61 per cent, tractors 16 per cent, motor trucks 4 per cent, stationary engines 12 1-2 per cent, windmills 1 per cent. Electricity will supplant much of this horsepower. Better yet, it will substitute for woman and man power."—MONROE ENQUIRER.

WHITEWASHING THE CROW

In the modern school of biographers there is the de-bunker, who makes shocking revelations about George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or some other hero; and then there is the whitewasher, who presents a Nero, a Caligula or a Duke of Alva as a tender-hearted fellow, gentle as a dove. In each case the idea is to jolt the reader out of his life-long preconceptions.

The latest instance of the whitewashing of a notorious character is found in a bulletin from the National Association of Audubon Societies entitled "Crow Not So Black as Often Painted." The authority quoted is Robert P. Allen a bird expert.

"Recent studies which I have made with the aid of the Connecticut board of fisheries and game," he says, "indicate that the food habits of these birds render them harmless or actually beneficial. It is too often assumed that the birds become a general menace as they forage widely through the countryside.

"The stomach contents of a number of wintering crows have been examined for us by experts of the biological survey. The studies throw no light, of course, upon the food of the crow during other seasons of the year when in addition to a varied diet, some of which is beneficial to man's interests, the crow takes a considerable toll of the eggs and young of game and non-game birds.

"The Audubon Association contends that measures taken for the control of the crow should be local in character and should be carried on under the supervision of properly constituted authorities. We have always opposed the payment of bounties on crows, and we have also vigorously opposed so-called crow shoots."

Mr. Allen visited all the important winter crow roosts in Connecticut, and he estimates that they contain not less than 75,000 crows.

"Among all our native birds," he says, "the crow is doubtless one of the greatest successes. In spite of the endless persecution that has been directed against him, apparently there has been no diminution in his numbers. Long ago Henry Thoreau wrote: "This bird sees the white man come and the Indian withdraw, but it withdraws not. Its untamed voice is still heard above the tinkling of the forge. It sees a race pass away, but it passes not away. It remains to remind us of aboriginal nature."

Examined in detail, Mr. Allen's observations upon the crow are seen to constitute only a partial whitewashing. The bird is pictured as harmless in winter, but his spring, summer, and fall reputation remains evil. One might as well exculpate burglars on the ground that their behavior is exemplary in the daytime. We doubt if the farmer whose crops are attacked by crows is going to have his hostility to them changed to affection by the propaganda of the Audubon Association.—CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY.

Mother—Frederick, why is it that you and your sister are always snatting?

Frederick—I don't know, mother, unless it is that I take after Daddy, and she takes after you.

—Pathfinder

NATION'S PROSPERITY STARTS WITH FARMERS

Why is it that at last almost everybody seems to be coming over to the side of the farmer? Why is it that more drastic measures are being adopted for the relief of the farmer than for any other class? Don't the hospitals need help, don't the colleges need help, don't the life insurance agents need help, don't the bond salesmen need help, don't the automobile makers need help, don't the schools need help, don't independent merchants need help, don't the miners need help, don't the railroads need help, don't the Wall Street gamblers need help—don't everybody need help? Why pick the farmer for special favors?

The reason is that the financial earthquake which has laid low the proud skyscrapers of the great business world has revealed that the foundations of all this prosperity reach right down to agriculture as the basic activity on which everything else must rest. When that foundation is undermined, then the whole structure is weakened and may come crashing down.

Frederick Murphy, publisher of the Minneapolis Tribune, states the case bluntly when he says: "The necessity of putting buying power into the hands of our farmers is self-evident. The farmer, as a consumer representing one-fourth of our population, is of direct interest to our urban dwellers. We are prone to consider New York as the great reservoir of our monetary wealth, without ever giving any thought to how that reservoir is filled. It is not filled in New York, Boston or Philadelphia. Prosperity does not originate there and trickle out to the cities, towns and villages of the U. S. The reverse is the case."

A mathematical analysis by Charles B. Ray, an economist, of Glen Ellyn, Ill., makes it clear what is wrong with the present situation. He proves that our total national income depends directly on our farm income and he has made a series of diagrams which show the rate of "turnover" at different periods. Let us compare the extremes.

In 1910, wheat was 88 cents a bushel, corn 48, hogs \$7 a hundred, hay \$12 a ton and cotton 14 cents a pound. The total farm income for that year was nearly seven billion dollars and the total national income was about 29 billions. Thus the farmers got one-fourth of the total national income.

Now see what a contrast last year presented. Wheat was 32 cents a bushel, corn 19, hogs \$2.73, hay \$6 and cotton six cents. The national income was about 38 billions and the farm income was only about five billions. Hence the farmers got only about one-seventh of the total. The farmers, who were not organized, were compelled to sell in a market which was highly organized.

In 1932 the average price received by the farmers for their products was only 57 per cent of what it was just before the war—but the farmers had to pay 112 per cent for the things they bought! How could the farmers, and the people of the communities which depend on the farmers, continue in the market as buyers of goods, when the cards were stacked against them to this extent?

Plainly, the thing which needed doing most was to start at the bottom and rebuild the buying power of these underpaid classes. Prosperity could not be spread over the nation from the top, as big business contended.

Shallow thinkers and unprincipled schemers argue that the present crisis was brought on by overproduction! As if there could be overproduction in the things which the human family require, in unlimited quantities for their life, health and happiness. There has been some overproduction, in spots, but as a whole there has been none.

What has been wrong has been the refusal of those in control of the sluice-gates of trade to distribute the good things of this earth with a sense of justice to the masses. They have pervertedly cultivated only the high class market and have ignored and despised the rural and smalltown market, as not being worth anything.

This neglected market is going to be worth cultivating in the future. The half of our population who have to labor to produce the things which the people of the big cities consume are going to have a fairer share of what they produce. After they have been served, those who occupy positions farther on will be reached. As soon as the rural market can again buy the products of the factories, prosperity will be restored of its own accord.—PATHFINDER.

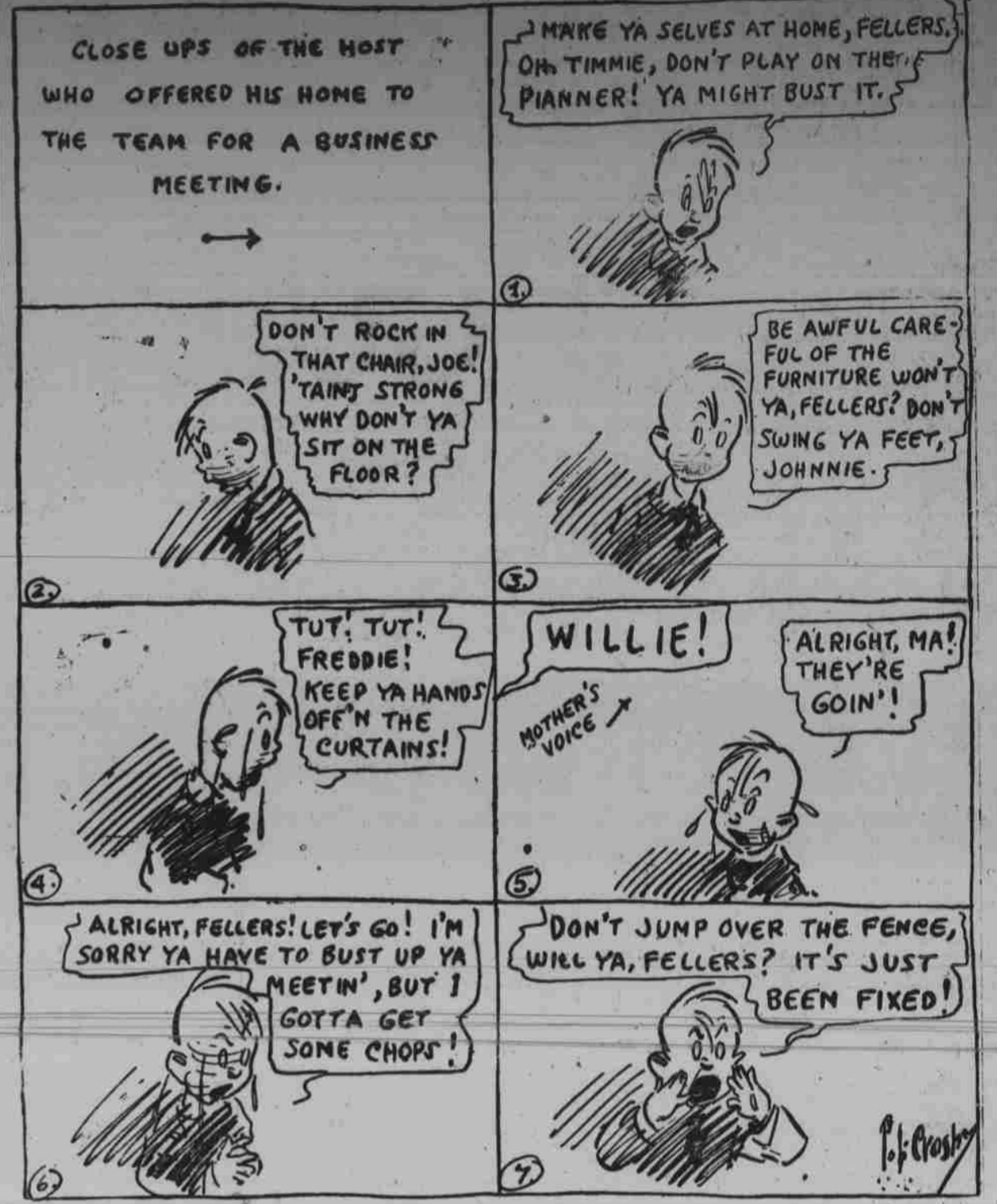
Binks—Did I ever tell you about the awful fright I got on my wedding day?

Jinks—No—but I don't want to hear about it. No man should speak that way of his wife.

—Pathfinder

When There's a Boy in the Family.

By PERCY CROSBY



Your Farm - How to Make It Pay

MAKING GOOD BUTTER

THE demand today is for a mild-flavored butter made from sweet cream or cream that is only slightly sour. Many North Carolina farmers and housewives are adding to their incomes during this period by preparing such butter for sale to boarding houses, on curbsmarkets or to a selected trade in towns and cities.

"The first step in making good butter is to handle the milk with care from the time it is drawn from the cow until it is churned," says W. L. Clevenger, dairy manufacturing specialist at State college. "At milking time, no dust, dirt or objectionable odors should be allowed and the cow's udder, teats and flanks should be free from all filth. It is important too that the milk's clothes and hands be clean. When a sufficient amount of cream has been accumulated for churning, ten hours should elapse after the last cream is added before churning."

Clevenger suggests that the cream be brought to the proper temperature four or five hours before churning. At that time, it should have a clean, mild pleasing taste and smell. The churning temperature varies from 35 to 60 degrees in summer and from 65 to 70 degrees in winter. The butter should appear within 20 to 30 minutes. If the churning is done at a too-high temperature the butter will have a weak and greasy body. In churning, agitate the cream uniformly and use a churn that holds three times as much cream as that placed in it. If the churn is too full, poor results are secured.

Clevenger says it is highly important to keep all the milk utensils and the churn thoroughly clean. Many of the troubles in making good farm butter may be traced directly to this lack of cleanliness. He suggests also that churning be stopped when the butter particles have attained the size of a pea.

GETTING THE POULTS THROUGH

THE brooding period into free range is the most difficult job in turkey raising and this requires good management and clean sanitation.

"The first requirement for a successful hatch with turkeys is the use of strictly fresh eggs," says C. J. Maupin, extension poultryman at State college. "When the turkey hens are confined to a small range or yard the eggs may be gathered twice each day and then stored in a well ventilated room or cellar where the temperature is not over 60 degrees. It is better to set the eggs when only seven to eight days old, whether a hen or incubator is used. When poulters are first hatched they are less active than chicks and must be kept warm. The temperature in the brooder house needs to be kept around 90 degrees for several days."

Maupin says the home-made brick brooder may be used for poulters but it is well to make some wire par-

The Farmer's Question Box

Timely Questions Answered by N. C. State College Experts

Question:—How Much grain should be fed to laying hens and what part should be fed in the morning?

Answer:—Under ordinary conditions a flock of 100 hens will consume ten to twelve pounds of grain a day. Smaller or larger flocks should be fed in proportion. In poultry-feeding, the main object is to insure the hen a full crop before she goes to roost and for that reason one pound of grain is sufficient for morning feeding with the remainder of the grain fed late in the afternoon.

Question:—Does common dogwood timber have any commercial value?

Answer:—Wherever cotton, silk, or wool is manufactured, timber from dogwood trees is used for shuttles. This timber has the combined properties of toughness, hardness, fineness of texture, and smoothness, so necessary in the production of shuttles. Dogwood is also being largely used in the manufacture of bobbins, spool heads, small handles, brush backs, turnpins, mallets, and wood pulleys.

Question:—How soon can grain and hay be fed to dairy calves?

Answer:—A small amount of grain and hay should be offered to the calf when about two weeks of age or when skim milk is substituted for whole milk. This should be gradually increased until the animal is receiving about three pounds of grain a day at six months of age when the calf should be weaned. The grain will then be further increased to provide necessary nutrients formerly supplied by the milk.

Question:—How should the different ages of the poults be separated in the house?

Feeding the poults is about the same as for baby chicks. Hard-boiled eggs with some of the shell left in has worked out well for the first feed. Give one egg to each 20 poults. Water should be given at 36 hours and the first chick starter or chick scratch given by the second day. Sour skim milk may be added when the poults are from 36 to 48 hours old and then kept before them thereafter at all times.

Maupin also suggests gradual changes in feed as the birds grow older and then when they are ready for the range, the ration may be simplified and reduced to whatever grains are available on the farm.

Russell Mull of Morganton, route 4, raised 1,000 baby chicks with a home-made brick brooder and had them ready for market as broilers at ten weeks of age.

FRENCH SILOS

IN MANY sections of North Carolina cattle and sheep get sleek and fat in summer only to become weak and emaciated in winter. This lack of an adequate supply of winter feed of proper quality is one of the greatest handicaps to the continued development of the livestock industry in the state.

"We know that silage is one of the best winter feeds for maintaining or fattening cattle or sheep or for feeding dairy cows; however, the expense of building the upright type of silo has prevented many farmers from using this valuable feed," says I. I. Case, livestock specialist at State college. "Now that the trench silo is proving so suitable and economical, every man with a cow or two or a small flock of sheep can have silage in abundance. The trench silos now in use vary in size from a capacity of one ton to 150 tons and more. In practically all cases, the silage is keeping well."

Case gives as the two main requisites for a good trench silo, a stiff soil and a water table below the level of the bottom of the silo. Corn is the best silage crop for this state, he says. Varieties of the sorghums are used in some sections but about the only advantage these sorghums have over corn is that they will grow on poorer soils and with less rain.

While there are several varieties of silage corn, that variety which makes the best acre yield of grain in a community is nearly always best for silage also. The greater the quantity of grain in the silage, the more nutritious it is and the greater the saving in the concentrated ration needed to supplement the silage, Case says.

The Catawba County Jersey Breeders Association will hold its annual county sale during May.

Of the 450 applications for crop loans in Alamance county not a single application was received from a dairymen or poultryman, says the county agent.

H. W. Doub of East Bend, Yadkin county, sells 35 pounds of home-made butter each week at a price of 25 to 30 cents a pound. As he delivers the butter, he also sells eggs, broilers, meats and other farm products.

Burning off the land is one good way to eradicate profits. Trees cannot flee from fire but must stand and take it says Extension Forester Graeber.

Alleghany farmers saved two cents a pound on 9,970 pounds of clover and grass seeds ordered cooperatively through their local mutual exchange.

"Say, why don't you go back to your old home town and settle down?"

"I drove away in a fine new eight-cylinder car. I can't go back in an old \$15 four-cylinder flivver, can I?"

—Pathfinder