

Shall Trend Toward Concentration of Industrial Power Continue?

Ralph Page Calls For Some Unbiased Thinking in Solving Economic Problem

By Ralph W. Page

The greatest service that anyone could render the people of the United States would be to establish a detached and indifferent agency to present facts unflavored with conclusions and to clarify issues without taking sides.

One present difficulty is to get any clear statement of anyone's position. Let's take some undisputed facts and see if any clear issues are lined up behind them.

Individual proprietors, individual owners of farms, all forms of personal enterprise are rapidly disappearing in the United States. The trend of events has been steadily putting all industry into the hands of big corporations, thus concentrating all economic power in the hands of financiers or of self-perpetuating boards of directors.

Now that is a fact. It is not usually stated as a fact. It is asserted with abuse or denied with violence.

Independent Ownership Less

But it is a fact. Within 60 years, according to some figures, the number of the independent owner class has diminished from 80 percent to 20 percent of the population. Within the same time a very small number of very large corporations have gained control of more than half of our national industrial business.

Now all this may be an excellent thing.

Or it may be a bad thing. But we ought to admit the fact, and then proceed to decide whether we want this process to go on.

If we want it to go on, we should decide whether we wish this concentrated control to be regulated or to proceed without let or hindrance.

These facts and these decisions are the critical ones now before the public. Most of the other so-called issues are simply small items of this main question, or distortions of the question.

It is suggested that a holding company controlling ten other holding companies is not by nature anything like an individual man conducting a small business.

That is a fact. It should be recognized.

Its rights, its motives, its relation with other people, its effect upon our economy and government, its obligations and responsibilities are in no-

Orchids Raised Here

One of Largest Plants in South Maintained by Judge William A. Way

One of the interesting sights of the Sandhills to visitors as well as residents are the orchid greenhouses of Judge William A. Way in Knollwood. This is one of the largest plants for the raising of orchids in the south. The greenhouses are open to visitors on payment of a small fee which goes to the Kiwanis Club's Charity Fund.

wise comparable to that of a village blacksmith.

So when we talk of the "liberty" of an individual and the "liberty" of a monopoly, we talk nonsense if we use the same terms and conceptions.

This does not at all mean that the best interest of the United States may not be served by combining all our business into great holding company controls.

But it does mean that every one is entitled to know that that is what the fuss is about.

Combines Regarded Inevitable

And it would seem that those who believe this desirable should flatly admit the fact, and flatly defend the process, with or without regulation as an adjunct.

It would be equally frank if those who object to the process should disclose how on earth we are to go back to the individual proprietor in this age of mass production.

If it be admitted that the process is inevitable, then it would appear that abuse of the successful operators is out of place. The old America has given place to the new. What was America in 1890 is no longer America in 1935.

Does the Constitution prevent the regulation of this new development?

Does human nature render such regulation impotent?

Does sound economic theory destine the American people to be ruled by great aggregations of power whether they want it or not?

Those seem to be side issues of the same prevailing question.

Even the great debate about Federal dictation and centralization would appear to be merely a debate on a corollary to the main issue. The Government is the only agency that can either check, correct or regulate

Famed Writers Call Southern Pines Home

James Boyd, the Burts, Miss Sanborn, Almet Jenks and Others in Colony

James Boyd, author of "Drums," "Marching On," "Long Hunt" and "Roll River;" Struthers Burt, whose "Delectable Mountains," "Dude Wrangler," "Festival," "They Could Not Sleep," and numerous other books have brought fame; Katharine Newlin Burt, author of a long list of books and magazine stories; Ruth Burr Sanborn, writer of many successful stories and author of a recently published book, "Murder on the Aphrodite;" Almet Jenks, regular contributor to the Saturday Evening Post; Maude Parker, prominent writer of magazine articles; Lawrence B. Smith, author of hunting and shooting books, and a number of other luminaries of the literary world make their winter homes in Southern Pines. Judge Robert W. Winston of Durham, biographer of Robert E. Lee, spends much time here in the winter.

The close proximity of the Sandhills to New York publishing houses, and the peace and quiet of the community for concentrated work make this an ideal spot for the writing fraternity, with the result that a sizeable colony has sprung up in the Weymouth Heights section.

STAPLE PEACH CROP FOR NEXT FIVE YEARS FORECAST

A staple peach crop for the next five years is predicted by the Agriculture Department.

A forecast of future peach conditions said there might be a slight decline in the number of bearing trees, but offsetting factors were better care of commercial orchards and improved growing conditions.

The reports said a moderate increase in supply would not cause market surpluses. It added, however, that in some districts of the South, a rather large proportion of the trees are past their prime. In other Southern districts, it was said, there are many very young trees, and these together with the better care that orchards are receiving are expected to maintain production in the South in the next five years near the 1931-1935 level.

this inevitable result of modern techniques and finance.

Consequently, any limitation of the extension of the concentration of economic power can only be met by centralization and extension of the power of government.

Now no individual's opinion in this issue is of much consequence.

But it would certainly clear the air if we were not continually asked to confuse the era of the pioneer with the era of the steel corporation, and the rights of small business with the rights of national organizations.

The thing to do is to met the question squarely on the facts. Cut out the abuse of big executives. They are the most capable men we have. That's what everybody wants to be. Cut out abuse of the inevitable. But admit the question, and argue or vote on the merits of the proposition. And admit also that if we are to revert to the era of the small proprietor it can only be done by a major operation; and if the concentration of industry is to be controlled by the people, that, in exact proportion as it is to be controlled, the power of the Federal Government must be extended.

The Carolina Theatre, Southern Pines, has more first-run feature films than any small town theatre in the country.

On a clear day you can see seven counties from the observation tower near Mount Hope Cemetery, Southern Pines.

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The Carolina Theatre in Southern Pines shows the best in motion pictures, with two programs a week, each running three nights, with Tuesday and Saturday matinees. The manager of the Carolina, Charles W. Picquet, is president of the Theatre Owners' Association of North and South Carolina and vice president of the National Theatre Owners' Association and through his influence in the industry is able to provide the newest film treats for his clientele. Mr. Picquet also operates the Carolina Theatre in Pinehurst. Both houses are modern and comfortable, with the latest in sound equipment.

SOUTHERN PINES LIBRARY IS OPEN DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

The Southern Pines Library located in the Municipal building in the City Park has a large and finely selected stock of the latest fiction in addition to the classes, and is open to visitors on week days, the hours being from 10:00 a. m. to 12:00 m. and from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m. Eugene C. Stevens is president and Mrs. Park Fisher, librarian. A small fee is charged for the loan of books.

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