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Editorials

Clipped From Other Publications

"Have Faith. Go Forward"

(Michigan Investor)

Out of all the jumble of economic thought and teachings of the past two depression years there occasionally has spoken a message of wisdom in such simple words that its significance is entirely passed over. Such a one was delivered this week by Thomas A. Edison in a nationwide radio broadcast. Said Mr. Edison:

"Be courageous. I have lived a long time. I have seen history repeat itself again and again. I have seen many depressions in business. Always America has come out stronger and more prosperous. Be as brave as your fathers were before you. Have faith. Go forward."

Always we read the abstruse theories of economics, as applied to why business is in the dumps and how we can best work out of the situation. A thousand solutions are suggested, mostly different and all, as a rule, being in some degree helpful. Practical economics has done a lot since the turn of the century in aiding business progress and its part should not be belittled. Furthermore, it is safe to assert that what already has been learned will appear like a primer in decades to come.

Yet underlying the application of all economic theory to practical business problems is the fundamental fact that human nature is what it is. Mass psychology rules in the United States and in every civilized country in the world. When times are good and prosperity is fairly widespread everyone is cheerful and all danger signals are unheeded. When a sudden "flash comes and the house of cards comes toppling down we are too prone to run to the shelter of the storm cellar, from whence we refuse to stick out our heads and see the world as it is.

It is in that state that the country finds itself as it starts the summer of 1931, almost two years after the trend of business first started to go downward. And it is to people in such a state of mind that Mr. Edison talks, in fundamental terms. "Always America has come out stronger and more prosperous," he says.

Nor is there any reason to anticipate that the present will be different than the past. In detail it is not the same but fundamentally there is no change. People go on living and consuming goods as they must if civilization is to continue. These goods eventually will have to be replaced and signs that this process is going on in increasing volume are evident in many industries. Mr. Edison is right when he says: "Have faith. Go Forward."

Income Tax Moving Along

(Redford Record)

A survey discloses that in four states measures are under way to inaugurate or to amend income tax laws. Oklahoma and Georgia both have passed new income tax laws. Idaho and Vermont have state income tax laws for the first time. And income tax laws have been passed for the first time in Iowa, Indiana and Utah. Amendments to existing income tax laws have been passed in North Dakota and Missouri.

In West Virginia and South Dakota income tax laws were passed by the lower branches of the legislatures, but in West Virginia the senate, as in Michigan, rejected the measure. Amendments to the existing income tax law have passed the house in

The Arizona senate has passed

AFTER FORTY YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT — WHAT?

To the Editor:

As a former deputy warden of Jackson prison, who for fifteen years was in daily contact with those of Michigan criminals who happened to get inside; as one who for forty years has known Irving Latimer; as one living in the immediate vicinity where the crime was committed; as one who has known hundreds of people who knew Latimer as a young man, and as one who has read every word of evidence introduced at the Latimer trial yet having no deep conviction one way or the other, I believe it is not modest in me to say that I, at least, should be qualified to discuss the Latimer case.

Irving Latimer was convicted, solely on circumstantial evidence, of a most atrocious crime, the murder of his mother, yet he has steadfastly and earnestly maintained his innocence, and, if conscious of it, should not be penalized for it. There are thousands of people who believe in Latimer's innocence, and no one has better expressed that belief than the late Alonzo Vincent, when Warden of the Michigan State Prison, after intimately knowing Irving Latimer for more than four years: "I am unable to believe that you are guilty, for the theory that you are is not in accordance with your character, your carriage, or your heart."

Some four years after his imprisonment Latimer escaped, after drugging two officers, one of whom, George W. Haight, died from the after effects. The best comment on this unfortunate affair is from a letter of the late Senator Charles E. Townsend: "An unfortunate event occurred since Irving went to the prison which resulted in the death of officer Haight. I do not believe that anyone thinks that Irving intended to kill this officer. I talked the matter over with the warden at the time and with others, and they all believe that Latimer simply endeavored to put Haight to sleep in order that he might make his escape."

Said the Jackson Patriot: "Five days after Latimer's escape a searching investigation of the affair was made by Warden Chamberlain, who had just assumed office, at which Governor John T. Rich was present, and at its conclusion both the Governor and the Warden completely exonerated Latimer from all intent to harm officer Haight, who had died."

It is very sufficient that Mrs. George W. Haight, up to the time of her death, often expressed belief that Irving Latimer did not intend to harm her husband, and frequently that she hoped Latimer would soon be given his liberty. George Haight, a son who later became connected with the prison as an officer, many times stated to me that neither he nor any member of the Haight family blamed Latimer, deeply and keenly as they regretted the death of the father.

This unfortunate affair happened nearly forty years ago. What has been the history of Irving Latimer through these intervening years? — years that have silvered the hair of most of us who have lived them outside of prison walls.

After travelling a path for forty-two years a path of hell, which you who never spent forty two minutes of your life in a penitentiary, utterly fail to comprehend, Irving Latimer has passed over life's hill tops toward the setting sun, with a perfect institutional record of nearly forty years. Today he is keen and alert, mentally and physically, ready to step into and adequately fill any one of a number of positions open to him when released.

Latimer had only to obey the prison rules and perform his labors well as thousands of model prisoners, in hundreds of prisons, are wont to do. Nothing more would have been required of him, yet for forty years he has been doing something more. Hundreds of men who had given up the fight hear witness that Latimer came the cheering and encouraging words that rekindled the spark that flamed into one more attempt and successful effort to redeem themselves.

When riot raged and the torch had been lighted, Latimer could have continued on as a model prisoner, just going his way, but he chose to do something more, and to Michigan were saved hundreds of thousands of dollars of

Letters To The Editor

John Lewis Scarborough of Birmingham, Ala., recently won the gold medal for first place in a competition, which besides assuring workmanship and design at the park and recreation board kite tournament at Roberts Field.

Betty Grable, 17 years old, of St. Louis, is in Hollywood with a contract, which besides assuring workmanship and design at the park and recreation board kite tournament at Roberts Field.

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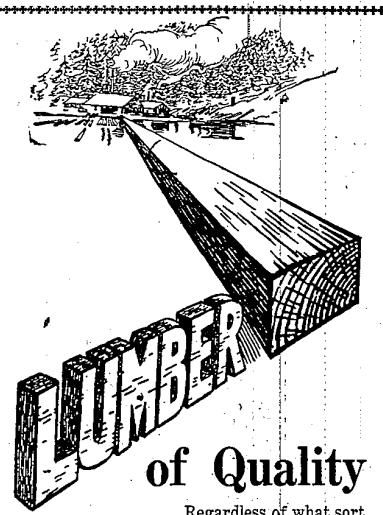
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