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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 is 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 crash comes and the house of cards comes tumbling 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 fourteen 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 Wisconsin.

The Arizona senate has passed

an income tax law and a constitutional amendment permitting an income tax law has passed the house in Colorado.

A state income tax law should be enacted in Michigan, along federal lines. That was the sole tax measure recommended after months of study by a special state tax commission.

But Michigan's senate, dictated to by the manufacturers, threw it out. Now the people should throw out the senate. And along with it most of the house. Then we can pave the way for some sorely needed remedial tax legislation in Michigan.

The World's Greatest Statesman

(Northville Record)

Last Thursday evening we heard Dr. Frederic B. Fisher, Methodist preacher at Ann Arbor, talk for one solid hour and a half on Gandhi, the great statesman of India. Dr. Fisher, for 27 years a resident of India, called Gandhi not only the greatest statesman in the world but also its greatest politician. His talk was a marvelous description and interpretation of the "little man" (he weighs 94 pounds) who is idolized by the 320 millions of India and who brought the British empire to its knees with his policy of fasting, silence and refusal to take the sword to let his followers take it.

Dr. Fisher a personal friend of the great Indian (he was educated for the law in London and talks several languages—English, perfectly), said that Gandhi lives on eleven cents a day, and that although he could, by reason of his marvelous influence, have made millions, "not a penny ever stuck to his fingers." Ridiculed and hated by many, no man ever spoke a whisper against the character of Gandhi. "Not a penny ever stuck to his fingers." We thought of "Tammamny" and of some of our great American cities where corruption runs wild. No pennies but millions stick to the fingers of some of the contemptible grafters.

If this great United States could raise up a Gandhi—even though he went around in "B. V. D's" and cotton coat—we might not be so afraid of the Al Capones and the Tammamnies.

Old Superstitions Find

Firm Belief in Sicily

Sicily is still a land of superstitions, most of them worthy of the Middle Ages. The traveler who believes that a country loses its individuality when superstition succumbs to schools and sewers, will find in Sicily an adherence to the old beliefs unqualified in Europe, except, possibly, in the Balkans. Your Sicilian peasant would regard an American fundamentalist (if he ever heard of one) as an advanced radical. E. J. Cooper writes in the Mentor-World Traveler.

All Souls' day, celebrated more or less throughout Christendom, is a day of particular significance in Sicily. On the night of All Souls' day the dead leave their graves, and one who is likely to be buried at nightfall is likely to see the departed of his village, the purified souls in white, the condemned in black, and the ghosts of those murdered in robes of red. Arriving at their former homes, these spirits change themselves into ants in order to creep into the house. To guard against their presence the Sicilian closes every door and window of the house. Apparently some Sicilians believe that the dead are abroad to every night for throughout the year doors and windows are tightly closed at nightfall.

Edgar Hogge, B. S. Pigg and L. H. Roach appeared in the municipal court on the same day for violating traffic laws in Van Nuys California.

Letters To The Editor

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 immodest 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 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 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, 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, nothing more expected of him, yet for forty years he has been doing something more. Hundreds of men who had given up the fight bear witness that from Latimer came the cheering and encouraging words that rekindled the spark that flamed into the 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 sent hundreds of thousands of dollars of

state property. Irving Latimer could have continued to be a model prisoner, minding his own business, when the agonized screams of impending murder rang out on the still night air, but he chose to do something more and an officer's life was saved.

I am no sentimentalist, I believe in the protection of society, even as I believe in the reformation of the criminal. I believe in law and order, just as thousands of men now free will not have forgotten that I believed in an enforced strict prison discipline. I believe in justice, swift and sure, as a potent factor in combatting crime. But, so, also, do I believe in justice for the imprisoned. During my fifteen years connection with the Michigan State Prison I know scores of life men, released by executive clemency, who have made good. In justice, Irving Latimer is entitled to the same opportunity given other life men—the chance to make good in the world without prison walls, yet he has been and continues to be discriminated against.

I have occasionally been confronted with the argument that one of the first requisites of reformation was confession, and that Latimer had never confessed his sins. Latimer maintains his innocence and if conscious of it, has a right to maintain it and should not be penalized for it. My personal observation has been that prisoners have frequently used confession of sin as a vehicle on which they rode to freedom, without real or actual reformation. From personal knowledge I would assert that if any life man ever confined within the walls of the Michigan State Prison deserved his liberty, Irving Latimer does, and now.

For nearly forty years Irving Latimer has fulfilled his every obligation to the State of Michigan, not meagerly but splendidly and out of the fullness of his heart. In the face of all this do we, the people of Michigan, still demand "the pound of flesh that lies nearest the heart?" If we do, may God help us!

William E. Hollinrake
411 W. High St., Jackson, Mich.

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular meeting of the City Commissioners of the City of Farmington held June 15, 1931; Called to order by Mayor Lamb at 7:45 p. m. Commissioners present: Stamann, Goers, Hamlin, Oemus, Hatten and Gildemeister.

Minutes of the meeting of June 2 read and approved. Commissioner Oemus informed the Commission that there were many complaints from citizens in regard to the re-location of the boulevard light on Grand River ave. near the intersection of Farmington road. The Commissioners referred the matter to Commissioner Oemus and instructed him to ask the Edison Company to change the location of this light.

Stephen Tredway appeared before the Commission with a blue print of the Grand River frontage of his property. It appears that the new pavement is 9 ft. upon his lot. He will take this matter up with the State Highway Department.

Troy Alverson, who wishes to install a bus line from Farmington to Five Points informed the Commission that he has been ordered to appear before the Public Utilities Commission at Lansing, June 26 and state his proposition.

Adjourned, 8:20 p. m.
N. H. POWER
City Clerk

London Newspapers Call Chicago's New Mayor

So great was the interest in England in the recent municipal election in Chicago that as soon as the result of the election was known six London newspapers called up the Mayor-elect, Anton J. Cermak, to tender their congratulations. Each of the papers asked the new mayor if he attended the election to former Mayor Thompson's campaign against King George. The papers were the Daily Mirror, London; the Daily Herald, London; the Daily Express; the Daily Herald, the Morning Post, and the Daily News.

American air line operators transported \$324,225 pounds of mail last year, for which they were paid \$17,798,601, or a little more than \$2 a pound.

John Lewis Scarborough of Birmingham, Ala., recently won the gold medal for first place in 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 her a large salary for five years, says she will be developed for "talkie" stardom.

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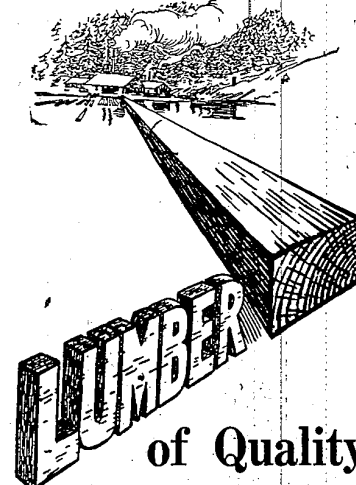
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