

WILL PROSPERITY LAST?

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himself do very much to control the cycle, to prevent the disastrous fluctuations, but if he recognizes their importance and studies the current statistics of trade he can do a great deal to protect himself from loss. He can very often substitute facts for guesses. The principal recommendation of our committee had to do with the improvement of statistics. Whenever I am talking to business men I urge them to get back of the proposals to increase the appropriation for the statistical work of the Government. Our committee was agreed in making a sharp distinction between gathering statistics and interpreting them. The first is a governmental job. It is only through a great central office that the methods of gathering figures can be standardized so that they are comparable. Many trade statistics are highly confidential; an executive will give them to the Department of Commerce under adequate protection against improper use when he would never give them to a competitor.

"The long-term planning of public works—town, country, State and nation—would have the same stabilizing effect. It is obviously foolish for the Government to build in boom times—to use the taxpayers' money to enter into competition with private industry in building up the costs of labor and material when everybody is suffering from shortage.

"It is very much more important," continued Mr. Young, "to conserve healthful human relations in industry than to save dollars. Our committee, I am sorry to say, was not able to arrive at any definite and constructive proposals as to how the risks of unemployment can be covered for the workers. We studied a number of proposals—unemployment doles, such as are being tried in England, private insurance against loss of work, the out-of-work benefits of some of the trades unions. None of them seemed to be working satisfactorily. It is a very difficult to estimate the actual side of such risks. But somehow the problem must be solved.

"In discussing this matter with my fellow employers I often tell of the picture of village life I have had from my mother. There were some industries in the village where she spent her childhood. There was, for instance, a shoemaker, and he did not have a reputation for thrift. Business fluctuated then much as it does now. When money came easy the cobbler spent freely. When hard times came the children of the village went barefooted; there was less demand for shoes; the cobbler was idle. But he had a cabbage patch back of his house, a cow, and some pigs. He could pick up fine wood almost anywhere. In his cellar there was a keg of sauerkraut, a pork barrel, and a bin of cider apples. No matter how bad the times he did not go hungry or suffer from the cold.

"Our great modern industries have crowded people together in dense communities. Our workers today do not have a cow nor a pig—not even a cabbage patch. They have no reserve of salt pork, nor sauerkraut, nor cider apples in their cellar—not even a cellar. They can't pick up fuel free when they are out of work.

"Our modern factory workers are not more spendthrift than a hundred years ago, but hard times are vastly more tragic now. It is all right to preach thrift, but that does not change the fact that unemployment today means tragedy in a sense our grandparents could not understand. Somehow or other we must work out a substitute for the cabbage patch and the pork barrel.

"Whenever I have the opportunity I encourage experiments in co-operation between employer and employee in working out a system of unemployment reserves which will give a modern substitute for the pig and the sauerkraut of the industrial worker of a generation ago.

"I am not in favor of governmental unemployment doles—they have not worked well in England. They can not work well until there has been a great deal of voluntary experimentation which will give us a dependable knowledge of what the risks are and what the premiums should be. But we cannot dodge the fact that in every period of depression—in the next one just as in the last one—unemployment means tragedy in a myriad of American homes. If we do not find a better substitute for the cabbage patch and the pig by voluntary co-operation—we shall have to come to unemployment doles.

"No red-blooded American wants to make himself the beneficiary of a state administered charity no matter how the taxation is levied and no matter under what high-sounding name it is exploited. But every American should be willing to join in a voluntary co-operative system which will create reserves—in the same way that business men create reserves—against the great fluctuations of these economic cycles.

on a gold basis as the European countries by cheap paper money. If we looked only at the ratio between gold reserve and outstanding credit, we might expand rapidly, but a credit expansion which is not based on increased production means nothing but speculation, competitive bidding for labor and material—the forcing up of prices to the danger point.

"Our committee was convinced that a proper coordination between the private bankers and the Federal Reserve system could be worked out, which would forewarn and forewarn us against this danger and have a real effect in stabilizing business and lengthening out this curve of prosperity.

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"It is this human side of the business cycles that seemed most important to our committee. As business men, we do not like to lose our money needlessly in preventable crises. But it is even more important as citizens to work out methods to control the business cycle because of the human costs involved and to create safeguards against the suffering, the loss of self-respect, the lowering of morale, which fall so terribly on the great part of our people in times of unemployment."—Collier's, The National Weekly.

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INDUSTRIAL SANITATION

Continued from page 1.

realize that disease and death lurk in common drinking utensils. In very many of our offices, shops, and factories the common drinking cup is still to be found. It is a menace.

Inclement weather makes the requirement of a recreation hall essential in many establishments. If women are employed, these places may be in connection with the rest room.

Where lunch rooms are not maintained by the management facilities should be afforded for those who bring their lunches to obtain hot water and to have some place to eat outside of the shop or workroom. This is demanded positively in chemical establishments and should be required in all factories.

Employees should be educated regarding the sanitation of the lunch room, and a health squad should act as kitchen police in tidying up the place after the luncheon meal has been eaten. These places should not be the means of attracting mice, vermin, and such undesirable to an establishment.

The floors, stairways, passages, and other places about a factory or its yard should be kept always in order. Dry sweeping should never be permitted. Cleaning up should be done either before or after working hours, never during the work hour.

A first-aid station should be on every floor and a trained squad should be in charge, to be of service should an accident occur. It is time saving and death preventing.

In any event there should be more than one person versed in the use of first-aid appliances. All injuries, however slight, should be attended to, as we are informed that many factory accidents with serious results were at first simple and insignificant

affairs. Neglect often causes loss of life; it is not exceptional in surgery. Last, but not least, repairs—parts of the shop out of order, worn or broken steps, exposed nails, damaged floors, broken windows, damaged ceilings, dirty paint, yard out of order—are important matters and should receive immediate attention. Nothing is so dangerous as an exposed nail; a broken step; an obstruction on a broken or damaged floor. These may appear to be trifling details, but when the reckoning is made we find that they have entered into the important events of factory life. Life is made up of small things. Bodies are made up of minute cells, and so health and happiness result from attention to these small things.

It is hoped that in estimating the things worth while and the things that count we have not gone amiss when we call attention to the conditions which, though small, are nearly always with us and which, if righted, will prevent illness, loss of time, and delayed production. Efficient production means economy; economy is thrift, which means success.

Those who bear ill-will usually get their load increased. The idle man kills time. Time kills the idle man. Nature has given us one tongue and two ears that we may hear more than we speak.

Absent friends should be sacred. Peace is not helped by giving to others a piece of your mind. Pedantry crams our heads with learned lumber, and takes out our brains to make room for it.

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