

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Hoover Reports Suffering

The American people should take cognizance of the report of former President Herbert Hoover, who, after a three-weeks, six thousand-mile trip, reported to the President that to prevent outright starvation in Germany, the United States and Great Britain will have to spend \$475,000,000 each in the next eighteen months.

Mr. Hoover reports that the condition of the German people has "sunk to the lowest level... in one hundred years." That relief must be arranged quickly if Germany is to be able to support herself and to supply goods needed elsewhere in Europe.

"If we want peace," he declares, "if we want to save the expense of even larger military forces to preserve peace... I can see no other course but to meet those burdens." The former President told Congressmen that total requests for American relief would run from \$1.2 billion to \$1.5 billion. He urged Congress to stop, look and listen before formulating its final policy that relief be considered a loan and that repayment of the sums demanded be placed ahead of reparation payments.

The former President took the position that if the United States is to advance large sums to support the minimum under which health and work can be sustained in countries now suffering severely that it should secure repayment of the sums, demand efficiency and economy in their use and have the right "to see that they contribute to that productivity and peace which will alone end these burdens."

No Surprise

There should be no surprise in the disclosure from Germany that Russia has been offering large salaries to German atomic experts for engaging in research for the Soviet Government.

If Soviet Russia possessed the secret of the atomic bomb and the United States Government could employ scientific experts to give it the secret, there is no doubt but that we would promptly employ the experts.

It has never been a secret that the Russians are anxious to discover everything they can about atomic research or that they are doing their best to solve the scientific problem connected with the production of such weapons.

SEEDS FURNISHED FREE BY CITIZENS OF Birmingham and vicinity will make it possible for the planting of 655 European gardens this year. The seeds will be purchased with the sum of \$360.25 contributed here. "A trifling sum to give" do you say?... but not to the starving war-torn people who will be benefited. No good deed, and no good seed, falls lightly upon this tormented earth.

SPRING WILL BE HERE AND, WITH IT, the thoughts of many local folks will find comfort by concentrating upon gardens. It's great to be alive when spring comes!

HERE'S HOPING THAT MRS. VELMA R. ISLEY, new director of the Birmingham Community House, will like her job... and, liking it, will do it well! There is no single agency in this area whose program reaches so many different groups as the House.

Courtesy Avoids Accidents

The idea that you can tell a gentleman, or a lady, behind the steering wheel is emphasized by Professor Carl G. Seashore, of the University of Pennsylvania, who recently told a school of drivers at Tulane University that "defensive driving" can cut down the number of accidents.

What Mr. Seashore had in mind is that most drivers, convinced that they are good behind the wheel, do not realize the danger that comes from backing traffic. He says that offensive drivers try to take advantage of others by getting ahead, racing with a red light, passing other cars on hills and trying to crowd other drivers out of parking spaces.

On the other hand, the defensive driver "never permits others to involve him in an accident" because "he lets the other fellow go ahead so there won't be a collision." We call attention to the theory expounded by the professor because we have pointed out before that there is no law against courtesy, even if one is driving an automobile. Many accidents can be avoided if the driver of an automobile will practice the same courtesy to others, whether pedestrians or other motorists, that he, or she, expects to exhibit at home.

May Escape Depression

Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, says that if business and Government do their part the job "very conscientiously and intelligently," we may even escape altogether the extreme boom and severe depression that we have known in the past.

His latest interesting statement. Now, if somebody will only define the part of the job to be done by business and by the Government, respectively, and persuade business and Government to accept the obligation and perform the job, all may be well.

FINANCIALLY SPEAKING, TODAY THE STATE of Michigan is like a father with a big family, a large part of whose income has been taken away; yet he is expected to maintain his family's standard of living without additional income. The ultimate answer is, of course, more income—a problem now confronting the Legislature.

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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO March 25, 1897 Mrs. Ellen Jones will "ring the curb bell" together with the trumpet blast of legislation and petition, April 14. Listen for it. A heavy fall of snow Tuesday morning made the robins and blue birds terribly tired.

Isaac Penzall of Big Beaver had a close shave of being a dead man here Tuesday. He was on top of a big load of lumber and shingles when he slipped and fell down between the horses; they began to kick and run. The heavy load and the soft road alone saved Mr. Penzall. One of the horses' feet just brushed the side of his head once. It was a mighty close call for Isaac.

20 YEARS AGO March 24, 1927 Work on Birmingham's motion picture theater on south Woodward avenue is going forward today, in spite of the fact that efforts are being made to obtain an injunction against 100-cent Woodward avenue in circuit court. "We are going ahead with the work on the theater," said the state administrative board, which has declared that Woodward avenue will be 100 feet wide at the intersection of H. W. Griffith, of the Briggs Investment Company which is building the theater, told The Eccentric.

30 YEARS AGO March 24, 1917 A quiet home wedding in this village occurred Tuesday evening of last week at which time Miss Allie Hagerman and Thos. L. Thuber of near Franklin were married, after which the happy couple boarded the nine o'clock train for the East. We join with many others in congratulations for a long and happy life.

40 YEARS AGO March 24, 1907 National fire waste in 1946 has been increasing at the highest rate in history. Loss of life, too, is appalling. Deaths in "conflagration" in 1946 were 35 per cent more than in 1940, according to latest available U. S. figures.

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Oh, I Beg Your Pardon



National Waste Resulting from Fires Is at an All-Time High for Past Year

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For the first ten months of last year our national fire waste was \$483,687,000 or 24.5 per cent higher than the same period in 1945. This ten-month total is higher than any full year total in any year from 1920 to 1945.

Smaller firms showed a relatively greater increase in sales, profits and assets than larger companies, according to a survey made by the Federal Reserve Board covering the financial condition of 2708 firms from 1940 through 1945.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

BY moonlight No. 31 picture was taken late in the afternoon with the camera pointed toward the sun.

MOONLIGHT ON ORDER

SEVERAL years ago while vacationing at a small lake in the Adirondacks, I made a series of time exposures of the lake and the mountains by moonlight.

John E. Martz, Attorney at Law, 727 Pembroke Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich. 50-51

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland. At a session of said Court held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County on the 24th day of February, A. D. 1947.

JOHN E. MARTZ, Attorney at Law, 727 Pembroke Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich. 50-51

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MR. EDGAR A. PARKE, Judge of Probate, Birmingham, Michigan. 50-51

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