

Capitalism and Full Employment

Have we really solved the problem of business booms and busts, so that we are reasonably sure always to have full employment?

A specialist in the field, Prof. Paul H. Casselman of the University of Ottawa, Canada, doubts it.

In his new book, "The Economics of Employment and Unemployment," he points out that some past slumps have come from British and German sources. This could happen again.

Much as some would like it, we cannot escape the consequences of what other nations do. If their economies collapse, we

are bound to feel the effects.

ONLY TWICE IN HISTORY, Casselman says, has capitalism achieved full employment, and both times either war or the threat of war was responsible. Today our business activities are not 100 per cent normal. They are complicated by the threat of war and preparation for it. If world tension eased, we might have some unexpected changes in our prosperity.

This makes the present a good time for long-range study and planning.

It's also an excellent time for putting by a dollar now and then for a rainy day.

Lambasting Is a Political Game

Perhaps you often have wondered why Democrats and Republicans in high offices so frequently lambaste one another, especially during election campaigns. It most always is not because they dislike or hate political opponents.

The answer is simple. Its counterpart may be found in any game of competitive sports. The basic motivation is the desire and will to win! In sports, opponents play hard to win—not because they are mad at one another.

Likewise politicians, whose weapons are

words, say things they think will get them votes. They do this by trying to make the public believe that an opponent is far from being eligible to hold a public office.

THEY MAKE PROMISES of kinds they hope will play upon both the selfishness and the gullibility of voters.

In politics, as in sports, one is presumed "not to hit below the belt". But this rule, sad to say, is forgotten more in the arena of politics than in sports.

Is Music Soothing the Human Breast?

If it is true that music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, then the troubled sea of human emotions ought to be calming down a bit. The number of people who listen to music has increased enormously during the past few centuries.

Avery Clafin, writing in the Bulletin of the American Composers Alliance, says that back around 1700—at about the time, incidentally, when William Congreve was writing those lines about the charms of music—there were only about 5,000 listeners in the entire world.

What he appears to mean is that in the era of Bach and Handel only this relatively small number of people had access to good music performed by skilled musicians.

LATER IN THE 18TH CENTURY the number of listeners, according to Clafin's estimate, had tripled. In the 1820's, toward the end of Beethoven's life, there were some 50,000 listeners, and by 1900 the advent of the phonograph had boosted the audience to perhaps half a million.

Now, half a century later, radio, record players and a great flowering of music everywhere have created an audience Clafin thinks numbers 100 million.

Whether or not its power to soothe the human spirit is as great as Congreve supposed, certainly music, with a few exceptions that spring to mind, has had a great civilizing influence.

Will the Sea Feed Hungry Billions?

A news item says that pork sausages are going to come equipped with edible sea weed casings. Such little pig jackets will have food value, something not true of the cellulose casings previously used.

Though these tidings are not exactly revolutionary, the item hints of something which may be revolutionary in the extreme. It is this: that future generations of man will turn more and more to the sea for their sustenance.

For thousands of years the sea has been an important source of food. But the oceans are wide and deep. Their riches have scarcely been tapped. Taking food from the sea has become more a "hunting"

operation than a harvest.

NOW SCIENTISTS ARE THINKING in terms of cultivating the deep. They have found that by adding certain elements to water they can greatly increase the growth of plant life and, eventually, of food fish. They also are experimenting with various kinds of sea weeds, some of which are edible in their natural form.

Sausage skins from sea weed are one fruit of this research. The innovation may herald extraordinary developments of major importance to a hungry world whose population is constantly rising.

Let's Pray It's a Mirage



NATURE NOW

Writer Sees Change In Florida Scenes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Currently writing in Puerto Rico, Mrs. Frehse is writing a series of special articles covering "Nature Now" in that area. This week she reports from Florida, a stopover point in her trip.

By LYDIA KING FREHSE

Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The sun was hot and the air was heavy with the fragrance of a million flowers as we followed the winding paths and waterways of Cypress Gardens.

Here in Central Florida we had the exciting experience of seeing "come alive" those sub-tropical native plants and tropical exotics which we had heretofore known only in botanical gardens and books.

Following the marble paths, we busied ourselves with pen and not a book while the more casual visitors watched the water show or photographed some spectacular vista with pretty Mrs. Frehse strolling about in their colonial finery as an added accent.

HERE FLOWER color and beauty were rampant, with azaleas still in bloom, many varieties of lilies and hibiscus at their best, and gardenias in bud.

Cardinals sang from the spectacular profusion of flame vine and bougainvillea which climbed to the highest treetops, and the colorful bromeliads, grew from the spongy stems of palm trees.

A TOWHEE SEARCHED for worms under a banana tree which

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Other day, a woman called in, wanted us to forward to our readers her views regarding children who cut across private property on their way to school.

Quoting a recent letter in a Detroit daily people's opinion column, the woman (who lives in the Torry school area) said: "If you ask them (the kids) if they walk across their own lawns, they'll answer, 'My father won't let me.'"

Our caller added that perhaps children should be taught in school, rather than in the home, to respect other's property. Her reason is that the school has more opportunity to teach children this respect.

She perhaps thought it, but left unsaid, that many parents these days are so busy living their own lives that they have precious little time left in which to supervise the growing up of their offspring.

That's why the kiddie crop keeps getting crumrier.

If you have been wondering why your grocery bill has been getting so high, you might find the answer by standing sideways and looking in the mirror.

Special attempts are to be made this year to save a number of kind of wildlife that are about to disappear from the earth, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

Many of them I've heard of, seen only two, never knew America harbored one of them, and discovered a new kind of bird. But first (like they say on television), let me give you the complete list:

time resist its heat and insect pests. Tons of citrus pulp and peel make a satisfactory supplementary food supply.

At Miami and environs the weight of fabulous homes and skyscraper hotels has obliterated the natural landscape.

HERE THE scrub pine, the tangle of palm and palmetto have been replaced by exotic tropical plantings in an array of "tended" perfection which is the unique property of Florida gold coast.

At Ft. Lauderdale, a touch of

Sea otter, lake sturgeon, lake trout, trumpeter swan, Everglade kite, Eskimo curlew, grayling, California condor, prairie chicken, bighorn sheep, whooping crane, grizzly bear, ivory-billed woodpecker, Key deer, Tule elk, black-footed ferret, kit fox, woodland caribou, gray wolf, red wolf, manatee.

Caribbean monk seal, Mississippi kite, swallow-tailed kite, white-tailed kite, roseate spoonbill, Hudsonian godwit, Florida sandhill crane, Laysan teal, new, Aleutian tern, Florida burrowing owl, Peregrine falcon, red-bellied hawk, Kirtland's warbler, Cape Sable seaside sparrow, Great Lakes white fish, American crocodile and green turtle.

THE STURGEON AND LAKE trout I've seen here in Michigan.

Florida's probably would attend to the fact that there are crocodiles in the United States. They are still found in the extreme lower tip of Florida, but are more prevalent in the West Indies, Central America, particularly British Honduras.

They average 10-12 feet in length when full grown, with the American record "croc" measured at 23 feet.

And th' nene (pronounced "knee-knee") is a type of goose found on the islands of Hawaii.

If you are interested in preserving any or all of these creatures, I guess your Congressman would be the guy to write to.

There's no happier married couple than a man who would rather play golf than eat and a woman who would rather play bridge than cook.

scape of lake and rolling shoreline, made an unforgettable picture. The plantings of flowering oranges and shrubbery harmonized or contrasted with the rich coral of these exotic birds with their odd

Your scribble while writing these impressions, remembers Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida and his legendary search for the fountain of youth. Now 443 years later the same search continues, its tempo quickened to a kind of frenzied and competitive pace hitherto un-

known.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View...

A nation whose promises are no longer than a summer zephyr is a nation that other nations cannot depend upon. Such a nation is the Russia of today.

In its endless endeavor to progress, mankind may be likened unto one who takes five steps forward, slides back four, but all in all gets ahead a single step at a time. To be sure, on the surface it may appear, as in a World War, that he slides back more than the five steps forward; given more time, however, again he strides forward . . . ever and ever is the urge to go forward . . . the magnetic attraction in Divinity's lodestone will al-

ways pull man in the direction of the objective of a loving and harmonious world.

A grateful patient exclaimed to her doctor: "How can I ever repay you for your kindness to me?" The answer she got was right to the point: "By cash, check, or postal money order!"

The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C., has issued a catalogue listing a total of 1932 species of termites . . . not including the ones spawned from the genus homo.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background of The Birmingham of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
March 16, 1906
"Whitehead and Mitchell want to know the chap who took a low 10-foot bench or ledge off their back porch. It was used to keep paint off the floor and is needed every moment. Please bring it back."

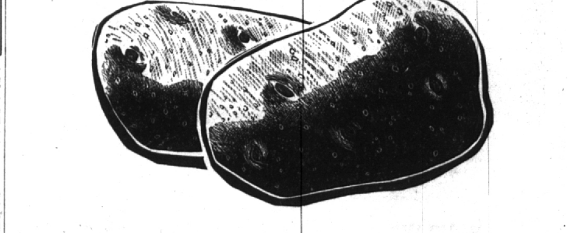
"At recent meetings of the women's club of Pontiac, Birmingham and Royal Oak, it was decided that Woodward avenue from the Detroit city limits to South Saginaw street is one long unsightly stretch, and sadly needs improvements. Glaring signs and flaming posters do not contribute to the beauty of any street and especially to one as much travelled as Woodward. The roadsides need cleaning up, grass cut, weeds pulled and trees and shrubbery planted or set out . . ."

"The Willard piano used at 'e' old folks concert' is from Grinnell's music house in Pontiac. It is a superior instrument of exquisite tone and fine finish."

30 YEARS AGO
March 1926
"Success marked the girl scout cookie sale held throughout the village last Saturday with \$444 reported as the proceeds to go towards the Oakland County girl scout camp at Davis lake."

"The remainder of the pledge of the lodge scouts, amounting to \$40 will be raised by members of the council."

"The lodge room of the Birmingham Knights of Pythias on north Woodward avenue are rapidly nearing the alteration completion and plans are being made for a ceremony in connection with the formal opening April 2.
"Remodeling has been under way for two months and when completed, members of the lodge expect the finest quarters in the state outside of Detroit."
"The Village Players are presenting a three-act play, for the



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Ticklers By George

"There's Gran'pap asleep walkin'! Even in his sleep he likes to live dangerously!"