

LOOKING TOWARD PROSPERITY

By Arthur C. Parker

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Mayor Curley's Sane Prescription

James Curley, Mayor of Boston, submitted to a large audience his plan to clean up the city's unemployment situation. Mayor Curley advocated the adoption of the five day week with no reduction in salary of those now employed.

This is the first sane and unselfish measure yet proposed in New England to check the rising tide of misery for the workers. His plan, if adopted, would automatically create a need for a 20% increase in the number of persons employed by the city. If state, national and private enterprises were to make the same decision, raise wages instead of lowering them, the old bugaboo, depression, would have most of his props knocked from under him. Of course, big business would be forced to lose some of that precious mountain of profit, but just the same, there would not be many yachts or limousines sold at public auction.

We salute Mr. Curley for courageously taking a progressive step toward a better and more sensibly regulated society in the face of, and despite, powerful reactionary opposition.

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Support for "Five Week Plan"

Arthur Brisbane, feature writer for the Hearst papers, endorses Oscar Ameringer's "five week plan" to end the depression. The plan as submitted to President Hoover and Congress reads "The paying of a \$500 dividend to the head of every American family by the government. This means the national outlay of only \$2,000,000 in special currency. This money is to be recalled by a government sales tax of 5% payable in the special currency only."

Arthur Brisbane says, "If the government must take care of as many as 5,000,000 idle it cannot be done by spending 500,000,000 for every 100,000 of them. That would cost \$25,000,000,000 too much. Five million families, however, could be kept from actual want with \$2,500,000,000, giving \$500 to each family for absolute necessities.

"The dole is a horrible word, but the result of leaving 5,000,000 families destitute thruout the winter while you take care of 100,000 in certain trades by spending \$500,000,000 might be more terrible than the dole."

Thousands of the nation's most brilliant minds agree with Mr. Brisbane.

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"Grin and Bear It" Economics

Gov. William H. Murray of Oklahoma, better known as "Alfalfa Bill", at Soldier's Field, Chicago, admonished laboring men "to have patience and vote well".

Self seeking politicians and opportunists seem to know how to mix just enough truth and fiction, foolishness and intelligence, sincerity and melodrama, to make the odious mess handed out palatable

to the rank and file of workers. Courage and faith, what a hypocritical, flimsy excuse for food, shelter and clothing! Yet all of our officials from highest executive to the would-be-somebodies have no more substantial plan to help working people escape malnutrition and disease than their oft sung funeral dirge--faith and courage!

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### Hope and Dope

Dope, that came to modern man through medical science as a benefaction, has by abuse and misuse become an evil habit and a pernicious curse to our society.

When dope in any of its many forms is taken in an emergency at the proper time and under a doctor's direction it is considered highly beneficial, and is known to have saved human life. When human beings take dope constantly to sate an acquired appetite this drug eventually makes a depraved, degenerate wreck of a normal, healthy being.

Just as dope has the devilish potency to decompose mind and body, so has "Hope", when indulged in too often, the power to vitiate, debilitate, and disintegrate the morale, the will, and finally the mind and body of man. Hope is healing and beneficial to human emotions under certain circumstances and when intelligently applied to seemingly hopeless problems. But when individuals or groups become addicted to vesting all their energies, ambitions, and their very existence in hope without making untiring conscious effort to attain their hopes they eventually become thoughtless inactive "hope addicts".

Negro workers are threatened with the dire consequences of too much passive "hope".

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### Soul Food Not Enough

Thousands of Negro workers, sent to Europe to kill or be killed, for the first time in their lives saw black men publicly honored by white, saw black generals, black commanding officers, themselves experienced the bewildering sensation of being accepted everywhere in Europe as men and equals without reserve or condescension. These American colored soldiers, who had had a feeling of inferiority impressed on them since birth, and who have always felt the presence of the bar sinister, naturally expanded. Heads went up, chins were thrust out, and eyes flamed bright with the eternal fire of confident young manhood.

These thousands of young men, the flower of America's colored manhood, returned to the United States fresh from the novel experience of having been thoroughly appreciated abroad, with minds open and hearts wistful. Negro churches, ministers, schools, professors, and leaders all swelled the prevailing chorus sung so lustily to all restless colored citizens. "Have faith and hope in the future."

Here is the incomparable paradox: Today, millions of them, steeped in hope and stuffed with faith, suffer and die from malnutrition, disease, and disappointment. Wretched, degenerated families in the slums of New Orleans, Atlanta, Memphis, Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, and every other city and countryside, know now that just hope won't clothe them, won't feed them, won't shelter them, won't employ them or educate their children.

No! It is too late, much too late to remedy the irreparable wrong done these poor victims merely by a religious doctrine of Hope and Faith.

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