

### UNEQUAL DIVISION OF WEALTH MENACE

#### SAYS ECONOMICS EXPERT

##### Maladjustments in Distribution Between City and Country Likely to Cause Trouble, Is His Opinion

Maladjustments in the distribution of the wealth of the nation is weakening the basic foundation of the national strength and may lead to a serious struggle between the country and the city, Dr. Henry C. Taylor of the Institute for Research in Land Economics of Northwestern university warned an audience of business men and farmers in an address recently at Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Dr. Taylor was organizer and first chief of the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"The two great questions of the day are economic questions," Dr. Taylor said. "The one relates to the distribution of the annual income of the nation among those in different occupations who produce that income. The other relates to the distribution of the annual income of the world among the nations which produce it."

#### May Lead to Struggle

"There is danger that the first of these questions will lead to a serious struggle between country and city in the United States. There is danger that the second will lead to international strife. Maladjustments in the distribution of wealth as between country and city not only is causing suffering on the part of a large element of the population, but is weakening the basic foundation of our national strength without which we cannot hold our own in times of international struggle."

"The greatest need of the present time is statesmanlike leadership in the economic affairs of the nation. Every man and woman should study the political economic problems of the day in order that he may do his part as a citizen in helping to elect to the key positions in our government statesmen with the ability to deal wisely with these great economic questions of today."

#### Reduces Independence

Agricultural depressions have always had the effect of reducing the independence of farmers, Dr. Taylor said. In 1688 more than half the farmers in England owned the land they tilled, a century and a half later landowning farmers were rare in England.

"The depression in English agriculture following the Napoleonic wars was the final blow that left England practically without farmers who owned the land they cultivated. The same movement is on in America today. Unfortunately those in authority in our national administration seem to be oblivious to the basic economic forces which are in operation and equally oblivious to their effects. This was manifested in a striking way recently when the assistant secretary of agriculture, R. W. Dunlap, an appointee of President Coolidge, was reported to have recommended that business men buy farm lands now as an investment."

"This buying of farm land as an investment on the part of business men at a time when farmers are financially crippled by the depression is one of the methods which led to the eradication of land-owning farmers in England. If the officials who represent the administration on agricultural matters would devote themselves to the restoration of agricultural prosperity, the farmers might not be forced to sell their farms to over-prosperous business men. What is needed is wise leadership in agricultural affairs. Leaders are needed who can help farmers out of their troubles, not force them into a position of permanent dependence."

That New York society woman who paid \$4,000 for an ear will be out of luck if the old style hair dressing returns and ears become passe once more.

A British authority says the American woman is beautiful but cold. How can she help it when she doesn't wear any more clothes than she does?

German socialists could not get the death penalty abolished but they succeeded in getting a law passed so that in the future the manipulator of the guillotine will wear a business suit instead of the customary full dress clothes. We don't know whether this change will mean anything to the condemned victims or not but it at least ought to convince them that the headman means business.

The population of Mexico is now fourteen millions and is increasing despite the large number of fatalities among presidential candidates.

A new clause has been added to the Constitution. Senators will hereafter be elected by the people, subject to confirmation by the senate.

The Soviet government is "merciless with insurgents." Thus the perfect state spends its object. Violence for virtue is its method of progression.—New York Sun.

### CHARMS OF ALASKA TOLD BY TRAVELER

#### GREAT POTENTIALITIES

##### Something of the Natural Beauties Described; Possibilities Industrially Are Predicted

The future of industrial and agricultural Alaska is one of the most interesting problems the Federal government has in hand, Paul H. Abbott, an explosives expert of Juneau, who is now in the east, declared in an interview recently. Mr. Abbott said that the great industrial and agricultural potentialities of this northern territory, Alaska, should, in time, become one of the most important, if not the most important, possession of the United States.

"Of course," he said, "a great deal of money must be spent to develop the wide resources of Alaska, but when we consider the tremendous wealth of the states and how some of it could be used to advantage in the northern territory, it is no idle dream to speculate on a growth that in time might make Alaska an important industrial and agricultural center."

The city of Juneau, which is the capital of Alaska, he added, alone hopes to double its population within a few years as the result of the future forest industry in the vicinity.

#### Plan Pulp Plant

"A group of three large Pacific coast newspapers," he said, "plan to establish a plant near Juneau at an estimated cost of \$40,000,000 for making newsprint from pulp. This pulp will come from the hemlocks and spruce which exist in abundance in the territory."

Meanwhile, government agencies already have built 38 miles of gravel-surface roads leading out of Juneau at a cost of \$575,000 and are planning to construct an entire system of roads to be known as the "Glacier Highway." This highway will open up many beautiful tracts of timber lands and win access to territories where farmers may settle with profit and where industrialists may build their plants.

"When our industries grow, that growth in turn will bring the agriculturists to Alaska," Mr. Abbott observed. "Inasmuch as agriculture is largely the backbone of state or nation, Alaska should find a place in the sun, when the agriculturists have gone to her borders in sufficient numbers."

#### Navigation Open

When he announced that he would have to hurry back to Seattle in time to catch a boat for Juneau so he could be with his family Christmas, he was asked whether he feared being blocked from his trip by the ice. "Oh, no," he laughed, "you folks in the states have funny notions about Alaska. The land exists in popular fancy as one of ice, snow, polar bears and picturesque gold hunters. This is not altogether true. Although Seattle is more than 1,000 miles from us, the boat travel to that city is never interrupted."

"And Alaska, itself, is not unlike many of the states in climate. Perhaps, it will surprise you to know that many of your states have a colder January average temperature than Juneau. For example, I might mention Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and even portions of New York State and New England."

#### Good Hunting

Asked about the hunting, Mr. Abbott declared that large brown and grizzly bears, the largest carnivorous animals in the world, are found on Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof islands and most of the mainland adjacent to Juneau, and these animals can be hunted in the spring and fall. Black bear and glacier bear are to be found in the northern regions; and deer and moose are plentiful. In some sections mountain goats exist.

"Are there any evidences of the old Klondike days left?" he was asked. "No," he replied, "the old Klondikers are gone. But, perhaps it will be of interest to you to know that the Alaska-Juneau gold mine, two miles from Juneau, is the largest gold mining operation in the world in point of tonnage."

### NOVEMBER BUILDING SURVEY IN THE U. S.

#### CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVED

##### Regular Report of Straus & Co. Shows Figures from Various Sections of the Country

Reports to S. W. Straus & Co., from 541 cities and towns in the 48 states, revealed somewhat more favorable conditions in the building industry in November than for several months past, the decline in permits issued being but one per cent less than for the same month last year. The figures were: November 1927, \$309,160,519; November, 1926, \$311,942,793.

While losses were shown in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit and a few other large cities, the rank and file of centers throughout the country revealed well sustained volumes of new building with occasional gains of surprising proportions.

While these records of building permits, covering as they do, such a wide range of cities and towns throughout the entire country, constitute a most sensitive index, it would not be the part of good judgment to conclude definitely from these data that we are reaching the end of the decline in building operations which has been going on for more than a year. Aside from the clement weather which existed throughout the Northern states until late in the month there was no special factor present.

Notwithstanding the more favorable reports for November, the industry is still far below the level of activities that obtained in 1926. A survey of employment conditions conducted by S. W. Straus & Co., showed that in the building crafts employment is about 12 per cent less now than it was at this time last winter. Building permits, which more quickly show approaching changes than any other index, were, at the end of November, 13 per cent behind the corresponding 11 months.

#### Twenty-five Leading Cities

It is of interest, though of no special significance, that the 25 cities in which the greatest volume of permits was issued in November this year were about 6 per cent ahead of last year. Inasmuch as this group represents the cities where the peak of activity exists, the places comprising it change from year to year. However, the total this year was slightly ahead of the cities which comprised the group in November 1926 but was about 10 per cent behind the 1925 group.

Plans filed in New York City dropped from \$82,820,375 to \$68,999,452, a loss of 17 per cent between November last year and this. Prospective building operations in the metropolis were, on December 1, 15 per cent behind the first eleven months of last year.

Detroit showed a surprising loss, dropping from \$14,832,068 in November 1926 to \$6,185,619 last month. There was a loss in Philadelphia of a little more than \$2,250,000. Elsewhere in the group gains of considerable magnitude were shown, notably in Los Angeles, Buffalo, Louisville, New Haven, Conn., and Scarsdale, N. Y.

#### Labor Situation

From reports by international officers of half a dozen important building trades and from statements by numerous building contractors, it is apparent that the volume of man-hours now needed is considerably below the requirements of last winter. These sources of information while giving the general aspects of the situation, lack concrete statistical data. It has, however, been possible, through various Federal and State labor figures, to establish an approximately dependable estimate of labor conditions within the industry, which indicates that employment is about 12 per cent below last winter.

#### Building Material Prices

The building material market was steadier during the past month than it has been for some time. For the most part there were more upward changes than decline in prices. In the basic materials, Portland cement was a little weak at New Orleans and New York and common brick prices declined at New York, St. Louis and San Francisco. The lumber market was in better condition than formerly and the most active material was structural steel. Steel sold at 1.80c Pittsburgh and 1.90c Chicago.

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