

Editorial

The HIGHLAND PARK PRESS

Features

COLUMN LEFT—

By Jay Orr

This is the "debunking age." And the depression is responsible for much of the debunking. Most noteworthy is the fact that business is discovering that many of its "leaders" and "wizards" are men of no great ability—in fact, that many of them are very ordinary individuals.

The day of the million-dollar-a-year business executive was ended by the depression, and it's a good thing. No man, I contend, is worth even a tenth of a million dollars a year to society. In fact, such crazy salaries are in part responsible for the plight many businesses in particular and business in general, are in at the present time.

Although numerous corporation salaries ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000 are still recorded, the depression cut deeply among executives who received their chief remuneration from a share in the business, bonus and employee compensation payments.

An example is Eugene G. Grace, "dynamic" head of the Bethlehem Steel corporation. He received \$1,623,753 in 1929 through large bonus payments, but may be receiving no more than \$12,000 a year as salary this year. Bethlehem's earnings have dwindled to nothing this year, so bonus payments are unlikely.

Many of our "gigantic" business enterprises made millions in spite of, rather than through the efforts of, their officers during the late lamented boom. It was practically impossible for a business with any sort of backing NOT to make money, because the country was buying-mad, and the result was that a handful of high business executives grabbed millions in salaries and bonuses, and the rest of us woke up with a headache and installments due on everything we had.

Will all this happen again, when prosperity returns, as Roger Babson soys it will? Surely this will all happen again, because society is no stronger than its weakest links, and no one knows as well as our business executives that there are a lot of weak links in society. Right now we are a bit sick at the way we bought unnecessary and unessentials, but when we get over the effects of the jag, we can be induced to go on another buying spree.

Many business "leaders," and among them the affable Charlie Schwab, maintain that good executives are worth a million dollar a year, "and more." Mr. Schwab is Mr. Grace's chief, and the chief says that Mr. Grace "is the best steel man in the world." That may be, but if there were a hundred "best steel men" and business eladers in the world, all working as hard as they could on the problems of prosperity and depression, they would not change the susceptibility of the public to buy when it least needs to buy, and when it can least afford to

An Invitation—

The Highland Park Press welcomes short, sincere letters discussing matters of local importance to this city and the north shore, and will print a select few each week. Contributions, to be accepted for publication on this page, must be signed by the writer, must be short and to the point, must avoid personalities, and must reach this office by Monday noon for publication in the following issue. We reserve the right to use or reject all letters. Anonymous contributions will be ignored, regardless of their merit.

WOMEN LEADERS

Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science church, heads the list of ten women leaders of America who were born in the last hundred years, as the result of a nation-wide poll. Of the votes cast, Mrs. Eddy received 102,762, which was 3,615 more than were given to Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, Chicago, who is second on the list. The other eight women leaders are as follows:

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross; Frances E. Willard, founder of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union; Susan B. Anthony, suffrage leader; Helen Keller, deaf and blind author; Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; Julia Ward Howe, poet and author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"; Carrie Chapman Catt, suffrage leader; Amelia Earhart Putnam, first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic; Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke college; and Dr. Mary E. Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke college and only woman representative to the Geneva disarmament conference in 1932.

Others named but not included in the first rank were Mme. Ernestine Schumann Heink, Mrs. Herbert Hoover and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

PRINCELY SALARIES

In "Column Left" appears the statement that "The day of the million-dollar-a-year business executive apparently was ended by the depression." Here are two more examples of this very sensible situation brought out by the period of deflation we are now experiencing:

George W. Hill, American Tobacco company president, received \$1,010,507 in 1930 and \$1,018,000 in 1931. Profits are lower in 1932, so there is a possibility that he will be unable to receive QUITE a million this year.

William Fox, movie magnate, once was reported to have received remuneration in excess of \$1,000,000 annually, but not now!

buy, as it did during the last joy-ride.

Again I ask the question, "Are our business leaders, who are given the power to lead us in a sensible economic path, but instead misuse this power to get us on a jag only to wake up with a terrible taste in the mouth; are those leaders really worth a million dollars a year—the whole bunch of them?"

WE'RE PROUD

Many of Chicago's business and civic leaders are community-minded residents of Highland Park, and we're proud of them. We're also pardonably proud that such men as Samuel M. Hastings, Malcolm D. Vail, George W. Rossetter, Dr. Alfred S. Burdick and F. N. Bard, and many others whom we could mention, have chosen this community for their residence.

Their homes here are not mere "country places." They are HOMES, in the truest sense of the word.

With perhaps the exception of Westchester county, New York, there is no other locality in the world that can "point with pride" to the large number of influential residents, leaders in business and civic life, as the north shore, and Highland Park has its rightful share of "prominent citizens." We appreciate them—we are proud of them.

AMERICANISM: Poor people losing their mortgaged homes because they can't borrow money; New York bankers lending millions to gamblers at 1 per cent.

—Wheeling Intelligencer.

The Atlanta Federal pen is to have a radio in every cell. Maybe this is a method of punishment.

—Greensboro (Ga.) Herald—Journal.

The outlook is surely becoming more optimistic. Burglars, a crime report shows, are breaking into places of business again.

—Boston Herald.

On the morning of the Presidential election in 1912, this column said, "We have met the enemy, and the post-offices are ours."

—Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

We might try giving Congressmen a bonus on every million they chisel from the budget estimate.

—Davenport Times.

When an economic question gets into politics it is just too bad for economy.

—Boston Shoe and Leather Reporter.

The world's greatest optimist has been discovered. A fellow in Virginia is trying to reopen a miniature golf course.

—Greenville Piedmont.

German author says American women are so beautiful they can wear any old thing. Sure they can, but they won't.

—Macon Telegraph.

WHAT OF IT?—

By Eddy Smith

"TECHNOCRACY"

What is this "technocracy" that we hear so much about lately? Is it something that concerns just the "big" cities or is it possible that our own community has been likewise affected?

"It's nothing new. Engles, LaSalle, Marx and Henry George anticipated its coming when Highland Park still belonged to the Indians, (not the Highwood "Indians"). Where before, a local company used to employ seven men on a post hole gang, now a giant drill can do a better job in ten minutes with only two men . . . where before, a local house employed several bookkeepers, now a fifteen dollar a week office girl with the aid of a new type book-keeping machine can do the job much better and more accurate, . . . where before, a snow storm meant the creation of a job for about ten teams of horses and a dozen men, now the city uses a tractor that can cover the town in less than a day . . . where before, the abandoned brick yard located in the west side of town used to employ two and three hundred men, a half dozen such plants can now supply the entire U. S. with less men than were formerly employed in this one plant . . . where before, there were never more than twenty-five unemployed in our community, now the Social Service is making a desperate attempt to find at least part time work for 5 and 6 hundred unemployed in our community. Technocracy is more than just a "passing fancy."

INDIVIDUALITY

Is it possible that the good people of our community have acquired the tastes of the mass of movie patrons in New York and Chicago? The writer heard a good deal of hissing and heckling at the local theater when a newsreel featured an international banker and his views about the return of good times and prosperity . . . also—some hissing when a democratic senator explained how we would have beer by Christmas. Such reaction can have but one meaning . . . that Highland Park is gradually losing its individuality, which may and may not be a good thing.

"GREETINGS"

The writer would like this opportunity to express to his friends . . . both of them . . . a Very Happy New Year.

"FORGOTTEN"

What does it mean when every community along the North Shore has a community Christmas tree except Highland Park? We'll tell you . . . somebody "just forgot."

—"What of It"