

THE FRENCH SECRET OF GREAT PROSPERITY HAS BEEN FOUND IN INTENSE THRIFT

Paris, France.—France is sitting on top of the world. Recently this has become a common remark and a current topic, but we rarely hear what should be its logical complement. How did she get there? In a depression-ridden world this question merits attention. We may find it valuable to consider why France is the only nation in Europe economically and financially strong. Why France still has a few hundred thousand unemployed while Germany, England and the United States have their millions. Why France, only five years after its currency depreciated to one-tenth of its value, and three years after the franc was legally fixed at a mark wiping out four-fifths of its previous value, is now actually on a sounder economic basis than the United States.

It is a popular fallacy to dismiss France's contemporary power by saying, "Oh yes, France won the war. Her immense gains in territory have raised her today to the most predominant position in Europe since Napoleon."

Territory Gain Secondary

Factually this explanation does not hold ground. It is true that France regained Alsace-Lorraine, thereby distinctly increasing her national resources, but geographically, as historically, it must be admitted the recovered provinces are now where they belong. Colonially France received Togoland, Cameroon and the Syrian mandate as direct war spoils. This actually represents French territorial gain of 246,000 square miles out of total French colonial possessions of 5,870,000 square miles.

Therefore, whereas, the war treaties consolidated France's political hegemony, they really increased her economic equipment in far less important degrees than is generally supposed.

France is not sitting on top of the world today for any such superficial reason as territorial gains resultant from the war. There are deeper reasons. The American who wants to know the why about modern France may first consider this fact. The world's crisis is most acute in industrial countries. This explains the economic confusion in Germany, Britain and America. France on the other hand, remains predominantly agricul-

tural. Only 28 per cent. of her working population are industrially employed. Of her estimated 21,000,000 workers, 8,590,000 are farmers, and of these 5,000,000 own their own little farms. Likewise, of her industrial population the astonishing total of 683,000 are their own bosses.

Small Profits, Small Losses

In other words, big industry represents a very small proportion of France; the "little business man" here still has his day and say. This means modest business and small profits, but also small losses. It means a few hundred lose their jobs in a time of depression where many thousands lose theirs at a single blow in big industrial countries. It also means that France is more self-supporting than America; she has always depended far less on exporting her manufactured products than the United States has for the last twenty years and her economic structure is more flexible.

The last two years have proved this indisputably. Therefore we may say that France economically is less modern, less specialized and infinitely less overextended. This is one good reason why France today holds an enviable position in the world crisis. Her economic foundations are modest and solid, and she depends far less than other countries upon the prosperity of neighboring lands.

EUROPE SUGAR BEET CROP IS LOW

London, Nov. 9.—Limited Russian sugar beet transactions in the freight market during early October are reported by C. Czarnikow.

Russian crop figures are also given in surveys made by Czarnikow. The Soviet crop promises to yield from 20 to 25 per cent less sugar per hectare than was previously anticipated. Adverse weather conditions are said to have caused most of this decrease.

The Russian crop now promises to reach 1,900,000 tons of Whites and not the previous official figure of 2,700,000 tons. Sugar beets were put in a month late in Russia and have since their planting suffered from lack of rain.

DR. AMBEDKAR, AN INDIAN LEADER SPEAKS FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN HIS COUNTRY

London, England.—To the western mind there is a peculiar romantic curiosity surrounding India's depressed classes. Obviously, an "untouchable" is something for wide-eyed speculation. Dr. Bhimrao Ranji Ambedkar, M. A., Ph. D., D. Sc., represents the "untouchables" and all other depressed classes of India.

He is a good-looking man, with a firm, decisive manner, and a grimly jovial presence. His eyes are the most important feature of his singularly square (for an Indian) countenance. They are always alight.

Dr. Ambedkar was born in 1893, of the Mahar caste. He was educated at Elphinstone College, Bombay, and at Columbia and London universities. He was called to the bar (Gray's Inn) in 1923. Then he became a practicing barrister at the High Court of Bombay. His Highness the Maharajah of Baroda gave him a scholarship to study economics and sociology at Columbia, and later he spent a year in London doing research in the India Office Library, returning to India in 1917.

Professor At Bombay

He then became a professor of political economy at Sydenham College, Bombay. In 1920 he returned to London, remaining three years; he then won the degree of D. Sc. in economics and commerce. He is the author of numerous books, including "The Problem of the Rupee", "Evolution of Provincial Finance" and works on caste questions. He is the founder of the Depressed Classes Institute and takes a prominent part in the movement to secure the uplift of the untouchable classes. He is a nominated member of the Bombay Legislative Council and a Fellow of the University of Bombay. He speaks perfect English.

As the representative of 43,000,000 of the depressed classes of India, Dr. Ambedkar has no illusions about his status in India.

"Here in London," he remarked, "I am treated as an equal, not only by British statesmen, but by my fellow-delegates. But when I return to India I shall be simply a member of the depressed classes, and ruling princes who acknowledge me in London will ignore me in India."

A Submerged Problem

"It is disappointing that the very important problem of the untouchable has been submerged here by the Moslem-Hindu controversy. Whenever India has been discussed hitherto the appalling position of the untouchables always has been regarded as of vital importance. But here at the conference it has virtually been ignored. And we are getting impatient. If the depressed classes are to have no place in the future of India, we shall have to consider another line of action. Forty-three million people cannot be ignored."

"The social boycott against the depressed classes is so violent that they are helpless. They form a minority in every village, and the orthodox classes are determined to protect their interests from any supposed invasion by the depressed classes no matter by what means or at what costs."

Dr. Ambedkar offered some examples of the attitude toward the untouchables. They are prevented from using ordinary paths; their use of the communal well probably will bring a boycott which may go so far as to deprive them of the necessities of life; many ways of earning a living are closed to them, which is one reason for their dreadful poverty.

"The masters of these dreadful pariahs," exclaims Dr. Ambedkar, "bring false cases against them in the village court or in the criminal courts, impound their cattle, pull down their huts, deny their right in immemorial sub-tenancies, forcibly cut and take their crops. If the untouchables resist they are charged with theft, disorder, rioting, and, what is most tragic, especially in India, are cut off from the flow of water for their fields."

The Helpless Millions

"India," continued Dr. Ambedkar, "does not breed village Hampdens. One must have courage and money

to go to court. Most cases depend on the decision of the first court, persided over by officials who I do not hesitate to declare are sometimes corrupt, and who in general sympathize with the wealthy classes to whom they are attacked and to whom they look for support in official promotion. The ruling classes, including the princes, will fight for 'caste' to the end."

"We appeal to the British people. Is it their will that these helpless millions continue to be outcasts? Our leaders multiply. Young men are escaping from the villages and educating themselves in the centers of population."

"With all our strength we are pleading for these people at the conference. True, we get sympathy, but sympathy is insufficient. Something must be done about it, and action needs be prompt. If our cry for justice remains unheard, then those who, all over India, are waiting to know their fate, will not accept the verdict."

"Sum it up for yourself. Something has to be done at the conference. If not—then something will be done in India."

SCIENCE AID TO COAL INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED

Pittsburgh, Nov. 7.—Science will lend a hand in the tedious task of unraveling the economic tangle of the bituminous coal industry.

The third international conference on bituminous coal, under the auspices of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, of Pittsburgh, will be in session here November 16 to 21 and for the first time will blend its highly technical discussions with the economic phases of the business of producing fuel.

Leaders in the conference believe that some general plan for the rehabilitation of the industry will be forthcoming from the conversations between the scientists and business men.

The mine owner will be furnished with a comprehensive survey of his business. He will learn that the future demands for his product will be shown to what extent his modern rivals—petroleum, natural gas and water power—will compete.

Foreign scientists are to provide approximately two-thirds of the more than 100 papers to be delivered during the conference.

Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland will discuss governmental aspects of the coal industry and will appear on Monday, the opening day of the conference.

On the same program Myron C. Taylor, chairman of the finance committee of the United States Steel Corporation, will deal with the coal situation generally.

PAYS \$5 LENT TO HIM 29 YEARS AGO

Malvern, L. I., Nov. 9.—Mrs. Mary Lundin and Samuel Edelberg were steerage passengers bound for North America 29 years ago. Mrs. Lundin was coming to the United States, Edelberg to Canada.

Edelberg needed four dollars for an entrance fee to Canada. Fellow passengers refused him a loan. Mrs. Lundin gave him five dollars.

Mrs. Lundin has received a \$25 check from Samuel Edelberg, president of the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce and Adirondack commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America.

A note with the check explained that Edelberg remembered only the name of Mrs. Lundin's home town in central Europe. He went there last summer, found a sister of Mrs. Lundin and from her learned his benefactor's address here.

History shows that the Empress Eugenie didn't last so long herself.

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Mrs. M. K. MacNid, Iona, N.S., writes:—"I took a severe cold and developed a hacking cough. I kept on neglecting it thinking it would leave me like some previous colds I had, but it got worse. I tried every cough medicine I could think of."

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Price 35c. a bottle; large family size 65c.; at all drug and general stores; put up only by The T. Milburn Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

The odor of muskrat is said to be so powerful it can penetrate glass that he prefers running rabbits down and spoil the flavor of liquor. And on foot, Oklahoma admirers of the vice versa, nowadays, we suppose. popular center fielder are collecting The Russians give all they make for a handsome shotgun. above a bare living to their Govern- The three superimportant ages of a ment and call it Communism. We man are: (1) eating to live, (2) living to eat, and (3) dieting to live.

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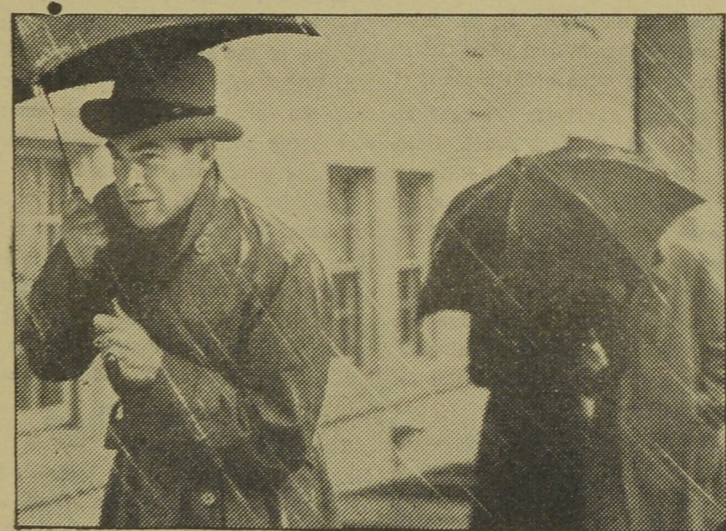
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