

A. O. DAWSON SPEAKS

PLAINLY AT WASHINGTON

Refers to "Tragedy of Government in Business" and Says Trade and Commerce Are Facing New Fight.

WASHINGTON, May 1—The United States Chamber of Commerce today found good and bad—sound and unsound—side by side in President Roosevelt's recovery program.

Conservative, white-haired Henry I. Harriman, outgoing president, summed up thus the conclusions of the United States leading industrialists at their 23rd annual meeting:

"As I discuss with business men the measures comprising the New Deal, I am impressed with the fact that the chief objection is not to the basic principles underlying many of these measures, but to the extremes to which they have been carried. The New Deal has attempted much that is good, but it has tried to do too much in too short a time."

"It has forgotten that gradual growth and development is the law of life and that great changes should come through the evolution of human experience."

New Deal Failures and Successes Checked

Harriman opened the convention with his carefully planned address in the magnificent Great Hall of the Chamber, where the banners of America's discoverers hang from the beamed ceiling. He outlined for the 2,000 delegates the accomplishments and the failures of the New Deal, checking the good against the bad, so that apparently they balanced almost exactly.

Just when business is picking up in Canada industry there is faced with a new fight "lest state interference and regulation by means of a general staff of bureaucrats impair business itself," said A. O. Dawson of Montreal, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Up to the present, he said, the Government had let business work out its own problems, with a 40 per cent increase in industrial activity from the depression lows as the result.

Calling the United States' efforts to stabilize wheat and cotton and the Canadian Wheat Pool "tragedies of Government in business," Mr. Dawson said:

"We have been inclined in our country these last few months to launch out on a reform program which has many characteristics of your recovery menu. As you are apparently getting away from over-regulation of business by the state, you may have left some of these code laws of yours on the counter and we picked them up at a bargain price."

Fear of Dictation Must Be Removed

"Fear of state dictation and uncertainty of Government mandates," were laid down by Mr. Dawson as two factors which must be removed before complete recovery could take place. With these absent, the world would witness a restoration of prosperity "unequalled by any advances which have formerly occurred in our histories."

Comparing Canada and the United States, he stated that both countries had travelled approximately the same distance from the low point of the depression. There had, however, been a difference in the type of recovery. That, in the United States had been characterized by broad swings, while in Canada there had been a sharp recovery, which had been characterized, during the past year, by a high degree of stability.

He was optimistic as to the signs in Canada generally. He referred to increases in exports, and a growing favorable balance of trade, stability in wholesale prices, decreases in the number on relief, betterment in the totals of building permits and growth in the demand for electrical energy, reaching an all-time record in 1934.

"One the whole," said Mr. Dawson, "our own Chamber of Commerce monthly index has risen approximately 40 per cent from the low of the depression, and in view of world conditions, I do not believe we could have hoped for more. In my opinion, continued recovery in Canada will depend upon the amount of business confidence that is created. It is clear that the forces of our combined business units, which were in retreat till a couple of years ago, have made not only effective sallies at intermittent periods, but have been permanently marshalled, and that a considerable advance has taken place. In whatever commercial area we make reconnaissance, the enemy of bad times is disappearing."

New Fight Against Government Mastery

The picture, however, had changed. Whereas in the past the business forces of the Dominion had had to meet only material foes, a new fight against Government mastery of business was in prospect. This might mean that the forces of business would have to be divided at a time when unity was of the utmost importance. Government control of business had never been successful, though there had been many experiments, running as far back as the time of the Roman Empire.

Most such experiments had come about as the result of public pressure and demand, against the considered judgment of business itself. Many of them had only prolonged the crisis they were designed to solve, and public demand was not always a safe indication of the best course. An essential factor was that business should prosper if the real interest of the honest worker was to be protected.

"The same school who favor state control also adhere to the theory of minute state intervention in business," he said. "The whole business structure may be condemned on a partial and incomplete survey and immediately there is proposed a regimen for all industry, to be imposed and enforced, mark you, not by those qualified with long and intimate business experience but by economists, civil servants or brain trusters, if you will. The king of competition is dead!—long live the king of state regimentation—is the resultant cry. Bureaucratic manipulation of business is, however, ill-conceived, unnecessary, unfair and destined to failure."

"We should therefore, as business men, put at least the warning yellow light against over-regulation of business by government enactment. It is right to curb license, it is wrong to destroy freedom. Governments do unwisely when they worship at the shrine of a philosophy proved false."

"Now where does Canadian business stand in its relation to Government? I sometimes think that our neighborliness with you has latterly had one disadvantage for Canada. We have been inclined in our country these

last few months to launch out on a reform program, which has many characteristics of your recovery menu. Just when you are showing signs of changing your diet for one caloric with more business vitamins we are to be treated to courses overloaded with government legislation. Up till now we have had only one alphabet item, viz., N.P.M.A., or the Natural Products Marketing Act, which became law a year ago. A dozen boards or so have been set up in Canada under this act. It is significant to note that our middle west, so largely filled with farmers, for whose benefits this act was primarily designed, has by overwhelming vote refused to come under the act. Some original sponsors of this scheme have also only this month broken away from their first love.

"It was but two weeks ago, however, that our Royal Commission on Price Spreads brought down its grandiose scheme for the control and regulation of business."

This commission was made up of parliamentarians from our three parties and after a year's sitting and public investigation produced a document of some 500 pages bound in blues, and blue indeed in its partial analysis of and outlook for business. The majority report—thank heavens for minorities—has hundreds of recommendations for re-shaping the pattern of business. The report appears in part to be somewhat of an importation from your own country and perhaps will add to our already unfavourable trade balance with you.

"This Price Spreads Commission in Canada our indulging in a state control of business that rivals your former regimentation. If the recommendations of the majority report are implemented, Canadian business will be controlled by an algebraical formula which will make the most erudite professor of astronomy scratch his head."

"The most important future in the report is the proposal to set up a Federal Trade and Industry Commission from which will be directed thirteen new boards, bureaux or commissions which will dictate, control, prosecute and manage business operations. Further expansion will take place in three Governmental departments and in two sub-departments. In short, checker boards will be laid end to end from our Atlantic to our Pacific with the Government players making all the jumps on business."

Will Add Materially To Government Costs

"The proposed commission with its antennae will, if made operative, add materially to Governmental costs and will result in an additional heavy burden on the backs of the taxpayers which means every Canadian."

There were also the proposals to set up a National Economic Council "chosen from the so-called supermen of the civil service", a National Grain Board and national boards dealing with housing and health. Mr. Dawson prophesied that the net results of all these new boards and bureaux would add another 4,000 people to the civil service rolls. It was a situation which was being viewed in Canada with apprehension.

"The great need of Canada", he declared, "is to continue on our road of recovery rather than to introduce reforms which may be only experimental and not practical. Given confidence on the part of business, we shall see business itself absorb the responsibility of recovery. I find it difficult, therefore, to bring myself to believe that Governmental bureaux can do a better job of organizing Canada's economic activities than all those citizens of every class, who have built up, through hard work, and by trial and error, our competitive system of business. Business men are trained by long years of experience, through which they have acquired foresight and aptitude to understand the intangibles of business which are so important in commercial and industrial development and which are overlooked by so many of the so-called experts."

"What is more, we cannot permanently defy economic law. The fundamental truism of supply and demand for example, must inevitably be recognized and they who chose to ignore that simple economic fact will sooner or later be brought through suffering to see the futility of such defiance."

Militant Stand Against Repudiation
"There is a further relation of Government with business in Canada

on which I should like to say just a few words. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce believes that there should be a militant stand against any Governmental policy of repudiation wherever it may appear. We believe that repudiation on the part of any Government body, large or small, undermines that confidence upon which our economic life is based. It creates an unethical precedent, violates the sanctity of contracts and is contrary to sound business practice. Wherever such a serpent shows its head, we must kill, not scotch it."

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

(By Grove Patterson, President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and Editor of the Toledo Blade)

About this "freedom of the press" of which you have heard so much. Frankly, I think we have but one thing to worry about. And that is ourselves and not the Government. I am less disturbed about the freedom of the press in the United States than I am about the disposition of too many newspaper editors not to do anything with the freedom that is theirs.

While there are, of course, exceptions, my experience with newspaper publishers and owners is that they want progressive, constructive, hard-hitting, thoroughly courageous editors. Too frequently we rest in the lethargy of inattention to great matters. We somehow believe in the myth of automatic progress. We think the country will muddle through and so we editors muddle with the rest.

And so the country probably will muddle through, but there is intellectual and spiritual decay in personal, editorial muddling.

The press of the United States does not suffer from lack of freedom. It has had it traditionally and it has had it that we keep on having it. But with some notable exceptions, to whom we point with pride, we suffer from editorial inactivity and mental indolence. The press does not lack courage, but in too many quarters courage has grown rusty with disuse.

Despite the usual, annual crop of criticism, the people of this country, in my opinion, want a free press and mean to maintain it. And even if the majority are at the moment indifferent we newspapermen, acting with any fair degree of concert, have the means for preserving the traditional freedom. And when we take high resolves, in this convention, or elsewhere assembled, let us have the courage and the good sense to translate those resolves into terms of personal responsibility.

Freedom of expression, whether written or spoken, has now passed out of the programs of three fourths of the people of the European continent. I believe no one can thoroughly appreciate the blessings of liberty of expression until he has spent some time in Rome, Berlin, Moscow, Warsaw, and the capitals of the Balkan countries, which I have had the opportunity to do. Examine the Constitution of the Italian Government and you find no provision for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly. Examine the Constitution of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, adopted, curiously enough, on the fourth of July, 1923 and you will find no provision for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of trial by jury, freedom of assembly.

We become tremendously excited about these later amendments to the Constitution of the United States, few of which ever furnished a first-rate issue, and we almost forget the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which form the "bill of rights", by virtue of which we have in this country those splendid liberties which have now become rare and extraordinary on the face of the earth.

Here are principles worth preserving, worth fighting for, worth dying for. And it is the great business of American newspapers to preserve them—not that we may continue to have the fun of editing newspapers, but that we may lead in that eternal vigilance by which the liberty of the people as a whole shall be preserved.

I am not specifically so concerned with the freedom of the press, but I am concerned about the preservation of those liberties of political and civil and social action which shall in due time, for our children if not for ourselves, make a thoroughgoing success

Of Interest to Women

TAKE A CHAIR

A Good Example of the Furniture Fashions of 1935 and a Subject Which Has Been Well Covered.

Definite changes in home furnishings emphasize the modern preference for the simple instead of the elaborate, the light and colorful instead of the heavy and dark. Comfort, restfulness and beauty are the deciding factors which set the style.

Details of some of the more important trends, both in furnishings and decoration are described by Mary L. Urmsen, writing in the current issue of the C-I-L "Oval". Carl Mangold, noted Montreal artist, illustrates the article with designs of typical modern furniture.

"Fashions in floors, walls, ceilings and furniture have changed", writes Miss Urmsen. "The average modern is active and he carries this vigorous spirit into his home. He wants solid comfort—Chairs into which he can lounge at his ease without fear of spoiling them but at the same time, he looks for beauty of form and texture in his furnishings."

"The simple pleasing lines which the architect puts into the modern house are reflected in the work of the interior decorators and furniture manufacturers. The confusing twirls and ginger-bread trimmings, the cumbersome bric-a-brac which used to take endless hours to dust, have all

been dispensed with and hard, stiff chairs replaced by some-cushioned ones with long, straight lines or graceful curves. Heavy, dark hangings and flowered all-over carpets are gone. Light curtains and bright, cheerful colors replace them. Though many rooms are smaller, the effect of space is given by careful grouping of furniture and the use of mirrors, by choice of wall coverings and clever treatment of color."

With the new trend, there come new materials and effects.

"The dainty brocade of a Louis XVI gilt chair or the shiny horsehair covering of a Victorian settee are equally unsuited for upholstering one of the low, comfortable chairs of today", Miss Urmsen writes. "Fabrikoid, in pebbled, grained or silken multi-tone effects, is used with excellent effect on modern furniture. In color, upholstery for 1935, ranges from pale yellow and peach for boudoir and dressing table chairs to shades of green, red and brown for porch chairs, bridge sets and lounging chairs. Designers have been giving special attention, also, to texture as well and, in many cases, a material that can be cashed or wiped with a damp cloth, receives preference."

of this American experiment in true democratic government.

If it slips and falls it is we editors who will be to blame.

HAD AN EXTRA LOAD

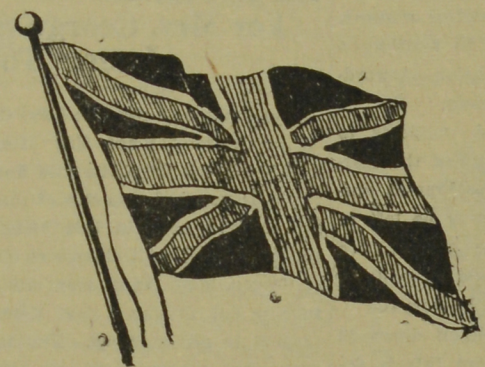
Dragged Midget Auto For Blocks and Didn't Know It.

Youngstown, O., May 2—When a business man had to stop suddenly

for a traffic light he heard a bump against the back of his car. He looked around and saw nothing. He drove on.

When he came to another light a number of pedestrians shouted at him, laughed and pointed at the back of his car. His rear bumper had hooked into the radio of the midget auto which had been towed along for three blocks.

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