

THE ANDOVER NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY L. HARVEY BACKUS & SON

Our Keynote: "If There Is Not a Way, Cut a Way."

ANDOVER, N. Y.

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WAITING ON GEORGE

LET George reduce prices first. I want a few more pickings

That is the attitude of the average man in business today, nearly three years after the armistice.

It is the reason why we are all in the midst of a period of abnormal business depression.

It is the reason why six millions of our men are out of employment.

It is a condition which neither congress nor the government appear able to correct.

It is the attitude of the dog in the manger. This country is made up of producers, transporters, wholesalers, retailers and consumers.

The consumer wants to see a reduction in the price of every commodity except that which he himself produces and offers for sale. On the latter he clings to his high prices.

Railroad officials want to force a reduction in wages and salaries upon their employees, but do we see a desire on the part of any of these high officials to make a corresponding reduction in freight rates, passenger fares or their own swollen salaries

The manufacturer clings tenaciously to the last penny of his profits, yet he is strong for reducing the cost of raw materials he buys and for cutting the wages of his employees.

The retailer is keen on pulling down prices in the wholesale markets, yet he loses no sleep in his efforts to reduce his own.

The salaried man, those in the professions and the wage earners are just yearning for an opportunity to buy their food, clothing and all of their other necessities for less money, but they resist even the suggestion of a curtailment of their own means.

In fact, none of us are exempt, speaking as a class. We are all tarred with the same brush.

We are perfectly willing, even anxious to have George do the cutting and slashing of prices, but when it comes to hitting the toboggan ourselves we simply can't see it. Therefore no one sees it—except under the compulsion of necessity.

Every fellow wants to continue selling the products of his own hands or his brain at a high price, but most of us have concluded that we will shut down on spending until prices on other lines reach a lower level—in other words everybody is virtually on a buying strike against everybody but himself.

The result is very little buying—very little demand for production—a tremendous shrinkage in the demand for labor.

Because of this shrinkage six millions of men are out of employment.

The remedy is in our own hands.

When we are willing to see the light of reason and accept a general scaling down of our own urices along with those of others, the purse strings of the people will be loosened, normal buying will be resumed, the unemployed will be summoned back to their work and prosperity will be with us again.

But as long as we all wait for George to do it, it will not be done.

When a woman sees her own beauty others see her vanity.

The man who knows all things is not poor. He is rich in conceit.

All a fellow has to do to be good these days is to quit being bad.

Marriage is a lottery in which they frequently scrap over the prize.

A hearty appetite is a choice possession. It helps the grocer along.

People who respect themselves are never without the respect of others.

Good advice is a thing of great value that few people care to pick up.

Anyway, a wise man is wise until a pretty woman makes him act the fool.

When experience is to be the teacher there are few who care to learn.

Study the good points of the man you dislike. He may possess some of your own.

Out of sight is not always out of mind. Sometimes the absent one forgets to pay 'up.

Some people are in no possible danger of being killed by over work. They never do any.

Very few men believe in gossip, but did you ever hear of one who failed to listen?

Some people are such inveterate liars they are never believed when they tell the truth.

The wisdom of the wise man does not always protect him from the foolishness of the fool.

All people are not crazy who act that way. It is just the modern way of appearing smart

There isn't a person in this town who eats three square meals a day. They are always scrambling.

"Socks have no visible means of support," says a brother editor. But that depends upon the sex.

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?

WHAT is the most crying need of the hour for Andover? A need that could be supplied by local authorities?

We would like to have some answers to this question for publication in the columns of the News. The answers should be brief and to the point.

The News has given its ideas many times now lets have yours.

Think the matter over with care and then write us your opinion of what is most needed in Andover.

No matter how brilliant your personal idea may be, it can be of no value to the community unless you make it public.

That is what we are seeking—publicity of ideas.

It is good for us all. Spring yours.

THE PRESIDENT COULD DO IT

IF THE coming winter is as severe as has been predicted the distress of the unemployed and their families will be acute.

This fact is so manifest that the president of the United States, with all his cares and burdens, deems it necessary to take a personal interest in the plans for affording necessary relief.

Believing that the president has an open mind, we presume to offer a suggestion.

Let him issue a proclamation calling upon all of the people of our country who own motor cars to set aside one Sunday in a month to be known and observed as "gastess Sunday," and to be continued until there is no longer a necessity for its observance.

In other words, let every car remain in its garage that day and night. Then let the owners of the cars voluntarily contribute the price of the gas and oil they thus save that day toward a fund for feeding the hungry and furnishing warm clothes for those who are unable to procure them.

Let the enormous sum thus realized be turned over to the Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America for distribution when and where it is most needed.

We suggest distribution by these two organizations because they are in close and constant touch with the poor and distressed, and are, we believe, better fitted for the work than any of the numerous charitable organizations.

Keeping a car idle on Sunday would work a hardship on no one—assuming, of course, that doctors, undertakers, etc., would be exempt where necessity arises for the legitimate use of a car.

The contributing of the gas and oil thus saved would not be an expense to the car owner, as he would simply be contributing the amount for the relief of distress instead of burning it up on the road.

A Sunday at home might be refreshing to millions of people who are always on the move.

An hour at church might be both refreshing and beneficial.

The president can do it—if he will. It would be a small minded citizen indeed who would not respond to so laudable and reasonable request from the most exalted ruler in the world.

HITTING HIM BOTH WAYS

PUBLISHED reports indicate that the president is on a quiet rampage against the rent profiteers.

It is said that Mr. Harding favors allowing realty owners a net return of ten per cent on the value of their property in the form of rentals, that value to be in accordance with their latest tax return, the overplus of rentals to go to the government in the shape of excess taxation.

Some blow to the rent hog, eh? The landlord who has charged a reasonable rent and has filled a fair tax return has nothing to fear. He has probably not made in excess of ten per cent net on the value of his property.

But the rent hog, if not a law is enacted, is up against it hard. It can be reasonably expected that in filling his tax schedule the rent hog valued his property at a very low

figure in order to keep his taxes down—probably far below its actual value.

If he is allowed to realize in rentals only ten per cent net of what he told the assessor the property was actually worth, he is out a considerable sum of money, as all receipts above the ten per cent would go to the government.

If, on the other hand, he puts up a roar and claims that the property is worth far more money in order to save his rents, he convicts himself of filing a false tax schedule and lays himself liable to a heavy penalty.

There's a kick waiting for him either way he may turn—if the president's suggestion is enacted into law.

He is in for an uncomfortable period of squirming and squealing, with the great mass of the people enjoying his plight.

Good Advice: Follow your own advice.

It requires brains to keep the pace today. And possibly that accounts for so many people ambling along at night.

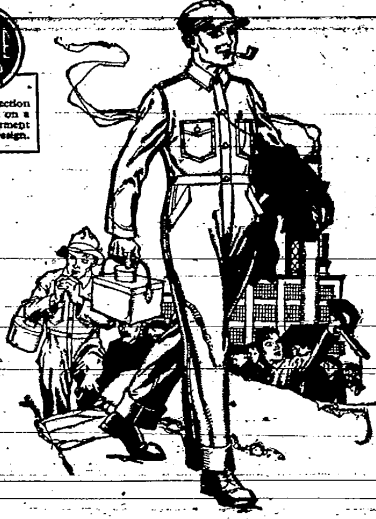
Inquisitive people are seldom satisfied with what they learn. They always imagine that the pump didn't work freely.

If it be true that we pass from death into life again, why should we be afflicted with all of the discomforts of dying.

Good enough! The tax exemption figure is to be \$2,500 next year, and by dint of extreme prodigality the poor man may be able to keep his net income within that figure.

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