



Wage Slave Knows His Economics

By T-BONE SLIM

Greece was the beginning of the Western World and it now looks as if grease (oil) will be the end of it.

Politics that was to cure economies now needs a "wash in the lake" itself.

Provocateurs are no less familiar in political parties than in labor movements. (Sincere surprises not counted; their cry stems from loss of economic security that three pork chops can cure.)

There they stand, agents provocateur, not grim and forbidding, but sweet as honey.

Yes, the egg was good until it became rotten—then, no omelette.

Politician has no deeds before election only sweet words, embonpoint and super-elegant grace and dignity—after election: one day among the polecats and he has the full flavor of the gray stripe.

Market Report

Demand for ham and eggs is weak, a mere squawk. Very few buy-windows are hurling the belt-buckles. Millionaires are talking about sirloin steaks in hushed whispers. Roosevelt can run but won't; I would run but can't. Best I can do is walk half-speed in second shift.

Let's see now:

Allies didn't win in the Ethiopian campaign; that went to the Rome-Berlin Axle.

Russia, Italy, Morocco and Germany were in Spain; that war went to the Rome-Berlin Axle.

Saar, Sudeten, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Memel, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Finland and now Norway went to the Rome-Berlin Axle. (I ain't so naïve) Copenhagen and Denmark.

If anybody knows of a campaign that went to the Allies, I haven't heard of it. "But England always wins the last war."

England and who? (I have a hunch great bodies will be dropping from the heavens just prior to Decoration Day.)

Inflammatory books, plays and commentary, pleading for our intervention in the madhouse of European chiselings and resultant squabbles are hot off the griddle; sneering at our reluctance to jump in and get our feet burned.

The facts (Daily Mirror, NYC, May 1, 1940):

"Finland died because democracy cannot live in Europe.

"Finland was sold out.

"If America goes into this war, America will be sold out . . . and then democracy will die in America, the only place left in the world where it has a chance to LIVE!"

Yes, and plenty of deserving statesmen will find themselves carrying mortar for bricklayers; we mustn't forget THAT—we better relax our military muscles NOW and we may be able to duck the hod-carrying.

Finland, Spain, Albania, Poland, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia and Norway fought for the allies (other nations surrendered) and now the allies want us to fight their war—and they don't even offer to act as cheerleaders.

Cripees, are we going to be donkeys ALL our life?

On the Other Hand

Rome-Berlin Axle and Co. are whacking up the performances between themselves. First Mussolini prances upon the pedestal in Ethiopia, in avenging something or other. When he is through, Hitler turns a few cartwheels in Poland and then Joe Stalin throws a few handsprings in Finland.

They perform only in one country at a time and catch their wind between rounds—a continuous performance, not a serial story.

That's better than asking the good neighbor to shell out a few acts as a guest conductor.

Yes, they want Uncle Sam to come and get it—with fine yaris about "Adolph's cartridge box is empty," and the cheerleaders report more German subs sunk than Germany ever had.

Oh what an awakening! Thank goodness the water is getting warmer.

Imaginary mines and imaginary armies do not win victories and too often prove to be a mare's nest or a white elephant.

Not only should we forever stay out of Europe's squabbles, but we should say our regrets and depart from the game.

Artificial democracy, whether in a union or geographical province, is a fake that cannot prosper. True democracy is enforced from the bottom up and makes for education. Dictatorship, on the other hand, makes for diseducation and many other drawbacks in progress—such as hero worship and propaganda—specializing only in the hobby of the leader to the detriment of all else. Under artificial democracy we can have kings, counts, marquises—the blooded aristocracy and parasites—and millions of paupers and unemployed.

We are not living under democracy, but under hypocrisy and industrial autocracy to the detriment of many and benefit of few. Enforcement of true democracy comes from the bottom up!

We have a raft of economic experts that haven't the slightest idea about economy and cannot save us from starvation — their knowledge is wholly superficial and sketchy. They have no true picture of it and if you listen to their rantings you will be a donkey the rest of your life.

The only man that can and does understand economic matters is the worker. He knows that he cannot get rich by helping a millionaire hang up his shakles. He knows he cannot hang a double chin on his ears by letting the businessmen and professional playboys eat up all the profit from the roast turkey. He knows that the northwind will rust his bones in the burlaps if the parasites wear all the broadcloth and tweeds.

He knows that if Neverworks live in 40-room mansions, he must weather the gale in a 2-room shack along the railroad tracks.

All this he knows, and much more—and he is getting sick and tired of these exploiters and their brainmen, the pseudo-economists.

But as much as he knows about economic laws, he has not yet discovered the healthy wholeness of joining the IWW and applying economic action to economic ills in a direct way, without benefit of agents, advisors, or academic acrobats.

A word might be said for the millions of the "aristocracy of labor," aldermen's sons and daughters, but the whole resolves itself into a deadly fear of the unemployed millions and discomfiture in the end—a war between the working classes—without altering the relative position of the employing class in the slightest. Under that prospectus there can be only a worsening of workers' circumstances to the point of inequitable slavery.

Let there be action in this nation that is predominantly international in its very nature.

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