

whilst *failing to collect* the ground-rents arising from the public's creation of site-values. As long as our government permits land titles privately to pocket public wealth, official highway robbery must grow apace.

Stand and deliver!

Steering for 'the Rocks

(A Reprint)

IN the erection of the Department of Labor Building at Washington, work was delayed for months by a silly dispute between unions presumably composed of grown men. It was whether laying of a tiled floor "belonged" to the carpenters, the cement workers or the tile setters. While wrangling over such a matter it is not to be supposed the members had time or inclination to think of why opportunities for work had become so scarce that they would seriously engage in a fight of that kind. Yet it is in such squabbles that the time and strength of organized labor has been wasted while questions of fundamental importance have been neglected.

For over half a century the American Federation of Labor has devoted its energy to such trivial matters, to wrangles with employers, to striving for legislation to prohibit this, regulate that and generally aim at hindering of opportunities instead of increasing them. Organized labor in other countries has done practically the same thing and the Federation should take note of the results. Dodging of fundamental issues while engaging in futile treatment of superficial symptoms has let fundamental wrongs continue undisturbed until economic conditions became so bad that the people lost confidence in democracy, and in Italy, Germany, Austria and elsewhere allowed dictators to seize control. Then these dictators promptly suppressed organized labor. Nevertheless the American Federation continues in its obviously suicidal course. It still refrains from demanding and insisting upon removal of the causes of unemployment such as land monopoly and taxation of industry. It holds as more important the question of whether a carpenter or cement worker should lay a tiled floor. Its leaders have excused its course with the statement that the organization holds it more advisable to strive for some trivial thing that can be obtained now in preference to an important object that may not be had for a long time. Not even a great world war or a worldwide depression resulting from neglected fundamental evils has taught these leaders better. They still urge devotion of effort to the small immediately attainable trifle. They stick to the road that in Italy and Germany has led to disaster. It is time that the rank and file woke up.

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Thinking Would End Depressions

By HENRY J. FOLEY

EVERY man on earth is engaged in the one great purpose of hunting prosperity—wealth: things to eat, things to wear, a house to live in, and things to make life enjoyable, the luxuries. Even when he aspires to the nobler things, music, and painting, and learning, and love, these things are impossible without a foundation of material wealth, prosperity.

The animals also need prosperity, wealth, material things, and they do enough thinking (or whatever their substitute may be for thinking), to assure themselves of the wealth necessary to live. The herd of buffalo finding themselves in a depleted pasture, move to more promising fields. The wolf pack, in a blizzard, will forsake their usual haunts and follow the game. Animals which failed to study the problem of prosperity would quickly die, and they think very seriously on the matter—all but man.

Some plants in my window were recently brought from the garden, where they grew upward toward the sun. They are now streaming in horizontal lines towards the window. It would seem that they had thought out the problem of their prosperity, and of where wealth was to be had. But men in distress do not even think of where they should look.

The problem of prosperity in man should be an easy one. Man has at his disposal the earth and the fullness thereof. He has all the abilities of the animal for the making of prosperity, plus a million abilities which no other animals possess—hands to fashion most effective tools for the production of wealth; a brain to organize; science, machinery, and division of labor. But prosperity for men is more elusive than the black cat to the blind man at midnight. The "thinking animal" has ceased to apply to the problem of prosperity the thinking which furnishes to the buffalo and the oyster a supply of the good things of life.

In the matter of prosperity, men have adopted the plan of following leaders and slogans, and have abolished thinking. Two hundred million Russians followed Lenin into Bolshevism. Fifty million Italians followed Mussolini into Fascism. A hundred million Americans followed Hoover into "rugged individualism" and then followed Roosevelt into regimentation. Possibly one of these methods could be right, but certainly all these opposites can not be right, and none of them has yet succeeded in bringing to mankind the prosperity of the oyster.

"Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong"—if they think. But fifty million Frenchmen can be woefully wrong if they follow a leader who is headed for perdition. There is no magic which automatically selects for men the leader who will take them where they wish to go.