

The Great Depression in Morris County, NJ 1932, January-June

“A new office was opened this morning, by the Morris County Emergency Committee... [to] serve applicants...who wish employment as stenographers, bookkeepers, sales people, furnace men, truck drivers, etc.”
(January 1, 1932, p.1)

The depression was causing a shift “in the average American’s viewpoint on political theories,” declared an editorial on Jan. 5, 1932. “In the years of prosperity we went...for the policy of helping the man at the bottom by boosting the man at the top. We felt that the best way to provide a reasonable amount of happiness, leisure and contentment for the mass of the people was to give business and finance a free hand. If they prospered greatly, the rest of us would prosper at least a little....Lately the opposite theory has been coming into his own again....The pendulum is swinging....It...means that our political life is in the process of getting shaken down to a more healthy and logical basis. In any two-party system of popular government the respective parties ought to stand at opposite poles in this matter. There should be a conservative party and a liberal party. In no other way can a democracy function as it should.”

Boonton National Bank and The Trust Company both had healthy financial conditions, according to an article on Jan. 8, 1932, p.11. The article went on to list the assets and liabilities of both institutions. And on Jan. 13, 1932, p.1, an article reports “Banks in Morristown, Madison and Whippany and local building and loan associations are presenting their annual statements and conditions in a special financial section which is part of tonight’s issue of The Record....it is gratifying to see the local banks advertising that they are in excellent condition....examiners complimented the local banking officials on their sound business practises.”

“Their Annual Outing” is the caption of a Percy Crosby editorial cartoon on Jan. 11, 1932, p. 14: not a week at the shore, but a family in rags, dispossessed from their rental apartment, surrounded by their bits of furniture.

The American Legion, Post 59, was trying hard to help such people in need, collecting fresh and canned food through donations and benefits. “...since the organization has started work, 3,658 quarts of milk, 410 loaves of bread and a quantity of potatoes have been given out.” (Jan. 12, 1932, p.1) An article on Jan. 16, 1932, p.1 added that the American Legion also collected “100 pounds of bacon, 500 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of sugar...”

“Poverty dances” had been a form of entertainment since at least the 1890’s. “Over 150 persons, dressed in old clothing, attended” a poverty dance held by the Women’s Democratic Organization of Morris County. “Prizes for the shabbiest clothing were awarded....A quotation...reading, ”Poverty is no disgrace but it is damn inconvenient”, caused much laughter.” (Jan. 15, 1932, p.6)

Unemployment relief did not always go smoothly. “Claims that some of the men who registered early in the winter as being unemployed had not been given even part time work were presented to the Board of Aldermen....

There was \$200 a week being paid for groceries, coal and other expenses.... formerly orders were given on various grocers but it was found the people were putting cigarettes, toilet paper and other articles on their lists so this plan was discontinued. One woman was getting groceries and her husband was on the payroll....” (Jan. 16, 1932, p.1)

Improvements seem to have been made by the next Board of Aldermen meeting. More men were being employed part time. “...158 are employed by the town and 60 by the county. The men are working in shifts, week on and week off, so that all may have some income.....5,290 quarts of milk had been donated by Hipson and O’Dowd Companies...1049 loaves given [by] the American Stores, Dugans, Verilli, Mischiara, Hearne and local stores.... 235 families have been given wood and \$25.79 has been spent for coal.” (Jan. 23, 1932, p.1)

The Morristown Library was being heavily used. “More leisure has been a factor...also in the use of the Library as a Reading Room. The greatest increase in reading has been in fiction. In the adult department there was a gain in circulation in every class of literature except religion.” “The Library had the almost universal experience of public libraries during 1931: increased demands for books and lessened funds for their purchase.” (Jan. 25, 1932, p.1)

Religious leaders of many denominations “have signified their willingness to cooperate in the task of providing jobs for the unemployed or direct relief for those who are in need but cannot work.” Representatives of Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Episcopalians were photographed at a conference in Newark. (Jan. 25, 1932, p.9)

Mendham Borough was experiencing a large increase of the unemployed, and the town was having great difficulty in helping them. “A month ago there were 46 registered in Mendham for unemployment relief. Now there are 63.” The borough could only employ “12 to 14 men each week on its roads...each man would have an opportunity to work only one week out of four....That would not support a man

and family.” Householders were urged to create jobs for mechanics, carpenters, masons, painters and plumbers, but they “cannot afford to pay full union wages”. The Director of Relief “has been visited by the local representatives of two labor unions who have told him plainly that if any of their members, even in this emergency, work for less than full union wages and are caught doing so, that they will be fined or expelled from their unions”, and the Director “does not feel justified in deliberately exposing any man to fine or expulsion by sending him out to work at under-wages...” “Unless there are fairy god-mothers in the offing or some other equally unexpected and unnatural source of succor, some folks in Mendham are going to experience real suffering before the winter is over.” (Jan. 27, 1932, p.1)

American Legion Post No. 59 was continuing its good works with “a city-wide drive in the town for canned goods, unneeded clothes and shoes.” “The call from the Legion comes to the people of Morristown...” “You helped the boys when they were ‘Over There’. Now help them to help your own people ‘Over Here’.” (Jan. 27, 1932, p.1)

Capitol Men’s Shop at 48 Speedwell Avenue/Schwartz Bros Army & Navy Store at 60 Speedwell Ave., Morristown announced its bankruptcy: “MUST BE FULLY WIPED OUT AT ONCE”. (Jan. 27, 1932, p.3)

“Freeholder William C. Spargo, who is President of the New Jersey Federation of Farm Boards...declared that prosperous agriculture is the way out of depression. Bringing back the buying power to the farmers...” “He particularly urged ...boosting New Jersey grown products. These goods should be well graded in a quality pack carrying the New Jersey label...” (Jan. 28, 1932, p. 1)

A form appeared in the January 29, 1932 newspaper on p.11: “Help the Local Unemployment Situation”. After the lines to be filled in with Rate of Pay, Place of Work, Class of Work, I.D. of person offering work, the form states “Your cooperation is urged. Give work instead of money”, then lists a large number of tasks that could be done by day laborers, such as “shovel snow...repaint stove...make shelves...putty up loose windows...oil washing machine”.

The Japanese invasion of China and the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid now displaced news and editorials on unemployment.

The Morris County Welfare Board January report to the Board of Chosen Freeholders appears in the Feb. 10, 1932 issue, p.5. This is a detailed description of the various responsibilities of the County Welfare Board, the Emergency

Unemployment Laws applying to the municipalities, the State Board of Guardians and the Morris County Children's Home, regarding who qualified for the services and what the cost was per person. "The County Welfare Board is charged by law with the duty of administering temporary relief, which it charges back to each municipality...But at the present time and at least until June 1st, 1932, there is already in existence an organization for this purpose in each municipality, functioning under the Emergency Unemployment Laws. It would be foolish for the County Welfare Board to duplicate the work of this organization, especially as under the Unemployment Laws, after each municipality has expended the same amount of money as it spent on poor relief in 1929, it will be repaid 40 per cent of the balance by the state; whereas, if its poor relief were administered by the County Welfare Board the total amount spent would have to be paid by the municipality." "Morris County does not want to have a case similar to that reported in another county where an elderly man and his wife turned on the gas because they had not \$16.00 with which to pay their landlord's bill."

An editorial on Feb. 16, 1932 promoted a plan whereby neighbors chip in \$1 per week, for a total of \$10 a week, to provide one worthy unemployed head of household laborer with 10 weeks of work at 50¢ per hour—"the 'man-a-block' movement". "City after city," the editorial claims, "has tried this plan and found it good. It is, on the whole, a cheaper method of furnishing relief than the direct-charity method; it preserves the self-respect of the man who is being helped..." "...giving a man a chance to help himself" was far preferable to "giving food and rent money to the jobless family man [which is] a miserable makeshift..."

The editorial cartoon on February 20, 1932 depicted, in a direct reference to Morristown's Revolutionary War history, General Washington encouraging a discouraged Uncle Sam with the words "Remember, the darkest hours come before the dawn."

"Did You Ever Stop to Think?" was a regular feature on the editorial page. On February 26, 1932 the subject was "confidence in the soundness of American business." Do not withdraw your money and hoard it, exhorted the writer. This only restricts credit. "The individual, by placing his money on deposit with the banks or by making good, sound investments, will be doing his part to restore this country and himself to prosperity." But why should the public have faith in our financial institutions? Because, said the columnist, "The Federal Government, by the creation of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, has practically guaranteed the stability of our nations' credit structure."

The "Make A Job" Committee for Morristown, Morris Township, and Morris Plains planned its canvassing campaign to solicit hours of work from businesses

and homeowners. “The cooperation of every citizen of Morristown will be needed to provide work for a thousand men and women from now until June 1st, which totals 14,000 weeks work.” “The American Legion Auxiliary sent word...that it would pledge its assistance in such work as will be necessary to make a job campaign a success.” (Feb. 27, 1932, p.1) Morristown Mayor Clyde Potts’s endorsement of the “Make-a-Job” drive appeared at the top of page 1 on March 1, 1932.

In a box below the previous article was a statement from the United Action For Employment Headquarters in New York City. “In this movement Americans are going back to the old faith—doing things for themselves. That, after all, is the quickest and best way for doing nearly all things.” Those who know how to help themselves do not lean on the state. Those who earn wages do not demand doles.” (Feb. 27, 1932, p.1)

The DOLE: “The word is not as frightening as it was; in another year it will be even less so.....the dole can sap manhood of its self-reliance and energy. But there is only one way of avoiding the dole—to rearrange industry so that there will always be work for an honest, capable and reliable workman,” stated an editorial on Feb. 29, 1932. “William John Cooper, United States commissioner of education, pointed out...’Many factories will not employ a man past 45. Shelving the aged means an old age pension system. Periodic unemployment means unemployment insurance, or doles, or something worse.’ “

Preparation for the Make-a-Job Campaign continued, with “approximately 25 heads of the various organizations who are back of the...campaign, who met in Day’s Restaurant at 8:00 last night to get the details of the Campaign.” “One of the individuals present remarked, ‘We who have positions can’t possibly imagine the hardship we would be facing if without any reserve of any kind, we suddenly found ourself competing for a job with the thousands of unemployed in the Metropolitan area.’ “ Those thousands included 1,040 registered as unemployed in Morristown, Morris Township, and Morris Plains alone: 713 men and 327 females. (March 2, 1932, p.1)

Misery was global. A photograph showed “the four-day march of jobless men and women from Puebla, Mexico, to Mexico City” being attacked by mounted police. “But later, orders were issued to allow the demonstrators to enter the city and present their pleas for government relief.” (March 2, 1932, p.5)

An editorial on March 4, 1932 informs us that “The United States Senate Banking and Currency Committee is to take up...the formal inquiry into ‘the methods and principles, cause and effect, use and abuse of Stock Exchange machinery for

buying and selling on credit.' If this investigation is conducted impartially and fairly by experts it will probably do a lot of good...."

"Notices have been posted at the Atlas Powder Company plant at Landing that the plant will close indefinitely soon. The plant is one of the oldest of its kind in the state, being in operation for nearly fifty years. Lack of business is given as the reason.....About sixty are employed at the plant at the present time." Explosives were the product made. (March 4,1932, p.9)

Another article on March 4, 1932, p.9 profiled two men who were instrumental in the "gigantic Reconstruction Finance Corporation which is now being organized in Washington...just authorized by Congress." One was "Melvin A. Traylor, president of the First National Bank of Chicago who was the first to visualize and propose that the Reconstruction Corporation ...be authorized to make loans to closed banks as well as to financial institutions...[to] release substantial amounts of money to depositors whose funds had been 'frozen' by the failure of such banks."

The finishing touches were being put on the "Make-a-Job" campaign. "About thirty Boy Scouts will distribute this afternoon some five thousand folders to all the homes in Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains....Window cards have been distributed....An appeal is being made to every man and woman in Morristown and vicinity, who is making or has an income, to give every hour of work possible. There is no question that most people will have to make some sacrifice in order to put additional people to work.....All of the churches have been asked to devote at least part of one of their sermons tomorrow in explaining the "Make-A-Job" campaign..." (March 5, 1932, p.1)

"Additional gifts to the Unemployment Relief Fund from town employees were reported at the Board of Aldermen meeting....In all, \$205 was received from the streets, building, sewer, engineering and fire departments.....The policemen had previously given. During the past month there were 37 new placements in jobs and in all 243 are working part time on 'made' jobs..." (March 5, 1932, p.1)

The Board of Freeholders met "for the purpose of passing a resolution providing for additional unemployment relief work on the basis that additional funds are available from the state....although it is not certain it will be secured. The resolution provides for an appropriation of \$50,958 for 13,400 days of labor...widening, grading, draining" roadwork. (March 5, 1932, p.1)

At the bottom of page 1 on March 5, 1932, the newspaper boxed another statement from the United Action For Employment. “Here is a **WAR AGAINST DEPRESSION** that is **WINNING**....it is everybody’s campaign. ...We are going back to a war basis for a great peacetime pursuit....**ARE YOU IN THIS CAMPAIGN?...This WAR AGAINST DEPRESSION IS EVERYBODY’S WAR...**”

Scam artist “Albert W. Benham, whose flyer in high finance earned him the sobriquet of “Fifty Per Cent” Benham, is shown...with his attorney.... Benham went on trial charged with operating a confidence game. Benham gained fame throughout northern Illinois as a financial wizard when he paid 10 to 50 per center dividends on money entrusted to him, but announced that he was bankrupt when suspicious depositors demanded return of the money.” (March 5, 1932, p.2)

An editorial on March 7, 1932 quoted from an analysis of unemployment. “A writer in the current Magazine of Wall Street quotes figures compiled by the American Federation of Labor which show that there is in the United States today enough work to employ every worker in the nation – for 35 hours a week....The normal working week in most industries is 48 hours, scaling down to 44 in many cases.” “if a seven-hour day and a five day week were suddenly installed in every industry, unemployment would literally vanish.” “But...the writer...points out: ‘Too small a proportion of the earning of 1919-1929 went into consumption. Too large a proportion went to swell the unspendable incomes of a minority of machine owners. Too much was ploughed back into additional capital investments to swell producing facilities which had already run beyond the consuming abilities of the mass population.’ “

How to get work, then? The Master Plumbers and Tinnners Association posted a notice on p. 1, March 8, 1932 of the newspaper: “**20% REDUCTION IN LABOR CHARGES**...for Plumbers, Steamfitters, Tinnners and Helpers.” A front-page article on March 31, 1932 reported union-approved wage cuts for carpenters, painters, and bricklayers as well as the plumbers. Only the electricians maintained their previous wage of \$13.20 a day. Carpenters dropped \$2 to \$10 a day; plumbers’ wages were cut 20%; painters lost \$3 a day, for a \$9 a day wage; and bricklayers were also cut \$2.

Short-selling: good or bad for the stock market? This was an issue before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee (see editorial on March 4, 1932). “The administration at Washington wants the right restricted; officials of the New York Stock Exchange oppose this plan.” The editorial on March 8, 1932 then proceeds to explain short-selling, ending, “The short-seller...is interested in seeing prices decline. He thrives on calamity. Frequently, when he sells in large enough

quantities, he brings about the very decline that he is looking for. Stock market experts insist that this custom...gives the market a needed flexibility.....Unless a very well-reasoned defense can be set up, the general public will probably agree that a curb is needed.”

By March 8, “A total of about 1500 hours work was reported...at the headquarters at 309 Park Square Building” in the “Make-A-Job” campaign, and the canvassing was continuing. (March 9, 1932, p.1) After that slow start, 11,000 hours had been pledged by the next day. The newspaper compared the Liberty Bond drive during the war to the current effort, “substituting the words, “Employ People Until It Hurts” instead of “Give Until It Hurts”.” (March 10, 1932, p.1) And by the following day, 13,865 hours of work had been pledged. But that was still less than 10% of the goal of 360,00 hours. (March 11, 1932, p.1)

Meanwhile, in Dearborn, Michigan, events had gotten out of hand. Dramatic photographs were captioned, “Police in full flight before the mob of several hundred unemployed Communists who attacked the Ford plant....Top picture shows police running for the protection of barricades about the plant after failing to check the attack....Three mobsters were slain and a score were wounded.” (March 9, 1932, p.2) On March 12, 1932 The Daily Record responded with an editorial that was very sympathetic to the rioters. “...the clash between police and unemployed men at the gates of the Ford plant...proves that we have not yet learned how to deal with desperate men who cannot get jobs. There were Communist agitators in the mob....But it is simply idiotic to suppose that a majority of the 3000 men who marched...went out with any idea of provoking violence....They may have some of those ideas now, but it is very doubtful that they had been before the fight....they wanted jobs...But organized society had no way of meeting them but by using force. It killed four of them, wounded 15 or 20 more and threw 15 into jail....It made a lot of those 3000 permanently bitter. It gave the Communist organizers new fuel....It enormously emphasized the sad fact that organized society sometimes seems a lot readier to hit jobless men over the head than it is to keep them from going hungry.”

Lower salary scales, reduction in wages, wage deflation: white collar workers in Morris County were beginning to feel the effects. In Dover, “The Teachers’ Committee reported to the Board of Education...urging that all new teachers be employed on a lower base minimum the reduction being \$100 to the new teachers. The proposed new scale will be \$1100 instead of \$1200 for teachers in the first four grades; in the next three grades, \$1150; the grammar school \$1200 and high school, \$1300.” (March 9, 1932, p.11)

Rodney Dutcher, in his Daily Washington Letter published on March 11, 1932, p.6, tackled the question “Why doesn’t the farmer stop complaining?” He then details the dramatic price drops for farm products, as well as drought, but increased prices for products that farmers must buy; it was a wonder any farmer managed to stay in business. For instance, in September 1931, “The general prospect for farm markets and prices is anything but reassuring....Gross income (for the 1930-31 season) shrank 22 per cent under the previous year, being \$9,300,000,000 as compared with \$11,900,000,000.”

The “Make-A-Job” campaign resulted in 20,337 hours of work being pledged by 444 families, according to the article on March 14,1932, p.1 This was far below the stated goal of 360,000 hours.

“The Denville Public School auditorium was filled to capacity last evening at the presentation of an entertainment which was held under the auspices of the Denville Republican Club for the benefit of the Township’s Unemployed and for the Soup Fund for the Denville School children. Featuring...were nine numbers by Miss Bernice Guterl of Morristown and Denville and members of her dancing class...” (March 16, 1932, p.1)

“...one of the first signs of returning prosperity”, captioned a photograph of a ship completely loaded with Campbell’s soup ready to set sail for the Pacific coast via the Panama Canal, because “records show that large movements of food...is regarded by authorities as proof positive that business is now definitely moving in its upward swing....” (March 16, 1932, p.5)

Silk hosiery workers were seeing no such prosperity. “Over 500 employees of the Gotham Silk Hosiery Col, Inc. with a plant situated here in Dover, will be thrown out of employment for three weeks tonight as a result of an order closing the plant.” (March 17, 1932, p.1)

What are the psychological effects of being on the dole? “From reports of some 900 social workers and public health nurses...the Welfare Council of New York city ...released a report studying the effect of unemployment on the ‘new poor’.” Whether local charity or from the federal government, “One kind of dole, evidently, is just as bad as another....It is tragic that people have to ask for help; inevitable, when they do, that some of them will lose their self-reliance and their energy,” concluded the Daily Record. (editorial, March 21, 1932)

“Morris County has been granted an additional \$25,000 for emergency relief work from the State Emergency Relief Committee, it was announced...

yesterday....The extra appropriation, every cent of which will be spent for labor, was made possible through the inability of some other counties to use their allotments...the County accepted only men...found by... municipalities to be out of work.” (March 24, 1932, p.1)

“Morris County is in good financial condition...., director Stephen C. Griffith declared at the meeting of the Board of Freeholders....County Treasurer Fletcher Fritts commented first on the strong position of the county financially, and how the banks had been willing to co-operate in any financial project. The position of Morris County was so good that other counties had appealed to it to lend its aid in getting them loans.” But to maintain that strong position, “there is the need of the most rigid economy in all departments...” (March 24, 1932, p.1)

A chart depicting the “Purchasing Power of the Retail Dollar” proved that the cost of living had dropped; the dollar bought \$1.25 of goods in 1932 but only 84¢ worth in 1920, and was at par in 1929. (March 28, 1932, p.9)

Provision was being made for the elderly who could not support themselves, under the state law providing for Old Age Pensions. To qualify, applicants had to meet strict requirements. “In addition to having attained the age of 70 years, applicants must be unable to maintain themselves. They must not possess real or personal property in excess of \$3,000, and they must not have made a transfer of property for the purpose of qualifying for the pension. Their children, grand-children, wife or husband must show that they are unable to support the aged persons. They must not be in need of continual institutional care...and they must never have been convicted of a felony or high misdemeanour..... Applicants must be citizens of the United States, residents of New Jersey and domiciled in this state for the last 15 years. ...applicants must have resided in New Jersey for the last 5 years, during which period they have not been out of the state for an aggregate of more than one year. They must have lived in Morris County continuously for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application....All statements in the application shall be verified under oath by the applicant.....” Relief would amount to no more than one dollar a day, and probably less. Applications were to be made to the County Welfare Board. (March 30, 1932, p.1)

Not very many people were investing in stocks, an editorial reported on April 2, 1932. “Two years ago during the height of the bull market there was so much interest in stocks here that three branch offices of Stock Exchange firms were supported and two tickers blazed for their prices. Now it is no longer profitable to run one ticker”, and the remaining stock ticker closed the previous Thursday. “With no ticker in town...it seemed as if the Record would have to discontinue its

early afternoon prices....However, arrangements were made with its New York news distributing agency whereby the prices will be continued daily..."

Teachers were having to wait to be paid "in many communities throughout the country", and now it was happening in East Hanover Township. "At a recent meeting of the East Hanover Board of Education it was decided not to make any motions to pay bills for the month of April on account of low funds....If the teachers are not held up any more than a few weeks for their money they may count themselves lucky for in many places they have not been paid for many months..." (editorial, April 7, 1932, p.16)

The syndicated Daily Washington Letter on April 7, 1932, p.6 was devoted to the subject of federal deposit insurance. " ' I have been amazed at the overwhelming demand for it from all parts of the country,' says Congressman Henry Bascom Steagall of Alabama, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee." "Most bankers are believed to oppose deposit insurance, although Steagall says many bankers in small and medium-sized cities are at last favoring it." A "guarantee" law worked in Nebraska for 17 years. "Nebraska's progressive Democrat, Congressman Edgar Howard" stated, " 'A state administration criminalized that good law until the people lost faith in it. But for 17 successful years it remained free ...of the touch of those in official power who finally killed it. I hope that soon all national banks will be made so safe and secure by our action that their depositors will be as free from fear as were the depositors of our state during those 17 years.'"

"Senate Bill No. 77, known as the Building and Loan liquidity bill...was defeated in the Senate some time ago". "representatives of the twenty-nine Morris County building and loan associations" vociferously opposed the bill. "The bill proposes to make all building and loan associations contribute to a general "pool" in order to avert a disaster in many large associations. The latter, according to Senator Young [of Morris County], have expended their money foolishly and without regard to sound investment. This reckless expenditure of funds has resulted in many of the large building and loan associations going almost broke. The bill proposes that the smaller associations save a bad situation by contributing to the uplift of their larger fellow associations." Not surprisingly, the more prudently run smaller companies did not care to subsidize their larger competitors. The bill was voted down 99 to 2. (April 8, 1932, p.1)

"the proposed reduction in the wages of federal employees" would affect "2000 employees of Picatinny Arsenal," a national organizer for the Federation of Federal Employees stated. "Such a move would have a demoralizing effect on local business conditions." He urged local business people to contact their local

Representatives to defeat the initiative because it was unfair to the “highly trained and experienced workers”, and would seriously impact the “purchasing power of the individual.” (April 8, 1932, p.1)

Trickle-down economics was the subject of an editorial on April 12, 1932. “are those who have the most to pay the most, or is it better to let them off lightly on the theory that their increased prosperity will trickle way down and do something for the ordinary citizens underneath?...Through recent years we have been assured over and over again, that the welfare of all of us is best promoted by seeing to it that the very rich have a free hand....This, we were told, meant better times for all of us....The question...is whether that doctrine is still a valid one. A very large section of the country, evidently, thinks that it isn't. Its belief found reflection in the crushing defeat which the House gave the sales tax proposal, and in the “soak the rich” provisions of the new revenue bill. It may be that the ordinary citizen has decided that the proof of a pudding is in the eating of it, and that since ten solid years of coddling the rich have finally landed us just where we are now, a change in policy is advisable.”

Moral issues of the depression were discussed in an editorial on April 13, 1932. “Dr. William Oxley Thompson, president emeritus of Ohio State University, told an audience of college men the other day that the real issues facing the country today are not economic but moral....It is easy to be skeptical about that statement....yet...there is a whole lot of truth in it. We are reaping...that which we sowed during the decade following the Armistice; and we did the sowing with both eyes fixed on the main chance, with economic issues uppermost in our minds, with all moral issues utterly forgotten—and look what it brought us!... Productions, sales, profits---these became ends in themselves....That attitude, inevitably, leads to a blind tumble into a ditch.”

Dover had been commended by President Hoover for making town employees of all of its unemployed. (Nov. 14, 1930) Now, “Mayor John Roach has called a number of...meetings...regarding the unemployment situation in the Town of Dover....up to this time the Town itself has been endeavoring to supply work for the unemployed. However, now it is deemed necessary that other organizations co-operate with the Town regarding this...” (April 15, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on April 15, 1932 reported that “The Morristown School, founded in 1898, is having the same troubles that so many are having. It has sufficient assets on its books to meet all debts but the slowness of realization puts it in a precarious position and handicaps its continuance.”

New Jersey's most pressing problem? "How to raise \$12,000,000 for unemployment relief during the twelve months following July 1... which Governor Moore and legislative leaders are scheduled to discussChester I. Barnard, State Director of Unemployment Relief, estimates that the present balance of some \$4,800,000 of the state's share of the present fund will be exhausted by the first of July...." (April 18, 1932, p.1)

The New Jersey state legislature determined to introduce a bill "providing for a two cents a gallon additional gas tax to raise \$1,000,000 a month... imposed for six months....Director Barnard's recommendation for direct emergency relief by distribution of food and necessities, to replace the present of providing part-time employment financed by relief funds, was also approved by the committee..." (April 21, 1932, p.1) The Motor Vehicle Commissioner and the president of New Jersey A.A.A. were opposed to the gasoline tax increase. (April 23, 1932, p.1) On May 7, 1932, an editorial came out against the gas tax. "There are better methods than the proposed gasoline tax increase and it is up to our legislators to find it."

Were people starving? Thirty five governors around the country said no. The Daily Record differed with those governors in an editorial on April 19, 1932. "The Welfare Council of New York City publishes a magazine called "Better Times". In its current issue there is an article by Eleanor Flexner, who investigated conditions...During the year 1931, four New York hospitals reported 95 cases of starvation. These resulted in 20 deaths....it is worth while to see just what the hospitals call starvation. Going on miserably insufficient rations is not called starvation....If he lands in a hospital or a welfare agency he will be written down as a sufferer from malnutrition....Starvation means that a person gets nothing at all to eat—not a dry crust, or a cup of weak tea. And during the past year 95 persons in just that fix were taken to New York hospitals, and 20 of them died. The percentage is microscopic, of course. But the fact is there. It completely knocks out that pitiful boast that "there is no starvation in the United States." Remember it, the next time you hear that boast voiced." No cases of starvation had been reported in Morris County.

The editorial cartoon on April 19, 1932 depicted every group from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Farm Board, veterans, railroads, and waterways, with their begging cups reaching out to Uncle Sam. There on the side stood the little man saying "But where do I come in?"

As reported on April 23, 1932, p.1, "Chester I. Barnard, director of the new Jersey State Emergency Relief Administration, today declared the unemployment situation to be most desperate....: There are about 600,000 destitute persons in the state....Private charities and municipalities are unable to finance relief....Relief by

creating employment is impractical. Twenty million dollars...must be raised if disaster is to be averted..."

We are fed up with "the Napoleons of Business", editorialized the newspaper on April 23, 1932. "Too many folks have had experience of shipwreck under its guidance...When he promises wealth, they ask searching questions....The business hero of today is...the faithful and sure leader...whose store or factory or bank is working and paying 100 cents on the dollar every day."

The repeal of Prohibition was constantly being discussed, particularly as the legalization of beer and hard liquor would allow it to be taxed. Hence, the editorial cartoon on April 27, 1932 depicting the suffering taxpayer collapsing under the monstrous weight of taxes, Uncle Sam propping up one side, and a stout fellow nearby garbed in a beer barrel. The caption reads "Hey, Uncle! Why Not Let the Big Fella Carry Some of This Load?"

"Perhaps we've kept a friend of yours working", the Bamberger's ad on April 27, 1932, p.7 declared. "During the past year we have placed orders with several hundred manufacturers of this state....The corsets, shoes, silks and woolens, bedding, furniture, dresses, we have purchased were probably made by many you know."

Where to cut expenses when your "tax receipts are down"? "Everywhere the city fathers are discovering that budgets must be cut into very materiallyTo close a few branch libraries, to shut down a few playgrounds, to lock the gates on a few swimming pools, and to remove from the payroll the officials who were in charge of those services, is fairly easy—and terribly foolish....This year all of these things are going to be needed as never beforeCity expenses mustn't be cut in the wrong places." (May 2, 1932 editorial)

One place cuts had to be made: "Owing to a lack of funds available for continuing unemployed work in the water, streets, sewer and park departments the Board of Aldermen is forced to lay off many of the men now working for the Town.....The most needy men, however, will be kept on the payroll....These men will not be given steady work but will alternateThere will be no favoritism or partiality shown in discharge of the men." "The Board, it was pointed out, must "cut its cloth" just as any business house must adjust its help to its income." (May 3, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on May 3, 1932 once again roundly criticized past financial practices. In the voice of a prophet, **Look to yourself for the fault**, is the newspaper's conclusion. "What goes up, in this world, must come down, and if it goes up

beyond all reason it is apt to come down in just the same way. We bargained for all of this in those hectic days of 1928 and 1929 when it was popular to talk about a new economic era...We have tried to tell ourselves that we were a virtuous and well meaning people foully victimized by schemers who have taken us for a ride. We have spent two years looking for a scapegoat....Sooner or later...we'll have to admit that nobody betrayed us, except with our own consent. We lost all sense of value, ...we pretended that it was no longer a sin to gamble (provided one wins) and we surrendered to one of the most dismal orgies of dollar-worshipping the country has ever seen.”

Center top of page 1 on May 5, 1932 features a photograph of famous conductor Leopold Stokowski conducting “230 unemployed musicians in an open air band stand in Philadelphia.” Perhaps it boosted their spirits and their employment prospects.

“The Employment Bureau of Morristown High School...has recently sent out a questionnaire to all ex-students and graduates enrolled in the bureau. ...there are a number of questions which should help the commercial department find to what extent its students have been able to meet the exacting demands of business [and] ...to make changes in the course and content of various subjects to...anticipate the needs of business in Morristown and vicinity.” (May 6, 1932, p.1)

May elections now knocked depression news out of the paper.

Why not look abroad for inspiration: “One of the most interesting governmental and economic experiments that has come out of the depression is reported from Canada, where the local governments of six small towns that have gone bankrupt are being taken over by the province of Ontario....” The editorial continues by describing how the receivership is to work, then concludes, “Insolvent business firms go into the hands of receivers for the protection of their stockholders and there seems to be no good reason why insolvent cities should not go into the hands of receivers for the protection of their taxpayers, instead of letting the same gang of politicians continue to fritter away the public’s money and increase the city’s debt.” (editorial, May 11, 1932)

More teachers were taking pay cuts—5% in Netcong. “It is planned to pay the teachers the full amount of their salaries and then have them donate to the Board the amount of their voluntary contribution, this protecting their rights of tenure.” (May 12, 1932, p.1)

Unemployment as a blow to the male psyche is the subject of an editorial on May 17, 1932. "One of the sorriest things about the present economic distress is the reversal of positions in the home....in many instances men who can not find employment are washing the cups and saucers and brushing the crumbs away....while their wives....are performing domestic service on exactly the same order that they would in their own homes. There is still a demand for laundresses, seamstresses, cooks....It has always been a man's places to earn a living for his family. Fathers have always been heroes to their small sons and daughters....It takes a good deal of courage to tie your apron strings in a graceful bow when your kids would rather see you in a suit of armor."

The cartoon "Toonerville Folks" shows a train conductor, watching a businessman walk to work, say, "Another one 'walkin' for exercise!" They never wuz no other depression wot drove so many of my customers exercise crazy!"

"Are We Troubled With "Nerves?" reads the headline of a May 20, 1932 editorial. "Many economists labeled "eminent," have expressed their views as to what is wrong with us. Not many of them agree....There have been many that have told us that the depression was largely a state of mind.... hysteria, even, may be the trouble...Maybe...we should stop worrying about the stock market, foreign debts and reparations and start things going here without waiting on the rest of the world...."

Concern for the well-being of the homeless man was expressed in an editorial on May 24, 1932. "If a man has no opportunity for personal hygiene he is badly handicapped in his fight for existence, all too difficult under the most favorable conditions at the present time. His greatest and last asset, his self-respect, can be quickly destroyed. A place should be provided where these unfortunate men...may take advantage of a liberal supply of soap and water. It will do much to maintain their morals and keep up their spirits."

More revelations about financial shenanigans came in an editorial on May 26, 1932. "The Raskob pool...cleaned up \$5,000,000 in a week. A group of other traders organized by a free-lance put thru an operation that netted the free-lance a million in five weeks, although he had not put up any of his own money. Another company whose stock was being manipulated by a big pool managed to pay out dividends of \$1,500,000 on net profits of \$1,000,000.... the days of easy money are not, really, worth returning to. For those days paved the way for these days in which we are suffering now....the time of 8,000,000 unemployed. When we look ahead to prosperity, let's look ahead to a saner kind...that will be a little bit more enduring."

Yet another discussion of the dole, in an editorial on May 31, 1932, (see also May 19, 1931; Feb. 19, 1932; March 21, 1932), detailing the horrendous effects in England of dependence on handouts, quoting from a United Press report, “Long idle, they have dropped into a permanent rut....Their muscles have become soft, their thoughts chronically soured and twisted. Their condition has been likened to shell shock...” The Daily Record writer editorialist asserts, “it might pay us to keep this English object lesson in mind....it warns us how vitally important it is that we dig up a good substitute....But the dole does prevent starvation.” The editorial cartoon adjacent to this editorial is called “The Cussword Puzzle”, showing a man racking his brains trying to find a better word than “dole”. Federal relief? Moratorium? Reconstruction Finance Corporation? Bonus? Bonds?

An editorial on June 2, 1932 floated an idea on how to provide jobs for “thousands of carpenters, masons, plumbers and painters” who were unemployed because of the slump in the housing industry, which was that new houses would be “non-taxable for five years or until the houses have been sold or rented....New York state adopted such a scheme following the close of the war...”

Reduction of salaries and wages was the subject of two articles on the front page on June 3, 1932. “Edward W. Kilpatrick...President of the New Jersey Federated Boards of Education...recommended a general reduction of teachers salaries in all parts of New Jersey. The Legislature should take the initiative and reduce salaries of States employees before the teachers agree to wage cuts, however....President Kilpatrick recommended...that preference be given all applicants for new positions, graduates of New Jersey Normal School and teachers colleges. Many thousands of young teachers have been unable to find positions, he said.” The other article reported that the Morris County Board of Freeholders planned to decide at their next meeting on cutting salaries. “Whether this will be on an even basis, a ten or twenty percent cut for everyone, or in proportion to salary with the higher paid men and women taking a larger deduction than those getting small salaries has not yet been decided.” An editorial on June 4, 1932 pointed out that “those in the employ of the Prosecutor, Surrogate, County Clerk, etc.” would not be affected by the Freeholder pay cut “but it is hoped that an agreement will be reached to treat all alike.”

A front-page article on June 4, 1932 recounted the work done by the Emergency Relief Administration in Morris County from the previous winter through the spring. “To date registrations for the entire county totaling 6,496 and of this number 3,693 families have been given employment and 1,457 direct relief...from the 37 municipalities in Morris County....The Emergency Relief Administration has also been working with the Garden Club of Morristown supplying needy families in Morris County with garden seeds. The Garden Club has contributed the

seeds and fertilizer, and the distribution of supplies has been handled through the emergency relief office. Applications have been taken and investigations of all families made before any seed has been given out. To date 57 applicants have been supplied with seed and fertilizer. Most persons have their own land, but in 12 cases where no land was available residents of Morristown loaned land and had it ploughed and harrowed without expense to the individual.”

“Selfishness as a Depression Cause” was the title of an editorial on June 4, 1932, and the newspaper quoted from the manifesto of the Methodist General Conference: “The present industrial order...is un-Christian, un-ethical and anti-social because it is largely based on the profit motive, which is a direct appeal to selfishness....A satisfactory organism cannot grow out of an unsocial seed.” The Daily Record then commented: “This, to be sure, is no more than what most thinking men have been saying lately. Yet it is a thing which needs to be said over and over again....how many of us...have ever stopped to consider the way in which our individual and collective selfishness has helped to dig the pit in which we are now suffering?...It was unrestricted selfishness that caused unwise expansion of industrial plants and so led to overproduction: selfishness, too, that kept the millions of American wage-earners from getting incomes high enough to enable them to absorb that overproduction....We must devise some way of restraining the profit motive.”

In the editorial “Back to the Farm”, the writer saw good coming of the back-to-the-earth movement in that it could prevent starvation “unless he is a one-crop specialist”, despite the dire straits of agriculture, “mortgages, high taxes, overproduction and so on”, if the new farmer had knowledge of farming and was willing to work hard. “For ...those who know nothing whatever about farms, and have no capital to get them started—the change is likely to be a leap from the frying pan into the fire.” (June 6, 1932)

A lengthy article appeared on June 7, 1932, p. 1 in which “the Morris County Welfare Board acting as the County Bureau of Old Age Relief” explained the “Old Age Pension” in detail, starting by correcting the misnomer of “pension” as opposed to “ ‘relief’ to persons having no other means of support....” “the State will pay its share of three-fourths of the amount granted” which could be far less than one dollar per day, as “In these times of economic stress when whole families are trying to live on that amount, such a sum awarded to one person seems out of proportion, unless the circumstances are exceptional.” A person would only be considered for Old Age Relief after having “exhausted most of their funds....” “if a recipient should die leaving property of any sort, the County and State are entitled to reimbursement for any sum they have spent on the support of that aged person, before legacies are paid to heirs who have not contributed to his support.”

A photo montage on p.11, June 7, 1932, depicts the beginning of the “bonus army”, initially called the Bonus Expeditionary Force, on its way to Washington from around the country. This was stated to be a situation “full of dangerous possibilities” and Communist leadership.

The first article on the Bonus Army appeared the next day, June 8, 1932, p.1: “Row on row of grim, mute and marching men left today a deep, indelible impression of a nation already beset with a host of difficulties. For the first time, America had an ultimatum from the rank and file of the citizenry, from the men who make the boilers, build the bridges, run the factories and raise the families, the men who fought and won the war. They gathered nearly 9,000 strong and in a parade, striking in its ordiliness [sic] and determinations [sic] told those who cared to watch that they were here to collect the soldier’s bonus and were ready to stay until 1945. They swung silently through the capital at sundown. With faces hard and set they announced to the world at large that, as they saw it, their government owed them money. They were the same men who, fifteen years ago, climbed over parapets into open country singing with leader death, and some of them having evidence of those earlier campaigns.”

An editorial on June 9, 1932 expressed some disgust with the bonus marchers: “Those blatant demands for free food, free lodgings and free transportation have hardly been the sort of thing that will make the ordinary citizen eager to dig down for wholesale bonus payments.” And yet the newspaper saw a positive side: “In most countries things take on a much more ominous aspect when war veterans march on the capital...If the government sends troops to stop them, there is much bloodshed; if it fails to do so, there is presently a semi-military dictatorship, led by the ex-soldiers...”

The editorial cartoon on June 9, 1932 turned around the subject of the bonus marchers with the caption, “Here’s a March on Washington That Would Be More to the Point!”, depicting swarms of taxpayers in suits carrying placards saying “Take relatives of Congressmen off government pay roll”, “Serve country first, local constituency last”, and “Economize till it hurts!” The editorial cartoon on June 10, 1932 continued the theme of economizing with a montage of vignettes: “Fire from government payroll all mothers-in-law and other relatives of Congressmen!”, “Put the Congressional Record on paying basis by charging ballyhooing Congressmen for advertising space!”, “Eliminate commissions and use excess hot air from Congress to thaw out frozen assets!”

Saving money wherever possible was the theme of the day when revenues were so slim, as discussed in the editorial “Where Economy is Needed” on June 8, 1932, at

a time when taxpayer associations were organizing. “If federal taxes go up, the citizen of modest means may have to pay out \$25 in taxes annually instead of \$10; but his city, state and county governments will take from him – if he is a property owner - anywhere from \$100 to \$300 a year....there is a lot more lost motion in city and state governments than there is at Washington. Inefficiency and graft amount to more. A bigger percentage of the taxpayer’s dollar is drained off to take care of “the boys.” “

“The labor situation in Morris County is more intense than ever but the Freeholders can do little to help conditions, it was stated at the meeting of the Board yesterday....It laid off over 100 of its old men, who had been working for it for years through times when they could have gotten better jobs possibly, so that it could help the unemployment during the winter months but now as far as possible it is taking these older men back.” (June 9, 1932, p.1)

“The Morris County Welfare Board...report for the month of May, 1932” stated that “the total number applications [for Old Age Relief] is three hundred and eighty-nine....The unmarried applicants seem to be in greater need than married applicants, as there are no legally responsible relatives....There has been a marked increase in the number of applications for permanent County care of indigent persons....One of the most serious problems is the family where the father is unreliable and either deserts his family or is so brutal and refuses to work so that the family cannot allow him to live at home. Several very pitiful situations have come to the attention of the Board where the family is in need because the father is insane, tubercular or chronically ill.” (June 10, 1932, p.11)

In mid-June, the GOP convention was taking place and displacing some depression news.

Laborers at the Eden and Malapardis paper mills went on strike protesting “a 25 percent wage cut” from “forty cents an hour...to thirty cents”, the paper reported on June 14, 1932, p.1. A strike was also called at the Agar Boxboard Company in Whippany to protest a ten cent cut in wages. “A compromise, however, appears likely when the Eden Mill offered to reduce the amount of the cut it had announced...to five cents an hours. (June 16, 1932, p.1) The June 18th paper, p.1, reported the Eden and Malapardis strike settled, with “a five cent an hour wage cut instead of the 10 cents an hour ordered by owners of the mill”, which were “running only part time and...at a loss”.

Samuel Insull was a tycoon who had a great fall. “His rise was fast and dazzling...Insull’s ...fortune...rated at \$100,000,000....And now...His properties have gone into receivership, he has lost all of his own fortune in a futile effort to

save them, he has some \$10,000,000 of debts and his personal income is a modest pension voted at the last minute by directors of his former companies. He is 73 years old....it seems...that an era has closed. Things grew too fast, too big, perhaps: the giants who were lifted up by the process have been cast down....A kind of maturity has come to us...marked by contraction instead of expansion.” (June 14, 1932 editorial)

The June 15, 2009 paper reported on p.1 on a speech given by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, E. J. MacEwan to the local Rotary Club. His said that the expectation that “the stock market will lead the way back to prosperity” was NOT the answer. Rather, “business must improve to such an extent that it will be the motivating factor in bringing the market back to normal....Praying and hoping that legislation will bring us out of this difficulty is the most absurd thing I have heard in a long time. We deplore increasing taxes; we damn our legislators up hill and down; we refuse, however, to acknowledge the fact that high expenditures during the past 10 years, with our implied approval through our silence, is the one and only cause of our high taxes today.”

“More than one thousand appeals from tax assessments have been filed with the Morris County Tax Board....The number is about three times as large as at any time in the past....The majority of appeals are due to increase in taxes and not to any changes in the assessments, it is believed. As long as the valuations remain the same and they were not protested in other years, it is not likely that the County Board can do anything in these cases....The big total of appeals is from Pequannock where there are 125 listed. There have been many changes there, some of them allegedly due to political dissension. In one case a property, which was assessed at \$1,700 last year, has been valued this year at \$17,000.” (June 16, 1932, p. 1)

“A Mountain Lakes engineer, despondent over financial conditions, killed himself yesterday....Esten Bolling...38...had been rated as one of the foremost heating and ventilating experts in the country and at one time had an income of \$35,000 a year but...he was in financial difficulties at the present time....The Bollings had lived in the York Village section...for three or four years...and were quite prominent in Mt. Lakes activities. Their home was known as a model one on heating and ventilation. Bolling...is said to be a cousin of Edith Bolling Galt, second wife of Woodrow Wilson.” (June 18, 1932, p. 1)

Rodney Dutcher, Washington Correspondent for The Daily Record and NEA Service, wrote a series about Herbert Hoover’s term as President. In the first article, on June 18, 1932, p.3, Dutcher writes, “Herbert Hoover ...has had worse

luck than any president who ever got out of the White House alive. The depression has overshadowed everything else in his administration. It has made impossible many of the things he had hoped to do and tended to minimize many of the things he actually has done. Hoover ran plop into a slump of unprecedented depth and duration....The going has been especially painful for Hoover and the Republicans because in 1928 they sold themselves to the country as perpetual guarantors of prosperity. Hoover was sure prosperity had come to stay; he was the “superman” who would lead us to new heights and abolish poverty.”

“What started out to be a budget-saving tax bill seems to have become, by some process of congressional magic, a tariff bill....the tax bill is...an emergency measure. The federal government has found that its expenditures are exceeding its income by many, many millions of dollars....New sources of income must be found. Until this job is done, nothing else that Congress can do amounts to very much....Why...in the name of sanity, force [tariff sections] into the tax bill and further complicate an already complicated problem?....The country has been watching anxiously to see if [Congress] has enough intelligence and patriotism to enable it to function properly in a great national emergency. Its action in jamming tariff increases into a taxation measure is almost enough to make one think that it has not.” (editorial, June 18, 1932)

“...at midnight, the new federal sales tax law goes into effect. “ (June 20, 1932, p.1) “...nearly anything one purchases tomorrow, with the exception of the ordinary food supplies will be subject to tax of one kind or another.”

“Sports goods and cameras are all taxed ten percent...Electric light bills will also be taxed, this being three percent of the amount of the bill....All checks on the banks will be taxed two cents. This will be charged on the total number of checks issued each month and the bank will deduct the amount from a person’s balance in the checking accounts, giving them a statement each month...”

First National Bank, National Iron Bank, American Trust Co., Morristown Trust Co., and Morris County Savings Bank cooperated in a large boxed ad on June 20, 1932, p.3 to explain “How Will The Tax On Checks Be Paid?”

Regarding Morristown finances, “The Town cut its budget considerably this past year, saving over \$10,000 as a result, but the county and school budgets resulted in the tax rate being increased....One possibility is a general cutting of the entire payroll and this saving would be passed along to the people in reduced tax rates next year.” (June 21, 1932, p.1) “Some of the cuts may be graduated, based on the different wage scales...these rates will run from possibly two to fifteen per cent for the Town employees. It is most likely that the Board of Education will adopt a flat ten per cent wage cut.” (June 24, 1932, p.1)

Regarding county finances, “The Board of Freeholders will take action...for the reduction of salaries of all county employees....The wage cut, to be effective, must include all of the departments and all employees from the top down, but the Board is not in a position to force any reductions with the exception of those under its direct control, such as the engineering, road and bridge departments....a graduated scale might be made effective, this being from one to ten percent, according to the amount of salaries....a candidate for Sheriff announced that he would take the job for one third less and even had a bill introduced into the Legislature providing for this cut in the Sheriff’s pay....Those against the cut contend that the Freeholders and court officials, who put in only part time and yet receive among the highest salaries, are the ones who should be reduced.” (June 22, 1932, p.1)

The Borough of Madison was also considering cuts, as “The average expenditure for unemployment relief since January has been \$1,500 per month. Work is now being given to only a few men daily as the relief funds are exhausted....a 10 per cent cut in salaries of all employees would bring a saving of \$20,000 a year and ...\$10,000 of this could be applied to emergency relief between now and next January.” (June 22, 1932, p.1)

By the following day, “Salary cuts, ranging from two to ten percent and resulting in a saving of about \$15,000 for the balance of the year, will be put in effect on July 1 in Morris County. It affects practically every office in the county...Prosecutor Orville V. Meslar, one of the six highest paid men in the county, refused to accept any cut....Meslar said...that he had carried on the duties of the prosecutor without the help of any assistant allowed by law....Prosecutor Meslar gets \$6,500 a year and his duties are only part time....” (June 23, 1932, p.1)

An editorial on June 24, 1932 touches on the “Senate committee’s stock market investigation...the facts brought out provide a lot of food for thought....one thing has been made painfully apparent: our whole financial machinery makes it possible for enormous profits to be made by men who render the public no service whatever....A gambler is a gambler, whether he sits in on Wall Street or on a four-bit poker game in a smoky hotel roomwe lost sight of this fact. The men who made millions in Wall Street became “financial giants” ...They are not...engaged in building up the country’s industry, fostering its trade, buttressing its prosperity. They are simply devoting to purely selfish purposes money and energy that might have been put to a constructive use.”

An understanding of the Bonus March phenomenon was attempted in an editorial on June 25, 1932. “Deep down there is working a very real discontent; a feeling

that America has somehow failed to deal justly with millions of people who have been good citizens; a subconscious but potent motion that it is high time for a new deal of some kind or other. The march of the “bonus expeditionary force” is simply a symptom of that unrest. We can deplore the veterans’ actions in Washington all we please...but if we are wise we shall take this discontent into account, see where it is justified and look for ways of removing it.”

“Right now we are well on in the third year of one of the sharpest eye-openers any people ever had to face. It isn’t a bit of fun, and the end is not in sight...it is becoming obvious every day that the high old times which ended with the market crash of 1929 were, above all, an era of bunk....If there is any single reason why we descended into the pit that was dugged for us, it is that we were all so very willing to believe a lot of things that weren’t so.....We let ourselves get away from the need of...fundamental virtues, and we are paying for it now...” (June 28, 1932, editorial)

“Congressman Charles A. Eaton, representing the Fourth Congressional district, which includes Morris County, last night bitterly attacked the attitude of the public towards Congress...a fiery denunciation which fairly stunned the audience...declaring that the American people have “gone yellow for the first time in 150 years”...” “The people of the United States...are whining to Congress for help...over a situation which they alone have the power to prolong or to bring to an end...I receive one thousand letters a day at my office in Washington and they come from as many lunatics. Do this, do that for us, is the plea, give us something, do us this favor and that favor.” “ (June 29, 1932, p.1)

The first deductions in county paychecks would be seen on July 15th. “If they don’t like the reduction, it is possible for those who are dissatisfied to take the matter into court and let the courts decide. The County cut two per cent over salaries under \$1,000 and graded its scale up to ten per cent for those receiving more than \$4,000.” (June 29, 1932, p.1)

An editorial appeared on June 29, 1932 praising an apparent “revival of the national spirit.” A number of towns in Missouri rejected the pork barrel expenditure of new post office buildings, telling their congressmen “they would prefer to see Uncle Same practice a little rigid economy....Nor was this phenomenon peculiar to Missouri. It happened in many other parts of the country....separate districts always thought more of their own bit of pork than they did of the federal budget....Too many congressmen have tackled all problems from the local angle and have let the national angle go hang....A great many congressmen who thought they were about to make themselves solid with their constituents discovered overnight that they had guessed wrong.”