

Ten Weeks with the "Miracle Man"

By SAM DARCY

The country sighed with relief when it rid itself of Hoover. And when Roosevelt took his place a frenzy of drunken joy was worked up over it. The toilers are sobering up after the first ten weeks—and taking stock—and the "miracle man's" magic begins to appear in its true light, just a few tawdry tricks which kept the audience mystified while the pickpockets took their valuables.

CLOSED BANKS

As objectively as possible we list his accomplishment acts to date:

1—Closed 18,000 banks; re-opened 16,000 leaving 2,000 closed and the depositor's money tied-up mostly lost.

2—Legalized 3.2% beer.

3—Juggled gold and paper money so as to raise prices of goods 20% thus far with object of increasing to a minimum of 50%.

4—Carried through a federal wage cut of 15%.

5—Passed a farm bill.

Roosevelt's measures regarding the banks robbed tens of thousands of small depositors of their lost savings. The legalization of beer, which was hailed as the great invigorator of capitalism, proved even flatter than its small alcoholic taste. The first month after the free sale of beer there was a national drop in employment by 4%. What was gained in employment through the legal sale of beer was lost in regular fountain and restaurant drinks. Actually, however, the beer laws did provide one change—where the usual drinks could only be lightly taxed, beer has been tremendously taxed. For the average person, the introduction of beer brought only sour stomachs and increased taxes. The raising of prices through inflation was carried through with the excuse that wages would also be raised. How utterly insincere and hypocritical this statement of Roosevelt is can be judged from the fact that at the very time he was broadcasting it over the radio he was setting the example by signing the bill cutting federal wages 15% and veterans compensation to the point where they were left destitute.

FARM BILL CUTS CROPS

At the moment of this writing news comes that the president signed a new farm bill. All the details of it are not momentarily available. But even from his accompanying statements already made public it is clear that the chief purpose of his farm measures are to cut production and acreage. This may also raise prices for the

big growers, canners, elevator corporations, etc., but for the small farmer whose selling prices are largely dictated by large bank and finance capital groups it will mean at best less products and a smaller total income.

Thus Roosevelt in the first ten weeks of rule has not changed by a hair's breadth the general course followed by Hoover. The administration has taken advantage of the hopefulness of the people, their desire to "give Roosevelt a chance" and therefore their gullibility to do a job Hoover could not do without a great mass protest. The Roosevelt publicity machine has made a wide campaign in the press, movies, church, newspapers and public institutions advertising a "new deal." It may be a new deal but the same marked deck of cards are used in which the workers and farmers are dealt promises and deceptions while the bankers and corporations get real aid.

If one reads Roosevelt's speeches carefully it becomes clear that he doesn't have the slightest intention or expectation of solving the unemployment problem. On the contrary the entire burden of his May 7 speech was that production, railroads, agriculture must be CUT. He proposed and is now carrying through a revision of the anti-trust laws so that huge trusts could "cut down overproduction." In the Soviet Union industries increasing production allow a cut in hours for all workers at the same total or even increased wages. Here it will simply mean that more workers will lose their jobs or have their hours cut with corresponding or even greater cuts in wages. Regarding the railroads Roosevelt declared:

"Our railroad bill falls into the same class because it seeks to provide and make certain definite planning by the railroads themselves and with the assistance of the government to eliminate duplication."

RAILROAD LAYOFFS

No clearer notice could have been given the railroad workers than this that new and larger layoffs are in the offing.

In the meantime no less a capitalist authority than the Alexander Hamilton Institute of New York, which trains executives for Wall Street, announced that as a result of an extensive and thorough survey it finds that over 17 million workers are unemployed. They are distributed as follows:

Manufacturing industries	5,846,000
Agriculture	1,253,000
Wholesale & retail trade	2,951,000
Building	2,186,000
Railroads	803,000

Coal mining	423,000
Miscellaneous	3,713,000

Total.....17,175,000

And how are the workers who yet have jobs faring? In 1929 the average income of a worker was \$1157 per annum. In 1932-33 the average annual pay is \$640 or \$12.30 per week. According to U. S. Department of Labor figures, even under the notorious Doak, the minimum standard for health and decency was set at \$1800 per year or about \$38.00 per week. The bridging of the gap between \$12.30 and \$38.00 per week for those who work and the miserable allowance of rations and \$38.00 per week for the unemployed never even enter into Roosevelt's considerations.

TO BUILD BIG NAVY

But Roosevelt must have some perspective in mind. It is clear from the above there is no possibility that the crisis, especially as regards unemployment, will even be slightly lessened as a result of his measures. Many measures that Roosevelt has taken do indicate what course he is traveling. The Washington correspondents who report their findings in the daily capitalist press under the head of "Washington Merry-Go-Round" admit what is already clear in their dispatch of May 12, where they point out:

Very quietly and with few people realizing what he is doing, Franklin Roosevelt is preparing to build up the biggest army and navy this country has boasted since the war.

This is taking place despite economy—all through a process of bookkeeping.

The navy, for instance, is being slashed, just as every other department is. But at the same time it is preparing to build 20 destroyers, five light cruisers, four submarines and one airplane carrier—more than the navy ever had under construction even in the days of Coolidge prosperity.

How, some people ask, can Roosevelt use the economy ax on the navy to the same extent as on other departments, and at the same time launch this tremendous building program?

The answer is easy.

In addition to the regular appropriations for annual government expenditures Roosevelt has a long-term public works program to relieve unemployment. This is being financed by a long-term bond issue payable not by us but by our children.

Therefore the \$46,000,000 to start work on the 30 new war-

ships will come not out of the regular annual expenditure, but from the long-term public works appropriation. Thus—the budget is balanced.

BIG ARMY

The same thing is happening to the army. It has been ordered to lop \$90,000,000 from its annual budget.

But while the army is cutting its strength by some 2000 officers and \$90,000,000 in appropriations, actually it is increasing its strength—at least in reserve—by some 250,000 men.

This is through the reforestation camps. They are being run by army officers under army regulations. Through this Roosevelt is building up a tremendous reserve army, a group of men which can be whipped into fighting shape in record time.

This indicates the explanation. Roosevelt is a war president. Just like Wilson, the last war president, he uses a parallel demagoguery. He encourages popular talk about recognition of the U. S. S. R. only to prepare for war; he talks of disarmament and cuts official war budgets only to make tremendous unofficial increases; under the barrage of loud disarmament talk he is building the greatest war machine that this or any other country has even known: United States capitalism, under the blows of the intense crisis, fears its doom, and will take any measures to increase its life. Imperialist conquest—chiefly against Japan for the rights to exploit Asia and in any case against the Soviet Union are its chief hopes. And it is preparing for this feverishly.

ANSWER ROOSEVELT

Many even militant workers and farmers are sitting back smug in the feeling that "another war will mean the end of capitalism." That may or may not be—according to how we build the revolutionary movement NOW! And precisely that must be our answer to Roosevelt's program. Just as he and his class are feverishly preparing for the capitalist way out of the crisis through war and the pauperization of the masses—we and our class must prepare for the revolutionary toilers' way out through the overthrow of capitalism, and the profit system and the establishment of a workers and farmers government.

A Roosevelt was at the cradle of American imperialism. Maybe a Roosevelt will be at its grave. It would be a sentimental touch for historians. But it would be the emancipation of the world from capitalist misery.