The Financial Department is prepared to furnish information regarding standard investment securities, but cannot undertake to advise the purchase of any specific security. It will give to inquirers facts of record or information resulting from expert investigation, and a nominal charge of one dollar per inquiry will be made for this special service. All letters of inquiry should be addressed to The Outlook Finaneial Department, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York

## THE INSCRUTABLE FUTURE

## BY THEODORE H. PRICE <br> EDITOR "COMMERCE AND FINANCE"

THE credence given to what is printed and the omniscience attributed to writers and editors are amazing. Because I happen to own and edit a weekly newspaper called "Commerce and Finance," and contribute an occasional article to some other publications, I receive a great many letters from all over the world which seem to presuppose that I
know everything and can foretell the future months and years ahead.

Now of course every one who knows an editor realizes that he is an extremely ignorant person trading largely on a small| intellectual capital. His success in seeming well informed is chiefly due to the books of reference with which he is provided,


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$\mathrm{C}^{0}$OTTON is this country's largest export commodity. In 1921 the value of cotton shipped abroad amounted to more than 12 per cent. of all foreign sales.

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his ability to restate platitudes as if they were hovelties, and his willingness to appropriate the ideas of others.
Of the future he is just as ignorant as every one else, for
Heaven from all creatures hides the book of fate,
All but the page prescribed, the present state.
Were it otherwise, life would be unendurable. Some one has said that "we live under a sentence of death with an indefinite reprieve," and if we knew what would be our condition to-morrow or a year hence we would be utterly miserable.

Our misery would probably be increased if we had the power to arrange the future as we saw fit, for we would be forever rearranging it, and those affected by our change of plans would curse us bitterly.

Those who write letters to editors must realize this, and yet there are thousands of people who not only attach importance to prophecies of the future but are willing to pay large fees to financial soothsayers (note the word) who claim a "soothing" gift of scientific foresight. This claim they often try to vindicate by elaborate historical studies and charts or diagrams which it is the present fashion to call "graphs."

Some of these self-constituted seers have really deceived themselves, for of all the fallacies by which men are deluded the greatest is probably the one that is expressed in the statement that "history repeats itself."

History cannot repeat itself, for it is a kaleidoscope in which the bits of colored glass that make up human experience are never identically arranged, and it is manifestly illogical to assume that present conditions will produce the effect formerly caused by those which were different.

To argue, for instance, that certain financial conditions will now have the same result that they produced before the Federal Reserve Banks were established is manifestly absurd; but gallons of ink. have been wasted and hundreds of "graphs" have been prepared in an effort to support such conclusions.

There is not the remotest analogy between the fiscal condition in which the more important governments find themselves to-day and their pre-war position, but many people are nevertheless busy studying the financial history of Napoleon's time in an effort to determine what may now be expected. That such studies are fascinating is admitted, for it is easy to generalize with regard to human nature and to deduce half-truths that seem to be new discoveries from our generalizations. But hundreds of philosophers and thousands of speculators (who are, in a sense, would-be philosophers) have been wrecked upon the rock of a half-truth, and the Latin phrase post hoc propter hoc describes a seemingly truthful fallacy that is responsible for the errors of many scientists, the mistakes of many physicians, and the bankruptcies of many merchants.
If from the numerous letters that have


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have $110,000,000$ people in the United States, but few of whom are working at anything like capacity. Most of them san produce more, and thereby increase their purchasing power. Business means the distribution of goods, and it is increased by an enlargement of production at low prices rather than by reduced production at high prices. The continuous introduction of labor-saving machinery to some extent offsets the pres. ent unwillingness of most Americans to work up to capacity, but, while the volume of money changing hands may be increased by advancing prices, the volume of goods produced and consumedor business-will be increased only by harder work. A real revival of business is not, therefore, to be expected unless men become willing to work harder. Many are loafing now because by working part of the time they can make enough to live all the time, and a reducion in wages would seem to be the only cure for the present laziness and frivolty.

Third. As to our foreign trade, the indications are that we shall lose much of it. In a previous article I have already pointed out that we could prosper if we had no foreign trade at all, and, while we may suffer temporary distress in adjusting ourselves to a self-imposed commercial isolation, the probability is that the adjustment will be necessary.

Commerce is an exchange of goods for money, credit, or other goods. Europe has no money to pay us for what we have to sell.

We grant her credit grudgingly and are preparing to insist upon the repaymend of the loans made to the Allied Governments during the war.

Our foreign commerce, therefore, depends upon our ability to exchange goods for goods, and this is seemingly to be made almost impossible by the erection of a tariff wall so high that it will exclude most European products.

It is a great adventure in protection, but it remains to be seen whether it will not destroy more than it will protect.

Fourth. As to the permanent value and ultimate repayment of the foreign obligations now being offered to American investors I am confused. There is no precedent upon which to base an opinion. In an address $I$ delivered recently I said that we were in the "fourth dimension" of credit. The mathematiclans can prove that matter has a fourth or " $n$ th" dimension in addition to the three admitted and comprehensible dimensions of length, breadth, and height. But neither they nor any one else can as yet visualize this fourth dimension as a concrete thing. So it is with the outstanding public debt and paper money of the world's various governments.

They reach a total that is utterly beyon human comprehension. Certainly they cannot be paid off during the present generation. Whether they will ever be paid is a question which cannot be answered without considering the possibility of war in the future and the ability of the debtor governments to collect taxes far higher than have ever previously been borne.

Some of the foreign bonds now being

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A Common Sense Magazine of Business

Edited by

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Alan H. Temple Stephen Bell<br>M'Cready Sykes<br>E. L. Barnes



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## Colonial

 Sculpture Co. 712 Colonial Bldg. Boston,FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT (Continued) sold would seem to be good, measured by pre-war standards of a safe relation between national debts and national wealth, but it is impossible to say whether they would continue to be good if the oppressed taxpayers of the more heavily burdened nations should organ-। ize a general strike against excessive taxation. The question is beyond my ken, and it is to be doubted whether the। most prescient statesmen or the most profound students of history can answer it definitely and finally.

Fifth and Last, As to the return of an enduring prosperity, I can only reply as I' did to the third group of questions Real prosperity is the result of increased production and consumption at low prices. No two authorities have as yet agreed upon a definition of inflation.
I submit that "it is the extravagant expenditure of easily borrowed capital," and $I$ think that the revival of speculation now discernible is due to what might be called an artificially produced abundance of credit rather than to an increase of the real wealth, which consists of the things that are created by agricultural and industrial labor.

In respect of many things our agricul${ }^{+}$ural and industrial production is now smaller then it was before the war, but we have a redit system that is pedestaled on a goid veserve and we have attracted thither nearly half the world's gold suppiy. The result is that we have now an abundance of credit. It is therefore easy for us to borrow, and we are spending extravagantiy. These ire conditions which inflame speculation, but they do not increase wealth, and $i$. is to be doubted whether we are much better off than we were before the war in so far as productive property and consumable things are concerned.

For this reason it is questionable whether the revival of speculation presages the enduring prosperity that is, and always will be, the result of work and cannot be secured in any other way

If America is to be really prosperous and happy, we must work harder, take fewer holidays, and play less.

Nearly every salaried wage-earner in this country now expects at least two weeks' vacation with pay. In most States there are twelve legal holidays. Saturday is generally a half-holiday, upon which not more than four hours' work is done.

The eight-hour day is general, and the result is that there are but few who work more than forty-four hours a week for forty-eight weeks a year. This is 2,112 hours.
A recent Census bulletin reports that there are $41,609,192$ persons gainfully employed in the United States.

There are 8,760 hours in a year of 365 days, and these figures mean that we are trying to subsist and be prosperous upon the labor of 40 per cent of the population working 24 per cent of the time. Is it possible? If not, the only remedy is more work. This is platitudinous, but, as I pointed out, the platitudinous is an editor's chief reliance.

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 throughout. Five rooms tiliree bedroins land bath.Kitchen with
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 stone wall, only view of Profile Rock. Com-
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with sound educational background and gen eral knowledge of affairs of administration and household management. Applicants state
age, previous experience in detail, reason for age, previous experience in detail, reason for
leaving present or last position, and salary in
last two. 1,405 , Outlook.

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WANTED-Experienced headworker for
well established settlement occupying stra well established settlement occupying strategic educational position in large Eastern
city. Open September 1. 1,469 Outlook.
Companions and Domestic Helpers WANTED-An intelligent young woman
not over 35 , must be amiable, active, fond of not over 85 , must be amiable, active, fond of
outdoors, quiet in her manner, willing to outdoors, quiet in her manner, wiling Outhoughtf
WANTED, in Plantsville, Conn., refined helper for widow. Opportunity for the right person of securing good home with atczactiv

Teachers and Governesse
WANTED-Tutor for three children, two August and Sevtem and girl 12, for July A. H. Good Freneh necessary. Tutor may be
either man or woman. Answer 1,333, Outlook. WANTED-Governess, preferably widow between 28 and 35 , to have entire responsibility of little girl. Should be healthy, fond of preferred. Winter home in California sum ner home in the East. Peferences. Kindl address reply to 1,488 , Outlook.

## SITUATIONS WANTED

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ASSOCIATE for child or woman (Protestant) whose case requires individual care
and study. Especially interested in correctand study. Especially interested in correct ing mental mal-adjustments. 1,489, Outlook. in lavalling children MEDICAL studo
Mia, desires position as camp of Pennsyl rania, desires position is camp plsysician

## SITUATIONS WANTED

 Business Situations SECRETARY-tutor. Conlege girl, 24, twoyears'
secretarial experience. Adress 1,452, years ${ }^{\text {seccretarial exition as hostess in some }}$ Outlook. LADY wishes position as hostess in some
hotel for this summer. Pianist. Can also. hotel for this sumber.
drive car. 1,453, Outiook.
CAMP leader-Nine years, experience; diCAMP leader-Nine years experience; di-
rector of all athletics, law student. Write CONFIDENT
business man or woman traveling assistroad to is connection desired by woman of experience,
ability. 1,494 , Outlook. ability. 1,494, Outlook
WOMAN of refinement and ability desires position as resident manager of suburban tea room. 1,497, outlook.
WANTED, by young man, position in summer camp. Expenses only. Six years
experience. Second class scont. Can tutor Latin, algebra. Box 46, Pawtucket, R. I.
Companions and Domestic Helpers of French university, experienced, travelere of French university, experienced traveler,
linguist, and teacher, wishes summer position linguist, and teacher, wishes summer position sideration. 1,385, Outlook.
MATURE kindergartner with homemaking
experience desires summer position. 1,402, Outlook.
Tires position of refinement and culture desires position as companion, summer months. CAPABLE
CAPABLE. well-bred college woman, with literary and executive ability, desires con-
genial summer enployment. 1 , 14 , Outlook. TEACHER, woman of. refinement. acquainted with art and architecture, woumgo References exchanged. 1,413, Outlook.
FRENCH woman, hospital undergraduate,
desires care invalid, infant. Light housedesires eare invalid, infant. Light house-
work, sewing. 1,451, Outlook. Tork, sewing. 1,401, Out fook.
MIDDLE-aged maiden lady, cultnred,
former teacher, business training. Christian former teacher, business traing, Christian English and German, highest references, seeks position as traveling companion or secretary, For further information through
Rev. Geo. Schutes, Trinity Church, Logan, 0 . YOUNG woman of refinement, having had three years' successful experience, wishes panion. 1,463, Outlook.
RADCLIFFE graduate, aged 35, would like position as traveling companion and secretary plished and entertaining. References ex 1,462 Outlook
COLLEGE WOMan, American, Protestant, widow, experienced housekeeper, mother;
desires position in country Juiy and August ; hostess, housekeeper, companion, governess. 1,465, Outlook.
FREE June 16-Refined American gentleman, 26. Business and secretarial experience: high school instructor. Anything considered
for summer season. Box 283 , Franklin, N. H. LADY, experienced, wants position as chaperon or companion. 1,45 nderstauds TEACHER desires position for summer
COLLEGE instructor, Harvard graduate,
desires summer employment. Box
Ebs, State desires summer employment. Box 503, state
College, Pa.
WANTED-Position as household assistant WANTED-Position as household assistant
or governess. Address 1.477, Outlook. Or governess. Address 1.477, Outlook
YOUNG graduate student deain
position as graduate student desires summer position as tutor, companion,
private party. 1,471 , Outlook.
WOMAN, capable, refined, practical nurse, desires position; matron institution, care of
invalid, any position of trust. $1,4 i 4$, Outlook YOUNG woman, teacher, desires home
with family during July and Aurust at summer resort, to help with children. 1,468 , Outlook
MISS Crump, of the Crumperie, 55 Christo-
pher St., New York City, disengaged tor pher st., New York City disengaged for
summer, wadergraduate nurse, seoretary;
traveled England and France 1, 80 Outlook GRADE teacher wishes position as com-
panion for traveling, July and August. Speaks some scandinavian. HOME wanted for young French girl,
healthy, bright, 1 year high sehool lrothealthy, bright, 1 y yar high school, Prot, estant. Companion or tutor in French.
Moreau, 445 Monmouth Blvd., Gaiesburg, III. EDUGATED young woman woutd care for
your home during your absence abroad. 1,484 . yourliook.
WANTED, by Belgian, strictly retined wochaperon, secretary. 1,487 , Outiook. like to spend refined Parisian lady would like to spend, summer, or part of it, with American family wishing to syeak or study crench. W ould make herself agreeable and object. 1.485, Outlook.
TRAINED nurge, with experience, pleaswishes position as traveling companion. 1,48: Outlook
REFINED, cultured mother and daughter
desire position as caretakers eicher city or desire position as caret
country. 1,498 , Outlook.
COLLEGE girl desires position as companion to lady during summer. References.

COMPANION-nuwse to invalid or elderly
party. Good needlewoman. Speaks French and German. Would travel. Chovet, Dumont N. J. Telephone by refined Protestant lady (40), position as housekeeper in gentleman's home (June), No objection to small child. Country
preferred. Best of references required. $1,48 \ddot{i}^{2}$
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Companions and Domestic Helpers TEACHER, eight years' experience, desires summer position. Companion, Governor shore. 1,502, Outlook.
YOUNG lady speaking French, English, Spanish would like position as lady's companion or governess in family.. Nine years' experience teaching. Good musician. Excellent references. 1,501, Outlook.

Teachers and Governesses
TEACHER desires position for summer as tutor or companion. Elementary English, ren
COLLEGE girl preparing to teach wants summer position as tutor: Addre
COLLEGE senior, experienced with children, desires position as nursery governess for the summer months. 1,410 , Outlook.
EXPERIENOED native French woman, college trained, wishes to make engagement for coming year in college preparatory school. Would give interview. 1,423, Outlook
ENGLISH instructor in Eastern university dor the summer months. 1,461 , Outlook.
PARTSIENNE, well educated, desires sum mer position; tutor, companion, governess. Fond of childrent. Best references. State salary. 1,472, Outlook.
INSTRUCTOR wants position in private school for next year. Oan handle athletics; experienced. Reterences. No reasonable offer TEACHER
Bryn Mawr preparatory schools will tutor or take charge of children during summer months. 1,478, Ontlook.
GOVERNESS-Cultured woman, experienced in care of children, wishes position for summer. nliversity graduate; artistic, mulSical, ath
WANTED, by Belgian lady (Brussels), teacher, summer position tutor or companion in American family. Would travel. 1,492, Outlook.
UNIVERSITY graduate, teacher, desires position as traveing tutor, compani

## miscellaneous

WANTED-Defective people to board. Addre
TO young women desiring training in the care of obstetrical patients a very thorongh the Lying-In Hospital, 307 Second Ave., New York. Monthly allowance and full mainte nance is furnished. For further information aduress Directress or Nurses.
in Ohio college town will care for one or more young children during summer. \$25 per week. 1,394, Ontlook.
CHILDREN-Childless couple, home in private grounds, nimety acres Connecticut shore, will care for two children for summer, girls preterred. 1,443, Outlook.
elerabroad, wishes party of experienced travTWO patients can be 4. 1,458, Outlook. TWO patients can be received in select
private home in suburbs of New York. Fine grounds. Automobile. Registered nurse in charge. 1,457, Outlook.
WIDOW will take one or two children to board, mother's care, every advantage, at her home in
1,466 , Outlook.
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COLLEGE professor wishes to hear from parents of boy who could be benefited by help and inspiration. Correspondence confidential. 1,475, Outlook.
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## BY THE WAY

Theodore Roosevelt during his lif: time was no doubt the most widel known American. His fame as a repri sentative citizen of his country has oul traveled the news of his death, judgin from a letter recently received at th Outlook office. It is addressed:

> Th. Roosevelt Esq. The Outlook New York City
> U. S. A.

The envelope contained a catalogue o Dutch bulbs and plants and was labele "Overveen, near Haarlem, Holland The sender doubtless knew that Mi Roosevelt loved flowers, but there his knowledge seems to have stopped.

The pessimists who bewail the lov standards of daily journalism of th present time may take heart on readin: a story about Horace Greeley and Will iam Cullen Bryant told in a recent issu of the New York "Evening Post." It 1849 Greeley, editor of the "Tribune, began a reply to an editorial that ha been published in the "Evening Post, of which Bryant was then editor, wit] the words: "You lie, villain! wilfully wickedly, basely lie!" Bryant had long memory, for it was in 1864 that h was invited to a breakfast at which among other guests, Greeley appeared The host at the moment when Greele came in was talking with Bryant befor an open fire, and noticed that Bryan ignored his fellow-editor. "Don't yor know Mr. Greeley?" the host inquired it an audible whisper. Bryant's whispe came back more audibly still: "No, don't; he's a blackguard-he's a black guard!" The editors of our time, witl all their faults, do not bludgeon one an other after this fashion.

A Boston teacher thinks we ar: slightly invidious in going to the Wes for "howlers." She sends a selection garnered from her experience in teach ing history in a high school in "Greate Boston:"

Solomon is said to have been the wisest man in the world; he had about 300 wives.

Draco had things discussed by the archipelago.

It was in the reign of Diocletian that the Christians were annihilated so much.
The results of the Crusades were intellectually, politically and navigatably.
James I was son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and Margaret, cousin of Henry VIII.

Charles I's reign was ended with the severing of all relations between his head and body.
Cornwallis was like a needle floating on the water. Green dropped some water on it and it soon sank.

Mr. Depew, who still goes to his desk in the New York Central Railway office: regularly, said on his eighty-eighth birthday that he stopped eating red meat twenty-five years ago and hasn'i had a twinge of rheumatism since, thai

