

maintain the highest standard of living in history, a standard far above that in most countries of the world at this or any other time. This represents a remarkable recovery from the great losses incurred by the Nation in the World War."

A signal proof of prosperity is that there has been practically no unemployment. That, in turn, is evidence of expansion in manufacturing, in railway receipts, and in business generally, and this Mr. Hoover shows by facts and figures. He points out also that efficiency, economic methods of work, and the advance of scientific research and invention have formed a distinct and valuable factor in our increased prosperity.

It is not possible that conditions should be the same in every industry. Mr. Hoover points out as exceptions the New England textile industry, two or three sections of the agricultural industry, and the bituminous-coal industry. Yet, looking at the situation as a whole, he finds that these exceptions and the peculiar situation that has existed in cotton production but is now improving have not affected his comment quoted above.

The Secretary states that a more satisfactory relation exists between the prices of farm products and other things than we had three years ago; that there has been a slight increase this year in retail prices; that building construction has increased enormously; that housing standards have been raised; that manufacturers have gained seven per cent over the year previous; that imports have gained seventeen per cent over the previous years and that exports in quantity, if not in cash value, have increased also; that, in short, "the fiscal year 1925-6 has been one never surpassed in our history in the volume of production and consumption, in the physical quantity of exports and imports, and in the rate of wages."

Maine Tips the Scales

By the election of Arthur R. Gould to the seat in the United States Senate that was left vacant by the death of Senator Bert M. Fernald, the voters of Maine have virtually empowered the Republican Party to organize the Senate. Without that seat the Republicans would have had to depend upon the vote

of the Farmer-Labor Senator, Mr. Shipstead, of Minnesota, to secure a tie with the Democrats, and upon the vote of Vice-President Dawes, as presiding officer, to break the tie in their favor. Now the Republicans will have a clear majority. It is a majority of only one, but it suffices.

This is all on the assumption that no means will be found of excluding Mr. Vare of Pennsylvania, Mr. Smith of Illinois, or Mr. Gould of Maine from the Senate before he takes his seat. The title of each of these men to a seat in the Senate will be challenged; but as yet it seems doubtful whether it can be challenged until each one is provisionally, at least, a member of the Senate with power to vote on the organization which will control the Senate committees.

Mr. Gould's right to his seat will be challenged on grounds which were raised during the election campaign. It was alleged, and denied, that he was responsible for a contribution of \$100,000 to the campaign fund of the Premier of New Brunswick as an inducement for favorable action on railway legislation in aid of a railway in which Mr. Gould was interested. There have also been charges that Gould spent more than the State allowed in his election campaign; but Mr. Gould was cleared of these charges before the election took place. Among those who attacked Mr. Gould was the Republican Governor of the State, Mr. Brewster. Because Mr. Brewster is regarded as a favorite of the Ku Klux Klan, many Democratic voters, strongly anti-Klan, voted for Mr. Gould. It appears that these various accusations tended to swell the Gould vote. At any rate, Mr. Gould was elected by a majority which mounted in his own county to the ratio of nine to one.

Fall and Doheny on Trial

THREE years after the story of their alleged misdeeds became public, Albert B. Fall, once Secretary of the Interior, long a United States Senator, and Edward L. Doheny, millionaire and oil magnate, are on trial for conspiracy to defraud the United States Government in connection with the lease of the Elk Hills Naval Oil Reserve in California. It is not worth while to attempt here a review of the evidence that has been submitted, and it is not the province of a public journal to draw conclusions

from evidence offered in court in advance of judgment. Twelve men, most of whom work with their hands in the District of Columbia, will say when all the evidence is in whether these two men from the seats of the mighty have been proved guilty or innocent of crime.

As much as this, however, may be said: Fall and Doheny, guilty or innocent, should have been tried and the fact established long ago. Their prominence probably had little to do with the long delay. All over this country obscure men remain untried through long periods after indictment. This naval oil lease case, too, was extremely complicated and required more time for preparation than the ordinary criminal case does. Still, it is difficult to believe that there is justification for such delay. The fault is the fault of nobody in particular, but of the criminal court system—a system fallen into rather than developed—of the United States. Fall's rawest cowboy or Doheny's youngest driller's helper might, if he could have contrived actions so complicated, have secured a delay as long.

The fact remains, none the less, that when men of such prominence as these are indicted delay in bringing them to trial increases the suspicion, groundless as it may be, that wealth can influence the progress of the courts. All criminal cases should be tried more promptly than they ordinarily are in the United States. It may be that no special effort should be made to bring such cases as this to prompt trial, but the necessity for a revision of our criminal court system is the more strongly suggested by them.

The Supreme Court on Zoning

THE limitation of building and other uses of land by zoning laws has gradually extended in many States and in hundreds of municipalities. As a rule the State laws that give towns and cities the right to pass and enforce zoning ordinances have been sustained by the State courts. New Jersey and Georgia, possibly one or two other States, are exceptions. Now we have a decision of the United States Supreme Court which sustains the ultimate Constitutional principle on which such State laws must rest. It is, in effect, a broad answer to the question, Do zoning laws in their common kinds of restriction deprive property-owners of liberty and property

This cause betwixt us twain

(Richard II, Act I, Scene 1)

Brown in the New York Herald Tribune



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Well! Well! The caboose!

From D. S. Imrie, New York, N. Y.

Chubb in the Rochester Times-Union



Trouble brewing

From G. Shand, Rochester, N. Y.

Byck in the New York Commercial



They've got the habit

From D. S. Imrie, New York, N. Y.

Brown in the Portland (Maine) Press Herald



Some people refuse to wake up

From Harold Straw, Pennington, N. J.