



THE WINNING OF THE WEST

OUTLOOK

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▶▶ Trend of the Week ◀◀

▶▶ Family Buying Power

THE bewildered thinking on economics lately so much in evidence was well illustrated in the address by Willis A. Sutton, president of the National Education Association, at a recent meeting of teachers in Macon, Georgia. Dr. Sutton is quoted as saying that the passing of the large family was one cause of the present depression. "Think of the buying power of the families when they had eight to fifteen children," he said. "Now we have dwindled down to one child, maybe two, and they don't require so much."

Evidently the good doctor forgets that buying power depends on income, and that in the main it is a power possessed by parents rather than by children. If, to use his own figures, there were once only two parents to every eight children, whereas there are now two parents to every two children, then a far greater proportion of our population possesses buying power than ever possessed it before. Hence we would expect to find the demand for goods, not decreasing, but being directed to fulfill the wants of adults, with a comparatively small demand for, say, baby shoes and a comparatively large one for, say, tire shoes Speaking of baby shoes, how would Dr. Sutton like to be a periodically unemployed mechanic attempting to feed, clothe and house from eight to fifteen children?

▶▶ Tip to a Bishop

It is a pleasure to assume that Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has been, is and always will be innocent of all charges which have been, are being or will be brought against him. But it must be said that, for an innocent man, he shows a surprising reluctance to be investigated.

Last year the Bishop refused to an-

swer the questions of the Senate lobby-investigating committee, arguing that in putting such questions the committee was exceeding its authority. Next, faced with charges advanced by members of his own church, he held that his accusers had not conformed with the procedure outlined in church law for the filing of such charges. Now, under investigation by the Senate committee inquiring into campaign funds, he declares that the Senate resolution under which the committee is functioning is probably unconstitutional.

The customary course for an innocent man is to welcome any attempt to investigate him and to glory in the opportunity to clear himself in the eyes of the world. The one exception to this rule may occur when the cost of defense promises to be heavy. However, a man need not employ counsel when he appears before a committee of the Senate. Possibly Bishop Cannon does not care whether or not he regains his lost prestige. But, if he does care, one good way to regain it would be to stop finding legal and constitutional reasons why he cannot be queried, take the stand before the Senate campaign funds committee and testify fully, frankly and gladly.

▶▶ "We Found That Out"

THERE is a Moran and Mack we-found-that-out flavor in the Wickersham Commission's report on crime statistics. The commission devotes sixteen of the report's eighteen pages to showing that the statistics are often incomplete, inaccurate and generally untrustworthy. The fact had been known to every lawyer, every newspaper reporter and just about everyone else, so well known that when Chicago, for example, has attempted to prove by statistics that it is relatively free from crime no one outside that city has ever taken it seriously.

As for the commission's recommendations, they are unimpressively sound. It

has long been obvious that the federal government and the individual states should gather statistics more carefully and systematically. Now the Wickersham Commission proposes the framing and enactment of a uniform state law on the subject, taking account of local differences, and urges that the drafting be done by some such body as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. This appears to be a commendable way of getting at the roots of most statistical evil. Another meritorious suggestion is that the gathering, compiling and publishing of nation-wide statistics, instead of being split among three federal departments, should be committed as a whole to the Bureau of the Census. Again, the commission advises against the continued publication of official conclusions based on partial data given the appearance of being complete data.

As a matter of fact, about all that can be said for the report is that it may attract still more attention to a need which has been crying itself to sleep.

▶▶ School for Farmers

IN MARCH of this year the Republican National Committee—without cracking a smile—established an agricultural advisory council to tell the farmers how much the Administration had done for them. The council has just decided what to say. The farmer, poor fellow, will be informed of the great advantages he has reaped from the Federal Farm Board and the Hawley-Smoot tariff act. He will then be given a course in "world economic conditions," a course designed to assuage his pains with statistics showing that, after all, he is only one pebble on the depressed world-wide beach, and that times are none too good in Mongolia, either.

It is plain that the Republican school-ma'ams will not have an easy task. What, for example, can they say of the Farm