

# Believe It or Not

By H. W. NOREN

In physical science progress is made because the scientist works on inanimate things. He shapes them to his heart's desire, iron, gold, wood or what not. To the extent he understands natural laws the elements become his obedient servants. But not so man. He has a mind and he alone can manage it. In the July, 1942, issue of his magazine, Mr. Flint Garrison gives a good illustration of what we are up against when

we try to influence men's minds. Says Mr. Garrison:

"The problem of unemployment in time of peace is unsolved and must be solved."

Among politicians we sometimes find men who assume ignorance to better appeal to or flatter uninformed constituents, but I will grant that Mr. Garrison believes what he says. Has employment or unemployment ever been unsolved since man came upon the earth? When man goes to work on his own he solves the problem for himself and by example for Mr. Garrison. Adam had to employ himself and man's relation to the source of his sustenance is the same now as then. Henry George lived in our industrialized era and in his examinations didn't leave unemployment unsolved. Mr. Garrison does not know this and therefore assumes that no one else knows it. He says: "No informed person will contend that industry as at present organized can \*\*\* give all the people employment in industry and, at the same time, return to them the buying power necessary to buy and use the products of their employment. Our economy is not yet automatically self-adjusting."

The purpose if industry is to produce goods, not to employ people. I don't want to speak for the communists, but there are hints in their writings that they reverse the order, making employment the primary purpose and production of goods incidental. Mr. Garrison speaks of returning

to the employees "buying power necessary to buy and use the products of their employment." Since the product can belong only to the producer, why speak of returning it to him? He owns it already, all of it. Not even the rent is a deduction from his product, for rent is a plus, a product of society or all of us in common and does not appear where men pioneer by themselves. He says: "Our economy is not yet automatically self-adjusting." But it is, or would be but for two interferences, first; Rent diverted into private pockets and capitalized into price of land, thereby preventing free access to self-employment, second; Deduction

of taxes from the product. The problem is not of returning anything to the producer, but to quit robbing him.

Freeman readers will be surprised to learn that, "If trade, industry and finance were left to their own devices at the end of this war we would have world wide economic chaos."

It would be interesting if Mr. Garrison would cite an instance where and when trade, industry and finance produced chaos. If men with the itch to levy tribute would leave trade, industry and finance to their own devices these productive services could operate in a normal world and we would not at any time have the chaos we now have to put up with at all times, peace or war.

It isn't industry which fails us. The latter has failed to attend to its own job, which is to see to it that all men within its jurisdiction have equal, that is, free, access to land, instead of constantly interfering with trade, industry and finance.

And what does Mr. Garrison suggest for after-the-war relief? In his own words: "More governmental interference at the close of this war." Believe it or not!