

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICA

GREAT AMERICANS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

LESSON 05 SESSION 03

5.15 The creditor Nation

In the earlier history of American industry foreign capital was invested by millions of dollars in our great enterprises. We were a debtor Nation. Today we are the creditor Nation.

5.16 Production the basis of wealth and wages

There *is* no actual wealth in materials, metal, or money until they are adjusted to the use, needs, or wants of mankind. Production is the basis of wealth.

In no other country do wages approach the sum paid the individual workman of America. The contributing factors to this highly satisfactory situation are summed up in the word "production." American production per man power ranges from two and one-half to thirty times that of other nations.

5.17 Mechanized industry

Industry in America is mechanized and specialized to a degree not approached by any other country. Our automatic labor-saving and power-driven machinery is the wonder of Europe. Our mass production, made possible by special machinery and highly trained operators, astounds the world with its magnitude, quality, and low cost.

5.18 Higher self-appreciation

Modern methods of industry discipline the lazy, wasteful, and disloyal workmen; speed up production; work out short cuts; improve quality; and eliminate waste; thereby contributing largely to lower costs through greater efficiency. At the same time there is engendered a higher appreciation in the employee of his worth to himself, his employer, and his country.

5.19 Employee becomes employer

A keener sense of pride awakens ambition, a quickened intellect inspires study, a broader view of life reveals opportunity, creates new desires expressed in higher living standards

and a rapidly growing participation in industry as a partner through purchase of stock in different enterprises. Through quickened intelligence and systematic saving, the employee of today becomes the employer of to-morrow. **At a dinner in New York given in 1927 to a group of British workers investigating American industry, every American captain of industry present save one came up from the overall stage. (What about today?)**

5.20 High standards of living

Human needs are few by comparison with human wants. Were it not for ever-increasing desires for the comforts, conveniences, and luxuries of life, modern industry would be unable to sustain itself. Civilization is the result of human demands, the combination of spiritual and material aspirations. In no other nation have these aspirations been so fully satisfied.

The standard of living established by any group or nation is based upon the distribution of wealth. The closer together we bring the extremes of wealth and poverty, the higher the attainments and general welfare of the people.

5.20.1 Ability to purchase.

Power of consumption is based upon the ability to purchase and pay for the desired commodities. **In America the employee receives 72 per cent and the employer 28 per cent of the income of industry,** constituting a range of wealth distribution which fixes our living standards at the highest point known in the world.

5.21 Is America worth saving?

The remarkable development of American industry has proven beneficial to all — not only to employer and employee, but also to the world.

America has amassed unbelievable wealth which is being spent for the good of mankind. In its large range of distribution it has fixed our standards of living at the highest point known to civilization.

We may therefore answer — Yes! America is well worth saving!