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ing chapter of his book "The Engineers and the Price System" (Viking Press).

Titling it "A Memorandum on a Practicable Soviet of Technicians," Dr. Veblen (for he was a professor of economics and a Yale Ph.D.) opened with:

"It is the purpose of this memorandum to show, in an objective way, that under existing circumstances there need be no fear, and no hope, of an effectual revolutionary overturn in America, such as would unsettle the established order and unseat those Vested Interests that now control the country's industrial system."

Technical Men Necessary

It is suggested that Veblen may have written this with his tongue in his cheek. Today he might not have used the word "soviet," with its U.S.S.R. implications. But he clearly realized that scientifically trained men and engineers, "technicians" he called them, are necessary to the establishment of a new order. He wrote:

"No effectual move in the direction of such an overturn can be made except on the initiative and under the direction of the country's technicians, taking action in common and on a concerted plan. Notoriously, no move of this nature has been made hitherto, nor is there evidence that anything of the kind has been contemplated by the technicians. They still are consistently loyal, with something more than a hired-man's loyalty, to the established order of commercial profit and absentee ownership. And any adequate plan of concerted action, such as would be required for the enterprise in question, is not a small matter that can be arranged between two days."

Any plan of action, Veblen em-

phasized, that shall hope to meet the requirements of the case in any passable fashion must necessarily have the benefit of mature deliberation among the technicians who are competent to initiate such an enterprise. He listed the following initial requirements, indispensable to the initiation of any enterprise of the kind in such an industrial country as America:

It must engage the intelligent cooperation of several thousand technically trained men scattered over the face of the country, in one industry and another.

It must carry out a passably complete cadastration (survey) of the country's industrial forces.

It must set up practicable organization tables covering the country's industry in some detail,—energy-resources, materials, and man power.

It must also engage the aggressive support of the trained men at work in transportation, mining, and the greater mechanical industries.

Setting down "without a touch of ambiguity" his belief that any fear of an effectual move toward government by technicians is "quite chimerical" and that "absentee ownership is secure, just yet," Veblen nevertheless fashioned a working drawing of technologic rule.

Abdication Most Probable

His purpose was, he wrote, "to set out in summary fashion the main lines which any such concerted plan of action would have to follow, and what will of necessity be the manner of organization which alone can hope to take over the industrial system, following the eventual abdication or dispossession of the Vested Interests and their absentee owners."

Not necessarily through revolutionary overturn with blood and class war would the change occur. Veblen wrote:

"It is always the self-made though

reluctant abdication of the Vested Interests and their absentee owners, rather than their forcible dispossession, that is to be looked for as a reasonably probable event in the calculable future. It should, in effect, cause no surprise to find that they will, in a sense, eliminate themselves, by letting go quite involuntarily after the industrial situation gets quite beyond their control."

Remember that he wrote in 1919 just after the World War and before the period of prosperity that evolved into the current depression. At that time, Veblen said, the "Vested Interests and their absentee owners" had already sufficiently shown their unfitness to take care of the country's material welfare, "which is after all the only ground on which they can set up a colorable claim to their vested rights." And he added that "something like an opening bid for a bargain of abdication has already come in from more than one quarter."

Science News Letter, January 28, 1933

PSYCHOLOGY

Awareness of Surroundings Due to Response to Them

IT IS NOT the raucous note of the automobile horn that makes you aware of its sound, but rather your own jump and quickened heart beat and the other responses that you make to it.

No matter how loud and strong and close to your ear the sound may be, or how often the horn may honk at you, unless you make some response, outwardly or inwardly, you will have no knowledge of it. This is a practical illustration drawn from the theory proposed by Dr. Herbert S. Langfeld, of Princeton University.

Dr. Langfeld quoted many authorities from the Greek philosophers to present-day experimenters in support of his theory that it is not your awareness of a situation that makes you act, but your action that makes you aware.

Experiments have been made which detected that movements accompany silent thought, he said. The action patterns during silent thought correspond to those obtained when words are actually spoken. Dr. Langfeld predicted that more research of a similar nature will be conducted in the future.

Science News Letter, January 28, 1933

The dachshund is a German breed as old as Roman Empire days, in the opinion of a German scientist who has studied the dogs of early civilization.

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