of the counts. But these grave evils are being cured, slowly but surely, by time. They cannot be removed, all at once, by government. A wise and courageous government can do much to reduce them now, and in time can remove them.

Of these evils only depression will be discussed here. Depressions inflict themselves on us simply because our machine system of production is so new that we do not yet know how to control it. Our present depression grew out of the conditions created by a tragic world war, which ate the heart out of the capital of European nations, disorganized foreign trade, and demoralized the credit and currency systems of all the world. We do not yet know enough to control the economic consequences of a world war.

This depression is not due to the collapse of the capitalistic system, or to the exploitation of the workers by the capitalists, or to the mistakes of the banks, or even to the orgy of speculation which swept over our country. It is due to the World War. It is not an American depression but a world depression. It did not begin in the United States, but in foreign countries.

All depressions are the consequences of years of accumulation of economic poisons in our economic system. Depression is the process of eliminating these poisons. There is no way in which this process of elimination of poisons can be stopped, once the collapse has come upon us. This depression could end only when industry had been purged of uneconomic and extravagant methods, when bloated valuations had been cut down, when reckless consumption of resources had been stopped, when unnatural wages and salaries had been reduced, and when currency demoralization throughout the world had been cured.

This does not mean that a government should do nothing in time of depression. It can do a tremendous good in depression. The intelligent procedure of government in depression is to give all its energies to alleviating the hardships that are inevitable, to reducing the burden of taxation, to helping industry that is sick, to protecting the credit of the banks, to caring for the unemployed and destitute. In other words, the proper government policy is to cushion the shocks, to aid the victims, to encourage those who still hang on, and to join in any movement to promote international trade and stability of international currencies.

From the beginning, under both the Hoover and the Roosevelt Administrations, our government did these very things, in large measure. The loans to mortgaged farmers, the loans to home-owners, the tremendous efforts to care for the unemployed, the work of the R.F.C. in aiding the railroads and the banks, all these and many other activities of the government were wise and useful. But also from the beginning our government adopted unsound policies which attempted economic impossibilities. The effort to maintain high wages and salaries after prices had collapsed, the passage of a high-tariff act in the midst of depression, and the attempt to maintain inflated prices for agricultural products through the Farm Board were unwise and unsound. These attempts to end depression at its beginning were doomed to failure.

Two years ago a rival Administration was overwhelmingly approved by the people because it promised to do by the very same methods the very thing the other had found impossible, that is, to end a world-wide depression by act of Congress. The present Administration came into power because it guaranteed by open promise to do the impossible, to end depression by passing laws. Everything that has happened to our country since is a direct consequence. In its feverish effort to fulfill this promise this government has passed a bewildering succession of temporary, unsystematic, self-contradictory and experimental measures that have disturbed and disorganized the economic life of every business and every individual in this nation. Among many other things, these measures have debased the currency and the obligations of the United States, terrorized the banking system, increased the cost of doing business for every