**Objective:** To examine the causes of the Great Depression USHC 6.3

**Do Now:** How did an increase in wages help cause an economic boom?



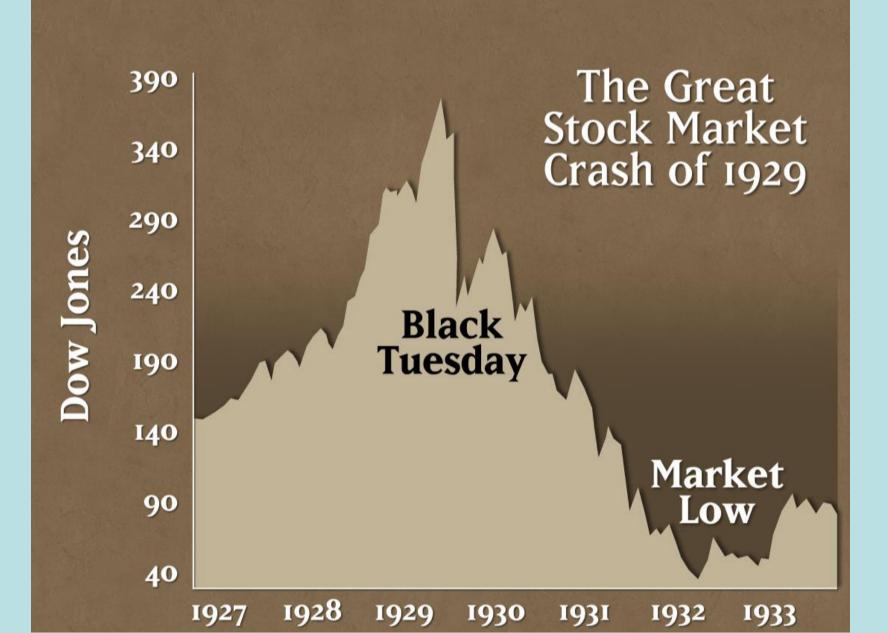
## **Causes of the Great Depression**

### I. Stock Market Crash

- On Tuesday, October 29, 1929, stock prices plummeted.
- This became known as Black Tuesday.



#### Stock Market before and after Black Tuesday





The Philanthropist by, Herb Block (Dec. 5, 1930) **During the Great Depression** approximately 25% of the workforce was unemployed. People who lost their jobs began selling five-cent apples on the streets of American cities, providing a symbol of the economic hardships of the era.

• People that had invested their savings in stocks had little or nothing left.

• People that bought stocks on margin (credit) could not repay their debts.



#### "I'm In The Market For You"

by, George Olsen vocal by Fred MacMurray Date: February 9, 1930

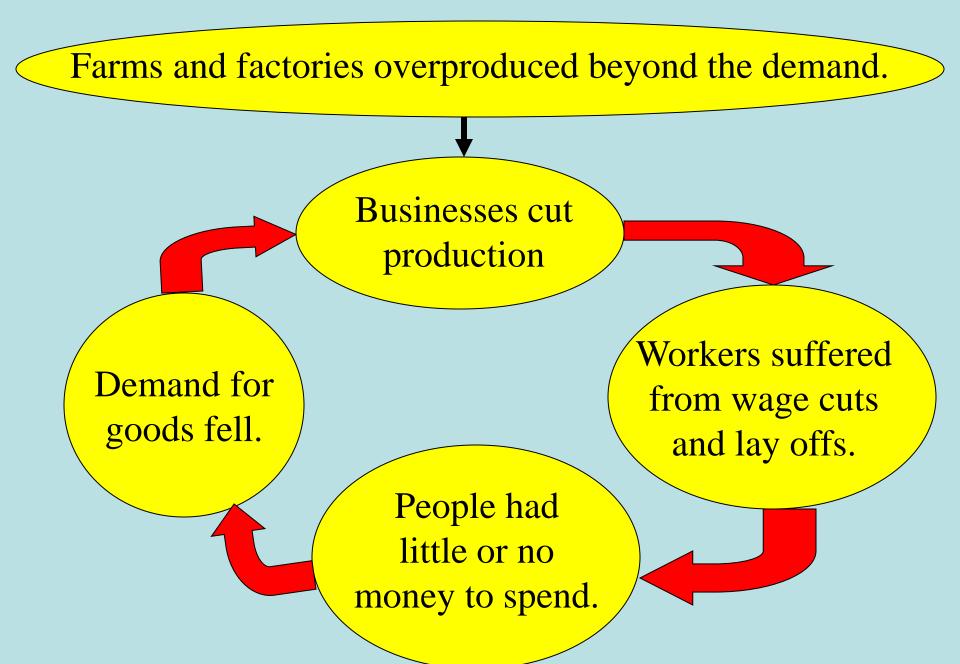
I'll have to see my broker Find out what he can do. 'Cause I'm in the market for you.

There won't be any joker, With margin I'm all through. 'Cause I want you outright it's true.

You're going up, up ,up in my estimation. I want a thousand shares of your caresses too.

> We'll count the hugs and kisses, When dividends are due, 'Cause I'm in the market for you

# **II. Overproduction / Reduction in Purchasing**



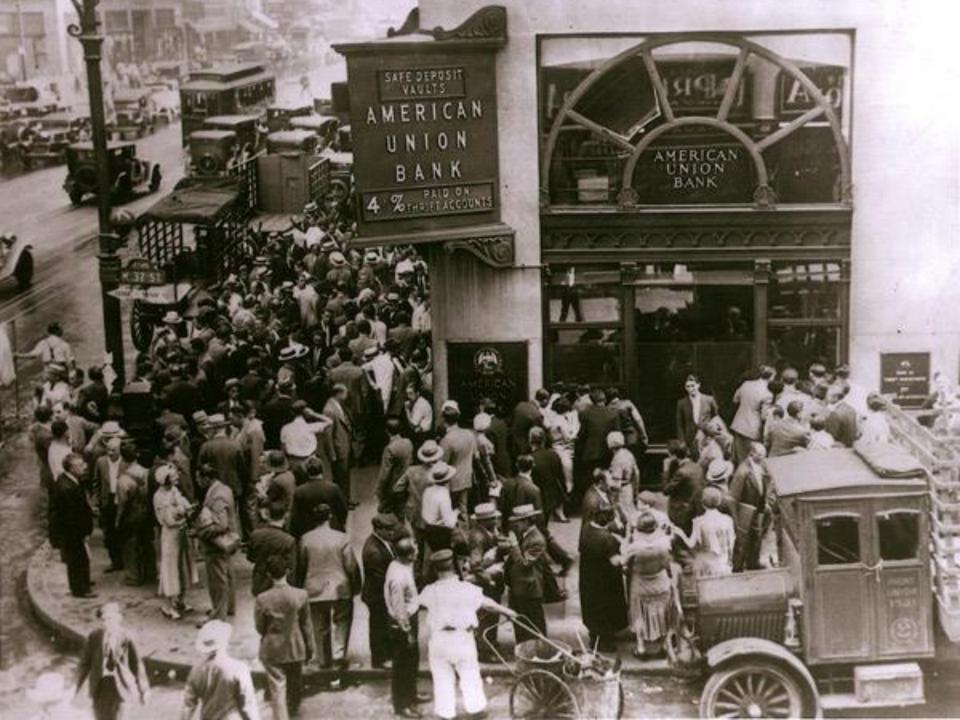


A farm is being sold at a foreclosure sale in Iowa. Military police were on hand to keep farmers from disrupting the auction. ca. 1935.



# **III**. Bank Failures

- When the stock market crashed, people could not repay their loans to the bank.
- Therefore, banks couldn't give depositors their money and banks closed.
- Many people lost their life savings.



# "How Can A Poor Man Stand Such Times And Live?"

written and played by Blind Alfred Reed, Dec. 4, 1929, New York City

- There once was a time when everything was cheap,
- But now prices nearly puts a man to sleep.
- When we pay our grocery bill,
- We just feel like making our will --
- I remember when dry goods were cheap as dirt,
- We could take two bits and buy a dandy shirt.
- Now we pay three bucks or more,
- Maybe get a shirt that another man wore --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?

Well, I used to trade with a man by the name of Gray, Flour was fifty cents for a twenty-four pound bag. Now it's a dollar and a half beside,

- Just like a-skinning off a flea for the hide --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?

- Oh, the schools we have today ain't worth a cent,
- But they see to it that every child is sent.
- If we don't send everyday,
- We have a heavy fine to pay --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?
- Prohibition's good if 'tis conducted right, There's no sense in shooting a man 'til he shows flight. Officers kill without a cause,
- They complain about funny laws --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?
- Most all preachers preach for gold and not for souls, That's what keeps a poor man always in a hole.
- We can hardly get our breath,
- Taxed and schooled and preached to death --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?

Oh, it's time for every man to be awake, We pay fifty cents a pound when we ask for steak. When we get our package home, A little wad of paper with gristle and a bone --Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?

Well, the doctor comes around with a face all bright, And he says in a little while you'll be all right. All he gives is a humbug pill,

- A dose of dope and a great big bill --
- Tell me how can a poor man stand such times and live?