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Aid And Comfort

Americans will welcome the news that moral suasion has ended the situation by which the United States was supplying airplanes for Japan's bombing of Chinese civilians. The National Munitions Control Board reports that applications for licenses to export planes and parts to Japan ceased during November. This was in response to Secretary Hull's appeal to aircraft makers to stop this sorry business.

There have been some questions as to whether Japan was the only nation engaged in bombing civilian populations. The American people would be glad to cease aid to any such bombing. But Japan was a clear-cut case. Moreover American public opinion's strong opposition to the whole of Japan's war in China gave the State Department unquestioned support in this appeal.

With the intensification since Munich of American feeling about some of the allies of Japan, the same public opinion may now demand cessation of plane exports to Fascist countries. Certainly before American air fleets are developed on the scale now being proposed in Washington to match German air armaments American exports of planes and motors to Germany should cease. The amount of these is in question, but one estimate recently published was to the effect that hundreds of German military planes are powered by American engines or engines built on plans licensed by American companies. Nearly $3,000,000 worth of air equipment went to Germany from 1932 to 1936.

The State Department has belittled the amount of American aid to Germany and has said that the granting of export permits is mandatory under the Neutrality Act to nations not at war. Two questions are involved here. One is how far planes and motors listed by the State Department as for civil aviation have been devoted to military use. There is some evidence that planes used in the bombing of Spanish towns have had American motors. Also it may be asked whether American supplies of civil aviation have not facilitated military aviation in Germany. The other question is whether the State Department can use its moral suasion also to stop exports which aid Fascist armies, rather that should be done or the Neutral-Act should be amended.

Craft Unionism Pleads

Note amendments to the Wagner Act or National Labor Relations Act will be urged at this session of Congress by the American Federation of Labor. The first of these, probably more important to the Federation than all the rest, would make it mandatory for the National Labor Relations Board to grant bargaining rights to any class or craft of employees which might wish to select its own representatives.

This is basically a demand to protect the advantages of skill in industry. By John L Lewis' Congress of Industrial Organizations it will be described as an effort to maintain a "labor aristocracy" of a few craftsmen to the neglect of the interests of millions of semi-skilled or unskilled workers. The traditional craftsman feels that his hard-won wage standards are likely to be sacrificed if thrown into the lump with negotiations for the working conditions of a much larger number of loosely organized and less indispensable employees.

Rather a novel turn in the situation has appeared, however, in reports that some employers have come to favor the industrial or one-conference method of negotiating with representatives of all grades and groups of their employees at once, though they once preferred to deal with the more established and conservative craft unions. The fact is that both the C.I.O. and the A. F. of L. have experience already in meeting the problems presented by the division of interest between the crafts and the masses.

Industrial unions such as the United Mine Workers have long negotiated a wide range of labor rates for different grades of work from common laborers to engine operators. Among some Federation unions it is the practice to hold joint negotiations with certain employers or employer groups so that the contracts negotiated for several crafts in a single industry may all run concurrently, may balance up the various scales and may iron out in advance the jurisdictional conflicts between unions which some times penalize an employer through no fault of his own. Unless the A. F. of L. is prepared to guarantee some extension of this practice, it is not in a strong position to urge stripping the NLRB of discretionary power to determine the size of the bargaining unit.

Golden Eggs

America's amateur speculators appear to have killed one of the geese that lay golden eggs. If there was a sure thing in the country's money markets these last few years, it lay in the Government security field. There at each quarterly financing date the American public has had the chance to subscribe to new securities that could be sold at a profit even before they were actually paid for. The Treasury's anxiety to have the new issues floated successfully caused it to make them at least as attractive—and usually more so—in point of yield than outstanding obligations of the same type.

The inevitable came to pass. At each quarterly financing date there was a scramble for the new securities. Persons padded their subscriptions five and ten fold. And for the little investor, there was added gravy. For even though the offerings were overbid many times, the investor of $1,000 was being allotted his bid in full. It did not take long for Secretary Morgenthau to discover that an increasing number of persons were "chiseling." Individuals turned in $1,000 subscriptions for every Tom, Dick and Harry friend and relative they had. Now they will have to take a small percentage of what they wanted along with the rest.

The matter came to a head with the heavy oversubscription to the December 15 financing. Well over ten times as many Government securities were subscribed for as were offered. That means that the little fellow, so called, now will get less than 10 per cent of the securities he asked for. The loss of preferences takes the profit out of the transaction for the chisler. And the small investor is penalized.

Oil and Pan-Americanism

Outcome of Standard Oil Company of Bolivia's case against the Bolivian Government disputing expropriation of American-owned oil properties will be watched in the United States with an interest that transcends the material value of the property as well as the question of strictly Bolivian-United States relations. The case is now before Bolivia's Supreme Court.

Expropriation of Standard Oil properties in Bolivia antedates the Mexican land expropriation, and differs from it in that the Bolivian Government declares that it seized the oilproperties in consonance with, and because of violation of, the contract covering the concession.

In a more important respect, however, the issue is similair to that pending between the United States and Mexico: It is one more test of Pan-American relationship. Indeed, Bolivia already is reported to have entered into trade agreements with neighboring countries on terms which seem to assume the retention of the oil properties by the Bolivian Government, so that a readjustment of the status of these properties would have repercussions over a wide field.

It has not yet become necessary for the United States Government to make representations to Bolivia since the oil company has not exhausted the resources of the Bolivian courts. It is to be hoped that diplomatic action will not be required.

The United States at Lima—and before Lima in its patient attitude toward Mexico—has shown that it wants to live up to every reasonable implication of the good neighbor policy. But it had to face, in proposals which would have denied aliens all diplomatic support in pecuniary disputes with Latin-American countries, a trend which might endanger the rights of its nationals the world over. These proposals were shelved for further study. Lima has at least provided an atmosphere in which this thorny question can be discussed to the benefit of Pan-American understanding.

Toward A Radio "Yardstick"

Carefully worded announcements extrolling the value and virtues of "network broadcasting," repeating this phrase at frequent intervals, marked the December 31 broadcast of the NBC Symphony Orchestra, the National Broadcasting Company's finest sustaining feature playing to a vast countrywide audience. Thus was made probably the first public acknowledgment, albeit approached obliquely, of the seriousness of the situation facing the American networks discussed in three recent special articles.

Were these announcements the begining of a campaign to build up in the minds of the American public a pro-network attitude which could be called on if governmental action should threaten the present radio structure due to "monopoly" charges?

For years the idea of governmental operation of radio has been discussed by certain group opposed to what they feel are abuses of the American system, with advertising appeals the major point of criticism. The British system of tax-supported radio with no advertising has been cited as the desirable alternative.

During the last five years the competitive nature of the American system has brought about excellent programs. At the same time leaving this potent medium for the communication of cultural and informational programs entirely in the hands of commercial interests causes misgivings. Newspaper articles from Washington discussed one proposal for breaking up the present system by extending the existing four networks under three managements to six networks under six entirely separate managements. This multiplication of networks suggests a plan which might combine the best in American practice with the best in British practice.

This would call for the setting aside of one of the six new networks as a governmental system to operate as an honest yardstick for the broadcasting industry. The public would have the constant opportunity to compare governmental with private commercial broadcasting and take its choice. Canada has a somewhat similar arrangement, but its governmental network accepts commercial programs, so that it is in competition with the commercial stations.

A Government - operated network in the United States would of course have to be paid for by the taxpayers. Good programs and station operation come high. But it is argued that this would be public expenditure for the public good in a regulatory way. Such a network should tend to keep commercial announcements in line and to encourage better programs on the other networks if its standards were kept high.

Town Moving

Many centuries ago Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt. In recent months a similar movement but on a much smaller scale has occurred in Crawford County, Indiana, with the village of Leavenworth abandoning its old location for a near-by hill that towers four hundred feet above the old site. Leavenworth had endured the Ohio River floods since it founding, but the 1937 deluge proved to be figuratively the last straw, and its five hundred people resolutely set forth on a miniature exodus.

For several months Leavenworth's peoplel have been living in tents while the removal gained headway. The Red Cross financed approximately one hundred new homes. The Works Progress Administration leveled the new site, fashioned the streets, put in lights, and generally handled the details of re-establishment. The Wonderland Trail, Indiana State Highway 62, has been rerouted to pass through the rebuilt town. Leavenworth residents have conquered the Ohio River flood menace through strategic retreat. They did not wait for fruition of the Federal flood-prevention program; but feel safer now and happy about the whole thing.

Trends *and* Tides

Almost any day now we may expect the annual report that the wilderness is closing in again. A thoroughly bewildered buck deer will wander into the lower Shore and frighten the wits out of a thoroughly bewildered housewife. She will frantically call on neighbors, firemen and police for help and the invasion will be repelled. But only temporarily; cities or no cities, express highways or no express highways, there is still a frontier at the very doorstep of our urban civilization.

Take the matter of deer. In all seriousness, there probably are more deer on the Shore today than there were in the days of Natty Bumpo. Reliable estimates set the number much higher than the average person would suppose.

As for lesser animals, there is no end. Skunks flaunt the tail of defiance before a thousand automobile headlights nightly, stubborn primitives with a persistent air. Rabbits make merry on hillside, field and vacant lot, ubiquitous creatures.

There are enough woodchucks still around to annoy the farmers and disprove but not dissipate the belief in Groundhog Day. And enough foxes remain at large to perpetuate the foxhound industry and keep alive such a word as "yoicks" in an otherwise reasonable language. They can occasionally be heard barking but unless routed by hounds they are seldom seen.

Within the boundaries of the Shore hundreds of colonies of muskrats persist. Weasels still raid the pens of Eastern Shore chicken farmers. Now and then some one finds a 'possum in the woods and wonders what on earth to do with such a peculiar creature; more rarely a raccoon is seen. Squirrels, of course, are everywhere.

What all this adds up to is a restatement of the proposition that civilization is only a thin veneer. But in this instance the veneer is not over the beast in man; rather, it masks the beasts in man's backyard. We think we have conquered this country, but just beneath the surface of our conquest prowls the proof of its essential superficiality. The wild folk have simply learned to make the best of a new situation and to keep out of man's way. That's why city folk and even suburbanites see them so seldom; you can't make an appointment to meet a deer on Sunday afternoon at 3:15—not if he sees or hears you coming! And deer have notably good eyes and ears.

Because they are the largest game animals left in any real abundance, deer constitute a special case. Man has encouraged them with refuges and hunting restrictions and has pretty well done away with the wolf, the lynx and the panther in these settled parts. The worst natural enemy of the deer now is winter, and when the grass and the native hardwood and evergreen browse are ice locked man often opens an animal breadline and doles out grain mixed with molasses and salt. Unlesss a range is overstocked, the deer's lot today is probably better than it was before Captain John Smith went hunting in Virginia and came out of the woods with Pocahontas at his heels.

They have their troubles, of course. Dogs chase them. Foxes find and kill their fawns. Automobile headlights have a fatal fascination. But there are compensations. Venison is no longer a common item on hotel menus and man has learned to make "buckskin" from sheepskins.

More long-suffering because he must endure the pangs of winter hunger is the skunk, and the motorist who meets a skunk in a road-hogging mood learns what such privation does to the animal temper. Much more pleasant, but less often seen, is the red fox, who naps by day, hunts by night and often lives unsuspected on a hillside overlooking a farmhouse. A conservation policy which has stocked the brushlands with rabbits and birds has been a godsend to the fox — and don't think the conservationists don't know it!

But for animal curiosities, go to the 'possum, thou doubter. A ratty looking individual he is, and the original exponent of passive resistance. Find him in the woods and he will not scurry away unless escape is certain; he will simply lie down and "die", quite realistically, only to come to life again if there is a chance of escape. Moreover, he is a marsupial, cousin of the kangaroo, and Mrs. Possum boasts of a built-in baby carriage, or pouch for the young.

And still there are the weasels, the bobcats, in some nearby states, the rabbits and the assorted wildfowl. Quail can be heard in most of the suburbs and nearby fields in spring and fall. Pheasants have startled many a back-road motorist and hiker in the early Autumn and in Winter are occasionally seen feeding in bushes along the main highways. On their way to and from the north in migration seasons the wild ducks can be seen in many parts of the Shore. There are eagles and hawks, the latter are very plentiful on the Shore.

There is, in short, the wilderness at our doorstep. Desert the cities for a year and you would have to reclaim them from the beasts of the fields.

So that Eastern Shore housewife who battles the buck with a frantic mop is only remembering the story of the camel and Arab's tent. Let a deer get so much as one prong of one antler under her porch railing and crash! down would come the whole of her suburban security. And after that, of course would come the Indians.

ANNAPOLIS—MATAPEAKE
ROMANCOKE—
CLAIBORNE FERRIES

FALL & WINTER
SCHEDULE—1938
Effective September 20, 1938

DAILY AND SUNDAY
Eastern Standard Time

BETWEEN ANNAPOLIS AND MATAPEAKE

Leave Annapolis	Leave Matapeake
7:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
*8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.	*-11:00 a.m.
12:00 Noon	12:00 Noon
1:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
x2:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.	x-3:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
*5:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m
6:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	*-8:00 p.m.

*-Denotes bus connections via Matapeake, Romancoke and Claiborne.

x-Denotes bus connections via Matapeake only.

BETWEEN ROMANCOKE AND CLAIBORNE

Leave Romancoke	Leave Claiborne
**9:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.	**10:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
**6:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.	**7:00 p.m.

Note: ** - Denotes pedestrians will be transported by motor coach between Matapeake and Romancoke and Romancoke and Matapeake on these trips only.

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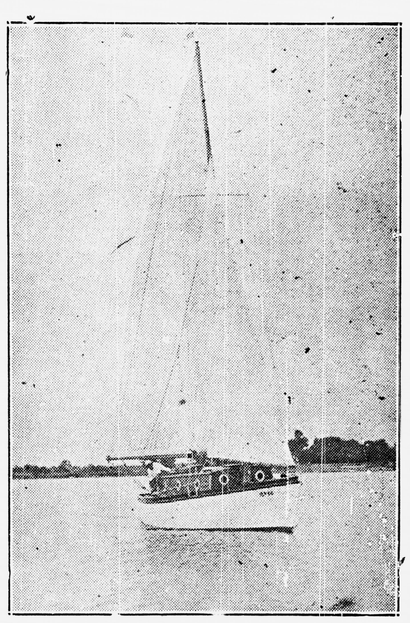

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