Cambridge Tribune

Published Every Thursday By
THE TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

Entered at the Postoffice at Cambridge as second class mail matter.

Subscription Rates
SINGLE COPIES.....3 cents each
BY MAIL—
3 Months ..... .40
6 Months ..... .75
1 Year 1.50

Advertising Rates Upon Application

Editorial and Business Office,
9 Spring St., Cambridge, Md.

Mother's Dream

Return Of The Dark Ages?

In the year 476 A.D., Odoacer, king of the Germanic tribe of the the Heruli, proclaimed himself king of Italy, and the greatest and longest-lived empire the world has ever known—was no more. It had taken many, many years to destroy the great Roman empire—it took many centuries for the world to recover from the results.

The thousands of years following 476 A.D. are called the Middle Ages, and the first six or seven hundred years of the Middle Ages are called by many historians the Dark Ages.

While it is true that these so-called Dark Ages were productive of many great geniuses and of many great institutions, it must be acknowledged that during this period there was—in Europe at least—a very marked stoppage in the progress of that which we are accustomed to call civilization. In fact, even the remnants of this "human boast" were driven out of the Europe which Rome had "elevated" and were discovered later on in the Middle East by the Crusaders.

It is not that the Barbarian conquerors particularly desired to continue the crude existence to which they were accustomed; as a matter of fact they attempted in many areas to adopt the more highly civilized habits and customs of the vanquished peoples. But forceful subjugation of conquered peoples is not conducive to political or scientific progress. Natural uprisings and revolts compelled the usurpers to expend their time and energies solely upon military matters. Almost everything else was forgotten until centuries of time finally rescued **western Europe from that** long period of "hesitation" and **steered it into what we now call** the Modern Age.

It was the Germanic hordes from the dark forests of the north which conquered what is now Italy, and France, Spain and England and all the rest of the western Europe and North Africa. They were crude barbarians in those days. It is a large element of the Germanic people which would like to repeat the process today. They are a very highly civilized and scientific people in these days. They doubtless believe that their conquest of Europe today would advance civilization rather than retard it. But actually that very same principle which almost destroyed Europe in the Dark Ages would be reborn; and learning and the advancement of science and civilization would again have to give way to the continued production of those military requisites without which the conquerors would eventually be driven out by the conquered.

Peoples like the English, French and Spanish would certainly not submit patiently to the yoke. They have known freedom and independence too long for that. The result would be continued strife, and continued strife could have but one ending—the return of barbarism.

So today the struggling "cause of civilization" is faced by as great a danger as that which finally started its long period of decadence in the year 476 A.D. A danger of such magnitude that it behooves everyone of us who realizes it to forget all the petty discomforts and inconveniences which we are beginning to feel and to "stand by" for greater and ever greater sacrifices—until the sun comes out **again from behind the threatening** clouds of the Dark Ages.

Shop For Christmas Now

The slogan "Do Your Christmas Shopping Early" has been used so much in recent years that we don't pay much attention to it any more. But this year it needs to be emphasized more than ever—for those of us who don't do their Christmas shopping early are apt to be unable to do any Christmas shopping at all.

There is a lot of Christmas merchandise available this year, but the supplies are below normal and the stores are going to have difficulties getting new stock when their present stock is exhausted. In addition, because there are a lot of unusual types of gifts which are not available, there will be a heavier demand for those things which can be obtained. And because the public has more money to spend this year than it has ever had before, the total demand for Christmas gifts is apt ti reach an all-time record.

For your personal interest — in order to be able to get the things you want — it is therefore important to do your **Christmas shopping** immediately. And for the sake of the storekeepers who are short of help and who face delivery problems, it will be a life-saver if that last-minute Christmas rush can be avoided.

48 Hours A Week

Both the opponents and supporters of the 40 hour week law agree that it was put through Congress to cope with the problem of unemployment. When it was passed, there weren't enough jobs available in this country to find a place for everyone. By limiting the number of hours men could work, it was possible to spread work to more

Now, however, conditions are just the reverse. Whereas we had a job shortage when the Wagner law was passed, we now are suffering from a labor shortage. Therefore, if shorter **hours were the so**lution to the job shortage it seems apparent that longer hours should be the solution to the man shortage.

It all sounds very simple. But because of strong labor lobbies and politics, it is one of the toughest problems our nation has to solve.

Labor leaders point out that men can now be worked 48 hours by paying time and a half for the extra eight hours. Manufacturers say they will lose money on their war contracts if they pay the millions of extra dollars this would involve. And so it stands.

EASTERN SHORE SOCIETY TO HOLD DINNER-DANCE

The annual Christmas dinner-dance of the Eastern Shore Society of Washington will be held at 7:45 P.M., on the night of Monday, Dec. 14, at the Shoreham Hotel.

All former residents of the Eastern Shore now residing in Washington, D. C., or environs are invited to attend.

Telephone Miss Virginia Dashiell at Randolph 5455 after 6:00 P.M. for reservation and other information.

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