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Drunkenness Publicly Condoned

Drunken driving, which is universally condemned on the highways and airways, is apparently to be condoned on the railways—and by Government edict!

The case in question involves an engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Over a year ago this man was discharged for drunkenness after members of his own crew and a competent examining physician had testified he was absolutely unfit to handle an engine due to alcohol. Five years before the same man was discharged for a similar offense, and was reinstated with the understanding that another violation of this safety rule could not be tolerated. He was also discharged in 1937 for violation of another rule, but again was taken back.

Last November, the First Division of the National Railroad Adjustment Board ordered the engineer reinstated, with seniority rights unimpaired, and with pay for all time lost after March 1, 1940. The Board based its decision purely on a technicality, involving the procedure of the railroad's inquiry into the case. And it did this in the face of the fact that all who had testified at the investigation, including the engineer himself, stated that it had been carried on fairly and impartially, and in spite of the further fact that there was no denial or doubt as to the condition of drunkenness.

The railroad's position is further complicated in that the portion of its system over which the engineer is entitled to run is within a state which makes it a criminal offense for a railroad to knowingly continue the employment of an engineer who has been found guilty of intoxication while on duty.

This whole matter seems to call for a real investigation. An engineer who is drunk endangers the lives of hundreds of people, and of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property. The railroad simply did its inescapable duty to the public and other railroad employes when it discharged the offender. Such a decision, if allowed to stand seems as dangerous to public safety and welfare as is a drunken engineer at the throttle of an engine.

Hitler's Chat to Germans

In his proclamation to the armed forces of Germany Hitler boasted that "we have succeeded in a few months of world historical fighting in bringing the unsuccessful heroic fighting of the World War to the final point of success.'

He said that "the war must be continued as a result of the will of democratic war-mongers and Jewish capitalists" but the year 1941 will bring consummation of the greatest victory in our history."

"The year 1941," he added, "will see the Germany Army, Navy and Air Force powerfully strengthened and with improvement in armaments. Under its blows the last phases of the war criminals will then collapse and therewith finally the prerequisites will be achieved for a true understanding between peoples."

Not Too Hot Not Too Cold

By JOHN EMBERT

Back Our President

To the critics of President Roosevelt's recent speeches, who are so naive as to believe that Hitler does not intend to make war upon us if and when he defeats England, the following questions are submitted:

1. Would not the Kaiser have regarded Canada, Bermuda, the Bahamas, British Guiana and all other British possessions, dependencies and colonies as his own by right of conquest? And,

2. Will not Hitler do the same thing if and when he defeats England?

Few would deny that had the Raiser won that we would have been compelled to fight him single handed the moment that he had violated the Monroe Doctrine; and fewer still will deny that if and when Hitler wins that we shall be compelled to fight him single-handed the moment he violates the Monroe Doctrine.

And who would deny that the Kaiser was more easily defeated by the Allies with our help than if we alone had been forced to fight him; and that England and ourselves can hold Hitler in check more easily than can we alone only the most naive would contradict.

All victorious dictators regard everything worth taking as their very own. How could anyone of sound mind be so forgetful as to believe that Hitler will not claim everything in sight if he wins? Surely, he has given a most convineing demonstration of exactly what we can expect if England falls. That is why we must see to it that England does not fall

Getting Money Out of Dad

There is a newspaper joke that that tells how the lady was asked why she so hoarse. The reply was that she had just talked her husband out of a dollar.

Many women say it takes a heap of argument to induce their husbands to give them money. These husbands seem convinced the wives are bent on a course of free spending that will bankrupt the family. It is humiliating to a woman if she has to ask her husband for money every time she needs to buy ham and eggs, or every time she wants a pair of stockings. There may be wives who would spend money as fast as they get it, but as a rule the women look at a dollar a long time before they part with it, and they look a long time at the article for which they give up the dollar,

A New Weather System

Well, we have run across all sorts of weather systems, but the latest, reported from New England, tells of a man who predicts that Preston, Caroline county, will have twenty two more snowstorms—meaning snow deep enough to bury a cat's track.

The seer bases his prediction upon a private system, which "has been accurate, although unscientific." Noting the first snowstorm, deep enough for the cat's paw to leave an impression, he observes the date of the month which is supposed to tell how many snowstorms are coming the winter. By substracting those that have already occurred he ascertains how many are coming.

Well, this is his system; you can take it or leave it,

Was the World's War a Nightmare?

Germany's almost uncontested dominance of the Old World must rise as a horrible nightmare to haunt the dreams of those alleged statesmen who, in the first World War, had the power and means to forever banish her as a threat to world peace.

Our own General Pershing's insistence upon Germany's unconditional surrender, instead of the farcical armistice which followed her defeat, was the plain signpost leading to a just and enduring peace; but the politicians, running true to form, chose to ignore the counsel of a real fighting man in the field, and so, after a short interlude of so-called peace, we find the world once again turned into a shambles by a neurotic Austrain guttersnipe

It is inconceivable that France and England, with their elaborate intelligence systems, could remain in ignorance of Hitler's preparation for war and conquest during the last fifteen years. A firm stand then would have obviated the necessity for the present struggle, which most military authorities agree will last for years—with no assurance as to who will be the victor in the end.

Our Overworked Sports.

On my weekend vacation to home, sweet home, I was surprised at the long(?) hours our merchants mechanics, oystermen et al., have to labor to complete a day's work Opening in the morning at 9 o'clock, and after breakfast, for an argument, says 10 o'clock, look around for fifty-two loose pasteboard with color photos, which they manipulate until noon and repeat afternoon and night, oftimes until the wee sma' hours.

I would suggest banking hours, with breakfast at 9 and dinner at 3, or two meals these short wintery days, thus giving our sports ample time to enjoy an evening of pleasure at an hour conducive to the life of Reilly on Easy street

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