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Three Partners

The defense program will furnish the acid test of of our government, our industries and our workers. There can be no alibis for failure. There can be no excuse for waste of time and effort. This year, which is perhaps the most critical year in our history as a democracy, may tell whether free individual enterprise is to survive—or whether it is to be replaced by another system, in which government is the dominant factor in all our lives.

In the problem our nation faces there are three partners. Each has vast responsibilities, for failure of either could destroy the others.

One partner is industry, to which we turn for the means of defense and the implements of peace—the factories, farms and mines, the power plants which motivate the machines, the transportation systems which haul the raw materials and the finished goods—these are the backbone of America. Private industry must do a greater job than it ever did before to demonstrate its production and service superiority as its reason for existence.

The second partner is labor—the men who operate the machine and build the weapons of defense and the necessities and luxuries of peace. The responsibilty of labor is crystal clear. It must work harder, and produce more. It must outlaw strikes and settle grievances between it and industry, over the arbitration table.

It must put aside petty jealousies and internal differences for the duration of the emergency, if it wishes to hold public sympathy and good will.

The third partner is government Its financial strength depends upon taxes from the earnings of private industry. The duty of the government now is to adopt a policy of friendly cooperation with industry, and thus help it meet the extraordinaryly difficult problems it faces in order to supply the emergency needs of government.

So it's up to the three partners now. Walter Lippman recently wrote, "American industry will not fail in the test. The world will see this year the proof that this young continent possesses the energy which, throttled down in these ten years of depression and confusion, will pour forth to astound the world."

Hitler Almost Ready

In military circles, the feeling that Hitler will soon make his supreme effort to defeat England is almost unanimous. Time is working with Britain. Hitler the officers think, must win this year or certainly lose.

American correspondents in Germany report a feeling of complete and apparently sincere confidence on the part of Reich officials. England, some of them say, will be finished inside six months Hitler is supposed to be perfecting his plans and organization now. The Germans think England can be broken by destroying her shipping, by greater air raids, and finally, by invasion when British morale has been weakened.

The British are convinced that, with unstinted American aid, they can't lose. They say they have some new weapons which will prove highly unpleasant surprises for invaders. The Germans still talk about new weapons too. So far, however, despite all such talk, this war hasn't produced anything but improvements on old weapons.

Britain has just adopted tighter food rationing. German diet is reported still on the downgrade. Europe will be a mighty hungry place when the war ends.

Not Too Hot — Not Too Cold

By JOHN EMBERT

Defense Work with no Strikes

Public necessity demands that employers and employes engaged in national defense work be regarded as quasi-public servants, and, as such, those including members of organized labor should refrain from interfering with the orderly progress of preparing and providing for national defense projects. All controveries regarding wages, hours of labor and working conditions should be referred to and adjusted by an impartial board.

After all, the work entailed in connection with the national defense of the United States of America cannot be considered strictly as a private function, and, being public in its object, the public interest is all important. Anything that interferes with the public interest, which includes the general welfare of the people, must be set aside. National defense, if interferred with, may result in serious consequence to and perhaps the annihilation of the Government.

With this in mind, should the Goverament cease to function, and our method of democratic life be supersed by a totalitarian foreign government, labor unions would be the first to feel the iron hand of suppression and destruciion. As I know and understand the men and women of organized labor, they, if properly advised and directed, will prove that they love their America and that their patriotism, as Americans, transends the dollar mark.

Strikes or lockouts have no place in our social, economical or political economy when the Government calls for all hands to assist in the national defense,

Will We be Camels?

I can remember the days when it was my job to help unload schooners from polish bars, but it appears that I with the rest of the wet folks, that we will have to do the camel stunt in Queen Anne's unless we are able to get the voters to put over a referendum at the November election in 1942.

It is a trite saying that "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink!" I might continue that a booze hound, or one who enjoy a morning bracer, will have it at the cost of putting his family in want—as the last drought proved—besides the many lives were taken from that terrible fluid called hooch

Our taxpayers ought to think long and deep before closing our beer parlors on Sundays, as it will bring back more drunkenness, with no revenue to the county, and make drundards of men and women who now enjoy glass and go their way, without sitting for hours swilling beer and liquor in their homes, clubs and other places.

This move is only a forewarning of perhaps, prohibition in the near future, thus taking away millions of dollars of and weakening defense. We wonder if the soft drinks folks would make good the loss in revenue?

If our dry sister counties want their booze hounds to be dry and good on Sundays, why not keep them in their own thresholds and buy from their own bootleggers instead of going to wet counties on Sundays?

My experience has convinced me that alcoholic beverages makes strange bed fellows, and it makes the young folks start sowing their wild oats early, but not as soon as when speakeasies were the style.

Farmers Going Strong

Farm prices, according to the latest information issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, in mid-December averaged 101 per cent of the 1910-14 level, further decreasing the spread between prices paid and prices received by the farmer. Also, farm product prices were relatively stable during 1940. This is good for agriculture. The American farmer has steadily improved his position in spite of chaotic conditions over most of the world. A large share of the credit for this must go to the farmer himself

He has not let government farm aid deaden his resourcefulness. Federal money has not blinded him to the fact in the long run he will sink or swim, depending upon his own initiative. He has steadily sought to improve production and marketing techniques.

In the latter respect, the farmer-owned marketing cooperatives are becoming a national institution. They have demonstration their strength and soundness over many years. The farmer would be lost without them in the business world of today.

A Lucky Fisherman.

I certainly appreciate the following true(?) fish story that was handed me by our artist and fisherman. John Sudy, and I hope other rod and reel fishermen will appreciate it:

"While fishing with a sport fisherman of Kent Island—it could be Tom Price—near Tilghman's Island, hooked a fish last summer which was strong enough to overpower him. In the struggle he not only lost the fish but his glasses, watch and a ten dollar gold piece. Later in the year he succeeded in landing the fish in the same spot. When the fish was dragged ashore it wore the spectacles and held the watch under one fin. When the fish was dressed the ten dollars with six per cent interest were found in its stomach."

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