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Past, Present and Future

The United States has just passed it first anniversary in a global war, and the publication of the full story of the tragedy of Pearl Harbor overcast for a period the favorable news that came from our men battling in Africa and 'round the world through the Pacific.

Of course it is encouraging to read in this week's newspapers that today, a great new munitions industry is out-producing the Axis, particularly as these claims are varified by the cold figures put out by the Office of War Information in reporting the upward swing of production of planes,tank bombers, guns, ships, and materials.

While the President has been telling the country that there must be "no relaxation on the part of the manufacturers of the country" as long as any hostile force confronts us his Chief of War Production lays down a measuring-stick that proves that the United States is now entering the "third-stage" of the war, with "all-out mobilization and centralized direction." This is a good description of the policy of our Government, and it has justified Mr. Nelson's conclusion that free enterprise has won its right to proceed in the war effort with less Governmental control—commonly known by the various names of "bureaucracy," "red tape," "socialism" and 'confusion."

In reviewing the first year of the war Mr. Nelson declared that the success of production was so magnificient that the American public is hardly able to realize the greatness of our own accomplishments.

But Mr. Harley Lutz, professor Public Finance at Princeton University, really rings the bell when he says that there is no cause to worry about the final results of the military war, but 'there is reason for the gravest concern over the outcome of our civil war—the war of the screwy social reformers against the American way of life." He has warned his countryment against existing political methods that have placed "strangle-holds upon business, and whichcan effectively prevent the private enterprise system from reasserting its traditional vigor."

But despite our rubber disasters, oil shortages, and countless other restrictions, the fact remains that American ingenuity, science, invention and countless discoveries in the world of today are harbingers of hope that American ingenuity will out strip all the marvelous records that have been chalked up in this twentieth century.

Our New Managers

Henceforth, workers shall be hired through the U. S. Employment Service, and no employer shall retain a worker who may be needed more urgently in a more essntial occupation. Prsident Roosevelt directs Mr. McNutt to regulate the training programs of the Army and Navy and the WAACS in non-Federal institutions.

The authority of Mr. McNutt seems to be a case of the sky is the limit, as he is directed to prevent and relieve hardships and inequities, and establish proceedings for appeals.

Just where Governor Lehman and Secretary of Agriculture Wickard divide authority is not entirely clear unless it is assumed—for the sake of being agreeable—that Mr. Wickard is charged with the duty of making good o nhis assertions that the biggest crops in history will be those raised in 1942 and 1943 on American farms under his direct control.And again, Mr. Wickard is told to administer the rationing programs of Leon Henderson. The latter Czar seems to have done a lot of pinch hitting on his own account since he retains authority over prices, irrespective of Wickard.

The Secretary of Agriculture is following up his old job and therefore he is not as such a disadvantage as might be supposed.

On the other hand McNutt attacks a job in which the employers have been steadily shoved around by the help of Administration agencies, until it seems to be a question of whether the people who own, direct and manage large industrial companies will be able to continue to manage their own properties in the face of the inroad of a few labor leaders who actually have been in control of American manpower ever since the sit-down strikes in Detroit several years ago.

If McNutt can swing a heavy enough club to break the stranglehold of labor leaders he will be the wonder man of this war. He knows "where he is at," because he has seen Congress fail in its attempts to pass legislation to stabilize American manpower.

Mass Distribution Helps Win War

Mass distribution is as essential as mass production. Both were created to meet the growing needs of growing nation.

The modern retail merchant is the backbone of modern mass production. Anyone who doubts this has only to walk into a retail store during the rush hour. There he can see the real meaning of mass distribution. He can see where millions of America's war workers obtain the necessities of life with speed and efficiency. Waiting for service is held to a minimum A well lighted interior, scientifically arranged, eliminates delay in hunting for articles And the prices are fair. The average merchant operates on a very slim profit margin for every dollar of gross sales.

If it were not for modern merchandising efficiency,the problems of retail distribution in the existing emergency would be virtually insurmountable. Complicated price restrictions, labor shortages, and skyrocketing taxes are but a few of the head aches. Chain and independent merchants are working together to serve the people. The big job is to feed and clothe 130,000,000 American while they get on with the business of winning the war.

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

Obituary to a Departed Creature

We do not mourn her passing. She was a casualty of December 7, 1941, A creature of indifference, whose heart (if indeed she had one) beat in an empty shell. Her life a wasted thing and done, there were no tears to mourn her passing. No one to write "Here lies . . ." with pathos. No one to say "I'm a better man for having known her." And yet she lived among us and was accepted everywhere. As familiar as an old shoe to many of us, but the shoe began suddenly to pinch and annoy . . . it didn't fit any more. You knew her—we all did.Her name was . . . . Indolence.

Bad Biz Mixing American And British Troops

No man who desires to win this war quickly can sympathize with the innumerable carpers. But it seems to me that the placing of British troops under American commanders and vice versa, is a bit dangerous.

The commanders themselves, and most of the officers under them, can be relied upon. But some correspondents, and even some officers on both sides, will claim all the glory, in case of victory, for their own people and attempt to saddle the blame for possible failure or mistakes on the other side.

I know that in World WarI this often happened. It seems to me that good feeling between our two nations is vital for victory, and even more so for reconstruction.

Farm Labor

In spite of the ingenious attempt by the Manpower Commission to freeze farm labor to the job, the farm workers are said to be getting around the law very nicely by simply neglecting to inform prospective employers that they ever worked on a farm.

The dairy farmers in the Pacific Northwest, which is the largest dairy farming region in this country, are slaughtering milk cattle by the hundreds for beef because of the scarcity of farm help. The canning industry, which is seasonal, is facing a crisis because of the decrease in migratory workers. Unless something is done immediately, we are almost certain to face a food shortage.

Yet the army continues to absorb men as a matter of course by the hundreds of thousands, married as well as single. Mr. Roosevelt still wants a 10,000,000-man army in addition to the enlisted personnel of the navy and Marine Corps. I have heard it said repeatedly by military commentators that it is not so much a tremendous army that is needed as a tremendous and unbroken chain of supplies.

Fighting Front—Home Front

People on the home front are getting a dressing down from military officials and from the fighting-front boys themselves. They say that we (the home front) don't realize that a war is on ;that we gripe about the rationing of gas, sugar, oil, and so forth; that we lose too much time from work; that we talk about civilian morale when we should be writing more letters to the servicemen for their morale; that we even fall short on buying our quota of war bonds that are an investment and not a gift to the Government.

We are told that the boys on the fighting fronts realize very much that a war is on; that our boys are undergoing rationing, too, but rationing of necessities and not of luxuries; that our boys can't take a day off when they feel like it; that our boys are getting fifty dollars a month and not fifty dollars a week; that more mail goes out of posts than comes in; that there is pletny of bond buying being done by our fighting front boys when they are not even expected to do so.

I put the above down with the intention of stating the accusations by the fighting front against the home front ,and then, in following paragraphs, defending the stand of the home front.

But after putting them down and thinking them over, I decided that my heart and soul are with those boys on the fighting front and what ever I write to defend the home front would be insincere, so I could not go on. . . . .

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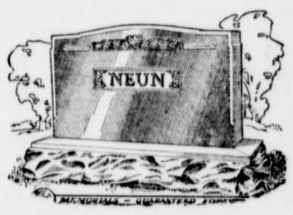
$85.00  **$85.00**

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