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GOOD MORALS AND GOOD NEIGHBORS

The building up of trade between the nations of the New World is the main economic problem of the Conference at Lima. United States ships are providing the transportation for goods and products to all Latin-American nations. Credit facilities to carry on many times the present volume of commerce have been created with the backing of the United States Government.

The gesture by the United States to place the defense of the two contintents of the Western Hemisphere on a cooperative basis is a pretty liberal offer inasmuch as the United States will have to foot most of the bills.

American capital and enterprise have pioneered in developing the natural resources of Latin-America. Europe wedged in after we opened the way. It is not over-stating historical facts to add that the United States has always pursed lofty ideals in backing up the weaker Republics of the South, which we promised to protect—not for a few weeks, or years—but, forever.

Now, Mexico, just beyond our borders, goes with its delegates to the Pan-American Conference, planning with other nations for the "codification of international law," and urging the doctrine of Calvo of Argentine "that the collection of pecuniary claims made by the citizens of one country against the government of another country should never be made by force."

The work of the Lima Conference involves moral problems. If governments lack morals they cannot profess to be good neighbors. Mexico is a black sheep in the international flock. "It is clear," says the Journal of Commerce of New York "that fair treatment for American investors, regardless of whether they are bondholders, oil companies or other enterprises is in no sense a consequence of fear of armed might." United States soldiers chased Mexican border-raiders back into their hills a number of years ago, but we are not apt to use armed "force" as a collection agency. The Mexican press mis-used the Calvo doctrine for home consumption.

The fact is that Mexico goes to Lima with "unclean hands". It gave preference to Germany in foreign trade; and aid and comfort to Russia in practice and preaching communistic methods—most notable during the recent "international labor conference" in its Capital city.

Many American newspapers are urging the Lima Conference to issue a strong declaration to check further "flagrant wrongs" by one nation upon the people of another nation.

This particularly interests the United States inasmuch as our easy manner so frequently makes us the goat.

Ambassador Wilson was recalled from Germany because our Government is out of patience, and out of sympathy with Germany. So long as Germany leaves us alone, we will treat that Government the same way. But, it is certain that all this preparedness movement is due, almost entirely, to distrust of the German Government.

Ambassador Phillips returns to his post at Rome. Mussolini may not be running his Government our way, but the United States does not feel apprehensive about Italy.

Several grave questions that concern peace and war have become the responsibility of the new Congress that will meet soon. The international situation can be described in the single word—Bad. It offers a challenge to statesmanship and not a test of lung power.

Last week the fourteen offices of the Maryland State Employment Service placed 520 men and women in jobs in private industry throughout the State as against 331 placed the previous week. 216 men were put to work with public contractors, making a grand total of 736 placements.

ALMOST

Thefrog—as a French Canadian sees him:
What a queer bird the frog are!
When he sit he stand—almost!
When he walk he fly—almost!
When he sing he cry—almost!
He ain't got no sense, hardly;
He ain't got no tail, hardly, either;
He sit on what he ain't got—almost.
Ain't Nature grand—almost?

—London Answers.

A STUDY OF AMERICAN BUSINESS

J. E. Jones

Washington, D. C., December 12—The preformance record of American business finally comes under the spotlight as the Joint Congressional-Executive Monopoly Committee begins its sessions. It has 500 thousand dollars at its command for the purpose of pursuing investigations into the causes of concentration and control of business; the price system and the price levels, the levels of trade, employment, profits, consumption and effects upon taxation, patents, competition, and every feature of American business that it is possible to link with new policies of the Government.

This Committee was authorized last June by Congress. Since that time the Committee has built up a staff of more than 100, and their preliminary investigations are serving as ammunition for Government economists in presenting lengthy outlines to the Monopoly Committee.

The Committee starts off examinations with the automobile industry, into its practices of the "use, distribution and pooling of patents."

Monopoly investigators indicated that the testimony about the automobile industry is likely to present a picture of unusual interest inasmuch as the industry is comparatively new, modern and progressive—which is more than might be admitted concerning some nineteenth century industries.

The public will have the benefit of the sounding board furnished in the monopoly investigation that will show that there exists and is maintained highly competitive conditions, and a constant lowering of prices for a product that is always being improved. The Committee appears anxious to convey the impression that it is not antagonistic to good business methods and the automobile industry has been selected to show a friendly start, and thereby break down antagonism that is being directed towards the Committee.

The Committee expects to make an early study of insurance companies, investment banking, trade associations, anti-trust laws, and interlocking directorates.

* * *

The Councils Of American Nations

Secretary of State Hull on board the steamship Santa Clara spoke a final message to the American people just before the liner set sail in which he hailed the Pan-American Conference at Lima as "a solid cause for hope in a world threatened with despair." The American Ambassador to Germany had hastened to the ship to deliver a gloomy report to his chief just before the final whistle blew for departure. Mr. Hull said the delegation stood solidly for "the continued loyal observance of the American system" which, he added, was based upon the powers of "consultation and cooperation."

If Herr Hitler or anybody else has been inclined to believe that there is any division in the United States about our fraternal relations with Latin America, the appointment of Alfred M. Landon as a member of the delegation and his public remarks before sailing, furnish the answer.

The Monroe Doctrine is 115 years old. It was not a one-man idea, by any means, as Jefferson, John Quincy Adams and other leaders of that period backed the new American doctrine that was proclaimed by President Monroe. The Holy Alliance headed by the Emperor of Russia was making threatening gestures against new world democracy, and our "old boys" in the United States thumbed their noses at the dictators and told the Holy Alliance to read the Monroe Doctrine, and be sure to understand that it was not a bluff.

In years that have passed Latin American countries have frequently complained of the United States as the "Colossus of the North," and within recent weeks our State Department has been calling Mexico a cheat and a fraud—of course in diplomatic language. And there is no doubt but what Mexico will be asked to change its methods by the Councils of American nations.

In fact Pan-America is no Pollyanna union of Nations. For 50 years understandings have improved. Misunderstandings have been cleared up in more than a half dozen conferences like the one at Lima. A blast from the Old World accuses the United States with "imperialism"—but that doesn't matter.

OLD AGE INSURANCE

Q. I am a little confused about the question of benefits for old people. There is a lot of talk about old-age pensions; some people speak of old-age insurance, and some call it ond-age assistance. What is the difference—if any—in these terms?

A. Strictly speaking, there is no such thing as a fixed pension paid by the Federal Government to the aged. Old-age assistance is given by a State to its own aged citizens who are in need. The Federal Government grants money to the State to help take care of its needy aged in their own homes. Old-age assistance is relief money for people, 65 years old and over, who have no means of support. Old-age insurance will be paid by the Federal Government to each insured worker after he reaches age 65. Benefits are based on the worker's own earnings, and will be paid regardless of need. Old-age insurance is very much like an annuity. The benefits which accrue, month after month, during his working years, will be paid to the insured worker after he reaches age 65.

Q. I read in the paper that ten million dollars have been paid out by the Government for old-age insurance, with more than 234,000 people in the United States sharing the benefits. Who are these beneficiaries Why are they getting old-age insurance payments now? I work all the time, in spite of the fact that I am nearly 60 years old, and I have been paying my one percent wage tax every week for almost two years; but nobody sends me any old-age insurance money.

A. Two types of old-age insurance benefits are paid now. One is the death benefit, which the Federal Government pays to a relative (or estate) of an insured worker who dies before receiving the benefits which have accrued to his social security account. The other type of lump-sum benefit now payable is for the insured worker who has reached the age of 65 since the first of January, 1937. This lump-sum payment is provided under the Social Security Act for a wage-earner who does not have a chance to qualify for the regular monthly retirement benefits. By the time you reach age of 65, the monthly benefits provided by the Act will be payable. Then, instead of receiving one lump-sum payment as a claimant does now, you will receive monthly payments (if you are qualified and stop work), and you will get a Government check every month for the rest of your life. The amount of the monthly payment will depend upon the total amount of wages you have been paid since 1936 in a job that comes under the law.

Q. A man who has worked for two years in a stove foundry reached his 65th birthday recently and filed a claim for old-age insurance benefits. Last week he received a check for about $60. All right, he has that one check, but he will not be able to work much longer, and he has no one in the world to support him in his old age. What I want to know is whether or not any other money, besides this one lump-sum payment, can be obtained for him under the Social Security Act.

A. That is entirely possible. Another part of the Social Security Act, known as "Old-Age Assistance," provides for the care of the needy aged through joint contributions from State and Federal Governments. If it becomes necessary for this man to seek Government aid, he should apply for old-age assistance to his local public welfare department.

MAY SUPPORT WAR VOTE PLAN

The Ludlow bill, providing for a referendum on war, may find its list of supporters increased in the next session of Congress by the addition of Senator William E. Borah, Republican of Idaho. The Senator who came out last week against the granting to the President of broader discretionary powers in dealing with foreign affairs, declared that "if this centralization of powers as to wars and armements (with the constant burdening of the people as a consequence) is to continue, I would undertake to put the Ludlow amendment in practical form and to support it."

This is the first time that the Senator has indicated his endorsement of the war vote in any form A strong fight was waged in the House of Representatives last year to discuss the Ludlow proposal but the move was defeated by eleven votes.

Denouncing the so-called democracies of Europe as not being democracies at all when it comes to preparing for war, Senator Borah expressed the view that "the people of this country do not want their President to pursue such a course of bluffing and rading which is being pursued by the heads of the European powers."

The area of Alaska is more than twice as large as that of Texas. Texas has 265,795 square miles and Alaska 586,400.

Fascists can train kids to like discipline, but we can't train them to like liberty. They like it too darned well now.

Let Your Home Glow with

GAY CHRISTMAS CHEER

It's the season of warm, good fellowship — sharing the Yuletide spirit with friends, neighbors . . . even strangers! And consciously or unconsciously it is the motivating power that spurs civic-minded homemakers to transform their homes into a gay symphony of color every night during the holidays. The picture is enjoyed by all passers-by. The owner has the happy satisfaction of providing pleasure to his community. It's a potent expression of—peace on earth . . . good will to all men!

Electricity . . . Cheaper in Quantity

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Elimination Of Static On Plane To Ground Phone Calls Seen In Near Future

Ultra - High - Frequency Apparatus Developed By Bell Laboratories In Cooperation With TWA Line

Static-free radio telephone transmission between airplane pilots and landing field attendants has been demonstrated in tests made by the Bell Telephone Laboratories in cooperation with Transcontinental and Western Air, Inc. Despite thunderstorms and other atmospheric disturbances, flight tests of new ultra-high-frequency apparatus, utilizing channels in the band from 100 to 150 megacycles, show the system to be substantially free from adverse atmospheric conditions.

The system has been tested under actual flying conditions over the New York-Pittsburgh route of TWA. Should continuing tests, now being carried forward to explore the new system's behavior on other typical airways, verify the initial results, radio telephony at these frequencies will find extensive use, not only for aviation but also for police radio telephone and other land services.

Early in 1938 arrangements were made with TWA for an operational test of the new equipment on the Pittsburgh-New York airway. Ultra-high-frequency transmitters and receivers were installed near the airport at Pittsburgh and on top of The New York Telephone Company building situated in lower Manhattan. The latter equipment was controlled remotely from TWA's dispatch office in Newark. In addition to the Laboratories' airplane, ultra-high-frequency equipment was also installed in a TWA skyliner, which has been flown on regular schedule between Pittsburgh and New York. Both the aircraft installations and those on the ground were made separate from the regular complement of radio transmitting and receiving equipment normally employed for airline operations.

A month's trial under actual operating conditions, during which all types of weather were encountered, showed the new system to be free from static disturbances even in the presence of violent thunderstorms. Rain static, another common source of interference, left the equipment undisturbed and the almost total absence of background noise, which usually crackles in the pilot's ears continuously, proved to be an important advantage through relieving discomfort and fatigue.

The tests gave additional verification to the fact that ultra-high-frequency transmission will not carry for any considerable distance beyond the horizon. Although this characteristic represents a handicap to the general application of such short waves, it is less important to aircraft communication because the airplane's horizon is continuously expanded as it gains altitude. It does mean, however, that for airline operation, a greater number of ground stations will be required along the line of flight than with present lower frequency equipment operating between 3,000 and 6,000 kilocycles.

"You look awfully nice!" pleases men more than women, but not because they are vainer. They don't hear it so often.

INCOME TAX RETURN FORMS

Commsisioner of Internal Revenue Guy T. Helvering announced today that the principal income tax return forms for the taxable year 1938 (Forms 1040, 1040-A, 1065, 1120, and 1120-A) will be available in the offices of the various collectors of internal revenue on or about January 5, 1939. The exact release date will be announced later.

As customary, the forms will be distributed to the public by collectors of internal revenue and not by the Bureau in Washington.

The Commissioner stated that his office has been informally advised that the Superintendent of Documents of the Government Printing Office will not offer 1938 income tax return forms for sale, as in the case of the 1937 forms, and that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is without authority to sell any of its forms.

All collectors have been advised by the Commissioner of his desire to have tax practitioners, banks, trust companies, etc., furnished with forms actually needed for tax purposes. "Tax purposes" is construed to include forms reasonably required for use as work sheets and permanent file copies.

The Commissioner stated that funds allotted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for obtaining printed matter are extremely limited and stressed the necessity for taxpayers to utilize the forms mailed to them. In this connection he requests taxpayers who engage accountants or others to prepare their returns to turn over to the persons so engaged the forms which will be received through the mails.

The Bureau is unable to furnish forms for other than tax purposes, but it has no objection to their reproduction, provided there is no deviation from size and subject of matter of such forms, by persons desiring to use them for non-tax purposes or to augment the supply received for tax purposes from collectors of internal revenue. All collectors have been authorized to furnish specimen copies of the forms in such cases.

BLOOD DONORS SOUGHT

Major General Milton A. Reckord this week authorized members of the Maryland National Guard to volunteer as blood donors with the new blood transfusion bureau being established by the Baltimore Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Baltimore is one of ten cities in which a blood donors bureau is being established. Volunteers will have their blood classified and if they qualify, will be subject to call when an emergency blood transfusion is required.

Units of the Maryland National Guard located in Baltimore City have been offered an opportunity to volunteer for this humanitarian work.

If the new bureau is a success, it is expected that similar bureaus will be established in other towns and cities of the State.

The two things that cause a man to speak discreetly are the wisdom of mature years and having a family to support.

When your work seems rotten, don't despair till you examine the work of others. If it seems rotten, too, it's your liver.

FARM BENEFIT PAYMENTS TO BE MADE

Agriculture departments officials state that benefit payments under the 1938 crop program will be distributed this winter and spring—several months earlier than similar payments have gone out in past seasons.

The earlier payments were decided on, they said, with the objective of increasing farm purchasing power at a time when market receipts are low.

About $500,000,000 in benefit payments are to be distributed. Officials said grower applications for payment would be received during December and January and the first checks would go into the mail in February.

The bulk of payments made under the 1937 program went out during the past summer and fall.

When the 1938 checks reach farmers, Congress may be debating proposals to substitute some other type of farm legislation for the present law. Secretary Wallace has opposed any drastic change in the present law, asking that it be given a longer trial.

Most of the 1938 benefit payments will go to producers of cotton, corn, wheat, rice and tobacco for planting within acreage allotments.

Later next year, possibly in September and October, the department will distribute $212,000,000 in price adjustment payments to growers of the major crops who comply with the 1939 program. An additional $50,000,000 will be distributed to sugar growers during the spring and summer.

These payments, totaling $762,000,000 will be the largest amount ever available for one year.

CHRISTMAS CACHET

Every December hundreds of people from all parts of the United States have their Christmas greetings letters mailed from Bethlehem, Maryland. This year the letters will be mailed in a three colored cachet envelope. The envelope will contain a special souvenir giving a new version of the "Birthday of Birthdays" and a little story about this peaceful Bethlehem on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The envelops with 3c stamp furnished will be postmarked on Christmas day. With the special souvenir and special envelope, the cachets will cost 6c each (stamps or Coins).

I am fifteen years old, a Junior in High School, a stamp collector, and a member of the Jolly Juniors' Club of the Methodist Church. I would like to send every Sunday school pupil and every stamp collector one of tehse cachets from our little Bethlehem this Christmas.

Marjorie Ann Chambers

Red Coral Always Prized

It is red coral that is and always has been prized, not solely for jewelry and buttons, but as a charm to bring safety, health and secrets not revealed to the ordinary person. As ancient Gauls rushed headlong into battle, they trusted their safety to their swords, strength and the "magic" coral imbedded in their shields or helmets. Many Italians and Indians regard coral as protection against the "evil eye." The world's red coral comes from the reefs off the Mediterranean coast of Africa, says the Washington Post, and is obtained chiefly by Italians.