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Friday, November 17, 1939

Those who forecast that the frank anti-dictatorship seniment of the American people would rapidly lead us into war once it broke out abroad (and many made exactly that forecast during the past few years) seem to have backed a losing horse. Going by the best evidence available, the martial spirit has not increased a whit in this country since the war began.

A late Fortune poll is of exceptional interest. According to the poll, only 1.7 per cent of the people believe we should enter the war on the side of the Allies, in October, where 2.3 per cent thought we should, in September. Slightly over 10 per cent thought we should join the Allies if they are getting the worst of it, where 13.5per cent approved of course the month before. This overwhelming isolationist spirit obtains even though, according to the same poll, more than 84 per cent of our people want England and France and their friends to win, and only 1.3 per cent want Germany and her friends to win (the balance replied that they favored neither side, or didn't know).

More and more of us seem to think that Europe's quarrels are Europe's business, and that, hate the dicators as we will, we must keep our hands out of the mess. All in all, today, say men whose business is feeling the public pulse, America's chances of remaining at peace are very good indeed.

We Americans have often been called a wasteful and improvident people. It's true we often spend money recklessly—but, at the same time, when it comes to erecting financial safeguards against the future, we have no competitors.

This country accounts for but 7 per cent of the world's population. And yet we own 70 per cent of all the world's life insurance.

So the fact is that we don't scatter our wherewithal to the winds at every opportunity. We spend more for luxuries than the people of any other country because we earn and have more. And we also spend more for the necessities—of which adequate financial protection is one of the most vital.

According to an article by James McMullin in the Syracuse Herald Journal, "More damage was done during the recent New York milk strike than any previous milk strike in history. Insiders estimate that more than $2,000,000 worth of milk was destroyed, to say nothing of the destruction of trucks, farm property, milk plant equipment, ect."

Needless to say, the strike didn't succeed. Many honest farmers joined in the strike at the beginning, only to disassociate themselves once the leaders adopted their terrorization tactics.

For several years past the world has witnessed the German technique of broadcasting the thought that the countries it wished to annex needed German protection—that German citizens in those countries were being persecuted and were clamoring for German rule. The world is familiar with the way Germany absorbed country after country by this technique.

DAIRY MONTH RINGS THE BELL

What organized merchandising can do for agriculture is vividly illustrated in a report of the results achieved during Dairy Month, which was observed last June.

The producers, represented by the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, turned to the retailers for aid. Chain stores and others immediately responded. Ambitious plans were laid and carried out. Committees of producers were organized in many states, and worked effectively with the organized retailers.

Upshot was that, in results, the campaign fully realized the hopes of all concerned. The food chain stores alone sold 11.3 per cent more butter than in the same month a year before, 31.2 per cent more cheese, 11.8 per cent more canned milk, 14.2 per cent more fluid milk, and 34.7 per cent more cream. The increase in butter sales amounted to more than 6,000,000 pounds—and each pound of butter represents nearly ten quarts of milk. Similar results were doubtless obtained by other types of stores which participated in the Month, but for which records are not available.

TIME FOR A REAL UNDER STANDING

J. E. Jones

It is recalled that President Harding took steps "looking to the resumption of diplomatic relations" with Mexico. Mexico was against our side during war with Germany and the Washington Administration. "scratched it off" our friendly list.

The Harding plan of 1923 to make a good neighbor out of Mexico still remains an uncompleted task.

In March, 1938, the President of Mexico declared the confiscation of foreign-owned oil properties. Secretary of State Hull promptly protested and stressed his "serious concern about the possibilities inherent in the development in the oil situation in Mexico." He expressed "the hope" of adjustment "before a state too highly acute and too highly complicated" might be reached. He called attention to the fact that Americans had "invested their savings" in these properties, and asserted that the startling issues presented by the seizures must yield to "every priniciple of international law, of comity between nations and of equity." He notified Mexico that it would be required to pay for the properities it had taken. Mexico, true to form, has dodged the issues for over a year and a half.

Uncle Sam, anxious to do everything he could to preserve friendly relations with Mexico, continued to buy Mexican silver (which he did not need) because Mexico needed the cash it brought her. And Mexico on her part misinterpreted this generous gesture as being an official condonation of her confiscation of American-owned oil properties.

Since no apparent progress has been made in reconciling matters with Mexico, now in default by hundreds of millions of dollars on foreign debts, including American-owned railroads, mines, utilities, farm, industrial and oil properties, it would seem high time for the United States to call for a showdown.

Certainly Mexico's relations with us are not "neighborly."

* * * *

Flaws In The Laws

Southern states continue their objections to standardized wages and hours, because those States produce more cheaply than the North—on account of climatic advantages.

There are many complaints, mostly from the South, about inequalities of railroad rates. The claim is that some sections of the country can be served by the railroads cheaper than other parts.

Those are visible flaws in the above laws. There is a growing demand in favor or patching-up the punctures and blow-outs, in order that collective bargaining between employers and unions may become workable.

The National Labor Relations Administration has shown a very unreasonable attitude toward industries and its employers and employes. Nevertheless, nothing more than plain commonsense changes are needed in that Administration to make the law a valuable agency of the Government.

Undoubtedly some of the members of the Labor Board should be relieved from office, and replaced by able and fair-minded men who would hold the Board down to its practical and obvious duties—which are mostly of Judicial nature.

* * * *

The Communist Party

Democracy does not guarantee to minority groups the right to conduct their affairs in secrecy. Along with the liberty to think and speak as we please must go individual responsibility before the public for such conduct.

This underhand method of the Communists brings them under suspicion. The Dies Congressional investigating Committee believes the Communist party is un-American and dominated by Russia.

* * * *

Buying For The Railroads

News reports are to the effect that the railroads of the country have bought more than 160 million dollar of new equipment. They are stepping up, mostly with borrowed money.

That's why the financially weak and bankrupt roads are also buying, just as though they had their own money to do it with.

* * * *

Drivers Headaches

Practically every motorist has had drivers-headaches at some time or another. Eye-strain symptoms including smarting, heaviness, haziness, burning, aching, tditching, waivering and blurred vision were universal in the old times when drivers looked through window-glass. Now we are assured that these accessories-before-the-headaches have been licked to a frazzle and that the triumphs in glass have reduced the ill-effects on vision by 140 per cent, besides insuring safety for the motorists.

* * * *

Starve Germany

Former President Hoover concludes that the United States will not go to war with the Allies, because American troops will not be needed. The reason they will not be needed is because France and Britain, by cutting out wastes of war, will be able to reduce Germany and starve it to peace.

CALIFORNIA PENSION PLAN DEFEATED

California's "Ham and Eggs" pension constitutional amendment was again defeated at the election in that state on Nov. 7th. Tre purpose of the proposed amendment was to pay thirty dollars every Thursday to jobless citizens over fifty years of age.

Last year the amendment was placed on the ballot after a petition carrying 800,000 signatures—four times more than legally necessary—had been presented. It was voted down at the general electric, however.

The "$30 every Thursday" supporters again placed the proposed amendment on the ballot this year by a petition signed by 1,000,000 "Ham and Eggers," but it again went down to defeat..

The plan was officially called the "California State Retirement Life Payments Act." It proposed the payment of 30 $1 state warrants each week to everybody over 50 who was jobless. To keep the warrants in circulation, each person who held a warrant on a Thursday would be required to paste a special 2-cent stamp on its back. The theory was that to avid affixing a 2-cent stamp, the holder would spend the warrants before the following Thursday, thereby speeding their turnover, increasing the demand for goods and services beyond all imagination, and setting factories humming and expanding.

The stamps were to be purchased from the state with real money. With space on the back of each warrant for 52 such stamps, it would, at the end of the year, have accumulated $1.04 worth. Then the state would redeem this for $1 in cash, having 4 cents left over for administrative expenses.

The warrants were to be accepted by the state and municipal governments in payment of taxes, except the gasoline tax. Warrants thus received were to be used to pay half the salaries of public employees and half of all governmental purchases. Transactions in warrants were to be exempt from all sales taxes, and incomes received in warrants were to be exempt from the state income tax.

A. F. of L. vs. C. I. O.

Hardy perennial among labor problems is that of bringing about peace between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. So far, no efforts have been successful. The last one, engineered by President Roosevelt last spring, petered out when C. I. O. Chieftain John L. Lewis halted peace negotiations to wrangle a close-shop contract out of the coal operators and then never returned to the council table.

At its fifty-ninth annual convention in Cincinnati, O., the A. F. of L. passed the peace buck to the C. I. O. And as the C. I. O. prepared to open its second annual convention in San Francisco, Lewis refused to take it.

Some action towards labor peace was called for by a message from President Roosevelt, calling for healing of breach in the interest of "national unity." Answer of the A. F. of L. was to pass a resolution declaring all such presidential pleas in the future "would be more fittingly directed to the C. I. O." It instructed its peace negotiating committee, however, to meet Lewis's men "whenever that organization will indicate a willingness to resume conference."

That Lewis was not willing was indicated in his pre-convention report. Surprisingly, since the C. I. O., has fought changes in the Wagner Act and attacks on the Labor Board, he intimated that his organization might be forced to turn against that act because it favored the A. F. of L. But he ignored all suggestions that he make peace with the Federation.

Americans like to look charming. They spend ten dollars a minute on preparations for manicures alone!

Don't wait for your ship to come in; charter a tug and go out to meet it.

"I DEMAND Light Conditioning"

Don't Deny Young Eyes Good Lighting!

We can't blame this little dictator for demanding the very best in lighting. His eyes are precious and should be protected. That's why we recommend the soft, abundant, indirect light of an I. E. S. lamp. These sight-saving lamps give a scientifically correct light that assures eye comfort and relieves eyestrain.

There's a place in every home where an I. E. S. lamp will be appreciated by some member of the family. It may be a study lamp for the children, a reading lamp for dad, or an end table lamp for mother. Decide to Light-Condition your home with attractive I. E. S. lamps!

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Live Electrically and Save

Present Handbook Giving Advice On Income Tax Laws

First Advice On New Income Tax Rules Compiled By Legal Group

The first handbook advising on income tax procedure has just come off the press and is being presented to the lawyers in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina. It is entitled "Income Tax Procedure—What is the Best Way?"

The book is something new in legal circles and is said to have been suggested by the reported influx into other states of legal talent from Washington as the result of the completion of the decentralization plans of the Internal Revenue Bureau. This plan, begun in 1936, expedites collection of income taxes by giving government field tax offices the same full authority and responsibility formerly exercised at headquarters in Washington.

There is no mention in the book of the current reports that lawyers from the nation's capital, who have long specialized in income tax procedure, are opening branch offices in the major cities and county seats of the country. However, no words are minced as to the necessity of all income taxpayers immediately acquiring the services of attorneys informed in the income tax law. For instance, two paragraphs read:

"As promptly as possible the taxpayer should retain attorneys informed on the income tax law. The income tax law is a law and a complicated one. It requires and is entitled to as much expert handling as is any case of comparable importance which comes before a judical or quasi-judicial body. If the case is a large one the services of accountants are indispensible. If the accounting firm is a responsible one and if its entries on the books of the taxpayer conform to good accounting practice, it is almost certain that the matter will be legally correct.

"Accountants, however, are not lawyers and it is not the function of any accountant, accounting firm or other person who may properly render specialized service, to settle the legal issues involved in any tax matter. It is certain that much expense, much tax, much time and much annoyance could be saved if the taxpayer will select qualified members of the Bar rather than others who claim to be income tax experts."

The handbook has been complied by the office of Karl F. Steinmann, in Baltimore. Twelve years' study and practice in such litigation by Mr. Steinmann, his senior associate, John W. Cable, III, and his other colleagues, qualify them to explain in the handbook what they have found and know to be the best procedure in income tax matters, now that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has completed its decentralization plans. It was conceived by the group of lawyers to be of material aid to other lawyers and it has been presented to the profession at large .

Those lawyers who have read advance copies of the handbook point to the fact that it speaks with authority on a most important subject to both the legal profession and the laity.

No man is truly good who is only so for the sake of praise.

Fear North Sea In Time of War

As in Last Conflict, This Doorway to Germany Is Peril to Shipping.

WASHINGTON. — The laying of German mines, reported extending in a protective horseshoe around the North sea coast of Germany, and the bombing of naval bases on that coast, emphasize the significance of this area in time of war.

"Germany's shipping points are confined to the Baltic and North seas," points out a special bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society. "On the west, between the continent and England, the North sea is an open expanse of water, unobstructed by non-German territory and islands such as narrow the northwest exits from the Baltic. Moreover, it includes all sea lanes from the west to Germany's two most important ports—Hamburg and Bremen.

Protects Surface Warships.

"The North sea coastline of Germany is only about 150 miles long, extending in a jagged northward sweep between the Netherlands' and Danish frontiers. It is protected behind a series of small islands that dot its shores almost all the way. With its deep indentations and ragged edges, this coast offers a certain natural shelter to submarines and other war vessels. Just under the shoulder of one such indentation is located the strongly fortified naval base of Wilhelmshaven. Forty miles to the northeast is Cuxhaven, also a haval base and sea resort for Hamburg. Other important towns in this coastal area are Emden, Bremerhaven, Norden, Heide and Husum.

"Across the great German plain to the low coastal region of the North sea flow two of the nation's most important rivers—the Weser and the Elbe. Emptying into the Deutsche Bucht (German bay), the Elbe leads to the west entrance of the strategic Kiel canal which links the North and Baltic seas across the narrow Danish-German peninsula. Near its mouth lies Hamburg, one of the world's leading ports and Number One doorway for much of Germany's food and raw-material necessities. To the southwest, Bremen, on the Weser, is the warring country's vital receiving point for imported cotton, tobacco, and rice.

Dangerous to Neutrals.

"In normal times, most of Germany's trade is conducted through the North sea ports, which have the additional commercial advantage of being located within easy access of England's great market centers.

"Today, however, these cities lie in one of the most dangerous and strategic of possible war zones. Already one neutral vessel has been reported sunk after striking a mine off the Danish coast north of these shores.

"In the first few weeks of the last World war, ten neutral ships, it is recorded, foundered in the North sea after striking mines. Of these vessels, five were Danish, two Dutch, two Norwegian and one Swedish."

A woman probably feels blue when she is green with envy.

Weekly News Analysis

by Joseph W. La Bine

Gives our readers each week a comprehensive report of the important, verified happenings in war-torn Europe, and in our own country.

You can rely upon it as being authentic, free from the countless unconfirmed rumors and from the propaganda with which European nations are flooding us.

Quote it as your source of information regarding the activities of the war.

read it each week

Printing Brings Clients

Not every business has a show window. If you want to win more clients, use more printing and use the kind of printing that faithfully represents your business policy.

You save money and make money for your patrons. Do the same for yourself by using an economical high grade paper — Hammermill Bond — and good printing, both of which we can give you.

If you want printing service and economy — give use a trial.

Maryland's first entries for the 1939 International Livestock Exposition were made by Mrs. H. Hamilton Hackney, owner of Cold Saturday Farm, near Finksburg.

She has listed exhibits for the purebred Aberdeen-Angus cattle competitions of this largest annual livestock show, which will be held December 2 to 9 at the Chicago Stock Yards.

AMUSING SKETCHES OF "FLOSSY FRILLS"

A full page in color describing the glamorous adventures of peppy, pretty Flossy, the 1940 model American girl. Look for these fascinating sketches in The American Weekly, the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore Sunday American. On sale at all newsstands.