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INDUSTRIAL MOBILIZATION

A month ago the thoughtful editors of the London Economist put their fingers on the cause of Great Britian's astonishing weakness in the war to date.

"An observer sufficiently detached to have no interest in the issue of this war," they declared sadly, "could afford to laugh at the extraordinarily illogical way in which we go about the business of mobilizing for war. Everyone is agreed that this war will be won in the workshop rather than in the field, that the fighting forces are only the cutting edge of a gigantic instrument, that the men in uniform are only a fraction of the man-power that is needed.

Britian's "cutting edge"—her superb Royal Navy, her splendid army and her recklessly brave air force—could do little more than scratch the enemy. For in the workshop, Britian had so far failed. While Germany had spent seven years bending every resource for the perfection of its war machine, Britian had muddled.

Like an avalanche all last month the inescapable lesson swept the United States: if the nation is to be prepared in a warring world, American industry must mobolize. Idle men and idle machines must be swiftly brought together to build the "gigantic instrument" needed for defense.

To defend itself America needs planes, guns, tanks, gas masks, soldiers, sailors and pilots—and to pay for them Congress last week was busy appropriating the unprecedented peacetime sum of four and one-half billion dollars. Still unsolved was the problem of converting the money into a military machine to meet any possible aggressor.—The Pathfinder.

STUDY OF MARYLAND HIGHWAYS

A total of $48,000,000, would be required to bring Maryland highways up to a standard required by traffic and safety conditions, according to figures made public by the Keystone Automobile Club.

The figures are based on a study made by the American Association of State Highway Officials, and support the Club's contention that modernization of Maryland's highway system is a pressing need.

Highways which should be rebuilt, the study disclosed, total 370 miles, and the estimated reconstruction cost is $11,600,000. Highways which should be widened comprise 310 miles, and the estimated cost of the work is $9,000,000. Necessary relocations total 430 miles, at a cost of $22,700,000.

The grand total of 1110 miles in need of modernization, at an expenditure of $43,300,000, is exclusive of bridges which should be widened or rebuilt. The study places the number at 50 and the estimate cost of $4,700,000 making the cost of the improvement recommended $48,000,000.

Keystone officials for years have urged the modernization of the State's roads, pointing out that Maryland has long since lost her proud position as a leader in highway construction. While the Club admits progress has been made in recent years, it emphasizes that the major problem still remains, and urges that every effort be made to render the highways safe by widening and relocation.

Last week the 152nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America had ended. For 10 days in the Masonic Auditorium at Rochester, N. Y., nearly 90 ministerial and lay delegates of the General Assembly, plus some 600 elders and other church officials, had met to set the policy of the Church—which numbers 1,800,000 members—for the coming year.

To relieve the skilled-labor shortage which threatens the defense program, the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps indicated that they could expand their programs to train one million unemployed youth as auto and aviation mechanics, metal and electrical craftsmen.

A man is seldom a cynic unless he has something wrong with his digestive apparatus.

FOR DEFENCE, OR FOR WAR

By J. E. Jones

The United States Government is actually preparing for war. The President and members of his Administration and both houses of Congress have been proceeding along exactly the same lines in making these preparations. There is no important show of politics in proceedings. On the contrary the President has asked for billions of dollars for Congress has approved those recommendations with relatively unimportant changes.

The Hitler machine unloosed its terrors on a half dozen helpless neutral nations as part of its campaigns to crush Britian, which Hitler declares he intends to dominate. Your Government feels that it must be prepared for invasion of the United States or some part of the Western Hemisphere in case Hitler is victorious and captures the British Navy.

A resolution in Congress that is likely to be passed declares that the United States would not "recognize any transfer and would not acquiesce in any attempt to transfer any geographical region of the Western Hemisphere from one non-American power to any other non-American state." That means that the United States forbids the transfer or capture of islands and colonies now under British, French and Dutch sovereignty, such as Jamaica, British Honduras, French Guiana, Dutch Guiana and British Guiana. In direct relation there is actual fear that some Latin-American territory, or the Panama Canal might be invaded by a victorious-Hitler.

Any attempt to inerfere with any colonies, or territory, in the Western Hemisphere, will be regarded by Congress and the Administration as a challenge to the Monroe Doctrine. And if Hitler should seek to violate the Monroe Doctrine there can be but one result--war with the United States.

In 1915 and1916 the Administration and Congress prepared against possibilities that could not be forseen. We said then, as we are saying now, that it was all being done for defense against invasion. In 1917 the United States did the invading. Right now powerful voices are being lifted to demand help for the Allies, even to the point of lending them money and giving them arms, food and ammunition. A very few are talking about going "Over There".

Forces of the Army, Navy and the Air are being increased as they were before the former war, and previous to the draft.

Now we are for defense. Everyone hopes that the remedies prescribed by the Government will stop Hitler from coming into our yard. If he loses, then there will be nothing for America to fear.

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MEDICINE IS A TRADE

American medical associations were prosecuted as trusts within the meaning of the Sherman Act, and found guilty. A recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States refused to review a decision of the lower Court, and that means, according to law, that medicine is a "trade".

Of course the medical profession will say that is wrong, but apparently their objection against the dictionary because those books spell so many words different from stenographers.

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OKEH ELEANOR

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt observes: "We must remember that the worst thing that can happen to people is to live their lives in fear and hate."

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GROVER WHELAN

The New York World's Fair ditched Grover Whelan, the man who made the 1939 Fair. Now there is a demand for his recall to head the glamor-business of the great show. and Whelan appears to be staging a come back.

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FOOD STAMP PLAN

Practically seventy-one areas throuhout the country are sharing in the Agricultural Department's surplus farm products.

A short answer is often followed by a long silence.

A FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER!

By THE W. C. T. U.

IN 1933 the U. S. government turned loose a Frankenstein monster by changing its policy toward alcoholic liquor.

Clustered along the six and one-half year path which marks this monster's unrestricted rush lie the bodies of traffic victims, the undernourished children, the impoverished families, the diseased wrecks, the rotten framework of liquor-controlled politics.

John Q. Public doesn't know all the facts. Yet, only six and one-half years after repeal, many nationally-known individuals and groups have voiced their strong convictions that liquor is to blame for a major part of these post-repeal social miseries. These leaders have studied the facts. They have no axes to grind and their conclusions are unbiased, honest conclusions.

National Safety Council.

This unbiased research group announced in late 1939 that liquor figured in 25 per cent of all of the traffic deaths involving drivers or occupants in automobiles.

A high toll to pay for trying to mix alcohol and gasoline! They just won't mix.

The Methodist Church.

Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman said: "The liquor problem is supremely the job of the church . . . We are not going to have a revival of religion in America until the churches face social evils like the liquor traffic. Churches of God, wake up!"

Boys' Court

Judge J. M. Braude of the Chicago Boys Court says that adolescent delinquency resulting from liquor is present in 40 per cent of his cases and that the percentage is increasing.

The superintendent of the Los Angeles public schools classifies the three major school problems as alcohol, gambling, and irresponsibility.

Economist.

Roger W. Babson, widely known evaluator of financial and spiritual life, said recently: "After repeal I realized the terrific danger of the commercialized liquor traffic. Not drinkers alone suffer, but the country and youth. Accessibility increases use. America's keenest minds are using the newspapers, magazines, movies, and radio to entice youth to drink whisky."

NEW "SLOW DOWN" LIGHTS

With Maryland and the country as a whole showing a sharp upward trend in fatal accidents over the past three months, Governor Herbert R. O'Conor's Maryland Traffic Safety Committee is preparing to swing into high gear in its fight to reduce the number of accidents on Maryland's streets and highways during the heavy travel period just ahead.

Coincident with the announcement of a determined "selective enforcement" program against speeders and other law violators, the Committee has announced the coming installation, through cooperation with the State Roads Commission, of a number of "speed actuated" traffic lights at dangerous points and intersections.

On the Washington Boulevard, for insance, where residents have complained that local and out-of-state motorists fail to heed the 30-mile-limit signs, these new traffic lights will be installed to assure compliance with the law. The lights work from a treadle and are so regulated that a motorist passing over the treadle at a legal 30 mile an hour speed will find the light green on his arrival there. However, if the speed is greater than 30 miles, the motorist will find the red light showing, and have to bring his machine to a halt.

Two points that Governor O'Conor's Committee asks every resident of the State to bear in mind are these: One, that more than 50% of the fatalities during the past year were among pedestrians. The moral of this is the pedestrians should be more careful in walking along roadsides, and in crossing streets and roads, particularly at night.

The second point stressed is the desirability of dimming lights when approaching other machines, as records show that bright headlights cause a large portion of fatal accidents.

FOURTH OF JULY—

THE AMERICAN IDEA !

Inspiring, patriotic poem by Edgar Lee Masters, illustrated with a faithful reproduction in FULL COLOR of a famous painting. Don't miss this timely feature in the June 30th issue of

The American Weekly
the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore American

Most reliable estimates claim that the Nazis in their current campaign are using up gasoline at the unbelieveable rate of 700 gallons every minute of every hour!

Child's Ability to Read Is Educational Problem

The reading ability of children today is generally better than it was 25 years ago, according to Prof. Paul Witty of Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., an expert in the field of reading problems.

Tests have demonstrated, however, he pointed out, that even today from 15 to 25 per cent of the high school students are "greatly retarded." He held out the hope that much improvement can result from proper guidance and understanding of the students' problems.

The feeling among many parents that children are less efficient readers may be accounted for in several ways, says Professor Witty. One, he said, is the use of more precise methods of measuring ability, which have focused the attention of teachers and parents alike on the problem.

A second, he declared, is the necessity in modern life of a "great diversity of reading skills and interests" because of the increasing variety of materials. A third, he said, is the emphasis of nonoral reading, often at the expense of oral reading.

Still another factor in reading levels today is the increased percentage of children of school age who attend classes, he said. Formerly schools were limited more to children of superior ability.

Among the causes of slow progress in reading, Professor Witty noted poor physical condition, limited mental ability and faulty eye movements.

"It has been found, however," he said, "that no single factor is a dependable indicator of the needs of poor readers. Many items at one time believed to be causes are now regarded as symptoms. Hence the majority of boys and girls who have difficulty in reading do not need the treatment of experts; nor do they require the service provided by elaborate machines, apparatus, or 'drills.' Their difficulties may be traced in most cases to improper habits and attitudes occasioned by lack of interest and to a dearth of appropriate reading materials."

Government Food Grading

As early as 1917 the department of agriculture issued standards for potato grades. These were the first grade standards by the department for any fruit or vegetable. Since, however, grades have been established for many important commercial fruits, vegetables and nuts. There are now approximately 60 grade standards for fresh crops, and nearly 40 for canned, quick-frozen, and dried fruits and vegetables. These grade standards serve as the basis for official inspection at shipping points and in the receiving markets. They provide a nationally understood "yardstick" for measuring quality and condition in marketing, and in the settlement of disputes under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities act.

From 40 to 45 per cent of the total annual rail movement of fresh fruits and vegetables is inspected on the basis of the standards.

Soap Effect on Germs

Despite the possibility that a person suffering from a disease may have used a cake of soap, there is no danger of infection for subsequent users. Germs cannot multiply on soap.

'Electroform' Molds Make Exact Replicas

Iron molds made by a newly developed "electroforming" process are being used to reproduce with great fidelity such delicate objects as human hands, leaves and phonograph records. Patterns with 7,400 tiny lines to the inch have been reproduced in this electro-deposited iron.

The process consists of coating the object to be copied with a layer of iron about one-third of an inch thick, this electro deposition taking two weeks; then separating the metal from the object and filling the mold with the material from which the reproduction is to be made. Since these iron molds can be made from plaster casts, it is possible to produce feet, hands or limbs that are accurate copies of those lost by accident or surgery.

Three artificial hands of rubber sponge have been made by this process to replace hands lost in accidents. It is also being applied to rubber and plastic molding, ceramics, metal stampings, jewelry, silverware and glass; the largest iron molds so far made were for auto tires.

'Illuminated' Plastic Heels

Women are trying out shoes with "illuminated" plastic heels. This is accomplished by a new hollow heel creation—the idea of two St. Louis inventors—which may be either transparent or opaque. When clear and glittering in jewel tones the heels look as if they were illuminated from within. They come in a variety of gay colors. Show producers have already pounced on the new footgear for use by dancing choruses—wiring the hollow core with lights to give the effect of educated fireflies. Stylists along shoe row here predict a fairly bright future for the plastic heel. They say it is particularly suitable for evening shoes. From the practical standpoint, however, it is supposed to take some of the shock out of walking.

Pay Roll in Forests

A few towns and cities have had long and satisfactory experience with community forests. Others are starting forests, often to protect the water supply. A well-managed community forest serves as a demonstration of good forestry practice to owners of nearby woodland or of wasteland that might better be growing trees. "A community serving a thousand farms," says the United States department of agriculture pamphlet on community forests, "Would benefit to the extent of $50,000 annually, if each farmer's average income from woodlands were increased $50 a year through better forest management. This would have essentially the same effect on business as though an industry were started that would provide a pay roll of $50,000 a year."

Teaching Foreign Languages

Women are superior to men in teaching foreign languages to beginners, according to a study entitled "Fragments From Babel," issued by the Columbia University Press. Women generally speak much faster than men and if one can understand the average woman talking at her natural speed, it will be easy to understand any male speaker later on, it is pointed out.

SPEED MAIN TRAFFIC KILLER

The short-cut to greater street and highway safety is enforcement of sane speed limits, according to Julien H. Harvey, nationally prominent safety authority and managing director of the National Conservation Bureau, accident prevention division of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives.

"If every citizen would study the statistics of America's unfortunae accident record for 1939," Mr. Harvey declares, "they would recognize instantly that the greatest, single cause of traffic fatalities is speed. It requires no expert to see that at the first glance."

The question of what is sane in speed limits, Mr. Harvey says, depends somewhat upon street and road conditions. In congested business districts, he points out, speed usually is held down by lights, traffic officers, and the density of traffic itself; but out in the residential districts the tendency is to "let 'er go" a little, and on the rural highways the sky is the limit.

"We know beyond a shadow of doubt," Mr. Harvey declares, "that in most cases speed limits are now high for safety. Tests provethat if we are to save lives the very top speed in any city, town or other place of dense population should be 25 miles an hour. That refers only to residential districts and under most favorable conditions, a little higher limit can be allowed, but nothing like the dizzy speeds that are now permitted.

GOOD QUALITIES OF MILK

In line with the campaign of the National Dairy Council to acquaint the American public during the month of June with the health promoting qualities of milk as a food, Miss Margaret McPheeters, specialist in nutrition for the Extension Service, points out that milk gives firmness to teeth, bones and muscles, helps to steady nerves, and prevents a tired, listless condition of the entire system.

With the emphasis that is placed on good health and physical appearance, milk should be included in the diet for those who want rosy cheeks, glossy hair, sparkling eyes, beautiful teeth and a well-built body.

Milk, combined in cream or scalloped dishes, with green, leafy or yellow vegetables, gives color to cheeks and lips. Milk, cream and butter with fruit, desserts, raw vegetables or fruit salads, and whole grain cereals or bread help to build good blood, clear skin, prevent acidity, aids digestion, and bring a sparkle to the eye and glossy appearance to the hair.

Miss McPheeters points out that it is not necessary to eliminate milk or milk products from the diet if overweight is feared. Skimmilk, buttermilk and cottage cheese can be used safely. These products, without the cream or fat promoting substance, contain vitamins, minerals, and protein necessary to both overweight and under-weight. Hence, milk should be looked upon as one of the "must" foods and is equally good for young and old, rich and poor, sick and well, under-weight and over-weight.

The invention of a salt cellar that will always have salt in it will supply a long-felt want.