THE MIDLAND JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING BY

EWING BROS.

RISING SUN CECIL COUNTY MARYLAND

Entered as Second Class Matter at Post Office in Rising Sun, Maryland Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS AND ALL OTHER SUBJECTS

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

ONE YEAR, IN ADVANCE	$1.50
SIX MONTHS	$1.00
THREE MONTHS	.50

SINGLE COPY, 3 CENTS

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Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

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FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1940

The present program of the U. S. for national defense, envisions the largest peacetime military expenditures in our history. Over a period of a few years, spending for defense is to be progresively increased, and the total will run far into the billions.

There can be no question of our need for the world's greatest defense system. But it will be a disastrous mistake if we adopt a hysterical, "Never mind the cost" attitude. Some of the billions for defense must be secured by reducing or eliminating the appropriations for other, less important government activities.

All the energies of this great country must be directed towards making it secure from invasion. To release those energies requires re-dedicating this nation to the ideals envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

High-sounding phrases are n't enough. Preparation against the possibility of invasion is a grim and costly business. Never in the history of our country was it so important for government to cooperate with inlividual enterprise or for individual enterprise to cooperate with government. Never was it so important to eliminate waste in government, in individual enterprise and in family life, in order to perpetuate liberty and opportunity.

What this country is beginning to do is to change from a peace economy to a military economy. That involves readjustment which apparently few as yet throughly understand. When the Nazis came to power in post-war Germany the slogan was, "Guns, not butter". The result of the ruthless application of that slogan was a steady declining standard of living and, according to unprejudiced authorities, a serious decline in the general standard of public heaalth. More and more of the national income went for state purposes--less and less was left in the hands of the people. To a lesser extent, all the European natons, which have been on a war footing for many years, have undergone the same experience. And now it looks as if we are to undergo it too.

This doesn't mean that the United States will follow the same road as the Nazis. We are a far richer country, possessed of resources which no European power can equal. There is no question now of devoting 60 per cent of our income (which is the proportion being spent in Germany) for military purposes. But it does mean, unless the commentators are wrong, that all factors in our national life will be called upon to make serious sacrifices to the end that we be made as secure as possible from successful invasion. It means that we will have fewer luxuries, fewer dollars to spend as individuals, in order that we may have more airplanes, tanks, battleships, and other implements of defense.

SOIL EROSION CONTROL

By means of two terraces constructed at a cost of approximately $50.00 Millard Derr succeeded in controlling soil erosion on his farm in the Middletown valley at a time when other farms in that section were badly washed.

As there was no terracing machinery available in this community, Mr. Derr used a V drag and a plow to throw up a ridge which conducted the water to the side of the field. He had an engineer of the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture lay out his terraces.

The two terraces had a total length of 3,100 feet. The V drag cost only $1.95. Other items of expense were for gasoline, oil and labor.

Mr. Derr is one of the supervisors of the Catoctin Soil Conservation District, one of the five districts that have been formed in Maryland under a law passed by the General Assembly in 1937. The purpose of the law, he states, is to enable farmers to act cooperatively and as a group in controlling erosion in their area.

It is reliably estimated that the war, in the coming fiscal year, will cost the Domnion of Canada more than a thousand dollars every minute of every hour.

The bakeries in the United States of America use more than 2,000 pounds of sugar every 60 seconds of the day and night.

THE U. S. ON GUARD

By J. E. Jones

When President Roosevelt made his demands upon our Nation for immediate prepardness to resist invasion of the Western Hemisphere, he said that this country should have 50,000 planes a year. The American aviation industry has produced a total of about 46,000 planes during its lifetime of a little more than 30 years. Henry Ford has said that his company could make a thousand planes a day.

It develops that Germany took some pages out of democracy's book f achievements in "mass production" and attained a record capacity of 36,000 planes a year. At the same time Germany produced thousands of tanks and vast quantities of mechanized machinery for war. The World has been stunned and amazed by Germany's terrific-efficiency.

In the meantime France followed a "popular front government", and nationalized aircraft and other factories "to take the profit out of war". England was doing only about half a job in producing planes. Neither Government seemed to be meeting the threatening challenge by the Germans.

Within recent days our country has voted billions of dollars to prevent or meet invasion of the United States and the Republics of the Western Hemisphere. That is why aircraft has suddenly become a central need of prepardness. Leaders in industry, like Stettinius and Knudsen, have been summoned to the service of the Government to weld the efforts of private industry and business with Government and military leadership. When America faces danger all Americans lay aside their differences and unite in support of the common cause. That is where we are at today. A few weeks ago the National Capital was split into political pieces. Leaders quarreled about domestic and foreign affairs and policies. Now, Army, Navy and Air power are being increased. Men are training for war.

The automobile and airplane factories, and all manufacturing institutions, are preparing to go into producton of planes, tanks, arms, ammunition, and all other instruments necessary to protect this country against any possible attack.

It is true that there is confusion in Washington--plenty of it--but there is a singleness of purpose in respect to defending America that is supported by all political parties, groups and factions. The challenge must be met by American statesmanship and by American citizens. The Government of the United States is preparing for the worst, while hoping that our own peace-loving people will not become involved in the World's catastrophy.

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THE FIFTH COLUMN

What is meant by the term "Fifth Column"? Apparently it represents the activities of individuals and organizations such as Communists that are trying to weaken the power of our National Government.

This Fifth Column "takes in nuts" but applies more especially to traitors, and other classes of conspirators.

Martin Dies, a Congressman from Texas, has been telling the people of our country for more than two years that there are groups within our borders seeking the destruction of their Government. Even President Roosevelt scoffed at the Dies Committee and suggested to Congress that it refuse appropriations to continue the Congressional investigation. But the President has recently received evidence from the Dies Committee that has convinced him that Fifth Column activity exists in the United States.

The Department of Justice is preparing to take over the Immigration Service and the Hoover G-men will be assigned to the job of watching and checking up on aliens, all of whom are to be finger-printed.

In Spain, Norway, Holland, Belgium and other countries their "Fifth Column" civilians showed up to help the German invaders. The name of "Fifth Column" arose out of an incident in the Spanish civil war, when traitors turned the tides of battles.

Our own so-called Fifth Column consists mostly of groups who sympathize with forms of government that are not Democracies--such as, the pro-Nazis found here and there in most communities, or in groups of persons fomenting Jewish hatreds and other racial disturbances among the Negroes.

The Federal authorities look upon our Fifth Column as filled with persons anxious for opportunities that may turn up "to create confusion of counsel, public indecision political paralysis and, eventually, a state of panic, "which is the way the President recently described the movement.

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TAXING SMALLER INCOMES

Over 2 million new persons will be added to the revised tax rolls, and just how the majority of these 2 million new persons are going to arrange to dip into their meager wages for Federal income taxes is something that the statesmen don't seem to be thinking about.

If there is any good reason for reducing exemptions it hasn't been convincingly stated in either branch of Congress. As a matter of fact the lawmakers seem to be "taking money" away from the families instead of "taxing" them.

1940	JULY					1940
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THE NATION'S DRINKING HABITS

By THE W. C. T. U.

MID-YEAR of 1940 will mark the seventh anniversary of 3.2 beer's legalization and the start of the repeal period.

A sufficient time has elapsed for a limited survey of repeal's social effects. Such a survey of the state of the nation's drinking habits would be difficult at any time; good, solid facts are particularly hard to see clearly after precipitation for such a short period, but some are available.

Such evaluation is best based on the few cold facts available, in comparison with similar totals for the prohibition and pre-prohibition periods, and by intepretation of those straws in the wind which, if their direction is properly read, will indicate the first stirrings of a new social movement.

One fact is clearly visible after seven years' experimentation with repeal: Neither wets nor drys are satisfied with administration and social effects of the alcoholic beverage industry.

Another fact which looms large to any close observer is: That the growing dissatisfaction with social and human results of liquor drinking, the still-isolated but increasing demands for stricter regulation are basically spontaneous, actually owing little to any current national activities of the great dry organizations in the years since 1933.

The year of 1939 brought many public evidences of this feeling, not as yet a majority reaction against alcohol but definitely a strong conviction that harmful social effects must be eliminated.

The general public, in between the wet and dry extremes, hasn't reached the point of trying to define a solution. Their strongest criticisms, which now are seeping into the editorial columns of a preponderantly pro-repeal press, are: of "Young kids getting sloppy drunk all the time in those taverns," of "drunks running over people in the streets," of saloon conditions surrounding taverns in otherwise quiet neighborhoods, of the growing frequency of tavern influences in studies of causes of juvenile—and adult—crime.

Recognition that this ground swell of public opinion against repeal liquor conditions and results does exist and is growing is certainly not to be taken as a prediction that "prohibition is just around the corner." No intelligent and studious observer would climb out on such a limb.

Viewed broadly the liquor picture now is a concentrated re-run of the pre-prohibition period, with a few new actors on the film. Public opinion is swinging from pro-wet through a hope-for-moderation toward prodry. Again Demon Rum is the villain, and a skeptical audience is wondering if the liquor-crime-politics trio has changed in the slightest.

Government, you may think, is the greatest distributor of largesse to the needy--the agency that keeps things going in times of stress.

If you do think that, here are some figures that will startle you. From 1933 to 1938 government spent $13,000,000,000 for relief. And, in the same period of time, the life insurance industry paid $16,000,000,000 to its clients. And a very large proportion of that money went to people who, without it, would have had to apply for relief or charity.

Private enterprise still turns the nation's economic wheels--in good times or bad.

1940 Dodge Luxury Liner, 6-Passenger, 2-Door Sedan $815, delivered in Detroit.*

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Democrats And Republicans Unite In Drive To Assure Passage Of People's Court Amendment

Governor O'Conor And Former Governor Nice Pledge Organized Support In Non-Partisan Reform Move.

When Democrats join hands in an "election year" to fight for a common cause, that's news of a kind that Ripley likes to glorify!

Yet, with the political pot boiling over, and the November elections approaching, that's exactly what's happened in Maryland, as the heads of the two great parties in the State found the same answer to at least one question the voters will be called upon to decide at the polls.

Governor Herbert R. O'Conor and former Governor Harry W. Nice this week put partisan politics aside to pledge their support to the Constitutional Amendment designed to improve the People's Court of Baltimore City.

Governor O'Conor, now actively engaged in the fight to thwart the Senatorial ambitions of former Governor Nice, and Mr. Nice, who was defeated by Mr. O'Conor for the Governorship, have, for the first time in their political lives, found a question upon which they see "eye to eye."

State-Wide Committee Planned

Reuben Oppenheimer, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the adoption of the People's Court Amendment to the Maryland Constitution, announced this week that a State-wide organization to help assure the passage of the measure is being formed.

A State chairman will be named, and each of the 23 counties will be actively represented in the non-partisan group.

Mr. Oppenheimer pointed out that the amendment will transform the People's Court from an unwieldly, costly, inefficient Magistrate's Court into a real court. He also stressed the point that the amendment would eliminate politics from the election of judges and from the appointment of constables and clerks.

"The passage of the amendment will inflict no expenses of any kind on any county of the State, or upon the State Government. The expenses of the Court will continue to be paid by the taxpayers of Baltimore."

The amendment also clears the way for any other city or county in the State to set up a similar Court by simply securing the consent of the Legislature. However, such action must be initiated by the county or city seeking a Court. It is in no way mandatory.

LEARNING TO DRIVE

More than one million boys and girls reach driving age each year, the Keystone Automobile Club points out, in a statement emphasizing the importance of driver training in high schools. This great number of potential drivers inadequately trained for motor vehicle operation presents a serious problem, in the opinion of George E. Keneipp, Manager of the Club.

"Many schools have adopted the driver training course into their curriculum," he said. "Quite a few have actual driving classes to supplement the classroom training. The safety spotlight is being focused more and more upon the youngsters in whose hands will lie the safety of travel on our highways. It is our duty to see that the ghastly record of deaths and injuries prevailing today is not repeated by the coming generation of drivers.

"A very large majority of operators receive their instructions in motor vehicle operation from relative or friends, who may or may not have had any particular qualifications for teaching beyond the personal posession of operating licenses. Most of the 'training' consists of learning the actual physical movements necessary to make a car start and stop. Other factors essential to skillful driving are largely left for 'experience'.

"Driving a powerful motor vehicle over today's modern high-speed roads has become more than a knack that is just 'picked up'. Automobile operation has ceased to be a purely physical accomplishment but has reached a degree where mental attitude plays an increasingly important part. It is up to us to make tomorrow's drivers mentally alert to the responsibilities of driving, and the logical place to do this is in the schools."

Italy was one of the best consumers of U. S. cotton—took 250 pounds of it each minute—until Italy's entry into the war.

MARYLAND FIRST STATE TO ADOPT SIX-YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING

Maryland's major financial planning will be done on a six-year advance basis hereafter, according to a general plan to which Governor Herbert R. O'Conor has just given approval. No other State in the Union plans so far in advance at the present time.

Authority for such long-range planning, given by the Legislature of 1933, was resurreced by Governor O'Conor some months ago, in conjunction with the functioning of the Department of Budget and Procurement created by the General Assembly of 1939. It is expected that advantage of this new planning setup will be taken for the first time in connection with the preparation of the new budget beginning October 1.

The program provides for the listing by each State developing agency of needed projects, with their priority and estimated cost, covering a period of at least six years; the assembly and review of these programs from a State planning view point, and their use in connection with the preparation of the next budget. The advance programming is expected to result in the preparation of a schedule of probable future capital requirements for the two biennial periods beyond that to be covered by the budget, subject to revision and extension every two years.

OFFICER FINDS LARGE SUM OF MONEY

An employee of the Bata Shoe Company attending the movies in Aberdeen lost three hundred and eighty-five dollars. Discovering his loss he and Officer James B. Ray went to the theatre after midnight and after a long search the officer found the money and returned it to the owner.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

While civilization suffers another violent outbreak of man's inhumanity to man, natural enemies of the animal kingdom go on breaking jungle law to form fancy friendships. A collection of photographs that will start you thinking, featured in the July 14th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY
the big magazine distributed with the BALTIMORE AMERICAN

You can save yourself a lot of trouble by not borrowing any.