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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1940

DECEMBER SONG

There's a song in the air as December lights the snow-crowned hills with radience of silver stars. Quietly this last month of the year drifts down with its brief days that close with flaming reds of south-bent sunsets smouldering into ashy gray or, as often, with snowflakes thickening the air with gathering whiteness. It transforms our familiar landscape into a wintry world of snow-roofed houses, snow-decked trees, and snow-blanketed earth.

But whether waning sun or driving storm, always there comes December's song of heavenly host saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men". A song for all the world to hear above the bombs and sirens—this "glorious song of old" heard first by humble shepherds on Bethlehem's hills.

Whether we be on battlefield or farm, factory, camp, air-raided shelter or in homes, December of 1940 lifts our hearts and tunes our voices in the season's song of hope:

Telling he is born again,
That all we love is born again.
—The Monitor.

WHY THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES FELL

Sir Norman Angell, British economist and author, stated in the principal address before the annual dinner of the Associate Alumni of City College of New York City, on the evening of November 16th, that European democracies were destroyed because they would not unite to defend themselves.

Europe's condition today, he said, is the result of a selfish, cocksure attitude of nonGerman Europe which refused to hang together in a mutual cause, and, as a result, it has hung separately.

The democracies of Europe perished, he declared, because they rejcted the truth proclaimed in our churches, that we are members of one brotherhood; that the corporate body of civilization if it is to defend itself, must assume the obligation to defend one of its members which is about to be victim of evil violence.

TRACTORS DO NOT EAT

Estimating that there will be an increase of about 500,000 tractors on American farms within the next 10 years, a committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture that has been studying farm technology says that this would place approximately 1,500,000 horses and mules. On the basis of estimated feed requirements and average yields in 1928-32, the acerage thus released for uses other than production of horse feed would approximate 3,500,000 acres of grain crops, 2,300,000 acres of hay, and 2,400,000 acres of pasture. Roughly, the volume of production to be diverted would be the equivalent of 56,000,000 bushels of corn, 20,000,000 bushels of oats, 2,600,000 tons of hay, and 91,000 tons of other concentrated feeds.

Too few colts were being raised in 1940, says the committee, to sustain even the number of work stock that would be needed after the estimated 1,500,000 head had been replaced by tractors.

Big problem now is how to give more aid to Britian and at the same time keep a semblance of neutrality. This country has been shooting the works on behalf of the British for a long time. But there is one catch--British must pay cash for whatever she buys. The Johnson Act does not permit this government or its citizens to give credit to any nation which is behind on war debt payments.

The various American groups which are in favor of doing everything and anything to help defeat the Axis--such as William Allen White's committee for aiding England-- are beginning to train their sights on the Johnson Act. It seems a certainty that a resolution to repeal the act will be introduced in Congress.

That reolution will be bitterly contested, especially in the Senate where the isolationist group, headed by Senators Johnson, Nye and Clark, are strong. But the probability is that the Johnson Act will be thrown overboard.

The number of hogs on American farms is increasing by four a minute.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

By J. E. Jones

Washinton, Dec. 9--Seven women applied for positions as Army hostesses and nearly all of them have been disappointed because the War Department finds that there will be only 200 hostesses needed when the new Army reaches its peace-time peak. After all, short periods of activity of the kind that have to do with preparation for war, or actually going into a war, cannot compare with the gains and progress achieved when there were no war clouds on the horizon.

An optimistic estimate of increased employment comes from Secretary Perkins of the Department of Labor, who says that from 6 to 8 million new jobs will be provided. Granting that the Lady may be almost right there will still remain millions of unfortunates on relief.

When the soldiers returned from Europe in 1919 they found the whole economic system of their homeland in a chaotic condition. Things haven't been quite right most of the time since the World War tragedy was brought to a close, with peace treaties made during the short-time World excitements, which have not lasted through the years.

What the future holds in store no one knows. But it is certain that the American Hemisphere is steaming up to do a short-time job that will end in long years of troubled efforts to reconstruct our human and economic conditions, and get back to normal unless we prepare now to cushion against the after-effects.

A large number of manufacturers are now enjoying short-time prosperity because they have succeeded in landing National Defense contracts. That does not necessarily mean that the United States is to expect an era of strong national economy, even in 1941, or for a long time to come.

In a recent Forum Discussion, V. George Denny, well known to the radio audiences of the country, asked Harold G. Moulton, president of Brookings Institutions: "Just what do you economists mean by a strong national economy? Military strength is something you can see--it is men and tanks and guns and planes. But economic strength--what is it?" Dr. Moulton replied: "The economic strength of a nation is found in its productive power--the industry, plants and equipment, and other resources with which we turn out ships, tanks, planes, as well as the commodities of ordinary consumption."

Private business and industry was thrown back on its own resources after the World War. This became inevitable when the World War profits were suddenly cut off, and production and employment headed down hill. It will happen again when our new programs come to a sudden close, and the lights will go out as the European symphony pulls down the curtains on the tragedies of the present era.

Isn't this a good time to think about grave economic problems that our Nation must face when the program of the Constitution provided by the Fathers is resumed, to "promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

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Food Costs

The news from Washington goes into particulars regarding charges that the family food budget is being boosted, because bread, milk, meat, fish, cheese, canned fruit, fresh fruits, vegetables and other foods all cost more money than they did a few months ago. The recent Government inquires indicate that while the consumer is paying higher prices that the farmer gets less for his products.

An investigation has been authorized on a nation-wide front. Its progress and findings will be of interest to the American public.

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Dies Defenders

President Roosevelt and Congressman Dies see things differently. The Dies Committee is backed by Congress.

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Which Shall It Be?

Will Congress run itself or will it go back to the old habits when the January session convenes, and obey "must orders" from President Roosevelt That's strictly a political question that time alone can answer.

City of New Orleans Likes Its Fireworks In Christmas Season

Christmas without firecrackers just isn't Christmas down in New Orleans.

"If anybody not got no firewo'k he mighty po'," say the Creoles gayly. The more the fireworks, the better the Christmas on the lower side of Canal street.

While other people are shooting off fireworks on July 4, New Orleans is sweltering under intense heat. Outside activities are out of the question.

With noisy July 4 festivities out of the question, it was easy to begin celebrating Christmas, instead, with the firing of skyrockets, Roman candles and firecrackers. Once started, there was no stopping it.

Shooting starts several weeks before Christmas, and every night the tumult increases. Parents consistently caution their children to save the firecrackers until the twenty-fifth, because they won't get any more. The boys and girls refuse to believe this prophecy, but feel that Providence will not allow them to go crackerless.

Even the almost penniless have firecrackers, but the more wealthy win the envy of others with their rockets.

Enthusiasm is not limited to the young boys, but it is shared by the entire family. Boys and girls parade up and down the streets at night, making a racket with tin trumpets and "instruments" they picked up on the way. They ring doorbells, then run away with joyful laughter. The sky is lighted up with rockets and firecrackers beat a constant staccato.

The fun begins again the next morning, with greater enthusiasm than ever. Although a boy may have bankrupted himself the day before, firecrackers have taken a great drop in price. He must have a new supply because they are cheap.

Now the juveniles grow reckless. Whole packages of firecrackers go off at one full blow; those who were firecracker boys yesterday are skyrocket boys today. As night comes on, the streets seem ablaze with explosives and colored rockets.

The second morning after Christmas the streets are strewn thick with burned pieces of fireworks; but the air is clear. The acrid odor of fireworks is again replaced by the perfume of Christmas roses.

Sugar and Water Stops Fall Of Christmas Tree Needles

It's easy to stop the fall of Christmas tree needles. Saw off a portion of the tree's base—enough so the fresh wood will be exposed. Set a shallow pan of water beneath the base of the tree, in which the base should be immersed. A teaspoonful of sugar should be added to the water. The water provides needed moisture and the sugar nourishes the needles, giving them strength to hold on longer.

STATE RECEIPTS TOTAL $4,797,172

The State Comptroller's office during the last fiscal year received $64,797,172 in State and Federal funds and expended a total of $60,668,404..

In the previous fiscal year, expenditures exceeded receipts. The disbursements then were $67,152,297 and receipts $66,061,555. State officials said some Federal funds were left over from the prior fiscal year, enabling the State to spend more than it received.

A statement released by J. Millard Tawes, State Comptroller, shows that the State's bonded indebtedness was reduced approximately $2,000,000 during the fiscal year ending September 30.

The bonded indebtedness at that time was $44,166,000, compared to $46,163,000 for the previous fiscal year. The State in the last fiscal year redeemed $4,540,000 in outstanding bonds and issued only $2,543,000 worth.

The general fund surplus was $6,151,955 at September 30, compared with the prior fiscal year's surplus of $4,467,725. The surplus jumped because of reversions from State departments of $847,567 and an increase in State revenues of $636,663.

In the previous fiscal year reversions from State departments amounted to only $371,280, Tawes said.

Adjutant General Milton A. Reckord of the Maryland National Guard has appointed John K. Burkley, DeLancey Scott, Sayres Booth and A. L. Peters as members of an advisory board, to take charge of the armory property, Elkton, while Company E First Maryland Regiment is spending a year training with the United States Army.

We use cattle hides for luggage and harness in this country at a rate of one hide each minute.

Your "Merry Xmas" Lasts when I run your Gifts

Long-remembered, always useful gifts are the kind Ready Kilowatt runs. We list below but a few of the many on display.

1. Sun Lamp for the whole family! General Electric Ultra-violet Lamp at **$29.95** cash.
2. Free-Westinghouse Electric Sewing Machine for Mother! Console model with "nevr-lock" stitching device at **$69.50** cash and her old machine.
3. Heating Devices for everybody! Electric pads as low as **$3.95**; Electric heaters **$2.95** cash to **$13.95**.
4. Kitchen Appliances! Mixmaster complete with juice extractor at **$23.75** cash; Kitchen Aid Coffee Mill at **$9.75** cash; Electric Tea Kettle at **$6.95**.
5. Laundry workers! ABC Washers with pump as low as **$59.95** cash; ABC Ironers as low as **$59.95** cash.

Prices (slightly more on budget plan) Subject to Change Without Notice

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

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DELEGATE TO WOMAN'S CENTENNIAL CONGRESS

Miss Bertha Balderston, of Colora, was in attendance at the Woman's Centennial Congress, held Nov. 25, 26, and 27, at the Hotel Commodore, New York.

Carrie Chapman Catt was chairman, and the notable gathering was attended by representatives from all the States in the Union, as well as from foreign nations.

Miss Bertha Balderston makes the following report of the convention:

"The Hotel Commodore in New York City was the scene on November 25, 26, and 27 of Women's Centennial Congress where delegates from all the states in Union and many foreign countries met together to memorialize the beginning of the Woman's Suffrage Movement in 1840 and to compare those days with the present, when so many fields are open to women.

"Much has been accomplished since those early days when a little band of women went with an equally small group of men from this country to an Anti-slavery Convention in England, only to be refused seats in the general group and made to listen from behind curtains, where they could hear but not be seen. They came back home determined to fight for the rights of women as well as for the freeing of the slaves, and from their efforts the campaign for equal suffrage started. It took eighty years to secure the vote in this country, and over quite a large portion of that time Mrs. Carrie Chapman Cott was the leader of the movement. During this year of 1940 she, with quite an able group of helpers, has labored to prepare for the great gathering which it was my privilege to attend as one of Maryland's five official delegates. Other delegates were: Dr. Pancoast, of Goucher College; Dean Bragdon, of Hood College; Miss Ctamots, Y.M.C.A.; Mrs. C. E. Elliott, League of Women Voters.

"Over a thousand men and women assembled in the Grand Ball Room for the opening session following a banquet at which several foreign women told of conditions in their countries at the present time and then Mrs. Catt in a few brief remarks appealed to women to help mould public opinion to make it impossible that such a state of confusion as now exists shall happen again. Women must make the world safe for men', she said.

"On Tuesday morning Mrs. Roosevelt was chairman of a Round Table discussion on the subject 'Realities which women must face about themselves and about the world as it is now and as it might be'—a conversation among experts in several fields. In the afternoon the conference was divided into five commissions to study, 1-Economic and Social Welfare; 2-Education of Women; 3-Ethical and Religious Values; 4-Government and Politics; 5-World Peace thru World Organization. These same groups met again the next morning to complete their findings and to report to the whole group in the afternoon, when the "Declaration of Purpose" was also adopted and signed by the delegates present as a plan of work for the next 100 years."

Can You Spare 10 Minutes For The Ride Of Your Life?

★ Can you imagine how indescribably smooth it is to ride in a car where the engine is completely insulated from the frame? Where engine vibration is absorbed both by rubber mountings and the new Fluid Drive "cushion of oil"? That's the thrilling experience waiting for you in the 1941 Dodge Luxury Liner! You shift gears or not, just as you like. And thanks to the combination of Fluid Drive* with Floating Power, you get unbelievable new handling ease, and much longer car-life! Come in today for a demonstration!

★ ★ ★

NEW 1941 DODGE LUXURY LINER

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STAR ROUTE MAIL PROPOSALS

Proposals will be received at the office of the second assistant postmaster general at Washington until 4:30 p. m. of Jan. 28, 1941, for carrying the mails of the United States from July 1, 1941, to June 30, 1945, upon the star routes in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and several other states.

Proposal forms and all necessary infromation will be furnished upon application to your local postmaster or to the second assistant postmaster general, Washington, D. C.

Over 50,000 seals are caught near and around Alaska every year . . . with a commercial value of $30 each minute.

Occasionally try to reform a man by roasting him.

Leaky Roofs

The Grand Old Capitol of the United States has been temporarily out of commission, because the roof leaks and is unsafe. Consequently the Senate went back to the old Supreme Court room, which was the Senate Chamber in the early days of the Republic.

The House of Represntatives has so many members there wasn't any place for them to meet in the Capitol building. So the House moved into its Office Building and it now hods sessions in a large Caucus room.

These removals have had no effect on the work of Congress, as the lawmakers aren't very busy these days. It seems to be the ambition of Congress "to stay in session," because of fears that the President needs watching.