

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

Washington, D. C. FAR EAST POKER GAME For perspective on the present South Pacific tug-of-war between Japan and Britain, it is well to remember that for years Thailand, then known as Siam, was a pawn in the power game of the bigger nations of the Pacific.

In this game the United States had a hand. For years, American financial advisers have been attached to the Thai throne, one of them having been Francis Sayre, son-in-law of Woodrow Wilson, now high commissioner of the Philippines.

He wooed Thailand on many occasions, including the ornate reception given the former king of Siam, who as "Supreme Arbiter of the Ebb and Flow of the Tide, Brother of the Moon, Half Brother of the Sun and Keeper of the Twenty-four Golden Umbrellas," came to Washington in the days of Herbert Hoover and was regally entertained.

The British were even more interested in the Siamese. British advisers for a time ran the kingdom's government, trained its army, supplied the one or two ships for its navy.

But half a dozen years ago the Japanese began preaching the doctrine of Asia for the yellow man, and Siam for the Siamese. That was how the name came to be changed to Thailand, a nationalistic token of home rule.

Reason for Japan's interest in this small country was not nationalism, but the fact that a slender finger of land, about as wide as the Isthmus of Kra, is controlled by Thailand. A canal through this isthmus, connecting the Indian ocean and the Gulf of Siam, would give a new short route from the Pacific to India, render Singapore impotent, and cut three days from the trip between Indo-China and Burma.

Such a canal would leave Singapore's giant guns and expensive naval bases guarding an out-of-date sea highway, almost as unimportant as the Straits of Magellan after the Panama canal was built.

That is one reason the British are ready to fight to keep the Japanese out of Thailand.

BRITISH INVASION PLANS

First British plan for an invasion of the continent (since the start of the Russian-Nazi conflict) was a landing in Holland. This, it was figured, would get sympathetic support from the Dutch; would create a second front requiring Hitler to divert part of his troops and airplanes from the Russian front.

The original British idea was to have the United States co-operate in a landing force. This, however, scarcely got beyond the informal suggestion stage. It was immediately and emphatically vetoed, first, for political reasons; second, because Roosevelt did not have the power to send troops abroad; third, because of the scarcity of shipping to transport and supply an American army overseas.

Since then, none of the proposals for creating a second European front has contemplated any American participation.

The second idea discussed was a British attempt through Spain and Portugal. This also scarcely got beyond the discussion stage, because it was figured, first, that the German army probably could take over Spain by the time British troops were to land; second, that even if a foothold could be obtained, a march across the Pyrenees to France would be too difficult.

The only part which the United States might have played in such a plan was to send food ships with which to help win over the Spanish population.

Norway Heavily Fortified.

Since then another plan for possible British invasion of Norway has been discussed. However, this also is difficult. The Nazis now have 10 divisions in Norway; more important, they have been working feverishly with characteristic German thoroughness to fortify Norwegian ports and possible invasion points.

The chief factor holding back the British, however, has been their lack of armored equipment. Although the British army is about 2,000,000 strong, only about 750,000 men are fully armed with modern equipment. And the most serious defect in their equipment is the lack of tanks.

Vast numbers of tanks were lost by the British at Dunkerque, a loss which has not yet been replenished. And no invasion of the continent could be successful without a powerful tank force.

Also, despite the strength of the Nazi army on the Russian front, a total of 47 well-equipped German divisions are stationed in western Europe. This is approximately 700,000 men.

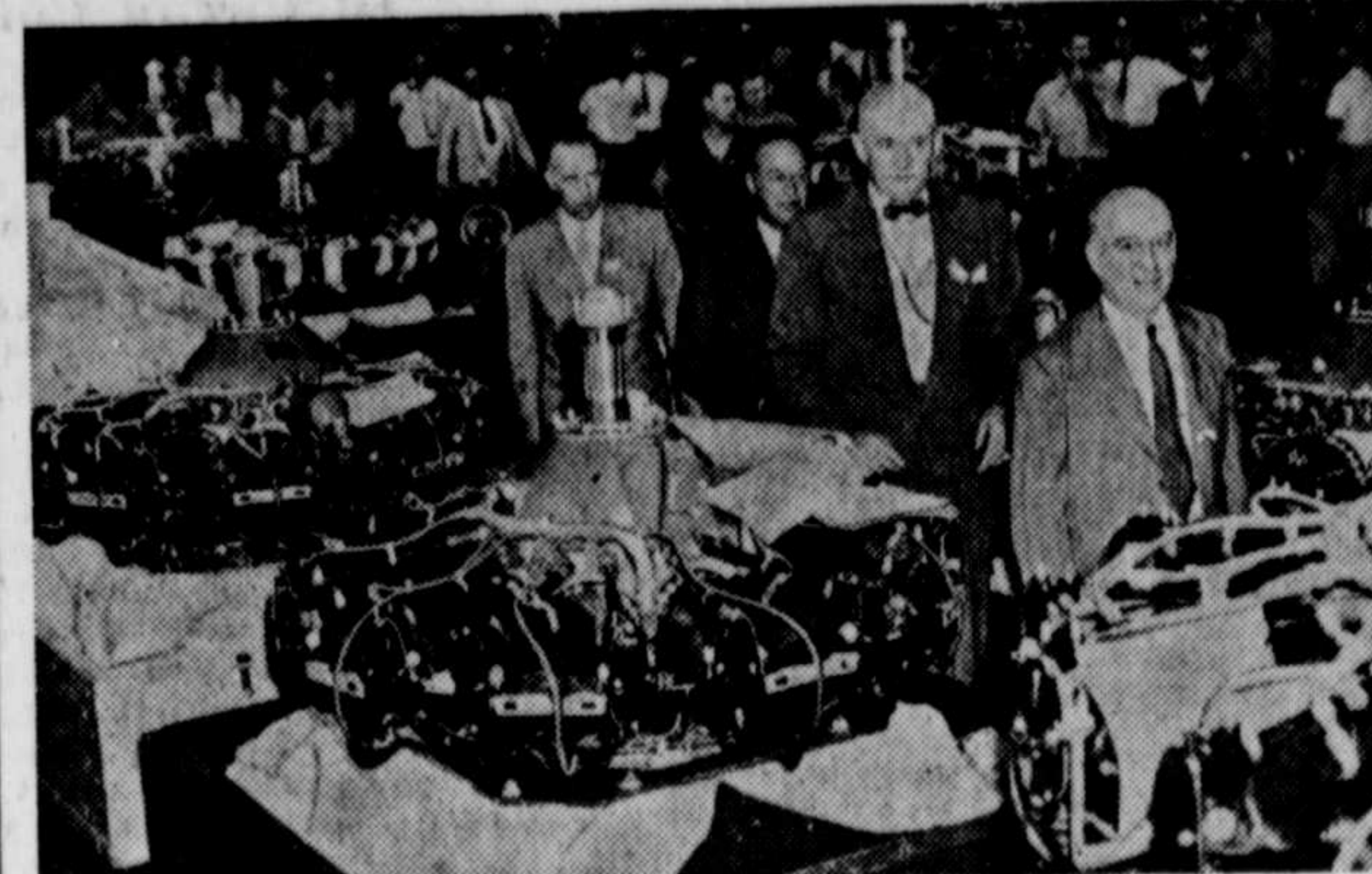
Recent discussion of British aid to Russia has turned to the Near East and a British move from the Gulf of Persia, through Iran to the Russian oil fields of the Caucasus. These oil fields are one of the chief goals of the Nazi army, and once Hitler succeeds in taking the Ukraine, it would be relatively easy for him to cut off this supply.

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Steel Placed Under Defense Priority; Government Moves to Check Inflation With Installment-Buying Regulations; Tension Grows in Far East Situation

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.) (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



Wm. S. Knudsen (2nd from right) OPM director, finds himself in a sea of motors during his inspection of the Curtiss-Wright aircraft plant at Paterson, N. J. The OPM chief on the same day also visited the company's Caldwell, N. J., propeller plant where 300 machinists went out on strike on the day of his inspection.

STETTINIUS: Issuing Orders

The priorities director of the Office of Production Management, E. R. Stettinius Jr., moving rapidly to get the economic condition of the nation geared into the defense production machine, announced that all steel would be placed under full priority for defense.

Stettinius announced that there was a growing shortage in certain types of steel products, and said that his order covered not only steel but also certain alloys.

It means that the steel companies, already operating to capacity and with growing backlogs of orders, are forced to accept all defense orders in the future even if this means the shelving and deferring of non-defense orders.

The preference given defense orders applies not only to the army and navy, but also to British orders and those of the lend-lease program.

It goes into effect September 1, after which any order for steel will have to be accompanied by a special form which will set forth what purpose the steel is to be used for.

The priorities control over steel rolled the ball a little higher as far as governmental economic action was concerned. Already in August pig iron had been placed on the list, and the recent order concerning the manufacture of silk hosiery, and placing of the entire national output of silk at government and defense disposal sent women chasing pell-mell to department store counters.

Also the Stettinius office was ordering other goods out of production to conserve materials. How far-reaching this was could be noticed in the order outlawing "white-wall" automobile tires.

JAPAN: 'Crisis'

Increasingly "tough" measures against Japan by the British-American front were predicted by London as the crisis grew more acute in the Indo-Chinese area; with the Dutch East Indies, Malaya and the Philippines regarded as equally menaced.

The Japanese demand on Portugal for an air base at Delhi, town on the Portuguese half of the little-known Dutch-Portuguese island of Timor in the Malay archipelago, was the latest move of the Nipponese to raise tension in the South Pacific.

London stated that the granting of such a base would enable the Japanese planes to fly right over the center of the Dutch East Indies, and to throw a loop of military airplanes around the Philippines.

It did not make the tension any easier when it was learned that Nazi Germany was putting pressure on the Portuguese government asking air and submarine bases on Lisbon's colonial territories in return for a Nazi guarantee of Portuguese territorial integrity.

A German base in the Azores, London pointed out, would largely nullify the American aid to Britain on the Atlantic. Also a base on Portuguese territory in West Africa would do the British no good in the Mediterranean battle.

At the same time an article by Chen Chieh, former Chinese ambassador to Berlin, expressed the conviction that stiffer economic pressure on Japan by Britain and the United States might checkmate any of Nippon's demands.

Chieh said that the entire Japanese southern Pacific campaign was the result of prodding by Germany, who had underestimated the courage of the United States, the strength of the Russian army, and while realizing the strength of the Chinese army, thought a bluff would close the Burma road.

BUYING: Curbing Installments

In an action designed to put a check on inflationary trends in the nation's defense boom, an executive order was issued by President Roosevelt which called on the Federal Reserve system's governors to regulate installment buying.

This order gave the Federal Reserve virtually complete control over consumer credits in the country and will become effective in about a month.

It was indicated by Marriner S. Eccles, Federal Reserve board chairman, that the first steps in the regulation would not be to prohibit installment buying, but merely to control it. This meant that the board might put through an order regulating the size of the down payment to be made and the length of time allowed the consumer for repayment of the credit.

Eccles also said that initial regulation would be issued promptly "following consultation with representatives of the trade and financial institutions affected."

DRAFT: Extension Fight

The passage by the senate of a bill providing for an 18-month extension of the terms of service of all men in the army and navy did not end the battle by any means, nor did it have the effect of quieting opposition in the house.

First intimation that this was so came from administration circles themselves, with the apparently authorized statement that any extension at all from the house would be acceptable.

When the bill went into the senate, the first goal of the administration leaders was for an unlimited extension. The opposition bloc countered with the Taft bill, calling for six months; later a vote was taken on a year, and the 18-month provision was finally passed, by a fairly strong, though lessened majority.

It was considered significant that on the eve of the first test of strength, house administration leaders were admitting that a "down the line" fight for the senate 18-month extension might risk a complete defeat for the bill.

BATTLE: Of Propaganda

The rival claims of Russians and Germans to successes on the east front continued to feature the war news to the despair of the reader and observer, and the belouding of any clear understanding of the action.

Official London, usually ignoring such matters, warned the public to "take the German claims with reserve," but to realize that a serious and dangerous threat to the Black sea port of Odessa was shaping up.

That was one direction in which the Germans were claiming relatively little. They did claim the capture of an army general in the south, and thousands of prisoners, but most of the claims were in the territory closer to Kiev, Smolensk, and Leningrad.

Stories came out of Berlin with an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with conditions, however, one dispatch stating that the Russians, despite huge losses, were still hurling "millions" of fresh troops into the fray with no count of the cost.

BERLIN: Under 2 Fires

The German capital, since the Russian war started, was placed under two bomb fires, in fact, in recent attacks, people could not tell whether the bombing planes were coming from the east or the west.

Britain, relieved of much of the necessity of protecting her own cities, was hammering away day after day, night after night, when suddenly came reports from Berlin of bombings of the city and territory by Red planes.

Envoy's Wife



LONDON, ENGLAND.—Mrs. John G. Winant, wife of the U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, is shown speaking as she officiated at the opening of the new Y. W. C. A. New England club in London. Seated beside her is Mrs. Winston Churchill, wife of the British premier.

DAKAR: Reported Nazi Move

A relatively strong Nazi expeditionary force, it was learned in Washington, has entered Spanish Morocco by going through Spain and across the straits of Gibraltar, and is poised for an entry into Dakar.

This news was coupled by a Brigham dispatch which declared that France is believed to have concluded a full war alliance with Germany, calling for industrial, colonial and, eventually, the sending of men to bolster the Nazi attack upon Russia.

The Dakar report, impossible of verification, placed the German force as fairly large, including 1,000 mechanized units including tanks, and counting at least two panzer divisions.

They were poised, Washington heard, for simultaneous thrusts at Dakar and at French Morocco. The French commander in this territory is Maxime Weygand.

This, according to Washington sources, will be Germany's answer to the American occupation of Iceland, and will render this nation's position on the war more ticklish than ever, because of the policy statement that any attack on or occupation of Dakar would be regarded as a direct blow at this country's security.

STRIKES: Break Out Again

With the mounting cost of living, particularly soaring food prices, once more labor trouble began rearing its head, particularly in defense industries.

Twenty-two thousand shipyard workers at Kearny, N. J., went out on strike, and boldly demanded that the United States government take over the yard. There was a smaller strike at a nearby shipyard in Brooklyn.

At Caldwell, N. J., a vital airplane propeller plant was crippled by a strike. In many instances, workers receiving about 72 cents per hour were asking for a raise to \$1; other groups were asking a 20-cent-an-hour increase, while one or two of the disputes had a jurisdictional phase.

Oddest strike was that in the propeller plant, where the workers put on their demonstration on the very day when OPM Director Knudsen was due for a visit to watch airplane propellers being rushed into production.

The company finally joined the workers in asking U. S. assistance to end the walkout.

Meanwhile, similar troubles were reported at the Philadelphia Navy yard, where some of the navy's biggest fighting ships are built. This was not a walkout of shipyard employees, but a carpenters' dispute which, according to navy officials, was seriously curtailing the defense effort.

SINKINGS: Totals

A review of 101 weeks of world war on the high seas revealed that 1,813 vessels have been sent to the bottom, and 14,859 persons have lost their lives at sea.

First vessel to go to the bottom was the Athenia, 13,500 tons, the very day that Britain declared war on Germany. Since that day, the record shows, 8,229,000 tons of shipping have gone to "Davy Jones' locker."

This includes both sinkings and scuttlings of all merchant and naval shipping. It represents an average of two ships and 21 lives lost each day.

The list also includes 9,217 persons reported missing, about 13 a day, most of whom must be regarded as dead.

Britain has lost almost half of the total ships, 816. Scores of nations have lost ships, many of them non-combatants, such as the United States, Egypt, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark and others.

Two American ships were lost, the City of Rayville, which struck a mine off Australia, and the Robin Moor, torpedoed on a voyage to Africa.

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON (Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

A SYSTEM THAT CAN PROVIDE GREATER JOY OF LIVING WHAT CHANGES BUT a few short years have wrought in our American methods of work and play and living.

A trip by auto from Chicago to Sturgeon Bay, Door county, Wisconsin, and return, demonstrated many of these changes, most of them as a result of the invention of the internal combustion engine.

Horses have disappeared from the countryside. Over a period of 10 days I saw but two on the road, and not more than a dozen in the barnyards and pastures. Horses have been replaced by the automobile and tractor as a means of transportation for the farm family and power for the cultivation and harvesting of farm crops.

My little trip was made during the height of the grain harvesting season but I saw only one threshing machine. They have been replaced by the tractor-drawn combine. The great stacks of straw that were formerly a part of each farm picture, marking the scene of threshing operations, are no more. The combine leaves it scattered over the field, to be plowed under and to help to some extent to enrich the soil for the production of another crop. A tractor, not the faithful old Dobbin of former years, supplied the motive power.

Automobiles, busses and trucks have replaced the lowly local passenger trains and way-freights of former years. Many of the towns through which I traveled were lake ports to which lake boats for the transportation of freight and passengers are no longer daily, semi-weekly or weekly visitors. All that is left of water transportation are the great ore, coal and grain carriers, the only evidence of which is a smoke line far out on the horizon.

The feed stores, livery stables and blacksmith shops have given place to the garage and gas station. The old ice house of the country home at which I was a visitor had given place to the electric refrigerator. The work of the farm and home was done by electric or motor-driven power. You but pushed a button for lights, instead of the filling and cleaning of lamps of yesteryear.

A visit to the market place is no longer a matter of a day's travel over rough dirt roads in a horse-drawn wagon, but is now made in a few minutes over concrete as smooth as a floor, with a few cents worth of gasoline in an automobile engine to supply the motive power.

America, city, town and farm, is on gas-driven wheels and the change has come about in an incredibly short period of time. The first automobile I ever saw was a crude machine, capable of some 12 miles an hour, when it would operate at all, displayed at the World's Columbian exposition in 1893. The first one I ever rode in was a single cylinder "gas buggy," with carriage wheels, a dashboard instead of a windshield, coal oil lamps, a crank, with which to start it if you could, and that was less than 40 years ago.

These represent but a small part of the progress America has made since the opening of the present century. They represent the rapid upward trend of the American standard of living made possible by the American system of free competition. It is a system that creates more opportunities for enjoyment of living, less work and decreasing hours of work, at higher wage standards, more jobs and an ever-decreasing cost of the pleasures and conveniences we enjoy. It is a system we cannot afford to sacrifice.

THE TAX COLLECTOR GETS YOU ALL RIGHT

YOU MAY NOT SEE the tax collector with a bill in his hand at the front door, but you may be sure he will sneak around the back and come in with the groceries.

He collects from every dollar you spend. He is represented in 53 different ways to a total of one cent on each loaf of bread you buy.

From each dollar you spend, he collects a fraction over 19 cents.

These are the "hidden" taxes our representatives in congress hope we will not know about or object to. With them is not included any item for which the tax collector directly presents you a bill. They do not cover the taxes you pay on your home, your farm, your personal property, the license for your automobile or your income taxes.

It does mean that for every hundred dollars you spent during 1940, you paid the tax collector more than \$19.

You will pay much more of the same kind of taxes for many years of the future.

Your family owes a mortgage, its portion of the national debt, of more than \$2,000, on which you must pay interest, and in addition, your share of the cost of operation of the local, state and national government.

JOBS

AN EVIDENCE of returning prosperity is the increasing number of graduating college students who are now going into jobs, instead of into the bread lines.

New Booklet on Vitamins Guide to Healthful Diet



SHOCKING news, to learn that your youngster needs costly dental treatment.

This is what lack of Vitamin C in our diet can do and what it has done to more and more young Americans. Three times as many men are being rejected for bad teeth in the draft today as in 1917. Yet you can easily get enough Vitamin C in your diet.

Does this mean expensive meals? No, our new 32-page booklet suggests several vitamin-rich yet modest-cost menus. Gives charts showing vitamin content of everyday foods, the minimum you should get every day to have radiant health, youthful good looks. For your copy send order to:

READER-HOME SERVICE 635 Sixth Avenue New York City Enclose 10 cents in coin for your copy of VITAMINS TO KEEP YOU FIT. Name..... Address.....

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

BINOCULAR REPAIRS

Binoculars repaired and Collimated. All Makes - Foreign and Domestic. Complete. Satisfaction Guaranteed. MARYLAND LAB., 823 N. Euter, Baltimore, Md.

Unhappy Man

The most unhappy of all men is the man who cannot tell what he is going to do, who has got no work cut out for him in the world, and does not go into it. For work is the grand cure of all the maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind—honest work, which you intend getting done.

INDIGESTION

What Doctors do for it Doctors know that gas trapped in the stomach or gut causes all the heart-tugging, gas-free with the fastest-acting medicine known. It acts like the medicine for indigestion. Try Bell's now. If the FIRST DOSE doesn't put you back to normal, return the bottle and receive DOUBLE money back. See at all drug stores.

Poor and Rich

No man is rich whose expenditures exceed his means; and no one is poor whose incomes exceed his outgoings.—Haliburton.

Nervous Restless Girls!

Cranky? Restless? Can't sleep? Tire easily? Because of stress of monthly functional disturbances? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Pinkham's Compound is famous for relieving pain of irregular periods and cranky nervousness due to such disturbances. One of the most effective medicines you can buy today for this purpose—made especially for women. WORTH TRYING!

Establish a Standard

Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God.—George Washington.

Black Leaf 40 KILLS LICE. Cap-Bred Applicator makes BLACK LEAF 40 GO HIGH FASTER. JUST A DASH IN FEATHERS... OR SPREAD ON ROOSTS.

WNU-4 34-41

Doing of Revenge

Revenge converts a little right into a great wrong.

Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste

Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery. Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination. There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS