

The Centre Democrat

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EDITORIAL

Nature is grand until the weeds begin to grow.

Centre county might seek to save lives on its highways during the balance of 1941.

Russia has an uncanny knack of timing its non-aggression pacts so that they will do the small country no good.

If you have settled all other problems, you might figure out what kind of a world we will have if Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin and a few Japs regulate everything.

These British are evidently bad people. We see where innocent Mr. Hitler has been assaulted again, this time through the destruction of his favorite opera house in Berlin.

Whenever labor, industry, finance, or any other economic group, becomes more powerful than the government, the people of the United States need more government.

We don't mind contributing 'till it hurts to the cause of national defense and aid to Britain, but it does seem like a silly idea that the United States is going to build ships, load them with supplies and send them into the Atlantic ocean for German U-boats to sink. When better help get rid of the rats that are depleting the granary.

Back in 1776 a young Lutheran minister, the Rev. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, walked into his pulpit one Sunday morning. His congregation settled back to hear the usual Sabbath discourse.

But suddenly Pastor Muhlenberg riveted their attention. "There is a time for all things," he said. "There is a time to preach and a time to fight. Now is the time to fight." Throwing back his clerical robes he stood before them in the uniform of a colonel of the Revolutionary Army.

The birthday of Thomas Jefferson should not be overlooked by the friends of human freedom. The great proponent of the rights of man deserves the admiration of Americans today. He adopted and promulgated a political philosophy that was not popular with wealth and privilege in the early years of the republic, and it is safe to assume that he would not now belong to any conservative faction.

While the United States will make every effort to coordinate its economic policy with the British blockade, every effort will be made to avoid forcing Japan or France into the war on the side of the Axis. To cut off all exports to Japan, it is believed, would result in aggressive Japanese action in the South Pacific.

It is interesting to read the military experts who have had much to say about the "two-front war." Most of them seem to be under the impression that Germany's attack upon Yugoslavia and Greece makes the present a "two-front" struggle. We think that this is a mistaken idea because the German army is not now engaged upon any front except that in the Balkans.

ITALY'S TEN MONTHS OF WAR

Some ten months ago, when France was on her knees, Mussolini led his Fascists into war, confident that the struggle would be brief and that Italy would gain rich rewards.

The Italians were proud of their African empire and their newly-built navy, which was expected to make the Mediterranean an "Italian lake." For many years popular morale had been boosted by Il Duce's spectacular dramatics and bombastic boasting.

Italy's African empire is fast crumbling. A year ago it included 1,346,000 persons, with 12,100,000 living in Italian East Africa, including Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia. Today the British have all but conquered the entire area. Only in North Africa, where the British are apparently sacrificing some of their recent gains in order to use troops elsewhere, is there a gleam of hope for Italy.

When the war began the Italians boasted that their fleet and air arm would drive the British from the Mediterranean and cut the life-line of the British empire. Backing the boast was an unknown number of planes and six battleships, nineteen cruisers, 127 destroyers and 100 submarines, but no Italian victory has been recorded in the Mediterranean.

The Italian fleet of three battleships, eleven cruisers and fourteen destroyers was badly mauled by the British fleet of three battleships, four cruisers, an unknown number of destroyers and, significantly, one aircraft carrier. Planes attacked the newest Italian battleship, crippling the vessel, and then, without the vision that planes give to fleets, the Italian cruisers ran into the British battleships.

Losses have not been finally determined but not less than three heavy cruisers and two destroyers were sunk by the British without loss of life or damage to warships. This was an amazing demonstration of British naval skill in combat with inferior Italian tactics. In addition to these losses, the Italians lost five additional destroyers in the Red Sea, 1,800 miles away, off the shores of Eritrea.

A SAFE SEA LANE

The safe delivery of war materials to Great Britain is more important than the manufacture of the materials in the United States.

At present, ships are being sunk faster than they can be replaced. The fact is that the British have not enough destroyers to protect their trade routes. They will be in the same fix when war materials from this country begin to go across the Atlantic in decisive volume.

It is not to be expected that the United States will grudgingly produce these supplies and placidly acquiesce in German plans to send them to the bottom of the ocean. The problem will not be solved by attempting to build ships faster than Germany can sink them. If it is solved successfully the United States will undoubtedly have to take some action.

It has been suggested that the neutrality zone, as set up at the outset of the war, be patrolled by American warships and planes. Any attempt by a belligerent to prevent lawful commerce in the area would be met by force. This would put American armed forces behind the neutrality zone proclamation and make it unhealthy for U-boats and raiding planes.

The neutrality zone, as we gather, is a protective area thrown around the Western Hemisphere. It is said to include the area west of a line drawn north and south, from the middle point of a line between Brazil and Africa at the narrowest part of the south Atlantic. This line, we are advised, runs barely west of Iceland.

If the neutrality zone is patrolled, American warships and planes will attempt to protect a "safe" sea-lane between Newfoundland, Greenland and Iceland. From Iceland, the job will be given to the British. Thus the United States would safeguard about two-thirds of the distance between Newfoundland and the British Isles but the British would have the most dangerous leg to defend.

BRITISH NAVY HAS PROBLEM

One of the disadvantages that the British face in their desperate efforts to protect the North Atlantic sea-lane comes from the attitude of the Irish, who steadfastly decline to permit the British navy to use the anchorages of Lough Swilly and Berehaven.

The possession of these bases, which were used in the World War, would greatly extend the British convoy and airplane range. Another disadvantage springs from the lack of destroyers. When the World War ended the British navy had 435 destroyers and, in addition, 229 Allied destroyers were in active service. Today the British have only 220 destroyers, of which fifty are over-age American destroyers recently acquired in the swap with the United States.

Many Americans overlook the advantages which Germany has in the possession of Norwegian and French ports on the Atlantic, which enable submarines to reach their stations more quickly and safely than during the World War. Meanwhile, the British blockade patrol must spread out to cover the widely extended coastline and carry out similar duties in the Mediterranean, where it combats the Italian naval strength.

In the World War the German fleet was blockaded in the Baltic, from which it could emerge only through the North Sea and the Kiel Canal. Against the Kaiser's fleet the British could throw their complete sea-power because the Italian, Russian, French and Japanese navy was on the Allied side.

In the present war the British fleet, much reduced in size, faces the job without the help of any other fleet and with the Italian fleet in opposition. The Japanese fleet threatening and the French fleet operational.

GOV. JAMES BEGS NEW HAND-OUT

Governor James is back before the Legislature with his hat in hand begging \$7,100,000 to carry relief through May.

His February estimate of \$14,500,000 needed to carry relief to the end of the biennium, criticized by Democratic Legislative leaders at the time as inadequate, was only 66 per cent right. If the rest of his Budget is as accurate as this estimate, Pennsylvania is facing a terrific financial headache for the next two years, with special sessions every three months in prospect.

James asks that the \$7,100,000 be provided by lifting \$4,150,000 from the Motor Fund, deferring payment of \$2,150,000 to the sinking fund for the veteran compensation bonds, and using an \$800,000 credit with the Federal Government.

Meredith Meyers, chairman of the Democratic State Committee, remarked that he had labeled the Governor's budget as "phony" when presented in February and now saw no reason to change his mind. "I think it would be appropriate," he added, "to buy the Governor dark glasses, a cane and a tin cup and a 'Please Help the Blind' sign so that he may appear in proper character when he next addresses the General Assembly."

We see that a prominent religious leader is fearful of war. The American people, we believe, are also fearful of war, but not because of any suspicion that their own government is anxious to become embroiled in a conflict. We know that the danger of war to this country of Jinates in the policies which are followed by Germany, Italy and Japan. There are some Americans who seek to spread the idea that "secret maneuvers behind the scenes of Government" are drawing us nearer and nearer to war. For some strange reason, they do not express any suspicion that secret maneuvers in Germany and Italy draw us nearer and nearer to war. In fact, we are unable to understand the Americanism of an individual who is always proclaiming that the United States is engaged in some kind of enterprise to get into war, especially when the individual soft-pedals his denunciation of totalitarianism which menaces the civilization of free peoples.

THE OFFICE CAT
"A Little Nonsense Now and Then, is Relished by the Wisest Men"

Tired Feet
Ted—"My feet burn like the dikkens! Do you think a mustard bath would help?"

Ned—"Sure! There's nothing better than mustard for hot dogs."

Sure And He Would
"Pat," said Mike, "how would you like to be buried in a protestant graveyard?"

"Faith, Mike, an I'd die first."

(Personal Column, N. Y. Herald)
"Personal: If the gentleman who keeps the shoe store with a red head will return the umbrella of a young lady with whalebone ribs and an ivory handle to the state-roofed grocery store, he will hear something to his advantage, as the same is the gift of a deceased mother, now no more, with the name engraved upon it."

Troubles of a Recruit
Drill Sergeant—"Right turn! Left turn! Column right!"

Recruit—"Aw, I'm leaving."

Drill Sergeant—"Here, you! Where are you going?"

Recruit—"I've had enough. You don't know your own mind from one minute to the next."

Try This on Your Chimes
Assuming that you have three outside doors, you may be interested in the new motor-operated door chime that sounds eight notes for the front door, a high note for the side door, and a low note for the back door.

Oh, you take the high note, and I'll take the low note, and I'll be in the kitchen before you.

Wasn't He Lucky?
Harold—"Yes, the bear jumped out at me and I raced for a tree. As I went by I leaped for a limb 12 feet in the air."

Fair One (excitedly)—"Yes, yes, go on."

Harold—"But I missed it."

Fair One—"Oh, were you in the hospital afterwards?"

Harold—"Nope, I caught the limb on the way down."

Sounds Like Barnacle Bill
Navy Bill had broken with his girl friend Milly. After ignoring several letters requesting the return of her photograph, one came threatening to complain to the captain.

Deciding to squelch her for all time, he borrowed all the pictures of girls available on the ship, sending them to her in a large bundle with the following note: "Pick yours out, I've forgotten what you look like."

That Was a Big Help
Miss—"Did you mail those letters I gave you, Norah?"

Norah—"Yes, at the postoffice. But I noticed that you'd put the two-cent stamp on the Philadelphia letter and the three-cent stamp on the Bellefonte one."

Miss—"Oh, dear, what a blunder."

Norah—"But I fixed it all right, ma'am. I just changed the addresses on the envelopes."

Couldn't Fool Him
A darkey who worked as an extra at one of the Hollywood studios was called upon, in the filming of a scene purporting to show an African jungle, to enter a cage containing a performing lion. The prospect did not appeal to the candidate. He demurred.

"What's the matter with you?" asked the director. "That lion's not going to hurt you. That lion was brought up on milk."

"So was I brought up on milk," said the unhappy darkey, "but I eats meat once in a while now."

Slips That Pass in the News
(Wisconsin Newspaper)
"The procession at Judge Orton's funeral was very fine and nearly two miles in length as was the beautiful prayer of the Rev. Dr. Swing of Chicago."

(Ohio Daily)
"A cow was struck by lightning on Saturday belonging to Dr. Hammond who had a beautiful spotted calf only four days old."

(New York Ad)
"Run away—A hired man named John; his nose turned up five feet eight inches high, and had a pair of corduroy pants, much worn."

Big Bugs and Big Lies
One day they were talking in Uncle Hank's grocery about large bedbugs and tough bedbugs.

"I boiled a bedbug nine hours and it swam around on the top all the time," said old Gifford.

"I put a bedbug in a kerosene lamp," said Charley Campbell, "kept it there four years, and it hatched out twenty-seven litters of bedbugs right in the kerosene."

Old Hank Allen, who had been listening as an outsider, broke into the conversation. Said he:

"Some time ago I took a bedbug to Wood's iron foundry, and dropped it into a ladle where the melted iron was, and had it run into a skillet. Well, my old woman used that skillet for six years and here she other day she broke it all to smith; and what do you think, gentlemen? That 'ere insect just walked out of his hole where he'd been layin' like a frog in a rock, and made tracks for his old roost upstairs. But, by ginger, gentlemen, he looked mighty pale."

Bridget Writes From Ireland
Parish of Ballyraggett, County of Kilkenny, Ireland, March 1th.

My Dear Nephew:—What with all the war going on, I haven't sent ye a letter since the last time I wrote ye, because we have moved from our former place of livin' and I didn't know where a letter would find ye.

But I now with pleasure take me pen to inform ye of the death of yer own dear uncle, Ned Fitzpatrick, who died very suddenly a few days ago after a lingerin' illness of six weeks. The poor fellow was in violent convulsions the whole time of his sickness, lyin' perfectly quiet and intirely speechless—all the while talkin' deliriously, and cryin' for water. I had no opportunity of informin' ye of his death sooner, except I wrote to ye by the last mail, which went off two days before he died; and then ye would have had postage to pay.

I am at a loss to tell what his death was occasioned by, but I fear it was by his last sickness, for he was never well ten days together during the whole of his confinement. And I believe his death was brought about by his sittin' too much of a write stuffed with peas and gravy, or peas and gravy stuffed with rabbit. But be that as it may, when he breathed his last, his doctor gave up all hope of his recovery.

I didn't tell ye anything about his age, fer ye well know that in June next he would have been just seventy-five years old lackin' ten months, and had he lived till that time, would have been just six months dead.

His property now devolves to his next of kin, which all died some time ago, so that I expect it will be divided between us; and ye know his property, which was very large, was sold to pay his debts, and the remainder he lost at a horse race. But it was the opinion of everybody at the time he would have won the race, if the beast he run against hadn't been too fast for him.

I never saw a man in all my life, and the doctors all said so, that observed directions or took medicine better than he did. He said he would as leave drink bitter as sweet if it had only the same taste, and ipicase as whiskey punch if it would only put him in the same humor for fightin'.

But, poor soul! He will never eat or drink any more, and ye haven't a livin' relation in the world except meself and yer two cousins who were kill in the war.

I cannot dwell on the mournful subject any longer, and shall seal me letter wid black sealin' wax, and put on yer uncle's coat of arms. So I beg ye not to brake the seal when ye open the letter, and don't open it until two or three days after ye receive this, and by that time ye will be prepared for the sorrowful tidings.

Yer old sweetheart sends her love unknownst to ye. When Jarry McGhee arrives in America ask him for this letter, and if he don't bring it from amongst the rest, tell him it's the one that speaks about yer uncle's death, and sealed in black.

I remain yer affectionate old grandmother.

BRIDGET O'HOOLEGIN.

P. S.—Don't write till ye receive this.

N. B.—When ye come to this place stop, and don't read any more until my next letter.

That's all, folks. Progress always involves risks. You can't steel second base and keep your foot on first. —"SCAT."

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa:
I have just discovered that my husband has been having an affair with another woman for about two years.

It seems that everybody in the town has known it but me. My husband has asked me for a divorce, but I have refused to give him one.

One of my friends has told me that she can't understand the position I take. She thinks I should have too much pride to keep on with a man who wants to leave but this is the way I look at it, and I want you to tell me if you think I am going right.

Louisa, I stopped school to marry this boy against my father's wishes. In another year I would have had my college degree and could have gotten a teacher's position, but John would not hear of waiting. My father was very much provoked and told me that if I married I would have to give up my college education, his wishes I could never come home.

Now, we have two darling children who need my care. I have tried to be a good wife and mother. I am considered nice looking, keep a nice house and do all of my work. Because I have managed so well, my children have advantages that peoples' children who are much better off than we, have. My husband makes a small salary which is only ample for one household, so I know that if he married again there would be no alimony for me and the children.

Of course, it goes against my pride not to be able to tell him to go his way and never come back, but is this fair to his children? It would mean that I should have to get some ill-paying job and leave my children in a stranger's care, while I worked. As I am not prepared for any special job, this means that their environment and standard of living would be considerably lowered. They also love their father very much and the shock of a scandal about him would hurt them very much.

Do you think I am right?

Maryland. "DISTRESSED"

ANSWER:
I think under the circumstances you are acting very wisely. This other woman knew your husband was married when she started playing with fire, so that angle of it shouldn't dis-urb you.

Your husband sounds like he might have been a spoiled child and hasn't outgrown it. He did not have enough consideration for your father's wishes or your future welfare to wait a year for you and now, because he is infatuated with some one, whom he should have avoided, he wants to throw aside all of his responsibilities and pursue his desires. He has brought two children into the world and promised to cherish you until death, but because he has "fallen in love" again, all of you must be sacrificed so that he can have what he wants.

Well, "falling in love" is an excuse for dodging responsibilities. There are other things just as important, such as duty and honor, I think you are doing the right thing and I glory in your spunk. LOUISA.

Fire Sweeps 5-Story Building At Altoona

(Continued from page one)

stand the odor of the tar fumes and returned to the first floor.

The furnace was reported to have exploded, spreading the scorching flames from the rear of the cellar to the front.

Considerable damage was rendered to the Lewis Lang fur shop and the Endicott-Johnson shoe store, both on the first floor.

Many years ago the Baptist church, located on the same site as the Commerce building, was destroyed by fire.

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PHONE 244

Query & Answer Column

PROBLEM—What well-known city in the United States is represented when a girl is depicted as wearing a man's vest outdoors and carrying the coat draped over her arm? (Answer elsewhere in this department.)

R. J.—When Halley's comet appeared here in 1910 and then sailed away again, where did it go?

Ans.—It is not known where it has gone. The scientists only know as yet that the comet is traveling away at the rate of a thousand miles a second and takes just 76 years for it to make the round trip back to the sun. It will be visible here again in May, 1988.

S. F.—I would like to know where and how tea is grown?

Ans.—The Assam tea grows on large trees which attain a height of from 30 to 40 feet, and the leaf is from eight to ten inches long. The China variety is a comparatively stunted shrub, eight to ten feet in height, and the leaf two to three inches long. These varieties, as well as many others, are grown chiefly in Ceylon. However, farther south in the tropics tea is extensively grown and shipped to this country from Foo Chow, China.

M. C.—Do ants have any way of communication with each other?

Ans.—It is a well-founded belief that ants can communicate with each other. The perfect order of their colony house seems to verify that. Each of the innumerable individuals discharges its special tasks with perfection and without hesitation. Ants are seen stroking each other with their "feelers," probably conveying information in this manner, as they have no vocal organs.

E. K.—When and where did the Democratic form of government of nations first get its start?

Ans.—It began to take root in Greece about the year 1050 B. C. At first the Athenians were under kings like the other Hellenes. This was changed to that of archon "ruler," and while the office of archon was held for life and continued in the same family, he was completely responsible for his acts to a general assembly of the people, thus making Athens a Democratic oligarchic republic.

W. N.—How long has the national debt of the United States existed?

Ans.—The national debt of the United States has existed continuously since the Revolutionary War, and has been growing ever since. However, it was not until after the Civil War that the total indebtedness catapulted into the billions. Following this war the debt reached \$2,750,000,000.

D. C.—Will you please answer what the area of Gibraltar is, and whether any civilians live within the area? If any civilians, are they subject to Spain or Great Britain?

Ans.—The area of Gibraltar is two square miles, and has a civilian population of about 35,000, mostly Spaniards, but all subjects of the British Crown.

M. K. B.—What kind of plane is a spitfire?

Ans.—It is a British single-seat, multi-gun, day and night fighter monoplane. There are four Browning machine guns in each wing. It has a maximum speed of 367 miles per hour and climbs to 11,000 feet in 48 minutes.

D. J. R.—What were the lines of poetry quoted by President Roosevelt in his letter to Winston Churchill?

Ans.—The President quoted the following lines from Longfellow's "The Building of the Ship": Sail on, O Ship of State! Sail on, O Union strong and great! Humanity with all its fears, With all the hopes of future years, Is hanging breathless on thy Fate!

P. L. J.—Please give some figures which show the extent of the persecution of the church by the German government.

Ans.—Over 10,000 pastors, priests, and monks have been jailed for varying lengths of time. Many others have been beaten to death. In 1939 over 700 monasteries and convents were closed, and in November, 1940, sixty Catholic priests were expelled from their parishes. Of the 1000 young Protestant seminarians in 1939, only 100 were permitted to be ordained after their views were examined by state officials. More than 80 per cent of the prisoners in concentration camps are Christians.

M. C.—What are crocodile tears?

Ans.—The expression "crocodile tears" is used in reference to insincere grief. It originated in the legend told by old travelers that a crocodile wept over those he devoured.

B. S. Y.—How many doctors are there in the United States?

Ans.—There are 175,352 practicing physicians at the present time.

F. H.—Is Jess Willard, the famous pugilist, living?

Ans.—He is a resident of Glendale, California.

J. B. M.—How did the Princess Pat regiment of Canada derive its name?

Ans.—At the time that the Duke of Connaught was Governor General of Canada a battalion of light infantry of the Canadian Army was named for his daughter, Princess Patricia, and she was appointed its honorary colonel. During the World War this battalion distinguished itself exceedingly in the Ypres section and was practically decimated. Only eight of the battalion survived but they returned with their colors unscathed. They were reviewed by Princess Patricia.

J. C.—What is the approximate yield of production from 100 gallons of crude oil?

Ans.—It is as follows: gasoline, forty-four gallons; fuel oil, thirty-six gallons; miscellaneous: coke, asphalt, wax, etc., eight gallons; kerosene, six gallons; lubricants, three gallons; loss, three gallons.

J. T. C.—Are twin beds less in demand now than in former years?

Ans.—On the contrary, their popularity is increasing. Whereas in 1930 ten double beds were sold for every one twin bed, the proportion last year was one twin bed to every four double beds.

W. M. S.—Please give the name and birth date of Dorothy Thompson's son.

Ans.—Michael Lewis was born on June 30, 1930.

C. C.—Is it correct to fly the American flag when it is raining?

Ans.—Unless there is some specific reason for doing so, the flag should not be flown in rainy or stormy weather.

T. D.—What is meant by the steel term skin pass?

Ans.—The final cold rolling operation which brightens and tempers sheets of steel is known as a skin pass.

G. E. G.—When did Columbus reach the Bahamas?

Ans.—Columbus reached the Bahama Islands on October 12, 1492.

H. O.—What is the inscription over