

The Centre Democrat.

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
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EDITORIAL

Embargo on silk, or not, we are waiting to see how the women look in cotton hose.

If Hitler conquers Europe, can you imagine who will be Der Fuehrer's man in the United States?

The United States can have peace with Hitler—all we have to do is to go way back and sit down.

There are some Congressmen who would like to investigate the rumor that there is a war raging somewhere.

Japan has about come to the point of suspecting that the United States can be pushed so far, and no more.

Russia's army performance has reached the stage where one is forced to wonder how much longer it can last.

There are a few persons in Centre County who still think that Great Britain is a greater menace to this country than Germany. They haven't been reading much since 1939.

Every time a Russian soldier fires a gun he invites to prevent the boys of this country from having to fire a gun. Consequently, we think it is a good plan to keep the Red army supplied with ammunition.

Here is something new in strikes: A number of anthracite coal miners in this State recently picketed and closed down a number of collieries, striking against the action of the United Mine Workers in increasing the dues of its members. The strike of miners against their union is like a man biting a dog. It is news.

President Roosevelt says: The right of freedom of worship would mean nothing without freedom of speech. And the rights of free labor as we know them today could not survive without the rights of free enterprise. This is the indestructible bond that is between us—all of us Americans: interdependence of interest, privilege, opportunities, responsibilities—interdependence of rights.

In declaring that German or Italian vessels which enter the zone of our present defense, will henceforth do so at their own peril, the President is simply recognizing the plain and imperative consequences in which the nation finds itself. The people of the United States will see their nation's policy placed upon that firm foundation which is the best—the only possible—answer to the horror and menace into which Hitlerism has plunged our world. The man who is responsible for this step forward in our defense policy is not President Roosevelt. It is Adolf Hitler. Under our American system the President must act as Commander in Chief when the security of our country is endangered by piratical conquerors who disdain the formalities of declaring war. This is what the people expect of him. Our Navy is now a direct participant in the Battle of the Atlantic.

LEGION'S ALL-AMERICAN STAND

The American Legion, an organization devoted to 100 per cent Americanism, and boasting more than a million soldiers, sailors, marines and coast-guardsmen as members, has been at times something of a non-interventionist and isolationist group. Meeting recently in Milwaukee the Legion, in annual convention, repudiated entirely such sentiment and by official action called for the "defeat of Adolf Hitler and all that he stands for." This was considered tantamount to a declaration of support of the President's foreign policies.

The Legion favored repeal of the Neutrality Act, which bars U. S. ships from war zones, the lifting of geographical limitations on the use of American troops in line with the request of the Army High Command, the establishment of naval bases in the Philippines, Iceland and other key islands in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, universal military training and refused to approve a report opposing lend-lease aid to Russia.

Generally, the Legion went on record, "if fighting is necessary" upon "being prepared to do the fighting outside the United States," thus endorsing the offensive-type of defense that is now advocated by leading Army and Navy officers. The Legion wants the nation strong enough to "meet any possible attack before it arrives and to turn the enemy back so that our homes remain intact and our families secure."

The meeting of the Legion was generally anticipated as the first public reaction to the President's "shoot on sight" order. The members heard Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox outline the orders issued to the warships of the United States in connection with keeping the ocean lanes open as far as the waters adjacent to Iceland. They received a message from the President in relation to the grave dangers confronting the nation.

On the eve of the convention the America First Committee, an organization militantly opposed to the President's foreign policies, held a demonstration at which Rep. Hamilton Fish and Senator Bennett Champ Clark assailed the course of the United

States. Both of these speakers are members of the Legion and there were additional spokesmen available to represent the non-interventionist philosophy. The action of the Legion is as significant as it is clear-cut. The men who participated in the last World War, after years of serious consideration, have concluded that the interests of this nation, as well as the peace of the world, require the defeat of Adolf Hitler. They have likewise decided that the United States has a direct interest in the job to be done.

LIMITED-NAVAL WARFARE

In January, Adolf Hitler, on the eighth anniversary of Nazi accession to power, predicted that Great Britain would be defeated in 1941, and declared, before a cheering audience in Berlin's Sportplatz, that: "Whoever believes he will be able to help England must definitely know one thing: every ship, whether with or without a convoy, that comes before our torpedo tubes, will be torpedoed."

This was the Nazi declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare. A similar policy had been put into effect once before, in March, 1917, with the result that the United States went to war against Imperial Germany because of the sinking of American ships. Congress Accepts Hitler's Challenge

Following the warning from Hitler, the Congress of the United States, in March, passed the Lease-Lend Act, forthrightly proclaiming aid to nations resisting aggression as a national policy of this country. Since the passage of the Lease-Lend Act, a steady procession of ship-borne supplies has proceeded across the Atlantic to the British forces.

The United States had to take for an irreconcilable conflict between Germany and the United States. The clash could be avoided only if Hitler refrained from carrying out his policy proclaimed under the Lease-Lend Act.

Obviously, under a policy of retreat before aggression, there would be difficulty in establishing any point at which to make a stand. The issue was plainly joined. The challenge came from Hitler and the United States had to accept the challenge or beat a hasty retreat.

There may be some Americans who believe that the United States should have surrendered all rights on the high seas in the interest of preserving peace. There is nothing in the record of Germany's recent history to indicate that such a surrender would insure permanent peace. In fact, Hitler's record shows that every concession to Nazi Germany has resulted in enlarged demands.

Once a nation adopted a policy of appeasement, demonstrating a lack of firmness, the Reich regime continued to push that nation to the limit. Eventually, the unfortunate country discovered that appeasement was no satisfactory solution and only resulted in weakening the country for defense.

Hitler's Program Compels Attacks The consensus of opinion on the part of experts seems to be that Hitler does not prefer a shooting war with the United States at this time. Fully engaged in Russia, the Nazis would prefer to settle that fight before beginning another.

Just the same, Hitler's long-range program inevitably includes domination of the entire world and the first step in this program involves the defeat of Great Britain. Consequently, Hitler is faced with the choice of abandoning his campaign against Great Britain or risking war with the United States. This is the grave question which now must be decided in Berlin. Orders issued to the warships of the United States, involving the protection of merchant ships engaged in commerce, serve notice on German and Italian vessels of war to enter our defensive waters at their own peril. This means that American warships will hereafter immediately engage Axis warships discovered in American defensive waters.

So far as we can see, it is only a question of time before a naval engagement will result. An American patrol vessel will run across an Axis submarine, or surface warship, in waters deemed essential to our defense. In that event a naval engagement will inevitably take place. Only the slightest chance exists that Axis warships will refrain from operations in our defensive waters.

Limited Warfare Foreseen It will be a mistake, we think, to assume that such a naval engagement will result in full-fledged warfare between the United States and Germany. The probability, as we see it, is that the United States would strengthen its Atlantic patrol and continue to shoot at every Axis warship located in our area.

This policy of limited warfare is all that this nation can do to protect merchant ships on the high seas. It should result in greater losses to Germany and to Italy than to the United States.

We doubt if there will be anything like a formal declaration of war. American warships and planes will proceed into action against Axis warships upon the same basis that they would attack piratical vessels engaged in plundering the commerce of the world. Germany might declare war against us, but, even so, there is no course open to the Nazis except to continue their present operations. It would be entirely up to the United States to determine the scope of activity, and we would make this decision without concern as to Germany's reaction.

AMAZING FACTS FROM A SPY TRIAL

The people of the United States are naturally interested in the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will no doubt be fascinated by details of the trial of sixteen spies now under way in the Federal Courtroom in Brooklyn, New York.

Among the revelations brought to light, there is the fact that in 1939 an American citizen, who had served as a machine-gunner in the German Army during the World War, was forced to become a spy while in Germany. Upon returning to this country, he revealed all the facts to the Government. As a result, the FBI built a short-wave station to establish communications with the German spy ring at Hamburg. For sixteen months, the G-men exchanged worthless "information" about American defense plans for valuable details of the Nazi spy activities in this country.

It will also come as a shock to the people of this country to be informed that, in the opinion of G-men, the Germans have been in possession of our valuable Norden bombsight for many months. It will be remembered that quite a furor was created in this country at the mere suggestion that the bomb-sight be turned over to the British air force. The question became a national issue, with isolationists and patriots vying with each other to protect our "great military secret." Now comes the revelation that it was no secret at all in Berlin where complete details had been delivered by an employee of the plant making the bomb-sight in this country.

HAS JAPAN MADE UP HER MIND?

It is too early to conclude that the Japanese have decided to make a complete about-face in the Far East. There is still room for the suspicion that Tokyo will be guided by Hitler's success, and the peace of the Far East will not be secure as long as Japan maintains its army and navy in a position to take advantage of developments in other areas. The United States, we presume, will require "more" from Tokyo than promises. Before the economic sanctions are removed the newly established Japanese regime will have to give more than lip-service to the cause of peace.

The test of Japanese intentions comes in China. If the Japanese end their "Chinese incident" by retiring from the Chinese soil, giving up the ill-gotten gains which the United States has declined to recognize, one might be lulled into believing that Tokyo has experienced a change of heart.

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

Not Beyond His Means
Boy Friend—"Are you free this evening?"
Girl Friend—"Well, not exactly free, but very inexpensive."

The Fruits of Caution
A careful driver approached a railroad; he stopped, looked and listened. All he heard was the car behind him crashing into his gas tank.

Slow Motion
A Bellefonte man was grumbling during the recent hot spell about the heat. Said another, who had just returned from a training camp in the South:

Was It a Defense Order?
Customer (in restaurant)—"Are you the girl who took my order?"
Waitress—"Yes, sir."

Missing Something
Pap—"It's a terrible thing, I sold my car and mortgaged my house and I can't find my son to college. And all he does there is smoke, dance and take girls out to parties."

Ain't It the Truth?
He—"Hang it, isn't dinner ready yet? I'll go out and get my dinner."
She—"Can't you wait ten minutes?"

Busy Corner—
Souze (bumping into lamp post)—"Excuse me, sir." (Bumping into fire hydrant): "Excuse me, little boy." (Bumping into second lamp post): "Well, I'll sit here until the crowd passes."

Getting a Raise
Then there was the guy that winked at the elevator girl. She took him up.

Close Relative
His wife determined to cure him of his evil ways, with the aid of a sheet and an electric tarch, transformed herself into a fair resemblance of a ghost. She went in and shook the drunkard.

Free Ride Coming
Conductor—"Madam, you will have to pay full fare for this boy."
Madam—"But he is only ten."
Conductor—"Well, our rule is long pants, full fare; short pants, half fare."

Lost and Found
Angry Customer—"Look here, waitress. I have just found this button in my soup."
Waitress—(beaming)—"Thank you, so much, sir. I have been looking everywhere for it."

Determined
First Neighbor—"I hear your cook has rather an amorous disposition."
Second Neighbor—"Yes. If she can't get up a flirtation with the milk man, she starts mashing the potatoes."

Too Risky
The preacher was having a serious talk with one of his flock about her son.
"Tom needs educating, Mrs. Jones," he said; "it is very important. I had to pinch like everything to send my sons to college, but it was worth it."

Vicious Grasshoppers
Two farmers, one from Iowa and one from Kansas, were discussing grasshoppers. The man from Iowa insisted that for size and strength and all-around endurance, his hoppers had the world beaten.

Either Way
Officer (as company is temporarily about to vacate trench which has been reported mined)—"You two will remain here, and if there is an explosion you will blow a whistle. You understand?"
Private Spuds—"Yes, sorr. Will we blow it going up or coming down, sorr?"

Information
She had everything wrong. She had disregarded the traffic light, then stalled in the middle of the street and, before starting, had taken out her powder puff and started applying it to her face. An irate traffic cop rushed up.

Tit For Tat
A Scottish clergyman owned a farm, which was run as economically as possible. One day, taking a stroll, he saw his plowman sitting idle on the handle of the plow, while the horses took a needed rest. He was paying the man 10 cents an hour, and so gently, but reproachfully said:

Nasty Names... Calling a lawyer a "Nazi" or a "Communist" in New York State is libelous, and the name caller may have to pay substantial damages to the attorney. Tif, tat.

Why, Johnny
Johnny played truant from school one day, and the following morning was worried as to how to square himself with the teacher. He decided to write a note of excuse, signing his mother's name, which resulted in the following:

From Bad to Worse
Mandy uncorked the capsule of quinine and sifted the dose well into her mouth. Then she rushed as fast as her fat legs would carry her to the doctor.

And the Editor Star Stars
(From the Sands, Ia. Press)
"Next Tuesday night's open-air session, Miss Martha Wins, the astronomy teacher, will discuss the moon and its relative position to the diaper (dipper)."

That's all, folks. Did you ever hear about the fellow who goes to the cemetery every year to mourn the death of his wife's first husband? —SCAT.

LOUISA'S LETTER

Dear Louisa:
I am a girl of seventeen and I have been going with a boy who is eighteen, for three years. It will be several years before we can be married, but in the meantime, I will have to pass the time in some way. But don't you think that it will just be wasting money to go to college, as I never intend to teach, I am interested in making a home for my husband.

My family wants me to go to college. What do you think?
E. L. P. Pennsylvania.

Answer:
You can never be sure what the future holds in store for you. Three years from now you may wonder: why ever did I ever care anything about this boy or he may be in love with some other girl. He may be in the Army, or he may be dead.

At any rate, you would certainly be foolish to give up the opportunity of getting a good education and of having some definite way with which to earn a living in case you ever need to.

Go to school and learn all you can. Even if you never need to make your living, you will be a more interesting person for such an experience. You will meet other people and your viewpoint will be a broader one.

Good luck.
LOUISA.

Dear Louisa:
I will finish high school this year and I had intended to become a stenographer. But that means two years and money is scarce. I have a chance to go in training as a nurse. I've always liked nursing, but I wonder if there are the opportunities to rise in the profession that you find in the business world? Please tell me what you advise.

ELLEN. Maryland.

Answer:
If you like nursing, I don't think you would go wrong to go in training as soon as you finish school. As for opportunities, it seems to me that a smart girl has more of them in the nursing profession than in almost any other line. A good nurse makes a good living and she comes in contact with all kinds of people. As far as romance is concerned, anyone in a white cap and apron and span uniform just seems to exude romance.

LOUISA.

Dear Louisa:
Do you approve of children three or four years of age having permanent waves? My sister wants to give one to my little girl, but I don't like the idea. Please tell me what you think.

MOTHER. Illinois.

Answer:
I think it is extremely silly to put a permanent in such a tiny girl's hair. To begin with it usually looks frizzy instead of wavy and I like my children natural. Why don't you roll it up on soft paper?

LOUISA.

So-That's the Law

(Continued from page one)

that her testimony was incredible and that as a wayward girl she was "attempting to hang her father for her own delinquencies."

Attention—Heads of Governments... May a son who murders his father inherit the parent's property? The courts in a few states have answered this question in the affirmative. Such was the law in Pennsylvania until 1917 when a law specifically forbidding such inheritance was enacted. A Nebraska case of 1884 upheld the rights of a father to inherit his son's property after he murdered her. Actually he did not have time to enjoy these ill-gotten gains because he was hanged a short time after.

However, in most of the states, the law is clear that a person does not have the right to legally acquire property by his own crime. A word to the wise, etc.

Easy Divorce... Divorce is easy in Java. All that is necessary is to have the couple go before a priest and break a ring or cut a piece of cord—and presto, they are free.

Outdoor Life... According to the laws of Massachusetts, an alien may not pick wild berries or flowers, or camp or picnic upon any land which he does not own in the counties of Barnstable or Plymouth between April 1st and December 1st, without first getting written permission from the owner. If an alien violates this law, he may be fined \$50 or imprisoned for one month, or both. It is interesting to note that this statute does not restrict citizens from picking berries or camping. Why?

Nasty Names... Calling a lawyer a "Nazi" or a "Communist" in New York State is libelous, and the name caller may have to pay substantial damages to the attorney. Tif, tat.

"Brass" John Howard was convicted of obtaining \$100 under false pretences. The judge said he would consider releasing Howard if the latter would return the money. To this the prisoner answered: "Your Honor, I have \$85 could you lend me \$15 until next week?"

The judge raised his head sharply as though trying to recover from a shock, and said: "My job is to judge the world—not take it upon my shoulders."

Sewery Laws... In Winona Lake, Indiana, you cannot eat ice cream at a counter on Sundays... There is a British law (not very strictly enforced), which provides that you may be fined if you do not attend church on Sundays.

Tropical Paradise... The Island of Palmyra, located in the Pacific Ocean southwest of Hawaii, was taken over in December, 1940, as a United States naval base. Until then it had been considered to be within the city limits of Honolulu, only 975 miles away. Liebenraum?

Query & Answer Column

M. A.—What percentage of stockings sold in the United States are silk?
Ans.—Eighty-one per cent of the \$40,000,000 pairs of stockings sold annually are silk.

B. E. J.—How many Canadians are serving in the armed forces of Great Britain?
Ans.—At present 100,000 Canadians are in Britain and 200,000 are ready and waiting to go.

M. B.—Why has Mansa Liza no eyebrows?
Ans.—There are numerous explanations as to their absence, one being that they disappeared in the course of cleaning the portrait.

L. M.—When was Gen. Chiang Kaleshek kidnapped?
Ans.—On December 12, 1936, he was kidnapped at Stan by Gen. Chang Hsueh-Liang and was held prisoner until December 25.

T. K.—What is a statoscope?
Ans.—It is a very sensitive aneroid barometer for recording minute variations of pressure.

T. D.—How much does it cost to equip an Army trainee with clothing for a year?
Ans.—The cost of initially equipping him is \$104.66, and the cost of maintaining him is \$53.93, making a total clothing cost for the year of \$157.71.

C. E. B.—What famous philosopher expounded the belief that man should live only for himself?
Ans.—Nietzsche's guiding principle was the will to power and the conviction that the moral man must live only for self.

M. H.—What is the origin of calling the Republican Party G. O. P.?
Ans.—In 1880 the Republican party was referred to by campaign orators as the Grand Old Party. It was abbreviated to G. O. P. in the Cincinnati Gazette in 1884 and thereafter that became the accepted form.

J. P.—How long does it take a bomb weighing fifty pounds to drop 2000 feet from an airplane?
Ans.—The time of fall for a fifty pound bomb dropped from 2000 feet is approximately eleven and one-half seconds.

E. E. J.—What insignia is used by the members of the United States of America parachute troops?
Ans.—The emblem of the parachute troops is a replica of an open parachute between wings. It is made of silver.

S. L. H.—What kind of food is pancho villa?
Ans.—It is a Chilean casserole dish composed of beans, corn, and poached eggs cooked in beef juice flavored with garlic.

F. K.—How many United States ships were sunk by Germany before this country declared war in 1917?
Ans.—From August, 1914, to April 6, 1917, fifteen ships were sunk by submarines and five by mines. The William P. Frye was sunk by the German cruiser Prinz Eitel Frederick.

T. S.—How many persons did the Wooden Horse of Troy hold?
Ans.—It was large enough to contain 100 armed warriors within its hollow interior.

D. B.—What is the salary of a rural mail carrier?
Ans.—On a standard daily route of twenty-four miles the salary is \$1800 a year, with an additional \$30 a mile a year for each mile or major fraction thereof in excess of twenty-four miles.

F. K.—Can you tell me in your good paper how many stones were used to build the Great Pyramid of Egypt?
Ans.—According to British archaeologists there are 2,300,000 stones in the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

G. L.—Who is the king of Algeria? And what language do they speak?
Ans.—Algeria has no king. The country is a French colony, and French is the official language.

H. G.—Do high foreheads indicate great intelligence?
Ans.—No; it is a myth. This theory became deeply rooted in the minds of many people because of the low foreheads of the man-like apes.

W. S.—Can you tell me why the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy, was built to lean like it does?
Ans.—Originally the Leaning Tower of Pisa was built plumb, but its height and weight was too great for the size of its foundation and it gradually began to sag. The tower is now leaning more than 16 feet out of plumb and is still sinking—slowly but surely. American methods are being considered to straighten the building and give it a foundation that will last for all time, like our own Washington Monument was jacked up and straightened some fifty years ago when it was discovered to be leaning one inch out of plumb because the foundation had settled a little on one side.

A. W.—Will you answer in your Questions and Answers who were the vice presidents during President Wilson's administrations?
Ans.—The Vice-President during both terms of President Wilson's administrations was Thomas Marshall of Indiana.

B. R.—How are icebergs formed? And how much of the whole of a floating iceberg stands above the surface of the ocean?
Ans.—Icebergs are fragments of Polar ice-sheets which have broken away from the original mass, except that some are formed by the breaking off of huge fragments of glaciers which have descended to the sea. About eight-ninths of all icebergs are below the surface of the water. In other words, if an iceberg is one-quarter mile high, two miles of it is deep into the ocean.

C. H.—Does the monarchic Vatican City carry on commercial activities with other countries? Who are the diplomatic representatives from the United States?
Ans.—Vatican City, while an independent State, with the Pope as ruler, no commercial activities are carried on with any country. Therefore they have no diplomatic relations with the United States nor with any other nation. The Papal State government is purely spiritual beyond the confines of its domain.

P. W.—Is the Socialist Party and the Communist Party the same?
Ans.—No. Not any more than you would consider the Democrats and the Republicans the same.

M. B.—Are there more nuns or priests in the United States?
Ans.—There are 152,159 Catholic nuns and 50,203 Catholic priests and brothers.

C. D.—Is it customary for the bridegroom to furnish suits and gloves for the best man and ushers?
Ans.—The best man and ushers at a wedding supply their own suits. If gloves are to be worn, these are furnished by the bridegroom.

B. C.—Does a lightning flash or bolt always strike the earth?
Ans.—The Weather Bureau says that many lightning discharges take place between two parts of the same cloud, or between two clouds without striking the earth.

F. M.—Why do chains hang from oil trucks?
Ans.—The chains which drag from the rear of trucks are for the purpose of establishing a ground, thus eliminating the danger of fire or explosion due to static electricity.

B. H.—Please give the population of Japan.
Ans.—In 1940, the population of the Japanese Empire was 105,286,101.

Health Letter

One-half of the disabling diseases of mankind start with a cold in the head.

Few persons escape one or more colds in the course of a year.

Colds mean reduced efficiency, loss of time, economic loss, and sometimes serious consequences to follow.

No drug has been found as yet that will stop a cold.

It is much smarter to prevent a cold than to try to cure one.

Most colds are contracted by contact with someone who has a cold. During an epidemic of colds, crowds should be avoided.

Contact with anyone who has a cold should be avoided if possible.

Avoid at all times overeating or remaining in stuffy, overheated rooms.

Colds are not likely to develop when one is thoroughly rested, so sleep eight hours in a well-ventilated bedroom.

Drink at all times plenty of water daily between meals.

People should dress warmly in colder months, but not too warmly. For more colds develop from overheating than from chilling.

Keeping the feet dry is an important factor in preventing colds.

Diseased tonsils, defective teeth, mechanical nasal obstructions are cold breeders.

If one does catch a cold, no matter how trivial the symptoms, certain precautions should be taken at once.

Go to bed immediately and stay there, even if you have no fever, for rest alone will often promptly arrest the infection.

Play safe with a cold or it may play havoc with you.

DO YOU KNOW
The average American now lives 62 1/2 years, as compared with an span of 35 years in 1800. The average span for white women is 64 1/2 years, against 60 1/2 for men.

In the army a sick soldier is worse than an soldier because it takes two other soldiers to look after him.