

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL

Now that you are a member of the Red Cross, you should buy some Christmas Seals, or a Defense Bond.

Work hard, save your money and you will die early enough for your heirs to enjoy spending it.

Whatever the government of the United States may do, there will always be a few Congressmen to argue that the other nation is right.

There is only one way to whip Germany and break up the Axis Plunderbund. It sounds cruel but the victory can come only through the killing of German soldiers, and the rest of the world has the choice of doing the job or accepting Nazi domination. Believe it or not.

In the event of war with Japan, naval strategists in this country are a bit divided upon whether the U. S. fleet should fight a defensive war, or boldly invade Far Eastern waters for the purpose of seeking out and attacking the Japanese fleet. In the latter case, the Jap fleet would have to fight in order to protect communications with the army in China and the line of supply to Indo-China.

Former President Herbert Hoover, appearing again in the role of a prophet of doom and disaster, declares that a persistence of existing Democratic policies will dry up the wells of freedom in the United States. Mr. Hoover then proceeds to outline the proper course for the U. S. A. to travel, saying, in effect, "Follow me." The only trouble about that is that the American people followed Mr. Hoover once before—followed him over the hill to the poor house.

There is small reason for astonishment over the action of the fourteen Republican representatives who voted unanimously against the repeal of the Neutrality Law. They have voted almost unanimously against every bill which has been presented in the last two years to strengthen our defenses, including the original Selective Service Act.

SECRECY SERVES THE NATION

There are two classes of people who want an end to secrecy in regard to naval operations in the Atlantic.

The first group includes those who are naturally curious and believe that they are entitled to know everything that occurs. It also includes some citizens who are anxious to uncover some fact with which to attempt to discredit the foreign policy of the nation.

The second class includes those persons who are willing to permit the Axis powers to secure valuable information from the United States, in the belief that this will help them in their war upon Great Britain and Russia and with careless disregard of the effect that such news will have upon the lives of Americans and the fortunes of this country.

The people of any democratic nation must realize that when their nation faces external foes, it is impossible to broadcast every fact relating to national defense. To do so would be to play into the hands of our enemies.

In Germany, it is true that the Nazi regime secretly built up an efficient military machine, ready to strike with great power to accomplish the aims of the Hitlerian government. In Russia, it is apparent that the Stalinist government has effectively permitted Russia to equip herself for defense against Germany.

Naturally, nobody with much sense wants the United States to adopt the policies of the dictator states but, in matters military, naval and aerial, the policy of secrecy is the only wise course to pursue.

TOUGH ON FINLAND, BUT—

We are furnishing Russia with war engines and other supplies, not because we love Russia, but for our own sake—because Russia is doing her part in stopping the world conquest on which the Reich has embarked.

embarked. For war purposes, at the present moment Finland and Germany are one. The conundrum is whether we can permit our affection for and sympathy with the distressed little country to prevent us from trying to get her to abandon the Axis—in short, to get off Russia's back—when Russia is making our fight? Not that Russia is doing it for our sake but for her own salvation.

Nobody suspects Finland—as square and honest a democracy as ever advanced the cause of liberty—of anything approaching accord with the Hitler philosophy. Their being joined is a plain marriage of convenience. It afforded the Finns an opportunity to get back at a nation that has bullied her and threatened her independence off and on for two hundred years.

On the other hand, the United States is committed to the destruction of Hitlerism, for it is fully aware that if the Fuehrer succeeds in Europe—and Asia—we are bound to be next on his list.

We have advised Finland that unless she quits her invasion of Russia, she will forfeit the friendship of our country. That sounds mild, but forfeiture of national friendship may involve a lot of trouble. Japan realizes it and Japan is, up to date, only a potential part of the Axis, while Finland is in it the whole way.

Possibly the argument that may have the most effect will be that if the Nazis are definitely stopped in Russia, the war will be of relatively short duration; but if they are not, we may look forward to a long-time world war—and in such a war the independence of small nations on the firing line will be a mere abstraction.

BIBLE WEEK WORTHY

We are conscious of the existence of more "weeks" to promote special causes than the calendar allows and that the American people are a bit fed up on the numerous proclamations of So-and-So Week.

Just the same, we are going to call attention to a special week, with the suggestion that our readers will observe it. Between December 8th and 14th the first annual Bible Week in America will be observed if a recently appointed committee can bring the matter to pass.

Asserting that the Bible is the fountain head of democratic doctrines and the answer to attacks being made upon them by nazism and communism, a Laymen's National Committee insists that "a renewal of the spiritual life is essential to national morale" and that "the Bible is the symbol of spiritual tradition and unity in this country."

We thoroughly endorse the Bible Week and the general purposes of the group of interested laymen. Their observations as to the value of the Bible, in relation to national morale and democratic doctrines, is true but, just the same, we think they could launch their annual week upon the basis of the value of the Bible to the individual.

However, there is no occasion for argument as to the best reasons for a Bible Week. Let's make it a point to see that the week gets some publicity in Centre county and urge our fellow-citizens to observe it.

LABOR AGITATION

Anti-strike legislation is to receive the consideration of the House of Representatives this week but there is now way to forecast the shape of the measure by the time it runs the gamut of Congress.

There has been considerable agitation to end walk-outs, strikes and shut-downs in defense industries. For some time, the White House was apparently cool to the suggestion but eventually the President came to the conclusion that labor legislation should be considered.

Congressional leaders are of the opinion that any legislation enacted should be confined to strikes in defense industries and would be effective only for the duration of the present national emergency. Presumably some cooling-off period would be provided in order to permit negotiations and if no agreement is secured, conciliation and mediation services of the Government would be available.

While public opinion in the United States has swung heavily against labor as a result of strikes in defense industries, there is no reason to suppose that anti-strike legislation will have an easy path through Congress. Members of Congress in both parties respect the political power of labor.

Much depends upon the attitude of the Republican minority because if the party votes as a unit against legislative proposals, there may be enough defections from the Democratic strength, due to the influence of labor, to prevent passage of an effective bill.

In writing that public opinion has shifted against labor, we merely report a fact without attempting to pass judgment upon the course of labor or to explain the shift of public opinion. Obviously, however, news of labor troubles in defense industries have been highlighted throughout the nation, making the general public exceedingly conscious of the delay in the output of defense material.

There is some reason to believe that labor disturbances have been magnified in defense industries and that undue emphasis has been placed upon production curtailments due to strikes. As an example of what we have in mind, we call attention to developments following labor disturbances at the plant of Air Associates, Incorporated, at Bendix, New Jersey.

It will be recalled that the War Department seized the company's property, excluding officials and taking charge of production. Recently, the plant has been turned over to the company but not until two officials connected with the company, resigned. One of them, S. Leroy Hill, has protested to the War Department against seizure of the plant and his forced resignation.

In his letter to Robert C. Patterson, Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Hill asserted that the company, under his direction, had complied with all the laws including the Wagner Act, and cited figures purporting to show that production at the plant had not been impaired seriously as a result of the labor trouble.

This, we think, is an interesting statement. The War Department seized the company's property and the public generally approved the action of the War Department in the belief that labor trouble had seriously impaired production at the plant and that continuance of the situation would result in dangerous delays in the delivery of supplies needed by our expanding airplane program.

The strike was played up in newspapers throughout the country as a deterrent to necessary production and, so far as we observed, no official of the company came out with a statement then denying that production was being seriously impaired. Now, Mr. Hill urges that production had not been seriously impaired by labor troubles.

In connection with pending legislation, the public should realize that the defense effort cannot succeed without the wholehearted cooperation of labor, organized and unorganized. There is hardly a way to compel the cooperation of millions of workers.

It should be understood very clearly that labor, if it is to advance the interest of workers, must make its demands at a time when industry is making profits. Obviously, the opportunity for concessions rises when business is booming. It does not exist when business is dead. There is a widespread impression that industry, regardless of new taxes and the talk about taking profit out of war, is going to come out of the defense program with immense profits. This tends to encourage labor organizations to make demands for increased wages and improved working conditions.

Unfortunately, the writer and the average citizen is unable to determine the extent of profits that industry is making out of the defense program. For this reason, we must depend, in part, upon the decisions made by arbitration boards or fact-finding boards which hear both sides and consider the question in minute detail.

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

Stop Crying
Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes, Oh! Dear! Oh! Dear!
There are lies and out links, too.

Protects His Investment
Local Board No. 1 at Butler sends along this one:
"An unmarried colored registrant having no dependents and working at nothing more necessary than hotel portering and window washing asked permission to appeal from his 1-A classification.

Maybe Double-Yoked
1st Drunk—"Wow, I'm just as drunk as hell and I'm a hard boiled egg"
2nd Drunk—"Stoo bad Columbus isn't here. He'd stand up you."

No Cross-Examination
Witness—"Now, that I'm a witness, must I bare everything?"
Lawyer—"No, no, merely cross your legs."

Here's Your Opportunity, Lads
Want ad from the Wilkingsburg, Pa., Gazette:
"Wanted—Young man to room and board; new Inter-Spring waitress; board by the meal. PE 5068."

Tough on the Hen
Farmer Giles—"What's the matter with that hen of yours?"
Farmer Woles—"Shell shock. Ducks came out of the eggs she's been setting on."

Wise Old Parrot
An old lady kept a parrot which was always swearing. She could tolerate this until Sunday, but on that day she kept a cover over the cage, removing it on Monday morning. This prevented the parrot from swearing on the Sabbath.

Status Unknown
A group of big oil men in Washington were telling hard luck stories one evening about government taxation.

Checked on Him
A traveler was walking along a country road when he came across an old man. Addressing him, he asked how long it would take him to get to the next village. But the man went on with his work, neither speaking or looking up. The traveler went on his way.

Builds Addition
To take care of additional defense orders now on its books, the Milton Steel and Supply Company is building an addition to its plant near Mahoning street. Erection of steel was started last week on the 64x25 foot structure, foundations for which were poured the week before.

That's all folks. Yes, there's a terrible surplus of wheat in this country, but it could be worse. It could be spinach. —SCAT—

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMES FIRST

If you plan to build, remodel or expand—be sure to ask us about problems affecting the supply of materials for electric service extensions.

Copper, steel, zinc and other materials used in providing electric service are essential for national defense. Because of the present emergency the use of such materials is definitely controlled by priorities.

West Penn announces, therefore, that it cannot assure you of its ability to add to or enlarge its distribution facilities to serve new locations or additions to present electric loads, such as for industrial and commercial purposes, unless they carry priority ratings. It is even now necessary to delay service to new residences, and those newly wired, and this condition will no doubt continue throughout the emergency.

If you are planning to build or expand, we urge you to discuss your electric service needs with our District Manager who will be glad to talk over the entire matter with you while your plans are in the formative stage and before your commitments have been made.

WEST PENN POWER COMPANY

Long Illness Is Fatal to A. H. Sloop

principal of the Bellefonte schools, leaving that post in 1931 he returned to his teaching position at the Academy until four years later when he was named Deputy to Prothonotary Bond C. White.

The deceased was a son of Jacob and Mary Kelley Sloop and was born at Northumberland on April 16, 1881. He was graduated from the Danville High School and received his bachelor's degree at Dickinson College, Carlisle. Later he received his master's degree at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and before the death of his first wife, the former Erma Huey, in May, 1921, he had virtually completed work for his doctor's degree at Columbia University, New York City.

Surviving are his second wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Dorworth Sloop; three daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Erma, of Bellefonte, and Mrs. Ronald Fye, of Hollidaysburg, and a grandson, James, of Bellefonte.

Mr. Sloop was a member of the Bellefonte Presbyterian church and was a former president of the Bellefonte Kiwanis Club in which organization he had held every office. He was an exceptionally active and faithful member of the several Masonic bodies in Bellefonte. He became a Mason in 1913 and in 1917 was elected Worshipful Master of Bellefonte Lodge No. 268 F. & A. M. In 1918 he was elected secretary and served most efficiently in that office until the date of his death.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Widdowson Funeral Home, North Allegheny street, with the Rev. William C. Thompson, pastor of the Bellefonte Presbyterian church, assisted by the Rev. Clarence F. Arnold, pastor of the Bellefonte Lutheran church, officiating. Interment at the Union cemetery, Bellefonte, was in charge of the Masonic lodge.

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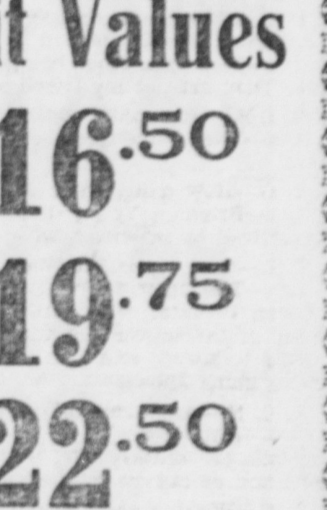
\$16.50 TO \$19.75

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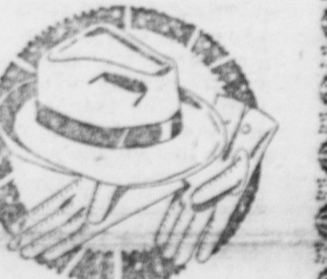
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