

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, November 8, 1940

Ex-Editor Henderson Disagrees With Collegian

EDITOR'S NOTE:—All of the editors who have served Collegian in the last 15 years have been invited to write the editorial they would most like to address to Penn State students today.

By HARRY HENDERSON '36
Friday Magazine

When I received the Collegian's bid to do a guest editorial, I asked an old friend to supply me with a file of the papers published thus far this year. The papers arrived. I have read every word in them. Some of the editorials I have read twice.

And so it is that there is only one subject open to me—the Collegian's pro-war mumbo-jumbo, that eloquent rubbish passed off as logic in this column daily.

The Collegian has gone to war blindly, without question, without delay, without even a cursory examination of the causes or character of this war, without even the liberal's customary mock debate over the question. It has accepted without a whimper the role designed for it by the warmakers of this country—that of a streetcorner pitchman selling glittering but worthless merchandise "cheap." The Collegian's merchandise is war, the glitter is "democracy," and the price—your life—is "cheap."

Should we fight to preserve the British right to oppress the Irish people? Should we fight to help British imperialism maintain its criminal exploitation and repression of the people of India? Should we fight to keep in power the ruling class that sabotaged the League of Nations, that betrayed the courageous people of China, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and France, that betrayed its own people into this massacre? Should we fight to protect the investments of our own fat boys in South America, Mexico, Europe and the Orient?

There has never been a war as needless as this one, nor one that could have been more easily prevented. Its character is plain. It is not a war for "freedom." It is not a war against "brutality" or "oppression;" the English record of brutality and oppression has never been exceeded. This is not a war for "democracy." Neither the Axis nor Britain has announced any war aims, and the Collegian in stupidly assuming Britain champions "freedom and democracy" preserves only its right to be disillusioned when the war ends.

This is a war for markets, concessions, minerals and oil, and democracy has no more to do with it than it had to do with the last war "to make the world safe for democracy." Nor is British imperialism the lesser of two evils as the mystic pot-boilers of the New Republic declare. The victims of any imperialism will tell you there is no difference in being eaten alive by either a tiger or a lion.

There must be no mistake about the role the United States is playing. It is not arming to defend democracy. It is arming to inherit the British empire. If we fight the Nazis and their partners, it will not be to preserve democracy. It will be to get the British Empire for our own fat boys.

Without hesitation the Collegian has endorsed the fantastic arms appropriations, the chucking of the College expansion program, the conscription bill, the suppression of free speech, academic freedom and civil liberties. Let me say this: conscription, arms, and the abolishment of free speech and civil liberties have never saved any country, and they will not save us.

PENNSYLVANIA AND DEFENSE

By EDWARD STEIDLE, Dean,
School of Mineral Industries

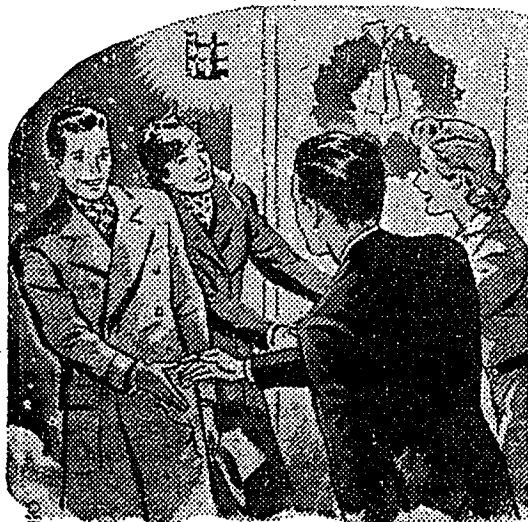
EDITOR'S NOTE:—Because of the widespread interest in the series of six articles by the School of Mineral Industries which was completed last Friday, Dean Steidle was asked to write a seventh and concluding article. That article, which is a summary of all that has gone before, appears below.

At the beginning of the present conflict, Germany did not possess a sufficient supply of minerals to hold out for any appreciable time. The potential supplies of Great Britain were overwhelming and our leading mineral economists believed that Great Britain would win the conflict on this basis alone. But the fortunes of war tell another story. Germany, by invasion and conquest, has greatly replenished her stocks of war minerals, coal, oil, and iron ore. Thus far, she has not added much to her stocks of other essential minerals, principally copper, tin, nickel, tungsten, vanadium, mica, quartz crystals, and industrial diamonds. Nor has she commanded an adequate supply of oil. Germany is likely to go down slowly because of a lack of these minerals unless she can get control of the sea. Sea power is still the most formidable power in war.

What is the general position of the United States in regard to these questions? Germany insists on controlling raw materials which means control of the sea. This would mean a new order for the United States since we are not self-sufficient with respect to supplies of all of the minerals that are necessary to maintain our industries and military power as well as the maintenance of our standards of living. The list of so-called strategic minerals includes manganese, tin, chromite, tungsten, mercury, mica, nickel, quartz crystals, and industrial diamonds; also certain grades of graphite and asbestos. Our first move, and there is no time to lose, is to invest some of the gold hoard in at least a 3-year supply of the strategic minerals. Gold is the universally accepted basis of currency and credit. Its actual utility is less than lead. The stocking of strategic minerals is not a new idea. Unfortunately, such steps as have been taken by the Government to date have not secured ample supplies. Obviously, these stocks should be regulated by our government so that no damage would be done to the home industries.

Over in Mount Vernon, Ind., the student body of Oakland City college recently had an organized cheering session—for an oil well. The school had turned to prospecting to support itself, so the guys and gals vocally got behind the field crew. Now comes some wag with this suggested cheer: Well, Wel, O-I-L; RAW, RAW, RAW!

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