

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

EDITORIAL

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace; East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease; Sing a song of great joy that the angels began, Sing the glory to God and of good-will to man!

WHITTIER—Christmas Carmen.

The celebration of Christmas is so universal and yet so intimate that it can, and does, provide the inspiration for hundreds of newspaper editorials at this time of the year.

A THOUGHTFUL CHRISTMAS

Since most of the editorials will be written expressly for those who celebrate the holiday as a part of their religion, we should like to write this one for those people who, through accident of birth or the other mysterious factors which determine our religious beliefs, cannot believe as we do.

Primarily, Christmas is a religious holiday, but as the anniversary of an historic date it has another significance, too, for though the Man from Nazareth came to found a new religion he came, too, to preach a social philosophy toward which all creeds, all races have been moving slowly for 1900 years.

Man may deny the divinity of Jesus Christ, but no thinking person can deny the fundamental logic nor the soulful philosophy which the Galilean preacher advanced on the hillsides of Judea. Until the last star of the universe fades those doctrines must stand—for Christians and non-Christians—as Truth.

If we were a Jew, a Mohammedan, a Buddhist or a Taoist this week we should have a Christmas of our own kind in which—without ritual, without presents, without tinselled-tree—we should celebrate simply and with thoughtful reflection the birthday anniversary of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus of Nazareth—a man who numbered among his friends sinners, prostitutes and lowly persons, a man who, though tolerant himself, preached a doctrine so radical it alarmed Romans into killing Him, a man who refused a crown and disappointed a people who expected Him to found a kingdom with a sword, a Man who—divine or no—was so far ahead of his times that the world still is struggling toward his ideal.

Because voters in Luzerne County have long been conscious of a confusion and ineffectiveness about local WPA matters, the charges made by Edward N. Jones, Works Progress Administrator for Pennsylvania, in his Wilkes-Barre address last Saturday night merit reflection.

NOW, WHO GETS THE BLAME?

When the responsibility for the inefficiency is laid, citizens might consider Mr. Jones's statement: "There is not a single administrative member of the relief staff in Luzerne County who does not owe his job either to Judge Fine, Ambrose Langan, "Tug" Burns or Morgan Bird."

The presence of politics in the relief structure becomes more understandable if, as Mr. Jones says, our local administration is being controlled by the shrewd, erstwhile lieutenants of The Great Pinchot.

Appropos of this country's insistence upon tangling itself up in foreign affairs, we might answer the question of one of our correspondents, who, after commenting on The Post's peace campaign, asks "What must we do to stay out of wars?"

WHAT IS NEUTRALITY?

The question is one good enough to deserve a better answer. When all is said and done, though, we suspect that this country gets into wars because its people love a fight. We find it very difficult to stay out of European squabbles. In the brief life-time of these United States there have been just two general European wars. This country became involved in both. In one we managed to get involved twice, and on both sides—probably a record.

Despite their fervent claims to neutrality, the people of this country are never really neutral in temper. Who stands for Italy here today?

Perhaps the first thing to do in staying out of war is to remember that neutrality implies more than official statements at Washington.

We are a bit bewildered over the current excitement concerning the country's participation in the Olympic games at Berlin next year . . . bewildered at the mystic connection between muscles and human rights.

STATE DEPARTMENT ATHLETICS

It is admitted, of course, that Hitler's policies are un-American and that he has excluded Jews from Germany's team. We deplore that. But after all, it is his country and very little of our business. Its only a matter of seventeen years since we were killing German Jews.

These passionate crusades to inflict our opinions upon other peoples generally get us into trouble. It did in 1812 with Great Britain and in 1798 with France. There is always the possibility that we are not perfect in every phase of human rights. We should be the first to resent correction by another country.

We may be wrong, but we cannot understand why this country's team cannot go over there next year, win its usual victories, and come back home without involving the State departments of both countries in their races and swimming matches.

THE BUSINESS WEEK

This survey of business conditions during the last seven days is compiled by The Post from business figures furnished by the United States Department of Commerce.

Country holiday buying entered its final period with a considerably larger volume than last year . . . Some wholesale lines were already feeling the effects of Spring orders . . . Holiday lines were running low as a result of heavy refill orders from retailers . . . leading department stores in New York showed a loss in business from last year due to the fact that there was abnormal buying in anticipation of the sales tax which went into effect December 10, 1934 . . . Earlier than normal gift buying was reported in rural communities, attributed to the increased buying power of farmers . . . Citrus fruits were moving in heavy volume North from Florida . . . Residential building for the first eleven months was up 85 per cent . . . The Automobile Manufacturers' Association estimated automobile output for the year at 4,150,000 units, a gain of 45 per cent over 1934 . . . Steel industry activity relaxed slightly, but a steel executive predicted a decided increase in the first quarter of 1936 . . . Railroads are expanding . . . Pennsylvania Railroad ordered 10,000 new freight cars to cost \$25,000,000 . . . In Cleveland industrial payrolls were running \$9,000,000 a month more than last year, with 10,000 more men working . . . Actual housing shortages were reported in Wilmington and Cleveland . . . Postal receipts and mail order sales were up . . . Montgomery Ward reported an all-time record in November . . . Sales of General Motors cars in November were three times greater than last November and largest for a November in the history of the company . . . Private industry and WPA projects continued to absorb increasing numbers of employables . . . The United States exported \$221,237,929 of merchandise in October, compared with \$206,413,068 in the same month last year.

The Dallas Post

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Congress shall make no law * * abridging the freedom of speech, or of Press.—From the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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THE DALLAS POST PROGRAM

THE DALLAS POST will lend its support and offers the use of its columns to all projects which will help this community and the great rural suburban territory which it serves to attain the following major improvements:

- 1. Construction of more sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians in Kingston township and Dallas. 2. A free library located in the Dallas region. 3. Better and adequate street lighting in Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook and Dallas. 4. Sanitary sewage disposal system for Dallas. 5. Closer co-operation between Dallas borough and surrounding townships. 6. Consolidated high schools and better co-operation between those that now exist. 7. Adequate water supply for fire protection. 8. The formation of a Back Mountain Club made up of business men and home owners interested in the development of a community consciousness in Dallas, Trucksville, Shavertown and Fernbrook. 9. A modern concrete highway leading from Dallas and connecting with the Sullivan Trail at Tunkhannock.

TEARS

(Editor's Note: To Lizette Woodworth Reese, whose poem, "Tears", has comforted untold hundreds, death came this week to blow away the wisp of fog which "stood betwixt her and the sun". Miss Reese would have been 80 next month. She died in Baltimore, where she had always lived. Here, in her memory, The Post reprints her poem, "Tears", which H. L. Mencken called "one of the greatest sonnets ever written.")

WHEN I consider Life and its few years— A wisp of fog betwixt us and the sun; A call to battle, and the battle done Ere the last echo dies within our ears: A rose choked in the grass; an hour of fears; The guests that past a darkening shore do beat, The burst of music down an unlistening street— I wonder at the idleness of tears. Ye old, old dead, and ye of yesternight, Chieftains, and bards, and keepers of the sheep, By every cup of sorrow that you had, Loose me from tears, and make me see aright How each hath back what once he stayed to weep; Homer his sight, David his little lad!

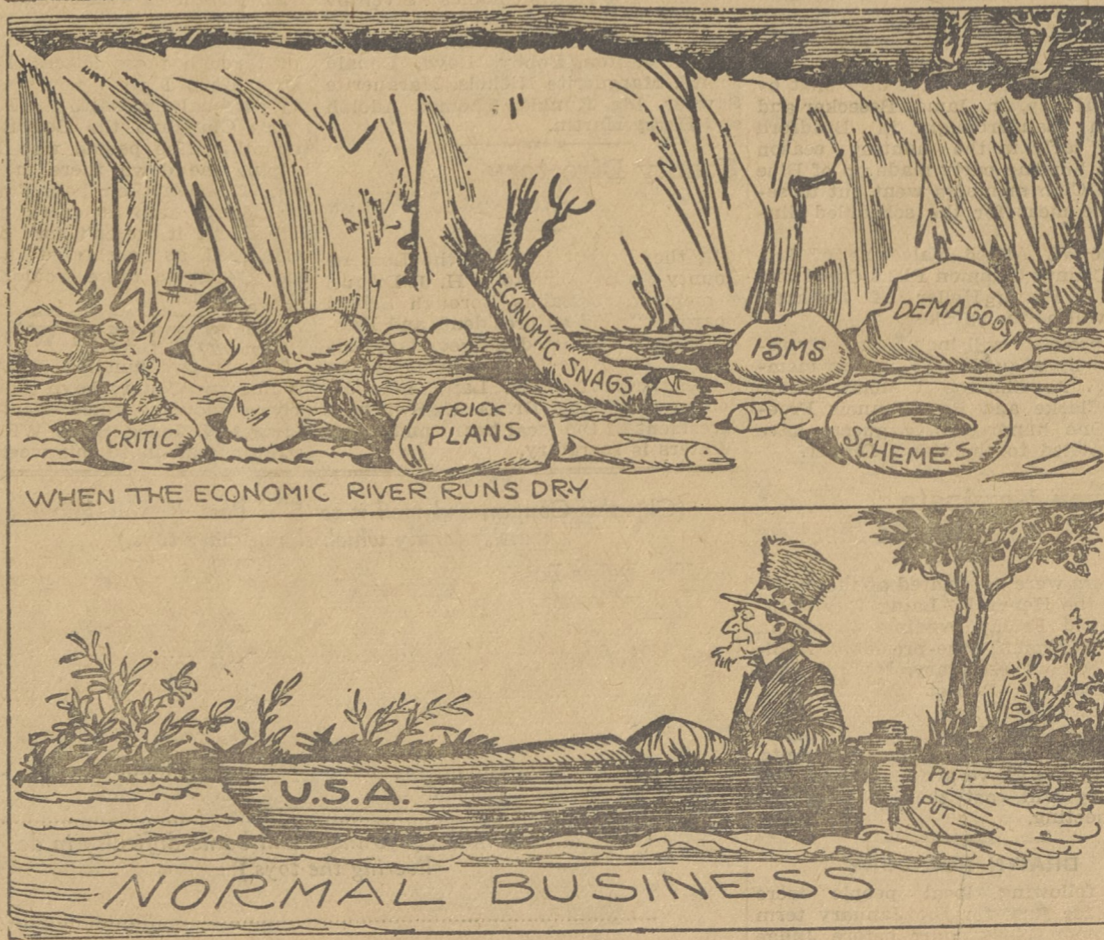
LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE

WEEKLY BOOST

SANTA CLAUS

who, having survived generations of doubt and suspicion, now comes again to prove that, as always, he is big enough to forgive.

THEY'LL DISAPPEAR WHEN THE WATER RISES



WELL, I SWAN

It takes 333 human hairs, placed side by side, to cover one inch. Ted Loveland, who won the right halfback position on The Post's all-star football team, was fullback on last year's all-star team. Both years he was chosen unanimously. America produces 43 per cent of the world's coal. Broadway, New York, is 15 1/2 miles long. "Aa" is the name of ten rivers in Europe. In San Saba, Texas, High and Dry Streets cross. Jack rabbits do 35 miles an hour. There are hundreds of square miles of unexplored land in Utah. The buffalo was polygamous. Two million barrels of oil are taken every hour from the earth in the United States. No proper names in the Bible begin with W. Schubert wrote his song, "Hark! Hark! The Lark!" on the back of a menu card.