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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. It is the one time of the year when newspapers devote their space whole-heartedly and THOUGHTFUL enthusiastically to the church and its significance.

Since most of the editorials will be written expressly CHRISTMAS 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 Gallilean 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 reflec-

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 Mor-

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

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

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 buving 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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THE DALLAS POST is a youthful weekly rural-suburban newspaper, owned, edited and operated by young men interested in the development of the great rural-suburban region of Luzerne County and in the attainment of the highest ideals of journalism. THE POST is truly "more than a newspaper, it is a community institution.

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

Subscription, \$2.00 Per Year (Payable in Advance).

Subscribers who send us changes of address are requested to include both new and old addresses when they submit their notice of change.

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.")

> W HEN 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 trom 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.

The current interest in war, peace, and neutrality, arising from the Italian-Ethiopian squabble, and especially high through this section because of The Post's unique experimental campaign in behalf of peace, is reflected in the nation's library shelves.

Some months ago we waxed enthusiastic over Humphrey Cobb's sensational "Paths of Glory". Since then that story has been made into a play a not-very-successful one, to be sure—and has been translated into a number of other languages. If you believed us then, believe us now when we say that "Blood Relations", a novel by Philip Gibbs, is the equal of Cobb's great work.

It is to be expected, we suppose, that the greatest war stories should come from abroad, from the countries which suffered most during the four and onehalf years of horror and terror. The first, "All Quiet On The Western Front", came from a German. "Paths of Glory", although written in this country, came from a man who had served with the Canadian army and was about the French. Now Philip Gibbs, an Englishman, writes about the English and the French in the years from 1913 to 1934.

Gibbs' book is considerably less gruesome than Remarque's or Cobb's. The Englishman has told the story of Count Paul von Arnsberg, a German Rhodes scholar who marries Aubrey Middleton, the very English sister of one of his schoolmates at Oxford. Paul has been raised in a Bavarian Schloss (which Aubrey's brother insists upon calling a "Slosh") and his wife is amused by his heel-clicking courtesy. In him are the traditions of Wotan and Wagner and Siegfried, and the deep conviction that German Kultur will civilize the

"Blood Relations" is by no means a love story, but there is something deeply inspiring in the survival of Paul's and Aubrey's love after their people go at each other's throats. Mostly, the story deals with Aubrey's life with her son, Franz Wilhelm, in the Schloss after Paul has gone as a Lieutenant with the army and been captured by the English, or her complete isolation from her family in England; of Paul's efforts to reconcile his love for his English wife with his duty to the Fatherland.

The book reaches its high points, though, in the places where Gibbs forsakes his characters and deals in deft, broad strokes with the things which are happening about him. We cannot remember having ever understood the temperaments of the peoples in the war, the slow advances and retreats, the wild enthusiasms and the heart-breaking defeats, the hopes, the cruel blockade, the long wait for peace, the Wilsonian influence, and, finally, the Germany which turned toward Adolph Hitler as much as we did when we laid "Blood Relations" down.

It is a novel, with all the entertainment and thrill and readability of a novel; but, somehow, it also is a history. We recommend it sincerely.

The theory that history is "lies agreed upon" is failing of fulfillment in the controversies evoked by the frequent charge of writers that industry led United States into the World War. One of he most recent of these debates has been taking place in The New York Times letter-column for two months

Or the side of industry are Thomas W. Lamont of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and Newton D. Baker, who, since he served in Wilson's Cabinet when war was declared, certainly should deserve to be heard. On the other side are a host of less well-known persons. Their argument centers mostly about a letter Ambassador Walter Hines Page sent to President Wilson on March 5, 1917, saying "It is not improbable that the only way of maintaining our present pre-eminent trade position and averting a panic is by declaring war on Germany." The argument, it seems to us, is still to be settled satisfactorily and you can follow it in The Times.

It must be admitted, in all fairness, it seems that, regardless of the truth of the Hines message and its significance, Nicolson's "Dwight Morrow", which started the controversy when it charged that Mr. Morrow had a part in decivilizing the world was a little harsh on the financiers, all of whom were not in favor of war and who, despite their power, could not have held the American people from getting into the war.

As The Times says: "It is an open question which kind of book is likely to prove more useful in the long run: the book warning us against the wicked men and propagandas that drag the United States into a World War, or the book pointing out how fixed is the American habit of getting involved in world wars.'

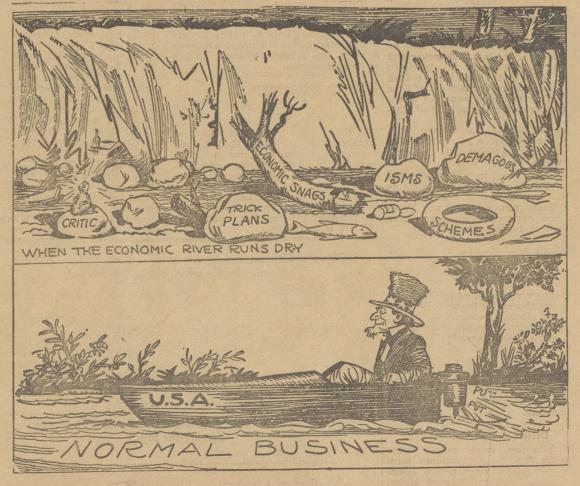
Of timely interest now (as this is written Mussolini still wants Ethiopia) is book Sawdust Caesar, a fitting successor to his recent "Freedom of the Press".

Several attempts abroad to publish "Sawdust Caesar" failed because diplomats warned the publishers there might be serious consequences from such a book. Now, four years after it was written, it has been published in this country, with a new foreword in which Seldes speaks hollowly of "American dic-

For many years Mussolini was a Socialist. When Italy approached its war crisis he stood staunchly for neutrality. But within four days Mussolini, although he had not changed from Socialism, had come out flatly for war. His comrades turned from him, crying "Who paid?" Seldes has attempted to answer that question. "Sawdust Caesar" is as involved and as fiery as most of Seldes' books. It is worth reading.

Industry may have been innocent of leading this country into the world war but there are certain charges which it cannot evade. In "The Lords of Creation" Frederick Lewis Allen tells the story of the rise of American industry so it can be understood even by those of us who look upon anything more complicated than Market Closing Tables with bewilderment.

THEY'LL DISAPPEAR WHEN THE WATER RISES



WELL. ISWAN

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 allstar 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 151/2 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

Schubert wrote his song, "Hark! Hark! The Lark!" on the back of a