

# TODAY and TOMORROW

HISTORY . . . happiness

The only way to understand what is going on in the world today is to study what went on in the world in the past. What we regard as "new" problems are really very old problems indeed. Human nature has not changed since the earliest recorded times, and people acted from the same motives a hundred, a thousand or ten thousand years ago as they do now.

The only things that change are the material environments with which we are surrounded. What every generation regards as "progress" is the effort, not always successful, to find new answers to problems which have baffled humanity from the beginning of time.

The main problem which mankind has always faced is how to live in comfort and safety with the minimum of labor. In our time we have come nearer to finding the answer to that problem than any people ever did in the past.

But it is rather doubtful, it seems to me, that with all our machines and inventions, we have found the road to the supreme goal of life, which is happiness. The ideal of every social organization must be the great happiness of the greatest number of its members. We are still far from that.

### DEFENSE . . . repetition

"This or any other nation, to preserve peace, must be ever ready to defend its rights and protect its interests and its honor." That quotation sounds like something which might have been said in Congress yesterday. It was said in 1839, just a hundred years ago.

Representative W. C. Johnson of Maryland, pointing out that the European situation was far from satisfactory and the French fleet was blockading the coast of South America, pointed out that "the best way to preserve peace in this age, and perhaps in ages to come, is to be fearfully prepared for war."

What Mr. Johnson advocated was the enlargement of the Navy by building more steam vessels. He pointed out that there was only one steam-powered craft in the whole Navy, and expressed the belief that steam had come to stay. The old admirals of the sailing ships didn't agree, just as some old officers of the Navy today think aircraft is all nonsense.

### NEWS . . . crisis

Anyone who thinks that world conditions have changed greatly in the past century might profit by scanning the papers of a hundred years ago, as I have been doing lately. One noted British journalist wrote in 1839 that "At a period when our country is threatened with hostilities by more than one of the continental powers it is worth while to consider the state of our colonial possessions."

That might have been written yesterday. The English people were as concerned then as they are now, a hundred years later, over the everpresent danger of war.

Then, as now, the threat to Great Britain was the loss of her colonial possessions bordering on the seven seas. "It is more than probable," the English newspaperman wrote, "that the loss of several colonies would be the result of those hostilities with which, according to the warlike preparations of the present ministry, we are threatened." That is the major concern of the British people in the present European crisis.

### TRANSPORTATION . . . retarded

In 1839 the first proposal was made in the Congress of the United States for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. A resolution was adopted instructing the President to consult with other nations involved as to its feasibility.

At that time the United States extended only to the Rocky Mountains, but we had a great shipping trade with the Orient and ships had to make the perilous voyage around the tip of South America. It was more than sixty years before anything serious was done toward digging the Panama Canal, more than 75 years before the canal was finished.

Business, as usual, was a long way ahead of government in 1839 in promoting the use of new inventions. In that year, when the Navy had only one steamship, the legislature of Louisiana voted to subsidize a corporation to build steamships to run lines to Europe.

I have long thought that the most serious result of the American Civil War was that it interrupted our rapid expansion in foreign trade and gave Britain a chance to displace this country as the world's carriers of merchandise.

### CHANGES . . . security

After studying pretty carefully a file of old newspapers of a hundred years ago I can't see that there have been any changes of consequence in the outlook of the general run of people. There is still, as there was in 1839, a considerable number of folks who want the Government to do something for them or their special interests.

There is still, I am thankful to say, a very large number of peo-

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ple who don't ask any favors.

The only fear I have for the future of America is that we may get so fixed in the habit of expecting the Government to do everything for us that we will be willing to give up our natural liberties in exchange for what seems, at the time, a greater measure of economic security.

Going back into history a lot farther than a hundred years, I find the records of many nations who were sold on the same idea. The only ones that have survived are those whose people woke up and threw out the governments which undertook to tell everybody where to head in. People have never gotten anywhere but by individual hard work and common honesty.

### PLANT TREES

Thirty-one farmers in Yancey County planted 71,500 tree seedlings on 67 acres of eroded land this past winter, and, during the past month Buncombe farmers have set 24,300 seedlings. County agents say this reforestation idea is becoming general over the State, especially in the mountain area.

### SMALLER

This year's American corn acreage will be the smallest in 40 years, and the area sown to wheat will be 18 per cent less than last year, predicts the Federal Crop Reporting Board.

## Uncle Jim Says



The first purpose of the Federal farm program is to help farmers conserve the soil on their farms. It is pointed out by the State College Extension Service.

HI BOYS — PUTTIN' PLENTY O' FERTILIZA, UNDA DAT CROP, HUH?

SHO IS, UNCLE NATCHEL — PLENTY O' NATCHEL SODA IN IT — TOO, YAS SUH!



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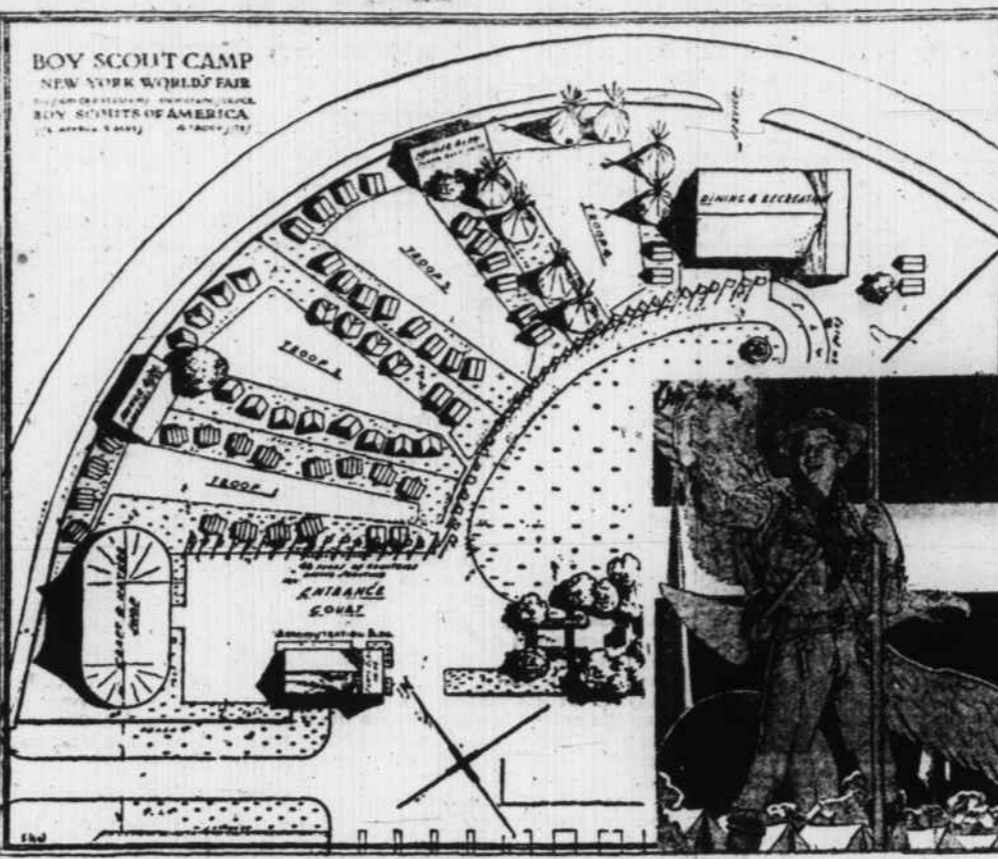
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## Boy Scouts Building World's Fair Camp



Layout of the two-acre Boy Scout camp at the New York World's Fair, to be used by 3900 different Scouts and leaders from all sections of the United States during the Fair season.

Any qualified member of the Boy Scouts of America may apply for an opportunity to take part in a unique demonstration and service camp at the New York World's Fair. Dr. James F. West, Chief Scout Executive of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, has announced the plan for a Scout camp of approximately 150 different Scouts and leaders each week, on a two-acre site within the Fair grounds from April 30 to October 31, was approved by formal action of the managers of the World's Fair Corporation and the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

have produced outstanding articles of handicraft and campcraft to have them shown in this tent at the World's Fair and the exhibit will represent the finest craftsmanship so far developed by Scouts.

Near this tent there will be an open area for flag ceremonies, together with a rustic campfire amphitheatre for dramatics and other spectacular demonstrations and a dining hall with full equipment.

Totem Pole at Gateway The gateway is to be an imposing one with a 40 foot totem pole. The headquarters building will serve as the administration center for the camp, and a stockade will surround the entire camp area. In line with the symphony of colors of the World's Fair the Scout camp will be most colorful with the flying flags of all Scout nations waving aloft, a symbol of world brotherhood and a friendly greeting to visitors from all over the world.

Contacts with Officials Service projects will be an important part of a Scout's program during four or five hours each day. This will put Scouts in touch with the management of the enterprise, and they will have many occasions to meet the distinguished persons involved in the Fair.

There will be accommodation for only 3,900 of the 1,271,000 present registered Scout membership most of whom, judging from requests already on hand, would like to avail themselves of this privilege. The opportunity will be open to Scouts in any part of the United States who meet the standards prescribed by the National Council and preference will be given to applications in the order of their receipt.

All camp reservations must be made through local Scout Councils and not directly with the National Council.

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