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Sacrifices

There'll be need for extended sacrifices on the part of the American people ere the war in Europe is ended and the aftermath is ironed out. The willingness to sacrifice will determine, to a large extent, the future course of this nation.

Irrespective of the outcome of the war in Europe, this country is certain to feel the depressing effects of the conflict. If Hitler wins in Europe and does not even trouble to interfere in the Western Hemisphere, we'll be put to the test to withstand a new economic order that will tend to squeeze us as the boa constrictor pushes the life out of its victim.

It is true that we are making minor sacrifices that have been ordered by the government and which are connected with cigarette, liquor and other purchases in the luxury group. We have not as yet voluntarily accepted any sacrifices other than to give a few dollars to the Red Cross. If we had been aware of the serious plight facing starving millions and if we had honestly viewed the situation in a serious vein, we would have given thousands instead of a few hundreds of dollars to the Red Cross.

But the call for real sacrifices has not been received by us in this fair land. It is hoped that no such call will be received, but as surely as night follows day the indications are that we will be called upon to sacrifice, to show our stamina.

When world markets are closed to our surplus commodities and when we cannot find outlets for our products of the farm and of the factory, are we going to be able to bear the pressure that will be applied? Can we stand up as our forefathers did at Valley Forge and march through the snows barefooted to victory? Possibly it is an unfair charge, but it would appear that we would rush headlong into revolution and suffer all its consequences rather than sacrifice even a single pleasure, or a few at the most.

France is shackled with the chains of bondage today. She was not licked by the invaders. Internal strife and the unwillingness to sacrifice cost that great nation its freedom.

This nation's unity has been maintained by various agencies designed by a thoughtful government in Washington. Will that unity stand the test? Division might mean defeat, and if rifice even with his life, if necessary, to meet the test? Division might mean defeat, and if we would judge our security for the future we must first know the strength of the bonds of our unity. If those bonds are weak, it may never be necessary for Hitler to start an airplane or ship a gun toward America, for we will have, long before he is ready for the task, trampled our own freedom into the dust because we could not afford to sacrifice and meet the test.

Where Is Democracy?

When history records the far-flung events of the current period, it will not hold democracy to account for the weak condition France, England and the United States found themselves in as they approached the test against totalitarianism. History will merely say that the three countries faced their hour of trial because they were not more democratic.

Where is Democracy today? In France it is rooted in the hearts of millions of common, ordinary Frenchmen. It is not given to expression just now, but surely it will rise again. A few of the vested interests in that country, trying to protect their holdings with one hand and France with the other dealt a direct blow and temporarily set back the democratic machine in that great nation.

England has not bowed to that fate, and the question is will she become more democratic in time to save itself. All this business of handing down positions in army, navy and government according to social standings and positions has already proved costly to England. And we have a liberal taste of the practice in this country.

Why do we say we have a democratic form of government when the "eighty-families" control the finances of the country, and a few industrialists claim they have the right to chart the lives and modes of living for millions of workers, denying those millions the right to

even lift their voices in their own behalf?

If Democracy is to survive we have got to become more democratic, adhere to those principles already in effect and add to them that the American people might be identified with our economic order and that our economic order might be identified with the welfare of the masses.

Attorney General Robert Jackson in a recent memorial address said: "Nothing will more strongly fortify democracy than a knowledge among the people that American democracy is their democracy and that this country is their country. If we do that, we will not need to worry about whether they will want to defend it."

Builder of Society

Christian Science Monitor.
"Humanity desperately needs today a moral and spiritual rebirth, a revitalization of religion," writes Cordell Hull, American Secretary of State. "There is no sure way to this supreme goal save through adherence to the teaching of the Bible."

If the Bible is going to help humanity win through, as Mr. Hull and a myriad of others hope, to the goal of a contented and happy life for all, the Bible must reach people. Bibles im-mured on store shelves, Bibles unprinted are incapable of changing men's lives.

Last year the American Bible Society distributed 7,370,908 Bibles or portions of the Scriptures at home and abroad. The increase in the United States was 12 per cent over the year before; in other lands there was a slight loss.

Much was given away, and of what was sold, the cost of publication exceeded the returns by \$24,000, as the Society sells all books at cost or less. Incidentally nearly \$900,000 was required for the American Bible Society to operate in 1939.

While no one can imagine all the devotion and labor summarized in a few annual figures like these they serve best perhaps to point to the far greater Bible distribution that remains to be done. Therein the humblest may become makers of destiny. Many in high places today are contributing nothing to humanity's progress and some are even deterring it. The lowliest man or woman who lives by the Bible is building that which will endure.

Admitted Weakness

Democracy admits its weakness when it has to resort to pressure and actual force to protect and maintain itself. We enjoy our freedom but we are unwilling to fight for it, and anything we are not willing to fight for won't be ours for long.

Lessons Learned

Durham Herald.
Out of the defeat of France should come many lessons for us here in America. And one of the most important of these lessons to be learned is that in a democracy, no less than in any other kind of government, one must give as well as take.

In reality we ought to give more. For we receive so much more.

Little doubt there is that France was one of the worst examples of democracy to be found in the world. In France democracy seemed to stand for license rather than for liberty. The greed for power infested the parties. The greed for gain infested the citizenry, both in capital and labor.

In the face of a national calamity business men placed profits above the nation's safety.

In the face of a national calamity labor placed its own greed for gain above the nation's safety.

Even when it became apparent that the future of France depended upon the speeding up of production, French laborers were unwilling to give up the social gains they had made. When they were forced into longer hours, they grumbled.

The part certain business men played in the downfall of France is no less ignominious than labor's. When the real story of their manipulations is made known it no doubt will be one of the most odorous chapters in the history of free peoples.

France concentrated on the luxuries of democracy and gave little thought to its responsibilities.

The people of France probably could not have more efficiently arranged the downfall of their nation if they tried.

These things are important to Americans because we have been traveling substantially the same road. We, too, have been concentrating upon the privileges of democracy and have largely ignored its responsibilities.

We have concentrated on social gains and at the same time have allowed the nation's physical strength to wane to such a degree that it will take us billions of dollars to build it up.

It's time for us to wake up to the fact that democracy carries with it responsibilities — more responsibilities than dictatorships place upon their peoples.

We must accept those responsibilities. They are more important than the privileges for unless we accept them we shall not have the privileges for long.

The greatest events of an age are its best thoughts. It is the nature of thought to find its way into action.—Bovee.

A constant fidelity in small things is a great and heroic virtue.—Bonaventure.

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