

The Week In Washington

Resume of Governmental Happenings in the National Capital

Washington, Oct. 30—The President is believed to be very much impressed by a plan for gradual reconversion to peacetime industry which was presented to him recently by Henry Kaiser, the miracle man of shipbuilding and prefabrication.

Because of Mr. Kaiser's accomplishments plus his ability to cut through Washington red tape in getting needed action, he has won the respect of members of both political parties and has become one of the men Washington officials naturally listen to. He has gained the reputation of talking only when he has something worthwhile to say. In addition to his ability to get along with Washington officials he is also understood to have the respect of labor and of most other industrialists—although a few are known to be jealous of the publicity his work has received when they consider their accomplishments to be as great as his.

But in general, a plan presented by Mr. Kaiser is apt to be given more consideration than most of the wacky plans with which Washington

Carrying Rations



Pfc. James F. Lancaster, 265th infantry regiment, 91st division, rests while on a ration-carrying detail north of Futa Pass in the Gothic line, in the Appennine mountains, Italy. The rations for his buddies are strapped to his back.

is being deluged.

Although the details of Mr. Kaiser's plan have not been revealed, the important things about it are: (1) It calls for the immediate start of reconversion instead of waiting for final victory in Europe; (2) it calls for keeping alive those war production companies which now are finishing their wartime con-

tracts, and (3) it provides for the major part of the reconversion job to be done by industry itself rather than by government.

In brief, Mr. Kaiser has suggested that some manufacturers remain in full wartime production while others begin manufacturing civilian goods. This, he proposes, could be accomplished by a group of industrialists taking over the plants which are closing up and roving into them the machinery and work which is interfering with others turning to civilian production. Mr. Kaiser says that we now have plenty of steel and aluminum, as well as other materials, to take care of all war needs and have plenty left over for normal manufacturing. The main thing Mr. Kaiser asks from the government is that it relax its controls over machine tools so that industry can go ahead with a sound plan to produce all the war goods that are needed plus a gradually increasing supply of civilian goods.

Any action on actual approval of a reconversion plan of this kind must, of course, wait until the routine of government gets back to normal after the election. There is no doubt that having an election at this time has seriously interfered with the progress of government postwar planning. In the opinion of many government heads and war leaders there couldn't have been a worse time to have an election. But it is hoped that the congressional committees, the government bureau and the cabinet officers who are formulating these all important plans will make up for the delays as soon as the election fight is over.

Government workers do not seem to anticipate a change in administration on January 20, although most anyone you talk to here will admit that it is going to be a close election. With most congressmen and political workers out of the city, however, and many of the government employees going home to vote, there seems to be a strange lull in political activity here this week.

Fifty years ago . . . "If your face is shiny, stop using soap!" . . . "Women who dress their feet well are wearing shoes a half a size too long for them, so that the long narrow effect may be produced." . . . "When you are fixing your skirts over, why not make one of suitable length for a rainy day, so that your ankles won't get wet, and a bad cold result?" . . . "Even Leap Year does not excuse you from kissing the hand of the man who brought you flowers."

SIX-INCH SERMON

REV. ROBERT H. HARPER

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE RACE PROBLEM

Lesson for Nov. 5: Luke 10:25-37; Acts 10:9-16, 34, 35; 17:22-31; Golden Text: Acts 10:34, 35.

The Hebrews of Judea were a proud people who despised the gentiles and had "no dealings with the Samaritans." Thus Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan when the Jewish lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The story rebukes a narrow racial pride, its chief teaching is that one's neighbor is the man in need, whoever and wherever

he may be.

Peter was at first so narrow in his notions of the gospel that he required the vision of the unclean beasts to prepare him for the coming of the gentile, Cornelius. Then, in the coming of the first gentile convert, Peter declared, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

The case was reversed when Paul appears on Mars Hill. Not the messenger but the people who heard the message needed to be prepared. The Greeks, the most cultured people of antiquity, whose influence is still felt in the world's art and thought, regarded all others as barbarians. Paul faced a great task in persuading them they needed anything

from a lone preacher of the gospel. He struck straight at the national pride by telling them that God has "made of one blood all nations of men." And he closed by declaring that God commands all men everywhere to repent.

To look well to themselves is the first great need of men. As men get right with God, they should get right in their attitude toward others. Sharing in the love of Christ, they will be led to share with others. Only in the spread of true religion can we find a solution of race problems and a sense of responsibility that will be all-inclusive.

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