

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

World Looks Forward to Busy 1940, Fraught With Important Questions

By ROGER BAILEY
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)
NEW YORK.—Before the infant 1940 becomes a gray-beard his book of contemporary history may be heavily inscribed.

The new year is destined to be the most important in a decade, a year of supreme testing for men and their military machines, for politicians and dictators whose philosophies and systems are even now waiting in abeyance until 1940 has spoken its verdict.

You can lay your bottom dollar that the European turmoil will crystallize in 1940 to the point where observers can see definite trends.

We'll probably know, for instance, whether Nazi Germany can withstand the pressure of an allied economic blockade, meanwhile trying to stave off French-British assaults on land and sea. Or will Hitler's machine crack up, the victim of internal discontent?

What Is Finland's Fate?

Valiant little Finland, whose early stand against the Russian invaders was acclaimed throughout the world, looks forward to 1940 as the year in which she will retain her freedom or fall vassal to the Kremlin.

It's a pivotal year in the Balkans, too. If Russia succeeds against Finland, she'll undoubtedly turn to a new conquest in Rumania, already pressed by Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria. And if that happens the observers are pretty certain Italy will join the melee to fight for Balkan independence. If these little states can stay free of war in 1940, they've little to worry about.

Even as Russia marches in 1940 she will answer the question world militarists have been puzzling for the past 10 years, namely, is her huge army and air force really so formidable? The Polish invasion, in which Russia knifed a fleeing enemy in the back, was no fair test. Neither were early days of the Finnish invasion, because the hardy defenders were able to out-point Soviet troops under extraordinary arctic fighting conditions.

Will FDR Run Again?

At home the year's biggest story will be November's presidential election and the campaign leading up to it. Will President Roosevelt break tradition and seek a third term? Will eight years of the New Deal be vindicated by election of a New Deal chief executive, or will the public repudiate this leadership in favor of a Republican?

Closely allied with this issue is the question of continuing or stopping national spending. Most Washington observers believe there will be no way of avoiding an increase in the national debt limit, which has almost reached its legal peak

of \$45,000,000,000. President Roosevelt will leave revenue matters strictly in congress' hands, he has intimated.

Organized labor faces a critical year in which anti-trust suits may set a precedent by laying the unions open to prosecution under the Sherman act. Moreover there are signs that congress will amend the Wagner labor act following revelations before the Smith house committee during December.

Will Social Security Work?

Old age benefits under the federal social security act will be distributed for the first time, and by year's end America should know if the plan actually works. The Supreme court will receive its fifth appointment from President Roosevelt, gaining a clear New Deal majority.

How about the Far East? Japan, balancing precariously on the international fence since Europe went to war last September, must jump one way or the other, siding with the dictators or the democracies. Right now she is busy playing both ends against the middle, trying to frighten the democracies into line by smiling benignly on Russia.

The United States is especially concerned with Asiatic developments because the 1911 trade treaty with Japan, repudiated last summer, will become abrogated officially on January 26. Before Washington is willing to renew it, Tokyo must agree to cease threatening American interests.

Will Chiang Surrender?

The Japanese, meanwhile, hope to end their war with China in 1940. Despite continued resistance from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, the Japs plan to establish a puppet government under Wang Ching-wei as a means of pacifying Chinese nationalistic sentiment.

Not all of 1940's news will develop in the political and military fields. Followers of the boxing wars are wondering if a "white hope" will arise to strike down the colored heavyweight behemoth, Joe Louis. And throughout the hot stove league they're wondering about that perennial question—can the New York Yankees win a fifth straight pennant?

Even the penguins of Antarctica have something to wait for in 1940. Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd and his government expedition will soon sight the snow-capped peaks of this desolate land, beginning what promises to be one of the year's most fascinating adventures.

Refugees Learn English

SYDNEY, N. S. W.—European refugees entering Australia are being taught English. The system, employed under the direction of Mrs. Elsa Gormley, is of "Basic English" which gives them quickly 850 basic words, which is all that is necessary for them to get along.

Swing Gives Way to Classics As 'Talking Machine' Reappears

NEW YORK.—The death of a swing-mad 1930-40 decade finds classical music regaining its traditional place in American artistry so fast that phonograph manufacturers and radio networks can't keep up with the demand.

This Christmas season the old-fashioned "talking machine" has been streamlined, while thousands of phonograph records have been placed around the family Yule tree in keeping with a revival of the like of which America has never seen before.

That summarizes the state of music at the end of a decade which sent Bach, Beethoven and Wagner scurrying

for cover under a barrage of swing, and brought them back again when swing had swung itself out.

The thirties also brought their share of good popular tunes. A survey by the National Broadcasting company revealed the following list of favorite tunes. How many do you recall?

- 123—Happy Days Are Here Again.
 - 124—I Got Rhythm.
 - 125—Star Dust.
 - 126—Play, Fiddle, Play.
 - 127—Love Is Blowing.
 - 128—Wagon Wheels.
 - 129—Red Sails in the Sunset.
 - 130—Is It True What They Say About Dixie?
 - 131—Viene, Viene!
 - 132—A-Tisket, A-Tasket.
 - 133—Over the Rainbow
- Musicians give radio much of the credit for the rebirth of classical music. Grand opera, once the plaything of a select few, has been popularized by regular broadcasts, chiefly over NBC during the Metropolitan season in New York. Symphony concerts are broadcast throughout the year, two outstanding examples being the Saturday night NBC series under Maestro Arturo Toscanini, and the CBS broadcast of New York Philharmonic concerts each Sunday during the winter season.

European Concerts Helped.

Until the war, many concerts came from abroad. In 1938, for example, 18 European orchestras contributed 24 programs to the NBC network. There were three operatic broadcasts from the Salzburg festival in Austria, one from Bayreuth and two from the Verdi anniversary festival at Turin.

In addition to network programs, an increasing number of individual stations are now broadcasting regular periods of classical music. One small station in New York broadcasts nothing else, all day long!

New Cocktail Glasses Built 'On the Square'

NEW YORK.—They've finally got a glass that's on the square. It's the new square-shaped "Vermouth glass," which was designed by speedboat champion Count Theo Rossi especially for the serving of vermouth straight.

Vermouth is a mild drink which has long been a favorite before-dinner appetizer in Europe and South America. It has recently taken such an upswing of popularity in this country—imports are up 30 per cent—that American glass manufacturers decided there should be a special vermouth glass.

This trend to vermouth, it is claimed, is one good indication that Americans are turning to moderation in their drinking.

The Dear House

By RALPH MILLER

(Associated Newspapers.)
(WNU Service.)

DEEP in Minna's heart was her dream of the dear house. And then she married Ted Byram and came to No. 1 Peters street, one of a dun-painted row of just-alike ugles.

She hated it from the first. Nothing fitted. Wall spaces were wrong, the windows too narrow, stock-size rugs would not fit the floors and the wallpaper was hideous.

Ted beamed at the results, however, while she choked down the lump in her throat to smile back at him.

"Grand little place!" he would crow. "Old Peters should see it."

G. H. Peters, millionaire, in his pink villa in Florida!

"Glad you like it, Ted, but we will begin to save right now for a house of our own," she announced firmly.

They saved rigorously until interrupted at the end of the first year by fat little Theodore. Many things checked their headway after that, up to their second interruption, which was Wilhelmina, also fat and adorable.

The case against No. 1 Peters street grew with the larger family. The little beds and chiffoniers took all the space in the bedrooms, and there was no place for the perambulator or kiddie car downstairs.

Minna brought her dream of the dear house to the fore, and again began saving for it. Ted took extra work at the mill to help out. G. H. Peters was still in Florida and his agent refused paint and paper.

Then one day—Minna called it her black Friday—he ran home.

"Minna! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Birthday surprise!"

"What have you done, Ted?" Why should her heart be leaden?

"G. H. Peters is home and is closing out his loose real estate. He gave me a wonderful bargain on this house and I snapped it up. You are a grand little saver, for we have enough for the down payment, and the rest will be like rent. Why, Minna—don't cry. I never knew that you wanted a home so badly!"

At first she sobbed convulsively, while he petted and coaxed her. Finally she could smile and say brokenly:

"It will be lovely to own a home, Ted!"

The dear house was gone. All her life this ugly, tucked-up, dun-colored hovel would offend her eye and cramp her living. There were days when even the pranks of funny little Teddy or the chuckles of Willy could not cheer her, but she did her best to keep a good face before Ted.

One day when she was downtown, getting the children's hair trimmed, Ted called the shop, agitatedly.

"Come home as fast as you can, Minna. The two houses back of us are burning, and they say ours may go, too. Some of the boys from the mill will go over with me and help get the things out."

Maybe the dear house would come now!

She could not hurry toward the black cloud which hung over Peters street. Teddy's short little legs and plump Willy in her stroller held her back.

Would they get the children's toys? Her Bavarian tea set with the wheat-heads—and the Quimper bowl! The flames would break through the window where they sat in the evening to watch for Ted. And the gable upstairs, by Teddy's bed, where he watched the pigeons against the sky—the little peach tree by the kitchen—the folding breakfast table Ted had made—the old linen cloth she had dyed to make spreads for it only last week—to match the voile curtains.

As she hurried, sobbing under her breath, a flood of comprehension engulfed her.

No. 1 Peters street was not ugly. Why, it was the dear house, and it had loved her all the years while she had been hating it! She never knew it until she had to lose it.

Smoke and trampling feet, shouts and hissing water, piles of furniture and clothing watched over by an officer, and a billow of smoke sweeping over the peaked roof. She turned and hid her face against the corner tree.

Then Ted's arm around her, his blackened face smiling at her.

"It's all right, Minna—the fire caught the roof-peak at the back, but they got it out right away. It's all right, dear, don't cry!"

"Oh, Ted," she gasped. "You saved the dear house!"

"We did—and the smoking needn't matter, for I was intending to have it remodeled for your birthday present. Now we needn't wait, but can go right to work. A larger living room, open stairs, a sun parlor, breakfast room, with an extra room, a sleeping porch and lots of closets upstairs. The plans are drawn, waiting your approval. Later we'll buy the place next door, sell the house off and have a real lawn, with shrubbery, hedge, a pool and everything!"

Oblivious of the neighbors who were caring for Teddy and Willy, to the laboring firemen and the eyes of curious strangers, they gazed at each other enraptured. Then her belated loyalty asserted itself.

"It will be grand, Ted, but without any of it, it is the dear house, just the same!"

New Zealand's Supply of Meat Is Important British Food Item



Transportation Problem Is Serious Because of War Conditions.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

An old World War slogan, "Food will help win the war," was recently recalled when New Zealand reported arrangements to send Britain her exportable meat surplus. Problem: How to transport the shipments, past submarine and other perils, to the mother country half the world away.

New Zealand is more than 12,000 miles from England, by way of the Panama canal. The route around South America would add another thousand miles. Ships sailing westward through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean sea must travel more than 14,000 miles from Wellington, New Zealand, to Southampton, England.

Geographic isolation made New Zealand one of the most recent regions to be colonized. Yet within 80 years of the first permanent settlements, in the 1840s, this self-governing dominion had a seat in the League of Nations. After the World War, in recognition of services in that conflict, she was given a mandate over German Samoa.

163,000 Square Miles in Area.

One hundred three thousand square miles in area, New Zealand is made up of North and South islands, the two main segments of the group, as well as Stewart, Cook, and several smaller outlying islands of the Pacific.

More than a thousand miles long and only 280 miles across at its widest point, the dominion's slim outline seems, on a map of the broad Pacific, much closer to Australia than it is. Actually they are 1,400 miles apart.

New Zealand has a population of more than a million and a half people, including 70,000 Maoris, the intelligent aborigines who are increas-

MAP SHOWS shipping routes most usually used in transporting supplies from New Zealand to England. The distance by way of the Panama Canal is 12,000 miles and around South America it's an additional 1,000. Not shown on the map but possible is a 14,000-mile route through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean sea.

ing rather than diminishing in numbers under the white man's government.

The human population of New Zealand is far exceeded by its domestic-animal population. There are roughly three times as many cattle as people on the islands, and more than 20 times as many sheep.

Stock raising is the leading industry. A mild climate, with ample rainfall and sunshine, assures grazing in the open year around. The islands also grow considerable fodder crops, some wheat, potatoes, peas, and many fruits, including apples, peaches, apricots, plums, and nectarines. The dairy industry is highly developed.

No one factor has proved more important in the trade life of New Zealand than the advent of refrigeration. In the late 1700s, the islands made their first timber exports. Later, with the whaling industry of the South seas came little depot settlements, specializing in blubber-whalebone and oil.

World Trade Is Large.

Today, in proportion to population, New Zealand has the world's largest trade figure. The United Kingdom is the dominion's best customer, taking some 83 per cent of its exports. Of the 17,000,000 lambs born there in 1938, more than 10,000,000 went to Britain. In return New Zealand buys a little less than half of her total imports from the mother country.

Due partly to the opening of the Panama canal, lessening the distance from New Zealand to Uncle Sam's eastern ports, imports from the United States have increased considerably in modern times. The percentage is roughly one-eighth of the total. Canada supplies about half as much.

TINY ESTONIA IS COVETED BY SOVIET

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Estonia, tiny Baltic republic born of the last World War, has barely reached the age of 21 when European war news again puts her name in the headlines. Russian military forces now occupy many fortifications within the nation's boundaries.

For nearly 200 years Estonia was a part of the old Imperial Russia, and her declaration of independence in 1918 deprived Russia of the highly prized, ice-free Baltic port of Tallinn (or Reval).

With an area only as large as Vermont and New Hampshire combined, and a population of 1,126,000—less than that of Los Angeles, Calif., Estonia is one of the smallest of the states that came into being after the conflict of 1914-18. Tallinn, now the capital and chief city, is about the size of Bridgeport, Conn., with 146,500 people.

Freedom Sought in 1917-18. Estonia fought for freedom in 1917-18 after being ruled by a long succession of masters. Danes, Germans, Swedes, Poles and Russians held all or parts of what is now Estonia at various times. The Danes sold the city of Tallinn to the Teutonic knights of Germany for 19,000 silver marks in 1346. The Swedes held Estonia for nearly 100 years until 1721, after which Russia ruled it until 1917. German troops occupied the country in 1918. Then Bolshevik forces invaded it in 1919, but were driven out by the Estonians.

Estonians Related to Finns. Estonia is a flat land of forests, farms and small villages. No part of it is more than 450 feet above the sea. The Estonians are probably of Asiatic origin like their northern neighbors, the Finns, and their language, called one of Europe's most musical, is related to



ESTONIA'S IMPORTANCE TO

Russia can be seen from a glance at the above map. With complete control Tallinn, the nation's capital city as a key port, the Soviet would have an excellent outlet to the Baltic sea.

Finnish and Hungarian. Founded as a republic, Estonia adopted a fascistlike form of government in 1934, but returned to the democratic system in 1937 by popular vote.

Butter is Estonia's leading export, with other food stuffs and timber products also ranking high on the list. Potatoes, rye, barley and flax are raised. Oil shales are one of her few mineral resources. Two-thirds of Estonia consists of farms, one fifth is devoted to forests and a large area also is covered by water, for Estonia has some 1,500 lakes.

Tallinn, the capital, called the "nightcap town" for the pointed towers on its remnant of medieval wall, is a busy modern seaport with grain elevators and refrigerating plants prominent on the skyline. In severe winters the harbor sometimes freezes, but ice breakers keep navigation open.

I RESOLVE

Made your resolutions for 1940? Here's a few you can make and break without much trouble—just for the sake of resolution-ing!



"Candy? No, thanks, won't touch the stuff in 1940. Oh, well, I guess just one piece won't hurt."



"Going to (puff!) take this (puff!) stomach off me this (puff!) year if it kills me. Gotta (puff!) do this every (puff!) day."



"Lemme see... if I save 10 cents every day in 1940, that makes... m-m-m... thirty-six dollars and 50 cents a year."



"I feel everyone should do her best to improve her mind in 1940 with good reading material. Let's see... what did that say? Kinda dry book. Guess I'll go to a show."



"Gotta quit smoking this year... yeah, right now. I'll just toss these stogies in the wastebasket. Er... maybe I'll want to fish out a last smoke after dinner tonight."

Pope Gregory Responsible

For January 1 Celebration

Pope Gregory, in 1582, instituted the Gregorian calendar and thus placed New Year's day on January 1. During the Middle Ages Europe had observed it on March 25. All countries did not adopt the 12-month system at once, but the Christian world accepted it generally in 1752 when the British parliament finally established New Year's day. Ancient Persians and Egyptians celebrated on September 22.