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EDITORIALS

Current Comment

WHEN THE BOYS COME BACK WHERE WILL THE SLACKER STAND?

Some day the boys are coming back.

Some day you will hear the crash of the bands playing the national anthem, and the tramp—tramp—of the victors coming home.

Not all will come back—some will have made the supreme sacrifice. Some will be sleeping the long sleep on a foreign shore.

Have you made any sacrifice—have you bought bonds to furnish these boys with planes, tanks, guns and food that they might be armed to fight and save this free country for YOU?

There are people who have not yet learned that we are at war—a war to permit us to live in peace and security, us and our children and our children's children.

These people think they may go on as always, making money, laying away their substance for their own selfish uses.

These boys are offering their LIVES. Are you LENDING your money to help them win this war for YOU?

Dreadful will be the day when the boys come home, for the SLACKER.

The man who does not do all in his power to help these boys win this war is a SLACKER.

When the boys come home can you look them in the face and say I helped all I could?

Or will you hang your head and slip away when the bands are playing and the boys are tramping—tramping—back home again?

Gloomy and fearful will be the day for you when the boys point their finger at you and yell "SLACKER."

ARE WAR BONDS SAFE?

We have heard of a fellow who was afraid to invest much in war bonds, for fear they might depreciate in value and cause loss to the purchaser.

Any school child should know that a U. S. government bond and a bill of currency stand exactly on the same footing, except that the bond bears interest while the bill of money does not.

Each one is just as safe as the other, as each is only a promise of the government to pay.

When the bond becomes unsafe or depreciates in value, so will your bill of money also.

The truth is that the U. S. bond which you are urged to buy now to help pay the expense of the war, is the best and safest security in the world. No other obligation of any country is backed by such power and property.

It is the duty of every good citizen to buy not a few bonds, but buy ALL YOU CAN.

If you need money you can exchange them for cash at any bank, or you can borrow on them as gilt edge collateral—best to be had.

Go your limit—buy ALL you can, and know that you are doing your part to help the boys win this war for us and our children and our children's children.

If our boys GIVE THEIR LIVES, you should be willing to LEND YOUR MONEY.

HAS HITLER CRACKED?

Some months ago this newspaper issued this guess:

Hitler will crack by Easter, 1943.

How far have we missed it?

The fighting goes on, just like it did the day before Ludendorf and Hindenburg called for the armistice in October, 1918.

Germany in April, 1941, started out to crush Russia in six weeks. After two years and the loss of more than 2,000,000 men, Hitler still has not conquered Russia, nor advanced a foot further, while his divisions are reeling under the steady blows of the ever-growing power of Stalin.

In Africa, Rommel has been driven almost to breaches of Tunis, while the British, Americans and French, with preeminent manpower and complete mastery of the air, are poised for the spring that will drive the Huns into the Mediterranean.

The Swedish magazine, Vecko-Journalen, a neutral, says: "The German people aren't feeling the spring, since they no longer have any hope," and adds: "The greatest joke going now is what a Berliner said: 'We will win.'"

Edward Benes, exiled president of the government of Czechoslovakia, and who the Associated Press says is one of the best informed statesmen of Europe, broadcast last week:

He declared German satellite states already were trying to slip out of the war.

"In a few weeks, the last German and Italian soldiers will be thrown out of Tunisia and a vast assault on Italy will begin," Benes said. "You must expect an assault on the continent in the whole Mediterranean area, in the north and in the west. You must expect a vast new Russian assault and a new and even fiercer bombing of Germany and new and surprising political events.

"Hungary is seeking to make contact with the Allies by all means and is desiring to betray Germany.

"Bulgaria awaits in vain a chance to change her fronts.

"Finland is not ceasing to send messages to the Allies, saying she is ready to stop the war at any time.

"Antonescu's Rumania is gambling with everything she has and probably will be the first to slip away from the Axis.

"In Italy the last government change was caused by the fact that a plot was discovered which aimed at getting Italy out of the hands of the Germans at an appropriate moment."

In the meantime a \$13 billion dollar war fund is finishing. While the great American factories are now turning out 7,000 planes a month, twice as many as Germany, Italy and Japan can build, and high gear not nearly reached yet.

Remember that in March, 1918, when the Hun armies made that terrible drive for the channel, destroying the British third army, and all the world was trembling—the crack was on then, but the world didn't know it.

Six months later the Kaiser surrendered.

Has not Hitler cracked?

THE MOUNTAINS VERSUS VITAMINS

Of all places on earth the manifestations of spring are nowhere so alluring as up and down Indian creek close by where the Cascade sifts its cold spray over the fern and through the ivies.

The budding rhododendron sticks out through rifts of frowning cliffs, and sprucepines with inverted branches swing over the abysses.

You have sauntered in artificial gardens where gorgeous foliage blooms and fountains play, or walked through charming landscapes man-made.

But have you ever smelt the delightful pungent odor of pristine wildness, strange odors from strange plants, the cool breath of tangled thickets where snug caves are hidden.

Have you stood and listened to the crooning water as it swished through the mosses and fretted the roots of the wild cucumber tree, and waded with your tired feet on the solid rock bottom?

Bet you haven't. Try these things. They will beat vitamins to death.

RESPECTIVELY, GUBERNATORIAL AND SENATORIAL

In spite of the pall of war, North Carolina politics is picking up.

Judge Warlick, much loved in Stokes and who by the way speaks at the Walnut Cove school Friday night, has declined to run for Governor and leaves the field to Cherry and MacDonald, who have announced their respective candidacies.

In the Senate race to beat Bob Reynolds, Max Gardner says his doctors advise him not to tackle it. But Max's brother-in-law ex-Governor Clyde Hoey steps into the breach and says: "I will run."

About three-fourths of the entrants in these two big contests coming are seasoned veterans of other battles who know how to give and take with that elan and gusto which delighteth the heart of him who said:

"It's not by principles or men
My onward course is steadied—
I scents what pays the best
And goes at it baldheaded."

NORTH CAROLINA'S GREAT GOVERNOR

The Reporter has received from the Governor's office at Raleigh, and read with much pleasure and illumination, a copy of an address delivered by Governor Broughton at the recent Governor's Conference at Atlanta.

The subject was "The State's Responsibilities—Now and After the War."

The theme of the discussion embraced the dangers of a steadily expanding centralized government, State's rights, the need of fairer freight rates for the South, etc.

There were a number of other Southern governors on the program, but from newspaper reports and from our individual opinion, the North Carolina executive stood head and shoulders above all others both in his breadth of conception of our situation and need, and his matchless presentation.

The mimeographed record of this speech furnishes one the greatest State papers in the history of this commonwealth and indicates beyond doubt that Broughton is one of our really greatest Governors.