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Tuesday, October 1, 1940.

Coming Nearer Home

That the war and its costly effect are being brought nearer home for us is becoming more evident with each new day. And as surely as night follows day we are going to be called upon to pay the price of our follw.

In our habitual effort to satisfy our greed for money, we combed the junk heaps and snatched the plow shares from the fields to support an extensive scrap iron export. The pitiful cries of the almost helpless Chinese as those down-cast humans stopped the bullets and shell fragments failed to register in our ears, and with no conscience to trouble us we continued the export of the death-dealing material.

The government recently placed an embargo on the war material, but Japan has an adequate supply for continuing its savage attack on China and for a crack at us. A few weak voices called out for an embargo many months ago, but we would have threatened our own government had an embargo been ordered before now. Our craving for money would not permit us to see the pitiful plight of the Chinese before the Japanese war machine, and neither could we see the danger for us in such a dastardly business.

Today, the humble Chinese are puzzled to understand why we would sell their common enemy war materials and then turn around and try to save them with our missionaries and our Red Cross.

The criminal sooner or later falls victim of his own acts. It would appear that the United States is about to be called upon to pay the price of its folly. Actual warfare may not come just now, but it is certainly on its way and unless some unforeseen events transpire in the course of a very few months we can well anticipate the shock of war itself. The economic effects are already pinching our way of life, and for many the death knot is being tied slowly but surely.

China, beaten to its knees and its purchasing power reduced to a point bordering on starvation, is not in position to buy our tobacco and other commodities. Trade with Japan is dwindling rapidly, piling ever higher the huge cotton surplus in this country. We surrendered principle back yonder, destroyed the confidence others once had and now in the world's greatest crisis, Japan turns to a barbarian and forms a partnership.

We well knew back yonder that we were ignoring principle when countless thousands of tons of scrap iron were being mentioned in our export trade as a great factor in our economic prosperity. Possibly an embargo on scrap iron at that time would have pinched our economic foot, but the cost to us then will not compare with the price we are now about to be called upon to pay.

But pay it we must, and by the token of billions and possibly numbers of human lives we will.

N. C.'s Bob In Washington

Bob Reynolds, they say, is in line for mayor of Washington. Already he is said to be making plans for returning horse racing and gambling to the Nation's capital. That's typical of the fellow a lot of North Carolina people were fooled into voting for twice in a row.

After our dear Bob has made one big ass of himself in Washington we sometimes wonder if many of those who ran up and down the street behind him as a little dog does his master aren't ready to turn and kick themselves in the pants for ever supporting his candidacy. But the playboy could at least ease the pain by showing a little good, common sense once in a while. It is outright embarrassing to his constituency when our Bob goes off to inspect military bases after going to Europe and learning that there wasn't going to be any war. Bob Reynolds couldn't tell twenty minutes before it happened that war was going to break out in Europe, and judging by his keen observation over the way it is doubtful if he can apply any reason to an inspection of American defense bases in the Caribbean. To those who know him best, Bob Reynolds is just on another gaudy trip at the expense of the taxpayers.

Legitimate Robbery in Business

Our Senator Bailey boastfully points out, "A New Deal debt of \$75,000,000,000 is a national calamity, exceeded only by a military invasion by Germany."

It is to be admitted that debt has wrecked and ruined its victims, but given a full opportunity and due credit for their labors the people of this nation can pay off a seventy-five billion dollar debt or a debt twice that size and never miss a meal. The learned Senator is wrong when he says that the danger of debt is exceeded only by a military invasion by Germany. The latter possibility is packed with danger, to be sure, but there is a greater danger facing the future of this country and that is the legitimate robbery in business.

Assured of a fair deal, the people of this country will sacrifice their all to maintain the basic principles of American life, but when they are trapped and bled to death by merciless business tactics they are certain to revolt, sooner or later.

Just a short time ago an orphan died in a strange town. The colored undertaker jumped on the body and embalmed it. Relatives, hard-pressed to maintain their own economic existence, made arrangements to have the body return home that it might rest beside those of his parents. The undertaker, catching the dead boy's relatives at a disadvantage, refused to surrender the body until a \$35 embalming fee was paid. There is possibly some justification in the action of the undertaker or in the action of others in refusing to forfeit about their only means of collecting an account, but when a bill is increased in the face of those whose finances are already in a strain, the creditor is destroying the foundation to the American way of life.

This is only one little incident, but there are millions of similar ones that are gnawing at the American system of life. Countless thousands have been driven from their homes and forced to surrender property worth many times the amount of the debt against it. But the failure to meet one payment was sufficient excuse for the creditor to act. It is a common practice for one to charge a premium for his wares, services and goods when the purchaser could not offer ready cash, the premium taking care of carrying charges, risks and trouble in addition to a little extra profit that has been known to figure as high as 100 per cent. The unfortunate in this land must have a full opportunity to earn a living and then be assured that they will not be robbed by ruthless business.

If Senator Bailey can solve this problem he will have accomplished much in reducing the alleged danger of a big national debt.

An Old Word With a New Meaning

Elkin Tribune.

President William P. Few, of Duke University, in an address before the student body of that institution, said the people of this country must learn to speak some old words with a new accent, and one of these words is "work". And further:

"We must try to build again a nation of workers. It will not be safe to commit the destinies of a great country into idle hands; but the destiny of any nation is safe in the keeping of people who think straight and who work, either with their hands or in other creative ways."

Every athlete knows that he cannot long play the game without keeping in physical trim; that he must exercise his muscles judiciously and continuously if they are to make him efficient. And that goes for the body politic, too.

Germany is strong because men have not been afraid to work, even when made to. And the German economy is strong far beyond the conception of outsiders, simply because her men at work were content with meager pay. If Germans can be content to toil for such an unworthy objective as has been theirs for the past five years—the building of a great war machine to destroy other people, how much greater is the incentive for Americans to knuckle down to a productivity that will serve a holier cause.

There are too many parasites in this nation—too many who live and have their being at the expense of others, and we are breeding more of them every day. One generation plants and grows the tree in the shade of which their children sit in comfort. Some of them even destroy the limbs that shade them.

No matter how rich the parent, the boy or girl is being tragically neglected if he or she is not taught to work, either with their hands or mind—to contribute something to the society that has made their path rosier than that of some of their fellows.

Right now it is related that in a national emergency there is a dearth of skilled workers. That we can't get going in our defense program until workers are trained for their jobs. That is because of our preference for white collars. Bricklayers are among the highest paid workers, yet you seldom see even a high school graduate willing to take up such a trade as this. The result is that bricklayers are scarce in the presence of plenty of soda-jerkers. Yet the one can earn more in a day than the other can earn in a week. Dr. Few has something on the ball, no mistake about that.

They Do

Another reason why the professional politician gets more than the people do is because he knows what he wants. — San Francisco Chronicle.

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