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A Time For Reason

We don't know whether a world in which all human acts were governed by reason would be a pleasant world to live in or not. We rather suspect that it might lack a great many of the elements which make life, for most people, rather pleasant on the whole. A world governed by pure reason would, perhaps, be rather monotonous.

We haven't any doubt, however, about what the world would be like if reason were thrown overboard and everybody acted upon emotional impulses. The only word which can describe such a state of human affairs is chaos. There could be no government, no common purpose, order and discipline would be gone with the winds.

The only way a nation can get along with its neighbors and the people of the nation get along with each other is by a judicious mixture of reason with emotion. The greatest danger to any nation is to let the collective emotional impulses of its people run away with their reason.

That is something to think about, to keep in mind in times like these. There is no question whatever that the emotional sympathies of the American people are preponderantly with England and France against Hitler and Stalin.

Out of that emotional tendency may come such encouragement to those who hope to profit personally, financially or politically from war, that forces may be set in motion to play upon our sympathies and move us as a people to get into the war ourselves.

Every American needs more than anything today to bring all the power of reason to the control of thoughts and acts. For nothing is more certain than that, if we let our emotions run away with us and take a hand in the European struggle, beyond selling supplies to any buyer who can pay for them and take them away, we are heading straight for the ruin of ourselves and our children, whether the side with which we sympathize wins or loses.

Russian Menace Grows

Russia has developed into a first-class menace all along the eastern Baltic coastline, with the Northern nations anxiously watching the efforts of the Soviet to completely dominate the region.

Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia are virtual vassals of the Red army and Finland, it seems, may be compelled to surrender or resort to warfare which can only prove disastrous. Sweden is in a more favorable situation but no man knows where the Russian Bear will halt his aggressive march.

The action of Denmark, Norway and Sweden in presenting identical notes to Russia, "expecting" nothing to happen to prevent Finland "independently" maintaining her neutral position indicates growing uneasiness. That the United States also saw fit to voice its concern emphasizes the gravity of the situation.

Germany can hardly view the approach of Russian bases without grave trepidation. Even the Nazis know that the future of Germany is shadowed by the giant Slav, who seems to seek a free hand throughout all Eastern Europe.

Little direct information is available in the Balkan area, although there are reports that some demobilization of frontier forces has taken place. Yugoslavia, Hungary and Italy, it is rumored, may get together to safeguard the peace of the area. Turkey has steadfastly declined to give in to Russian pressure and Moscow has advised Rumania that it has no "hostile" intentions.

Italy seems definitely removed from the German axis. Rome says neutrality will be the rule during the Winter and next Spring, unless warmer weather brings with it an advance into the Balkans by Germany or Russia. The tie-up between Russia and Germany has certainly alienated Italy from the Nazi camp.

From the way the people of Berlin celebrated when the rumor of an armistice reached them, we suspect war is not much more popular in Germany just now than it is in the United States.—Winston-Salem Journal.

The Low Down From Hickory Grove

Back yonder around a year ago, everybody was all worked up about the business of investigating the fracas down there on the Tennessee River.

And I been thinking about it, from seeing an old paper which I run across when I was kinda tidying up my desk, before my Susie comes in and does it, herself—and I would never know, thereafter, where to find anything.

Investigations are great medicine, if you can choose your own jury. A horse-thief could ask for nothing nicer—or surer.

But this TVA whitewash, it has quieted folks in some parts of the country—and has about blown over. But in Tennessee, the folks there are in a different boat—they are wondering about who is gonna dig up the mazzuma to pay their schoolteachers, etc., since Uncle Samuel moved in. Sambo pays taxes to nobody—he just collects.

Glamor, the dictionary says, means something that is artificially glorified. Also it means ILLUSION. TVA was no slouch, in its day—on glamor.

Yours, with the low down, JO SERRA

Two Sides To Every Question by Lytle Hull

Possible Results Of This War

It has often been said that one of the saddest features of war is that it demonstrates the inability of people to invent a form of government capable of protecting their interests.

Through the ages it has always been the hope that "this war" will be the last the people will have to undergo, but as time goes on wars—instead of becoming more localized and small in scope—have grown larger in the number of men involved and have become more inclusive geographically.

Every conceivable form of government has been attempted: monarchy, dictatorship, democracy, socialism, communism, capitalism. Each has flourished during periods of peace but few have been capable of maintaining those periods of peace for more than a relatively short time.

There is an outstanding exception, to this unnatural condition, which may indicate that it is not the forms of government which are at fault so much as the state of "nationalism" as it exists in Europe today, that is: dozens of separate nations, both large and small, necessarily selfish and jealous of each other, attempting to live their individual lives behind their common boundary lines.

This outstanding exception is the United States of America. A vast grouping of geographical entities with different climates, tastes, ideas and modes of living; but having in common one supreme interest—the central government of the United States. This interest—excepting the four years of our civil war—has held them together in peace and harmony for one hundred and fifty years. These groups are composed of every nationality, race, color and creed on earth.

In some cases almost the majority of a whole state is descended from one nationality, yet how weird even to imagine Minnesota declaring war upon Louisiana. But if these two states were members of the European family, they would probably show a long record of internecine warfare.

Long before the Great War, one would frequently hear a European express his envy of peaceful America. Since the devastating results of that war have become so prominent as to be apparent to even the least thoughtful, "grumbings," in European countries, has become a habit and changes of government a frequent occurrence.

The people are beginning to awake to the fact that there is no way, under the present set up, to stop the eternal warfare to which they are subjected. In other days, when these wars were fought by professional armies, it didn't make such a tremendous impression and did not greatly affect their daily lives. But now that war has come to mean the forcible conscription of every man's and woman's life and property, it has become to all the people a thing of terrible import.

No one knows what the present war, if fought to a finish, will bring forth, and this is not intended as a prophecy: but it is not difficult to picture a Europe so utterly devastated that any straw will be grasped at by the despairing people, and that straw will unfortunately not be "Democracy." That word won't "sound so good" to them by then.

Desperate people will be sick of anything which reminds them of politicians; they will scream against any form of government except a "people's government."

a "proletarian government." That will have a wonderful sound—The People's Government! It has fooled experts.

It fooled the level headed French, and those same level heads dropped into the basket of the guillotine. It fooled the Russians, and millions of unwilling angels have been added to the population of Heaven since that "great emancipator," Mr. Stalin, became the "people's government" of all the Russia's. And it will fool the rattled people of a desperate, starving, fear-crazed Europe after they have been punished to the limit of human endurance by the nitroglycerine of dictatorship and democracy.

What a picture to contemplate! All Europe under the iron hand of some blood-thirsty tyrant who will call himself "the people's government."

The only ray of long distance hope, which shines through the murky gloom of this quite possible outcome of a long and destructive war, is the chance that the people, though subjugated, will have the opportunity in a few generations, to "breed up" their manhood—which the last war and the present one will have sadly depleted—and eventually cast aside a tyrannical form of government for a REAL "people's government"; a government of the people, for the people and by the people. A United States of Europe—and peace on earth at last!

A hard road to travel for the next fifty or a hundred years, and strewn with the corpses of millions of trusting human beings who placed their faith in their leaders and in the ability of those leaders to solve the problems with which they are faced today.

In a World Aflame



Weekly Washington Merry-Go-Round

(Trade Mark Registered)

by Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen

Christmas Island Suddenly Important As U. S. Competes For Pacific Bases; Fear Nazi May Grab British Claims; Idea Of Ceding West Indies Revived; War Industry Plan Would Let Business Appointees Buy From Own Companies; Huge British Gold Output Makes Her Indifferent To Cash-And-Carry Rules.

Washington—For some years it has been the regular custom of newspapermen covering the State Department to write a story every Christmas Day about Christmas Island.

International news usually is scarce around the holidays, so newsmen speculate annually on possible State Department claims to sovereignty over this little pinpoint on the map of the Pacific, 1,500 miles south of Honolulu.

Formerly the State Department (under Henry L. Stimson) had no interest whatsoever in Christmas Island, so that in order to get an excuse for writing their annual story, newsmen actually inspired geographers outside the Government to inquire officially regarding the sovereignty of the island. For many years it had been claimed by both England and the United States.

The State Department's laconic reply in those days was that it was not interested.

Now, however, the picture suddenly has changed. The State Department is saying nothing about it, but plans secretly have been made to take over the island—whether the British like it or not.

The importance of Christmas Island is that it is a stepping-stone in the Pacific air route to New Zealand and Samoa. Also it is not far from Palmyra, the island where the U. S. Navy is spending about \$4,000,000 on an air base. Christmas Island is better suited than Palmyra, since it has a 9-mile inland lagoon which will require little money to improve.

New Importance Of Islands

Chief reason why Christmas Island was not developed instead of Palmyra is that on the map it is marked "British." And the State Department under Cordell Hull has been consistent with the policy under Stimson, and did not contest the British claim.

It remained for Dr. Ernest Bruening, chief of the Interior Department's Insular Bureau and recently promoted to be Governor of Alaska, to make a secret survey of the Pacific islands and recommend a base on Christmas Island. The U. S. claim was grounded upon early discovery by American whaling vessels.

The State Department at first balked, but finally yielded to pressure from the Interior and Navy Departments. Since then, also, the State Department has come to fear that Germany, if victorious, may gobble up all British-claimed islands in the Pacific.

Vandenberg Steps Out

General Senator Vandenberg of Michigan has a chauffeur named Lambert who has been with the family for many years—so long, in fact, that he has almost got into the habit of managing the Senator's affairs.

Some time ago, a constituent from northern Michigan dropped in to see Vandenberg, and the Senator invited him to dinner and the theatre before catching a midnight train to Michigan. The constituent accepted, and Lambert was sent to get the theatre tickets.

After dinner that night, Senator Vandenberg and his guest sat comfortably over their cigars until theatre time, then got into the Vandenberg limousine.

"Where to?" asked the faithful Lambert.

"The theatre," said Vandenberg.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you," replied Lambert, "I couldn't get any good tickets for tonight, so I got them for tomorrow night."

War Mobilization

The more you study the War Department's Industrial Mobilization Plan the more you can rejoice that the vast majority of Americans are opposed to war. For the military minds have buried a lot of jokers in their plan for taking over industry.

For instance, one set rule of government is that any high official must divert himself of active business interests. Thus the Justices of the Supreme Court are supposed to sell any stock they may own in a business corporation. Members of the Securities and Exchange Commission either sell their stock or put it in a strong box.

This principle is recognized in the Industrial Mobilization Plan—at first. Title III provides that no appointee "shall participate in the determining of any question affecting his personal interests." This seemed wise and appropriate.

However, in the footnotes attached to this paragraph, the War and Navy Departments overrule the provision as "too drastic" and recommend that it be set aside. In other words, the military minds would entrust private individuals with the job of buying supplies for the Government in wartime, but put no restriction on dealing with their own companies.

Long-Tongued Bees

Developing an "apartment" size turkey is not the only undertaking of the Beltsville, Md., farmyard laboratory operated by the Agriculture Department near Washington. Its experiment in genetics cover the whole range of farm creatures.

One unadvertised experiment now in progress is designed to

give honey bees longer tongues so they can gather more nectar from the deep corolla tubes of clover blossoms. Another is aimed at transforming the old gray mare into a streamlined critter with increased power, endurance and speed.

Elimination of low-producing milk cows and the short, fat, ungainly hog are still other problems being studied. On both of these, considerable progress already has been made. Cows bred at the research center are giving larger quantities and better quality of milk, while the traditional hog has been replaced with a slender breed which produces hams of greater market appeal, smaller in size and higher in content of lean meat.

The streamlined turkey, incidentally, is not yet ready to make its market debut. Beltsville experts are still keeping it under wraps to breed out certain defects which developed in the new type. The new model is a cross-breed of the U. S. wild turkey with two varieties from Holland and Australia. It weighs from 10 to 12 pounds—an ideal size for the modern family—is white in color and very meaty.

British Gold

Reason for English indifference to any drastic cash requirements Congress may enact into the cash-and-carry provision is London's strong gold position. In a long war this may be more important to England than her navy.

The British Empire has the largest gold income in the world. Last year, out of a total world output of 89,000,000 ounces, the Empire's share was 21,000,000 ounces. Computed at \$35 an ounce, now being paid by the U. S. Treasury, this meant an income of \$745,000,000—which is many times the total gold reserve of Germany.

Present British gold reserve is estimated by Treasury experts at around \$2,500,000,000. This is less than the \$3,000,000,000 reserve with which the French entered the war. But there is an important difference between the two allies. The \$3,000,000,000 is practically all France has in gold resources, since its annual output is negligible, while the British control the richest gold mines in the world and can easily increase their production above last year's huge total.

Most British gold comes from South Africa, which mined 13,000,000 ounces in 1938. Canada with 4,000,000 ounces was the Empire's second largest producer.

Germany, Italy and Japan produce little gold and can obtain it only through foreign trade. The United States and Russia are the second and third largest gold producers, the American output having been \$5,857,000 ounces last year, an increase of nearly 1,000,000 ounces over 1937.

German Embassy

Members of the staff of the German Embassy at Washington are going to be in a tough spot if Der Fuehrer suddenly orders them to fly the red and black swastika over the rambling, old fashioned

brick chancery located on what was once a fashionable section of Massachusetts Avenue.

For the mast and halyards from which once floated the proud eagle of Imperial Germany have recently been usurped by a complex mass of wires and insulators, which bring in the latest short-wave news from "The Fatherland" but render the pole practically useless for flag-waving.

Meanwhile any display of swastikas in the national Capital is extremely unpopular, and even a local auctioneer who for years used the emblem as a trade mark, has removed it from the red flag which marks his scene of operation.

Plans for construction of a new German Embassy to replace the present chancery, which is one of the oldest diplomatic establishments at Washington, have been indefinitely sidetracked by the war and strained relations between the two countries.

Note—The Germans will not move into the Polish Embassy as long as Mr. Hull still recognizes Poland.

Merry-Go-Round

The final straw that caused the President to replace Wage-Hour Administrator Elmer Andrews was his last-minute request for an additional \$4,000,000 at the last session. Andrews originally asked for only \$3,500,000, and when he came back with a total request of \$7,500,000, Roosevelt blew up and decided to get rid of him. . . . Flyingest official in the Government is able National Youth Administrator Aubrey Williams. Taking advantage of a 15 per cent discount given by airlines to officials on public business, Williams travels almost entirely by plane. . . . It is just one row after another in the National Labor Relations Board. Latest ruckus was the axing of Maurice Howard, able young NLRB chief examiner in Los Angeles, by Trial Examiner George Pratt, relative by marriage of William Leiserson, recently appointed Board member. California laborites heatedly protested the move, but it was warmly approved by the anti-union Associated Farmers. . . . Best informed man of what is going on in the Senate is not a Senator. He is quiet-spoken Leslie Biffle, Secretary to the Majority, who can tell you—if he wants to—how every Senator will vote. A fishing enthusiast, Biffle's great pride is a 69-pound, 7-foot sailfish he caught near Miami.

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TOYS

Children are the family jewels—the blossoms of humanity. The great atheist, Robert Ingersoll, said, "The laugh of a little child will make the holiest day more sacred still," while Bacon remarked "Children sweeten labours, make life happier and mitigate the remembrance of death." Primitive people loved their offspring as much as the parent of today, and it was to add to their comfort and happiness that toys were made to amuse them.

The life of babies since the dawn of time to the present has varied but little. No matter what pestilence stalked through the land; no matter if wars took their toll of lives; or if famine or depression came to nations, children always had toys.

Necklaces of seeds, sea-shells, or polished stones, through which a hole had been drilled, were strung upon the sinews of some animal and placed about the neck and arms of the babies, and were undoubtedly the first toys known to mankind.

Then came the rattle, fashioned first out of a gourd, in which the seeds had been dried and later for children of royalty they were made of ivory.

Animals of clay, inside of which pebbles were placed, to make a noise, came next. Specimens of these early toys have been found in caves and ruins, dating back thousands of years before Christ.

The Egyptians were perhaps the first to make dolls. The earlier ones, dating 3,000 B. C., were made of carved wood, painted with wigs of human hair.

Even Eskimo babies had dolls carved of whalebone and the Negro bushman's little ones in darkest Africa were not denied the pleasure of these diminutive mannikins.

The early Aztecs and the Chumus, who lived in Peru, 25,000 B. C., made dolls of baked clay, but the Greeks and early Romans developed the doll industry to a new high, when they manufactured them, so that their arms and legs moved and their eyes opened and closed.

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