

The Veteran Question

After every war the question of what to do about discharged soldiers has challenged the intelligence of the nation. It will be so again when the present war ends.

On Dec. 10 the House Military Affairs Committee was given a preview of what will happen a million times over not so many years from now by a boy with one leg shot away and one side of his face paralyzed by a shrapnel wound—only 21, but already a cynical veteran. His name is Lemuel Hendricks.

Hendricks told the nation's lawmakers that the boys on the battle line are wondering what they are fighting for. He warned them that something must be done for the veterans when they come home if another bonus march is to be avoided.

Possibly thinking of the apple-selling days of his boyhood, Hendricks said: "We don't want to be sitting around waiting. We want something to be done. We would like to go into vocational education and not live at the mercy of others or go home and live off our folks."

Understandably, Hendricks was not impressed by the proposal of \$100 mustering-out pay or by another offer of \$50 per month for six months.

Here is a problem that will have to be met by all of us. How to meet it in a manner that will not develop a generation of professional veterans, but rather will send the soldiers back into normal civilian life, with civilian interests and viewpoints, is a question that must be answered in the right way if democracy is to survive the war.

The best way to guarantee a good and useful life to veterans is to give that guarantee to every citizen of the nation. Everybody should have an opportunity to share in the useful and necessary work of society. Every worker should receive the full social value of the product of his toil. Human ability and human needs—and not the ability of an owning class to make profit by using workers—should determine social policies and economic practices.

With that goal in mind the program of democratic Socialism is seen as the necessary master plan for the future. For the old order of "free" private-profit enterprise simply can't employ everybody all the time. That is not the purpose of the old system that has brought continuous insecurity and repeated panics and wars to the world. We must turn to Socialism or we will be neither secure nor united nor free.

We hope the Socialists of America will be sufficiently well organized and alert to carry the message of hope and action to the returning veterans. For a pre-requisite to democracy is that the soldiers shall demand security and decency, not merely as a reward for veterans, but as a normal way of life for all of the future.—Reading Labor Advocate.

With Whom in Yugoslavia?

The new provisional government set up in Yugoslavia presents the Allies with an uncomfortable dilemma. So far they have tried, hopefully, to pretend it didn't exist, but this form of primitive magic cannot be expected to work long. The cabinet established under the presidency of the distinguished liberal, Dr. Ivan Ribar, is backed by Tito's Partisan army. And the Partisans, as both the State Department and the Foreign Office acknowledge, are now receiving more assistance from the Allied commands than is the official army of General Mihailovich. Also, the new Provisional Government is on the soil of Yugoslavia, while the Royal Government is in Cairo—a long way from home. When the Allied armies land in force on the western shores of the Adriatic, they will find the new government functioning on the spot and will be forced to deal with it or with none at all. It is, in fact, difficult to believe that Dr. Ribar's cabinet was created without the knowledge and consent—or something more—of the Allied officers now on the staff of Marshal Tito. For once military expediency coincided with the will of the people and outweighed the dictates of formal diplomacy. So the diplomats will have to get out of an uncomfortable situation as best they can. Their probable course was indicated by Secretary Hull when he said that the policy of the Allies is to aid any group effectively fighting the Germans and that "internal political questions" could wait until later. The practical objection to this policy is obvious. Too many guns, too much ammunition supplied to Mihailovich are used against the Partisans, not the Germans. This serves to prolong the civil war and reduce the strength of Tito's army—which is fighting the Germans. The Allies may for the moment continue to recognize King Peter, but they cannot afford to send military supplies to his fascist Minister of War.—The Nation.

NEW DESTINY, NEW MUSIC

BANKERS LOANED GERMANY SEVEN BILLIONS

No one, not Stalin himself, can predict how well the new Soviet national anthem will catch on in the USSR. None knows whether it will live as long as the Internationale, now abandoned in Russia. But it probably will never send so many shivers down so many timorous backs as its predecessor has done.

The spirit of the new song is patriotic and proud. It is a chorus for a nation victorious in battle. It extols freedom, union and the people, Lenin, Stalin and glory. Not a word of revolution abroad; no invitation, like the Internationale's Arise, ye wretched of the earth; no promise, "The international party shall be the human race."

A few may pretend that Stalin has performed just "another Bolshevik trick." But Stalin doesn't kill the Internationale for the Russian people, any more than he re-establishes the church and permits the training of priests, without much deeper reason.

The dropping of the Internationale is but another outgrowth of the fact that the USSR has abandoned her program of world revolution. It is a minor result of the fact that, proud and confident in her future, she is now a partner among nations with systems very different from her own. If that partnership should break down, Russia might return to the project of fomenting world revolution. But if Stalin thought this likely, he would not bury the Internationale in the homeland.—The Chicago Sun.

Foreign Labor in Germany Now Totals One-Third Her Manpower

New York.—Foreign labor employed in Germany now constitutes more than one-third of her total home-front manpower, according to Allied officials in London.

An official British government estimate numbers civilian workers in Germany, including foreigners and war prisoners, as 36,000,000, and imported labor is known to exceed 12,000,000, the figure given last summer.

PEOPLES' RIGHT

Whenever any government becomes destructive of these ends—Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it.—Thomas Jefferson.

PROLETAREC

THE MARCH OF LABOR



IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Wheeler McMillen, editor of the Farm Journal, who has been mentioned as a possible Republican candidate for the Presidency, told a recent Chicago meeting he was "tired of being confused by vague generalities," and offered the following platform of his own: prosperity, national productivity, a strong America, expanded happiness of Americans, and United States international policies serving our interests.

"Boss" Ed Crump of Memphis recently ordered the cancellation of a meeting in a Negro Baptist Church at which A. Philip Randolph, president of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was billed to speak on Negro problems. The Boss's command was transmitted through Sheriff O. H. Perry, who called some twenty prominent Memphis Negroes to a conference. He met them, not in the conference room of the state's attorney's office, but in the bull-pen of the county jail.

The critical faculty: From a review of Sholem Asch's "The Nazarene" and "The Apostle" in the Nevada edition of the Register, a national Catholic newspaper: "We express unmitigated contempt for these works... Among the books forbidden by Catholic law (Canon 1399) are... volumes of any non-Catholic treating professedly of religion unless it is certain that nothing is contained in them against the Catholic faith."

Want ad in the San Francisco Chronicle: "Nylon, 3 prs., reward for unfurn. apt. or small bung."

From a letter by an American soldier in Africa: "It gave me a funny feeling to see some newsreels of the Tunisian war and to be sitting next to men who fought in the same campaign. There were also many photos of and praise of guys like Eisenhower, Patton, etc., with no pictures or comment on Alexander, Montgomery, etc., who everybody over here knows were responsible for the entire victory practically. It sort of gripes the Tommies, and I don't blame them a bit."

Festung Europa: Native Danish storm troopers have become such a public nuisance that the German authorities have been forced to arrest a number of their leaders. They are said to be more an embarrassment than a help to the Nazis... Yank reports, "There's a strong possibility that the Germans have already executed Primo Carnera, the former world's heavyweight champion, for his anti-Fascist activity in northern Italy."

SKY ONLY LIMIT ON RAIL PROFITS

The "Little Steel" formula is used to "freeze" wages, but apparently the sky is the only limit on railroad profits.

The Baltimore & Ohio, which only a few years ago was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, reports a profit for the first eight months of the year about 60 per cent larger than for the same period last year.

The Union Pacific, after paying all charges, including a 4 per cent dividend on preferred stock, had an eight-month profit equal to \$12.55 a share of common stock.

Western Maryland did even better, with a profit equaling \$19.16 a share. Its "net" for the eighth months was nearly 60 per cent greater than for the same period of 1942.

The Illinois Central "upped" its profits about 25 per cent until they equalled \$12.25 per share of common stock.

And so on, until the middle of the night.—Labor.

REACTIONARY EDITORS ARE UNABLE TO AGREE

Editors of reactionary newspapers in the United States and Canada are finding it impossible to get together on the significance of the agreement ending the Miners' strike.

Our sole power over the future of Europe is the power to join with the right movement. When we try to join the wrong ones, we find ourselves with no power.

No man can argue about a fact. The only thing he can do is to be ignorant of a fact. Every fact must be true, but every truth is not a fact.—"The Apple Tree."

Stalin's Toast a Tribute to Labor

"Without American Production, the United Nations Could Never Have Won the War," Soviet Chief Tells Teheran Parley

During one of the many dinners which marked the recent Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conferences at Teheran, we are told the Soviet chief offered the following toast:

"Without American production, the United Nations could never have won the war."

The response from the distinguished company was, according to the conservative Associated Press, "terrific."

In a word, everyone around that table recognized and applauded a fact, which is so obvious that it is amazing it has ever been challenged.

That fact is: American workers—the overwhelming majority of them trade unionists—have performed a job on the home front which has never been equalled in all the history of the world.

If they hadn't done that job, Stalin tells us, "the United Nations could never have won the war." He should know, because up to date the Russians have done more fighting than any other nation on our side.

While American workers were doing this tremendous job, what kind of treatment were they receiving?

Ninety per cent of the newspapers of the land were declaring they and their unions were "impeding the war effort." Every vile columnist and commentator was flinging mud at them.

Business organizations, like the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, were insisting they must be placed in legislative shackles and stripped of gains they had made through years of hard fighting. A majority of the members of the House and Senate enacted the iniquitous Smith-Connally bill.

Practically every attempt to increase their wages was opposed by economic stabilizers" and other governmental bureaucrats, on the round that such increases would lead to disastrous inflation.

Some government officials joined with reactionary newspapers, like the New York "Times," in demanding that these workers be conscripted and compelled to serve private employers, whose primary object was the gathering of unconscionable profits.

Every inconsequential work stoppage was "ballooned" into a destructive attempt to sabotage the war effort.

* * *

While the workers and their leaders vigorously endeavored to fight off these attacks, the workers never ceased to increase production until it soared far beyond the most hopeful estimates of President Roosevelt and his lieutenants.

Of course, others participated in the achievement—managements, scientists, technicians, tillers of the soil. Thousands and millions of them gave the best that was in them.

Above all, it would have been useless to produce the weapons if the Allied nations had lacked the gallant "boys" who have used those weapons so effectively against the enemy.

LABOR would be the last to deprive any individual or group of proper credit. This editorial is written to emphasize just one point: The American worker has not failed his country in its hour of need. The record speaks, and those who have been libeling American workers should seal their lips and hide their heads in shame.—Labor.

"MY NATIVE LAND"

Louis Adamic's latest book "My Native Land", has attracted national interest and discussion with its powerful message on Yugoslav problems.

A sequel to "The Native's Return" and "Two-Way Passage," it writes with deeply felt conviction the tragic story of Yugoslavia under Axis domination and of the struggle of the people to liberate their land.

The story is based on the author's exclusive material gathered from many sources through wide contacts with outstanding American, British and Yugoslav leaders. Adamic believes that the "future is here now," that the Yugoslavs are beginning to shape it. The way they shape it will determine the pattern of life for the rest of the world.

The New York Times review of the book said, in part: "You can find much more information in this book than there is available anywhere else... because Louis Adamic has interviewed many refugees and obtained copies of many official manifestos, German and patriot documents, radio proclamations and eye-witness accounts, all of which he believes are authentic. On the basis of this material he is

staunchly pro-Partisan.

In its account of the German and Italian terror "My Native Land" is of hideous importance. We human beings shun horror and are loath to believe the most atrocious villainies. As the hour of victory approaches, we need to be reminded of them in order never to forget the nature of our foes.

And most sickening of all, the Germans easily found plenty of Serb and Croat traitors who delighted to do some of the work of extermination for their murderous masters.

S. Firestone of Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.

Greater infamy can hardly be imagined."

"My Native Land" is one book no one can afford to miss.—Michigan Slav.

SHIP BILL FORECASTS POST-WAR HEADACHE

An idea of the trouble ahead for Uncle Sam when he starts to settle with war contractors was emphasized this week when 62 steamship companies put in a bill for \$300,000 for "losses" of various kinds.

The claim will be passed on by a special tribunal of Federal Circuit Court judges set up by the President after the War Shipping Administration reported that it had spent nearly two years in attempt to reach a settlement, but was unable to do so because the shipping companies' demands were considered excessive.

GAYLORD WILL BE NEW NAM PRESIDENT

New York.—New president of the National Association of Manufacturers is Pres. Robert M. Gaylord of the Ingersoll Milling Machine Co., Rockford, Ill. He will take office Jan. 1, 1944, when retiring president Frederick Coolidge Crawford becomes chairman of the board of directors. The board includes the following "old friends" of labor: Gen. Robert E. Wood, chairman of the board, Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Chairman E. T. Weir of National Steel Corp.; President James H. Rand of Remington-Rand, President J. Howard Pew of Sun Oil Co., and President Harvey S. Firestone of Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.

ADAMIC'S NEW BOOK MY NATIVE LAND

Based upon the author's exclusive material, this incredible story of YUGOSLAVIA — the country of the Croatians, the Serbians and the Slovenians — and her heroic struggle holds a significant lesson for the democracies.

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