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WHAT WILL THE VETERANS DO?

From time to time we are annoyed by people who insist upon telling us that there will be no depression after this war because the veterans won't stand for it.

Well, we don't share that type of confidence.

We've lived to see what veterans do after they surrender their guns to the government and change to civilian garments. They do what all other workers do. They look for jobs. They live on their wages when times are "good" and on their savings when they are unemployed. And after that they look for some form of relief from the government.

Moreover, a jobless veteran, like any other man who is both jobless and broke, tends to become an individualist. It's his stomach that is hungry and his pockets that are empty. And anybody who puts something in either of those voids is the "leader" who will be trusted and followed—anywhere!

We have a suspicion that people who are waiting for the veterans to "do something" later on are merely trying to excuse themselves for not doing the right thing right now. We might call it lazy citizenship.

There's only one way to make certain that America will be a better place in which to live, a place in which everybody will be both secure and free. That way is to set up an economy which will produce security and freedom. And that is a job that must be done BEFORE depression and controls hit.

We've seen the results of waiting too long in Russia, in Italy and in Germany. We've seen how the veterans acted then. Many of them joined the forces of dictatorship and oppression.

And we've seen how American veterans behave too—in Anacostia during the Hoover administration. They acted as workers always act when they are desperate and divided. Those who demonstrated for a bonus were veterans. But those who chased the protesters out at bayonet point and put the torch to their miserable shacks were veterans too.

No, there's no substitute for an economy of democratic Socialism. So long as the laws of the land decree that industry shall be owned by a few people and operated primarily for the profit of owners there will be unemployment, class conflict and the ever-growing threat to human liberties. Only when the means of life are owned by the people and managed democratically for the welfare of the people,—only then will the people have the security and freedom they crave.

The task of laying the groundwork for a safe and free America is not a job for veterans after the war. All of us must do that job—and do it now. We'll be failing the veterans if we shrink that task.—Reading Labor Advocate.

THE FUNERAL MATCHED HIS LIFE

Benito Mussolini has come to an end of fitting horror. That he should have been executed goes without saying. The degradation of his corpse by the mob in the Piazza Loretto was ghastly; men of entirely rational mind would not have wiled it for any criminal. But it is hard to be entirely rational in Italy today. And who shall say that these were not fitting obsequies for the tyrant who had degraded every human decency in his country? He had betrayed and abased his people; his people now have paid him back in kind, in his own Milan, with an Italian abandon which matches the abandon of adulation which he so long had exacted.

Mussolini lived and died the product of unbridled ambition. Nature had endowed him richly. He could move millions, he might have been a great servant of Italy. But he did not elect to serve; power was the lust that ruled him. Therefore, when he saw that he could not gain supreme power rapidly as a socialist, he turned his coat, took the pay of Italian reaction, and set his squadristi, with castor oil and bludgeons, to smash democracy and the workers' movement. That treachery established the pattern of his life.

His Fascism enslaved the minds of his people. He willed that Italians fawn upon him in unison and think as he directed in unison. That was the basic abasement. Lusting for power and glory, he led this degraded Italy into venture after venture which cut his country off from all its natural friends. Hitler became his only possible strong partner. Since Italy was weak, this led inevitably to her subjection under Germany, and his subjection as a puppet buffoon under a Hitler who had learned Fascist techniques from him.

It is good that Italians brought him to justice; good that the Partisans are instrumental in the liberation of their own North Italy. May the time be not too distant when Italy can turn her back on horror and go forward under democracy and the rule of law.—The Chicago Sun.

The Way Out of War Dangers—a World Organization Based Upon Justice

By RAYMOND HOFSES, Editor, Reading Labor Advocate

I have a friend who says that the International Conference in San Francisco isn't going to amount to much. And I think so too. But that's where agreement between my friend and me stops.

I think that the trouble with my friend is that he puts a period after his pessimism. He thinks that the Conference will adopt resolutions and formulate policies and then adjourn. He believes that there will be just as many sore spots afterward as before. He thinks that agreements will be superficial and insincere and that, after the talking and the voting has been ended, each national group will soon be playing its own game all over again without regard for the general welfare. And, he concludes, the upshot of it all will be another war before very long.

I don't quarrel with my friend's pessimism about the Conference. But I reject utterly the period he places at the end of his conclusions.

San Francisco need not, should not and cannot be the end of things. What will follow may, indeed, be exactly what my friend predicts. But what should follow, and must follow if another war is to be averted, and if the peoples of the world are going to work together against poverty, inequality, injustice and war, are more conferences and still more until a world Congress of all nations learns how to settle disputes without a resort to arms and common

Yes, it's a hard job to unite such

interest becomes a fact rather than a slogan.

If that is not what follows San Francisco, then my pessimistic friend is likely to be justified by the course of events. For then group interest will develop, dissatisfaction will fester in the minds of men, new alignments of rivalry and discord will take shape and the time will come when, lacking adequate means of talking it out and adjusting it out, mankind again will resort to the futile business of fighting it out.

My friend tells me that what I am saying sounds well enough but is pretty hard to do. And again he puts a period after his words.

I agree that it's a big order, but instead of saying "period" I tell him some of the difficulties I see on the road to common interest, economic justice and peace.

I say that the world is a hodge-podge of many different kinds of peoples. Some groups, like Americans and Russians live where there is plenty of room to spread out and abundant natural resources to exploit; they don't need help from anybody. Others, like Englishmen and Italians and Japanese are packed in cramped quarters and cannot possibly produce a high living standard from their own resources. Some are accustomed to the forms of democracy; others do not know the meaning of the word. Some are trained and educated; others are uninformed and illiterate.

Legally this is correct. Politically, it is nonsense. These countries have all shed their blood in the

people in a world organization that is based upon justice, human equality and a high concept of individual dignity. But our ability to do just that is the test of our ability to plan for peace, because war is natural child of injustice and inequality and class conflict. And if that is not what we intend to do, then what is the use of being in the San Francisco conference in the first place?

And, now they have reformed. See you. Say they. Say their American friends. Says the American

THE MARCH OF LABOR



IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Here are some figures (1) for those who grumble about rationing and (2) for those who hint darkly that the bureaucrats are shipping most of our meat to Canada. The Department of Agriculture's "Report on the National Food Situation" shows that meat consumption in the United States last year was 147 pounds per person; in Canada, where meat is not rationed, consumption was 138.8 pounds per person.

Former Congressman Martin L. Sweeney of Ohio celebrated his sixtieth birthday on April 16 by denouncing "British imperialism" for "dragging my country into war," at a meeting of the Intelligent Voters' League in Cleveland. He received birthday greetings from Gerald L. K. Smith, Senator Burton K. Wheeler, and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Advertisement in the Lincolnshire, England, Chronicle: "Owner of tractor... wishes to correspond with widow who owns a modern Foster thresher; object matrimony; send photograph of machine."

I. J. Fox, the New York furrier who used to advertise by skywriting before the war put a stop to such use of airplanes, recently started advertising war bonds that way at the request of the Treasury Department. So many protests poured in, however, that he has dropped the idea.

A survey of 150 soldiers discharged in New York City revealed that only 13 were still able to get into their old civilian clothes.

West is west: The January 21 issue of the Forum, an Indian nationalist weekly published in Bombay, has just reached us. This is from its review of M.-G.-M.'s "Kismet": "A part of Kismet is meant to be purely sex-appeal business... Marlene Dietrich is now too old a dame for all this... (It) is a hotch-potch of romance and Oriental splendor... The whole bunch of Western players should not have been made to play Easterers' roles."

Legislative memo: The \$500,000 appropriation of the FEPC will expire June 30, and the next fiscal year begins July 1. Representative Clarence Cannon of Missouri is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, which is now pondering the question whether to renew the FEPC's funds... The House Judiciary Committee, headed by Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, is sitting on H. R. 7, a bill to outlaw the poll tax. The committee will have to let the House vote on the bill if 218 Representatives sign a petition for the bill's release. At this writing the petition has 178 signatures. Senator Claude Pepper of Florida has promised to introduce a companion measure in the Senate if the House passes H. R. 7.

MENTALIZING VS. VOCALIZING

The following clipped from the little "Capital Press," printed in Salem, Ore., contains more wisdom than any editorial we have been privileged to read in many a day:

"It is really too bad that citizens do not more generally give precedence to mentalizing before vocalizing. Of course, vocalizing is easier — practically automatic with many. A fog horn hasn't any brain but it sure can hoot." — Labor.

Hurry is only good for catching flies.—Russian proverb.

Kindness is the tender touch of the soul.—Harry A. Gordon.

Secretary of State, "Gullible Ed" Stettinius.

Baloney. Tripe. Eyewash. Soothing syrup. Once a Fascist always a Fascist. No "reform" carried through by Argentina's petty Nazis are any guarantee against Argentina remaining a "potential source of infection for the rest of the Americas". (Cordell Hull).

Only a revolution and the restoration of real democracy in Argentina could do that. Until such a revolution, Argentina should have cooled her hot heels outside the international organization, in the sympathetic company of clerico-Fascist Spain and Portugal.

German Atrocities Unbelievable, But They Are True—Too Bad...

The lowest circles of the Nazi hell are being exposed in the camps of death and living death where organized sadism and systematic degradation have been practiced on such a scale that the human mind, in self-defense, calls it inhuman. The most hopeful of reformers may be expected to doubt that it is possible to reclaim a people conditioned, during twelve years, to behavior of which the logical end result is to be found in the stacks of bones, the rotting flesh, and the terrible stench of Bushenwald. And the problem is made infinitely more difficult by the fact that the Nazis have systematically eliminated anyone who in their opinion might have been useful to the Allies. Only last July all former functionaries, however minor, of the left-wing parties were rounded up, and we may be sure that they have perished in these last desperate weeks of the Nazi regime. The demand for punishment of those who tolerated this evil as well as of those who perpetrated it will rise high at San Francisco. But we should do well to remember in this moment of shock and despair what the dispatches from Germany have seldom mentioned—that the first layers of bones and many later ones were made up of the remains of anti-fascist Germans. By 1938 their corpses had been piling up for six years, yet the gentlemen of Munich tolerated this evil and made a pact with the perpetrators. Long after that the "best people" condoned the Nazi regime. We are sorry, in this connection, that the editor of the Chicago Tribune and others of his stripe were missing from the group of editors and Congressmen who went recently to view the remains not only of the Nazi terror but of the policy of appeasement. The German people are responsible and their punishment began when the inhabitants of Weimar were forced to look at the Nazi horrors. But the rest of us have a responsibility too. We must implement it by reclaiming as well as punishing the German people. In any case, that is our only choice unless we are prepared to resort to Nazi methods—which would mark the final and awful triumph of the Nazi idea.—The Nation.

A Matter Of Decency

One of the most depressing sights on Capitol Hill is the current "probe" into food, and especially meat, shortages.

To listen to the probers, both official and self-appointed, you would get the impression that the American people have no sense of decency or honor left, that they were only concerned with themselves and to hell with the misery of the rest of the world.

This line comes particularly from the GOP side, with men like Senators Wherry (Neb.) and Taft (O.) as its chief exponents—though it must be said for a Democrat like Wheeler (Mont.) that he can insult the American people with the best of them.

The real reason why these professional viewers-with-alarm are screaming so loudly is revealed in Phil Murray's letter to the Congress on price control, in which he tells the Congressmen that cracking price ceilings is no way to crack food shortages.

Murray shows that men like Wherry and Taft are trying to break down the whole structure of price control, in order to increase the food industry's already fantastic profits.

That is why they lie about the American people when they shout that we dare not sent food to Europe, for fear we will starve at home, that we mustn't be a universal "Santa Claus" and the rest of that line. They lie to us and about us because they want to use an imagined terror to enrich their friends and associates in the food industry.

FDR was right when he said, a few weeks before his death, that the American people would endure food shortages in order to help feed the starving victims of fascism.

Now comes the Gallup poll to show that 65 per cent of the American people are willing to put up with the shortages to help the people of Europe. Twenty-seven per cent are unwilling, eight per cent don't know.—The CIO News.

WHERE OUR PRESIDENTS ARE BURIED

The death of President Roosevelt has prompted students to thumb the pages of history to locate the last resting places of the thirty gentlemen who preceded "F. D." in the White House. Only one is buried within the boundaries of the District of Columbia—Woodrow Wilson rests in the crypt in the Episcopalian Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul. Washington sleeps at Mount Vernon a few miles down the Potomac, and Taft's grave is in Arlington Military Cemetery in Virginia, within sight of the White House.

Our other Presidents were generally buried near their homes. There are exceptions. Grant's tomb overlooks the Hudson, although he wasn't a New Yorker. Grover Cleveland rests at Princeton, N. J., and not Buffalo, where his spectacular political career began.

One of the interesting facts developed by this historical research is that "Old Hickory" Jackson declined to have his remains deposited in a sarcophagus which had been transported across the Atlantic by a naval captain who admired the hero of New Orleans. In declining the offer, Jackson wrote:

"Every monument erected to perpetuate the memory of our heroes and statesmen ought to bear evidence of the economy and simplicity of our republican institutions * * * I have prepared an humble depositary for my mortal body beside that wherein lies my beloved wife * * * for both of us there to remain until the last trumpet sounds to call the dead to judgment.—Labor.

Today, more than ever before, as it looks about at the "world it never made," the Co-op Committee of the Socialist Party feels the need for common understanding and common action by co-operators and Socialists. So, in an effort to bring to Socialists more light on cooperatives and to bring to co-operators more appreciation of the meaning of Socialism, the committee has decided to issue "The Co-op Call", a reincarnation of the "Socialist Cooperator" which first saw the light four years ago.

In its new form it can carry a great deal of news and opinion. As with all such ventures, it will need its readers' advice and aid. News of labor in co-ops, of co-ops in public affairs, of Socialists and co-ops will be welcomed. We will also be waiting for your opinions, your gripes, your financial aid.—August Gold.