

We Don't Need Otto

Chicago has just had a visit from Archduke Otto Hapsburg, pretender to the throne of Austria. The archduke is sitting more or less pretty these days. He has been authorized by Secretary of War Stimson to recruit a "free Austrian battalion" for the United States Army, and he told Chicagoans that he wants to help form a parliamentary government in Austria after the Allies win the war.

Poll Tax and India

More than two thousand years ago, the people of Athens, Greece, enjoyed a very advanced form of political democracy. They were mostly republicans and democrats. They had regular elections to choose their government. And their parliamentary institutions set a model which has been followed by most democracies down to this date.

"BUSINESS VISITOR" NOT A "TRESPASSER"

Recently a New York court rendered a most unusual decision of special interest to railroad men. Joaquim Antonio, a Portuguese, entered a Brooklyn freight yard looking for a job as a loader for truck owners who handle freight from that point.

HENRY'S RECKLESSNESS

Whatever else may have been said about Henry Morgenthau, nobody ever called him a spendthrift. Others in Washington may throw money to the four winds and the seven seas, but not Henry. He is forever collecting it. He is the man who, when Congress passed the biggest tax bill in all history, said, "It's not enough," and told the boys to go right back and find him six more billions or so.

What's Wrong With A "Capital Levy"?

It's a little puzzling, this hullabaloo in the daily press about the \$25,000 salary "ceiling" which Mr. Roosevelt and his "economic czar," Mr. Byrnes, are endeavoring to establish. Only a very few are affected and they are granted so many exemptions that they may escape, even if they get as much as \$47,500 a year.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

THE ST. LOUIS LAFAYETTE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH HAS GONE ON A SWING SHIFT WITH EARLY MORNING SERVICES FOR DEFENSE WORKERS. THE COST OF WAR RISK INSURANCE WILL BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC FISHERMEN UNION AND THE FEDERATED FISHING BOATS OF NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK, INC., AS THE RESULT OF A DECISION BY THE WAR LABOR BOARD.

END OF IMPERIALISM?

Queen Wilhelmina is the conscientious monarch of a democratic country. In the past, however, its empire, like all colonial systems, has been far from democratic. The Dutch today realize that there must be changes after the war, and the Queen has proposed a Netherlands Commonwealth of Nations. In it, she states, Holland, the Netherlands East Indies, Curacao and Surinam will each be free and independent, but united in readiness to "render mutual assistance."

PRESIDENT ABOLISHES W. P. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Work Projects Administration was ordered abolished in the face of rising war employment. President Roosevelt told Major Gen. Philip B. Fleming, Federal Work Administrator, to close out all project operations in "many" states by Feb. 1 and in other states "as soon thereafter as feasible."

ENTIRE SWEDISH NATION TO BE X-RAYED

NEW YORK.—The National Association for Combatting Tuberculosis in Sweden is planning to take X-ray photographs of every Swedish citizen so that a complete picture of the spread of tuberculosis in the nation can be secured, the American-Swedish News Exchange reports.

CONSISTENT GUY THIS TOM GIRDLER

The wife of Tom Girdler, the union-hating boss of Republic Steel Corp. and Consolidated Aircraft Co., obtained a Reno divorce Nov. 27. The ground for Mrs. Girdler's divorce will not surprise thousands of steel workers who fought Girdler in the Little Steel strike of 1937: "Acts of cruelty without cause or provocation."

LET'S LEARN FROM THE WAR

That at least some leaders of men have learned that the old order (unrestricted dog-eat-dog capitalism) is dead forever is evident from the recent speeches of such important men as Henry Wallace, Cordell Hull, and even FDR himself. The naive post-Versailles dreams of national and individual isolationism have passed, and some leaders are awakening to the stark reality that some sort of a plan is needed in the economic and political affairs of men.

HALF OF MEN OVER 40 HAVE MENTAL QUIRKS

Nearly half of the men over 40 who have been called by Selective Service have been turned back because of mental quirks, according to a report soon to be issued by the William A. White Psychiatric Foundation, at Washington. This statement it will be said, is based on a sample of 2,500 men, mainly from the District of Columbia and Virginia, who passed through the induction center at Fort Myer, Va., this fall.

MAJORITY OF HOMES POOR BOMB SHELTERS

Ninety per cent of American homes, because of their wood construction, offer practically no protection to occupants from direct or indirect bomb hits, according to William H. Hayes, assistant professor of architecture at Columbia University. One of those "block-busters" which the British are dropping on Italian and German cities, Hayes said, would convert large areas of wooden dwellings into matchwood.

IF NEW YORK WERE GREECE, DOZEN EGGS WOULD SELL FOR \$27

NEW YORK.—A loaf of bread would cost \$22.40 and a dozen eggs, \$27 if prices had increased in this country in proportion as they have in Greece, the Greek War Relief Association reported recently. One pound of round steak would cost \$34, a pound of sugar, \$22.50, five pounds of potatoes, \$14.25, a pound of rice, \$14, a pound of macaroni, \$37.50, a cake of soap, \$11, a suit of clothes, formerly costing \$25, would cost \$1,500 and a pair of shoes, formerly selling at \$5, would cost \$400.

SCIENTIST WARNS AGAINST "QUICK CURES"

Beware those "quick cures" for serious ailments! At the National Conference of the United States Public Health Service last week, Dr. John H. Stokes, of the University of Pennsylvania, announced that the new 15-day cure for syphilis kills 150 to 200 times as many persons as the older, slower treatment. "Quick cures" should always be received with reserve until they have been thoroughly tested.—Labor.

Thinking Ahead--Now

Ever so long we have been repeating that sentence—winning the war and winning the peace, but what do these words really mean? Perhaps the meaning of winning the war is clear enough and simple enough although there's room for doubt about that, too. But, certainly the meaning of the words winning the peace isn't clear.

Back of a New Record

There are still too many big business executives who regard with horror the idea of workers' councils participating in production planning. They cling to this attitude despite the fact, as Frank Hanighen has pointed out in recent articles in The Progressive, that the plan has had outstanding success in England.

NEW COTTON PICKER DISPLACES MANY MEN

CHICAGO.—A mechanical cotton picker that will do the work of 50 to 80 hand pickers has been developed by International Harvester. They said it was the result of 40 years of experimentation.

SHORT SHIRTTAILS WILL ENRICH MAKERS

Fabric Saved Will Produce 10,000,000 Additional Garments; Prices Remain Unchanged. Mark Twain once said that if the Chinese were to cut an inch off their shirttails it would mean disaster in the cotton fields of our own South.

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

Gas masks which came into use in warfare for the first time when the Germans used poison and mustard gas in World War I, are much improved today over those used then. The Chemical Warfare Branch of the War Department issues these gas masks to every man in the service. We are taking no chances.

BIG FIRE INSURANCE PROFITS

The editor of the "Capital Times" of Madison calls attention to the following from a report of the Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance for 1941: In 1941, the premiums paid the fire insurance companies of Wisconsin totaled \$25,390,236.