

THE AMERICAN SWELLED HEAD

America is going to come out of this war with a swelled head, at least in some respects. We have had occasion to produce war material unhampered by air raids, to draw upon unlimited natural resources. What shortages there have been, we have overcome with a flourish thru our superior research. We have broken world records left and right, our fighting men have been superior, our standards of living are superior, our shores have been impenetrable, our spirit has been undaunted. We will be the leading nation in the post-war world, our supremacy contested only by Russia.

So we are told, and we tend to take it seriously. We have for a long time had a world-record complex anyway. Any record from Pumpkinville to New York has unquestionably been a world's record without further research. Tho we are awakening to the responsibilities of world citizenship, it does not cover up our feeling of superiority. We cannot effect the intent of the World Charter if we let our swelled head get the best of us. We must allow the ingenuity and human qualities of other peoples to rank on a par with ours if we are to succeed in keeping peace. We must remember that an American of German origin is no better than a German in Germany, except as influenced by surrounding. The cloth is the same, tho the climate may be different. We must consider whether the homesick GI who writes that there is nothing like the good ol' USA wouldn't speak more highly of those other countries if he wasn't in mud and terror up to his waist and if the ordinary facilities of living weren't all blown to smithereens and if he knew the people well enough to tell that it was their human qualities that count and not their tattered clothing—and if he wasn't so very lonely.

The high-handed conduct of our military government in Germany, compared to the sensible tactics of the practical Russians illustrates our swelled-head psychology. At home, our superiority complex over the American way of life is sorely punctuated by indifference and lethargy in democratic participation. It's the overconfident athlete who stops training. We face a post-war hangover many times greater than the one after the first World War. Can we avoid the cracking up that the Roman Empire was unable to stave off? I cannot predict, but you and I can form the bulwark of the first line of defense.—Taisito Hayrien in The Cooperative Builder.

REJOICE AT DEFEAT OF WINSTON CHURCHILL

The elimination of Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, as an international leader was accepted by the working people of the world with satisfaction and considerable elation.

Mr. Churchill succeeded Mr. Chamberlain, neither of whom typified the aspirations, desires or the tribulations of the common people of England or anywhere else. Both of these gentlemen typified the *laissez faire* philosophy of the 19th century. It remains one of Rudyard Kipling's "Only a bone and a hank of hair," and they couldn't and they wouldn't understand. By the actions of Mr. Churchill it seems at least that the liberal, social, economic and political trend that is so obvious to everybody else was unseen and unknown by him.

Winston Churchill was an aristocrat and a tyrant by nature and training. It can almost be said that the rise of Mr. Churchill to the pinnacle of eminence was occasioned by the policies pursued by the government of the United States since the invasion of Poland. The vote of the English people and accession to power of the Labor Party surrounded the world almost as much as the Russian Revolution of 1917 and its effects will be felt and noticed in every country in the world. Ever America with its blatant expressions of democracy is feeling the impact of a changing world. The defeat of Churchill must be considered a victory for humanity. It is regrettable that his constituency re-elected him to the House of Commons.—The Montana Labor News.

ANOTHER PLEA FOR TAX-BURDENED POOR

There has been a good deal of talk about the effect of the "tax adjustment" bill passed by Congress a few days ago. Some commentators seek to dispose of it as "just a bookkeeping transaction." The "Wall Street Journal" says the bill is "worth five billion dollars to business." In this instance, we think the "Journal" may be accepted as an authority. Other observers believe business will benefit to the extent of seven billions.

Whatever the exact figure may be, it is so large that LABOR feels it is justified in again calling attention to the plight of the worker who is unfortunate enough to be in the lower-wage brackets.

The minority report of the Ways and Means Committee insists that we have in this country, at this hour, 21,000,000 persons whose incomes are less than \$1,000 a year, and yet they pay \$500,000,000 in taxes every year to local, state and Federal governments. That's "blood money."

Furthermore, there are 24,000,000 persons with incomes between \$1,000 and \$2,000, and each year they pay "in excess" of \$4,000,000,000 in taxes to local, state and Federal governments. Needless to say, among these are millions of men and women with families to support. Will anyone seriously

question that the tax burden they are bearing is altogether unreasonable? Having dealt so generously with business, isn't it obvious Congress should lose no time in going to the rescue of these low-wage workers?—Labor.

How Do You Do?

By H. BEDFORD JONES

"How can you, friend?" the Swedish say;
The Dutch, "How do you fare?"
"How do you have yourself today?"
Has quite a Polish air.
In Italy, "How do you stand?"
Will greet you every hour;
In Turkey when one takes your hand,
"Be under God's great power!"
"How do you carry you?" is heard
When Frenchmen so inquire;
While Egypt's friendly greeting word
Is, "How do you perspire?"
"Thin may thy shadows never grow,"
The Persian wish is true;
His Arab cousin, bowing low,
Says, "Praise God! How are you?"
But oddest of them all is when
Two Chinese meet, for thrice
They shake their own two hands,
and then
Ask, "Have you eaten rice?"

FULL EMPLOYMENT? LET FREE ENTERPRISE DO IT!

Full employment would be incompatible with the free enterprise system which carries with it the right to a normal float of unemployed. — John F. Finnely, an executive director of the CED, to a meeting of the Investment Bankers Association.

If the people living in slums don't like them, let them move out. Some people like to live in one room shacks. There is no solution to this problem. Certainly industry doesn't intend to attempt the impossible.—John W. Scoville, economist of the Chrysler Corporation, at a conference on postwar problems.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

400,000 MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 10 WERE EMPLOYED IN 1940.



THE AVERAGE AGE OF WORKERS INCREASED FROM 37 IN 1940 TO ABOUT 40 IN 1944.



IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MINE UNIONS, ORGANIZERS HAD THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN MAKING CONTACT WITH THE MINERS, BECAUSE MANY COAL COMPANIES OWNED THE TOWNS, STREETS AND PUBLIC HIGHWAYS OF THE MINING CENTERS.

FOR YOUR COUNTRY BUY BONDS REGULARLY

YOU SHOW YOUR SYMPATHY FOR THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BY DEMANDING UNION LABELS IN THE HATS YOU BUY.

IN THE WIND FROM THE NATION

CHRISTAL BALL DEPARTMENT

George E. G. Catlin, a former Socialist candidate for Parliament, forecasting the British elections results in te Commonwealth of July 27, concluded thus: "Laski is likely to have the... dubious satisfaction of being known as the man whose personal vanity lost his party their electoral chances of victory in 1945."

ADVERTISING: A survey by the Radio Council of Greater Cleveland among middle-class people shows that nearly 80 per cent prefer to take their commercials straight, without music. In fact, 59.86 per cent said they would like to see singing commercials banned, and 71.68 per cent said they had been turned against some products by the blatant manner in which they are advertised.

REAL ESTATE: A Los Angeles realtor offers "a nice clean profit" in "colored property," meaning houses in Negro areas. "The real estate boom is now nearing normal," says one of his broadsides. "Prices in certain districts are already back to normal. Get on this Gravy Train today... Cash is King. Sell your old 50-year-old houses full of bugs, termites, broken plaster, not of foundations, for all cash."

HEALTH: A booklet advertising Lake Minewaska, New York, contains the following item of information: "Restrictions: Christian clientele. Persons suffering from tuberculosis or other objectionable diseases not accommodated. Dogs are cared for in the stables."

HERALDRY: Sir Edward Grigg, former member of Parliament for Altrincham, Cheshire, England, was recently raised to the peerage. His choice of the title Lord Altrincham was protested by six Labor aldermen and members of the Altrincham Town Council. The mayor referred the matter to the Sewage Disposal Committee, who supported Sir Edward by a vote of five to three.

RELIGION: This advertisement appeared in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Patriot on July 21: "Tonight Only: Harold G. Palmer, reformed Hebrew and former convict, will tell 'How Christ Saved Me.' Sponsored by Youth for Christ."

LOST-AND-FOUND. A Paris warehouse full of fine furniture which Herman Goering's agents had looted from French homes and crated for shipment to Germany was taken over by the Americans, and certain pieces were sent to Versailles to furnish Allied headquarters. The French government recently tried to recover the furniture, but learned that it had followed SHAEF to Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

KAISER WILL ENTER AUTOMOBILE FIELD

Joins With Graham-Paige Official to Produce Low-Priced Car

Henry J. Kaiser, "miracle" builder of ships, who planes to build homes, and planes after the war, will also go into the automobile business and manufacture a large, light-weight, low-priced car, to be called the Kaiser. Deliveries are to start early next year.

The new car will be built on the Pacific Coast by a new company to be created by joining the Kaiser interests with the Graham-Paige Motors Corporation of Detroit.

The concern will also manufacture at Detroit a medium-priced car, called the Frazer, after Joseph W. Frazer, head of Graham-Paige, the man who is said to have conceived the scheme.

BRITISH UNIONIST FINDS RUSSIANS STRESS CULTURE

MOSCOW, Aug. 7. — (UP) — Lincoln Evans, assistant general secretary of the British Iron and Steel Workers' Union, said last night that Soviet trade unions devote "much more time to social welfare and culture than do the British."

In Britain, he told a press conference in the offices of the Soviet labor newspaper Trud, the greater part of trade union activity is taken up with wages and working conditions.

Ladies of fashion starve their happiness to feed their vanity. — Colton.

ATOMIC ENERGY - PUBLIC UTILITY

In his statement announcing the first atomic bomb dropped on Japan, President Truman included one sentence which should meet immediate public approval:

"I shall recommend that the Congress of the United States consider promptly the establishment of an appropriate commission to control the production and use of atomic power within the United States."

Years of research lie ahead before the mysteries of atomic energy—now mastered only for purpose of destroying an enemy—can be controlled for the arts of peace. But the scientific ingenuity which produced a bomb can also produce instrumentalities for the constructive use of humankind. It is clearly essential to the general welfare that American production of atomic power, after the war, be completely controlled for the people.

The processes for releasing atomic energy will not be disclosed, Mr. Truman says, pending study of methods to protect us and the rest of the world from danger. But we could probably not keep them to ourselves indefinitely if we wished to do so. German scientists have knocked at the door of the unseen world which has now been opened in America, and we may be sure that Russian science—unrivalled in many fields—is not far behind. The physicists, chemists and mathematicians of many nationalities contributed to the research.

So far as this country is concerned, there can be no question of private ownership and exploitation of the peacetime production of atomic power. The potentialities are so enormous that the public interest in their development and control is overriding. An "appropriate commission," established by Congress to supervise and stimulate further research and lay down policies for exploiting the new type of power, would treat it as what it is—a natural public utility, a part of the public domain.—The Chicago Sun.

Britain Turns Left (?)

The overwhelming victory of British Laborites in the recent elections in Britain have stirred tremendous newspaper comment in America, and rightly so, for England is our friend.

Two views are predominant in the newspaper comment—one that the British government is turning leftist—secondly that the British voters have repudiated their war leader—Winston Churchill.

With both of these views, we disagree. Churchill has been retired to a status of a member of parliament, but the overwhelming victory of Laborites in Britain is not a repudiation of Churchill so much as a reaching toward another goal—that of an orderly return to peace under the direction of the men who will be most concerned—the laboring class.

Churchill has been a great leader, but with his greatness he has never for a moment forgotten that he is of the aristocracy and not of common clay. The people of England wanted a common clay leader, one more down to earth, of their own class and their own thinking.

That the British labor party is leftist or even communistic is pure, unadulterated bosh. The head of the British labor cabinet is a laborite, a graduate of England's greatest school of learning—Oxford University. The director of the Labor party in England is a Professor of the University of London—but these men have the common touch—the Truman appeal, in a way—to the British, as our president has of the common people here in America.

Clement Attlee, new prime minister, will shy from the communistic dogma as fast as would Churchill, but Attlee, unlike Churchill, will listen to the commoner with a more sympathetic ear and will therefore achieve more content among the common people than could Churchill.

Attlee is no Marxist socialist—rather he is one who is inclined to the Golden Rule of "what ye would have others do unto you, do ye unto them." Certainly the people of any nation could ask no more of any leader, whether he be liberal, conservative, or labor.

Capitalism may not fare so well under Attlee, but the people in the street will not suffer thereby, and from among Attlee's first pronouncements we take great heart, for the new prime minister has warned the monarchies of Europe that their crowned heads must topple if the common people are to be honestly governed.

Our own State Department, with its vacillation, might well harken to Attlee's program, for if we are to be democratic and like it, it does no harm to see that the people of other countries have the same rights and liberties which we have.—The Progressive Miner.

Labor is in Politics - It Will Stay There

Some of our radio commentators and columnists say that they love labor, but they think the unions should get out of politics and stay out. Little they know that the unions would like to do just that, but dare not do so.

Organized labor is in politics because it was forced in, not because it likes to work for candidates or measures or fight constantly for or against certain public officials.

It was only a few years ago, when the unions were weak, that politicians spoke kindly of them. But the unions became strong. In some states, under good leadership, the unions and the employers quickly learned that they had a great community of interest and found how to work together for the common good. In other states, particularly in the South, the big employers preferred to fight.

As labor developed, as it grew strong, its economic power increased. It was then that the enemies of labor, unable to defeat the organized working people in the economic field, took to politics, elected anti-labor legislators, congressmen and senators, and commenced throwing a barrage of vicious laws at the workers. They forced the unions to fight back in the political arena, in self-defense.

European labor unions, before the war, were primarily political and revolutionary. American labor, on the contrary, was non-political and certainly had no revolutionary ideas.

Today we are in politics, probably to stay, because that is where we have to do our fighting. So the columnists and the radio babblers will have to go right on hating us, and lying about us, and we will have to continue working to defeat our enemies and elect our friends. —Washington Teamster.

WHEN "FREE" NEGROES OWNED SLAVES

Will P. Kennedy, an unusually gifted Washington newspaper man, is fond of digging up quaint historical facts. Here is an example:

Slavery was abolished in the District of Columbia on April 16, 1862. Of course, that was before Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

There was an important difference between the District of Columbia plan and the general emancipation scheme. In the latter case, owners were not compensated, but, in the District of Columbia, they were paid what was regarded as a reasonable price. "A good blacksmith" brought the highest price—

\$785; and a baby the lowest—\$10.95.

When he was running for the presidency for the first time, Lincoln argued that when slaves were freed, the owners should be compensated. If Southerners had accepted that idea, the War Between the States, and the long train of evils which followed, might have been avoided. One of the most interesting of Mr. Kennedy's discoveries was that many of the slaves owners were "free" Negroes. In various ways, they had saved money and preferred to invest it in human flesh rather than in houses and lands. The record doesn't reveal how they treated their "chattels." Were they kinder than white slave owners?—Labor.

The Enslaved Peoples Are Liberated

By JOSEPH DRASLER (Formerly an Associate Editor of Proletarec)

I've seen them—the enslaved peoples — from twelve years to sixty years of age, from Jews to Moroccans, so I cannot help but think that one of Germany's worst crimes committed against peoples of other countries was the enslavement of labor—hundreds of thousands of men, women and children from all subjugated lands. Wherever there was a factory of any size, cheaply constructed barracks, enclosed by barbed-wire fencing, can be seen. In Nurnberg the barracks were located seven kilometers from the factories and the seven women from Gorica whom I met and talked with, told me they got up at 3:30 every morning to get to work on time. Tardiness was severely punished, and sickness was not an acceptable excuse, except in rare and most severe cases. Seven days a week, twelve hours a day these unfortunate people had to exert themselves to the utmost, and live on a diet you wouldn't feed your dog. Their living conditions were miserable beyond description. I spent an evening with the people from Gorica just before the war ended. It's an ill wind that blows no good. However, being located on the outskirts of the city, they escaped the bombings while the city itself was reduced to rubble. The day the Americans took Nurnberg was the happiest of their lives—their day of liberation. "Smo cakali in cakali na Vas Amerikance—Vi ste bili nase edino upanje."

As we moved from city to city, or town to town, I generally made it a point to visit their camps or "logars", as the Russians called them, and talk to the Slovene and Serb labor prisoners I sought among the Russians, Ukrainians, Poles and other nationalities. It was a surprise to me how soon a Slovene learns enough of Russian and Polish language to be able to carry on something of a conversation. We also learned in the last six months quite a bit of the German language, which at first was totally meaningless to us, and sounded like something we would never understand. "Kommen Sie out" was the first phrase we learned, for we used it when clearing houses after we took a town. We would come up along the side of a building and holler out the phrase at the top of our lungs, and then if no one answered "comrade", and marched out with hands over head, we'd throw a grenade in just to be sure we didn't leave a sniper behind who could get us as we dashed for the next building. We would clear every house in the town before it was declared safe.

or Poles working for him, and when we came, across Germany it was apparent that all the farm work had been well taken care of, despite the war and the fact that all available German manpower was in the army. Even though the factory workers were paid a mark a day, the farm-workers who were forced to work just for their keep, had a little better living, at least by having a bit more to eat.

In the cities one noticed that the nicer-looking Russian and Polish girls were doing house-work for the ruling German families, and from them I generally learned where the "logars" were located. If it was very far, I would pick up a couple of bicycles, which could be had for the asking, and have a Russian to show me the way — to see for myself how the mistreated, poor, unfortunate people were existing.

Almost always, after taking a town, we would find plenty to drink in the cellars of the homes that were not completely demolished. My father-in-law used to tell of a wine they drank somewhere on the Italian coast which was so strong that while padding their bicycles back home on a hot day, their perspiration came out red, and stained their shirts. Well, some of the wine we had was equally as potent, and the wine the Russians offered me to drink no doubt burned the insides red. How they could drink it and still live was beyond me. Coming across the country we drank the worse and the best of the French and German wine-cellars, for we must have raided hundreds of them, but the strongest of all was the stuff the Russians drink. However, hundreds of G. I.'s died or were blinded by the raw vile stuff the bootleggers sold them at sky-high prices. Some of the German wine cellars were three stories underground. In one town our kitchen was set up in a building right above a well-stocked, aged wine cellar... and that helped us tremendously from our fatigue and jagged nerves, and we could laugh a little at this damnable hell we were going through. In southern Germany and Austria some of the homes were well filled up with drinks and preserved foods the German soldiers looted from Holland, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and other countries, and sent home to their families and relatives, who had enough of their own to be well-fed. But the enslaved laborers had nothing to drink but some foul water.

(To be Continued)

It is not easy but effort — not facility but difficulty, that makes men.—S. Smiles.