

OUR FOREIGN POLICY IN CHINA

A year ago, we praised Mr. Truman's directive on China as bold and constructive. It is impossible to be similarly enthusiastic about the 1946 version of that statement, issued last week. While it shows that Washington has not weakened in its desire to promote a democratic solution in China, nothing in it is calculated to hasten such a solution. Some dramatic gesture was needed to break the logjam at Nanking. The President's statement offers little except a long-winded defense of American policy. Only one new fact is disclosed: the Chinese government has not been permitted to avail itself of the \$500,000,000 credit granted some months ago—presumably because of its failure to set up a unified government. The beneficial effect of withholding financial support is offset, however, by the admission that other kinds of assistance, amounting to some \$1,466,000,000, have been given since V-J Day. The President fails to recognize the stubborn fact that our policy of friendly mediation, however soundly conceived, has failed. While some satisfaction may be derived from Chiang Kai-shek's dramatic intervention at the National Assembly to prevent the right wing from reinstating the totalitarian 1936 draft of the constitution, the chance of ending civil strife through one-power mediation is slight. Because of the scale of American assistance to the Kuomintang, General Marshall has forfeited the confidence of the Communists and the Democratic League and convinced right-wing Kuomintang leaders that distrust of Russia will force the United States to support Nanking at all hazards. A modest reason for hope is provided in a suggestion which has been advanced by Senators Murray and Flanders with the backing of a number of Far Eastern experts. They propose mediation in the Chinese struggle by the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union. While Nanking is understandably cool to the idea, the present moment would seem to be especially propitious for pressing it.—The Nation.

PLENTY AND DEMOCRACY

Socialists have been linking the words "plenty and democracy" together so long that they are likely to give only casual consideration to the significance of those twin terms. The fact is that the American people must—simply must!—have an abundance standard of living if they are to escape the necessity of resorting to a dictatorship to save the class relationship under which owners are able to collect a portion of what workers produce. An optimistic office visitor stated the case for us the other day when he asserted: "We just must have a lavish standard of living; otherwise the capitalist system can't find markets for the great flood of goods that modern machinery will be able to produce when we once get going." We agree with our visitor. The American people must have the ability to buy and use the products of American industry—if the capitalist system is to be able to function within a democracy. Otherwise there will be another great depression of record-making and democracy-breaking proportions. But the "otherwise" is not an impossibility. We had a depression that started in the Hoover era and lasted until the demands of war created a need for human labor. We can have another depression—one that will last until the workers are forced to trade their personal freedom and their democratic forms for the bread of social security. We make a mistake when we imagine that the owners of our economy are irrevocably committed to established political forms. What they really want to keep is not democracy, but the ability to make workers produce surpluses for the benefit of owners. They'll sacrifice democracy if that is what is necessary to preserve their power and their profits. Also we err when we believe that workers would forever hold fast to freedom. They'll sell themselves and their liberty when the pressure of poverty is applied; they'll follow a "fuehrer" a few years hence with no less reluctance than they manifested when they gave the father of the New Deal a clear road to go where he pleased. People don't always ask for plenty. Sometimes they can be pacified with doles. When the next depression comes American workers had better be ready with the organized political power to run the industries for use instead of for profit. Otherwise there again will be some leader from the ranks of the exploiters to beguile hungry millions with bread, circuses and slavery.—Reading Labor Advocate.

Responsibility in Crisis

There always follows in the wake of war terrific impact of conflicting interests, increased because of opportunity for change. Social and political upheavals have frequently occurred in these transitional periods. Against the conflict of opposing conceptions of a way of life in the United Nations which we are witnessing, we have a similar conflict in our domestic economy. We had made great progress before the war in extending opportunities for economic betterment to all groups and in establishing the idea that workers as well as those managing business had a right to negotiate a contract stipulating terms under which work was performed. The reactionaries now seek to establish arbitrary instead of democratic government for workers. The permanent trends in history are for greater freedom for more people. Neither political nor economic despots can permanently stop development toward this end. But whether progress is constructive or bloody depends upon how deeply there is imbedded in the minds and hearts of all an appreciation of the dignity of every human person as well as responsibility for honesty in all our dealings.—American Federationist.

KEEPING OUT THE NEWS

Except for newspapermen, there is no class of wage-earner so wretched that its strikes go unnoticed in the press. Striking coal-miners, teachers, grave-diggers, and pearl-divers all have their day in the papers, even if it isn't a good day; but let the men who make the papers walk out and a blanket of silence envelops them that would send a press agent to an early grave. A case in point is the strike of Newspaper Guildsmen against J. David Stern, publisher of the Philadelphia Record and the Camden Courier-Post. Soon after the strike was called, the publisher stated his case not only in his own papers, but out by a skeleton staff of executives, but through paid advertisements in the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Evening Bulletin. Both these journals have refused to accept advertisements setting forth the Guild's reply. The strike has been made by violence and police brutality that are normally page-one copy for any paper, and in the Stern papers fuel for trenchant and crusading editorials as well. But in the case of the Guild strike such incidents have been ignored by the Philadelphia press or given a stick on page six. Local radio stations, controlled by the

SANTA CLAUS TO WORLD

Raymond Moley, once a "brain-truster" for President Franklin Roosevelt and now a newspaper "columnist," says, "Uncle Sam was a good Santa Claus to the world in 1946." We contributed 60 per cent of the grain and other foodstuffs and 72 per cent of the UNRRA funds of \$3,500,000,000. In addition, we provided ships, port facilities and organization.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

UNIFORMED SOLDIERS FURLOUGHED TO WAR WORK, VOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A NAT. LABOR RELATIONS BOARD ELECTION WHEN 65 U.S. SOLDIERS WERE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE (APR. 1945 MURRAY MFG. CO., BROOKLYN, N.Y.)

300 PERFORMERS AND STAGE HANDS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS NATLES OPERA HOUSE WENT OUT ON STRIKE IN APRIL 1945 AFTER THE BRITISH-SPONSORED MANAGEMENT DENIED THEIR DEMANDS FOR A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF 50 TO 100 LIRE (50¢-\$1). THE STRIKERS WALKED OUT JUST AS THE CURTAIN WAS ABOUT TO RISE ON "LA BOHEME."

BE SURE YOUR HAT IS UNION-MADE. LOOK FOR THIS UNION LABEL!

THE WAGE AND HOUR DIV. OF THE U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR, CHICAGO, REPORTED THAT IN THE WEEK FOLLOWING V-J DAY IT RECEIVED 150 CALLS A DAY FROM EMPLOYERS WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THEY COULD CUT THE WAGES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

Cooperative Ignorance

Most members of cooperatives don't know what their cooperatives are all about. That blunt statement is the conclusion that must be drawn from a survey of co-op members reported on at this year's American Institute of Cooperation. It was found, for example, that in one large cooperative one-third of the membership did not know about three out of 10 major services offered by their business. In another big co-op, only 21% of the members knew how membership was obtained. Only three percent knew how the board of directors of the central organization was elected and only 24% knew how the general manager was selected. But that's not all. To see whether the members knew anything about the principles on which cooperatives operate, 10 "true or false" statements were presented. Sixty percent of the members did not even try to answer the questions. This revelation of, shall we say, cooperative ignorance is something to be concerned about. It represents a threat to true cooperative progress far more potent than Ben McCabe and his National Tax Equality Association. Apparently, cooperatives have been prospering and growing big with sales and savings. But unless cooperative understanding keeps pace with the swelling figures on the operating statement, look out! The co-ops may get into the big business class, but it won't be democratically controlled, it won't really be working in the public interest; it won't be a real cooperative. It will only be Big Business. A thin line, in many cases, separates a cooperative business from an ordinary profit business. That thin line is named Cooperative Education. It's high time for co-op members to become aware of that line. It's high time for them to know the facts of cooperative life. Cut it be, for example, that lack of cooperative education is one reason accounts receivable have been mounting so dangerously in co-op after co-op within the past year or two.—Midland Cooperator.

Will Rubber Moguls Squeeze Us Again?

After Pearl Harbor, the Japs cut off our supply of "natural" rubber from the Far East. As a result, Uncle Sam nearly lost the war before he could produce "synthetic" rubber, and car owners had to patch and re-patch their tires until they were dangerous wrecks. That situation, according to a new Twentieth Century Foundation report, was caused by two kinds of "cartels," or international "trusts": 1. The International Rubber Regulation Committee, set up in 1934 by the governments of Britain, India, The Netherlands, France and Siam. Its purpose was to prevent expansion of rubber production, regardless of the growth of demand, so that prices could be kept high. "Even after the outbreak of the war, in 1940, the committee permitted rubber-producing areas to export only a fixed quota. At the end of 1940, world stocks of rubber were reduced to less than a five months' supply." 2. "At the beginning of the war, America's synthetic rubber production met only 1 per cent of her requirements," because of another cartel. That was "a series of alliances between the I. G. Farbenindustrie of Germany and two leading American corporations," one of which was Standard Oil. Now that the war is over, will these two international cartels, and others, resume doing business at the same old stand? If the State Department is not restrained by the Congress and the Executive, that question will be answered in the affirmative.—Labor.

FARM INCOME AT PEAK

Farm income for 1946 will break all records, says the Agriculture Department. For the first 11 months, the total was \$21,600,000,000, 13 per cent above the same period last year. At the same time, the Labor Department reveals that retail food prices reached the highest point on record. The other "peak" was in June, 1920, after World War I.

EMBARRASSING, ISN'T IT?

Business received a rude shock from one of its own publications. It was Factory, a McGraw-Hill organ, which made a survey of "what the factory worker really thinks about union behavior and industry earnings." While the answers were obviously "loaded" when the workers had to give opinions about their individual bosses, the survey apparently

IN THE WIND

From THE NATION

Beat the yolks of a dozen eggs: "Errors and sophistries," a professor of philosophy of Boston College recently told a group of educators, "are supported by big names whose prestige the devil has carefully built up—names like Russell, Whitehead, Dewey, Kant, Hume, Bergson, Freud, Marx, Einstein, Bridgman, and their like." Add one cup of sugar: Institutional advertisement of the State of Mississippi in a recent New York Times: "Come to Mississippi! You will find a friendly, cooperative spirit. . . . Bring the family." One pint of brandy: Recently discovered advertisement in an old issue of Architectural Forum: "Wire Your Houses for Electric Ranges! Electric Range is 2-to-1 Choice Among Upper Two-Thirds of White Farmers." One pint of rye: A Citizens' Committee "to represent public interest" was appointed by Mayor Beach of Oakland, California, during the recent general strike. Its members were the publisher of the local Hearst paper, a political boss, the president of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, a bank president, a former president of the Oakland Key System bus line, two department-store general managers, and the president of the United Employers of Oakland. Beat the egg whites and fold in: From the leading editorial in the Pittsburgh Press, a Scripps-Howard newspaper, on the morning the coal strike ended—"John L. Lewis surrendered. Appropriate enough, it was the fifth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor." Add one pint (86 cents' worth) of whipped cream: "Emotional impact that lingers long," reads an advertisement for a new French movie version of "Carmen." "Passion abundant. . . . Lusty as you could wish. . . . French dialogue. . . . English subtitles. . . . Released by Superfilm. . . . The Stirring Screenplay of Merimee's Classical Story. . . . starring Viviane Romance. . . . (Background music by Georges Bizet)." Sprinkle with nutmeg: Bobby Sox Smith, a hero of Okinawa from Queens, New York, told a New York Times reporter he needed a home. Smith and his wife have been angling for the apartment of Gerhard Eisler, the alleged American Communist leader who is now under investigation by the FBI. Eisler happens to live in the same building as Smith's parents. "But," Smith told the Times man, "his wife is still there. Besides, some of the FBI men who've been tailing him want that apartment, too." Chill and serve: "Animals in the zoo," says Dr. George M. Uhl, Los Angeles health officer, "have better housing than some of Los Angeles' human residents." Happy New Year!

EDUCATOR DEFENDS AMERICAN YOUTH

Thank heaven! At last a man has been found with the necessary courage and intelligence to defend the youngsters of today. "A lot of nonsense has been written and spoken about the juvenile delinquency problem," says Dr. Hobart M. Corning, superintendent of schools in Washington, D. C. "Modern youth has high standards, is honest, industrious and brutally frank and outspoken." He was addressing a meeting of the District Bar Association appointed to study juvenile delinquency. Of course, there are plenty of vicious boys and girls to be found in all sections of the country. The same was true 20 years ago, 50 years ago, 100 years ago. However, taking it by and large, America has never been blessed with a higher percentage of decent, dependable, intelligent boys and girls. We should thank God for that, instead of spending so much time debating the sins of this generation.—Labor.

BETTER CHECK UP

Woman on telephone: "I sent my little boy to your store for two pounds of plums, and I got only a pound and a half. Your scales must be wrong." Fruit dealer: "My scales are all right, madam. Have you weighed your little boy?" It is not work that kills men; it is worry.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Which Way, 1947?

Hidden away in most of the papers, at the turn of the year, are numerous little items that furnish guideposts for anyone who wants to make intelligent predictions for 1947.

Here are a few news headings from two or three papers picked at random: "Retail Food Prices Highest Ever." "Corporate Dividends Up 12.6 Per Cent." "Cost of Living Index Soars to New Peak." "Profits After Taxes at Record High." "House Group Says Monopoly Gained in War and Demands New Curbs." Everything is high as a kite, except wages. Average weekly wages have dropped away down since January 1945 and real wages have been cut by nearly a fourth. More prominently displayed in the same papers are other news items indicating what various big-shots think should be done in 1947 about this lopsided situation of inflated prices, inflated profits, deflated wages and increased big-business monopoly.

We read daily frenzied warnings from leaders of the Natl. Association of Manufacturers and Chamber of Commerce and every Wall Streeter who can get his name into print, that the country will go to hell if wages are allowed to catch up with the increased living costs. Politicians like Harold Stassen, Senators Taft, Ball and Smith, and many others, join the chorus opposing wage increases. Senator Taft says that what the country needs is "not higher wages but lower prices"—this from the man who led the fight in Congress to wreck price control and to raise living costs to their present inflationary level—from the bitterest enemy of the CIO's fight to keep prices down!

If all this sounds rather negative, it takes little further searching through the papers to find the positive recommendations of most of these gentlemen. What do they propose to do about the undue share of the national wealth that is being diverted from the consumption of the masses to the savings of the wealthy? "Tax relief" for business and the well-to-do, is their answer, at the expense of social measures for the benefit of lower-income groups.

What do they propose to do about growing big-business monopoly—as shown by the report of a subcommittee of the House Committee on Small Business that 200 corporations now own more than 50 per cent of all the country's non-financial corporations—monopoly that is choking the little fellow and throttling the competition that might bring down prices? Go after the unions as a "labor monopoly," is their answer. Emasculate or scrap the Wagner labor relations act. Pass anti-union laws. Do everything possible to weaken the workers bargaining power for higher wages.

As to prices, do the OPA wreckers, who now claim to favor lower prices, propose any steps to bring them down? Oh, no. On this, though not on bargaining for higher wages, nature should be allowed to take its course. The workers "should wait patiently for prices to fall."—The CIO News.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Len De Caux

(This is a nasty-tasting after-Christmas story—a bromo-seltzer for those who had too much sweet stuff.)

The snow was coming down in great gusts. The wind was slapping it into the faces of the passers-by, hurrying to shelter. The church bells were pealing carols. The streetcar bells were clanging curses. The cash-register bells were ringing up profits. But Tiny Tim paid no attention. With threadbare coat pulled tight, hands blue and nose red, he stood transfixed, while melting snow seeped through his thin shoes. Tim's breath was frosting the window of a department store, as his eyes peered hungrily at warmth and light and comfort — warm clothes, fine foods, even a sled or two, and beaming down on all a more-than-life-size Santa Claus.

Inside, Mr. Gotrocks was beaming too, as he mentally calculated his prospective profits. Then his eyes fell on Tim. And inside Mr. Gotrocks something stirred.

It may have been his Christmas Bourbon. It may have been the hypnotic twinkle in the glassy eyes of Santa Claus. It may have been the church bells.

"Here, sonny," he called. "I've got a proposition." And to himself, "So people think I'm a Scrooge, a hard-headed businessman with no heart. This is the real me." As the boy stood shaking off the snow, Mr. Gotrocks unfolded his proposition. "I don't believe in anything for nothing," he said, "it's bad for your character. But would you like to work for some of the things in the window?" "And how!" blurted Tim. "Name your poison, boss."

"If you shovel the snow from the sidewalk, clean up the furnace room, take out the ashes and spread them around, I'll pay you 25c an hour," said Mr. Gotrocks, "and I'll see you get two hours work. What do you think of that?" "Not much," answered Tim. "If you'd show me one blessed thing I could buy in your store for four-bits, I might bite." "But I can remember when I paid kids 20 or 15 cents, and they were glad to get it."

"And I ain't so young but I can remember when your junk was selling for half the price," the boy retorted. "Anyhow I want 40c." A great anger rose within Mr. Gotrocks. "Anyone would think the

Wine has drowned more than the sea.—Publius Syrus.

COMPETITION

"Your wife seems to have a strange look on her face lately." "Yeah, she's tryin' to resemble her latest photograph."