

A free, responsible and aggressive Press is democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HANCOCK

ANOTHER POLITICAL PLUM
CERTAIN Mr. Bernard J. Youngblood, Detroit Democratic politician, has been appointed by Gov. An Wagoner as the new manager of the Michigan State Fair. His chief qualification, so far as the writer has heard, is that he has been in politics the past eight years. I, for one, am very, very weary of seeing a new amateur assigned to run the State Fair every year. And it all costs the taxpayers money.

As times get tougher in Germany, they will soon be providing substitutes for substitutes.
Modern girls are not indiscreet in an eastern clergyman. If they were, we would hardly expect a clergyman to be an authority on it.

PARKING METERS
Detroit is having parking meters installed. I think these machines are a good idea, but I believe the profits should go to establish free public parking lots to make up for the lack of foresight of city planners who never dreamed of the automobile. It is still wrong to charge for the use of the public streets, but something should be done about the parking problem.

WORTHY ENTERPRISE
Birmingham now has its unit of the British War Relief Society which provides clothing, blankets and other things for the hapless victims of the air raids. The movement should get public support. The British relief class which depends on the present system of public subscription is certainly a blame for the present system. It is still wrong to charge for the use of the public streets, but something should be done about the parking problem.

BRITISH ABILITY
The British are most adept at getting into trouble, but fortunately for their general welfare, usually into the brains and courage of decency. We hope their luck holds this time. General Wavell is certainly showing his stuff in Africa and is proving what we have known for years, to wit, that Mussolini is about 90 per cent bluff.

GERMAN SOLDIERS
I think that one soldier of a democracy is worth two of a dictatorship for this reason: In the totalitarian countries, obedience and fear are ingrained to the detriment of initiative and self-reliance. German soldiers are an exception just now because they are finding the areas of a wave, and they are thoroughly sold on the idea that Der Fuehrer is unbeatable. But once things start going the wrong way, watch the Nazis!

THE NEXT 20 MONTHS
The next 20 months will be as important in the world's history as the past 50 years, and the focal point of events will be the English Channel. Hitler expects 1941. If Hitler tries it and fails, America and the world can breathe a sigh of relief. If England uninvaded is an England unconquered, Hitler can not hope to win the war with England having access to the world's markets.

People push the same causes, possess the same viewpoints now as before the war, except that now everything has been done in the name of national defense.
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COURT REVOLUTION
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He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that is quick to anger is like a fool.
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The Great American Hero



Henry, why don't you just TELL Rev. and Mrs. Willowisp how you lost the eight pounds?

Conquered Peoples Will Revolt

The military mastery of Europe that seems to belong to Nazi Germany is resting on the backs of conquered peoples who will one day attempt to right the wrong which they suffer. Let Hitler's regime rest a little while and the ennobled peoples will revolt; let the German army begin to retreat and there will be many soldiers left in foreign lands for the long sleep.

Erwin D. Canham, writing recently in The Christian Science Monitor, reviews the news that is trickling out of the occupied countries. Here is a brief summary of his report: France—Careful surveys, made for Britain, show 90 per cent of the people sympathetic with Britain; small military supplies stored in possible smuggling much espionage for the British.

Belgium—Little information but picture much the same as in France.
Netherlands—Nazi movement had little progress; loyalty to Wilhelm III's government in London; holding itself in check against premature uprising but determined to regain freedom when the opportunity comes. Good espionage for the British, which the Nazis cannot control.

Denmark—Pro-Nazi Danes overwhelmed by anti-Nazi sentiment, supporting the British. Nazis unable to control vast patriotic outpourings. Good information service for the British.
Norway—Disillusioned, peace-loving people determined to regain freedom; exiled government functioning; peaceful methods of passive resistance and preparation for regaining freedom. When break-up comes, Norway is likely to turn on captors with ferocious unrestrained by other peoples. Brave and resourceful Norwegians get out information about Nazi retreat and activities.

Austria—Basis for uprising is needed; some local Nazis but much dissatisfaction, capable of trouble later and unalloyed now.
Czechoslovakia—Most skillfully prepared of any area, with concealed arms, centuries-old technique of resistance and espionage system beyond German efficiency; capital in London in close touch with homeland; people doggedly determined to live and regain independence.

Poland—Skilled passive resistance but the unorganized people are being punished by political police, and in numbered misery, which will give way to bloody revolt whenever the opportunity comes.
This, we believe, will strengthen the admiration of Americans for the peoples of the conquered lands of Europe and convince them of the wisdom of the sacrifices being made in Europe, ready to spring to life when the present affliction is removed.

First Battleship in Twenty Years
The first battleship to be built for the American fleet in the United States will join the fleet in April, when the North Carolina, first of six sister ships of 35,000 tons, will be commissioned.

It is interesting to recall that when the United States decided to disarm and negotiated a naval treaty with Britain during the World War, a huge dreadnaught was under construction, was among the first ships to be scrapped.

In 1920 the United States had a great fleet of battleships, battlecruisers and auxiliary vessels under construction as a result of the program initiated by President Wilson during the World War. Most of them were junked when the world thought it had a permanent peace.

The new battleship, North Carolina, is being completed about five months ahead of schedule. She is considered one of the most powerful fighting ships in the world. Let us hope that no misguided American government will scrap any of the building battleships, regardless of how permanent peace may appear when it arrives.

CITIZENS OF BIRMINGHAM gratefully may offer up thanks to the God of Waters for the new deep well brought in recently, which adds to the local water supply a volume of 2,650 gallons per minute. Birmingham's rapid increase in population is a constant drain on the city's available water sources, of course. So long as the underground supply exceeds the population demands we won't have to negotiate an expensive and distasteful connection with Detroit.

Armchair Philosopher

"HE" KIPLING HAD WRITTEN IT LIKE THIS!
"If you can see what some folks call depression. As nothing but a spin of Fortune's wheel; If you can keep your nose and self-possession. No matter what you think or what you feel; If you can view a stupid situation. All cluttered up with 'ifs' and 'ands' and 'buts'; And take it at its proper value, as it is; A challenge to your common sense and 'guts'; If you can rise above the mess and muddle; And take it at its proper value, as it is; When Doubt and Dread and Fear are in a huddle; And Hope is being measured for a shroud; If you can spread the net for your superior; For stories that are slightly inexact; If you can disregard Report and Rumor; And take it at its proper value, as it is; If you can spread the gospel of successes; If you can stir the spirit that installs; The light in a man's mind as a thousand candles; And lift the stream above a thousand fathoms; If, briefly you can spend an extra dollar; If you can pry the Red Hooded Angel; And buy another ship of these or other; And see as if it didn't break your heart; If you have faith in those with whom you labor; And press in those with whom you make a trade; If you believe in friend and next door neighbor; And heed examples; pioneers have made; If you can see the end of the rainbow; If you are sure that somewhere there are blue; Wake up and pack a way the fiddle scrips; For better days are large on the hills."
—Author Unknown

Our Intriguing National Debt

The national debt has been an interesting topic of discussion for many years and it would require astronomical calculations to estimate the ways that have been tossed about, pro and con, on the subject.

The debt in fact, the maximum debt that the United States can safely carry has reached its accepted conclusion. Tinged with politics the issue has not been thoroughly clarified but, today, the nation is carrying a debt that some people asserted would be had only once through the future years for it.

Not only are we carrying a record-breaking national debt but we are letting it grow to boot it to new extreme height through defense spending. So far there has been only a slight increase in the national debt because of the general feeling that the debt must be had only once through the future years for it.

We are interested in the opinion of Mr. Arthur D. White, president of Dean and Bradstreet, Inc., a company which has based itself with estimating the financial reliability and financial credit of individuals and companies throughout the nation. His view, upon the national debt, ought to mean something, regardless of why we carried the debt.

Mr. White says that the country could afford to pay considerably more than \$60,000,000,000 and even as much as \$70,000,000,000. He does not advocate a national debt that size, but he does say that the country could pay as much as it could pay interest on and the same time amount at a reasonable rate.

We are inclined to agree with Mr. White, side as to the ability of the United States to pay the burden of a national debt of a greater size than the now existing one. But whether it is wise to assume a debt that obligation remains to be considered. Certainly, in spending for national defense, there can hardly be a question of the necessity. This leaves open for further argument, the justification of increasing the national debt for reasons other than national defense.

Sacrifice for the Other Fellow

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Do We Starve Our Minds?
H. C. Wells, the British historian, praises the method of the British in getting information in the United States and declares that this country has a population eager to learn and greedy to know.

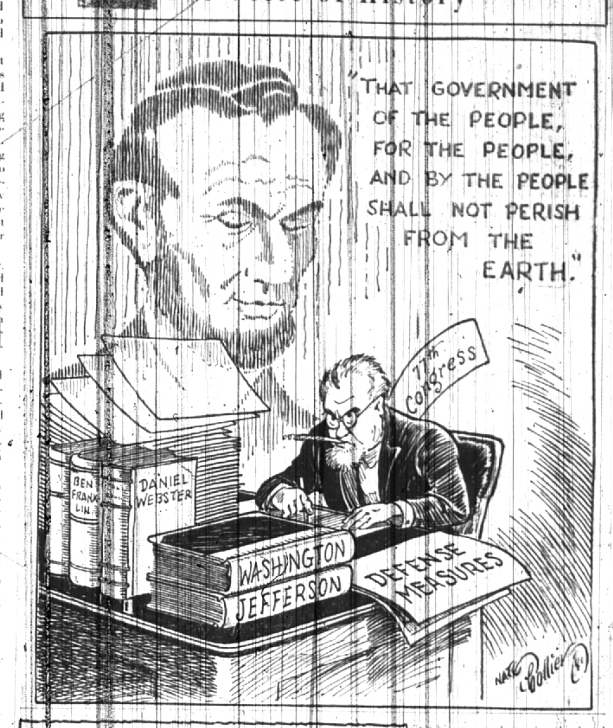
After his compliment, Mr. Wells raises the question whether we are doing something a little too hasty to know? By this he means that, as a people, we do not study thoroughly, preferring to read digests instead of assimilating a book, cover to cover.

There is some point to the observation made by this British author. There is undoubtedly a tendency on the part of most of us to skim through a book in a search for startling, shocking or surprising information instead of quietly seeking to understand the author's argument and then test the conclusions presented by finely thinking on our own part.

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The Voice of History



THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, AND BY THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.

WASHINGTON JEFFERSON DEFENSE MEASURES

Gardeners' Corner

Gardeners' School
I have you looked to take a landscape course, begin to school of gardening? As yet you are missing an opportunity to spend two days, the 25th and 26th of February, doing just that. The Spring Garden tour, with the generous cooperation of the Michigan Horticultural Society, is being given at the Lathrop School of Landscape Architecture, Smith Street, Detroit, Michigan, on the 25th and 26th of February. The school will be given in the auditorium of the Lathrop School, Smith Street, Detroit, Michigan, on the 25th and 26th of February. The school will be given in the auditorium of the Lathrop School, Smith Street, Detroit, Michigan, on the 25th and 26th of February.

Agrees Homework Is a 'Crime'

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