

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Courage Explains Empire

The memoirs of Paul Reynaud, the war premier of France, give testimony to the courage of Winston Churchill and largely explains why the British Empire has been able to endure for so long.

In the latter part of May, 1940, when the position of our encircled armies was already very serious, the entry of Italy into the war was expected and military advisers thought it would be fatal.

Under the circumstances, the French thought it advisable to consider making certain concessions "to satisfy Italian vanity," and keep Italy out of the war. Mr. Churchill, according to Premier Reynaud, was hostile "to any concessions" and subsequently telegraphed to Paris: "I am convinced that our real security rests on our fighting capacity."

Subsequently, when conditions became more threatening to the armies of France, the French Government again considered concessions to Rome. The proposal was telegraphed to London and, in reply, the British Government revealed that it would not oppose submission of the proposal to Italy if the French felt they had come to such a pass, but the British Government refused "to be associated with it in any shape or form" and expressed the opinion that the offer would only stimulate the Italian Government by revealing allied distress.

Thereupon, the plan was abandoned.

Practical Education

Two years ago Harvard University appointed a committee of twelve to survey the field of education and report a program for the improvement of high school and college education.

The committee, headed by Dr. Paul H. Buck, has submitted a 267-page report entitled, "General Education in a New Society." It advocates widespread post-war changes for the university, including the abolition of free elective system, greater emphasis on general education and drastic revision of Harvard tutorial plan.

The educators suggest greater emphasis on general education at all levels of instruction and decry the trend in recent years to stress special education, such as vocational and trade subjects. The committee recommends that fifty per cent and preferably seventy-five per cent of student time be devoted to a study of general education in high schools.

A "core curriculum" is suggested, to be built around English, science, mathematics, and the social sciences. High school students, whether they intend to go to college or not, would be required to take half of their time in the three areas listed and encouraged to use twelve of the sixteen high school units in courses along general educational lines to avoid narrow specialization.

Space is not available to give further details of the recommendations of the committee, which believes that an undue emphasis has been placed on special education. This is the contention of a number of educators, especially those connected with liberal arts institutions of learning. They maintain that the first requirement of an educated individual is an understanding of the general field of knowledge. This, they contend, permits free and intelligent thinking and provides an intellectual leadership which cannot be equalled by the specialists and technicians.

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Two years before Pearl Harbor the Government asked Bell Telephone Laboratories to put its wide experience and knowledge of electronics to work to help perfect Radar as a military instrument.

Sell the Surplus Wisely

The United States, now that war has ended, is in possession of millions of dollars worth of surplus goods and industrial plants that cost additional billions.

The disposition of this property represents one of the grave problems confronting the nation. The sale of surplus goods and plants cannot be rushed without practically giving away the stuff, with the government taking enormous and unnecessary losses.

This probably explains the insistence of the demand in some quarters that the government "go out of business" immediately after the end of the war with Japan. If sufficient sentiment can be worked up among unthinking Americans, there will be a popular demand for the government to liquidate whatever it owns. This will be fine for greedy, hungry purchasers, but it will mean heavier taxation for the average American.

In our opinion, the government should dispose of its surplus holdings in a business-like way, with the idea of salvaging as much money as possible with which to meet its future obligations. While some of the property will have to be sold to avoid spoilage, much of it can be held for months or years, if necessary, to secure a fair price. Certainly, none of it should be sold at rates that amount to giving it away.

NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER, WHAT THE AVERAGE American worker longs for is more work. And, in very short season, that work will be forthcoming—due to the genius of American industry.

"FILL-UP" IS AN AMERICAN WORD THAT IS synonymous with peace—though not precisely, "fill-up" is a word in these United States that symbolizes the modern tendency to spend as fast as we can get. Anyway, it takes us places, doesn't it?

THE ABRUPT ENDING OF THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN has left American industry in an unprepared condition of quick enough reconversion to peacetime activity to ward off great unemployment. That condition, of course, is not industry's major fault; it rests with bureaucracy in government. Part of it is excusable, but not more than a minor part. Planners may plan—but only do so can do.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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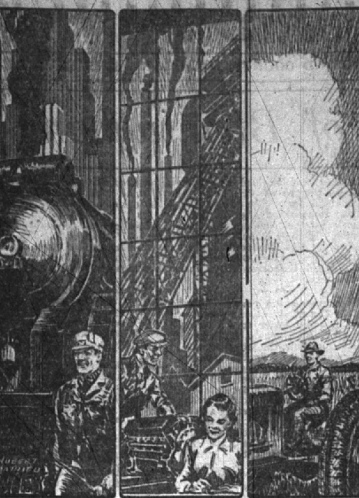
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Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO

"Remember that tomorrow (Friday) is Crazy Day. Bicycle races and the ball game of the season is to take place."

"The Randall Bros. threatened for W. H. Elliott, of Southfield, 1202 busbush of gain in one London. How is that for the boys?"

"Have you seen our waterworks grounds of late? They are nearly kept but are nothing to what they will be next year when the ice house will be away and more space given."

"Inside of two months Woodward avenue cars will run from and to Detroit every 20 minutes. You can get a suit of clothes from M. K. Tabor on a lot if they do. Go in and win. He is anxious to make the lot."

"Miss Belle Pardue and Miss Jennie Butolph passed a pleasant day or so the guests of Mrs. S. J. Harris and daughter, Jennie, last week. Both young ladies were successful teachers in our school but both have passed higher and now teach young Detroiters how to shoot."

"Hon. and Mrs. Alanson Partridge excursion to Chatham, Ont., one day last week and enjoyed every moment of the day just as well as sixteen-year-olds, only we can't understand the kind of tea that Mr. P. took that caused him to leave the boat at Windsor and tried to make the good wife think that Detroit had been reached."

20 YEARS AGO

"Fowl Edelman, of Chapin avenue, Eoo City, has resolved that the next time he wants to use Birmingham's public dumping ground on Cranbrook road, he will first get a permit from James Anderson, local chief of police. Mr. Edelman made his resolution Tuesday morning after he paid a ten dollar fine before Justice of the Peace F. S. Buck for depositing a box of rubbish in the open and adjacent to the dumping ground. Our department is carefully watching this dumping ground," said Chief Anderson this week. "This dump is operated primarily for Birmingham residents, but others may use it if they, like the local residents, obtain a permit first. This dumping

ground is located on Cranbrook road about a half mile south of West Maple avenue. The start of a journey around the world with a wheelbarrow will soon be concluded by "Happy Jack" Carey who passed through Birmingham last Monday and is in this week camping in the woods near Bloomfield Center awaiting the arrival of his fiftieth day from the Boston Kennel. The remaining 900 miles to Boston are about a short day's jaunt when compared to the 99,285 miles that he has so far traveled.

A detachment of the Michigan State Police has been temporarily stationed in Birmingham to remain here during the construction of Woodward avenue at least and with a possibility arising that the unit be established permanently in the village."

5 YEARS AGO

"A former Birmingham girl, Mary Carleton, 17 years old, now of St. Clair, is enjoying a thrilling existence this week as Queen of the Michigan Peach Festival to be held Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Romeo, Wednesday she flew to Washington, D. C. with a basket of peaches for the President. Miss Carleton and her parents moved from their Ridgevale avenue residence about three years ago.

"Because Birmingham is now over the 10,000 mark in population, the City Library Board finds itself in a sort of legal 'No man's land' it was revealed at the Commission meeting Monday night. To clarify its position the Library Board has asked the City Commission to place on the Nov. 5 ballot a charter amendment so that the people can formally approve a definite legal status for the library."

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Birmingham Scouts Have Sloop Ready On Orchard Lake

This summer the Sea Scouts of Birmingham were loaned the use of a 20-ft. sloop complete with cabin and sleeping accommodations for four. The work of reconditioning the boat was done by the Scouts themselves under the supervision of Messrs. Farham, Ben Brewster, and Dick Brown. The boat has been launched and is now sailing on Orchard Lake.

Over 22 registered Sea Scouts are now participating in sailing activities, which will include direct supervision of the officers of the boat and Colin Campbell, committee chairman, through the interest created by this activity three of the boys, Dan Davies, John Bodham and Tony Baldwin, have purchased boats of their own.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 7th day of August, A.D., 1945.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate; Master of the Estate of Claire L. Murray, administratrix with will annexed of said estate having filed in said Court his final account and petition for the examination and allowance thereof; determination of the heirs of said deceased; settlement of the residue of said estate and the discharge and administration thereof will annexed.

It is Ordered, That the 10th day of September, A.D., 1945, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, Central War Time, in said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing and settlement of said estate.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

Witness my hand and the Seal of said Court, at Pontiac, Michigan, this 7th day of August, A.D., 1945.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 10th day of August, A.D., 1945.

Present: Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate; Master of the Estate of Honor G. Leonard, deceased; said estate having filed in said Court his Amended Final Account and petition for the examination and allowance thereof; determination of the heirs of said deceased; settlement of the residue of said estate and the discharge of said estate.

It is Ordered, That the 17th day of September, A.D., 1945, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon, Central War Time, in said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing and settlement of said estate.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

Witness my hand and the Seal of said Court, at Pontiac, Michigan, this 10th day of August, A.D., 1945.

ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate.

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