

PROMISE-MAKER

Riding the wind and heralded by rain
That promise-maker, March, is here again!
With tongue in cheek he writes a note to spring,
(His pen, a feather from the first crow's wing)
Promising sunny days, white clouds, blue skies--
Those gay deceits, those lovely, lovely lies,
And then, to give his letter more allure,
He leaves a snow-drop for a signature!

--Elsie Binns in "Hill Trails"

WITH RELISH? A ten cent American hamburger has as much bread as a French man gets in a day; as much meat as he gets in a week; as much butter as he may get in a year.

WHILE MILLIONS CHEER Starvation and pestilence stalk across Europe. There is no longer any argument about the facts. In Greece people die in the streets, in large numbers, daily; (The London Times correspondent reports that the number of deaths has reached 2000 a day) diphtheria, pneumonia and the dreaded typhus are now epidemic in several areas. The bubonic plague and the Black Death, unknown since the Middle Ages, have appeared in Poland. Five London boroughs are already taking precautions. . . .

What you can do about it.-- Write the President a friendly letter, urging him to use his decisive influence with the British Government to permit food to reach these peoples and to allocate the ships necessary for this great humanitarian task, as more important than any other use to which they can be put.

ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR In January a Negro in Missouri was shot and dragged by a mob through the streets behind a car. His wounded body was then soaked in kerosene. The mob of white Americans then set fire to it and when the poor anguished victim had died, the body was left lying in the street until a city garbage cart trucked it away.

With public passion running high, the army places a questionable "military necessity" above humanity in ordering the evacuation of upwards of 100,000 Japanese, both aliens and citizens (there are more of the latter) from a 100 mile strip on the Pacific coast. An adviser to the Institute of Pacific Relations warns against repercussions in the Orient; the chairman of a great denominational mission program in the West likens the order to "Nazi techniques with the Jews." Another important chapter in racism in America where "all men are created equal" is being written.

Meanwhile, at home, in Syracuse, a citizen who has twice passed the Civil Service examinations with credit has been twice denied appointment when, on being called, it was discovered that she is a Negro.

BILL OF RIGHTS IN WAR-TIME Writing of civil liberty in war-time, Norman Thomas last week observed that until recently "both the American government and the people were making a better record" than was expected. "Things have now turned definitely for the worse," he warned and cited as illustrations the race riot in Detroit, the military secrets bill, and the despotic powers granted generals in military districts on the West Coast far in excess of the real need. He concluded with this challenging statement: "It will be a sorry day for democracy if it is interpreted by docile conscripts in terms of equality of slavery to an omnipotent God-state. The goal of true democracy is a fellowship of free men."

We are glad to be able to include for our readers an important series of statements on the Bill of Rights-- never more important than now. Lose these Rights and we have lost the peace whatever the military outcome of the war. We recommend that you keep this leaflet for future reference.

RICH MAN'S WAR POOR MAN'S . . . Complacent patriots who assume that the excess-profits tax law is "equalizing" the burden of war costs should read the report of the Federal Reserve Board of New York. There is reported a 26% increase in profits AFTER paying corporate and excess-profit taxes, and providing for depreciation, depletion, contingency reserves, and other bookkeeping items. These figures are for the first nine months of 1941 as compared with the same period for 1940 and apply to more than 400 corporations.

In the face of these unquestioned facts, the Senate proposes to raise only one billion of next year's additional 9½ billion tax by direct levy. Instead, pressure for a sales tax, which always bears heaviest on the small consumer, increases steadily. The boasted "equality" of the sales tax is equality in administration only; it does not equalize the tax burden in relation to income. Exactly the opposite is true.

KEEP 'EM FLYING Aircraft corporation profits in 1941 were 38.2% higher than in 1939. "Equality of sacrifice" is a fine slogan.

A PINCH OF SALT Reports, through a British agency on February 5, that the Mactan, a hospital ship carrying wounded from Manila to Australia, was "treacherously" bombed nine times in one day by the Japanese-- were denied a week later by the Red Cross in Washington. Not only "not molested in any way" but the Japanese government actually guaranteed safe passage of the ship! Why the delayed denial? Why the original report? As you read and listen to atrocity stories, a la 1942, remember the Mactan.

On January 17 AP reported that all American missionaries on Hainan Island had been massacred by the Japanese. The Department of State has now (some weeks later) informed the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions that "there is no foundation to" such rumors. Another atrocity story gone wrong!

Is Japan putting ground glass in food for American consumption; or have they done so? The Food and Drug Administration says No--and points out that such untrue tales about other enemies were started during World War I also.

On March 7, the London Daily Mail published a story, widely reprinted in America, of great convoys bearing a huge American army to the Pacific area. American publishers, resentful of the London "scoop," protested to Washington. In response, the Navy Department "revealed" that the Daily Mail dispatch "contained no positive facts having any relation whatsoever to new convoy operations in the southwest Pacific." Call for the Office of Facts and Figures!

W H Y ? In a recent fire-side chat the President told us that he knew as far back as 1935 that Japan was feverishly preparing to attack us. This statement is called to our attention by an American who 25 years ago saw American copper, cotton and rubber shipped into Germany to be used to kill American soldiers. He writes to ask-- if the President knew all this why "in the name of God" did he not take the necessary steps to prevent this flow of American war material being shipped to Japan?

FOOTNOTE "Col. Duckworth, from San Francisco, told of an incident where he took a piece of a Japanese shell fragment from a soldier's wound and discovered it was a small U.S. sewing machine screw driver."--Post-Standard, 3/7/42.
Chickens and screw drivers come home---

SIGN-POST An Anglo-American economic agreement was reached on February 23 dealing generally with terms of settlement and cooperation for the post-war period. If, as the Foreign Policy Association believes, it is a sign post pointing away from economic nationalism it may lead to a saner international order; if it develops that the sign post points toward an Imperial Alliance for an Anglo-American Century, it is a road sign to war.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD Do you remember some while back Mr. Churchill's "give us the tools and we will finish the job" speech? It fits in interestingly with a recent broadcast in which he referred to America's entry into the war as "what I have dreamed of, aimed at and worked for." Some of us had suspected something of the kind. But Mr. Churchill went further-- "There never was the slightest chance," he says, "of our standing up to them alone." And so once more
. . . . Rule Brittain!

BRITAIN MUST CHOOSE "Make no mistake. This is not opportunity knocking at our door. It is history battering it down," writes a British weekly. Britain is faced with terrible alternatives: shall she try to hold her rich Indian Empire and lose the war; shall she deal honestly and generously now with India and win her aid? Watch India. At this moment she holds the center of the stage and the key to the future.

SUGAR SHORTAGE! A letter from Missouri tells of "hundreds of thousands of bushels of surplus corn stored in the roadside granaries." A bushel of corn is easily converted into a gallon and a half of alcohol, equally available for the manufacture of high explosives. Why not use corn? There must be a reason! This is only one of the unexplained mysteries about sugar shortages.