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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Two Japanes
Friends of Japan in the United States have wondered during these dark days what has become of the liberals of Japan. For several weeks no word has been allowed to come out of Japan indicating that there is any popular protest against the insane course of the Tokio government and military dictators.

Now it is encouraging to discover that the still powerful Baran Shidzehara, deposed as foreign minister by the war lords two months ago, is trying to preserve at least some of his country's decency. Writing in the *Nichi Nichi*, one of Japan's largest dailies, Shidzehara said Friday:

"The deplorable trouble at Shanghai comes at a time when confusion prevails and when a mistake on the part of Japan will jeopardize her national existence. The Shanghai affair complicates the situation by arousing excitement among the powers. If Japan does not act with circumspection, her future will be compromised..."

"Japan should set aside her face-saving and settle the trouble at Shanghai in concert with the other powers."

It is not necessary to overestimate the importance of the Shidzehara appeal. It is true that he dared not sign it, using instead the signature, "a member of the house of peers." It is true that his statement assumes that Japan is right in her Manchurian conquest and only wrong in her method in Shanghai.

It is true that Shidzehara is tarred with the first ten weeks of the Manchurian crime against the peace treaties.

But making full allowance for all those factors, it is significant that the large commercial class for which Shidzehara speaks dares to challenge the militarists at the peak of war fever.

It indicates, apparently, that the large business interests of the country, embarrassed by the Chinese boycott and threatened with world ostracism, are seeking a graceful means of retreat from the military blunder.

If Shidzehara and the bankers and merchants are beginning to oppose the militarists, one can imagine what must be going on in the minds of the oppressed Japanese peasants and workers, forced to give their last yen and their sons to this war.

When we think of Japan we must try to remember the Japanese masses who are as much the victims of the Japanese war lords as are the Chinese. It is too early to despair of the Japanese people. They may assert themselves.

Taking Our Medicine

Great Britain's new tariff bill is in retaliation against our Hoover high tariff law and the general tariff was precipitated by our act. In the commercial field, America is guilty of the same kind of ruthless aggression as Japan in the military field. Indeed, the tariff war we started has been even more expensive and destructive to date than the Japanese adventure.

Since Great Britain is our largest customer, the wall she is raising against our trade will injure American business and labor, either directly or indirectly. It is an especially serious development coming on top of similar retaliation by Canada, our largest customer until the tariff war.

We get the ill effects coming and going. Not only do we lose the foreign trade, but our factories have moved by the hundreds to Canada and England to get under the tariff wall and employ foreign workers. No wonder there is no decrease in our army of 8,500,000 unemployed.

President Hoover and congress were warned of this disastrous result in 1930, when they enacted the Hawley-Smoot law over the protest of 1,100 economists, a majority of the press, and leading bankers and industrialists.

Little was expected of the Republican old guard.

But the country had a right to expect the Democrats, after all their verbal ranting against the law, to try to repeat it.

The country is watching the Democrats on the tariff.

A Cruel Tax

Among the revenue-raising proposals now before the house ways and means committee is one that should be rejected with all possible speed. That is the plan for taxing customers of gas and electric utilities.

All the arguments that make a sales tax on bread or other necessities iniquitous apply also to a utilities tax. Gas for cooking is an absolute necessity of life in many parts of this country. To the families near the margin of want, every cent they must spend to cook food is a problem.

Light is no less essential. To burden the small electric bill with a federal tax levy would be cruel and unjust.

The utility tax is not a proposal for collecting revenues from a business that has withheld the depression better than most of its fellows. It is a tax on families already paying well for services they can not do without.

It is a discriminatory tax, not adjusted to the principle of ability to pay, but designed to fall most heavily on the urban poor, who can not cut wood to warm themselves or make candles for light.

The revenue problem is a difficult one, but certainly a more satisfactory solution than this can be found.

The Wizard Returns

And so again speaks the great one-time imperial wizard, now generalissimo of the White Band:

"Americans, beware! Poison gas is sweeping over our country! Human reptiles breathing deadly fumes are trying to strangle the nation! Disguised as a political party—Communism—these scorpions are tearing at the vitals of our government, our jobs, our homes, our very lives!"

This is the old flavor of the great William Joseph Simmons, founder of the Ku-Klux Klan, who wrote fiery assaults upon the Catholic, the Jew, the alien, the Negro, and clanged the famed cash register at \$10 and more a head.

Now he is operating in New York, head of the White Band, claiming 300,000 members. There are traces of the same old Klan spirit in his new ritualism; the more cash you put in, the higher you go into the secrets.

In New York, too, is Edward Young Clarke, the promoter who put the fire under the boiler of Klan-dom and put feathers in the good old tar of racial and religious hatred. He is head of the patriotic anti-graft Esskay.

These stalwarts of the Klan wielded gigantic nation-wide forces of hate of man for man, setting neighbor against neighbor, their against son,

mother against daughter, sending a fourth of the male populations of towns, cities and states into rural clearings on dark nights to put on pillow slips and sheets and make monkeys of themselves in droves for the glory of Allah, country and the Nordic race.

The curious thing about the new organizations—Simmons' "White Band," Clarke's "Esskay"—is that the enemies against whom the suspicion, hate, and even fury of millions was incited during the Klan days now are welcomed to the new orders.

The joke is on the ardent Klansmen who stood with bated breath in bedsheet in rain and cold in some field, accepting as inspired truth of the anti-Papist, anti-Semitic, anti-Asian diatribes from the pens of Clarke and Simmons, and went home to argue with their wives or partners, to win them over to the blessed, fire-eating cause.

The Cost of Rackets

The racket, most revolting of prohibition's ill-favored brood, is also its most expensive child, according to a book by Fred D. Pasley, New York journalist. The book, "Muscling In," is published by Ives Washburn.

Tribute to the new underworld's terrorist mounts into the annual billions, he says. New York City pays them \$200,000,000 to \$600,000,000 a year; Chicago, \$200,000,000; Philadelphia, \$100,000,000; Detroit, \$75,000,000; Los Angeles, \$50,000,000; Cleveland and Pittsburgh, \$25,000,000 each.

These millions, extorted from every sort of business, create a great law-defying aristocracy of crime and wealth. They are sequestered from the tax collector and deprive the government of millions in taxes.

Pasley admits that the racket's father is prohibition.

He blames also greedy and cowardly employers, who have hired racketeers to break strikes and destroy their competitors. The law, apparently, is powerless to cope with these super-gangsters, whose crimes make those of the pirates of history seem petty by comparison.

Obviously, we need fearless and honest law enforcement. But first we need honest laws. Such a hypocritical and unpopular law as prohibition gives the gangster his opportunity to corrupt policemen and judges and make them partners to his crime.

Always Humane

In kind-hearted Nevada you may be divorced and remarried more painlessly than in any other state. You may be executed with equal show of charity.

Like all other states, Nevada catches few of its first degree murderers and convicts even fewer. Those that it catches it does not ruthlessly kill with electricity, as do the eastern commonwealths, nor choke with a hempen rope, as do its western neighbors.

Instead, Nevada has built a little lethal gas house. Therein the murderers are domiciled and allowed to live in regal, if lonely, luxury for a time. Then, with no more discomfort than it takes to have a tooth extracted, he is sent on his way to eternity.

But even this arrangement, it seems, is not perfect.

Like all states that kill men legally, Nevada sometimes makes mistakes as it gasses the wrong man. Recently it disposed of Robert A. White for murdering an Elko merchant. And down in Texas the other day a man asserted that it was his partner, under arrest for a Leadville bank robbery, who did the Elko murder.

The late Mr. White, if innocent, doubtless was critical of the Nevada system. His surviving relatives and friends probably will not be comforted by the fact that even if Nevada sometimes kills the wrong man, it does it humanely.

Another Holmes

It is more than three weeks since Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes resigned as a member of the United States supreme court. During this period, President Hoover is reported to have been examining with care the qualifications of jurists and lawyers suggested by his successor.

We hope Hoover's study has convinced him—as hundreds of others, Republicans and Democrats, alike, have been convinced—that the man best qualified to succeed Justice Holmes is Chief Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo of the New York state court of appeals.

In accepting Justice Holmes' resignation, Hoover wrote: "No appreciation I could express even fully would represent the gratitude of the American people for your whole life of wonderful public service."

The selection of Judge Cardozo would be practical evidence that this "appreciation" means more than hollow words.

From the way business and nations are economizing, it appears they are saving everything but the situation.

Now that the presidential movement is on, many a politician would like to go to Washington. But many voters wouldn't be that specific.

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

NOW and then the movies are enlightening; especially the news reels. A short time ago an audience of despondent taxpayers, seeking momentary escape from the burdens of reality, viewed upon the screen the activities of that portion of our army now stationed at Ft. Riley, Kan.

This film offered food for thought, as well as entertainment. Beautiful horses, carrying booted and spurred military gentlemen, were put through fancy gaits. The drill was pleasing and exceptionally skillful.

Next we had a sight of the lieutenants doing their cross-country stuff. They sped through covert and wood like barometric Englishmen riding to hounds. Their coursers did high jumps. They skinned over hedges and fences and ditches and skirted over slippery hillsides. Then they put on a fast game of polo.

Thus, the horny-handed laborer could see at first hand how thrilling is the life of a part of our great army of defense.

THE whole thing was indeed a pretty sight until one remembers that tanks now are used generally in battle maneuvers and that couriers charged with important dispatches who killed their noble steeds racing to headquarters, went out with the advent of telephone and wireless.

A humble citizen might have been more impressed if he had not recalled that the day of riding blood up to the bridle bit is definitely over and that so far as usefulness in battle is concerned, it is as extinct as the culuse.

In this day of airplanes it is as senseless to train army horses to high jumping as it would be to train birds to carry help to the wounded. Why not cut expenses by "grounding" some of our horse majors?

True, the caparisoned steed lend glamor to the military man, but when we ponder that the taxpayer is putting up for the oats, we feel that we could get along with fewer cavalry colonels.

Wisdom is to the son what health is to the body.—La Roche Foucauld.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Hoarding Can Be Traced Directly to Lack of Faith, Which Means That It Will Continue Until Faith Is Restored.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5—

HAVE you heard any one publicly disagree with the President's statement on hoarding? Of course, you haven't. But how about it in private conversation?

Reminds you of prohibition—lots of people saying one thing and doing another.

One billion three hundred million dollars, if not more, quietly withdrawn from circulation and tucked away somewhere do you suppose such a thing could happen without hundreds of thousands of people having the same idea and acting on it?

Of course, it's bad, but merely saying so won't stop it.

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Confidence Shaken

HOARDING is not due to a childish impulse. You couldn't locate one billion three hundred million dollars in this, or any other country, without finding any number of practical, hard-headed folks.

We are up against something more than a spasm or fright.

This wholesale withdrawal of

money evidences real concern, and the concern goes back to some very raw mismanagement of finances.

People have lost confidence because they have lost money through no fault of their own, because they have been led into making investments by those supposed to know which have turned out badly, because they have seen one bank after another go down, not as a result of the slump in business, but as a consequence of unwise and unnecessary speculation.

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Faith the Cure

HOARDING will cease when the cause for it has been removed, and not before.

Like so many other present-day ills, it can be traced directly to lack of faith, which means that it will continue until faith is restored.

Restoring faith sounds like a very academic proposition, but it is not.

Faith was hurt by practices and enterprises which touched people right down where they live; it will have to be rehabilitated the same way.

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Lax Regulation

TO a large extent, the problem of restoring popular confidence in the financial government and the states can help solve it.

The states can help by adopting more rigid regulations for the inspection and supervision of banks.

The federal government can help by stopping the haphazard unrestricted sale of foreign securities.

While these two items do not cover the field by any means, they would contribute a great deal to make depositors and investors feel safer.

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Deflated Supermen

IT would be unfair to blame all our financial difficulties on the bankers. They were caught off guard like the rest of us, largely because they took too many tips from a few big boys, set too much store by the call market and fell for the notion that certain great houses could not possibly go wrong.

Indeed, the most remarkable phase of this whole business is the deflation of some of our supposed super-men, some of the industrial and commercial wizards whom we had clothed with God-like attributes, but who have turned out to be common clay.

They were as badly fooled by "prosperity" as the common herd, and when it collapsed, they weren't any wiser as to what should be done.

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Leadership at Fault

BECAUSE we got into the mess by following bad leadership, we are yelling for good leadership to pull us out.

What we have overlooked all along is the fact that, whether times are good or bad, much of the leadership must come from the bottom, from among the plain people.

Whenever we get to a point where we permit a few to do our thinking for us, we are headed for trouble, because they will take advantage of the privilege. That's human nature.

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Lives at Home and Abroad

BUT it would be foolish to relax in the matter of taking all proper emotional precautions. The greatest threat lies in that very dangerous theory that Americans in foreign countries are entitled to the armed protection of our forces.

Naturally I am eager to see the lives of any of our countrymen needlessly endangered, but I would not have them guarded by measures which might threaten millions.

The protection of our people in Shanghai should remain a secondary consideration, giving precedence to the protection of peace itself. Speaking of the western powers, Walter Lippmann writes that they and their ships are to stop at Shanghai to threaten Japan, but to guard and, if necessary, remove the large colony of foreigners who are there and in the interior cities.

Nevertheless, the assembling of any considerable fleet must carry with it the suggestion of threat, even though our intentions may be the best in the world. The Japanese are likely to be a little skeptical of our undivided desire to transport our nationals to places