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THE FIRST YEAR

A YEAR ago we had prohibition, a general bank holiday, wholesale business failures and farm foreclosures, swap shops and child labor, and one man in every four out of work. Today we are climbing out of the depression. And most citizens, regardless of party, pay tribute to President Roosevelt for his courageous leadership.

Probably no other President at the end of his first year has been so popular as Mr. Roosevelt. This is not an accident. It can not be explained on grounds of propaganda or of partisan political cleverness. The President has the faith of the nation because he has earned it.

The curious thing about this is that nothing the President has done is beyond criticism. Take any of his major policies and you will find that it has failed to produce expected results. For instance, the most publicized of all the NRA; General Johnson himself has just indicted the operation of the NRA on twelve serious counts which go to very heart of its usefulness.

The AAA has had to reverse its policy on marketing agreements and its switching from voluntary compulsory crop control. PWA was so slow in producing results that CWA had to be improvised, and it in turn now is being abolished for something else.

After many months of back and forthing on inflation, the administration this week informed congress that it is not yet sure that its latest monetary policy will work and that more sudden changes are possible. In the foreign field the administration began with a tariff reduction and an international co-operation program, which at the London conference was revoked without warning in favor of economic nationalism, and that policy in turn now is being discarded for the earlier program of lower reciprocal tariffs, stimulation of foreign business with special trade banks and general co-operation abroad. The list of false starts and half-failures could be extended through most of the administration's activities.

Why is it, then, that the President is so popular today and the country so much better off despite all of these changes and counter-changes of policy? It is not despite these changes but because of them.

A year ago the economic system had broken down. The old ways had failed. The President was not a witch doctor; he had no cure-alls and no short-cuts. He had to experiment. That is what he did. Of course he made mistakes. He still is making mistakes. But each month he brings order out of chaos. Or, to use his own favorite figure, he is like the captain of a football team who must change his plays in the uncertain and zigzag course down the field to the distant goal.

Thus President Roosevelt's great contribution to the nation has been a political method, the method of planned experiment. His goal is not only recovery, but basic reform. He does not believe the nation can return to the old system and survive. Either we go back to misery and chaos or forward to a planned and just economic order. The President is heading forward, unafraid. And that is why the people are following him.

The next year will be harder. Bureaucracy will grow and the President will have difficulty in keeping close to the people. Reactionary business and political forces will gather more power. And among the rank and file much of the excitement and glory of the new deal will wear thin. A little temporary recovery may go to our heads and make us want to forget the basic reforms still waiting.

The second year even more than the first will be the test of the President's leadership and of the character of the American people.

I am confident that they can be corrected after proper hearing and in fairness to both peoples."

That is a pledge upon American honor; it must be carried out.

WOMEN LIFE SAVERS

FTER all, there should be limits, even to this career business! To know that women are turning life savers is a little too much. Still, we boast of our freedom of the seas so it wouldn't be fair to make it a man's ocean, I suppose. Anyway, if a girl knows her strokes there isn't anything, any more, to keep her out of deep water.

Somehow the brawny life savers who patrolled the beaches in the days when women feigned helplessness caused more than one timid lass to get into the swim. There was something romantic, mysterious, altogether fascinating in the manner that a long, strong arm could save you from another mouthful of salt water. Then, too, chivalry sat along the beaches in dark blue life guards' suits. It yearned to show whom it could save.

But now—

Women are doing the rescue act. They know their strokes as well as any man ever knew his. They are quite as able to perform gallant service.

It's the romance is gone. What woman wants to be saved by another woman? Still—if it is a question of life or death maybe one doesn't care who does the saving. Women, however, shrink intuitively from venturing into deep water when it is another woman who must aid them if their own breast strokes or backhand strokes give out. For so long we have been taught that men surpass at feats of physical prowess that we can't help being disappointed to know that the sea belongs to women as well as to men.

Men are rejoicing because some one as fair as Juno, with features resembling those of the queen who launched the Trojan navy, likely is to swim to their defense. Risking their lives is a pleasant matter for the gentlemen.

Oh, well, women may have their innings as nurses in hospitals. There is that glorious minute when the scion of a wealthy family gazes into the eyes of a ministering angel and confuses love with gratitude. Only—the nurses will tell you that it doesn't happen that way. That their work is long and hard and romance waits until after they leave their corridors.

The stenographic field has been fictionalized, too. Most employers are married, and the eager-eyed girl who takes dictation is much more likely to marry the filing clerk than the junior partner.

No, the only place where a woman could rely on a brief, ecstatic glimpse of unalloyed chivalry was the damp moment when she submerged and arose to be rescued. Instead of searching for her boss's letters or her husband's collar buttons she could rest on a masculine shoulder or be towed in by a masculine hand.

Still, if a few gallant women are passing the examinations for official life saving jobs maybe it will spur the rest of us on to learn how to swim. We might as well. There isn't any point in getting into deep water any more. All we do is get wet.

After all, those who are using feminine substitutes for this task may know what they are doing. Guards will save their time. The summer girls who pretended to learn aquatic victories every season may remember how to stay on the level from one year's end to the most impossible mixtures.

As Mr. Beals points out, what Welles asked of the Cubans was comparable to demanding in the United States that "Roosevelt and Farley abdicate, and that Al Smith be appointed President with a cabinet including such names as Hoover, Mellon, O'Brien, Jimmy Walker, 'Sunny Jim' Rolph and John Dewey."

Actually it seems that Welles was opposed chiefly to the Grau government because it threatened to assert an independent attitude toward American bankers and public utilities in Cuba. His very last discussion with Grau was given over to a protest against the new electric light rate which had reduced by nearly one-half the highest rate charged anywhere in the civilized world.

Mr. Welles left before Grau was ousted, but he had done enough damage so that the Grau government, lacking American recognition, had to give way. The result was the choice of a government under a reactionary, Colonel Carlos Mendieta.

From the beginning, Mr. Welles did his best to undermine the Grau government. After having himself tried to set up governments in no way represented the desires of the majority of the Cuban people, he had the audacity to demand that the Cubans adopt a corporative government, bringing together the most impossible mixtures.

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