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ROY W. HOWARD President
LUDWELL DENNY Editor
EARL D. BAKER Business Manager

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Give light and the People Will Find Their Own Way



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PROPAGANDA'S SUBTLE WAYS

SIR JOSIAH STAMP, British economist, declares America today faces the biggest moral issue in her history in view of the grave turn of international events.

America, he said, could only be cynically indifferent at the price of Europe in ruins. America's moral issue, therefore, is between actively helping to save the world and letting things slide.

A cartoon from a leading London daily depicts John Bull standing up manfully to a gigantic Mussolini, while Uncle Sam, from the sidelines, is asking John why he doesn't stay out, too.

The subtle propaganda already making its appearance in Europe has an all too familiar ring. For we belong to the generation that lived through the World War.

At the outset of that war the head of a great American news-gathering organization called on the premier of an allied country.

"The American public," he explained, "is pretty hazy on what the war's all about. So I have come here, just as I shall do in Berlin, to offer to you our facilities if you care to state your case. Ours is not a propaganda agency. But we do feel our public is entitled to hear both sides. Hence our desire to co-operate."

"Co-operate?" in effect replied the apparently amazement statesman. "I see no call for co-operation. This is our war, not America's. Good morning."

That was at the beginning of Europe's war. Germany would soon be licked. We had nothing to do with it. It would soon be over and the spoils divided. The less America meddled, the better.

"BEFORE the war was half-way over, however, the picture had entirely changed. In speech, press and cartoon, American was being lambasted for staying out. It was a war for civilization. A war to end war. In fact, it was America's war. And an unsportsmanlike people were holding aloof, letting others fight and die for them while they coined dollars out of Europe's blood."

We are not concerned here with the rightness or the wrongness of all that. The point is we were shamed and bullied by propaganda from lending a hand in a fight which, at first, admittedly was none of our business.

Today Europe is inclined to insist that her quarrels, dating back two millennia, are really our quarrels. When a European power which did not get its share of the spoils of the last war tries to grab a colony somewhere in Africa, the other and more fortunate powers cry out that America's duty is to step in and help stop it. The propaganda barrage begins.

Whereupon our war-time memories again come to life. When President Wilson suggested an end of the war on a basis of "peace without victory," he was jeered. When later, at the peace conference, he fought against the spoils of war, he was almost leaped upon.

Today's war in Africa is, and tomorrow's wars in Europe will be, largely because his advice was not taken. Yet when the new wars come, we will be swamped again by shaming, bullying and cajoling propaganda to make us feel that it is "our war."

Unquestionably the world is growing smaller. Certainly it will be difficult, if not impossible, for us to stay out of a new major war, if it lasts long enough. Nevertheless it is our duty to try. And one way is for us to keep our heads—not to permit our emotions to run away with our reason.

We must learn, among other things, not to allow propaganda, whether originating at home or abroad, to blind us to fundamental truth. Which is, that America's first duty to the world is to be loyal to herself.

ANOTHER GAS BATTLE

A BITTER undercover fight that has raged in recent years between the gas industry and the U. S. Bureau of Standards, with \$490,000,000 of the American people's annual fuel bill at stake, was brought into the open by the Federal Trade Commission.

Some ten years ago, gas companies in all parts of the country were planning to reduce the number of British thermal units—in other words the heating value—in the gas they sold. The American Gas Association, according to Trade Commission records, was supplying the companies with material from which to argue that consumers were not hurt by such a reduction, even though it was not accompanied by rate cuts.

E. R. Weaver, chief gas chemist of the Bureau of Standards, didn't believe this was so.

He fought for three years to get his views before state regulating commissions, charging that the proposed BTU reduction meant as much as a 60 per cent increase in the price of gas and, if adopted, generally meant a \$490,000,000 addition to the nation's annual bill for cooking and heating.

The battle ended only when some of the most brilliant companies concerned started to sell natural gas, with high heating value, and did a right-about-face on the BTU question, arguing that they should be allowed higher rates to compensate for the higher heating value of their gas.

Weaver's story of his fight has just been put in the Trade Commission record, together with a score or more of exhibits showing efforts made by gas men to have his views suppressed.

In 1924 Weaver wrote Technical Paper 290, in which he said the amount of gas consumed increases inversely as the number of BTUs in a cubic foot is reduced. The consternation caused by his paper is indicated in letters in the record. Henry L. Doherty of Cities Service Co. called to remonstrate.

The gas companies continued their campaign, arguing that the Public Service Co. of Colorado, a Doherty company, had reduced the heating value of its gas from 525 to 400 BTUs and that "it is doubtful if any of our customers know that a reduction in heating value has occurred."

In 1926 Weaver determined to write another paper on the Denver situation, indicating consumers had been paying 19 per cent more for their gas since the reduction in heating value.

He was told by George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, that protests against publication of such a document had been made to Secre-

tary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, in whose department the bureau was.

Eventually Cities Service blocked publication of the report, Weaver says, by withdrawing permission for use of confidential data on the Denver situation.

Mr. Weaver, however, obtained other less detailed data which had been published at various times, revised his paper, and sent mimeographed copies to the state commissions. The Colorado commission reversed its earlier stand and ruled that any reduction of BTUs must be accompanied by a rate reduction.

DO YOU STILL BEAT YOUR WIFE?

THE United States Chamber of Commerce has just sent out to its 1500 member organizations four questions constituting its referendum on the New Deal.

To make it easier, the answers are supplied in advance by a special committee of the Chamber appointed to study trends in Federal legislation. The members are supposed to answer yes or no to the soundness of the committee's findings.

Looking over the questions, we wonder whether the Chamber isn't in the position of a judge who furnished a jury with ballots all marked "guilty."

1. Should there be an extension of Federal jurisdiction into matters of state and local concern?

2. Should the Federal government at the present time exercise Federal spending power without relation to revenue?

3. Should there be government competition with private enterprise for regulatory or other purposes?

4. Should all grants of authority by Congress to the executive department of the Federal government be within clearly defined limits?

Remember, yes or no!

IS HISTORY REPEATING?

AUG. 5, 1914: The British navy dredged up and cut the German cables, and thereafter most of the foreign news served up to neutral America was cleared through Entente channels.

Oct. 10, 1935: The British postoffice refused to relay through a British short-wave station a scheduled broadcast from Geneva, in which Baron Alois, the Italian delegate to the League, was to present Italy's case to neutral America's radio audience.

Thus the first "sanction" seems to be against information.

Bitter though we feel against Mussolini and all of his spokesmen for their war of invasion, we believe we are entitled to hear what Italy has to say and that it is not Britain's business or any other nation's business to turn the dials.

BENITO VS. BENITO

THE New Leader, Socialist journal published in New York, appeals from Mussolini drunk with power to Mussolini sober in the fresh morning of his life.

The New Leader quotes an editorial written by Mussolini Jan. 1, 1912, when he was the young editor of the Socialist daily Avanti. Attacking Italy's war in Libya, North Africa, Mussolini said 23 years ago:

"The nationalist, conservative and clerical Italy of today wants to make the sword her law and the army the school of the nation. We foresaw this moral degeneration and therefore are not surprised by it. But those who believe that this dominance of militarism is a sign of strength are mistaken. Strong peoples have no need to suffer such rubbish as the Italian press indulges in with foolish delight. Strong peoples have themselves in check. Nationalist and militaristic Italy shows that she has herself not in check. A little war of conquest is celebrated as a Roman triumph."

STRENGTHENING WPA

IT is perhaps too late to come close to fulfilling the bright promises of the work-relief undertaking, but those who fear the consequences of this major failure of the Roosevelt Administration will welcome news that Army engineers have been called into the WPA operation.

The WPA staff consists principally of political appointees and social service workers. Admitting that many of them are men and women of ability and sincerity, they are still political appointees and social service workers, and, for the most part, not chosen for their experience in handling works projects.

On the other hand, the Corps of Army Engineers has a long and honorable record in planning and directing useful and wealth-creating public improvements. Wasteful projects of the leaf-raking type should have hard sledding with these Army engineers sitting at the elbows of Mr. Hopkins and his sub-administrators.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

By Mrs. Walter Ferguson

THE other side of the earth presents a picture which would be funny if it were not filled with such tragic possibilities.

Watch the newsreels any day, anywhere, and you'll know what we're talking about. There is a dreadful sameness about these scenes. Men massed and marching for battle; men saluting; men with guns—everywhere. Overshadowing and dominating them are one or two individuals: the pathetic Haile Selassie, playing at being an emperor; Mussolini posing pomously before Caesar's statue; Hitler, declaring himself The State in front of 300,000 of his subjects; English warships speeding to Suez; the streets of Paris filled with soldiers.

The world is insane again, insane with listening to a few men who are drunk with the thought of power. And so we read in our papers that war will be waged because these men must "save their faces."

And they will save them, mind you, at the expense of millions of lives, of untold destruction and of irreparable waste.

These pigmy mortals strut—exactly as their prototypes have always done. Like small boys showing off, they mass their troops and think because the cheers are loud and the drums beat at their coming that war will make them mighty. Neither forethought, intelligence, logic nor common sense dictates their actions.

They are funny, these dictators—but not half so funny as the millions of creatures calling themselves men who follow their bidding like slaves. So that Mussolini may "save his face" a world can be destroyed, a civilization wrecked and thousands of happy homes ruined forever. Does it not seem shocking, incredible, frightening, that for such paltry reasons these things can occur?

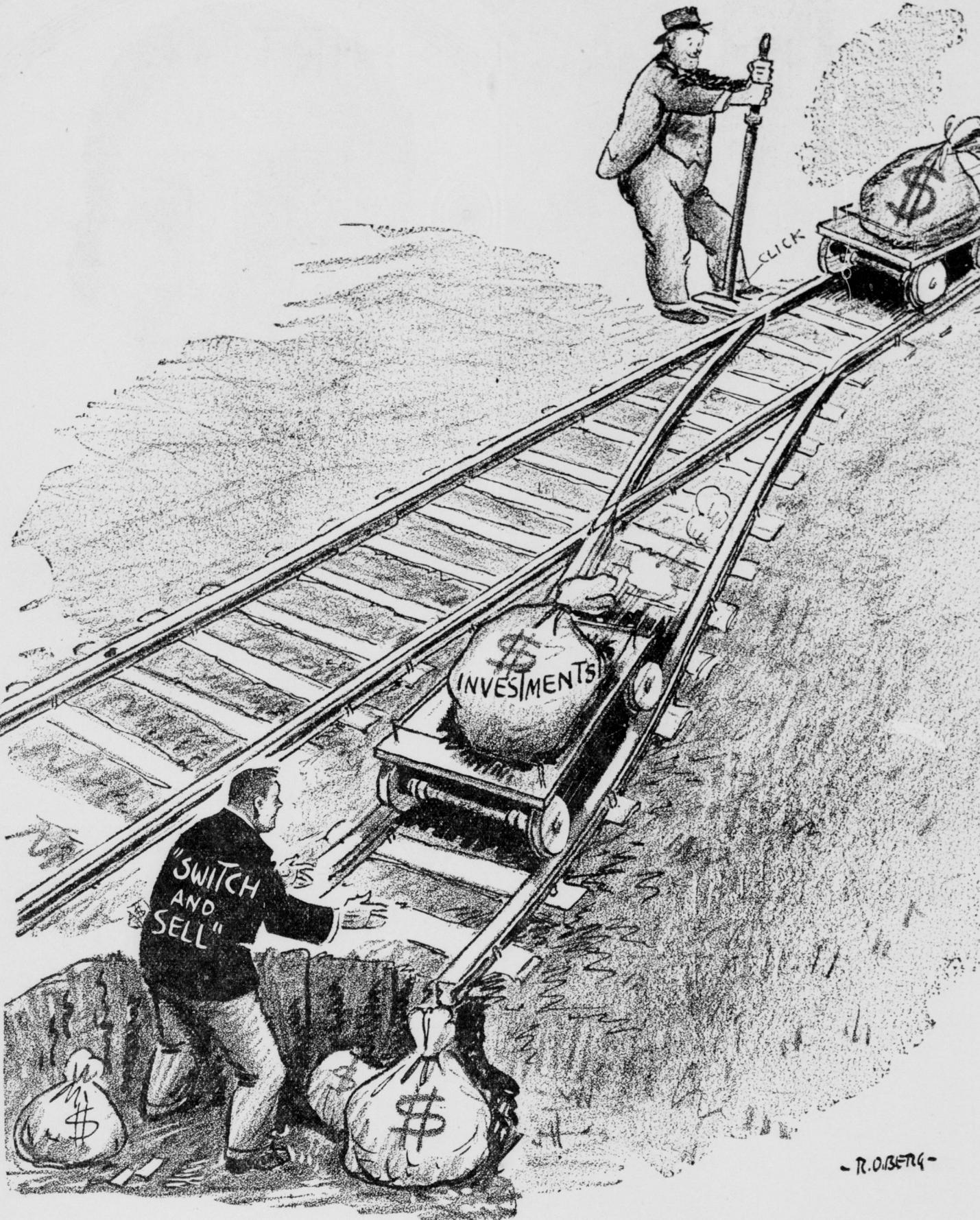
The United States faces a tremendous responsibility, the responsibility of keeping freedom alive upon the earth. Long ago our forefathers dedicated themselves to this cause; to it we must now dedicate ourselves anew, never forgetting that freedom can be preserved only where people are permitted to govern themselves and dictators are unknown, and where peace, not war, is the chief objective of all citizens.

The cause of peace is the cause of free speech, of a free press, of human liberty, of constitutional government—Senator Borah.

Preaching is doomed. In five years people will sit in their homes and have their choice of listening to, and looking at, any one of perhaps six of the finest preachers in the country.—Dr. B. C. Clausen, Pittsburgh.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

INVESTORS BEWARE



Forum of The Times

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

Censuring C. C. C. Activities

By a Nature Lover

When the Civilian Conservation Corps was sent into the woods with its axes, its picks and shovels, and its educational pamphlets, lovers of the great outdoors sat back comfortably and concluded that America's wilderness areas were at last to be made safe for the bull moose, the red squirrel, and the future generation.

But it develops that this sight of relief was a little premature.

Few organizations have a more alert interest in our wilderness heritage than the American Nature Association; and this group, speaking in the current issue of "National Magazine," asserts that our primeval forests are actually endangered by activities of the outfit that was supposed to protect them—the CCC.

This isn't the CCC's fault. The point is that one of the jobs given the CCC has been to build roads through the forests; and the "Nature Magazine" article protests that no one in Washington seems to realize that if you build enough roads into a wilderness, and dot it with hotels and camp sites, it very speedily ceases to be a wilderness. If The Times will permit

me, I will quote a few lines.

The Cascade crest in Washington has been literally riddled by roads of the CCC," says the article.

With the new scientific processes of producing food synthetically, ready to discard 80 per cent of our cultivated land, and that many farm tellers, the scientist's machine is just the thing to solve the problem of what to do with these workers. The Legion might work the machine, instead of leaving the job to nature, or the militia. It would also make the jobs of those not on relief more secure from competition. And war costs \$25,000 per killing.

These claims he can revive them out.

There is more to the CCC than meets the eye. It is a good deal more than a bunch of semi-barbarous men, women and children, protected chiefly by the rugged terrain of their native health, but people in high places as well.

More power to The Times!

If we did not already realize it you are, by means of these articles, vividly illustrating the utter futility of armed conflict.

MR. REES TAKES A SWING

By R. L. Rees

The newspapers say that Hoover

told the Democrats about their wild

spending. But of all the reading, I

see nothing about the Republican's orgy.

Under the 60 years of Republican rule, every farmer and laborer paid in direct and indirect taxes, \$3 out of every \$4 he earned.

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The CCC has been a potent force in shaping American character.

It has given us something extremely precious—some faint tinges of that self-reliant and imperious sense of kinship with nature which created what was best in the Indian race. We can not lightly give it up.

We seem to be approaching a time in which the average man will have more leisure than he ever had before.

In such a time it will be of the highest importance to have these wilderness areas available—not to automobile parties and hotel guests, but to venturers who can plunge in on foot, carrying what they need on their own backs and finding in the depths of pathless forests a tranquillity, a spiritual orientation, that can be gained in no other way.

In short, the best thing we can do with our remaining wilderness areas is to leave them alone. We can defeat our own ends by building too many trails and clearing away too much destruction. Let Washington call a halt to these activities before it is too late.

The national bank notes took a large sum. And it is poor business when Roosevelt retires them with the people's money.

The Republicans kept our pet

business and national bankers for 60 years in these disguised methods

which would not cause the figures to be put down on the government book in either ordinary or extraordinary columns. But let the Democrats come out into the open and spend half the sum, why the country will go bankrupt.

Well, the Republicans bankrupted us in 1873, 1893 and 1929; so let us feel how it is when the Democrats go busted.

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Apparently the only sufferers in this conflict are not to be a defenseless, helpless group of semi-barbarous men, women and children, protected chiefly by the rugged terrain of their native health, but people in high places as well.

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