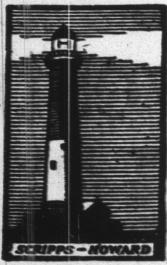


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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1941

THE BAR MOVES IN

THE appointment of a five-man committee by the Indianapolis Bar Association to make "a full and complete" investigation of practices in the criminal branches of the Municipal Courts is a welcome move.

It is an encouraging and healthy sign that the Bar Association is moving in to take this responsibility upon itself. The Bar has the power to correct many faults in legal practice.

We hope it can cure the weaknesses of our present Municipal Court system.

A HAND ON THE BRAKE

NEAR the bottom of the depression Congress gave the President, the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System a number of powers to inflate currency and bank credit. Some of the powers were used, with results so disappointing that the others were left on the shelf.

The Federal Reserve System now proposes that these unused powers—the President's authority to issue three billions in greenbacks and to devalue further the dollar's gold content, and the Treasury's authority to monetize additional foreign silver and issue silver certificates against seigniorage—be removed from the statute books. Other suggestions are that future gold acquisitions be sterilized, that steps be taken to prevent any further swelling of excess bank reserves, and that the Government make a more serious effort to balance the budget through larger tax revenues from the rising national income.

We've never pretended to expertness on complex monetary problems. But to our lay minds these proposals make sense. When Congress conferred the above-named powers it was attempting to deal with what was called a deflation. An opposite situation now confronts the country, with many industries running at capacity and prices starting an upward spiral.

The reserve system's report—which incidentally is endorsed not only by the Board of Governors but by the presidents of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks and by the system's Federal Advisory Council—does not say or imply that there is imminent danger of inflation. But the report does say, wisely we think, that it would be prudent "to take measures, when necessary, to forestall the development of inflationary tendencies attributable to defects in the machinery of credit control." For, the report continues, "these tendencies, if unchecked, would produce a rise of prices, would retard the national effort for defense and greatly increase its cost."

A price boom, raising the cost of armaments, not only would burden the taxpayers, but also would reduce the living standards of American wage-earners. And when the big borrow-spend drunk had passed, the country would be left with another economic hangover.

We are glad to see someone reaching for the brake.

DANCING IN THE STREET

A BIG Ben counted 12 and the most fateful of years stole upon their blacked-out city, Londoners danced in the street.

They did not seem to be impressed with Hitler's pronouncement that "1941 will bring consummation of the greatest victory in our history." The inevitability of further blood and toil and tears failed to dismay them. The defeats of the old year had been hard, but not so hard as the backbone of this proud and stubborn people.

Long ago—long in terms of events if not of time—Winston Churchill told them: "What is the sole method open to us? It is to regain our old island independence by acquiring that supremacy in the air which we were promised, that security in our air defenses which we were assured we had, and thus make ourselves an island once again."

Churchill was on the outside then, a gloomy Gus, a prophet not without honor save in his own country. A lugubrious has-been. It was a week after Munich when he spoke those particular words.

Today, behind the mobile ramparts of the R. A. F., England under Churchill is moving toward that goal of air supremacy. She has a long way to go. But the United States, and Canada, and Australia and New Zealand are enlisted in the race to make the R. A. F. supreme.

Hitler may be correct. But we hope those capers in the blackout will be fully justified as the year unfolds.

GWLADYS HWADYS IN STITCHES

A READER, Miss Gwladys L. Williams, contributes the following verse, which she modestly says is "by Shelley or someone":

DOLOROUS DITTY

If cents can make dollars, do dollars make sense?
A question to puzzle the wiliest scholar!
But plain Mr. Creditor's firm in defense
Of the sextuple-asterisked, silly-fool dollar.We explained to the butcher that buttons were cash;
Our reasons were sound, but the boob couldn't foller.
The restaurant-keeper cried: "Cough 'up that hash."
When we offered him sous for the silly-fool dollar.The dairyman turned out to be just as tight;
Not a bottle he'd part with—not even a swoller!
For drachmae, denarii, Turkish delight;
His palm must be crossed with the silly-fool dollar.

L'ENVOI

And it's silly-fool dollars to doughnuts, alas!
The Collector of Taxes will set up a holler,
If we tender him guilders or goodwill or grats;
In lieu of the sanctified, silly-fool dollar!

'Nose Dive'

By Maj. Al Williams

That's What One Writing 'Expert' Took Judging by Laughs Which Greeted Recent Magazine Article

WHEN I entered the air-line pilots' lounging room one chap greeted me with gusto, waving a magazine (one of our big weeklies). He said, "Say, why doesn't someone, the Government or what not, organize a school for aviation writers—make them join a union or qualify so they know thatribal is not some kind of religion?"

I thought he was ragging me until I caught the name of the weekly in which there was a well-told and glaringly inaccurate story of Europe's serial war. I had seen it, too.

Here are a few samples. "Clearly there can be no victory won over a determined opponent by means of isolation alone." That writer must know the final score of the Battle of Britain. Submarines and airplanes are besieging England—no marching armies—no trenches—no barbs—no warships.

And then get this, a few paragraphs later: "The German purpose in air battle is clearly to break the Royal Air Force by inflicting heavy losses, and without the R. A. F. there would be small hope of defending the island against total war, when it comes." In other words airpower cannot force a decision alone, but if the defense loses control of the air, there's little chance for the defense. Maybe I'm mixed up. At least I ought to be after reading that conflict.

HERE'S another: "A world's speed record was made by a Hurricane in February, 1938, from Edinburgh to Northolt at an average speed of 408.75 miles per hour." That's a hoot. There's no such recognized world speed record for such a craft, and furthermore, world's speed records never recognize speeds made with tail winds. I remember the flight to which it refers admitted by the British themselves to have been made with the aid of a 55-mile-an-hour tail wind. The British officially claim 335 miles per hour for the Hurricane, and the claim is correct.

The next was a peach—and the boys roared as they read it aloud: "The Messerschmitt (109, single-seater) had great disadvantage in armor, but the pilot's head was left insufficiently protected and the tail was quite unarmed." Maybe we have been missing something in airplane armoring, but to date we haven't heard of anyone building an iron or steel tunnel around a single-seater pilot's head.

Then he mentions that "The Hurricane and Spitfire are not periscopes by which they can see directly behind them, so the Messerschmitt also derives a great advantage by firing into the enemy's tail." How ridiculous! Single-seater fighting from its inception is based on maneuvering until you can get on an enemy's tail, because his guns are all pointing the other way and that's always a sensible way to attack any enemy—on land, sea, or in the air.

GET this for misleading the public: "Our P-40 (United States single-seater fighter) is . . . in the same class as the British Hurricane and Spitfire." Certainly no airman who knows what he is talking about would agree with that. We are lucky to keep our P-40's in the air for any length of time, and they are far slower than the Spitfires.

Then he switches to the effects on pilots turning at high speeds in modern fighters. "Older men 'black out' when it is, loss of consciousness . . . nonsense." The blackout is the temporary loss of vision. And when a pilot is blacked out during a tight turn at high speed or the pull-out at the bottom of a dive, he can think just as clearly as when he is flying level.

The blackout is caused by centrifugal force driving the blood down and away from his optic nerves and no one pays much attention to it. Uncomfortable for the moment, but that's all, and it has nothing whatsoever to do with consciousness. But when we read for "suspects that the 240-mile-per-hour German Stuka can outrun . . . practically any fighter machine in existence." Well, that's where I quit, especially when Spitfires and Heinkel 111's and Messerschmitt-109's skip along at 355 and 360 miles per hour.

Business

By John T. Flynn

Still Puzzled by British Refusal To Use Billions of Assets in U. S.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Up to this moment I have not been able to get from any financial authority here, or from any political authority, any explanation of this singular fact: that Britain with five billion dollars

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