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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

CHINESE PUZZLE

SOME hopeful diplomats think the Chinese cabinet shake-up may turn the tide there, which has been running toward economic chaos, political strife and military defeat. If so, it will mean much to Americans.

Continued Chinese retreat already has sacrificed all the major American air bases in the east, and may soon enable the Japs to obtain an inland north-south supply route from Manchuria to Malaya. Unless the Chinese military situation can be reversed, Americans will have to pay the price in a much longer and more costly war against Japan.

That, of course, explains the recent Roosevelt pressure on Chiang Kai-shek, which led to the enforced recall of Gen. Stilwell, our able commander in the China-Burma-India theater and Chiang's personal chief of staff. This was a face-saving device for the generalissimo, which neither China nor her allies could afford but which was required by Chungking politics.

NOW, IT IS said, Chiang has balanced the Stilwell dismissal by firing his chief cabinet officers.

But it remains to be seen whether the cabinet shift represents any real change in power. The main figures involved are Finance Minister Kung, who is now in the United States, War Minister Ho and Education Minister Chien. But Kung will remain vice premier, and the biggest financial power in China. Gen. Ho will be chief of staff. And Chien, as administrative head of the Kuomintang, will control the official and only legal political party.

Nevertheless the changes may serve for "appearances" —so necessary in the Orient—and pave the way for compromises and reforms hitherto opposed by the Kung-Ho-Chien group. Kung and Ho have been blamed by the people's political council for a large share of the economic and military failures. Maybe these old leaders have agreed to certain policy compromises, while retaining vast powers under different titles. Whether the latent civil war between Chungking and the so-called Communist government of the northwest is to be compromised into a temporary united front against the Japs is still unknown.

IN ANY EVENT the United States government should make clear that it is not interested in, or interfering with, domestic Chinese affairs as such. Washington has a right to insist that China in seeking our aid—which should be much larger—shall use American supplies and funds to advance victory rather than partisan interests. Our government can insist on fair results, however, without playing personalities or party favorites.

Whether the generalissimo is as good as his friends say, or as bad as his critics charge, two things are fairly clear. One is that he is the strongest unifying force in China today, perhaps the only possible leader now. The other is that, with all his dictatorial powers, he can move no faster than certain politicians, economic barons and war lords let him.

So the United States must continue to work with Chiang, because there is no alternative; meanwhile remembering that the generalissimo has led the heroic Chinese people in long years of defense against the Jap invader.

PERMANENT MILITARY TRAINING

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has re-endorsed the idea of compulsory peacetime training for young men. Seemingly most people are for it, but so far nobody has done anything about it.

The President expressed the hope that congress will write the program into law this winter. We hope so, too. The reasons for such a program are so obvious and so overwhelming there is no point in repeating them.

But the President indicated he would favor a training program along the lines of the old Civilian Conservation Corps. We believe that kind of training would be less than half as good as regular military training.

A CCC-type program would benefit the young men physically. And the selective service's percentage of rejections for physical reasons demonstrated beyond question that the nation's young men need to be built up physically.

But a military program would accomplish all that plus training the men in handling complex weapons, in battle tactics, in discipline and a host of other military requirements.

The CCC program would mean more men physically fit to be trained, in case we get into another war.

A military program would mean the same number of physically fit men, all of whom had a basic knowledge of how to fight. The nation and the men would get twice as much for the time and energy expended.

Any proposal to subordinate military training for CCC work misses the object of the program: To be ready if another war comes to us—and, by being ready, to prevent another war from coming.

"NUBBINS"

EVERWHERE in this big country hearts have been touched by the story of "Nubbins" Hoffman, the 3-year-old boy at Cheyenne, Wyo., to whom Christmas came early because it is feared that an incurable ailment will claim his life before Dec. 25.

Not for the world would we decry the warm, human impulses that have led so many people to send "Nubbins" gifts, to write him letters, to try in other ways to brighten his last brief days. It is all good that there should be so generous a reaction to the tragedy of a little child. But there are wholesale tragedies, harder perhaps to comprehend because they affect many individuals rather than one, which surely deserve an equally ready response.

We are thinking, specifically, of the thousands of American boys, a few years older than "Nubbins" Hoffman, whose lives can be saved for many Christmases to come if blood plasma is available in abundance to help them survive the shock of battle wounds. We wish the papers could print stories and pictures of all of these boys and their needs. Then, it may be, the blood banks would be crowded with eager donors.

REFLECTIONS—

Christmas Books

By Robert Duncan



SCRATCHING YOUR head over that Christmas list? Buy a book!

Books are a good bet; they provide solid entertainment and they're simpler to shop for than most gifts. (A given volume comes in only one color and size.)

Despite the paper shortage, publishers have reaped a fine crop in all fields, and if your friends and relatives like to read, even if only occasionally, there's bound to be a suitable title. You know your Uncle Otto better than we do, so rather than prescribe history when he may prefer mystery, here's a shopping list of some of the recent standouts in the book world, grouped in general categories:

The Latest in Fiction

"The Razor's Edge," by W. Somerset Maugham (Doubleday: \$2.75). A long-time best-seller still high on the lists.

"The Green Years," by A. J. Cronin (Little, Brown: \$2.50). Heart-warming story of an Irish lad in a Scottish town.

"Forever Amber," by Kathleen Winsor (Macmillan: \$3). Novel of the Restoration which has caused a rumpus and may be a sell-out.

"Lusty Wind for Carolina," by Inglis Fletcher (Bobbs-Merrill: \$3). Pirates and romance in an historical novel.

"Strange Fruit," by Lillian Smith (Reynal, Hitchcock: \$2.75). Powerful tale of the Deep South.

"Pastorale," by Nevil Shute (Morrow: \$2.50). Love in wartime England, with a memorable air battle thrown in.

"Tragie Ground," by Erskine Caldwell (Duell, Sloan and Pearce: \$2.50). Humor as well as tragedy, in a "Tobacco Road" setting.

"Behold Trouble," by Granville Hicks (Macmillan: \$2.75). Dramatic fight of a conscientious objector, against the world and himself.

"The History of Rome Hawks," by Joseph Stanley Pennell (Scribner: \$2.75). Civil war experiences in unusual form and electrifying style.

"The Building of Jaina," by Mazo de La Roche (Little, Brown: \$2.50). Latest Jaina book covers earliest phase of the Whiteoak family.

"Borrowed Night," by Oscar Ray (Doubleday Doran: \$2.50). An Alsatian soldier feigns a mental ailment to escape from the German army.

Juvenile: Songs, Rabbits, Pups

THE SELECTION of books for children of all ages, superbly illustrated and many of them fascinating even to grown-ups, is too large for one small space. But here are a few suggestions:

"Sing for America," by Opal Wheeler, illustrated by Gustaf Tenggren (Dutton: \$3.00). Music and anecdotes of our best-known songs.

"Prayer for a Child," by Rachel Field; illustrated by Elizabeth Orton Jones (Macmillan: \$1.50). Touching and beautiful.

"The Hundred Dresses," by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin (Harcourt Brace: \$2.50). A secret told in beautiful pictures, but not revealed in print until the end of the book.

"Pogo's Train Ride," by Joe and Ernest Nordling (Holt: \$1.25). Another adventure of Pogo the pup.

"Chips, the Story of a Cocker Spaniel," by Diane Thorne and Connie Moran (Winston: \$1.50). Gay story, gay pictures.

"Rabbit Hill," story and pictures by Robert Lawson (Viking: \$2.00). Humanized bunnies face and meet a crisis.

"The Great Quillow," by James Thurber, illustrated by Doris Lee (Harcourt Brace: \$2.00). Imaginative and magical.

"Wings for Per," by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (Doubleday Doran: \$2.50). A little Norse boy comes to know invasion.

"Logging Chance," by M. H. Lasher, illustrated by Hamilton Greene (Winston: \$2.00). Adventure in the northwest, for 'teen-agers.'

Non-Fiction: Ernie Pyle's 'Brave Men'

WHILE BOOKS on the war do not predominate in this very general classification there are many important titles, perhaps the foremost being "Brave Men," by Ernie Pyle (Holt: \$3.00) which bids fair to join the famed war correspondent's widely read "This Is Your War." Others worthy of your attention are:

"MacArthur and the War Against Japan," by Frazer Hunt (Scribner: \$2.50). The man who has attained one avowed objective and is poised to achieve another.

"War Through the Ages," by Lynn Montross (Holt: \$5.00). A tremendous work, tracing the history of man's conflict.

"We Build, We Fight," by Hugh B. Cave (Harper: \$2.50). Pictures and running story of Uncle Sam's Seabees.

"Dogs at War," by Clayton Going (Macmillan: \$2.50). Pictures and story of the K9 corps in training and action.

Here are some of the outstanding biographies of great men whose lives make engrossing reading:

"Samuel Johnson," by Joseph Wood Krutch (Holt: \$7.50). Lengthy but live account by a man who proves Sam Johnson territory is not sacred to Boswell alone.

"Anatole France," by Jacob Axelrad (Harper: \$3.75).

A scholarly and profound treatment of the great French critic, novelist, and satirist.

"John C. Calhoun, Nationalist," by Charles M. Wilts (Bobbs-Merrill: \$4.00). An important phase in the life of a great statesman.

Poetry and the Arts

"Nevertheless," by Marianne Moore (Macmillan: \$1.25). Verse by a writer who has been called the greatest of living American women poets.

"Take Them, Stranger," by Babette Deutsch (Holt: \$2.00). Poems which are inspiring without being of the "inspirational" type.

"Winslow Homer," by Lloyd Goodrich (MacMillan: \$6.50). The life of one of America's best painters, with 96 reproductions of his art.

"Masterpieces of Painting," edited by Huntington Cairns and John Walker (Random House: \$6.50). Masterpieces of color printing as well as painting—large plates of treasures on exhibit at the National Gallery of Art.

So They Say—

COMING ON the heels of the unbelievable tragedy of Warsaw, the refusal of the Soviet government to permit UNRRA to operate in Russian-occupied Poland imposes a new tragedy for the Polish people—Joseph H. Kaszubowski, president Co-ordinating Committee of American-Polish Associations, of New York.

THE BUREAUCRAT is neither wiser nor better than you or I doing the same job for ourselves. He is merely more irresponsible. His mistakes are on the house.—Eric A. Johnston, president U. S. C. of C.

THINK ABOUT the fact that each family has someone at the front and that many families miss their fallen husbands and sons. You're playing around, your raising hell in general, and your immoral behavior hurt these people.—German army newspaper.

HERE'S ONE for the book. Several destroyers have applied for the new rate of "cowboy" after roping unwilling Nips from sunken ships and downed planes (in the Philippines).—Rear Adm. Jesse B. Oldendorf.

Carving It Into a Tombstone!



POLITICAL SCENE—

Texas 'Freedom'

By Thomas L. Stokes

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—The major inciting issue involving academic freedom in the University of Texas case, which came to a climax three weeks ago with the firing of President Homer P. Rainey, was the dismissal of three professors of economics by the board of directors.

It gives perhaps the best clue to the state of mind which has influenced a majority of the board in its clash with Dr. Rainey, one of a series of incidents beginning shortly after the president, a native Texan, assumed office five years ago. He enumerated 16 incidents in a comprehensive statement of the case to his faculty last Oct. 12, three weeks before he was ousted by the board.

What it all adds up to is that the "Big Boys" in Texas, the big interests, are trying to move in upon the university.

Here are the facts about the professors. They are agreed to by both parties, but with a difference in interpretation as to what they mean as regards academic freedom.

The Professors Write a Letter

ON MARCH 17, 1942, an advertisement appeared in the Dallas Morning News announcing a mass meeting for the following Sunday, labeled a "We Want Action" mass meeting.

In one corner was a drawing of three American soldiers fighting at Bataan, in the other, a drawing of three buildings, one with a sign "Closed-40 Week," another "Closed-40 Week," another "Closed-Holidays." Across the middle, in big type was "Justice." Among other things, the advertisement said: "Factories which can turn out 1000 instruments of war a week are only turning out 500! Why? Because there is a law which says a man should work only 40 hours per week! A law indeed! 40 hours of work! Is there a law which says our sons must fight only 40 hours a week or die only 40 hours a week?"

Two professors in the economics department of the university wrote a letter to the newspaper in which they said there was no law "which restricts hours in any industry, defense or non-defense," and asked if they might have an opportunity to appear at the meeting and speak.

The two men were Wendell Gordon and W. N. Peach. The newspaper replied that their letter had been turned over to the committee in charge of the meeting. They got no answer from the committee.

Refused Opportunity to Speak

THEY WENT to the meeting, accompanied by two other professors, Fage Foster and Dr. D. V. Carlson, the latter a visiting assistant professor of economics. They saw the chairman of the meeting, Karl Hoblitzelle, a moving picture magnate, and asked if one of them might address the meeting for two minutes to explain that there was no law restricting work hours to 40 hours a week, but that the act simply required overtime pay beyond those hours.

They were refused. They sat through the meeting, at which the principal speakers were Mr. Hoblitzelle, the Rev. Umphrey Lee and the late Rev. George S. Truett. They did not attempt to speak from the floor. Later Messrs. Gordon, Peach and Foster drafted a signed statement which they sent to the Dallas News and which was published. It follows:

"In connection with the allegedly spontaneous 'mass meeting' held in FPA (Fair Park auditorium) Sunday, we should like to make the following comments:

"1. The mass meeting was not spontaneous—but was very organized.

"2. The meeting was not democratically conducted—but all volunteer speakers were refused.

"3. Speakers were not selected on the basis of representation—but on the basis of previously assured viewpoint.

"4. The pretended fairness at the meeting was smoothly circumvented—condemning all sides in general and labor in particular."

Appointments Not Renewed

FEDERAL JUDGE T. W. DAVIDSON wrote a letter to the nine members of the board of regents complaining about the three professors. The board asked Dr. Rainey to have the budget council of the university investigate the facts.

On the basis of the facts, it found that the three professors acted within their rights and privileges as citizens and as teachers as defined in the rules of the university. This was on April 2, 1942.

The board, at a meeting June 27 and 28 declined to renew their appointments, holding that they had violated the rules. It was announced that the vote was unanimous, but it turned out later that only six of the nine members were present, and the vote was four to two for dismissal.

It was the dismissal of the three professors which brought the intercession of the American Association of University Profess