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Wisdom Of Tradition

People are so forgetful that at times they even turn against their own traditions.

Now it seems the United States is faced with a presidential demand for universal military training as a "means of strengthening the security" of the nation. The people of the country, beset and confused by the carefully highlighted dangers that are internationally lying in wait for the future, are divided, with many of them feeling that perhaps there is an advantage in preparedness.

What must be faced in any fair estimate of the UMT program is that the cost to the nation would total \$1,750,000,000 each year plus the loss in goods and services which would result from the withdrawal of about one million men from productive work, during their training period.

With U. S. commitments by the Marshall plan flitting benignly in the billions, destined within restrictions to the rehabilitation of Europe, there should really be a little slowdown in less necessary expenditures. And of all things this nation needs, UMT seems to be about the least.

Farm, labor, church and social organizations are leading opponents to the president's suggested change in the restrictions of the United States. They seem to see in the proposal an insidious threat of a newer more disastrous war as well as a dangerous fallacy behind which no people can effectively hide.

President Truman apparently believes, or through his advisors is led to assume, that the world is definitely divided into two spheres of power which cannot be other than conflicting. It is also accepted, at the White House, that a war with Russia is so inevitable that not more than ten years respite separates us from probably, the most bitter—and final—war in history.

If President Truman is gifted with conclusive evidence of the future's portent, his proposal of a staggering armed forces expenditure would still seem poorly advised.

History has showed the course of downfall which other nations followed by way of conscription in peacetime and a staggering arms budget. Recent examples of France and Norway, to cite but two examples, show how utter the fallacy of a conscripted defense against invasion.

The true security for any nation is in its technical and industrial strength. Giving an annual class of 18-year-old lads one year in uniform, then considering them a reserve of strength against any offenses will add very little in the technical skills required.

As General Eisenhower has indicated, the sum of training value from such a program of universal conscription would be the indoctrination and regimentation to the military view. In plainer words, a conscription graduate would know who to salute and be able to sing the glories of the military with slightest provocation.

It isn't so long ago that parents bade goodspeed to their young, as they embarked on a career of national defense. Have they forgotten, so soon, that they want a quicker, more terrible repetition of the latest edition of World War?

It doesn't seem possible that any national leader would abandon any possible alternative to war. It doesn't seem logical that a civilization which likes to boast of its refinement must gather its atom bombs into a pile and recklessly thumb its nose at the rest of the world.

Desperate problems of hunger, malnutrition and shattered health and spirit in Europe complicates the movement for world peace. And until these problems are solved, suspicion and antagonism will flourish among all the nations of the world.

We have a United Nations. We have a World Court. We should have a deep distaste of a recurrently outbreaking world war, after two sieges of it.

Why can't the money and the time spent in trying to conscript the youth of the nation be turned to the development of industrial and technical skills which, in time of war need, would be sounder and more valued than a reserve of conscript-trainees?

Our nation will do much better by following the wisdom of its own tradition, in this matter.

W.K.

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BABSON DISCUSSES WEATHER

Letters are coming to me stating that the Old Farmers' Almanac is forecasting a summer for 1948 similar to that famous summer of 1816 when there was freezing, or at least a frost, every month of the year. Upon reading carefully this publication, I do not find such a statement, although it describes this cold summer of 1816. This fact might lead a reader naturally to think that a similar summer is expected in 1948.

WHAT ABOUT SUNSPOTS?

There are many people who believe that a very close relationship exists between weather conditions and sunspots. Those who are interested in the details of such a study should write to Professor H. C. Willett, Meteorology Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., or Professor H. T. Stetson, author of "Sunspots in Action", c/o Ronald Press, 15 East 26th

Street, New York 10, N. Y. Probably there is some connection between sunspots and both crops and business which we do not yet understand. The science of all forecasting is in its infancy. Briefly the sunspot theory is that when these spots are very brilliant and active, we suffer from either, or both, very hot and very cold weather. It is further true that these sunspots will be brilliant in 1948.

On the other hand, since the cold summer of 1816, when the sunspots were very brilliant, there have been many other years when the sunspots were equally brilliant and when none of the corresponding years were badly upset by weather conditions. Therefore, as a statistician, I would say that there is no existing evidence for farmers to worry about concerning sunspots, although there may be much for the radio broadcasting companies to

worry about from sunspots. In short, all scientists believe that sunspots have an important effect upon the vegetation of the earth as well as upon the men and animals—but not enough evidence exists to enable forecasts to be based thereon.

1816 COLD SUMMER

After careful study of this famous 1816 summer, I conclude that the cause of the low temperatures was the dust in the air covering the skies of the entire world. It was a year of several volcanoes in action. These might well have caused dust in the air which could shut out the sunshine. I further understand that certain other cold summers have come along in conjunction with many dust storms and other causes.

The above is not saying that 1948 may not witness a cold summer, but farmers and others will be wise to plan upon normal weather, at least so far as temperature is concerned. As to rain-

fall, this seems to follow a cycle and many sections of the United States are now entering a dry cycle. Crops which can prosper with little rainfall are to be preferred during 1948.

IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSIFICATION

The failure of certain crops due to a wet spring or early frost, or too much or too little rainfall, may be expected almost any year. On the other hand, as years go on, each crop failure should be less disastrous than preceding ones owing to the lessons which may be learned. The important thing, however, which all farmers and others interested in farm crops should recognize is the importance of diversification of both location and rotation so that a fair portion of the crops will come through safely whatever may happen to certain other crops.

PURCHASING A FARM

Now a word of advice to those who are looking for farms, but have not yet purchased one: Get a farm in the central part of the country which is not too subject either to dry spells or wet spells. Buy a farm equally divided between upland and bottomland, with some woodland and with an independent water supply. Before making any purchase, visit the new U. S. irrigation developments in the southwest. They are worthy of careful study as the so-called "Arid" land is very very rich. The very fact that it has not had rainfall, causes it to retain the minerals and vitamins which have been largely washed out of much farm land subject to normal rainfall throughout the centuries.

THREE EQUESTRIENNES

Sunny Sanborn, Judy Holmes and Ruth Rogers went horseback riding on Saturday.

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