

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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AUTO CUT

That fanfare OPM cut of 26 1/2 per cent in auto production drew no cheers from war department chiefs. To them it was a big disappointment.

First of all the cut looks a lot bigger than it actually is. For one thing the OPM carefully did not reveal in its hoopla press releases was the fact that even with this curtailment auto production still will be 10 per cent greater than in 1938 and 1939.

In other words, notwithstanding the increasing shortage of strategic raw materials, such as steel, rubber, alloys and other metals, auto production is to continue at levels higher than in the peaceful years of '38 and '39.

Another reason for the army gloom was that it wanted an immediate cut of at least 50 per cent.

For months war department heads pleaded and argued with OPM moguls for drastic curtailment, on the ground that the material going into pleasure cars are desperately needed for planes, tanks, ships, guns and other vital armaments. But for months the OPM masterminds did absolutely nothing.

Finally, in July, scrappy OPACS Director Leon Henderson, who has seen eye-to-eye with the army on this issue from the start, took the bull by the horns and "ordered" a 50 per cent slash.

OPM's reaction was to hit the ceiling. It refused to accept the ruling. And while OPM battled behind the scenes with OPACS, autos continued to roll off assembly lines in record-breaking numbers. However, Henderson's bare-knuckling finally took effect. The 26 1/2 per cent cut is a little less than half of what the army and Henderson wanted, but it is 6 1/2 per cent more than OPM's original figure.

### TANKS FOR BRITAIN

Some time ago the Merry-Go-Round revealed that a chief objective of Lord Beaverbrook's visit was to get more tanks—tanks for Iran; tanks for Egypt, tanks eventually for an invasion of the continent. Beaverbrook particularly wanted the new powerful 32 tonners that soon will roll off the Chrysler assembly line at the rate of 450 a month.

It can now be revealed that the British supply minister will not go home empty handed. He will take back with him very cheering assurances regarding the division of these tanks between the U. S. and British armed forces. But that isn't the end of his tank problem.

Allotting tanks to the British in this country is one thing, but delivering them across the Atlantic is another.

In fact, the problem of transporting large numbers of 32-ton tanks is the toughest shipping problem maritime experts have faced since the magnetic mine, which ravaged shipping until the de-magnetizing devices were evolved.

In a nutshell here is the problem: For every shipload of light 12 ton tanks sent to England or Africa, the same ship plus nearly three-fourths of another ship would be required to transport the same number of 32-ton tanks. In other words, they are bigger. Translated into specific figures—that 26-ship convoy which landed 560 light tanks at Alexandria three months ago would have had to consist of 44 vessels to carry the same number of medium tanks.

With shipping scarcer than hen's teeth, a difference of 18 ships is an extremely important factor. Also, the necessity of traveling in slow convoys further reduces the amount of shipping available. Some experts estimated this reduction as high as 50 per cent. In addition the British sometimes take an excessively long time to unload cargoes.

So the tank problem thus also becomes an acute shipping problem. One bright spot in the situation is the great reduction in ship losses in the last 60 days since the extension of the U. S. neutrality patrols. But the basic problem of securing more cargo bottoms still remains.

Note: Since January 1, U. S. shipyards have turned out a total of 56 cargo vessels.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

Army officers are singing the praises of 20th Century-Fox's Darryl Zanuck and many movie moguls for their big job in filming 100 reels of army training films. This was the first time training films have ever been taken, and Hollywood did them for 40 per cent of what it would have cost Hollywood itself to do the job. In other words, the army only had to pay union labor and cost of film. Hollywood supplying the studios, production, overhead and everything else.

The Washington Diplomatic corps is goggle-eyed over Mrs. Warren Pierson's new book, "The Good Neighbor Murder." Her husband is head of the Export-Import Bank which loans millions to the Good Neighbors.

Dr. I. Lubin, brilliant White House defense expert, is the most "officed" official in Washington. He has an office in the White House, another in the labor department as head of the bureau of labor statistics, a third in the labor division of OPM, and a fourth in the treasury as an adviser to Secretary Morgenthau.

# The Once Over

By H.I. Phillips  
LUKE AND ELMER ON THAT SEA CONFERENCE

"What do you think of the eight point program?" asked Luke Twitchell of his brother Elmer.

"Well, Wilson needed 14," replied Elmer. "So you see Roosevelt took six strokes off Woodrow's game."

"And Roosevelt is playing over a much tougher course," said Luke, always the golfer.

"I'll say so," agreed Elmer. "They didn't have so many hidden greens in Wilson's time, the course didn't cover so much territory and there were fewer contestants."

"I suppose it ain't quite right to speak of a terrible war like this in terms of golf," sighed Luke.

"Why not?" snapped Elmer. "It has all the violence, bad manners, cheating and general brutality of the public links game, anyhow."



"Why meet on a battleship to frame a program for peace and brotherly love?" asked Luke, plainly puzzled.

"Dramatic suspense, color, mystery and all that," explained Elmer. "It ain't so much what you do or say in a crisis like this. It's how you put it over. That meeting had everything but sex appeal."

"All it needed was some John Powers' models," nodded Luke.

"It got across without 'em," insisted Elmer, "but I wonder they weren't used, at that. John Bull and Uncle Sam are out to fire the imagination of the world, kindle the enthusiasms of all friends of freedom and get their message into the mikes and onto the front pages everywhere. And this sea huddle did it."

"Whoever thought Churchill, number one man of the British empire, would leave London, fly to sea and hold a conference with the President of the United States in mid-ocean? And who ever thought the President of the United States could drop everything at Washington to go to sea for the same purpose?" asked Luke.

"It would even have been cut out of a movie script as too far-fetched," declared Elmer. "Get the picture! Roosevelt gets on his yacht and disappears in one of the big moments of history. His disappearance is so complete even the news-reel men can't find him. The suspense is terrific. Democrats everywhere begin to fear something has happened to him."

"And Republicans begin to fear something has not," put in Luke.

"Rumors of a conference with Churchill at sea are spread, but discredited as something that the hair tonic company would delete as incredible even if Gabriel Heatter put it in his radio broadcast," continued Elmer. "Nevertheless it turns out to be the real McCoy."

"Can you imagine the fit Hitler must have thrown when he turned aside from his Russian blitz in what he thought was one of his big moments and realized that Winston and Frankie had grabbed all the headlines?" asked Luke.

"He's still howling," said Elmer.

"What do you think of the eight points themselves?" asked Luke.

"I don't see much new," replied Elmer. "They're just Wilson's old model streamlined and with the fluid drive. But there was nothing wrong with the 14 points except that we forgot 'em too soon."

"Do you think the Roosevelt-Churchill eight points could have been improved?" asked Luke.

"I do," declared Elmer.

"By what?" asked Luke.

"By a ninth point," snapped Elmer. "A ninth point pledging Uncle Sam and John Bull not to go to sleep standing up in the middle of a bowling alley."

### MORE REVIEW

Oh, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Despite each horrible new "facey"— No matter which you try to be I know you're simply Spencer Tracy.

Babs Morgan puts it this way, "When in Rome, do as the Germans do."

Martin Ragaway says Mussolini is so eclipsed lately that Hitler must be doing his publicity.

### DIFFICULTY IN A GAS ECONOMY DRIVE

Now if I should run out of gas Beside some rural fence, She thinks it's done to make a pass And not for home defense!

—Carl Holmquist

Athens, acting under Nazi orders, is to change the name of a main street from Franklin D. Roosevelt Boulevard to the Rue de la Paper-hanger or something. It will do it Hitler's own free will.

## Where One Died in Tornado



Shown here are the ruins of a cannery at Swedesboro, N. J., after a tornado had ripped it to pieces. George Hemple, of Swedesboro, was crushed to death when a 150-foot steel stack at the cannery fell on and smashed the truck in which he was sitting. Eighty others were injured in the cannery. Other sections of Delaware and New Jersey suffered damage from the storm.

## New 'Tank Killer' in Action



The U. S. army's provisional GHQ tank destroyer battalion unveiled its weapons at impressive demonstrations at Fort Meade, Md. This sound-photo shows a fast new "tank killer" (at left) firing its 75-mm weapon at tank (right) during tactical experiments in maneuvers.

## Duke of Kent Welcomed to New York



His royal highness, the duke of Kent, brother of King George VI of England, is welcomed to New York city by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia. The duke, in a plane of the Canadian air force, landed at LaGuardia field, where this picture was made. He took an automobile for Hyde Park, where he spent the week-end with President Roosevelt.

## Bombs Explode in Havana



A chain of five bombs rocked downtown Havana injuring 15 persons and wrecking store fronts. Police believe the bombs were thrown by an anti-Spanish political group. The store "La Moda," well known to tourists from Miami and other parts of the U. S., is shown after the blast.

## U. S. S. Silversides



The U. S. S. Silversides, another \$6,000,000 submarine for the navy, is launched at Mare island, Vallejo, Calif. Five other submarines are under construction at the Mare island navy yard. Mrs. James J. Hogan was sponsor.

## Shot by Assassin



Pierre Laval, foremost collaborator with German "new order," who was shot in Versailles by an assassin posing as a volunteer in French legion recruited to fight Russia.

## Now Serving Nation



Training schooner, Vema, one of America's largest yachts before conversion to U. S. service, sails from New York on maiden training cruise with some 100 apprentice seamen aboard. The ship was presented to Uncle Sam for \$1.

## Thumb Ride



A surprise strike of street car and bus operators caused 400,000 workers in Detroit to struggle with make-shifts. Here Evelyn Maleski and Daphne Hare are thumbing their way to work.

## A Slip in Your Manners Ruins a Nice Impression



SUCH a cute looking girl, he just had to tell her "I'm glad I met you!" But immediately she plants a doubt in his mind with her crude "It's mutual, I'm sure!" If only she'd learned a correct reply such as "I enjoyed meeting you, too!" As it is, he's glad he didn't ask her for a date—she might embarrass him wherever they'd go.

Our 32-page booklet explains what's correct for men and girls, when dancing, dining, driving, at theaters, on week-ends. Discusses petting, "good-night" kiss. Gives etiquette of introductions, travel, tipping. Send order to:

READER-HOME SERVICE - 117 Minna St. San Francisco, Calif. Enclose 10 cents in coins for your copy of ETIQUETTE FOR YOUNG MODERNS. Name..... Address.....

## Advantages of Difficulty

Difficulty is a severe instructor, set over us by the supreme ordinance of a parental guardian and legislator, who knows us better than we know ourselves; and He loves us better too. He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper. This amicable conflict with difficulty obliges us to an intimate acquaintance with objects, and compels us to consider it in all its relations. It will not suffer us to be superficial.—Burke.

## Nervous Restless Girls!

Cranky? Restless? Can't sleep? Tired easily? Because of distress of monthly functional disturbances? Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Pinkham's Compound is famous for relieving pain of irregular periods and crampy nervousness due to such disturbances. One of the most effective medicines you can buy today for this purpose—made especially for women. WORTH TRYING!

Once Begun—Dignity increases more easily than it begins.—Seneca.

## RAZOR BLADES

ASK YOUR DEALER FOR THE OUTSTANDING BLADE VALUE KENT BLADES. Double Edge 10 for 10c. Single Edge 7 for 10c. "TAKING THE COUNTRY BY STORM" KNOWN FROM COAST TO COAST. CUPPLES COMPANY - ST. LOUIS, MO.

Despised Danger Danger comes the sooner when it is despised.—Syrus.

San Francisco's Largest and Best Located Hotel. 1000 ROOMS, 1000 BATHS. \$4.00 ONE PERSON, \$6.00 TWO PERSONS. HOTEL ST. FRANCIS UNION SQUARE. MANAGEMENT DAN E. LONDON.

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## That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action. Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood. You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination. Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

## DOAN'S PILLS