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"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

Constitution Day

Monday was Constitution Day—U.S.A. Constitution Day, that is. The Constitution at its start was something brand new in the way of official papers. Those who put this great document together and signed it had pointed reasons for doing so. Getting this official paper approved by the individual states was no push over. The stony face of history proves that our government's founding fathers cut a governmental pattern in a common sense way.

It is said that our Constitution is a "living" thing. Let's see why. Events rocked along for the Constitution until the Civil War. Lincoln bluntly acted as if the Constitution were here for good. Lincoln, with some pretty good help, proved he was right in the action he took. Before his tragic death, certain special "interests" saw in our Constitution an element of "first come—first served". An anti-South U. S. Supreme Court realized this also and thereby declared a corporation a "person". This decision meant that a corporation has the same rights as you and I.

Lincoln snorted in dismay at this trend of government. Andrew Johnson tried re-constructing the battered South as Lincoln would have. Johnson got himself impeached and almost convicted by Congress for his effort. Incidentally the South is still bleeding because of this ridicule of Johnson, Lincoln's vice president. Civil War General U. S. Grant, next president of the U.S.A., had a tough time getting anything constructive done by Congress. The Negro, in effect, had lost the vote he had got under Lincoln and the amended Constitution—northern carpet baggers saw to that! The South thus became a fountain of cheap labor.

Judges of the U. S. Supreme Court kept the Constitution in this rut until President Franklin D. Roosevelt came along. Enough of the judges retired or died until a new court came to life. These men put the power of our Constitution behind the express wishes of citizens. So-called "constitutionalists" have been raising heck about this trend since. Taft says what the U.S.A. did and is doing in Korea is "unconstitutional". The voters will have their say on this issue—come November, 1952.

This right of the vote proves again that there is blood and muscle in our Constitution. The Constitution's usefulness was shown when its power was used in dismissing MacArthur. At present an anti-communist conspiracy law is operating with the approval of the U. S. Supreme Court. This law is a ticklish one for our Nation. Australia is meeting this matter face to face. That Nation's citizens are voting whether or not they will outlaw the communist party. At present the Australian constitution—like ours—does not allow outlawing the communist party.

Yes, our Constitution is great, but the citizens of the U.S.A. are greater. Citizens' wishes are commands to the living Constitution—may it always be so! Let us hope our Constitution weathers the topsy-turvy years ahead as it has the hectic years in the past. May our Constitution remain always the sinew of justice and equality.

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GOOD HEALTH



Answer to Question No. 1:

1. Only thirty years ago operations on the lungs were great rarities and were performed with most elaborate apparatus. Most of these early operations were fatal. Today operations on the lungs are performed frequently for tumors and tuberculosis. Many patients have complete recovery, due to exceptional advances in surgery. Recent research indicates that humans may live if as much as 75% of the lung tissue has been removed.

Answer to Question No. 2:

2. If the pupils of the eye fail to contract when a light is shown

near them, it may reveal disfunction of certain nerves and brain centers. Only a doctor is able to judge the exact meaning of the reaction to conduct further tests if necessary.

Answer to Question No. 3:

3. Pruritis is a medical term which merely means itching. However, it differs from the itch caused by a mosquito bite or poison ivy, in that pruritis refers to the itching which comes from no obvious cause. It sometimes occurs in such conditions as jaundice, diabetes, or just plain "nerves".

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Editorial Comments:

JAPAN'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE

We didn't notice any dancing in the streets after the signing of the Japanese peace treaty.

If Americans felt any satisfaction, it was a mild and negative satisfaction in the fact that Gromyko was stymied in his attempts to gum up the works at San Francisco.

Our pride in the treaty itself, in the generous and far-sighted terms of our peace with Japan, is a little uncomfortable because there are some twinges of doubt about the treaty's success in operation. We know we are taking a calculated risk when we base our hopes for permanent Western alignment by Japan on faith, and little else. This "treaty of reconciliation" is an experiment, and nobody knows how it will turn out.

It is a good thing that the U. S.-Japanese security treaty was signed almost simultaneously with the peace treaty. At least, the West is assured military bases in Japan. As New York Times Military Analyst Hanson Baldwin says, it lays the cornerstone for the structure of a multilateral Pacific "alliance" against communist aggression. It makes Japan a potential bastion, filling the gap in the strategic line from the Aleutians to Okinawa and the Philippines.

But it doesn't settle the role—invariably a major role—to be played by a renaissance Japan in the Pacific, a Japan which will re-emerge as a great industrial and military power.

And the peace treaty doesn't define that role, either; it merely gives Japan the center of the stage and the right to ad lib.

From now on, except for a few restrictions, the Japanese people will have to decide for themselves what they will do with their military, industrial, political potentials. Up to now Japan's decisions have been made for her by American planners and her national shortages supplied by American funds. The U. S. will continue to be responsible for Japan's military defense "indefinitely," but that does not mean forever. Technically, the U. S. will not continue to be responsible for Japan's economic and political future. And that's where the big trouble lies.

For Japan's central difficulty remains today what it was before Pearl Harbor: overpopulation, not enough

land, not enough food, not enough raw materials. This situation is what made Japan an aggressive, opportunistic nation in the past; this situation necessarily will determine what Japan will be in the future. An aggressive Japan, seeking to gain new territory, new resources, through war is ruled out by the terms of the two treaties for the time being. But an opportunistic Japan, seeking to re-open the old markets in China or establish new trade with other communist-controlled countries (and through trade agreements entering into political agreements, too), is not unlikely. Nor is it unlikely that an opportunistic Japan may feel that the U.S., committed to the containment of communism, is "over a barrel" for any Japanese demands.

Even if Japan and the other signatories hold to the letter of the treaty, the spirit of the treaty may be violated. Japan herself honestly may try to become a nation in good standing among other free nations, but her old enemies, out of a lingering wish for revenge or self-interest, may force Japan into an antagonistic position. If the former allies against Japan refuse to ratify the treaty, or press too hard the issue of reparations-by-labor, or pass trade restrictions that will make Japan's economic position impossible, then we can expect no good results for our efforts. Seeing to it that everyone lives up to the spirit of the treaty will become a new diplomatic burden for the United States, and thus this country will still be partly responsible for Japan's future.

So there isn't any dancing in the streets; there is only the feeling of relief of one job done, and the hope that it will turn out to be a good job.
—From The Statesman

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