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"Nothing Can Shake Us"

(Christian Science Monitor)

It was Marshal Foch who said, "The moral factor is the most important element in war." This truth needs emphasis today on the battlefield of American opinion even more than on the front lines in Yugoslavia, Greece, and Britain. The mental effects of the German Army's truly lightning strokes appear just now to be most devastating on the radio and cable front.

Attempts to blink the seriousness of the situation are as foolish as panic. It is both untrue and dangerous to pretend that the German break through, the splitting of the Yugoslav forces and the loss of Salonika are not heavy blows. Yet now is the time to resist the extremes of despair which are as unjustified as were the air castles built on Yugoslav resistance.

Adversity seems to stun some people; others it arouses. The Greeks certainly come in the latter category. They had been beating one giant. Attacked by a second mechanical monster they held brilliantly, stubbornly. With one army cut off by the failure of the Serbs to hold the Vardar Valley, with Athens bombed, they say: "We know how to fight and will not be influenced by unfavorable turns. Nothing can shake us until final victory."

It should be noticed in addition that the Greeks are not asking, "Where are the British?" As everyone knows by now, the Greeks had agreed with the British on a defense line back of Salonika.

Whether that line can be held now is not clear. Indeed judgments based on military forces and dispositions are particularly unsound at this time. Greek morale and the known courage of the Yugoslavs and British are the firmest factors in the picture.

How about American opinion, also now committed to Nazi defeat? Will Americans be stunned or stirred by these new blows? Will they join the plainly imperilled Greeks in saying, "Nothing can shake us?" We believe they will. And that they will take practical steps to back up their feeling.

Those with eyes to see have understood for a long time that the present struggle was basically mental and moral in character. If Marshal Foch, taught as a military commander to count men and materials, could see that in the physical combat itself the moral factor is paramount, how much more sharply should be our perception of its importance in the kind of struggle that now engulfs the world? And how resolute should be our determination to hold the vital second line of opinion, where moral and mental factors are even more visible! Let us recall Elisha's prayer that his servant's eyes be opened.

Law Requires Protection of Merchant Fleet, Says F. D. R.

WASHINGTON, April 16 (U.P.)—President Roosevelt said yesterday that the United States is obligated by federal law to protect its merchant ships outside combat zones. But he left unanswered the volatile convoy question.

Refusing to discuss whether the need for use of U. S. naval power to protect shipments of materials is growing more acute, Mr. Roosevelt told his press conference that a lot of nonsense has been printed on this subject by people who don't know a hill of beans about it.

He said that although he personally knows a little something about the subject, he would hesitate to comment on the question of convoys.

Federal Law
As for this government's obligation to protect its merchant vessels outside combat zones, he emphasized that this is definite under federal law and is not a question of administration policy. Further, he dismissed, as merely the talk of orators, reports that American merchant ships might be armed.

His remarks followed renewed charges by Sen. Charles W. Tobey, (R-N. H.), that American

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VOX



Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 500 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcome.

SUBMARINES

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor) — The submarine, also camouflage, have their counterpart in the insect world. Children exploring ponds and creeks for animals for their aquarium circus often find a mud colored monster with an almost uncanny extension jaw. This common dweller below the water is the larva of the dragon fly. When an adult, it earns the name of "swiftest of winged creatures." Then it is bedecked with flashing sapphire, emerald or garnet in its nursery in the mud, however, its dress is camouflaged and is the color of the muck in which it awaits its next meal. Children delight in watching it use its extension jaw, which it shoots out to seize unsuspecting prey.

Every child should have an aquarium with such occupants as the larvae of the damselfly and of the dragon fly. One needs only a glass fruit jar, and a handful of sand, and some clear water.

Respectfully,
C. M. GOETHE.

PROVERBS

Proverbs pass from hand to hand And eventually come to every man;

Though we scoff them as unwise Perhaps 'tis best we realize,

They were spoken in days gone by. After a man had failed in his try.

J. GROVES.

Insects Fight Prickly Pear

The prickly pear, which is a curse in Australia, is being fought by means of insects imported from Texas. They have already cleared several thousand acres.

Ex-Red Editor On Stand for U. S. In Bridges Hearing

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16 (U.P.)—Howard Rushmore, communist editor and organizer for five years, testified Tuesday the communist newspaper Daily Worker considered Harry Bridges a "sacred cow" who should always be praised and never criticized.

Rushmore was expelled from the party in 1939 because he refused to write an unfavorable review in the Daily Worker of the movie "Gone With the Wind."

Sole Witness

He was the sole government witness Tuesday in the Bridges deportation hearing. The government seeks to deport Bridges, California CIO director, back to his native Australia on grounds he cooperated with or was a member of an organization advocating overthrow of the U. S. government by force.

Government Attorney Albert Del Guercio said he believed Bridges was a member of the communist party "from 1932 to the present time." In questioning Rushmore, he asked him if in his experience any non-communist was ever given such favorable treatment by the Daily Worker as Bridges.

"No person who ever deviated from the party line," said Rushmore, "was ever given consistently such favorable treatment."

Courthouse Records

TUESDAY Sentence

State of Oregon versus Hugo E. Beske. Defendant charged with forgery. Plead guilty, sentenced to four years in state penitentiary.

Justice Court

J. R. Williams, forgery. Preliminary hearing. Bound over to grand jury.
Carl Raymond Jarrett, no PUC permit. Fined \$10.
Edwin Horace Wagner, no PUC permit. Fined \$10.

Your chance is coming — to meet "Lady Eve"

Hawaii Has Third Plane Crackup In 24-Hour Period

HONOLULU, T. H., April 16 (U.P.)—An army pursuit plane and a navy plane crashed in mid-air yesterday in Hawaii's third military airplane accident within 24 hours.

The army announced 2nd Lieut. Ellis W. Wright, Jr., 24, air corps reserve stationed at Wheeler field, parachuted from the army plane, landed in the ocean and swam safely ashore. He was the only occupant of the army plane.

The navy plane was not identified and it was not disclosed immediately how many persons were aboard it and whether they escaped in the crash.

The collision reportedly occurred at 1000 feet altitude over Paumotu beach.

Dollar-a-Year Men Scarce In Democrat List

WASHINGTON, April 16 (U.P.)—President Roosevelt said today he asked OPM Director General William S. Knudsen why a list of \$1 a year men submitted for his approval contained only republicans.

Haven't you been able to find any democrats? The president asked Knudsen.
Knudsen's answer, according to the president, was: There are no democrats rich enough to serve for \$1 a year.

LOTS OF CALLS

Annually, each American makes an average of 223 telephone calls, with 1000 such calls being handled every second. This amounts to more than 91,000,000 calls a day.

LOSING WEIGHT

Reflecting the development and use of better steel, modern airplane engines weigh about one pound per horsepower, as compared to 21 pounds per horsepower in the first engine of the Wright brothers.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, April 16—No one knew two weeks ago that a Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact would be signed—especially not the Russians or the Japanese. Not even a week ago did they consider it possible. But about six days back Herr Hitler started putting the heat on Stalin. Vague stories planted by him came from a variety of European sources suggesting the Nazi armies might move into the rich red wheat and oil sources of Bessarabia and the Ukraine. He even fooled the British political master, Winston Churchill, who aired such a possibility in parliament in hopes of arousing the Russians to resentment.

Hitler knew the Reds better than Churchill. His scare campaign caused Stalin to drop demands he had made in all previous discussions about a non-aggression pact. The Red leader hurriedly abandoned his insistence upon control of the Chinese-Eastern railway, a bigger share of oil from the Siberian-Pacific islands and territorial acquisitions as his price for such a pact.

This means Hitler alone made the treaty, and Hitler alone is apt to benefit.

HITLER'S PLAN

The treaty is no better than the trust which the Russians and Japanese have for each other—which is nil. The Russians had a non-aggression treaty with Finland before attacking that nation. They had a non-aggression treaty with Poland, reaffirmed a few months before Stalin stabbed that nation in the back after Germany had tied its hands.

The word of the Japanese is no better. Consequently it might be said superficially (and has been said officially here) the treaty is meaningless.

Unfortunately Hitler, the maker of the treaty, is likely to give it meaning. The Japanese do not want to move further south in the Pacific at this moment, and force us to war, but Hitler does. The business element in Japan is decidedly against taking on the United States. So are the people. Matsukata himself is known to favor delay of southern expansion until some big break like German conquest of Britain or American involvement in the Atlantic, would make the task easy.

But Hitler wants our fleet kept busy in the Pacific and expects Japan to do it. Up to now the Japs have always excused themselves by telling Hitler they dare not move southward as Russia would immediately be on their necks.

This treaty, therefore, destroys the main Japanese alibi for avoiding war. If Hitler can push that grumbling country into war with us now to serve his purposes, he will do it.

GHOSTS WALK

Ben Cohen, who is ghosting economics and law for Ambassador Winant in London, may return within 60 days to take a large seat in SEC, the government traffic cop for Wall street. His old twin White House ghost, Tom Corcoran, has acquired the nest egg for which he left government service to render private legal advice, and is looking forward to a prominent position in the defense setup, when Mr

SIDE GLANCES



"I'll have to cut down on my knitting for all these audacious cities—it's too much coffee and cake for one day!"

Roosevelt comes out with a speedup plan shortly.

CHINESE AID

The greatest foreign relief fund yet, is being organized for China by a prominent New York crowd led by a magazine publisher. They are supposed to have \$5,000,000 pledged before they start. Advice on Chinese needs has been given them by the president's emissary, Laughlin Currie.

HULL'S JOB

FDR has come to rely almost entirely on State Secretary Hull to handle foreign policy. The president has been busy with defense. Since Hull's recently expanded influence at the White House, his authority has never been questioned.

TERMITES

Prize story of pudgy Representative Albert Engel, who conducted a one-man inquiry into the army camp construction is that at Indian Gap, Pa., \$15,000 was spent to termite-proof the cantonments, although there is a 300-year-old building on the grounds which shows no signs of termites.

Portland Member Opposes Bridges for Longshore Job

LOS ANGELES, April 16 (U.P.)—Harry Bridges has opposition for reelection as president of the CIO-International Longshoremen's union for the first time in four years.

Robert T. Baker, member of the executive board of the Portland, Ore., local—which Bridges has spanked verbally at the convention which ended Monday night—is the other nominee.

The union's 50,000 members will vote locally in 30 days. The victor will hold office two years, instead of one, under a Bridges-sponsored constitutional change. Bridges has held the office five years.

Delegates adopted a resolution asking that all union officials be granted exemption from military conscription because "strong, well led unions are necessary to true national defense."

John Brost of Seattle opposed the action. He said "I was a volunteer in the last war and if

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