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F. A. BLETHEN and WM. K. BLETHEN, Vice Presidents & Associate Publishers

OUR PROGRAM—To do our best for Our City, Our State, Our Nation and for LASTING PEACE

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1945

Open Pathways of Peace Well Mapped Out for Us

THOSE who had been letting themselves worry about our government's unreadiness to deal with problems that must at once ensue upon the return of peace should be feeling a little bit easier each day as they read the news. So far there is no evidence of unreadiness. On the contrary, the atomic bomb which carried final conviction to the Tokyo war lords, also gave signal for release of many "directives" in Washington, D. C., all of them relating to reconversion of the national economy from war to peace.

Under President Truman's instructions, many changes, for which preparation must have been made well in advance of war's end, are being put into effect with celerity. Some wartime rationing programs already have been, as they say, "de-programmed," and others relaxed. Manpower control has been abandoned; wages are no longer frozen; prices are in process of readjustment to amend inequities.

War contracts running into billions of dollars have been cancelled. All agencies of government have been called upon to turn unexpended balances back to the Treasury. Official report is that a moderate tax cut for everybody is likely by the end of this year. There is no apparent tendency to overhaste, nor any sign of confusion. There had been much thought and planning, and many decisions had been reached, before Japan, or even Germany, gave up.

Most of the changes so far ordered are gratifying to the American people. Willing as they have been to give for war and to forgo everything necessary to win the war, they are no less eager to resume the pursuits of peace and the normal way of American life. No one is so hopeful as to think the turnover can be completed without hitch or difficulty; but the promptness with which the transitional wheels have been set turning is reassuring to all.

There is, of course, much talk of unemployment and some apprehension of its scope and duration. Workers are being dropped from war industry payrolls everywhere, and the rate of release from the armed forces is being accelerated. Various estimates of the number of the unemployed by the year's end range from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000. At either figure, actual unemployment would present a serious problem.

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THERE seems, however, too much inclination to associate prospective unemployment with the unemployment of the long pre-war economic depression. A flat comparison would be erroneous. In that depression, everybody was hard up; millions of our people had lost their money, their property, and had no jobs. No remedy was found in wholesale boondoggling by government. We were jarred back into activity by the fearsome threat of war.

Today's situation is vastly different. Of the millions quitting war industries, comparatively few are penniless. The great majority have been thrifty. Of these workers and of the men and women quitting the armed services, comparatively few are bewildered as to what they shall do next. It is discreditable to the American spirit to assume anywhere from 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 Americans have no definite plans for their immediate future; no idea of how they are to make a living.

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FOR any interim we have assurance in law that veterans will be given full attention until firmly placed in employment. We have, also, the very recent report of the Social Security Board that no less than 36,000,000 American workers are now protected with unemployment insurance.

The bridge seems fairly safe; the distance to full peace-time employment and production not too far. Day by day news shows President Truman right on the job, and well-advised. Pulling along together, we have no reason to anticipate a serious slump.

Unnecessary Provocation

VARIOUS agencies of our federal government, the War Relocation Authority in particular, have shown much concern for the reasonable treatment of Japanese as they return to the Pacific Coast area from which they were taken en masse at the beginning of war.

All those given permission to return are said to have been tested for their loyalty to the United States. There is much deserved mention of the great gallantry and splendid achievements of the Japanese-American troops, who have fought side-by-side with our other forces in both European and Pacific theatres. There is every good reason to deal fairly with these people, most of whom are native-born American citizens.

But we are not sure that the government itself, or the War Department, is helping to relieve such tension as may exist by bringing Japanese prisoners of war all the way across the ocean to be detained in Pacific Coast prison camps. Their attitude is uniformly sullen; their presence in any numbers can only serve to keep bitterness alive. They should be kept, for as long as may be necessary, on those capacious islands our forces have wrested from them and still occupy.

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The status of Puerto Rico, says its governor, Rexford Guy Tugwell, is "as muddled and confused as ever." Which is to be expected, since Rexford Guy Tugwell is still Puerto Rico's governor.

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Petain Is Spared

MARSHAL PETAIN will not be put to death in conformity with the sentence passed upon him by what the French call their High Court of Justice. General De Gaulle has commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. This, it seems, is as far as the French system permits De Gaulle to go.

The old marshal, now past 89, will be let live, and perhaps in nominal custody, rather than behind prison bars. It is incredible that many of the French people could have wished to see him executed. But they all love a show, and, in their revived appreciation of liberte, egalite, fraternite, felt they must have a scapegoat. To meet this public demand, all the political dodgers of France ganged up against Petain.

The show is over. We are glad De Gaulle acted so promptly. He will be all the more cordially received on his arrival in Washington, D. C., this week.

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The grand prize for history's colossal understatement goes to Hirohito. "The war situation," quoth he, "has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage."

Top News of the Country Soon Will Be Labor Crisis

—By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON—A labor-management crisis of far-reaching proportions is on the way. The sudden removal from the jurisdiction of the War Labor Board of voluntary increases in pay—either agreed upon by an employer and his employes or acquiesced in by his employes—is conditioned on the willingness of the employer to forgo any increase in the prices of his product.

But where the employer thinks the increased cost of wages merits a rise in the price of his goods, he must have War Labor Board approval and also that of the O. P. A. The big question is what is to happen when the employes think the raise can be given without the price increase and when they declare that the increased wage should come out of profits.

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ONE argument will be made that the cost of the increased wages is a deductible expense from taxes and hence costs the employer only 20 or 30 per cent of the amount of the increase involved. Another argument will be that since overtime pay would be offset by increased wages and shorter hours, the product will not need a price rise. There is a fallacy in this, of course, because reduced hours mean reduced output per man unless some speed-up process is developed.

Plant management, under the rules lifting the lid on voluntary wage increases, is to face many controversial problems and it must not be overlooked that what the President has announced applies only to wage increases. No reduction in wages can be made without War Labor Board approval. This may in some instances even prevent reduction in overtime pay where it was customarily paid before October, 1942.

The wage and salary stabilization law, which provides the authority to approve or disapprove wage increases, runs until July 1, 1946, and it specifically states that wage reductions are prohibited unless approved by the War Labor Board or the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which handles the items above $5,000 a year.

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THE immediate effect of the action taken last week may be to stimulate a wave of strikes. The new order catches both management and labor by surprise.

The unions in particular are not ready for it. Their spokesmen in many instances have been using the threat of a strike vote or a work stoppage to force employers and even the War Labor Board to act. Now, however, they will not have any government agency to fall back on.

They really take the responsibility for ordering a strike and their members will vote knowing that a strike may actually mean a work stoppage and loss of pay.

The same thing applies to the employer who has upon occasion stalled along and refused to make concessions, believing that the buck could be passed to the War Labor Board and a strike thus avoided or indefinitely deferred. When an employer turns down a union demand now, he may be risking the outbreak of a strike. He must take responsibility for his decisions and will not be able to depend on a government agency to help him out.

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THERE are advantages and disadvantages in such a situation. Where labor and management units have developed a sense of responsibility and mutual respect, there will be agreements or submission to arbitration and an avoidance of strikes. Where exploiting union politicians or where inflexible-minded employers are involved, there will be friction and unemployment.

It is a time when patience and forbearance will be needed more than ever before. Strikes will not be popular with the workers. Employers, anxious to have time for reconversion and well-heeled in war profits, may think the present a time for an economic clash with the workers.

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PRESIDENT TRUMAN has announced that he will call a labor-management conference for September. Some agency of public members and regional panels will undoubtedly be set up to act as a successor to the War Labor Board and its regional boards.

But this will not be a compulsory arbitration agency. It will be a mediation tribunal supplemented by a strong group of government conciliators. The agency may make investigations and issue public statements on labor issues and on specific disputes.

Public opinion may be the chief reliance of the future in compelling both labor and management to assume greater responsibility. Congress will be asked to enact legislation carrying out such purposes. The labor problem will soon become the top news of the country.

The Literary Guidepost

—By W. G. ROGERS

SO FAR SO GOOD, by Charles Hanson Towne (Messner; $2)

"I WONDER what will happen tomorrow?"

Thus ends the autobiography of Charles Hanson Towne, poet, magazine editor, writer, discoverer of literary talent, columnist, radio commentator and actor.

Whatever happens, Towne will greet the event with zest. His story shows him a man of great talent for enjoying life and at 68 he still writes with a boyish enthusiasm for the world of letters.

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AS magazine editor and newspaper man, Towne knew about all the great writers of his period and he has many interesting stories to tell of these contacts.

Also, as magazine editor, he has seen rewards to writers rise steadily to almost undreamed of heights. For instance, around the turn of the century when he was with the Smart Set, the standard payment was 1 cent a word for prose and two bits a line for poetry. When another magazine announced a prize contest and promised to pay 5 cents a word for any usable submissions, Towne notes that it "sent the literati into a frenzy of delight and rival editors into confusion."

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TOWNE has a few stories concerning the suave and polished Edgar Saltus, a popular novelist of the glittering 80s and 90s, now all but forgotten.

Saltus, he says, "had small use for the writer who had not mastered his craft sufficiently to put down his thoughts in order, with few emotions later. 'Plasterers do not replaster and bricklayers don't relay bricks. Why should weavers of words have to be constantly changing their blocks of sentences? God deliver me from the amateurs in any art.'"

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MANY editors have claimed to have "discovered" O. Henry, but Towne's story is just about as good as anybody's. The fact seems to be that several editors pounced on him virtually simultaneously and without the slightest knowledge that others were equally electrified by a new talent.

Although Charles Hanson Towne probably is best known as a poet, his references to his own Pegasean flights are casual indeed. But he writes much about his poetic enthusiams: John Masefield, Richard LaGallienne, Bliss Carman, Edwin Markham among others.

This fuss they are making about splitting the atom seems to surpass in volume that which the copy editor makes when he finds a split infinitive.—**Walla Walla Union Bulletin.**

THE AFTERMATH -:- By Ding

Her 'Possessions' In the Far East Worrying France

—By PERTINAX

WASHINGTON—The provisional government of the French Republic is taking steps in Washington and London to have its position in Indo-China fully recognized.

The provisional government insists that its appointee—in all probability Rear Adm. Thierry d'Argenlieu—be empowered by the Allies to accept the submission of the Japanese armed forces in this French colony.

Other demands are that a French representative be admitted to append his signature to the deed of surrender which General MacArthur will hand to plenipotentiaries from Tokyo.

Also that French officers be temporarily stationed in every so-called "zone of surrender" (Manchuria, Thailand, Malaya, etc.), where, to meet local circumstances and requirements, Russian and British military leaders may consider it necessary to complement the terms imposed by the American commander in chief.

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THE French claim seems to have been given a favorable hearing, but whether practical arrangements have been made to date along the lines Paris desires is not known.

General de Gaulle and his colleagues realize that, for all essential purposes, the fate of Indo-China is to be settled within the near future and they don't want to leave anything to chance.

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ON the eve of the Berlin conference the authorities in Paris learned from outside sources that, in the initial talks they had before Premier Stalin's arrival, President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill agreed on the advisability of reestablishing all French rights and prerogatives in the Indo-Chinese union.

This brought great relief, since French colonial circles had long feared that the French possession in the Far East might be turned into an experimenting ground for some form of international trusteeship, with China and Australia possibly on the same footing in Hanoi and Saigon as France herself. In Paris, the decision reached by Messrs. Truman and Churchill was interpreted to mean that all such new-fangled schemes had been abandoned, as far as Indo-China was concerned.

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NEVERTHELESS, during the past few days the French have found fresh reasons for worry. In the first place, they have been told that Tonking might become a field of operations for the Chinese army if Japanese troops holding that area should not readily comply with General MacArthur's orders.

The Chinese, if given a chance to rule Tonking, however temporarily, would, of course, endeavor to profit by France's helplessness of today and try to recapture a region which slipped out of their overlordship some 60 years ago.

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IN the second place, it has dawned upon the French that the British high command in Burma—to be moved to Thailand at an early date—would be called upon to superintend the liquidation of Japanese rule in Indo-China.

When will it be possible for the French to have adequate military contingents on the spot, to do away with the humiliation of seeing their tasks performed by the British? The answer depends upon maritime transport and supplies, and obviously the French cannot do very much about it.

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MEANWHILE, the Paris government does not take it for granted that, in their eagerness to make Thailand a virtual British protectorate, all British agents will strictly refrain from initiatives dangerous to French Indo-China. At the turn of the century, before the entente cordiale was born, Thailand and the Mekong border lands were, between French and British, bitterly contested zones of influence.

A very discouraging feature of Anglo-French colonial relations in recent months has been the reopening of controversies which a wise diplomacy disposed of 40 years ago and more.

This week, in the conversations of General de Gaulle with President Truman and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Indo-China will be well in the foreground.

U. S. Least Scarred By War of All Fighting Nations

—By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON—America is emerging from the war as the strongest power in the world, not only militarily, but economically and politically.

President Truman, according to those who have been at his side daily since he became the nation's chief executive, intends to exploit fully this situation for the good of the world and not for any special territorial or economic advantages for the United States. With the exception of certain strategic islands in the Pacific needed for America's defense, this country seeks neither territorial aggrandizement nor "special" economic privileges.

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AMERICA'S allies probably are more aware than we ourselves of the tremendous power of this country. The United States Navy is stronger today than the combined navies of the world, and its officers and enlisted personnel have demonstrated a fighting ability which is being recognized—without grudge—even by the British Navy, which in the past claimed that it ruled the seas.

Ameriean aviation is equally considered the strongest in the world—in numbers, the quality of its material, and the skill of its crews.

Our Army, while numerically smaller than Russia's army, has proved its mettle on the battlefields of Europe and Asia. Although it is expected to be drastically reduced within a reasonable time, the fact that we were able to build a first-class force from scratch soon after the Pearl Harbor disaster indicates that its future reduced size need not worry those Americans who now think in global terms.

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THERE is no question that other countries with vastly larger populations, such as China and Russia, will—if they think it necessary—be able to have larger ground forces than this country. But numbers alone have never been sufficient to bring victory. America is more than ever top-ranking in industrial production and its population can be trained in a short time to use the most up-to-date equipment when it must be done, in the case of an emergency.

Because of this tremendous strength, which is so well known to our present allies and our former foes, President Truman is looking optimistically to the future. America's present might is due not only to the fact that it has the wherewithal to fight any combination of nations, should they decide to gang up on her—a highly hypothetical situation—but also because, politically, she is far steadier than any other country in the world.

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THE war leaves us with some deep scars; we have exhausted much of our raw materials and the nation is burdened with an unbelievably heavy debt. But political corrosion as it exists in Europe, where new ideologies are being rammed down the throats of her inhabitants, do not exist in this country.

The state secret police, which exists today either in a virulent or latent form both in Europe and Asia, is unknown in this country, where there is no interference with individual freedom and the right of expression. The few restrictions which were ordered as a matter of war security, or were self-imposed so as not to interfere with the prosecution of the war, have ended with the surrender of Hirohito.

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EUROPE is in the midst of a revolution, due to unbelievable hardships. These hardships, together with the lamentable failure of democracy as it had been practiced on the Continent before 1939, are causing the present political strife in all the countries from the English Channel to the Elbe River.

A similar situation exists in Asia, where hundreds of millions of Indians are endeavoring to gain their freedom by all available means.

Battle-scarred China also is seething. A strong-willed minority known as the communist group of Yenan is attempting to obtain control over the rest of the country in the name of "Neo-Democracy," which has been spreading throughout the old world since 1941.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, who remained loyally on the Allied side throughout the darkest period of the war, is determined to see the fight through. His chances of winning out are fair.

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THE United States alone stands out in this world of confusion as a solid entity because of the means she still possesses despite the lavish war expenditures in raw materials and money, and because of a fighting force equaled by none of the older countries in the world.

It will take only an average statesmanship to maintain this position. If the leadership does not fail us, the "American Age" predicted by many, within and outside the country, will become a reality.

Times Readers Have Their Say

SAVING THE TREES

Editor, The Times:

THERE has been some very unsightly tree cutting all over our city by the various public utility companies in order to clear their wires, and it seems to me that much of it could be avoided. This does not mean that the wires should not be cleared, but that in the clearing the trees could be trimmed so as not to injure their contour and decorative appearance.

Pruning of this sort is now done on our boulevards by the Park Board and I suggest that, when it is necessary to cut trees, there should be a city ordinance requiring the Park Board, who have the trained personnel, to do the work and charge actual cost for the service. This would serve the double purpose of clearing the lines and insuring a properly performed job.

Many of our tree-lined streets are a natural asset of beauty and shade that should be guarded and protected.

MARSHALL McGINITIE, Seattle.

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THE RETURNING JAPANESE

Editor, The Times:

A LARGE number of my associates have spoken with high praise and appreciation of your editorial fairness toward returning Japanese-Americans. You are practically alone, in your courageous policy, of the outstanding papers in this region. The job you are doing is one which is fundamental toward peace and understanding.

It is unfortunate, however, that the product of the headline writer's contributions is not as judiciously enlightened as that of the editors. I refer specifically to headlines which were somewhat distressing to friends of mine who are Nisei and extremely appreciative of the spirit of understanding and helpfulness which brought about the feature articles, to wit: "Loyal Japanese Returning 'Home'," "Jobs Galore Offered Nisei."

"Nisei" means "first generation" as you know, usually used to refer to American citzens. If loyal they are loyal Americans, therefore, born of Japanese-born parents. They are no more "loyal Japanese" than I, born in Illinois, am a "loyal Britisher" because my parents were born in England. Do you see the ambiguity?

The other headline was smiled at rather bitterly by Nisei who had two criticisms; first, they maintain that it is much more difficult, even before victory, for a Japanese-American than a Caucasian to find work; second, it may arouse a reaction, "People are offering them jobs when Caucasians are going to have a tough time . . ."

(Miss) M. A. GLOVER

5010 18th Ave. N. E.

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O. P. A. CHIEF APPRECIATIVE

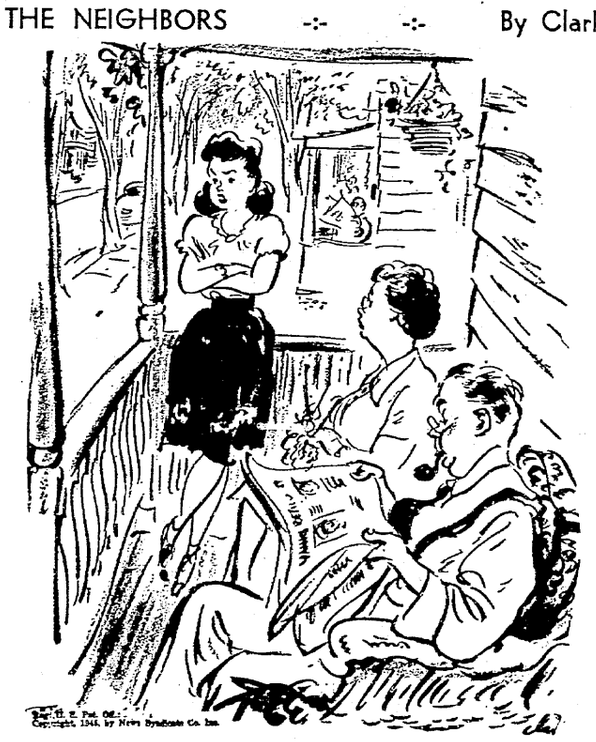
Editor, The Times:

MAY I thank you for all you have done, and equally important for what you failed to do, during my two-year regime as district director of O. P. A. You were in position to hurt deeply or to foster our standing in the community, and I shall be eternally grateful that you chose the latter course.

A continuance will be like manna from Heaven to my successor, Irvin A. Hoff, who I can assure you will carry on the work of our office with the same integrity I endeavored to bring to it.

ARTHUR J. KRAUSS, Seattle.

THE NEIGHBORS -:- -:- By Clark



"I don't call it an exciting world! Living here on a pokey old street where everybody is exactly like you and Dad!"

In recent months the frankfurter and meat loaf became pretty much a cereal story.—**Daily Olympian.**

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Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, who predicted Japan would surrender before being invaded, now is one up on the Army—and, we are sure, the Army is happy.—**Bellingham Herald.**

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Wisdom often consists of having a good opinion of yourself, and also keeping it to yourself.—**Bremerton Sun.**