

This Isn't Europe; Be Sane In Family Food Purchasing

AFTER a careful scrutiny of the whole food situation in this "commissary of the democracies," the Washington Chain Stores Association admonishes that "extreme care must be exercised to prevent artificial shortages, causing discomfort with little or no excuse."
And the association strikes a reassuring note when it declares that as far as its investigators can learn, "there are no real shortages, now or in early prospect, except in a few items, most of which we can dispense with as unimportant, or for which we have entirely adequate substitutes."
The admonition and the assurance should be heeded. The country has abundant supplies of meat, wheat and most of the canned vegetables. We have a year's supply of tea, nearly a year's supply of cocoa and more than two years' supply of pepper. Latin America has adequate reserves of coffee.
The stores of poultry, dairy products and fresh fruit and vegetables are such that consumption of these commodities may well be increased.
There is every reason why Americans should continue normal buying. That is officially urged. It is in excited, panicky buying and hoarding of food that danger lies, rather than in the likelihood of actual shortages.

Button, Button

VIGILANCE of the Better Business Bureau has saved the American people considerable money which they might otherwise have lost through misrepresentation, chicanery and fraud. In every community which sustains the bureau, practitioners of bunco have found the going hard.
And the Better Business Bureau is quite right in the public statement that all these buttons lately on sale, bearing all sorts of defense, war and so-called patriotic legends, are private commercial ventures that have no direct bearing on the national emergency. The advice to buy defense stamps or give the money to the Red Cross, rather than invest in buttons, is sound.

None-the-less, some will regard this as an invasion of one of the most cherished privileges of the American people. There has long been in this country a considerable devotion to insignia for personal adornment; an instinct to advertise one's membership in an organization or one's attachment to a cause.
In times of political contest, the button business expands to prodigious dimensions; the output is enormous; and the market is increasingly brisk right up to election day.
Button producers, like other manufacturers, are in business to make money. In the circumstances of the day, it may be well to remember that whatever money they make will be largely diverted, through taxation and otherwise, to war purposes. They may even buy bonds and give aid to the Red Cross.

Worth More Than Money

PASSING one appropriation bill after another to pay for necessities of war, members of Congress are beginning to call for measures to restrain excessive profit of private producers.
Senate and House investigating committees recently reported a number of cases wherein profits of contractors seemed large out of all proportion to actual costs. It was also reported that some contractors had deliberately run up costs to make it appear that profit margins were no more than reasonable.

There was much of this, far too much, in the scurry of belated preparation for World War I. The cost-plus system then in vogue was an incentive to greed that some contractors didn't try to resist. The more anything could be made to cost, the greater the profit at any percentage. Certainly Mr. Nelson's new board has ample powers to prevent recurrence of such abuses.
But the time element must not be overlooked in this business of production for war. Time just now is more valuable than money. There must be a distinction between high costs and excessive profits. Speed of delivery is vitally important. The sooner we have that new battleship or that new flying fortress the better. Profiteering can be prevented; but if money will accelerate delivery of war equipment, it should not be spared.

A Wounded World Needs Services of Young Women

WANTED—50,000 young women to enroll in this country's schools of nursing.
This is the appeal of the Nursing Council of National Defense and, locally, of the State Nursing Council for Defense.
Thousands of nurses will be needed for Army and Navy hospitals. They will be needed to safeguard the health of America's migrant population of defense workers. They will be needed for medical service in the event of air attack and other emergencies. After the war, they will be needed in great numbers to help in the immense task of reconstruction and healing for this wounded world.
Under the leadership of the State Nursing Council for Defense, various nursing organizations are working in a student recruiting program to assure a steady supply of students in the nursing schools.
In another phase of the program, many Seattle women, former graduate nurses, have enrolled in "refresher" courses. They are brushing up on new developments in nursing so that they may take the place of younger nurses who are called into the Army and Navy nurse corps.
Young Seattle women will do well to investigate this summons to patriotic service. It offers them an opportunity to prepare themselves for a profession which now is more important to the world than ever before in history.

PRIVATE LIVES By Edwin Cox

HARLOW'S HOBBIES

HIS BIRDS' EGG COLLECTION IS FAMOUS, AND HE GOES IN FOR RARE HALF-DOLLARS, TOO. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT HARVARD FOOTBALL COACH DICK HARLOW ALSO HAS THE COUNTRY'S FINEST COLLECTION OF FERNS—INCLUDING MANY NOW EXTINCT?



STAGE SECRET

FRAGRANCE - BY REQUEST

THAT TEMPERAMENTAL ITALIAN GENIUS, GABRIELE DANNUNZIO, LIKED TO HAVE ROSE PETALS SCATTERED ON THE CARPET OF HIS STUDY.

MAINSTAY OF SINGER GLADYS SWARTHOUT'S TRAVELING WARDROBE: THE 12-FT. LONG GOLD SCARF THAT CAN TRANSFORM A PLAIN DRESS A DOZEN DIFFERENT WAYS, BESIDES SERVING AS SASH—OR TURBAN.

Follow-Up Inquiry on Roberts' Report Likely to Wait for More Peaceful Days

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 30.—Why wasn't the fleet of the United States mobilized on November 26 or in the eleven days thereafter if the Navy Department considered the situation between America and Japan to be on the edge of war?
This penetrating question is being asked by naval experts after reading the Roberts report. Admiral Kimmel and other officers in his command at Hawaii, it is related, were accustomed for many months to getting messages from Washington, telling of the delicate relations with Japan, but there was always the caution expressed to them that the Navy must take no steps to offend Japan or to produce an overt act.
This, it is argued, was one reason why all the naval officers at Hawaii almost without exception did not expect any form of attack. If Washington didn't see fit to proclaim a mobilization, the officers naturally believed the situation could not be as serious as represented.
THE fleet was scattered on December 7. Some ships were on the West Coast in what might be termed recreational journeys and some were engaged in normal exercises.
It is not the business of the commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet to mobilize. These are orders which Washington is expected to send out.
Admiral Kimmel will be welcomed by the latter because it will furnish an opportunity for all these points to be thoroughly explored.
That there are two sides to the story is generally conceded among naval men, many of whom are pointing out that it was the business of the Army to protect against air attack and that the concentration of the fleet in Pearl Harbor was a policy determined upon in high quarters in Washington and not by Admiral Kimmel.
THERE are, incidentally, many comments heard to the effect that Admiral Richardson should not have been removed from his command and Admiral Kimmel substituted; and that when the vacancy was created, the right man to have succeeded him was Admiral Snyder.

There's No Escape From Burdens of War; So Everyone Better Begin to Do His Bit

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 30.—I know people—not a few—who have been changing their bank accounts into paper currency and putting the dough in safe-deposit boxes. Figures on the extent to which this has gone on are not complete and are very indefinite, but the indications of money "withdrawn from circulation" show that it is not insignificant.
When asked "how come and why don't you put it into government war securities?" the answer always is:
"If worse comes to worst, the market value of government bonds will melt away. The banks have so much invested in these securities that they will be unable to pay their depositors. I want to save to keep my family off the bread lines."
THIS is as absurd as even the raven's foolish hoard of tinsel and other bits of bright but useless junk. It used to be one way to escape when most American paper money was redeemable in gold, and its bonds had to be paid in gold.
That was before this administration sequestered all the gold, withdrew it from circulation, and made all its outstanding obligations payable only in exactly the same kind of green paper that these hoarders are figuratively putting in a sock.
This government can't allow the banks to break if any such decline in the market value of government bonds were threatened, the government would simply make them payable in par in the same kind of paper money—which is the only kind we have. They are already good as collateral for loans up to par—100 cents on the dollar.
IT is true that they pay a very low rate of interest, but when the holder of the government bonds decides that he wants to sell them or have his government redeem them, the answer will be:
"Sure we will pay you par for them. It will be in paper money. The only difference is that it bears no interest at all and it has no greater security than your bond. Would you rather have government paper bearing no interest (currency) or your interest-bearing bonds?"
Nobody but a zanie could hesitate over that choice. For that reason, there will be no selling raid depressing the value of government securities below par.
Of course, the government cannot afford to have any new orgy of closing banks. Part of the security against that is also its almost unlimited power over the value of money and the privilege, already dis-

This Is War! Stop Worrying About Hurting Jap Feelings

LOS ANGELES, Friday, Jan. 30.—Speaking strictly as an American, I think Americans are nuts. Twenty-four hours in Los Angeles have convinced me of this.
We are at war. California is our key state, not only because of its airplane industry, but because its shores offer the most logical invasion point.
So what does the government do about the tens of thousands of Japanese in California? Nothing.
The only Japanese apprehended have been the ones the F. B. I. actually had something on. The rest of them, so help me, are as free as birds.
There isn't an airport in California that isn't flanked by Japanese farms. There is hardly an air field where the same situation doesn't exist. They run their stores. They clerk in stores. They clip lawns. They are here, there and everywhere.
You walk up and down the streets and you bump into Japanese in every block. They take the parking stations. They get ahead of you in the stamp line at the post office. They have their share of seats on the bus and street car lines.
THIS doesn't make sense, for half a dozen reasons. How many American workers do you suppose are free to roam and ramble in Tokyo? Didn't the Japanese threaten to shoot on sight any white person who ventured out-of-doors in Manila?
So, why are we so beautifully courteous?
I know this is the melting pot of the world and all men are created equal and there must be no such thing as race or creed hatred, but do those things go when a country is fighting for its life?
Not in my book. No country has ever won a war because of courtesy, and I trust and pray we won't be the first one to lose one because of the lovely, gracious spirit.
Everywhere that the Japanese have attacked to date, the Japanese population has risen to aid the attackers. Pearl Harbor, Manila.
What is there to make the government believe that the same wouldn't be true in California? Does it feel that the lovely California climate has changed them and that the thousands of Japanese who live in the boundaries of this state are all staunch and true Americans?

I AM for immediate removal of every Japanese on the West Coast to a point deep in the interior. I don't mean a nice part of the interior, either. Herd 'em up, pack 'em off and give 'em the inside room in the badlands. Let 'em be pinched, hurt, hungry and dead up against it.
Sure, this would work an unjustified hardship on 80 per cent or 90 per cent of the California Japanese. But the remaining 10 or 20 per cent have it in their power to do damage—great damage—to the American people. They are a serious menace and you can't tell me that an individual's rights have any business being placed above a nation's safety.
If making one million innocent Japanese uncomfortable would prevent one scheming Japanese from costing the life of one American boy, then let the million innocents suffer.

IN an earlier column I protested against American soldiers in Honolulu giving military burial to a Japanese soldier. There were some readers who kicked me around in letters for such an attitude.
There are sure to be some Americans who will howl and scream at the idea of inconveniencing America's Japanese population in order to prevent sabotage and espionage.
Okay, let them howl. Let them howl timber-wolf type. Our government has told us we face war. All-out war. It has told us that we are up against the roughest days in our history. It has demanded of us sacrifice and sweat and toil and all the other of Mr. Churchill's graphic words.
That's all right, we will answer. But let us have no patience with the enemy or with anyone whose veins carry his blood.
Let us in this desperate time put first things first. And, who is to say that to the men and women of this country there is anything that comes above America?
Personally, I hate the Japanese. And that goes for all of them. Let's quit worrying about hurting the enemy's feelings and start doing it.

Motorcyclists Show High Percentage of War Effort

NEW YORK, Friday, Jan. 30.—Everybody takes the motorcycle for granted as one of the accepted mechanical means of transportation, but did you know that there are only two companies in the United States which manufacture them?
It surprised me when I heard it from a group of motorcycle men who were having a fan fest in the Revere room of the Hotel Lexington the other day.
With war upon us, the motorcycle takes on even greater significance, and I learned that motorcyclists have been among the first to offer their special services to the victory effort.

OUT of 40,000 Americans who are members of the American Motorcycle Association, 8,000 have joined the armed forces—a very high percentage.
There are 850 motorcycle units organized throughout the land today for the purpose of carrying dispatches and doing whatever else they may be required to do in the civilian war effort, such services being donated.
The entire resources of the motorcycle industry are now wrapped up in the effort to meet Army requirements. The motorcycle, usually looked upon as valuable mainly to transport officers around in sidecars, is actually a combat unit today. It is equipped with guns, and motorcycle units ride into battle, roaring along with the tanks.

HOLLYWOOD and the War:
With the entire world a battlefield, the picture-makers of Hollywood are having some anxious moments, not only because their world markets are being lost, but also because some pictures already made are no longer in tune with the times.
An example is the story by Lamour's new tropical romance which will reach the theatres under the title "Beyond the Blue Horizon." But that isn't what it was originally called. Its title was "Malaya"—which was all right for a sarong girl a couple of months ago but is too serious a matter for romance now.

THOUGH Wilbur Macey Stone is dead, his famous museum home in East Orange, N. J., probably will be preserved, at least for a time, so that interested people will be able to see his unusual collection of toys, paper dolls and children's books—probably the greatest collection of its kind in the world.
It was 35 years ago that Stone went to East Orange from New York and bought the rambling 25-room house which at the time of his death the other day was filled with his collections. Dolls, toys and children's books appealed to him, he explained, so he collected them. His collection has been referred to by other hobbyists as priceless, yet its actual value is said to be slight.

THE NEIGHBORS By George Clark



"Why don't you start walking to the station every morning? That would build your heart up without wearing your tires down."

Sentence Sermons

IT SELDOM PAYS—
—To argue with an angry man.
—To stoop to the level of an unscrupulous enemy.
—To make important decisions late at night when weary.
—To fight for small causes and keep great causes waiting.
—To be in a hurry about a decision of a lifetime.
—To compromise in cases in which there is no doubt.